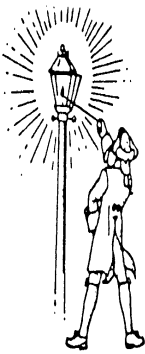


The United Church  
Presbyterian-American Baptist  
11 Gibson Street  
Canandaigua, NY 14424


Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage Paid  
Permit No. 26  
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Or Current Resident



# The Lamplighter

The United Church  
11 Gibson Street



Canandaigua, NY  
585-394-0503

Worship Service 8:45 and 11:00 am, switching to 9:30 am as of May 28th

May 2023

Rev. Dr. Wade Allen



- May 1 – Trustees, 7 pm
- May 2 – Stewards, 7 pm
- May 5-6 – Princess Pajama Party
- May 13 – Youth Chicken BBQ fundraiser
- May 15 – Official Board, 7 pm
- May 21 – Sunday School Celebration Breakfast & Children’s Day
- May 28 – Summer worship schedule begins, **one service at 9:30 am**
- May 29 – Memorial Day (office closed)



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**SPECIAL MEMBER BIRTHDAYS:**

Special Members are those in their 90s, and/or who are homebound, in nursing homes, or who need special care. ***Please call Carolyn or Virginia at the church office if you need the addresses for our Special Members – let’s send cards to show how much we care about them!***



Calendar page inserted here

**May 22: Fred Magley**, 99 yrs. old!! **Let’s shower Fred with 99 birthday cards!** Fred is a Pastor Emeritus of our church, having served from 1966 – 1989 as our pastor. He was instrumental in the building of our education wing, establishing our Youth Club, and expanding our Missions ministry. He was very involved within our community, helping initiate the building of the 80 Parrish St. and Wilcox Lane senior apartments. Fred is our 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest member. He moved to the west coast a few years ago to be closer to his loving daughters and their families. *Happy Birthday Fred!*

**May 28: Rita Ebersol**, 92 yrs. old. Rita joined our church with her late husband, Jack in May 2000 when they moved to Canandaigua from Penfield. Rita grew up on a dairy farm in Croghan, NY, near Lowville, and met Jack at the Lewis County Fair; their dads knew each other. While Jack was in college for aeronautical engineering, Rita worked at a bank. After living in MA, CA, and TN, they moved to Rochester when Jack got a job at Kodak. They raised four wonderful children and Rita now has six terrific grandkids. Rita recently moved to The Legacy at Clover Blossom in Penfield to be closer to her family, but she’s still active with Choir! *Happy Birthday Rita!*

**Member Anniversary Milestones:**

**Wedding Anniversary:**

**David Crowe (Special Member) and Kathie Meredith** are celebrating their 15<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Their love is precious and true! *Congratulations Dave and Kathie!*

**United Church Membership Anniversary:**

**Gary Larder** joined our church on March 28, 1953, that’s **70 years ago!!** WOW, that’s quite a milestone! He has surely experienced many changes in the church over those seven decades; with pastors, staff, the congregation, building additions, and technology improvements. *Thanks Gary for your service to our church for so many years.*

**REMEMBERING:**

Our prayers and sympathy are with **June Pettit**, whose brother, **Fred Thorpe**, passed away on March 25th. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

**MEMBER CARE:** If you are aware of anyone in our church family who is ill, having surgery, who had a death in the family, is having troubles in some way? Are you missing your neighbor who sits in the pew next to yours? Or do you know someone who has a happy occasion to celebrate, please let us know!! The Staff works with the ***Outreach and Congregation Care Committee*** to connect with members of our church family who need encouragement and recognition. ***We care about you!*** Call the church office or Congregation Care Committee Chair: Sue Vadney, at (585) 739-8615

**THE BOARD OF STEWARDS: Connecting people in our congregation...**



***What would you do if you wanted to worship God with our church family at the Sunday Services but you didn’t have any mode of transportation??***

Perhaps you’d call the church to see if anyone goes by your residence and would be willing to pick you up and take you home!

There are occasions when the church is asked if there are any members who could provide help for seniors who need a ride to church – they want to come worship with us, but they can’t get here.

