

# THE UNITED CHURCH

PRESBYTERIAN – AMERICAN BAPTIST

January 5, 2025

**PRELUDE:** *“Jesus, Lover of My Soul w/Like A River Glorious” arr. M. Ham*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETING**

## OUR PREPARATION

**Focus of the Day:** The significance of the Wise Men’s role in God’s providence.

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: From distant lands, guided by a star, the wise ones came seeking truth.

**People: We too come seeking Christ, bringing our gifts and hopes.**

Leader: God's light beckons to all who search, drawing us toward His love.

**All: Let us worship together, following the light of Christ that guides our way.**

**\*HYMN: #190 “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”**

CCLI Song #307056, ©1982 Hope Pub. Co., #11593017

**\*OPENING PRAYER:** As we ponder these mysterious travelers who followed a star to find Jesus, we too are seekers, searching for God's presence in our lives.

**Like them, we come bringing what we have - our questions, our hopes, our daily struggles. Let us join together now in the prayer Jesus taught us, the words that unite seekers across all times and places... Our Father, who art in heaven ...**

**(singing)**

**\*HYMN #632: “THE LORD’S PRAYER”**

**\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**\*GLORIA PATRI: #807**

## GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH THE WORD

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING:** Isaiah 60:1-6 (page 738) {A.B. page 816}

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** “Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us” arr. J. Raney

June Pettit and Georgia Sperano (piano duet)

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING:** Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (page 574) {A.B. page 649}

**Sermon**

**“Following the Light”**

**(Matthew 2)**

**Pastor Wade Allen**

## OUR RESPONSE IN FAITH

**\*HYMN: #186 “Wise Men, They Came to Look”** CCLI Song #4957216, ©1982 Hope Pub. Co., #11593017

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**OFFERTORY:** *“How Deep the Father’s Love” arr. M. Ham*

**\*DOXOLOGY: #809**

**COMMUNION**

**\*HYMN: #181 “As with Gladness Men of Old”**

CCLI Song #4772707, Public Domain, #11593017

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE:** *“Rock Medley arr. M. Ham*

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

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

**Health concerns:** Stephen Cole, Karen Mount, James Sheppard, Linda Gilbert, Jessica Canham (Sharyn's daughter), Mary Jane Laird, Denice Bailey Tautges, Tom Babcock (friend of Jenny Caron), Maverick, Deanna Stocker (family of Ardelle Bigos), Edwin Gregory (friend of Royal Purdy), Erik Keating (son of Al & Dawn Rossi), Louise Huck, Catherine Kurzdorfer (Adam Thorman's mother), Carolyn Verspoor, Marcus (friend of Sandi DiCicco), Denise Loy (friend of Kory Massey), David Sanford, Jovannie Ramirez (Karen Roaix's grandson), Steve Sedlock (Nancy Tharp's brother), Clancy Cragle (Michelle's grandfather), the Herin Family (relatives of Kathie Meredith), Jack Schermond

**Cancer:** Walter Enright (friend of Ardelle Bigos), Alex Clark (son of Rob and Natalie), Jon VanBlargan, Laura Fiorito (daughter of Charles and Patti Cagwin), David Gerstner (Nancy's husband), Ruth Krop (friend of MacKenzie Brown), Tane Robinson (friend of Ryan Marshall), Regina Allen, Christina Tharp (daughter of John and Nancy), Douglas Cook (Jen Eveleigh's brother), Rod Gifford (cousin of Joyce Laursen), Martha Ashley, Beth Smythe, Keith Laursen (Joyce's brother-in-law), Sasha (friend of Megan French), Mark Schreier (Virginia Holroyd's friend), John Tornow (friend of Elaine Allen), Susan Hennessy (Jen Eveleigh's sister), Rich Crowley (Steve & Beth Smythe's friend), Tom & Monica Yurik (Bruce & Deb Gardner's friends), Deb Dawson (Steve Smythe's niece), Roderick Simonds (father of Natalie Clark), Rob Stults (cousin of Wade & Christy Allen), Dawn Miller, David Pagoda (Eveleigh family friend), Jim Davis (Scott's father), Stephen Carges (Paula Traber's brother)

**Recovering:** Wendy Stoddard, Sara Scharr, Arlene Willett

**Comfort and Peace:** Harriet Morgan (Megan French's grandma), Mary Zimmerman (Wendy Bacon's mother)

**MILITARY SERVICE:** JJ Callard (USN) just graduated bootcamp, US Army LT1 Andrew Marlin (Tyler Bosecks husband) home from deployment, LTJG Nick Castiller (USN), MAC Adam Thorman (USN), E6 Cody Wells (USN) home from deployment, TSgt Timothy Peck (USAF)

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

**Some more upcoming dates you might want to put on your calendar (watch the Monthly Memo or future Lamplighters for details!):**

Jan 12 – Info meeting for Boyce Memorial

Jan 26 – Annual Congregational Meeting

## ***Highlights for This Week!***

- All are invited to an **Intergenerational Sunday school class today at 9:45am** in the **downstairs dining room**. Please bring a dish to pass if you're able.
- **High School Youth Group** - The Cause resumes this evening! 4:30 PM band members arrive, 5:00 PM program start. 7:30 PM end.
- **Ferris Hills Connect** - This month, we meet on January 8 at 1:00 PM!
- We need **8 dozen brownies** baked and **delivered to church by 2pm** for Youth Club dessert on **Jan 8**. Please let Deb Marshall know if you can bake a dozen or two.
- Join us for **Game Night** in the Fellowship Room on **Saturday, January 11, 2025**, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM for an evening of fun, games, and community connection. This family-friendly event offers a variety of board and card games, with snacks and refreshments available for all ages.
- Join us during the **Sunday School hour** (9:45–10:45 AM) on **Sunday, January 12**, as the **Boyce Discernment Team** presents their work on how to faithfully use a significant donation given to The United Church, with an **opportunity to share your feedback and insights**.
- The **Parent/Child Library** in the upstairs chapel has been **refreshed with LOTS of new books!** You may borrow a book off either the display shelf or the regular book shelf. All families are welcome to use the Parent/Child library at any time. **Please sign the book(s) out** and return within 4 weeks. Any questions? See Deb Marshall

