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Church Staff

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Organist:	David Kraft	

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH

Weekly Bulletin

Sunday
MAY 3, 2026





THE
**UNITED
CHURCH**
CANANDAIGUA

Order of Worship for
MAY 3, 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: “Slane” by Healey Willan

WELCOME AND GREETING TO OUR ONLINE CONGREGATION

OUR PREPARATION

Focus: Consider how Jesus, the Christ, is The Way, The Truth, The Life

INTROIT: (11:00) “Open Our Eyes, Lord” (hymn #536)

United Church Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 84)

Leader: *How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty!*

People: **Blessed are those who dwell in your house!**

Leader: *Blessed are those whose strength is in you.*

People: **Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere.**

All: **Lord Almighty, blessed is the one who trusts in you.**

***HYMN #107: “Christ Be My Leader”**

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***OPENING PRAYER:** Heavenly Father, we believe Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. Guide us even closer to your Son, and protect us along the way. By the power of the Holy Spirit, help us grow in holiness and unity in this life...through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, and in whose name we pray by singing... (using debts and debtors)

***HYMN #632: “The Lord’s Prayer”**

***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 31:1-5, 15-16 (page 548) {A.B. page 622}

ANTHEM: (11:00) “Jesus Saves” by Cottrell and Moffitt (words on insert) United Church Choir

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE: (11:00) Mark Slomski

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: I Peter 2:2-10 (page 1201) {A.B. page 1360}

Sermon

“The Way, The Truth, and The Life”

(John 14:1-14)

Pastor Mark Slomski

OUR RESPONSE IN FAITH

***HYMN #577: “Channels Only”**

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PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY: “Jesus Christ, our Savior” by Johann Sebastian Bach

***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.

COMMUNION

***HYMN #602: “I Am His, and He Is Mine”**

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: “Prelude and Fugue in C Major” by Johann Tobias Krebs

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

Our prayers and sympathy are with Natalie Clark, for the sudden loss of her husband, Robert Clark, on April 30th. Please keep the family in your prayers during this very difficult time.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Health concerns: Jennifer Parks (friend of Natalie DeTraglia), Laurie Guyette (friend of the Simpsons), Sandy Cleason, Bill Kenyon, Carly and Brian Ferrante and Baby Stocker (Ardelle Bigos relatives), Marion Sumpter, Lou Verspoor, Sherry Wesley (cousin of Sue V and Sandi D), Jack Bigos, 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: Steve J. (Claire Sheppard's brother), 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), 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: Tech SGT 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), Rev. Nancy and Rev. Shelvis Smith-Mather (South Sudan), Sally Gates (UK), Matt and Meredith Snell (Fort Drum, NY).

Scriptures for next week, May 10

Sermon Scripture: **John 14:15-21**

First Reading: **Psalms 66:8-20**

Second Reading: **1 Peter 3:13-22**

Highlights for This Week

- **Today's loose offerings** will go toward the **Steward's Assistance Fund**, helping support those in our church family in need. Thank you for your generosity.
- **The Cause Invitation for 8th Grade Students** - TONIGHT, 5:00PM - 7:30 PM - All 8th grade students are invited to our High School Youth Group program! Remaining dates after May 31, May 17, May 31, June 7, and June 14.
- **Grad Info Requested** - Do you have a high school or college graduate? Please let Pastor Mark or The Church Office know their information (where they are graduating from, their plans, etc.) so that we can include it in church publications (deadline, May 14) and include your graduate in our **Grad Sunday on June 14th**. We will recognize high school and college graduates during the 9:30am service. We will also have a cake and punch reception following the service. We hope you can join us for this special celebration!
- Join us for an **all ages Sunday school celebration breakfast on May 17 at 9:45am** in the downstairs dining room. Please bring a dish to pass if you are able.
- **Philippians Sermon Series** - Late May, Pastor Wade will begin a sermon series on Philippians. All are invited to follow along using a Philippians guide book, written by New Testament Scholar Nijay Gupta. Sign-up for a book in the Welcome Center!
- **Registrations Open!**
 - Kingdom Bound - July 28. 6-12 grade students invited!
 - Youth Retreat - August 15. 6-12 grade students invited!
 - Mission Experiences Week - August 17-20. ALL ages invited! (Details TBA).
- **Our Greeter/Coordinator for May: Gail** 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

There is no **Children's Time** today. Kids are invited to grab worship aides at any time during the service. They are found near the Main entrance.