**Currently, there are ride needs from Horizons Sr. Living Center on Rte 21, less than 2 miles from church.** Are YOU someone who could provide a ride on some Sundays? If so, we’d like to connect you with those seniors. **Please call** Virginia at the church office: (585) 394-0503 or email her at: virginia.holroyd@uccdga.org. *THANKS!*



RELAY FOR LIFE LUMINARIAS

Do you have a friend or loved one who is a CANCER SURVIVOR or has PASSED FROM CANCER? Please consider giving a luminaria in their HONOR or MEMORY to be displayed at our Finger Lakes **RELAY FOR LIFE on SATURDAY, JUNE 3rd** by Seneca Lake in Geneva. Our Church team, "**United Against Cancer**" has been participating in this event for decades. Anyone can join us!! We will be in the Gathering Area each Sunday in May with these luminarias (bags) to be written on, by you or us, in honor or memory of loved ones. COST: \$5 each. Thank you, Susan V & Sandi D.



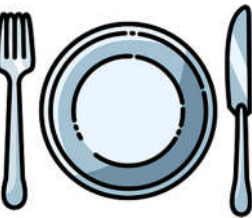
Stampin Up

The May Stampin' Up class is scheduled for May 20th from 9:00 am – 12:00 in the Fellowship Room. We will make the 5 cards pictured. Please call or email Sharon Meyer (585-924-8792 or shargmeyer@gmail.com) to sign up by May 14th.



Take the Marshalls a Meal!

If you would like to help provide a meal for the Marshall family while Deb recovers from her surgery, please follow the link below or scan the QR code. If you need help getting signed up, please call Carolyn in the church office (585-394-0503) <https://takethemameal.com/LPQA8089>



In lieu of making a meal, small Wegmans gift cards would also be appreciated. These can help cover the costs of quick meals or prepped ingredients.

Thank you for any contribution you are able to provide and for blessing the entire family with your prayers.



David, Children, and Pentecost

May is a month of transition at The United Church. Youth Club season is over, Sunday school is wrapping up, and we shift to one service (9:30 AM) on the last Sunday of the month. You may (no pun intended) want to jot down a few special Sundays you plan for the month.

First, circle **Mother's Day on May 14**. While we continue our David series on this day, we will recognize these extraordinary women.

Secondly, **May 21** is **Children's Sunday**. Our youth and children will be participating in various roles, and Mark will preach on the importance of children in our midst.

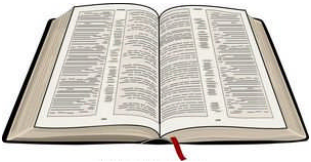
Finally, **Pentecost Sunday** is **May 28**. We will concentrate on an obscure passage from the Book of Numbers as we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. We will start our summer schedule (one service at 9:30 AM) on May 28.

The sermon series on David will extend through the summer and into the fall. If you miss a Sunday, let me encourage you to catch up online (<https://bit.ly/uccdga-streams>), as each sermon will build on the previous.

Wade

May Worship Schedule and Readings

- May 07 - David and Goliath Part 1 (1 Samuel 17:1-37)  
Additional Readings: Psalm 19, Psalm 23
- May 14 - David and Goliath Part 2 (1 Samuel 17:38-58)  
Additional Readings: James 4:13-17, Psalm 18:1-19
- May 21 - Presence with Children (Mark 9:33-37, 10:13-16)  
Additional Readings: Psalm 8, Psalm 139:13-16
- May 28 - Come Holy Spirit (Numbers 11:24-30)  
Additional Readings: Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34



The QR code to the right will take you to the streaming page

**THE STEWARDS ASSISTANCE FUND** supports families in our congregation who need a little temporary financial help. These funds help purchase groceries, pay for medicine & medical bills, utilities, car repairs, and other essential household expenses. The recipients of these funds are very, very appreciative!!

*This Fund is supported by member donations. We take a collection six times/year: the next dates are on Communion Sundays, May 7 and June 4.* All loose monies put in the Offering Plates will go into the Fund, along with any checks that are earmarked for the ASSISTANCE FUND. *Thanks so much!*



New Address: Kathy Mills has moved! Her new address is:

Ewing CCC – Meadows #94  
350 Parrish St.  
Canandaigua, NY 14424







Blanket the World with Love

On **Sunday, May 14** we will be celebrating Blanket Sunday. We worship a God who gives generously and abundantly. God has given us so many blessings. The food we eat, the friends and family we cherish, and the precious gift of God’s love for us. When that love abides in us, we are called to help keep our neighbors warm.



