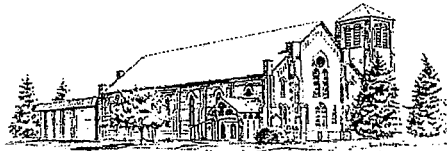


The Lamplighter

The United Church
11 Gibson Street

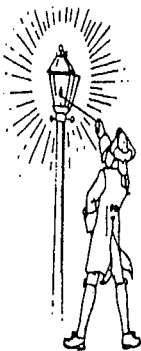


Canandaigua, NY
585-394-0503

Worship Service, 8:45 and 11:00 am

April 2024

Rev. Dr. Wade Allen



Church EVENTS

- April 1 – Trustees meeting, 7 pm
- April 2 – Stewards, 7 pm
- April 7 – Virginia’s Retirement Celebration, 9:45 am
- April 9 – Committee Night, 7 pm
- April 15 – Official Board Meeting, 7 pm
- April 21 – Teacher Appreciation Sunday
- April 27 – Testimony Saturday, 10 am
- April 28 – FLSO concert, 3 pm



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Calendar.....	inserted



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!



April 25: Betty Aquadro Owens, 93 yrs. old. Family connection: Betty is Beth Johnson’s mother, and mother-in-law of Paul Johnson. Betty has been a member since 2006 and enjoyed our worship services before moving to Tennessee several years ago. She has also lived in a few other states including Montana, Georgia, and Colorado. She enjoys visiting friends, playing in her bridge and church groups, gardening at home, and she loves to entertain the family when they journey south for a visit. She has six grandchildren and six great-grandkids-with another due on April 1st! *Happy Birthday Betty!*

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.

REMEMBERING:

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Linda Griepsma**, whose sister, **Helen “Chip” Griepsma**, passed away on February 20th. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with the family of **Lyell Galbraith**, who passed away on March 3. Lyell’s family will celebrate his life and legacy at the Green Front Restaurant on Saturday, April 20, from 1-4 pm. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with **June Pettit**, whose sister-in-law, **Sherry Thorpe**, passed away on March 8. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

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

Eleanor Oskamp, our oldest member, turned 100 on March 17th. She sends many thanks for the outpouring of well wishes and prayers from her church family. She says, *"Thanks so much, it was quite a surprise to receive so many colorful birthday cards and the big birthday banner! And guess what I got for my birthday? I received a letter from the Yankees organization along with a signed baseball, a purse, and a replica ring from their last World Series win!!!"* As you can guess, she's been a huge fan for many decades - hats off to her family for arranging that! And thanks to all of you who sent cards and signed the banner!



Stampin’ Up!

The next Stampin’ Up class is scheduled for April 20th from 9 – 2 in the dining room. It is a card buffet and attendees will choose 10 of 15 available cards to make. If you have any questions or are interested in signing up, contact Sharon Meyer.



Easter Season

Easter Sunday is a high Sunday for Christians. We celebrate the central tenet of our faith: Jesus is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed!

Did you know that Easter is not just one Sunday but a season in the church calendar? It begins on Resurrection Sunday and continues to Pentecost Sunday. We will follow the church calendar through the Easter Season this year, utilizing the weekly Lectionary readings.

The readings often include Jesus' post-resurrection appearances. So, we will discuss two of these appearances on the first two Sundays in April. We will then transition to the epistle readings for the final four weeks in the season of Easter, which are from John's first epistle.

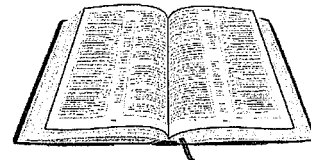
John's epistles offer fundamental teachings of the Christian faith. John pens these letters as an older man. He had walked with Jesus in his earlier years and has seen the church develop over the first century. As he writes, he is pastoring churches in and around Ephesus. These churches are encountering false teachers who are seeking to distort the gospel. John's letters are sermons to correct the rampant misconceptions in the first century.

I look forward to studying these passages with you in April and May.

