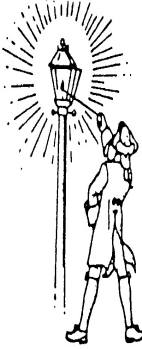


The United Church  
Presbyterian-American Baptist  
11 Gibson Street  
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage Paid  
Permit No. 26  
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Or Current Resident

# The Lamplighter



**The United Church**  
11 Gibson Street



**Canandaigua, NY**  
585-394-0503

**Worship Service, 8:45 and 11:00 am**

**February 2024****Rev. Dr. Wade Allen**



- Feb 2-4 – REVIVE Youth Retreat at LeTourneau
- Feb 4 – Installation of new officers
- Feb 4 – FLSO Concert, 3 pm
- Feb 5 – Trustees meeting, 7 pm
- Feb 6 – Stewards, 7 pm
- Feb 9 – Youth Game Night, 6:30 pm
- Feb 9 – Chasin’ the Blues, 7 pm at Crosswinds
- Feb 11 – Souperbowl collection
- Feb 13 – Committee Night, 7 pm
- Feb 14 – Ash Wednesday
- Feb 19 – **Church Office is closed for Presidents’ Day**
- Feb 19 – Official Board meeting, 7 pm



**Table of Contents**

Church Family News and Stewards info.....	Page 2
Pastor’s Page.. ..	Page 3
Treasurer .....	Page 4
Mission News.....	Page 5
Miscellaneous.....	Page 6
Children’s and Family Ministry.....	Pages 7-8
Youth Ministry.....	Page 9
Adult Ministry.....	Page 10
Bible and Theology.....	Page 11
Pastoral Ministry.....	Pages 12
Concert and event flyers.....	Pages 13-14
Calendar.....	Page 15



**SPECIAL MEMBER BIRTHDAYS:**

Special Members are those in their 90s, and/or who are homebound, in nursing homes, or who need special care. Please contact Virginia at the church office if you need a list and addresses for our Special Members –sending cards shows them how much their church family cares about them!



**Calendar page here...**

**Bob Ledgerwood: Feb. 25,** age 71. Bob joined the church in February 2008 and was active in Bible Study groups and adult Sunday School. He lives at home where he receives help dealing with his advanced MS. He was a pharmacist at the Canandaigua VA for many years. Bob’s family had a dairy farm in Penn Yan and one of his daughters currently runs a farm in Hornell with her husband. He likes to watch TV: football, *Matlock*, and westerns. Bob also likes antiques and he loved his old 1970s TransAm!

**Remembering our treasured Special Members:**

**Barbara Scott, age 90,** passed away on **January 13<sup>th</sup>**. She was a member for 23 years and enjoyed her friends in Circle 7 and Sunday School classes. *The family would like to thank everyone for their cards and prayers. It was greatly appreciated.*

**Fred Magley, age 99,** passed away on **January 20<sup>th</sup>**. Fred was a Pastor Emeritus of our church, serving from 1966 – 1989. He was instrumental in the building of our education wing, establishing our Youth Club, and expanding our Missions ministry. He was also very involved within our community, helping initiate the building of the 80 Parrish St. and Wilcox Lane senior apartments. He moved to the west coast several years ago to be closer to his family.

**REMEMBERING:**

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Lori McMillen**, whose mother, **Ruth Tucceri**, passed away on **January 11th**. Please keep the McMillens and the whole family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with the family of **Ed Olson**, a 60 year member of the church, who passed away on **January 20th**. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

**CELEBRATING:**

We celebrate the birth of Charlotte Sue Boseck, daughter of Ben and Emily Boseck, on **December 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Her proud grandparents are **Jim and Becky Boseck** and **Tracie and Derek Marris**. Please keep the family in your prayers during this special time.

**TO OUR CHURCH “SENIORS”**

**The Stewards would like to know** which members are turning **90 years old** this year!!

If **you** are, or you know of a church member who is, we’d like to know because at age 90, these members become part of our marvelous group of **Special Members!** Please contact Virginia Holroyd at the office or email her at:

virginia.holroyd@uccdga.org.

We’d also like to know about those who are **ages 87-89** so we know who is on the horizon!



**Special Members** are those in their 90s, are homebound, in nursing homes, or need temporary special care. The members of the **Board of Stewards** visit our Special Members regularly.

