

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)

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

Board of Trustees

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

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

Board of Stewards

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

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

Endowment Trustees

Mark Sheppard
Tom Wormer
Chuck Lowell

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 & Financial Sec.:	Carolyn Russell	office@uccdga.org
Treasurer:	Nancy Lamberson	nancy.lamberson@uccdga.org
Choir Director:	Georgia Sperano	gsperano@rochester.rr.com
Organist:	David Kraft	
Custodian:	Dan Crowley	

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH

Weekly Bulletin

Sunday
SEPTEMBER 27, 2026



THE
UNITED
CHURCH
CANADA

PHOTO CREDIT: ELISE CUNNINGHAM



Order of Worship for
SEPTEMBER 27, 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: Choral Paraphrase on “Beecher” by Homer Whitford

WELCOME AND GREETING TO OUR ONLINE CONGREGATION

OUR PREPARATION

Focus of the Day: God calls us to return to him, but his love reached us before we ever turned back.

INTROIT: (11:00) “Be Still”

United Church Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Return to me, declares the Lord Almighty, and I will return to you.

People: Lord, we have wandered, yet you have not let us go.

Leader: Even now the Lord watches over his people with mercy.

People: Draw near to us, Lord, as we draw near to you.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who returns to the brokenhearted.

All: We return to you today, Lord Almighty. Receive our worship.

***HYMN #558: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”**

CCLI Song #4934358, Public Domain, CCLI Lic. #11593017

***OPENING PRAYER:** Lord Almighty, you call us to return to you, and you promise to return to us. Forgive us for the times we have wandered, ignored your voice, or assumed you were far away. Draw our hearts back to you this morning, and let us know your nearness and mercy. Let us pray together the prayer Jesus taught us ... 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**

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.

***GLORIA PATRI: #807**

GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH THE WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 130 (page 614) {A.B. page 689}

SPECIAL MUSIC: (8:45) “Work of Art” by Shannon Wexelberg (words on insert)

Natalie DeTraglia

ANTHEM: (11:00) “Revive Us Again” arr. Pepper Choplin (words on insert)

United Church Choir

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE: (11:00)

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: James 4:7-10 (page 1198) {A.B. page 1356}

SPECIAL MUSIC: (11:00) “I’ll Fly Away” by Josiah Queen (words on insert) Elise Cunningham

Sermon
“Return to Me”
(Zechariah 1:1-21)
Pastor Wade Allen

OUR RESPONSE IN FAITH

***HYMN #446: “The Savior Is Waiting”**

CCLI Song #16206, ©1958 Sacred Songs, Inc., CCLI Lic. #11593017

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY: “Opening Voluntary” by Caleb Simper

***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 (on insert): “The Love of God”**

CCLI Song #18448, Public Domain, CCLI Lic. #11593017

PRAYER OVER MARION SUMPTER

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: Finale on “Hyfrydol” by Henry Coleman

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

PRAYER SUPPORT IN THE NARTHEX: (11:00) Trained Care Ministers are available following the service to pray for anyone desiring prayer

Please turn to the Prayer Requests page on the back of the bulletin insert for birth and death announcements.

Scriptures for next week, October 4

Sermon Scripture: **Zechariah 2**

First Reading: **Psalms 84:1-4**

Second Reading: **Ephesians 2:19-22**

Our prayers and sympathy are with Karen VanBlargan, who lost her husband, Jonathan, after a long illness on September 20th. His service was held here this past week. Please keep Karen and the whole family in your prayers during this difficult time.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Health concerns: Marion Sumpter, Beth Smythe, Claire Sheppard and family, Linda Gilbert and Braeden Flynn, Daniel Zimmerman (nephew of Wendy Bacon), Cheryl Casey, Jenifer Parks (friend of Natalie DeTraglia), Bill Kenyon, Deanna Stocker and Everest Ferrante (Ardelle Bigos relatives), Martha Ashley, Sherry Wesley (cousin of Sue V and Sandi D), Scott Smail (friend of Kathleen Boniak), Sheila Henderson, Phil Greene (Sharon Meyer's brother), Rodney Newfrock (friend of Elaine Allen), Jessica Canham (Sharyn's daughter), Tom Babcock (friend of Jenny Caron), 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)