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.*



Vacation Bible School

It's time to **register** for **Rainforest Falls VBS!** All children, ages 4-years-old through those entering 6th grade (Fall 2026) are welcome to participate. Our VBS is scheduled for **July 13-17, 9am-12pm**. We hope you can join us! Feel free to invite friends! You can use the QR code to register.



Tin Giveaway!

There are a few empty VBS tins on Deb's desk from past VBS years (2013-2016). If you would like to take one home, feel free to grab it!



Come help with VBS scenerary!

If you are willing, we have a place for you. Come for a short time, or stay the whole time - whatever your schedule allows. Questions? Please contact Sandi Munson or Becky Boseck. VBS scenerary work days:

- Tuesday 5/19 10-12
- Saturday 5/23 10-12
- Wednesday 5/27 4:30-6:30
- Saturday 5/30 10-12

It's Campership Season!

Our church believes deeply in the impact of Christian summer camp, so we offer **camperships** to help make it possible for every child to attend. A campership is **available to any child** who participates in Sunday mornings, Youth Club, or The Cause. It covers:

- Half the cost** of one week of any Christian day or overnight camp
- Up to the full cost**, if there is financial need

If you'd like to use a campership:

- Check out the camp info/brochures in the Missions Room.
- Register your child for the Christian camp. (If its Beaver Camp, please get the discount code from Deb before registering your child.)
- Pay either the deposit or half of the total cost.
- Email proof of registration to me at deb.marshall@uccdga.org.

Deb will take care of the rest! Please contact Deb with any questions. **The deadline for campership requests is May 20.**

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.

Especially needed by CCIA: pasta sauce, tuna, cereal - not always available through FoodLink.

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

Help Support Mission Trips (Even If You Can't Go Yourself!)



"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me." — Matthew 25:40

Have you ever wished you could help people in other countries or communities, but aren't able to travel on a mission trip? **You can still make a powerful difference — in TWO meaningful ways!**

1. Donate an Item

Your gifts help send our Youth and Adult Mission Teams to serve where hope and hands on help are needed most. We welcome: ♪ Handcrafted or store bought items ♪ Gift baskets ♪ Antiques or collectibles ♪ Pledges of time or talent (gardening, babysitting, small projects) ♪ Experiences (boat rides, home cooked meals, cottage rentals)

Donation forms are available in the Welcome Center. Completed forms may be placed in the collection box, added to the offering plate, or mailed to the church office.

2. Bid on Items During Auction Week

Even if you don't donate an item, **your bidding directly supports mission work**. Every bid helps send our teams into the mission field — and you might walk away with something wonderful.

We also need **volunteers** to help with setup, displays, and auction week hosting. **A sign up sheet** is available in the Welcome Center.

Questions or want to help: **Nancy Abdallah** — nancycabdallah@gmail.com or 585-749-4313



Boyce Memorial Gift Building and Infrastructure Update

A BRIEF REMINDER OF WHERE WE HAVE BEEN:

2023: The estate of Lester and Grace Boyce generously provided a memorial gift of \$500,000.

2024-2025: The Boyce Discernment Team was established with a diverse cross-sectional representation of the congregation, including staff, Official Board members, Trustees and other congregation members. The team engaged in an intentional prayerful process to determine how to best steward this gift to meet our congregation's present needs and future ministries, while also reflecting the Boyce family's love for our church.

January 2025: A meeting was held with our congregation to share the Discernment Teams process and to invite feedback.

February 2025: The team presented a comprehensive proposal to the Official Board. Following the Board's approval, the memorial gift was allocated across three areas including \$250,000 to Building and Infrastructure Improvements, \$100,000 to Mission and Spiritual Development Support and \$150,000 to Ministry and Program Support Reserves. **Please see the 2025 Annual Report for specific information regarding these allocations.**

Building and Infrastructure goals were identified and include the following areas: Kitchen renovations, Welcome Center enhancements, technology updates, Fellowship Room updates, essential maintenance projects, historic displays and educational space refreshment.

PROGRESS TOWARDS OUR BUILDING AND INFRASTRUCTURE GOALS:

So much work has been completed already as we enjoy the improvements in our Welcome Center, Fellowship Room and Missions space, along with our new coat room. Refreshment of our educational spaces has commenced with paint in the upstairs chapel, hallway and classrooms. Additional plans for this area of the church include bathroom renovations, some new flooring and new lighting.

We look forward to our kitchen renovations and continued development of our historical display and library in the near future.

Additionally, we have been making improvements in the area of technology and security. A full update will be shared in the near future.

A POINT TO PONDER:

The Ministry and the Feedback Teams have been asked why we are using the Boyce Memorial gift to provide these improvements instead of compensating for deficits in meeting our pledge and donation needs.