**MEMBER CARE:** If you are aware of anyone in our church family who is ill, having surgery, who had a death in the family, is having troubles in some way? Are you missing your neighbor who sits in the pew next to yours? Or do you know someone who has a happy occasion to celebrate, please let us know!! The Staff works with the **Outreach and Congregation Care Committee** to connect with members of our church family who need encouragement and recognition. **We care about you!** Call the church office or Congregation Care Committee Chair: Sue Vadney, at (585) 739-8615



## The Story of Jesus

Each week in worship, we walk through Jesus's life and ministry. This year, we are primarily in Mark's gospel. In February, we transition from the season of Epiphany to the season of Lent. Lent is a season where we contemplate Jesus' sacrifice for us on the Cross. We consider his determination to give Himself for our sins.

This year, in the season of Lent, we will consider critical miracles in Mark's gospel. Mark records at least ten essential miracles that point to Jesus' authority or power. Each miracle highlights an area in which Jesus is in charge. As we follow Mark's story, it becomes clear that Jesus is God, able to offer Himself as the sacrifice for our sins.

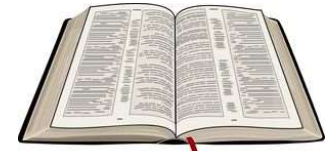
I hope you will join us each week as we step into the story. I have included a schedule for you to read ahead each Sunday as you prepare for worship.

*Wade*

---

### Worship Schedule and Readings

- February 04 - Jesus' Purpose (Mark 1:29-39)  
Additional Readings: Isaiah 40:21-31, Psalm 147:1-11
- February 11 - Jesus' Transfiguration (Mark 9:2-9)  
Additional Readings: Psalm 50:1-6, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
- February 18 - Power to Forgive (Mark 2:1-12)  
Additional Readings: 1 Peter 3:18-22, Psalm 25:1-10
- February 25 - Power Over the Sabbath (Mark 3:1-6)  
Additional Readings: Psalm 92:1-5, Mark 2:23-28



The QR code to the right will also take you to the streaming page

---

### American Baptist Pastor's Colloquium

In February, Wade and Christy will travel to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, to meet with twenty-four other American Baptist Pastors nationwide at the American Baptist MMBB (Ministers and Missionary Benefit Board) Pastor's Colloquium.

The intent of the Colloquium from its beginning has been to learn from one another rather than bring in outside resource persons, believing that the insights and gifts that foster personal growth and further professional pastoral leadership are present in the Colloquium participants, each of whom brings a wealth of perspectives and perceptions and speaks with the voice of experience.

Since its inception in 1985, the Colloquium has offered a valuable and deeply appreciated opportunity for mutual support, professional enrichment, theological reflection, spiritual nourishment, respectful dialogue, challenging conversation, hearty laughter, occasional tears, and forming treasured ties that bind one to another as partners in ministry. The vitality of the Colloquium continues as the participants from diverse theological and regional perspectives gather each year.

Please keep Wade and Christy in your prayers as they interact and invest in the broader American Baptist Community.

# Financial Items

[FLSO flyer here](#)

Description	Jan-Dec 2023 Actual	2023 Budget
Income		
Total Giving	452,961.23	411,500.00
Other Income	13,065.92	48,933.66
Total Income	466,027.15	460,433.66
Spending		
Education and Ministry	33,968.51	36,000.00
Operating	66,671.95	61,550.00
Personnel & Related	350,750.04	362,883.66
Total Expenses	451,390.50	460,433.66
<b>Net Income Year to Date</b>	<b>14,636.65</b>	<b>0.00</b>

(budget includes transfer from surplus of \$37,910.58)

From January through December, we have taken in \$14,636.65 more than we have spent. We are still doing better than anticipated. We have spent \$216,076.24 on capital projects including the downstairs renovation, drinking fountains, concrete repair, gutter replacement and new exit doors. This funding comes from a separate account and is not included above.

Thank you for your faithful giving!

Nancy Lamberson  
Treasurer

## Online Giving

Our new church management program makes online giving very easy! Access it through our website, app, or scan this QR code. You can give one-time gifts or set up recurring giving to happen on whatever schedule you choose.



## GREETERS of ALL AGES are needed for our Services in FEBRUARY:

Greeters play an important role in extending hospitality in our church on Sundays. Greeters welcome people as they enter the church building, they hand out Bulletins, and they collect the Offering at each Sunday Service. This is a role where kids can help too!