Wade

Worship Schedule and Readings

- April 07 - Thomas (John 20:19-31)
Additional Readings: Psalm 133, 1 John 1:1-2:2
- April 14 - Peace (Luke 24:36-49)
Additional Readings: Psalm 4, 1 John 3:1-7
- April 21 - Love is Action (1 John 3:16-24)
Additional Readings: John 10:11-18, Psalm 23
- April 28 - Perfect Love (1 John 4:7-21)
Additional Readings: John 15:1-8, Acts 8:26-40



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

GREETERS of ALL AGES are needed for our Services in APRIL:

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 call the Office. Our April **Steward of the Month** is **Wanda Munt**. *We really appreciate your service!*



THE STEWARDS ASSISTANCE FUND supports families in our congregation who need a little temporary financial help. These funds help purchase groceries, pay for medicine & medical bills, utilities, car repairs, and other essential household expenses. The recipients of these funds are very, very appreciative!!



*This Fund is supported by member donations. We take a collection six times/year: the next dates are on Communion Sundays, **April 7, May 5 and June 2**. All loose monies put in the Offering Plates will go into the Fund, along with any checks earmarked for the ASSISTANCE FUND. *Thanks so much!**

If you, or someone you know in our church family needs assistance, please contact Pastor Wade. All requests remain completely confidential.



“He has risen” Mark 16:6

“Go and tell” Mark 16:6 and Mark 16:15

The United Church has recently examined Jesus’ life, teachings, and his directives to his followers as recorded in Mark’s Gospel. Jesus taught grounded in Scripture. Jesus, acting according to Scripture, revealed God’s compassionate love to multiple subcultures.

Going and telling by actions and words. Jesus did many acts of mercy and also called his people into a deeper relationship with God. 2000 years – approximately 2000 years since Jesus told his disciples to “go and tell” we followers of Christ continue communicating with actions and words.

Ryan and Alethia White, commissioned missionaries, have been pastors to Syrian Christian refugees in Berlin. They also actively connect with the western European Christian leader’s network bringing hope, love, and Christ to a broken world. (Our other named missionaries have also learned multiple languages and live in differing cultures.)

Thank you, United Church, for the March One Great Hour of Sharing gifts (total unknown at time of printing). CCIA is able to distribute the **45 birthday bags** created by Wednesday’s Youth Club. Diapers (544!) and baby wipes (23 packages) were delivered to CareNet. Your generous contribution each week to our **food cart** is important to CCIA and the Salvation Army food pantries.

Connections in Haiti: Medical Benevolent Foundation, an organization we have supported for many years, partners with Haitian hospital St. Croix, in Leogane. Forty miles west of the capitol the hospital’s nursing school and medical staff was continuing to “heal the sick and wounded” March 12. Prayers that they can continue. Prayers for healing in all of Haiti.

APRIL 2024: **Bring supplies** for CWS school kits. Supply list is in the Lamplighter.

May 21, 2024: **Save the date**. Ryan and or Alethia White will be United Church guests. Currently in the USA their elementary aged daughters are having their first experiences in US schools. Alethia and Ryan began missionary assignment with Syrian Christian refugees in Germany and now examine “People on the Move” in our southern border and in the European southern borders. More information later.

“Go and Tell He is Risen” and share the Gospel in all of April. Do acts of mercy in multiple subcultures.

Family Promise

While Family Promise is excitedly working on their new Static Site plans they still need to continue helping current families facing homelessness. **Our church is assisting by collecting grocery and gas gift cards to help their guests during the first half of April.** Walmart, Tops, and Aldi are the most appreciated grocery cards, in \$25, \$50, or \$100 denominations. Kwik Fill, Exxon/Mobil, and Speedway gas cards are also very helpful and at Speedway they can be labeled “Fuel Purchases Only.” If you can help these struggling families, please leave the gift cards in the church office or place in a marked envelope in the collection plate by Sunday, April 14. Thank you for your support of these families in need.

Called to Care, Canandaigua is hosting a Chicken BBQ on Saturday, April 27.

