

# THE UNITED CHURCH

PRESBYTERIAN – AMERICAN BAPTIST

November 26, 2023

**PRELUDE:** “*Hymns of Creation*” arr. P. Keveren

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GREETING

### OUR PREPARATION

**INTROIT:** “We Gather Together”                    David Babcock (8:45)/Susan Gates (11:00)

**Focus of the day:** When all else fails, and fades away....Love remains

## CALL TO WORSHIP:

**Leader:** We are standing on holy ground

**People:** All those who have gone before us have witnessed to the love of God

**Leader:** We are challenged to be people of love

**People:** Lord, open our hearts and spirits to love others as you have loved us

**All:** AMEN

**\*HYMN:** #802 “Brethren, We Have Met to Worship”

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**\*OPENING PRAYER:** From all our life’s pathways, you have called us to this place, O Lord. Be with us as we listen for your Word and seek your ways. Guide our steps and guard our lives that we may serve you more effectively in this broken world. We pray this in Jesus name, who taught us to pray...Our Father... (using debts and debtors...) Amen.

**\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**\*GLORIA PATRI:** #807

### GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH THE WORD

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING:** John 13:1-9, 34 (page 1066) {A.B. page 1184}

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** (11:00) “The Family of God” arr. DeCou

Women’s Ensemble

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** (11:00) “It Is Well With My Soul”

Ryan Marshall (piano) & Joy Van Riper (cello)

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING:** Revelation 7:9-17 (page 1220) {A.B. page 1389}

**THEME SONG:** “Love is Patient and Kind” (see green insert)

## Sermon

### “Love Remains”

(1 Corinthians 13:8-13)

Pastor Wade Allen

### OUR RESPONSE IN FAITH

**\*HYMN:** #656 “Make Me A Blessing”

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## PASTORAL PRAYER

**OFFERTORY:** (8:45) “I’ve Got Peace Like a River” arr. P. Keveren and JP

(11:00) “How Great Thou Art” arr. John Purifoy Susan Gates (flute), June Pettit (piano)

**\*DOXOLOGY:** #809

**\*HYMN:** #593 “The Gift of Love”

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## BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE:** “*Hymns of Praise*” arr. P. Keveren

*\* indicates an invitation to stand for those who are able and comfortable doing so.*

*Congratulations to Aaron Vit, who married Piper Dean on November 19th. Aaron’s proud parents are Bob Vit and Allyson Haymes. Please keep the newlyweds in your prayers during this special time.*

## **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

**Health concerns:** Sharon Meyer, Marion Sumpter, Carlos McGregor (Mexican Missionary), Diane Molenaar (Kathy Mills' sister), Carolyn Verspoor, Hiram Bailey, Marcus (friend of Sandi DiCicco), Kainoa Coarsey (great-nephew of Kathie Meredith & David Crowe), Garrett Nayer (nephew of Karen Gardner), Jean Pollard (Ali Boseck's mom), Bob McDougal (MacKenzie Brown's uncle), Denise Loy (friend of Kory Massey), Galen Marty (Mary Holm's father), David Sanford, David Felten (husband of Mary Maida), Denice Tautges (Hiram Bailey's daughter), Jovannie Ramirez (Karen Roaix's grandson), Steve Sedlock (Nancy Tharp's brother), Clancy Cragle (Michelle's grandfather), the Herin Family (relatives of Kathie Meredith), David Crowe, Jack Schermond

**Cancer:** Tom & Monica Yurik (friends of Bruce & Deb Gardner), Bill Blance (Ed's brother), Paul Miner (brother of Linda Wells), Deb Dawson (Steve Smythe's niece), Brent Gibbs (father of Kristy Aldrich), Sasha (friend of Megan French), Justin Ecklund (friend of James and Sara Henderson), Roderick Simonds (father of Natalie Clark), Rob Stults (cousin of Wade and Christy Allen), Laurie Rudy, Mike Davis (friend of Guy Green), Dawn Miller, Mary J. Havens (Mary Lou's step-daughter), David Pagoda (friend of Eveleigh family), Keith Laursen (Tim's brother), Jim Davis (Scott's father), Jackie Crego (Stan and Evey Wright's daughter), Stephen Carges (brother of Paula Traber), Jon Santmyer (friend of Malecs)

**Recovering:** Sara Henderson, Steve Smythe, Arlene Willett, Patti Cagwin, Kathy Mills, Shirley Kem, Mary Jane Laird

**Comfort and Peace:** Richard Zimmerman (Wendy Bacon's father)

**MILITARY SERVICE:** US Army LT1 Andrew Marlin (Tyler Bosecks husband) deployed to South Korea, LTJG Nick Castiller (USN), MAC Adam Thorman (USN) returned from deployment, E6 Cody Wells (USN) returned from deployment, Technical Sergeant Timothy Peck (USAF) home from deployment