Nursery care is offered during both services and the Sunday school hour. Room 10 (the infant nursery) is used during the early service, Room 11 (the toddler/preschool nursery) is used during the Sunday school hour, and both rooms are open during the late service.

**Children's Time** ~ There is no Children's Time (children's church) today. **Worship packets** are available at both **front entrances** of the sanctuary. Children are welcome to use these during the service. **Please return the reusable items** at the end of the service. We hope you enjoy worshipping together as a family.

**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. **We are so happy that you joined us today and look forward to seeing you again soon!**

**We need more nursery volunteers.** If you are interested in serving in the nursery, please see Louise VanIseghem or Deb Marshall. All volunteers will need to complete a background check.





## Faith and Action 2025

*"He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.'"* Psalm 46:10 NIV

Happy New Year! Feliz Año Nuevo! Frohes neues Jahr! سنة جديدة سعيدة Bòn Ane!  
Together with a multitude of believers we welcome a New Year and share the Good News of the gospels to all cultures and all nations.

**Short Notice: Called to Care, Canandaigua has a Venezuela family of Refugee status arriving mid-month!** Yes, this month!!! Please contact Cathy Bush (585) 281-4602 if you have **furniture or household items** to donate. Especially needed: a love seat, 2 dressers. Furniture must be from a smoke-free, pet-free home. Donate with Dignity. :-). Also, needed: able-bodied folk to help move furniture. Thank you!!!!

**Worldwide Documentaries is partnering with Called to Care, Canandaigua** for a special screening of "Running to Stand Still: Migrants Search for Hope in the Promised Land" on January 7th, 5:00pm, at Wood Library. Admission is free but registration is requested at the Library.

**Called to Care, Canandaigua's "Chasin' the Blues"** event returns on **February 7th, 7:00pm at Crosswinds Wesleyan Church.** Tickets will be on sale before and after worship beginning January 12th. Featured this year...a performance by Cool Club and the Lipker Sisters and and a testimony from Doug Doebler and Judi Gorenflo.

### Hurricane Relief Mission Trip

We all know of the devastation left by Hurricane Helene, especially in western North Carolina. The rebuild of that area will take years! We all wonder what we can do to help in addition to providing funds. **The mission team is coordinating an inter-generational work trip to Fairview, NC** which is just 11 miles from Asheville the week of April 14. Seabees Outreach Ministry, a ministry of Navy veterans, is establishing a work camp there to help locals devastated by the hurricane. They have assured us that they will find appropriate work for any skill level. **Please join us for an informational meeting on Jan. 19** after the second service. If you cannot attend the meeting feel free to reach out to Sonya Brooks (sonya.brooks99@yahoo.com).

It's not too late to make your pledge for 2025! So far we've had **\$328,693** pledged to Operating and **\$101,848** to Missions. To meet the needs of the proposed 2025 budget, we are hoping to have **\$398,160** pledged to the Operating side. There are extra forms in the Welcome Center near the office. You may return forms in the offering plate, in the Welcome Center box, or by mailing them in. You can also make your pledge and/or request envelopes online by following this QR code:



**Youth Club - our after school ministry for 2nd-8th graders**  
Wednesdays, after school - 6:30pm  
Our night includes: Recreation, Worship, Bible study, and Family Time (dinner)

### Parent Volunteers for Jan 8th

**Snack:** Sylla

**Kitchen clean-up:** Abdallah, Cook, Kurtz

Any questions? Please see Deb Marshall

We are excited to gather with our Ferris Hills community for our monthly Connect! Join us on **Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 1:00 PM at Ferris Hills!**

Whether you're a regular attendee or new to the group, we would love to see you there and share in a meaningful time together.

### Game Night at The United Church - Saturday, Jan 11, 2025

Looking for a fun way to kick off the new year? Join us for **Game Night** in the Fellowship Room on **Saturday, January 11, 2025, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM.** This family-friendly event offers an exciting opportunity for church members of all ages to come together and enjoy a variety of board games, card games, and friendly competition. Whether you're a seasoned game master or just looking to have fun, there's something for everyone. Snacks and refreshments will be available to keep your energy up as you engage in lighthearted fun and connect with others in the church community. Bring your friends, family, or come solo—Game Night is a great way to meet new people and build lasting relationships. Don't miss out on this enjoyable evening! For more information, please contact the church office. We look forward to seeing you there!



### The Cause: Weekly Youth Group Gathering

We are excited to announce that The Cause youth group will resume after the Christmas break on **Friday, January 5, from 5:00 - 7:30 PM.** Join us for an evening of **worship, fellowship, dinner, and service** as we continue to grow in our faith together.

In our next session, we'll dive into a thought-provoking question from our curriculum: **"Why do bad things happen to good people?"** It's sure to spark meaningful discussion and deepen our understanding of God's presence in challenging times.

We can't wait to see you there!