Cancer: Sumer Miller, Bruce G (brother-in-law of Kathi Nacca), Scott Kesel (friend of Sandi D), David Landon (friend of Sue V and Sandi D), Michael M. (friend of Kathi Nacca), 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), 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), 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).

Highlights for This Week

- **The church office will be closed tomorrow** for a staff event.
- **Adult Sunday Morning Small Groups - Starting TODAY!** See below for our groups and their locations. All are following the sermon series, with the exception of Pastor Wade's class, which is journeying through the Apostle's Creed.
 - **Conference Room** - Parenting Coffee Hour
 - **Downstairs** (Main Street Side) - Adult Group
 - **Downstairs** (Kitchen Side) - Pastor Wade's Class
 - **Upstairs Room 26** - Adult Group (end 10:30am)
 - **25-35 Year-Old Group** - Pastor's Office
 - **18-24 Year-Old Group** - Bell Tower
- **Registration for Youth Club is open!** You can register by using the QR code to the right. Look further inside the bulletin for more information about Youth Club.
- **Youth Club begins Oct 7! Volunteers needed:** Deb is in the midst of recruiting volunteers for Youth Club. Some areas we need help are...
 - **Driving middle school students from Middle School to church.** Pick up middle school students at 2:15 and drive them to church. Total time commitment is approximately 2:00-2:30.
 - **Hang out with middle school students:** Join other adults as we build relationships with middle school students from 2:30-3:30 in the downstairs dining room.
 - **Youth Club volunteer training dates:** Sept 30 at 5:30pm or **note the change:** Oct 4 ~12 pm (immediately following late service) - please come to ONE **mandatory** training session. Training will last no longer than 1 hour and 15 minutes. Thank you!
 - **Parents of Youth Club kids:** Mark your calendar to join us for pizza dinner (5:40pm) and parent meeting (6pm) on Oct 7.
- **Adult Retreat - Onanda Park** - October 24, 2026, 9:30a-12:30p - Pastor Wally returns to continue his teaching on Imitating Christ! Mike O'Brien will be facilitating worship. Snacks and lunch will be provided. Please sign up online or in the Welcome Center. \$20-suggested free-will donation will be collected to fund this event.
- **Our Greeter/Coordinator for October: Dan F.** Please contact Dan or the office 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!**





Families & Children

Do you have little ones with you? **We're glad you're here!** We offer several options to help families worship comfortably together.

Nursery care is available during the service. **Children (infants through 5-years-old) are welcome in the nursery at any time during the service.** All nursery volunteers are background checked. The infant nursery, which is located adjacent to the preschool nursery, is also open and available for parents to use during the service for diaper changes, nursing, etc.

Children's Time is offered after the Children's Sermon on most Sundays for **children in Kindergarten through 2nd grade.**

Learning to Worship/Understanding Your Faith is offered after the Children's Sermon every Sunday through Nov 1 **for children in 3rd through 5th grade.**

The narthex (the area through the back doors of the sanctuary) is also **available throughout the service for children and a caregiver.** This space allows you to continue seeing and hearing the service while giving your child the freedom to move around or make a little noise.



For children who remain in the service, the worship activity cart will be available in the narthex every Sunday. Please be sure to return reusable items.

We invite each family to choose the worship option that works best for them. *At the same time, we kindly ask that if a child becomes disruptive during the service, they be taken from the sanctuary until they are settled.* Thank you for helping us create a welcoming worship environment for all.