**MISSIONARIES:** Carlos Bonilla & Mayra Giovantti – the BGs (Central/South America), Tim & Patti Long (Baja Mexico), Shelvis & Nancy Smith-Mather (S Sudan refugees in Uganda), Ryan & Alethia White (Berlin)

## **CORPORATE PRAYER**

**WEEKLY PRAYER** – All are invited to join us in prayer!

**9:00 AM – 9:30 AM** – Youth Office

## **Wednesday Morning Men's Prayer Breakfast invites you!**

Men of all ages are invited to join us at 7:00 am Wednesday morning in the Fellowship Room for a hot breakfast, prayer and Bible study.



## **Change of address: Shirley has moved to Quail Summit!**

Shirley Kem  
5102 Parrish Street Ext, Apt 238  
Canandaigua, NY 14424

## **Highlights for This Week!**

- The **Angel Tree** is up in the Welcome Center. **Wrapped** gifts should be returned, with the **tag attached**, next Sunday, **December 3rd**.
- **REMINDER:** There is no Young Adult Lunch or Cause Ministry today. We return on December 3!
- **ADVENT DEVOTIONALS** - Pick up on the table near the Sanctuary's south entrance! There is no cost for this devotional.
- **2024 CALENDAR YOUTH FUNDRAISER** - Support our youth's 2024 mission trips by purchasing our yearly calendars! \$8 per calendar. Available after both services, until sold out.
- Save the dates for our upcoming **Christmas concerts...**
  - Dec 2 at 7pm: Christmas Ceilidh Band Concert
  - Dec 10 at 3pm: FLSO Holiday Concert
  - Dec 16 at 7pm: Christmas Organ Concert (Ivan Bosnar)

**Nursery care** is offered during both services (8:45 & 11:00) and during the Sunday school hour (9:45-10:45) for those too young to attend Sunday school so that parents may attend Adult classes or help in the children's program.

**8:45 Service Nursery** ~ a combined nursery meets in room 10.

**9:45 Sunday school Nursery** ~ meets in room 11, the preschool nursery. Claire Sheppard and Marcea Stave are our well-loved caretakers during this hour.

**11:00 Service Nurseries** ~ Both the Infant/Toddler Nursery (Room 10) and the Preschool Nursery (Room 11) are available.

**Children's Time** ~ There is Children's Time today. After the children's sermon, children in Kindergarten through 2nd grade are invited upstairs to Room 26 for an age-appropriate lesson. Parents, please pick up your children promptly after the service. Thank you!

**Tomorrow evening at 6pm**, the Stewards will be decorating the church for the Christmas season and they could use your help! So come for as long as you're able; we'll finish around 7:30.

Your orders for Christmas poinsettia plants are **due next Sunday, Dec. 3rd**. Order forms are in the Welcome Center and today's Bulletin. The plants will be used to decorate the church and then you may take them on Christmas Eve.



## YOUTH MINISTRY

**Christmas Shopping Mall Trip:** Friday, December 8, 5:00 PM

- Middle School & High School Students
- Pick up MS'ers 9:30; HS'ers 12:00 AM



**MONTHLY CONNECT** – Middle School and High School Students Invited!

**Canandaigua** – December 13 @ 6:45 AM. (North Rd. Tim Horton's)

**Victor** – December 20 @ 6:45 AM. (Dunkin Donut's)

**Marcus-Whitman** - December 18 @ 2:30 PM. (Gorham Free Library)



**THE CAUSE** – High School students invited!

**Sundays, 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM, at the church**

## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

**WEEKLY CONNECT** – For college students through 20-somethings!

**Sundays, 12:00 PM to 12:50 PM**, young adults are invited to lunch, friends, and faith!

- Interested in hosting our young adults for lunch after church? Contact Mark Slomski.