The **Sign-up Sheet** is on the **Church Office door**. Reminders and instructions are emailed the Friday before your scheduled Sunday. If you have any questions about being a Greeter, please talk with any Steward (listed on the back of the Sunday Bulletin) or Virginia Holroyd. Our **February Steward of the Month** is **Margie Wall**. *We really appreciate your service!*



## THE STEWARDS ASSISTANCE FUND:

Donations to the Stewards Assistance Fund help those in our church family who are going through financial challenges. If **you** need some assistance *or know of someone* in our church family who does, please contact Virginia Holroyd at the Church.

Monies have been given to help pay for groceries, car repairs, electric bills, other household expenses, and medical expenses. The recipients of these funds are very, very appreciative!!



*Thank you for helping your church family!*



# PASTORAL MINISTRY

Our Adult Education Retreat produced a number of takeaways. This is the third Lamplighter where I share snippets from our retreat to serve as important reminders. For those who did not attend the retreat, I still encourage you to consider these approaches within the context of all sorts of divisive issues, not just the retreat theme (the retreat theme was about moving from an adversarial to a missional posture pertaining to the topic of human sexuality).

This month, I'd like to share the **second** and **third** steps to cultivating a missional (not adversarial) posture of dialogue. Please join us in prayerfully discerning the statements below, and how God may be asking us to respond.

## Recognize & own your situated-ness in an ecclesial tradition

The United Church of Canandaigua is firmly rooted in the historic teachings of biblical Christianity. With regard to the specific matter of human sexuality, the position of the United Church is identical to that of historic Christianity and reflects the general 'sensus fidelium' across time and geography.

## Recognize the tension inherent in all lifestyle judgements

Because all perspectives are to some extent reflective of culture and context, it is inevitable that there will be differences of interpretation and opinion among intelligent, well-meaning people. Moreover, because the communities in which we live – even our local congregations – are comprised of people from a wide variety of backgrounds and perspectives, we must acknowledge that there will inevitably be a range of individual perspectives on matters related to biblical interpretation and personal morality.

We understand the topic of human sexuality is sensitive. Engaging in a topic like this demands care and maturity. We believe it is no coincidence that many groups in our church have been praying over, studying, and discerning Ephesians 4:1-6. This passage speaks to the standard we are called to live as Gospel-believing people, which is rooted in the oneness and unity that Christ provided us (and to which we are called to maintain, with God's help).

*<sup>1</sup> As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

**Ephesians 4:1-6**

Next month's Lamplighter will detail the rest of the steps suggested at our 2023 Adult Education Retreat.

 Mark Slomski | Pastor of Youth & Adult Ministry | [Mark.Slomski@uccdga.org](mailto:Mark.Slomski@uccdga.org) | 585-455-7491



## LOVE NEVER FAILS

### Connected in Christ

**Connected in Nicaragua** Lynn Bernard and Mike Walker are joining a February 8 – 17 NY mission trip to LaPimienta, Nicaragua. Pray for the team partnering with AMOS to lead a VBS, install solar electric on a rural health clinic, and complete water testing. To support this mission trip look for the donation box in the Welcome Center. You may also make a donation on the church website or place a designated gift in the offering plate.

**Connected with our Christmas Joy Offering** Thank you for Generous donation of \$3032 to our December special offering. Half was given to Presbyterian Joy Offering and the other half was given to Am Baptist Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering and Am Baptist's America for Christ Offering. Thank you.

**Connected with the Canandaigua Community** Each week we fill the grocery cart in the welcome center with food for the CCIA food pantry or the local Salvation Army. February request is peanut butter (smooth or chunky), pork & beans, and cereal to fill children's tummies.

Love gift to babies requested. **February 11-18 we are collecting** scent free wipes and diapers for CareNet Canandaigua. Larger size diapers (4-7) are needed. Place diapers and wipes next to the food cart in the Welcome Center



**Connected to refugees** Many refugees are forced from their home by war, political instability, and famine. Each of our four named missionary families (BGs, White, Long, and Smith-Mather) is working with other faith based and humanitarian aid groups to provide safety, food, and medicine to people forced from their homes.

**February 9** will be "Chasin' the Blues", a night of fun, laughter, & luscious treats to support refugee safety in Canandaigua. Linda Wertz, Cathy Bush, and Wendy Stoddard (and others) have tickets supporting Called to Care Canandaigua. Assist the refugee families arriving in Canandaigua.



**Connected across traditional boundaries** Jesus honored the Father. Jesus and Paul after him respected traditions. "The greatest of these is love" is call to connections with people like the Samaritans, people with different traditions.