Mark your Calendars NOW.

King’s Catering is coming to the United Methodist Church at 100 North Main Street from 11-2pm with the usual half chicken, salt potatoes, macaroni salad and roll for \$15 per dinner. The dinner proceeds will help to provide monies for refugee resettlement in our community.

Presale tickets are available from our C2CC members [Linda Werts, Sarah Gross, and Regina Allen] or from Cheryl Drake 585-402-3238. Treat yourself this spring! Join us!



**CALLED TO CARE
CANANDAIGUA
WELCOMING REFUGEES**



Nicaragua Mission Trip ~ February 2024

Our mission group which started back in 2014, sponsored by American Baptist International Ministries, had another success mission trip to La Pimienta, Nicaragua. Our group was able to install solar panels on their medic clinic, install lighting with switches, do water testing in a number of sites, install new doors for security and have VBS sessions with children.



VBS was especially rewarding to see the enthusiasm and fun they had. We held lessons on the Creation and on Haman's cure for leprosy, lessons of God and water. Each lesson was accompanied with pictures for coloring. Much

of the VBS material that we used was supplied by Deb Marshall and Ken Allen. Treats and juice were especially enjoyed! Each session concluded with the children enjoying outdoor play.



Mission trips are so rewarding. Everyone should consider them in the future. Ask Mike Walker or Lynn Bernard for more information.

La Pimienta community and the mission team thank you for your prayers and financial contributions. To God be the Glory!

Thank you

Your Compassion in Action

Starting a new school year is exciting, but for children who don't have school supplies it can be terrifying. That's where our compassion comes in. Our congregation has a wonderful opportunity to share love and restore hope by participating in the **Church World Service kits ministry**. This month we will be concentrating on filling **school kits**, thanks to folks in our church family who have made 77 colorful cloth bags for us. These bags are just waiting to be filled! The items needed for each bag are:

- One pair of blunt scissors (rounded tip only)**
- Three 70-count bound notebooks (no loose-leaf or filler paper)**
- One 12-inch ruler**
- One hand-held pencil sharpener**
- One large eraser**
- Six new unsharpened pencils with erasers**
- One 24 pack of crayons**



You are invited to take one or more bags home and fill them with the requested items, or you may buy any of the items and leave them in the box in the Welcome Center and we will do the rest! We must have the supplies here at church no later than **Sunday, April 21**. These kits will then be filled with hope and packed with love and shared with neighbors in need.

Silent Auction 2024 ~ To Benefit Mission Trips



Spring is in the air...some days more than others...and that means the Missions Trip Fund Silent Auction is getting closer!

Make sure the dates are on your calendar – Sunday, June 2 through Sunday, June 9.

We are looking for **volunteers** to help plan and/or work at our Bi-Annual Silent Auction. Our first planning meeting will be held Tuesday, April 2 at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Room. If you would like to help and cannot attend this meeting, watch for the next meeting or contact Regina Allen at (585) 260-4060 or 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, a cottage rental, 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.

Donation forms and collection box will be in the Welcome Center beginning March 31st.

Financial Items

Treasurer's Financial Summary for Feb 2024

Description	Jan-Feb 2024 Actual	Jan-Feb 2024 Budget
Income		
Total Giving	88,643.65	79,471.79
Other Income	278.71	2,244.41
Total Income	88,922.36	81,716.20
Spending		
Education and Ministry	7,603.75	6,838.33
Operating	14,402.63	12,527.78
Personnel & Related	60,801.63	62,350.09
Total Expenses	82,808.01	81,716.20
Net Income Year to Date	6,114.35	0.00

During January and February, we have taken in \$6,114.35 more than we have spent. This is because of the donors who choose to pay their entire pledge at the beginning of the year.

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.



CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

What's happened...

On March 27th, the Youth Club kids took part in a **Resurrection Egg Hunt**. They hunted for eggs throughout the church building with their Bible classes. Each egg they found told part of the Easter story, from **Palm Sunday** to the **empty tomb**. We pray this opportunity to hear the Gospel helped each child draw nearer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Each child was able to take a set of resurrection eggs home with them.