Through this special offering for **Church World Service Blankets**, we join other people of faith to make God’s love known to our neighbors who might feel forgotten—the hurting and the lonely. Our gifts, together, provide hope to our neighbors all over the world. Only \$10.00 provides a blanket to a person in need and \$50.00 blankets an entire family in need. You will find an envelope with this newsletter or, simply indicate “Blankets” on your gift. We are asking that God blesses the lives of all who receive these blankets. Please give generously. Thank you for helping to share warmth, shelter and privacy and healing and hope wherever God’s people may need care.

*Called to Care, Canandaigua* is a volunteer organization with a mission “to promote and facilitate the resettlement of refugees in Canandaigua by providing a support network to help them start a new life.”

As we move into our second year we are exploring becoming a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, partnering more formally with World Relief Western NY, and seeking ways to advocate for extended parole, beyond two years, for our Ukrainian and Haitian families.

We continue to recruit additional volunteers to serve as Good Neighbor Teams...those caring groups of 6-10 volunteers who partner with World Relief to welcome and walk alongside a newly arrived refugee family. Monthly informational meetings will be held from 4-6pm on the 3rd Mondays of the month at St. Mary’s Church, 95 North Main Street. Our Monday, May 15th informational meeting will include a World Relief "Good Neighbor Team Informational Session."

**Called to Care Canandaigua** has a **new rental** that will be great for our families. It is a large older house on N. Main Street with 2 apartments, downstairs and upstairs. As we have learned from our training with World Relief, it is advantageous to have 2 or more refugee families from the same country/culture in the same community. So, this property lends itself to that model. We think this house holds great promise. It is in need of much cleaning and painting throughout. Our goal is to get this done before the end of May. If YOU would like to volunteer to help with the cleaning or painting, please contact Cathy Bush. (585) 281-4602 [cbush1126@frontier.com](mailto:cbush1126@frontier.com)



Please **SAVE THE DATE** for another event at Central on Main ... **Thursday, June 8, 2023!**

As always, we invite your continued prayers, commitment of time, and financial donations supporting our mission. Please speak with Cathy Bush or Linda Werts to learn more.

**Monday, May 22**, is our next **Drive Though Food Pantry** at the Highway Dept Barn in Canandaigua. The pantry is **open to all, 11am – 1pm** or until food is gone.



**Volunteers** are needed starting at 9:30 am to set up, unload the truck and package the food for families driving through. This free food distribution is especially helpful due to the reduction of SNAP benefits that began in March and the rising prices of groceries. Can you help?

**NEW LOCATION:** Highway Dept Barn, 5440 Rt 5 & 20, Cdga. Questions or to volunteer, please see Cathy Bush or Don Rensberger.

**What Is Supply A Smile?** ~ *Supply a Smile* is a local organization associated with *Canandaigua Churches in Action (CCIA)*, serving uninsured residents of Ontario County with free dental services for adults age 18 and older, and is limited to cleanings, fillings, and extractions. Services are provided by area dental offices.

To start the process, please attend a dental screening the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of May, 9-10am to have your needs evaluated at the Canandaigua Elementary School Cafeteria.

Questions: Please call 585-376-2242 or email [supplyasmile@gmail.com](mailto:supplyasmile@gmail.com).

Description	Jan-Mar 2023 Actual	3 month Budget
Income		
Total Giving	144,878.37	101,250.00
Other Income	9,337.75	13,858.42
Total Income	154,216.12	115,108.42
Spending		
Education and Ministry	6,242.97	9,000.00
Operating	27,930.46	15,387.50
Personnel & Related	89,409.45	90,720.92
Total Expenses	123,582.88	115,108.42
Net Income Year to Date	30,633.24	0.00

(budget includes transfer from surplus of \$9,477.65)

For the month of March, we spent \$3,181.63 more than we took in but for the first three months of the year, we have taken in \$30,633.24 more than we spent, so we have not yet needed to take any money out of reserves. Two of our large expenses (insurance and workers compensation) have been paid for the entire year. We are still expecting one more payment from the Endowment Fund. We are still doing much better than anticipated. Thank you for your faithful giving!

Nancy Lamberson  
Treasurer

Online Giving

Our new church management program makes online giving very easy! Access it through our website, app, or scan this QR code. You can give one-time gifts, or set up recurring giving to happen on whatever schedule you choose.



GREETERS of ALL AGES are needed for our Services in MAY:

Greeters play a very important role in extending hospitality to all those who come to worship with us on Sundays. Greeters welcome people as they enter the church building, they hand out Bulletins, and they collect the Offering at each Sunday Service. This is a role where kids can help too!

