

2026 Leadership of The United Church

Official Board

Mary Beth Fortunato (U)
Jim Boseck (U)
Dale Zajac (P)
Lydia Busch (U)
Brian Wiser (U)
Sonya Brooks* (P)
Amelia Cunningham (Youth)

Board of Trustees

Dean Williamson (U)
Connie Frye (U)
Steve Smythe (P)
John Eveleigh (P)
Jeannie Blance (P)
Bill Clark (P)

Board of Stewards

Marion Sumpter*
Bev Fehrenbach
Bill Fortunato*
Gail Benjamin
Nancy Gerstner
Becky Boseck

Endowment Trustees

Mark Sheppard
Tom Wormer
Chuck Lowell

Jen Eveleigh (B)
Kevin Wall (U)
Bob Cunningham (B)
Wendy Bacon (U)
Andrew Duncan (B)
Steve Simpson (U)
Anna Zajac (Youth)

Lynn Bernard* (B)
Rob Clark (B)
Wes Posson (U)
Jim Abdallah (U)
Mary Wiser (U)
Joy Van Riper (B)

Dan Frye
Randy Bacon
Melissa Wormer
Leslie Roof
Sharyn Canham*
Margie Wall

Ric Parsons
David Russell
Levi Allen

Church Staff

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00am to 1:00 pm 585-394-0503

Pastor:	Wade Allen	pastor@uccdga.org
Pastor of Youth & Adult Ministries:	Mark Slomski	mark.slomski@uccdga.org
Director of Family Ministries:	Deb Marshall	deb.marshall@uccdga.org
Director of Care Ministries:	Christy Allen	christy.allen@uccdga.org
Office Manager:	Carolyn Russell	office@uccdga.org
Treasurer:	Nancy Lamberson	nancy.lamberson@uccdga.org
Financial Treasurer:	Carolyn Russell	office@uccdga.org
Choir Director:	Georgia Sperano	gsperano@rochester.rr.com
Organist:	David Kraft	
Custodian:	Amber Bixby	

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH

Weekly Bulletin

Sunday
FEBRUARY 8, 2026



THE
**UNITED
CHURCH**
CANADA



Order of Worship for
FEBRUARY 8, 2026



Welcome! The United Church is a Presbyterian/American Baptist congregation. We hope you enjoy your visit and let us know if we can help you in any way.

PRELUDE: “Pastorale” by Max Reger

WELCOME AND GREETING TO OUR ONLINE CONGREGATION

OUR PREPARATION

Focus of the Day: Jesus teaches Nicodemus that entering God’s kingdom requires being born from above

INTROIT: (11:00) “His Name Is Wonderful” (hymn #87)

United Church Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Nicodemus came to Jesus in the darkness of night, seeking answers.

People: We come seeking Jesus, the light of the world.

Leader: Jesus said, “No one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

People: We come asking: How can we be born from above?

Leader: Jesus answered, “The Spirit gives birth to spirit. The wind blows wherever it pleases.”

People: Spirit of God, move among us this morning.

Leader: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son.

All: Come, let us worship the God who offers us new birth and eternal life.

***HYMN #471: “Nothing but the Blood of Jesus”**

CCLI Song #21332, Public Domain, CCLI Lic. #11593017

***OPENING PRAYER:** God, you breathe life into us by your Spirit. This morning we come like Nicodemus, with questions, seeking to understand the mystery of your kingdom. Open our hearts to hear your words about being born from above. Help us to see that this new birth is your gift, not our achievement. As we worship together, move among us like the wind. We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying ... Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

***GLORIA PATRI: #807**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.

GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH THE WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 112:1-9 (page 603) {A.B. page 677}

SPECIAL MUSIC: (8:45) “How Deep the Father’s Love for Us” by Townend arr. Shackley
(words on insert) Nancy Burt-Preece, Nancy Lamberson, Joy Van Riper

ANTHEM: (11:00) “You Are the Christ” by Joseph Martin (words on insert)

United Church Choir

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE: (11:00)

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: I Corinthians 2:1-12 (page 1129) {A.B. page 1259}

Sermon
“Born From Above”
(John 3:1-17)
Pastor Wade Allen

OUR RESPONSE IN FAITH

***HYMN #451: “Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy” (refrain only sung as 5th verse)**

CCLI Song #4882714, Public Domain, CCLI Lic. #11593017

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY: Improvisation on “Finlandia”