## All are called to the Fellowship of believers. God is love.

### Silent Auction 2024

**Your help is needed** to make our Silent Auction a success.

We are looking for **volunteers** to help plan and/or work at our Bi-Annual Silent Auction. The auction this year is planned for June 2-June 9, 2024. If interested, please contact Regina Allen at (585) 260-4060 or [regieallen@gmail.com](mailto:regieallen@gmail.com)

We also need **donors** of items such as: home crafted items, store bought items, gift baskets, pledges of your time or talents to help someone [such as 1 or 2 hours of gardening or babysitting time]; antiques, a boat ride on Canandaigua Lake, a home cooked meal for a group of people, etc.

The funds raised for our Trip Fund will assist our Youth and Adults as they go out into the mission field. For example: Mission trips by the Youth Group; Adult Mission Trips to Mexico to install clean water plants through Living Waters for the World; and Mission Trips to Nicaragua with AMOS to provide health clinics, Computer labs and libraries.

Prayerfully consider how you can help us raise money for our Trip Fund. It takes much planning and many hands to make this happen. We would appreciate any help you can give us. Thank you.



## Miscellaneous Things...



Dear Church Family,

I want to thank everyone for the support you gave me during my recent surgery and recovery. The calls, visits, and the abundant cards kept my spirits up. I appreciate you all so much, and am so thankful to be a part of this church family

**Marion Sumpter**

### Daffodil days ~ This spring, give the gift of hope~

Did you know the daffodil is the flower of hope and renewal and the tulip is the flower of happiness, love, joy, good luck, and well-wishes? Who wouldn't love to bring in Spring with all of those wonderful things? The American Cancer Society is offering Daffodil Days in our community once again this year. To the American Cancer Society, the daffodil symbolizes the hope we all share for a future where cancer no longer threatens those we love. Daffodil Days is one of the oldest and beloved fundraising programs that provides hope to everyone touched by cancer.



### Stampin' Up!

The next Stampin' Up class is scheduled for February 17th from 9 - 12. We will be making the cards pictured below! If you have any questions or are interested in signing up by February 11th, contact Sharon Meyer.



# BIBLE & THEOLOGY

I'm currently reading a book titled "5 Smooth Stones of Pastoral Work". This book makes a plea for the use of the Bible, especially the Old Testament, as a foundation to build upon what a pastor does.

Those 5 smooth stones, along with their corresponding books of the Bible, are:

- Prayer-Directing: Song of Songs
- Story-Making: Ruth
- Pain-Sharing: Lamentations
- Nay-Saying: Ecclesiastes
- Community-Building: Esther

There is much to share from this powerful book. For now, I'd like to share the snippet below, which offers helpful ways of thinking about salvation. Of course, there is larger context in play, but I believe this snippet represents itself well enough. I pray we consider what is being explained in this text and are able to live our lives appropriately in relation to it.

I appreciate the author's linking of the love commandments with salvation. I also value the author placing salvation within the realms of physical reality (using words such as "history" and "present" and "personal"). Israel's response to salvation was a feast, speaking to the human response in creating tradition, all in the effort to remember what God has done. The boldened text is my own emphasis.

"Salvation is the act of God in which we are rescued from the consequences of our sin (bondage, fragmentation) and put in a position to live in free, open, loving relationships with God and our neighbors. **The double command "love God ... love your neighbor ..."** assumes salvation as a background. Without God's act of salvation we are "dead in trespasses and sin." With God's act of salvation we are able to be addressed by a whole series of commands by which we are ordered into live, whole, healthy relationships with God and other persons.

**Salvation was God acting decisively in history** so that each person, both individually and corporately, was free to live in faith. Salvation — God doing for us what we cannot do for ourselves, overcoming the powers of bondage, leading through the forces of evil, establishing the people in fact as God's beloved — was announced in the Feast of Passover as **present and personal**.

Salvation means to be whole again, to be delivered in the midst of peril. Far back toward the Hebrew root of the word, it may even suggest that no matter how closely the evil hedges you about, God will yet clear for you all the space you need to move around it: "I called upon the LORD in distress: the LORD answered me, and set me in a large place" (Ps. 118:5, KJV). **Passover was the concentrated, annual attention that Israel gave to God's definitive act of saving love."**





# ADULT ED MINISTRY

## Reflections & Learnings

The **Adult Education Sunday School Hour** continues! Continuing into February, we have the following groups available: Bible Study on 1 & 2 Timothy (Downstairs Dining Hall); Parenting Coffee Hour (Fellowship Room); Corporate Prayer Group (Youth Office), and the Young Adult group (Bell Tower Room).