Fall Fellowship & Fun

Saturday, October 17, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Hosted by our Stewards for all our friends ages 85 and older

Join us for a special fall gathering beginning with worship and Communion led by Pastor Wade. Afterward, the Stewards will serve lunch, followed by a sing-along of favorite oldies with Dan on guitar, Becky on piano, and Sharyn singing. We'll also enjoy lighthearted activities and plenty of time to visit with friends.

To RSVP, contact Christy at 765-717-5229 or christy.allen@uccdga.org

We look forward to sharing this wonderful fall day with you!

Baby Blessings Tea

Join us for the Baby Blessings Tea, an afternoon of warmth and celebration. **Presented by Care Net at Crosswinds Church**, this special gathering promises delightful treats and uplifting moments. Included with your ticket are fine teas, assorted sweets, savory bites, fresh fruit, elegantly served on tiered trays at your table.

Advance ticket sales only, as seating is limited.

Take the opportunity to bid on beautiful raffle baskets.

- ✦ Date: October 3rd
- ✦ Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- ✦ Tickets are \$30.
- ✦ Call Care Net at (585) 393-0437 for reservations by 9/28/26



Diaper and Wipes Collection for Care Net

September's Mission Collection is asking for donations of **baby wipes and diapers (all sizes, but most needed are sizes 4 and 6)** to benefit the Care Net ministry here in Canandaigua. One way Care Net supports new moms is by providing diapers, wipes, and formula so they can make it to the next paycheck. Let's also support these moms in this way and with your prayers. Please place your donations in the marked tote in the Mission Center.

Beaver Camp Fundraising Dinner

November 7, 2026 @ 5:30 pm in The United Church Dining Room

An opportunity to support and learn about the place that has changed the lives and faith of many in our congregation.

Tickets are complimentary, and we graciously ask guests to make a donation to help support the event and its mission. Your generosity is appreciated. See Bob or Brenda Cunningham for tickets.



Financial Report through August 31st.

During the first seven months of the year, donations and pledges received were \$13,221.45 less than budgeted and \$8,957.68 less than the same period in 2025. Total net loss for this period was \$25,026.59. Our budget for 2026 predicted that we would have a deficit of \$23,621.31, so we have lost an additional \$1,405.28 so far.

We have had two months so far this year where we have not even been able to cover all of the costs for the staff let alone any other expenses that we incur on a regular basis. The staff are doing all that they can to cut back on costs. Ultimately, our financial problems are not due to spending more than expected; they are due to a large decrease in pledges and donations that we were unable to predict. **Please prayerfully consider contributing more to help keep our programs going.**

We will begin the budgeting process for 2027 very soon and anticipate having less money to allocate to programs. For this reason, **we are not inviting budget requests for 2027.** At some point this fall, we will contact each program/team/committee and let you know how much we anticipate being able to allocate to you. All groups will be receiving less than they have in the past.

The Finance Committee will hold an informational meeting with regards to the finances on Sunday Oct 18th. Please watch for more information in the next few weeks.

Youth Club

Youth Club is our weekly **after school ministry** for kids in **2nd-8th grade**. Youth Club **begins** on **Wednesday, October 7** and ends on Wednesday, April 28, 2027.

How it works: Adults from our church pick up 6th-8th grade students from Canandaigua Middle School and drive them to the church. Different adults from our Church pick up 2nd-5th grade students (who are dismissed with walkers) near the Elementary cafeteria/elevators. These kids and adults walk up to the church together. Students from other schools/districts and homeschooled students are welcome to join Youth Club if their parents are able to provide transportation.

Our Youth Club time includes: snacks, Recreation (crafts/games), Bible study, Worship, and Family Time (dinner).

Parents pick up their kids at 6:30pm. Questions? See Deb Marshall. Register here **by September 30:** <https://uccdga.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3871551>

Please note: All adults working with children in any capacity are background checked.