What's happening...

April is the last month of Youth Club, and we have some special plans! We will have **1st graders visit Youth Club on April 17th** so that they know what to expect when they can begin attending in the fall of 2024. Also on April 17th, our middle school kids get one last "dinner out" at Tom Wahl's. And our **last Youth Club, on April 24th**, will include our annual carnival and a special dinner that includes parents, volunteers, and Youth Club kids! We look forward to lots of fun and continued deepening of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.



It is **campership season!!** Our church believes that the Christian camp experience is so important that **we will pay ½ the tuition for one week at any Christian day camp or overnight camp!** This is not a need based scholarship – this is for every family sending a child to Christian camp this summer! The only qualification is that your child currently participates in Sunday School, Youth Club, and/or The Cause. **Parents, please note: Beaver Camp has discount codes this year for camperships.** BEFORE you register your child, please contact Deb for the discount code. For LeTourneau and other Christian camps, our process remains the same, once you're signed up, send the registration confirmation to Deb, and we will take care of the campership. Please contact Deb Marshall with any questions.

Upcoming Events...

March 31 – Easter Sunday – Christ is RISEN! (no Sunday school)

April 17 – 1st graders can visit Youth Club

April 21 – School Teacher Appreciation Sunday at 11am service

April 24 – Last Youth Club; pizza dinner and celebration with parents at 5:30pm

May 12 – Last day of Sunday school classes for all ages

May 19 – Sunday School celebration breakfast for all ages and Children's Day service at 11am

May 26 – One service of Worship at 9:30am

Scuba VBS – diving into friendship with God!

Scuba VBS – **July 8-12, 9am – 12noon**



Children ages **4 years old** through those who **completed 5th grade** are welcome to **participate!**

Children/teens who **completed 6th – 12th grade** are encouraged to **volunteer!**

Contact Deb Marshall if you are interested in being a volunteer

CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Personal reflection...

The month of April begins with spring break for schools. I'm grateful for this break because March was a very busy month for our family and for ministry work. School breaks don't mean I'm "off," but they do mark a different pace for a week, which is usually welcome. I also think this break will be important because we have busy months ahead as we prepare to "launch" Emma and as I continue ministry work.

As many of you know, Ryan and I are entering a new season of parenting. Emma is graduating this year and will be headed off to college. It is quite possible that by the end of April, we will know what college she is planning to attend. While this is a very exciting time, it is also a scary time as a parent...especially when it's your first or oldest child headed off.

However, we are repeatedly told in Scripture, "do not be afraid." In fact, I have heard that the phrases such as "don't be afraid" and "fear not" appear 365 times in the Bible. I'm not a Bible scholar, and I don't know if that's really true, but I do know that God doesn't want us to live in fear.

Pastor Wade gave a sermon on March 10th about Jesus' power over death, based on Mark 5:21-43. If you missed it, I urge you to watch the livestream or listen to the podcast. During the sermon, Wade pointed out that when Jesus overheard people from Jairus' house come and tell him that his daughter had died and that he shouldn't bother Jesus any longer, Jesus had a different response. He said to Jairus, "*Don't be afraid, just believe.*"

There are a lot of big decisions looming for Emma. When she was a child, we could guide, direct, or orchestrate almost every decision she made. We have, of course, let Emma make more and more decisions as she's grown up. However, fully letting your child go and make decisions completely on their own is a scary place to be as a parent. But I hear God saying, "*Don't be afraid, just believe.*"

If I focus on the world and look at the lies being told to my children and the children of our church family, I can feel overwhelmed. I know the Truth, and can teach them the Truth to the best of my ability. We are blessed to have an army of volunteers who help teach kids the Truth on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. But, what if it's not enough? Again, I hear God saying, "*Don't be afraid, just believe.*"