Our **Young Adult** lunch has moved to the first and third Sundays of the month, 12:00 PM – 12:50 PM, after service. The **Young Adult** is also piloting a Saturday evening connect at the church (second and fourth Sundays of the month), 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM. This event includes worship, Bible study, and discussion.

As always, adults in our church are engaged in various small group ministries. To name a few, we have our Men's breakfast, Women's circles, Bible study groups, knitting group, and prayer shawl knitting. Check out the church calendar for times and locations of these different groups!

As for **Special Events**, a group of 6 young adults are attending **Passion Conference** in Atlanta, Georgia. A total of 55,000 young adults attended the event. Thanks to an anonymous donor, we were able to treat these students to a trip to the Georgia Aquarium before they returned! Looking out towards the summer, our **Adult Ed Retreat** will be hosted in August at Onanda Park. Into the Fall of 2024, we will be hosting our first **United Church Conference** (official name to be finalized later) in November. More details to come as these events get closer.

The **Adult Education Ministry Team** continues its efforts and facilitation for the 2024 Sunday school groups. Please continue to keep this team in your prayers as they serve in this important ministry. We are also coordinating a **Young Adult Ministry Discernment** group, which will conduct prayerful discernment on the direction of the young adult ministry program here at the church.

## Looking Forward

**Sunday School Hour** – Weekly 9:45 AM – 10:45 AM

**Young Adult Lunch** – First and Third Sunday's of the Month – 12:00 PM – 12:50 PM

**Young Adult Saturday Evening Connect** – Second and Fourth Sunday's of the Month – 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

**Men's Breakfast** – Wednesday's @ 7:00 AM

**Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Conference** - March 16, 2024



Mark Slomski | Pastor of Youth & Adult Ministry | [Mark.Slomski@uccdga.org](mailto:Mark.Slomski@uccdga.org) | 585-455-7491

# CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

## What's happened...

On **January 24th**, the **Youth Club** kids were able to **invite one friend** to join them at Youth Club. We had many friends come and see all the fun we have each week ~ we had a snow festival! We invite these friends to continue coming to Youth Club for the rest of the year, and each year we usually have a few friends who decide to do that! We are so blessed to be able to continue to share this valuable ministry with so many children and their families.

**Sunday school** resumed on **January 7, 2024** for all ages. We have classes upstairs for 3-year-olds all the way through seniors in High School. We also offer a variety of classes for adults, including Parenting Coffee Hour, a Bible study on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy, and a class for Young Adults. In addition, nursery care is provided so that parents of young children can either teach a class or attend a class of their choice.

## What's happening...

The season of **Lent** begins on **Ash Wednesday**, which is **February 14** this year. All children who attend Sunday school will be given an age appropriate **Lent devotional** and older students will be encouraged to take one. We work hard at picking out Lent devotionals each year, and we hope these help children and families spend time **growing closer to God** and one another during this special church season.

On February 14, 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 11th**. There is a collection box in Deb Marshall's office.

Please **join us** for "**Coffee and Connection**" on **Sunday, February 18, 2024** during the **Sunday school hour (9:45-10:45)**. This will be an informal time of connection, along with coffee and light snacks, open to all in our church family. Coffee and Connection will be held in the fellowship room. (There is no Sunday school on this Sunday due to winter break for schools).

**Mark your calendar!!** We have reserved the VIP room at **Roseland Bowl** on **Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>** from **5-8pm** for our church family to enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship! Spaces are limited, so *you need to sign up ahead of time*. The sign-up will be posted on Deb's door in mid-February. We will enjoy **pizza, soda, dessert, and bowling**, of course!