***DOXOLOGY: #809**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***HYMN #507: “I Then Shall Live”**

CCLI Song #19643, Words: ©1981 Gaither Music Co., Music: Public Domain, CCLI Lic. #11593017

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF NEW LEADERS: (See list on back of bulletin)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: “Präludium” by Max Reger

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

*Our prayers and sympathy are with **Natalie Clark** for the loss of her mother, **Ethel Simonds**, on January 31st. Please keep the Clark family in your prayers during this difficult time.*

*Our prayers and sympathy are with **Mary Beth Fortunato** for the loss of her brother-in-law on February 4th. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.*



PRAYER REQUESTS

Health concerns: Martha Ashley, Monica Yurik (grieving, Bruce and Deb Gardner's friend), Sherry Wesley (cousin of Sue V and Sandi D), Jack Bigos, Jackie Brown (Linda Bailey's sister), Preemie baby of Katie (cousin of Karen Roaix), Scott Smail (friend of Kathleen Boniak), Sheila Henderson, John DiVincenzo (friend of Steve Simpson), Phil Greene (Sharon Meyer's brother), Rodney Newfrock (friend of Elaine Allen), Jessica Canham (Sharyn's daughter), Mary Jane Laird, Tom Babcock (friend of Jenny Caron), Erik Keating (son of Al and Dawn Rossi), Catherine Kurzdorfer (Adam Thorman's mother), Marcus (friend of Sandi DiCicco), Denise Loy (friend of Kory Massey), Steve Sedlock (Nancy Tharp's brother), Clancy Cragle (Michelle's grandfather), Jack Schermond

Cancer: Donna White (Linda Bailey's sister), Robbie Bass (Linda Bailey's nephew), Daniel Cage (friend of Wade Allen), Karen Linder (niece of Joyce Laursen), Sue Whybra and Rod Gifford (cousins of Joyce Laursen), Kathy Cool (daughter-in-law of the Pecks), Sophie Snyder (friend of Amelia Cunningham), Chris Alexander (Carolyn Russell's brother), Sarah Hough (daughter of Dianne Beaumont), Jon VanBlargan, Laura Fiorito (daughter of Charles and Patti Cagwin), Christina Tharp (daughter of John and Nancy), Douglas Cook (Jen Eveleigh's brother), Keith Laursen (Joyce's brother-in-law), Sasha (friend of Megan French), John Tornow (friend of Elaine Allen), Susan Hennessy (Jen Eveleigh's sister), Deb Dawson (Steve Smythe's niece), Dawn Miller, David Pagoda (Eveleigh family friend), Jim Davis (Scott's father), Stephen Carges (Paula Traber's brother)

Military Service: Nicholas DelVillano (Frye's son-in-law) USAF stationed in Germany, JJ Callard (USN), US Army CPT 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 Giovantti – the BGs (Central/South America), Christy Lafferty (Nicaragua), Leodegario Hernandez & Maria Angela Bautista (Bacalar, Mexico pastoral couple).

Highlights for This Week

- **All parents are invited to join Parenting Coffee Hour - any Sunday at 9:45am.** We begin each week with social time and then start our "lesson" at 10am. We will be discussing the following topics...
 - Feb 8 - Forming Character (continued)
 - Feb 15 - no Sunday School
 - Feb 22 - Applying Discipline
- **Lenten Devotionals** - Check out the Lenten devotionals in the Welcome Center! Sign up for the book you would like, and it will be ordered for you. Please consider donating via the QR code provided on the sign up sheet, or through the church website (marking it as "Adult Ed. Fund").
- **TODAY - Souper Bowl of Caring Fundraiser** - We are collecting shelf-stable food items for CCIA. All items will be collected in the Missions Room (where the donation shelves are located!) Thank you for your donations and support of those in need!
- **Our Greeter/Coordinator for February: Gail B.** Please contact Gail if you need help signing up.

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 pick up a tan bag (with the United Church logo on it) 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!**



Children's Time

Children's Time meets after the Children's Sermon. **Children aged Kindergarten through 5th grade** are invited to participate. Parents, please pick up your children **promptly** after the service. (**Please note:** Kids in **6th grade and up** are asked to **remain in the service** with their families. Thank you!)