My parents and Ryan's parents are healthy right now and doing well, but what if one of them becomes ill and needs care? What if there is something one of them is ignoring and they need treatment? What if...? Yet I hear God saying, "*Don't be afraid, just believe.*"

The world we live in often seems full of hate and evil. People hold their opinions so sacred that they will not even listen to the other side, much less have a conversation. There's war happening in too many countries, gang violence taking innocent lives, and the list goes on. How easy it can be to hear and see all of this and wonder, "where are you, God?" But I hear Him saying, "*Don't be afraid, just believe.*"

God doesn't want us to live in fear. He wants us to trust Him. He is always faithful, always loves us, and is always at work. If this resonates with you and you have the chance, look up the song, *Firm Foundation by Maverick City Music*. Below are some of the lyrics to the song, which I love because they tell the story of our faithful God. No matter what life brings, remember, "*Don't be afraid, just believe.*"

~ Deb

Firm Foundation by Maverick City Music

Christ is my firm foundation
The rock on which I stand
When everything around me is shaken
I've never been more glad
That I put my faith in Jesus
'Cause He's never let me down
He's faithful through generations
So why would He fail now?
He won't, He won't

I've still got joy in chaos
I've got peace that makes no sense
So I won't be going under
I'm not held by my own strength
'Cause I've built my life on Jesus
He's never let me down
He's faithful in every season
So why would He fail now?

He won't, He won't
He won't fail, He won't fail

YOUTH MINISTRY

Reflections & Learnings

The Cause youth program continues their journey through curriculum on human sexuality. The class touches on several topics, including dating & singleness, pornography, marriage, LGBTQ matters, and more. After this human sexuality conversation, we plan to invite our 8th grade students to the Cause on May 19.

Our **Youth Ministry Team** continues their faithful work! In early March, two people attended a youth ministry conference just outside of Pittsburgh. The team plans to meet in April for another connect.

Our **Youth Sunday School** continue their activities between church services! For our High School students, they are wrapping up a series titled **Rescue Me**, which helps our students understand their need for a Savior. Our Middle School students are journeying through a series titled **From Death To Life**, which helps our students understand the truth that resurrection can be found in Christ alone.

The **Middle School Youth Club** group has recently covered sessions about forgiveness, community, being known by God, and remembering that God is with us. These sessions are all produced by Hyfi curriculum.

For our **Special Events**, we plan to connect a Seder Dinner for our Cause students. For the Newark, NY Workcamp Trip, are planning to bring a small group of students. Please pray for us as we plan to serve our local community this summer.

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

Looking Forward

Connect Canandaigua – April 10 @ 6:45 AM (North Road Tim Horton's) (Second Wednesday)

Connect Marcus Whitman – April 15 @ 2:30 PM (Gorham Free Library) (Third Monday)

Connect Victor – April 17 @ 6:45 AM (Main Street Tim Horton's) (Third Wednesday)

Cause – 8th Graders Join – May 19

Summer Youth Retreat – August 16-17 (Onanda Park)



ADULT ED MINISTRY

Reflections & Learnings

The **Adult Education Sunday School Hour** continues! We have a large group that is venturing through a conversation about faith, sexuality and gender. The primary focus of our time together is on LGBT people and what the Bible says about their experience. For those that feel called to participate, we also have a Corporate Prayer Group (meeting in the Youth Office). This Corporate Prayer Group will be praying for the large group as we journey together as a church family.

Our **Young Adult** lunch meets every first and third Sundays of the month, 12:00 PM – 12:50 PM, after service. The **Young Adult** group also meets every second and fourth Saturday evening, 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**, our **Adult Education Retreat** will be August 17 at Onanda Park. Wally Fleming will be our guest speaker! We are also conducting our **Sunday Service** on August 18th at Onanda Park. Into Fall 2024, we are hosting our first **United Church Seminar**, November 2. Our guest speaker is Dr. Richard Middleton, Professor Emeritus at Northeastern Seminary.