The **Sign-up Sheet** is on the **Church Office door**. Reminders and instructions are emailed the Friday before your scheduled Sunday. If you have any questions about being a Greeter, please talk with Virginia Holroyd, any Steward (listed on the back of the Sunday Bulletin), or the **May Steward of the Month, Wanda Munt**. *We really appreciate your service!*



# NOTES ON MINISTRY LIFE...

## Reflections

I am now over 90 days into my new role here at the church. There is not enough room on this page to adequately express the joy it has been to immerse myself in my pastoral calling at the United Church, under the wise guidance of others. Occupational ministry feels like a brand-new world (at least compared to my past career paths), where everything I see and touch is unfamiliar yet exciting. Administratively, I am (slowly) getting into rhythm, and gaining efficiencies. Of course, the far more important elements of my job (thinking about prayer, scripture reading, and spiritual direction), I still am very much into the discovery phase of this wonderful frontier. Obviously, as a Christian my whole life, I've participated in these Kingdom activities. Nevertheless, the immersive nature of full-time pastoral work has thrown me into the nooks and crannies of the church's work that I (naturally) never had the opportunity to explore. For these experiences I am surely blessed!

## Learnings

By the time this article reaches readers, the Easter season (which spans 50 days between Easter and Pentecost) is well underway!



This is the era of world history where we belong: We are a celebratory people, we are an Easter people, and we are at the front lines of the procession to share the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

Early on in the Easter season, I reviewed notes I took during the recently-completed Lenten season. Below I have transcribed those journal entries in hopes that these snippets are helpful to you, just as they were for me:

### Notes

- God calls on spectators to be **become players**
- Live life in a way that **has not been seen before**
- Just because we say “Jesus is Lord”, doesn’t mean we are Christian. **We need good fruit.** We can fool others, but **also fool ourselves.**
- If you fight fire with fire, **fire still wins.** Jesus came to win the **victory over fire itself.**
- Jesus *is* the temple
- Read Psalm 23 **as if you were a sheep**
- “Do Not Be Afraid” is the **most repeated command** in the Bible
- We need faith to ask for help, and humility to receive it **on God’s terms**

### Prayers

- May I wait and listen, **just as Joseph did**
- Help us be **humble to take the place given** and zealous enough **work whole-heartedly**
- Teach us, Good Lord, to **watch with you** in your suffering...



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Treasurer's Financial Summary for March 2023

# CHILDREN’S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

## What’s happened...

We had a busy April, beginning with Palm Sunday, Holy week, and Easter Sunday – what a joy to celebrate Jesus resurrection with our church family! After that, we had first graders visit Youth Club, Sunday school resumed, the Youth Club kids shared their musical with family and friends, and then we celebrated our Youth Club year together on April 26 with a carnival and special pizza dinner with Youth Club families!

## What’s happening...

In May, we are planning to join together as a church family and head to **LeTourneau Christian Center** on **Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>** for a **spring clean-up day**. We are excited to have the opportunity to **help a local ministry**, and we are especially looking forward to helping LeTourneau **prepare for their busiest time of the year** – summer! They offer a variety of day camps and overnight camps, and many children and teens from our church often enjoy spending a week or two there during the summer.

Speaking of camp, *parents*, don’t forget that we offer **camperships!!** Our church believes that the Christian camp experience is so important that **we will pay half the cost** for **one week** at any **Christian day camp** or **overnight camp!** This is *not* a need based scholarship – this is for every family sending a child to Christian camp this summer! The only qualification is that your child currently participates in Sunday School, Youth Club, and/or The Cause. So, sign up for camp, send the registration confirmation to Mark, and we will take care of the campership. We sent 22 kids to camp last year; how many will we send this year?

Also in **May**, we will wrap up our Sunday school year for children and teens. We like to remember and celebrate our year together with a **Sunday School celebration breakfast**, which will happen on **May 21 at 9:45am**. All are welcome to join us!