## Upcoming Events...

**Sunday, February 4** – **FLSO concert**, 3pm in the sanctuary (tickets can be purchased at the door)

**Sunday, February 11** – **Superbowl of Caring** (monetary collection for food pantries after each service)

**Wednesday, February 14** – **Lent begins**; devotionals available for adults and SS children/teens

**Sunday, February 18** – No Sunday school; **Coffee and Connection** in the **Fellowship room** at **9:45am**

**Saturday, March 16** – Church family **bowling night** at **Roseland Bowl** (sign up required)

# CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

## Save the dates...

Make plans to jump in to Scuba VBS!! **July 8-12, 2024, 9am – 12noon**; Kick-off: Sun., July 7, 2024 at 6:30pm  
Registration will begin in March



All children, ages **4 years old** through those who **completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade**, are welcome to **participate!**  
Children/teens who **completed 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade** are encouraged to **volunteer!**

## Personal reflection...

From January 8-12, I had a special opportunity to attend the Children's Pastors Conference (CPC), which is organized by the International Network of Children's Ministry (INCM). This conference is held in Orlando, FL, and it was a little warmer there than it is here. ☺ I have attended this conference once before, in 2019, by myself. This time, I was able to go with a couple partners in ministry from Crosswinds Wesleyan church. We had a wonderful week together!

To give you an idea of how this conference works, it is open to anyone who works in children's ministry, anywhere in the world. Most people are from the US and Canada, but we had some international children's ministry workers there as well. There were about 2,000 of us gathered together in Orlando! The conference itself is held all day on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Each day, we worshipped together a few different times, led by a band from a large church in Nashville. It was evident that the Holy Spirit was with us during each of these worship times. As a large group, we also heard from 2 speakers each day, and they encouraged us and gave us new insight into God and His word. We also were able to attend "breakout sessions," which are topics relevant to ministry that we choose to attend based on what we want to learn in our current season of ministry. These sessions were for 25-50 people, depending on the topic.

Just as He did in 2019, God met me in Orlando and spoke to my heart. He showed me things in my life that need to change, and he reminded me of His grace and mercy. He also reminded me of how important children's ministry is for the future of our church and for the future of Christianity. I'm so thankful to be a part of a church family who values children's ministry. The ministry that happened in this church family 100 years ago is still having an impact today! And, unless Jesus returns first, the ministry that is happening now will have an impact 100 years from now. Whatever part you play in children's ministry, it is important and has eternal benefits. If you aren't yet involved in children's or youth ministry, how's the Lord calling you to jump in?

~ Deb

*"We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done."*  
Psalm 78:4b (NIV)

# YOUTH MINISTRY

## Reflections & Learnings

**The Cause** youth program continues their journey together through the "Can I Ask" that curriculum. Recently, they have discussed the contents of the chapter titled "Is Jesus really the only way to God?"

Our **Youth Ministry Team** continues their faithful work in youth ministry! For 2024, our team will be experiencing a slightly different expression to our regular connects. Instead of a formal agenda with a 1-hour meeting, we will shift our posture and share a meal together, bond through a fun activity, conduct an established devotional and prayer time, and engage in ministry discernment.

Our **Youth Sunday School** continue their activities between church services! For our High School students, they are wrapping up a series titled **The Outsiders**, where our group will learn about how to live in the Kingdom of God every day. They will then venture into a series titled **Marvel**, which helps students explore what it means to have a lifestyle of worship. Our Middle School students are journeying through a series titled **Who Am I**, which helps students discover their unique identity in Christ.

The **Middle School Youth Club** group has recently covered sessions about forgiveness, community, being known by God, and remembering the God is with us. This month, they are working through a series titled "**I Am Secure**". These sessions are all produced by Hyfi curriculum.

For January, our **Special Events** included our **Potato Bar fundraiser** during the annual meeting, which support our mission trips. We also held a **youth lock-in** event for our youth, which included an overnight stay at the church for our Middle School and High School students.

Our **Monthly School Youth Connects** continue! These mid-week connections are aimed at providing positive connections with their faith family. This is also a great time for the parents to connect with one another, as well! Check out the dates below for the next connection dates, times, and locations.

## Looking Forward

**REVIVE LeTourneau Winter Youth Event** – February 2-4 – LeTourneau (event details online)

**Youth Game Night** – February 9 (exact time to be announced)

**WorkCamp Meeting & Souper Bowl of Caring Fundraiser** – February 11 (Sunday morning & after service)

**Connect Marcus Whitman** – February 12\* @ 2:30 PM (Gorham Free Library) \*Moved for winter recess

**Connect Canandaigua** – February 14 @ 6:45 AM (North Road Tim Horton's)

**Connect Victor** – February 28 @ 6:45 AM (Main Street Dunkin Donuts) \*Moved for President's recess

**NO CAUSE** – February 11 & 18



Mark Slomski | Pastor of Youth & Adult Ministry | Mark.Slomski@uccdga.org | 585-455-7491