## ADULT EDUCATION MINISTRY

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS** – Young adults and adults invited! 9:45 AM to 10:45 AM – Downstairs Dining Hall

### Adult Sunday School Classes

**Adult Ed Sunday School Class (Downstairs Dining Hall)** - Bible Project Advent Series

**Parenting Coffee Hour (Fellowship Room)** - Topics:

November 26 – Helping our kids (and us) stay focused on Christ during Advent

December 3 – Saying “no” to all the extras during the holidays

December 10 – Keeping our sanity during the holidays



**Young Adult Class (Bell Tower Room)** - "Can I Ask That?" Hard Questions Curriculum

**The Stewards Assistance Fund:** This Fund assists those in our congregation who are facing temporary financial challenges. If you are struggling, please call the Office at (585) 394-0503 to speak with Virginia Holroyd, or email her at [virginia.holroyd@uccdga.org](mailto:virginia.holroyd@uccdga.org)

**ARE YOU VISITING US TODAY?** If so, WELCOME to the United Church, we are so glad that you have chosen to worship with us. We invite you to check out our Welcome Table found in our Welcome Center, and to pick up a blue bag for yourself/your family to take home and to learn a little bit more about us. Please fill out a visitor card and drop it in the collection plate or mail in. **We are so happy that you joined us today and look forward to seeing you again soon!**

## YOUTH CLUB

**Our Wednesday afterschool ministry**

**For children in grades 2 – 8**

**After school – 6:30 October through April**

**Bible Study~Worship~Recreation~Family Time**

**Nov 29– Kitchen Clean up:** Callard, Falbo, Freeland, Nearpass

**Nov 29– Snack:** Stewart

**Baking for Youth Club!** Calling all bakers! We serve dessert to our Youth Club kids and volunteers each week. Sometimes we like to enjoy homemade desserts. If you see something you'd be able to bake, please let Deb Marshall know. Desserts need to be delivered to church by Wednesday at 4:00pm. Often more than one baker helps to make the quantity needed.

For December 13th – 6 dozen Christmas cut out cookies

We hope our children and youth will join us for our annual Christmas pageant! Mark your calendars for our one practice and for the pageant. Our whole church family is invited to attend the pageant on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 10am.



**Children's Christmas Pageant**  
**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 10am**  
**In the sanctuary**

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;  
He is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11

**One Practice**  
**Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 9am**  
**In the Sanctuary**

We welcome your help to serve as **Greeters for the Sunday Services**. Greeters welcome people as they enter the church building and they hand out Bulletins at the Sanctuary entrances. Greeters also pass the Offering Plates during the Offertory. Reminders are emailed with instructions and location assignments. The Greeter ministry is a wonderful way to show that we are a hospitable church and that we welcome all who want to worship the Lord with our congregation. **The December sign up sheet is on the Office door.** If you have any questions, please ask any Steward or call the Office. Thanks so much for serving in this way on any Sunday that you're available.



### Christmas Angel Tree



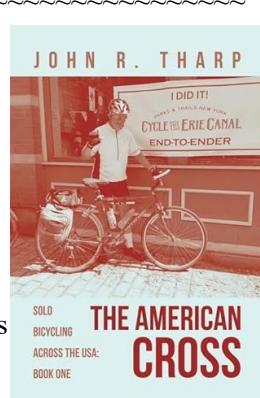
The Christmas Angel Tree is up in the gathering area and loaded with gift tags. This year, there are two types of tags on our Christmas Angel Tree. Most are through St. Benedict's Parish (St. Mary's) and some are for Family Promise. The requests on the Angel Tree are all for local needs.

Once you have picked a tag, please purchase the items, and return the **wrapped** gifts to church by **Sunday, December 3. Please be sure to affix the Angel tree tag to your gift as this is required to help with sorting and distribution.** Many thanks for sharing with others from what God has abundantly provided for you! Questions? Please see Deb Marshall.

### Did you know that Rev. John Tharp has written a book?

Look for a display copy near the office and if you'd be interested in buying one, put your name on the list (they're also available on Amazon or Walmart).

John R. Tharp was issued a challenge while preparing for a class reunion: Could he bicycle all the way to the event? The author's wife, however, decided to make it more interesting. "Why don't you just cross the whole country?" she asked. After all, she knew her husband was no stranger to adventure. Scuba diving, mountain climbing, skiing, and trips to Hawaii, Africa, the Middle East, numerous islands in the Caribbean, Panama, St. Lucia, Australia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and the Bahamas have kept life exciting. Taken in tandem, the two challenges left the fifty-one-year-old pastor with only one choice: He decided to brave the wilds of the western deserts, thrill to the steep verticals of the Rockies, take in the sweeping vistas of the Great Plains, and make his way to the lush hills of the eastern seaboard. Along the way, he was deeply touched by the marvels of nature, interesting people, and amazing coincidences that ignited his faith and brought a deeper hue to the rich colors of the adventure.



If you are following along with the progress of our **Stewardship campaign** (and watching the scarecrow outside the office fill in!), here are the numbers as of Wednesday, November 22nd:

We have received pledges from **91** families, for a total of **\$285,606.30** to the Operating budget and **\$79,493.60** to the Missions budget.