The **Adult Education Ministry Team** continues efforts, facilitation, and discernment for the 2024 Sunday school groups. Please continue to keep this team in prayer as they serve in this important ministry. Also, our **Young Adult Ministry Discernment** group met for the first time. We have started prayerful discernment on the direction of the young adult ministry program here at the church.

Looking Forward

Adult Education Retreat & Sunday Service – August 17 & 18 (Onanda Park)

Young Adult Watkins Glen Trip – Date TBD

Young Adult Beaver Camp Weekend – Date TBD

Young Adult Retreat – August 17

Adult Education Seminar – November 2



PASTORAL MINISTRY

We are quickly approaching the 2024 election. I remember the difficulties of the 2016 and 2020 election seasons. Too many families broke apart, and too many friends became enemies. Their differences were not insignificant; each respective side had real justifications and real concerns. Since then, some emotions cooled, some relationships were mended, but others remain apart. Yet, those repaired relationships remain fragile. The political tension is still there, and it will only increase as our election year progresses.

Followers of Jesus have a role to play. Our role, I believe, cuts against the grain of division during this election year. This role will naturally prove difficult. In order to prepare our hearts and minds to play this role, we need to venture into the topic now. We need to give ourselves the runway necessary to do the hard work of being Christlike in an environment that needs us to do so. We need to have meaningful and constructive conversation as we walk along side one another, even in our own differences. We need the uniting power of the Spirit to be among us, to work through us, to be the people God calls us to be.

For the next several Lamplighters, I plan to share with you my learnings and thoughts as I prepare *myself* for the election season. I pray these articles will be beneficial to you as you do the same. A part of my journey is a list of books I plan to read or reread. These books do come from names I trust. I look forward to prayerfully considering the points made in these books, and how I can apply some of them to be the person God invites me to be.

City of God (St. Augustine) – “The City of God is a book of Christian philosophy... The book was in response to allegations that Christianity brought about the decline of Rome and is considered one of Augustine's most important works”. I look forward to rereading this book with a 2024 lens. I want to consider how St. Augustine articulated the political relationship between the followers of Jesus and the Roman empire.

Jesus and the Powers (NT Wright & Michael Bird) – “In Jesus and the Powers, N. T. Wright and Michael F. Bird call Christians everywhere to discern the nature of Christian witness in fractured political environments. In an age of ascending autocracies, in a time of fear and fragmentation, amid carnage and crises, Jesus is king, and Jesus’s kingdom remains the object of the church's witness and work.” These are two names I trust and am eager to hear what they have to say in this newly published writing!

Strange Religion (Nijay Gupta) – “Within Roman society, the earliest Christians stood out for the oddness of their beliefs and practices. They believed unusual things, worshiped God in strange ways, and lived a unique lifestyle. They practiced a whole new way of thinking about and doing religion that would have been seen as bizarre and dangerous when compared to Roman religion and most other religions of the ancient world.” Dr. Gupta is a favorite professor of mine, and I am interested in learning how the earliest Christians navigated a world dominated by the Roman empire (and its politics). I think this book will pair well with the City of God and the Exiles book from Preston Sprinkle (below).

Exiles: The Church in the Shadow of Empire (Preston Sprinkle) – “Dr. Preston M. Sprinkle reminds us that the first-century church was not an apolitical gathering, where Christians left their Roman politics at the door. It also wasn’t a place where Christians mounted a Roman flag next to—or above—a Christian one. Church was a place where God’s plan for governing the world was revealed, where one could witness what it means to follow the Creator’s design for human flourishing.” By now, our church is well-acquainted with Preston Sprinkle. I am interested in hearing his perspective on how Jesus’ followers can navigate the political landscape of our day.



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

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Or Current Resident

Let's Celebrate!

After years of dedicated service to the United Church, Virginia Holroyd is retiring. We are excited to show our gratitude, so please join us for her celebration!

Retirement Celebration for Virginia Holroyd

Date: Sunday, April 7th

Time: 9:45-10:45, please come from the beginning!

Place: Dining Room

WELCOME ABOARD!