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

Mission Grocery Donations

With rising food costs, more families are turning to food pantries to help put food on the table. Some are going into credit card debt with grocery expenses. CCIA is experiencing a large jump in the number of 1st time families. Your food donations here will help supply the Salvation Army and CCIA (Canandaigua Churches in Action) Food Pantries. CCIA needs staples such as **spaghetti sauce, canned fruit and vegetables, tuna, and cereal** (which is not always available through FoodLink). Donations can be placed in the Mission Center. Thank you for sharing out of what God has given you!



North Carolina Mission Trip 2027

There will be an informational meeting for the 2027 Inter-generational Mission Trip. The trip is planned for **March 20 - 26** and we will be returning to Black Mountain, NC. We will be working with the **Valley Hope Foundation (valleyhopefoundation.org)** once again as well as starting a relationship with **Black Mountain Home for children (BMH) (blackmountainhome.org)**. BMH is an organization that works with children displaced from their families.

Please join us on **Oct. 11 at 12:00 in the Fellowship room** for more information and if you are thinking about joining the team. Contact Sonya B. (sonya.brooks99@yahoo.com) with any questions.

Missionary Visit

Carlos Bonilla and Mayra Giovanetti are a missionary couple that our church supports. They have been used by God in discipleship in churches and with ethnic groups in Colombia through UNIBAUTISTA. This includes the Wayuu in The Guajira-Northern Region. Their ministry also includes Chile, Spain, Nicaragua, and the wider regional context of Iberoamerica and the Caribbean. The BGs have served since 2000 through International Ministries, registered as the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society.

Carlos and Mayra recently returned from 9 weeks of ministry in Spain between April and July, impacting 17 churches with their discipleship encounter materials. Upon return, they've been on their annual US/PR assignment that continues until October 31st. The BGs regularly write Acts and Love in Action-BGs Et Al. The BGs are regional consultants for discipleship that "love intentionally (Rom. 12:15) while correctly explaining the word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15), knowing God provides the growth (1 Cor. 3:6-9)".

Mayra will be giving a presentation on October 10th from 11:00 AM-2:00 PM at Webbs Crossing Bible Church in Hornell. A light lunch will be served prior to the presentation. Cathy B. (cbush1126@frontier.com) and Sonya B. (sonya.brooks99@yahoo.com) will be attending and are happy to carpool with anyone interested in going. **Please let one of us know by October 7th** (even if you don't want to carpool) so that we can RSVP to the Hornell church.



POP-UP PANTRY

Foodlink's "Pop-Up Food Pantry"

will welcome volunteers on **Monday, September 28th from 9:00-11:00am** at the Town of Canandaigua Highway Barn, 5440 Routes 5 & 20. As "hands-on" volunteers we work with others from our community to package food as it comes off Foodlink's truck and load the items into vehicles as recipients drive through the barn. We are blessed to have this monthly opportunity to provide emergency food relief to many.

A Farewell Reception for Marion Sumpter

Please join us for a reception honoring Marion Sumpter **following the 11:00 a.m. worship service today in the Welcome Center.**



Marion will soon be moving to Ohio to live near her daughter. During her time as part of our church family, she has served faithfully in many ministries and blessed us with her enthusiasm, warm smile, generosity, creativity, and servant's heart. We will miss Marion dearly and hope you will join us as we celebrate her, thank her for her many contributions, and wish her every happiness in this new chapter.

Work of Art (8:45 service) by Shannon Wexelberg

You are the Potter, and I am the clay
You are the Artist, and I am the paint
You are the Writer, and I am the song
I will be your instrument my whole life long

Chorus

Mold me, change me, color me
In shades of You, in shades of You
Play me, sing through me a melody
So when they look at me
They will only see who You are!

You are my Father and I am your child
An empty vessel and You are the Fire
All that You are, Lord, is all I desire
Master, Creator, Take my life

Chorus

Create in me your Work of Art!



Revive Us Again (11:00 service) arr Pepper Choplin

Revive us again (X4)
Hallelujah, hallelujah.
O come and revive us again.