Our goal is to have 150 families pledging! Our goal for the Operating budget is \$406,500.

Gary-So-Scary is getting very colorful! Let's see if we can fill him in all the way up to his floppy green hat for the new year!

To fill out a pledge form online, go to <https://tinyurl.com/yjtsy4b4> or scan this code



### Celtic Yuletide Concert with the Christmas Ceilidh Band! Saturday, December 2, at 7-9 pm

Join us for a rollicking good time celebrating the holidays – Celtic style – at the United Church! Music from the highlands, the islands, and the faraway Celtic nations. Open to the public. A freewill offering will be accepted.



### Finger Lakes Symphony Orchestra Music for the Holidays Sunday, December 10, at 3 pm

Selections from "The Nutcracker" and other Holiday Classics  
Tickets available at the door (\$15 adults, \$10 students, Children 12 & under free)

### Christmas Organ Concert with organist, Ivan Bosnar, and special guest, Douglas Avery, Tenor Saturday, December 16, at 7 pm

An evening full of Christmas classics, Carol singing, and engaging improvisations. A freewill offering will be accepted. Dessert reception following.



# MISSION NEWS

## With thanksgiving and awareness



### Join the United Church December 9 Bell Ringing Team

A United Church team will man the Red Kettle on Saturday, December 9. Join as a family or with a friend to volunteer one hour raising funds for our community. At Runnings, we will ring by the kettle in the entrance with protection from potentially cold wind or snow.

A sign-up sheet is on the Adult Ed bulletin board to volunteer for one hour.

The Canandaigua Salvation Army has provided some new mattresses for Called to Care Canandaigua, a food van delivering meals in July to our flood victims, assistance to individuals referred by our church staff and assistance to multiple people in our community in 2023. Thank you for volunteering!

**Thanks at Thanksgiving** for contributing to the angel tree, food pantries and CareNet!

**Your food cart donations** are distributed by the CCIA and Salvation Army Food pantries each week. Continue bringing nonperishable food items. (CCIA has made an urgent request for: Cereal, Tuna Fish, Peanut Butter, Spaghetti Sauce, Pasta (spaghetti or elbow), Can Corn, Can Soups, Can

**Pork and Beans)** As we approach the Holiday seasons ( Thanksgiving and Christmas), the food pantries are asking for **INSTANT MASHED POTATOES** to be added to the previous list of needs. Thank You and God Bless!



**Stewardship Note:** Prayers and volunteering are key for effective programs. Financial contributions are also needed to support our programs.

Designate **separate** contributions for Operating and for Mission as you prayerfully complete your pledge. The Mission budget supports our local programs and our denomination programs. Some logos of organizations our mission funds support can be seen on a poster in the Welcome Center. Thanks to each of you who have completed your pledge form.



Next Sunday will be our last collection during this calendar year for the **Stewards Assistance Fund**. The loose cash and designated checks put in the offering plates will go to the Fund, which currently has a **critically low balance**. Your donations will be very much appreciated!

### Supply a Smile – Free Dental care for those who **do not** have dental insurance!

*Saturday, December 2, starting at 8:30am  
at the Canandaigua Elementary School cafeteria*

*Come early to be one of the first 20 individuals to be screened.*

Care begins with a dental screening to determine care needed. Patients are then referred to various dental offices where the procedures are done. Dental care is important to your overall health! We are grateful for this important service! Please come if you have a need.

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

**Called to Care, Canandaigua is preparing to welcome two Ukrainian families!** Unexpectedly! Now coming before Christmas! Two Good Neighbor Teams are in place but we are reaching out to you to help with our apartment set ups including the furnishings. Please reach out to Cathy Bush our "housing" chair or Sonya Brooks, who is co-leading one of the Good Neighbor Teams, if you may have some furniture items, kitchen items, linens etc. to donate.

**Family of God by the Gaithers** (11:00 Women's Choir)

#### Chorus:

I'm so glad I'm a part of the Family of God,  
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!  
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,  
For I'm part of the family,  
The Family of God.

#### Verse 1:

You will notice we say "brother and sister" 'round here,  
It's because we're a family and these are so near;  
When one has a heartache, we all share the tears,  
And rejoice in each victory in this family so dear. **Chorus**

#### Verse 2

From the door of an orphanage to the house of the King,  
No longer an outcast, a new song I sing;  
From rags unto riches, from the weak to the strong,  
I'm not worthy to be here, but praise God I belong! **Chorus**