Here is the answer: Utilizing this memorial gift to pay our operating expenses would negate the prayerful discernment process the Holy Spirit guided us through. It is also not a sustainable or fiscally responsible approach to managing our budgetary needs. Finally, as a congregation we would risk becoming complacent in our responsibility to faithfully give to meet the needs of our church, as we are called to do.

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

Blanket Sunday

Next Sunday we will be given an opportunity to Blanket the World with Love as we receive our special offering for **Church World Service blankets**. A warm blanket goes a long way in helping to bring comfort to someone in need. Your generous donation can represent God's love and compassion to our neighbors around the world. Envelopes were sent in the May Lamplighter and can also be found in the pew.



Thank you for caring

Thanks to a very generous response to our request for items from the congregation, the young people in our Cause group were able to assemble and pack **35 Kids Kits for Church World Service**. Each of these colorful cloth bags were filled with school and art supplies that help children feel cared for, supported and ready to learn. Thank you for your caring and generosity.

Concert Here Today

**Not church-related but right here in our sanctuary!
If you're looking for musical entertainment, stop by.**

Sunday, May 3 at 3 pm - **Finger Lakes Symphony Orchestra** (tickets available at the door)

Also, save the following dates:

- Sunday, May 17 at 3 pm- **Jim Kerr and Wendy Stoddard**, (free will offering to benefit Called to Care, Canandaigua)
- Sunday, May 24 at 7:30 pm for the **senior recital of Gillian Vit** (violin), open to everyone.

Information on all concerts can be found in the May Lamplighter.



Jesus Saves by Cottrell and Moffitt

Verse 1 Hear the heart of Heaven beating,
“Jesus saves. Jesus saves.”
And a hush of mercy breathing,
“Jesus saves. Jesus saves.”
Hear the host of angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.”
And the sounding joy repeating,
“Jesus saves. Jesus saves.”

Verse 2 See the humblest hearts adore him,
“Jesus saves. Jesus saves.”
And the wisest bow before Him,
“Jesus saves. Jesus saves.”
See the sky alive with praise,
Melting darkness in its blaze.
There is light forevermore in
“Jesus saves.”

Verse 3 He will live our sorrow sharing,
“Jesus saves. Jesus saves.”
He will die our burden bearing,
“Jesus saves. Jesus saves.”
“It is done!” will shout the cross;
Christ has paid redemption’s cost!
While the empty tomb’s declaring,
“Jesus saves.”

Bridge(X2)

Freedom’s calling, chains are falling,
Hope is dawning bright and true.
Day is breaking, night is quaking,
God is making all things new.
“Jesus saves.”

Verse 4 O to grace, how great a debtor!
“Jesus saves. Jesus saves.”
All the saints who shout together,
“Jesus saves. Jesus saves.”
(X2) Rising up so vast and strong,
Lifting up salvation’s song,
The redeemed will sing forever,
“Jesus saves!”

From Pastor Mark:

In the sermon today, I will be touching on the triune nature of God. Out of the three “big creeds,” the Athanasian Creed is arguably the least familiar (the other two being the Apostles’ Creed and the Nicene Creed.) This lesser-known creed was developed in the fourth century in response to Arianism, a heretical claim that Jesus was not equal to the Father. I’ve included a shortened version (my edit) below for your review.

Athanasian Creed

...we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity, neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the Substance.
For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Ghost.
But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, is all one, the Glory equal, the Majesty co-eternal.
Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Ghost.
The Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, and the Holy Ghost uncreated.
The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible, and the Holy Ghost incomprehensible.
The Father eternal, the Son eternal, and the Holy Ghost eternal.
And yet they are not three eternals, but one eternal.
As also there are not three incomprehensibles, nor three uncreated, but one uncreated, and one incomprehensible.
So likewise the Father is Almighty, the Son Almighty, and the Holy Ghost Almighty.
And yet they are not three Almighties, but one Almighty.
So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Ghost is God.
And yet they are not three Gods, but one God.
So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son Lord, and the Holy Ghost Lord.
And yet not three Lords, but one Lord.
...
The Father is made of none, neither created, nor begotten.
The Son is of the Father alone, not made, nor created, but begotten.
The Holy Ghost is of the Father and of the Son, neither made, nor created, nor begotten, but proceeding.
So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Ghost, not three Holy Ghosts.
And in this Trinity none is afore, or after other; none is greater, or less than another;
But the whole three Persons are co-eternal together and co-equal.
So that in all things, as is aforesaid, the Unity in Trinity and the Trinity in Unity is to be worshipped...