We praise You, O God,
For the gift of your love,
For Jesus who died
And is now gone above.

Hallelujah, hallelujah,
O Lord of glory,
Revive us again.

We praise You, O God,
For Your Spirit of light,
Who has shown us our Savior
And scattered our night

Revive us, restore us,
Renew us, inspire us,
Revive us again.

Revive us again,
Fill our hearts with Your love.
May our hearts be rekindled
With fire from above.

I'll Fly Away (11:00 service) by Josiah Queen

Verse 1

There is a place I long to go
Where the pain gets turned away right at the door
No one gets sick, no one gets old
No more fightin', no more strivin' anymore
'Cause I'm on a train that's bound for glory
Got friends and family waitin' for me
And they're already singin', Holy
Singin', Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord

Chorus

One day I will fly away
Trade these bones for loads of grace
And I just can't shake this feelin' in my soul
Heaven is my home
This world is a temporary place
I'll leave it one day out of the grave
I'll fly away
I'll fly away

Verse 2

There is a place I long to know
Where the heroes of the faith walk streets of gold
And from that place, I'll join the song
Singin', Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord

Chorus

Verse 3

I'm on a train that's bound for glory
Got friends and family waitin' for me
And they're already singin', Holy
Singin', Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord

Chorus

The Love Of God

Words and Music by
Frederick Martin Lehman

VERSE

$\text{♩} = 82$

D G/D D A

1. The love of God is great - er far than tongue or pen can ev - er
2. When years of time shall pass a - way and earth - ly thrones and king - doms
3. Could we with ink the o - cean fill and were the skies of parch - ment

4 D G/D D A

tell; It goes be - yond the high - est star, and reach - es to the low - est
fall, when men, who here re - fuse to pray, on rocks and hills and moun - tains
made, were ev - 'ry stalk on earth a quill and ev - 'ry man a scribe by

8 D G D A

hell; The guilt - y pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to
call, God's love so sure shall still en - dure, all mea - sure - less and
trade, To write the love of God a - bove would drain the o - cean

12 D G D A D D7

win; His err - ing child He rec - on - ciled, and par - doned from his sin. O love of
strong; Re-deem - ing grace to Ad - am's race - the saints' and an - gels' song.
dry; Nor could the scroll con - tain the whole, tho' stretched from sky to sky.

CHORUS

G D D/F# A D D7 G

God, how rich and pure! How mea - sure - less and strong! It shall for - ev - er - more en -

22 D D/F# A D

- dure - The saints' and an - - gels' song!

The Love Of God

Verse 3, original Hebrew lyrics by
Meir Ben Isaac Nehorai

Words and Music by
Frederick Martin Lehman

VERSE

$\text{♩} = 82$

D G/D D A

1. The love of God is great - er far than tongue or pen can ev - er
2. When years of time shall pass a - way and earth - ly thrones and king - doms
3. Could we with ink the o - cean fill and were the skies of parch - ment

4 D G/D D A

tell; It goes be - yond the high - est star, and reach - es to the low - est
fall, when men, who here re - fuse to pray, on rocks and hills and moun - tains
made, were ev - 'ry stalk on earth a quill and ev - 'ry man a scribe by

8 D G D A

hell; The guilt - y pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to
call, God's love so sure shall still en - dure, all mea - sure - less and
trade, To write the love of God a - bove would drain the o - cean

12 D G D A D D7

win; His err - ing child He rec - on - ciled, and par - doned from his sin. O love of
strong; Re-deem - ing grace to Ad - am's race - the saints' and an - gels' song.
dry; Nor could the scroll con - tain the whole, tho' stretched from sky to sky.

CHORUS

G D D/F# A D D7 G

God, how rich and pure! How mea - sure - less and strong! It shall for - ev - er - more en -

22 D D/F# A D

- dure - The saints' and an - - gels' song!