Please join the Staff Relations Committee and Official Board in welcoming **Christy Allen** as our **Director of Member Care!** This job description is previously known as Visitation Director and encompasses enriching the spiritual life of all members of the United Church through intentionally building relationships with congregational members and providing care, support, and encouragement to those experiencing difficult circumstances. This ministry continues to provide care for our Special Members and will work closely with the Board of Stewards along with our Church Life and Pastoral Teams.

Christy Allen is the perfect candidate for this position as she brings 30 years of Ministry training and experience from the churches she and Pastor Wade have served. Within her work and volunteer experience, Christy has engaged people of all ages with a variety of life experiences. She possesses excellent communication and collaboration skills and an extensive history coordinating and facilitating groups. Christy describes her experience with ministry life as one that has been surrounded by great church leaders and staff, and through these rich experiences and the work of the Holy Spirit, she has learned about *“love, service and how to engage in ministry that is pleasing to God”*. Christy looks forward to *“collaborating with the Church Life Team and Board of Stewards to facilitate an even greater sense of unity by helping members feel deeply noticed and supported, caring for them throughout various life seasons”*. Thank you, Christy Allen, for prayerfully accepting this position and for your commitment to our church family!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>845am Early Service 945am Virginia's Retirement Celebration 11am Late Service 12pm Young Adult Lunch 5pm The Cause (Youth Ministry)</p> <p>7</p>	<p>1130am Al-Anon 7pm Trustees</p> <p>1</p>	<p>10am Knitters 10am Staff meeting 630pm Stewards 7pm NA</p> <p>2</p>	<p>7am Men's Prayer Breakfast 7pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>3</p>	<p>1pm Bible Study</p> <p>4</p>	<p>No events today</p> <p>5</p>	<p>1030am AFG District mtg</p> <p>6</p>
<p>845am Early Service 945am Sunday School 11am Late Service 12pm Young Adult Lunch 5pm The Cause (Youth Ministry)</p> <p>14</p>	<p>10am Worship Team: Worship Planning Team Meeting 1130am Al-Anon 3pm ARC 7pm Youth Committee 7pm Cheerful Service Circle</p> <p>8</p>	<p>10am Knitters 10am Staff meeting 1130am Circle 7 530pm Concert Committee 7pm Committee Night 7pm Children's Ministry Support Committee: Meeting 7pm NA</p> <p>9</p>	<p>645am Connect CA 7am Men's Prayer Breakfast 230pm Youth Club: Afterschool Ministry 7pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>10</p>	<p>1pm Bible Study</p> <p>11</p>	<p>All-day Lamplighter due date</p> <p>12</p>	<p>630pm Young Adult Connect</p> <p>13</p>
<p>845am Early Service 945am Sunday School 11am Late Service 12pm Young Adult Lunch 5pm The Cause (Youth Ministry)</p> <p>21</p>	<p>1130am Al-Anon 230pm Connect MW 7pm Official Board: Meeting</p> <p>15</p>	<p>10am Knitters 10am Staff meeting 630pm Young Adult Team 7pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm NA</p> <p>16</p>	<p>645am Connect Victor 7am Men's Prayer Breakfast 230pm Youth Club: Afterschool Ministry 7pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>17</p>	<p>1pm Bible Study</p> <p>18</p>	<p>No events today</p> <p>19</p>	<p>9am Stampin' Up</p> <p>20</p>
<p>845am Early Service 945am Sunday School 11am Late Service 12pm Young Adult Lunch 5pm The Cause (Youth Ministry)</p> <p>28</p>	<p>1130am Al-Anon</p> <p>29</p>	<p>10am Knitters 10am Staff meeting 630pm Youth Ministry Team 7pm NA</p> <p>30</p>	<p>7am Men's Prayer Breakfast 230pm Youth Club: Afterschool Ministry 7pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>24</p>	<p>1pm Bible Study</p> <p>25</p>	<p>No events today</p> <p>26</p>	<p>10am Testimony Saturday 630pm Young Adult Connect</p> <p>27</p>