Once we transition to summer services, on May 28, we also transition to asking people to **volunteer** each week for **nursery duty**. We do this because summer schedules are busy and it is difficult to “pre-schedule” people for summer Sundays like we do the rest of the year. Even if you don’t usually volunteer in the nursery, you can **sign up to help once or twice during the summer**. *All nursery volunteers need to be background checked* – you can ask Carolyn about how to get a background check – it’s quick and easy! **Thank you** so much for **sharing in this ministry** to the **youngest in our church family!**

## Upcoming Events...

- May 14** – Last day of Sunday school classes for children, teens, and adults
- May 20** – Service day at LeTourneau Christian Center
- May 21** – Sunday School celebration breakfast at 9:45am and Children’s Day service at 11am
- May 28** – One service of Worship begins at 9:30am
- June 4** – Church picnic after 9:30am service at Baker Park
- June 11** – Graduate Sunday during 9:30am service; cake and punch celebration following the service

## July 10-14, 9am – 12noon, Stellar VBS: Shine Jesus’ Light!



**Join us for VBS!** While Deb is out on leave, a small but mighty team of volunteers will be planning and preparing for VBS. We need volunteers to help before VBS begins with scenery and preparations and LOTS of volunteers to help during the week of VBS with crews, stations, and snacks. So, please think and pray about how YOU can help with VBS this year.

It will be an out-of-this-world experience! ☺



# YOUTH MINISTRY

## Reflections

Our youth enjoyed a **Seder Dinner** during one of our Cause nights, leading up to Easter. Ryan and Deb Marshall facilitated this special evening and led us through this ancient celebration. We were immersed in the Exodus narrative through readings, prayers, and a symbolic meal! As Christians, we also remembered what Jesus did for us by receiving communion.

Our **Cause youth band** recently facilitated worship during our 11:00 AM Sunday service. They sang “God is for us” by CityAlight. Here is the chorus, for us to prayerfully remember:

*Sing with joy now, our God is for us  
The Father's love is a strong and mighty fortress  
Raise your voice now, no love is greater  
Who can stand against us if our God is for us*



## Learnings

At **The Cause**, our students have been engaging the contents of the book titled “3 Big Questions That Change Every Teenager”. Our students are currently on a 10-week plan to consider those three big questions, namely: “Who Am I?”; “Where do I Belong?”; and “What Difference Can I Make?”. We are spending 3 weeks on each question, with the final week serving as a full conclusion.

Within this 3-week cycle, we do the following: **Week 1** includes student engagement with the survey questions from the book. **Week 2** includes a deep dive into a Bible study, along with a teaching on that particular passage. **Week 3** is a reflective/application week, to review our learnings and find creative ways to live out our faith!

## Upcoming Special Events

**Workcamp Meeting** – April 23

**Young Lions** – May 5 (High School Boys)

**Princess Pajama Party** – May 5-6 (Middle School & High School Girls)

**Chicken BBQ Fundraiser (#1)** – May 13

**Parent Appreciation Night** – May 21

**Church Picnic** – June 4

**Workcamp Meeting** – June 11

**Chicken BBQ Fundraiser (#2)** – June 17



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# ADULT MINISTRY

## Reflections

A group of men from the United Church travelled to Buffalo to attend the annual **Iron Sharpens Iron men's conference**. This conference offers a variety of seminars, including topics such as leadership development, discipleship, relationships/family, spiritual growth, prayer, Bible study, and more!

Our **Sunday School Hour** program is winding down for the year. Here is a list of the topics we covered. Thank you to all those that facilitated, supported, and attended!

### Bible Study

- Gospel of John
- Psalms

### Topics

- The Feasts of Leviticus 23
- “The Star of Bethlehem” (Advent)
- “The Chosen” (John the Baptist Episode)

### Faith/Fellowship

- Parenting Coffee Hour
- Intergenerational Sunday Breakfasts



***Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Conference***

## Learnings

Our **Adult Ed Ministry Team** has been hard at work in selecting 2023-2024 *Sunday School Hour* materials! For our upcoming Sunday school Bible Study, we will be covering Proverbs and 1/2 Peter. The Parenting Coffee Hour will continue as well! We look forward to another year of fellowship and growth as a faith family in Christ.

For the **Fall Adult Ed Retreat** (November 4, 2023), we are privileged to have Rev. Dr. Douglas Cullum, Dean Emeritus at Northeastern Seminary as our guest speaker. This year's theme will be communicated soon! Please reserve this date in your calendar – we look forward to seeing you there!

## Upcoming Special Events

**Testimony Sunday** – May 26 (Sunday School Hour)

**SunUp Saturday (Men's Breakfast)** – Summer, 2023

**Young Adult Retreat** – Summer, 2023

**Adult Ed Retreat** – November 4



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