Nursery Care

Nursery care is **offered** during the **late service**. Parents may choose to take their child to the nursery at any time during the service. *All adult volunteers in the nursery are background checked.*



Financial update

As stated at the annual meeting, we had to take \$23,997.80 out of savings to continue our 2025 programs, and the pledges we've received so far for 2026 are less than the donations received in 2025. None of the Boyce memorial funding is available for operating expenses. We are asking that you **prayerfully consider increasing your pledge for 2026 (or making one if you haven't already done so)**. You can do this by completing a pledge form available from Carolyn Russell in the church office and writing "revised" at the top and returning it to Carolyn or dropping it in the offering plate. Our staff have done an amazing job of holding costs down as much as possible, but we need your help to be able to sustain these programs. Thank you!

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it" -- Malachi 3:10

2026 Retreats - Save the Dates!

Youth Retreat - Saturday, August 15 @ Onanda Park (Crouch Hall)

Adult Retreat - Saturday, October 24 @ Onanda Park (Crouch Hall) - Guest speaker TBA!

Other Retreats Proposed - Young Adult Retreat and Men's Half-Day Retreat

Summer Mission Experiences - Save the Dates! August 17-21, including youth, young adult, and adults!

Exploring Membership Class

February 15, from 10-11 am in the Fellowship Room/library.

Are you interested in learning more about our church community and what it means to be a member? We warmly invite you to join us for our upcoming Exploring Membership class, where you'll have the opportunity to deepen your understanding of our church's mission, values, and community life. Visit the church website or call the church office to register **by February 13th**.



Birthday Bags

On February 25, the Youth Club kids will be filling "birthday bags." These bags are filled with **cake mix, frosting, birthday candles, balloons, and birthday napkins**. The bags are decorated and filled by our Youth Club kids and then given to local food pantries for families who are celebrating a birthday. You can help by **donating** the aforementioned items **by Feb 22nd**. There is a collection box in Deb Marshall's office.



Missions Let the light of Christ shine through you in service to others...

Mexican Night Dinner - Sunday, March 1st



You are invited to support the **Mission Team's March 19th-28th Mexico Trip**, including in-country tech and other projects. **\$15 tickets** for a Mexican meal of enchiladas, salbutes, rice, street corn, and tres leches cake can be purchased Sunday mornings or by calling 315-447-0276. Serving is from **5-7 pm**. We also look for help with setting up the dining room

at noon on the 1st. And we thank those who will be supporting us by providing the desserts, helping in the kitchen, and with clean up. As some on our team look forward to their first trip to visit Living Waters for the World partnership communities and the congregation of Iglesia Emmanuel in Bacalar it is a blessing to know that we have your thoughts, prayers, and support.

Food Cart & Card Ministry

The collection wagon is in the Missions Collection Center in the south side of the newly remodeled Fellowship Room. We continue to collect needed food staples for **CCIA (Canandaigua Churches in Action)** and the **Salvation Army food pantry**. Our donations continue to be needed. Thank you for so generously sharing out of what God has provided for you. The **hand-made cards** that benefit Missions are also available there. Pop in after church to select some. Questions? See Mary Lou or Cathy B.



Silent Auction: June 7-14, 2026



As our Bi-Annual auction approaches we ask you to please consider participating as a **donor** of an auction item, a member of the **planning committee**, or an **auction worker**. It takes a lot of planning and many hands to make this happen. We would appreciate any help you can give us.

After 20 years of running our auctions, this will be Regina's final year. We are looking for someone to take over for the next auction in 2028. This

need not be a long term commitment, it could be just for 1 auction. Prayerfully consider if you could be this person. Thank you. Please notify Regina Allen or any member of the Mission Committee if you can help. Thank you.



How Deep the Father's Love for Us (8:45 service)
by Townend/ arr. Shackley

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss –
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

How high, how wide, how deep the Father's love for us

Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life –
I know that it is finished.

How pure, how strong, how deep the Father's love for us

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart –
His wounds have paid my ransom.

How high, how wide, how pure, how strong,

How deep the Father's love for us.

You are the Christ (11:00 service)
by Joseph M. Martin

Jesus gathered the chosen together.
Then He asked this question:
“Who do people say the Son of Man is?”
“Who do they say I am?”
“Who do you say I am?”

Chorus

You are the Christ, You are Messiah.
You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.
You are the King, You are the Savior.
You are the way, the truth, the lie, You are the Christ.
O Lord most high, You are the Christ!

Once unto every man and nation
Comes a moment to decide.
What will our answer be to Jesus?
Will we in faith reply?

Chorus

You are the Christ! (X2)