

The Lamplighter

The United Church
11 Gibson Street



Canandaigua, NY
585-394-0503

Worship Services, 8:45 and 11:00 am

October 2024

Rev. Dr. Wade Allen

- Oct 1 – Stewards, 6:30 pm
- Oct 2 – Youth Club resumes
- Oct 5 – Special Member Brunch, 11:00 am
- Oct 7 – Trustees, 7:00 pm
- Oct 12 – Youth Fun Night (Corn Maze)
- Oct 13 – Intergenerational Sunday School and Missionary Visit
- Oct 19 – All Church Game Night, 7:00 pm
- Oct 20 – FLSO concert, 7:00 pm
- Oct 21 – Official Board, 7:00 pm
- Oct 26 – Hiram Bailey’s Birthday party, noon



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October's Journey: Unveiling Grace and Providence in Joseph's Story

As we flip our calendars over to October, we continue to work our way through the Genesis story of the people of God. The Joseph story has been full of twists and turns. From his famous coat to being sold into slavery, from Potiphar's house to prison to his high position in the Egyptian government, Joseph's life has been a roller-coaster ride.

In October, we pick up in Genesis 42 with Joseph being reunited with his brothers. The author of Genesis spends significant time on this story, and we will spend the entire month in this part of the narrative. Joseph has every reason to be angry and to seek revenge on his brothers, yet he trusts in God's providence and offers grace. In the end, his family escapes a famine by moving to Egypt. However, as is often the case throughout the book of Genesis, there are more ups and downs before we get there.

I hope you will join us each week as we journey through the story. Please read ahead along with the additional readings as you come to worship each week. I believe your experience will be greatly enriched if you prepare your heart for God's Word by reading the story in advance. I have provided the passages for you below.

Blessings,

Wade

Worship Schedule and Readings

October

- October 06 - Invited to the Table (Genesis 42-43)
Additional Readings: Psalm 103:8-12, Ephesians 2:4-9
- October 13 - Restoration (Genesis 45:1-15)
Additional Readings: Psalm 67, Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
- October 20 - Embracing Divine Provision (Genesis 45-46)
Additional Readings: Genesis 45:16-28, Matthew 20:1-16
- October 27 - God's Surprising Blessings (Genesis 48)
Additional Readings: Luke 1:46-55, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31



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

A note from the Staff Relations Committee:

During the month of October, we celebrate **Pastor and Staff Appreciation**. As a church family, we are thankful for those who have been chosen, and choose to, work within our church to build strong foundations, maintain and grow connections, teach us Biblical truths and lead us in our Christian journey. These positions require not only time but deep care for our congregation and community as messages and classes are planned and carried out. We pray that all of our staff can continue to guide us faithfully and let their God given talents shine here at the United Church.

Our church is blessed by: **Wade Allen**, Pastor; **Mark Slomski**, Pastor of Youth and Adult Ministry; **Deb Marshall**, Family Ministries Director; **Christy Allen**, Director of Member Care; **Carolyn Russell**, Office and Financial Secretary; **Georgia Sperano**, Choir Director, **Nancy Lamberson**, Treasurer; **David Kraft**, Organist; **Amber Bixby**, Custodian

Please consider reaching out with a note or a personal greeting this month to let them know how much we appreciate them!

Care Ministry

Christy Allen Director

Happy 65th Wedding Anniversary to our Special Member

Arlene Willett and her husband David on October 3.

In our ongoing commitment to care for one another, the Stewards are honored to introduce the Stewards Assistance Fund Collection. This fund is specifically dedicated to supporting our church family who may find themselves in need of temporary financial assistance during challenging times. Whether it's to cover unexpected medical expenses, help with utilities, or provide a bridge during a difficult period, this fund aims to offer a helping hand when it's needed most.

Loose offerings and designated contributions for this fund will be collected on Sunday, October 6.

**Special Members Annual
Worship Service and Brunch
Saturday, October 5
at 11:00 a.m.**

We will have a time of worship, music, brunch and fun fellowship with our Special Members and Stewards.

Join Our Care Team

Are you passionate about making a difference in the lives of those facing health challenges?

Our church Care Ministry is seeking compassionate volunteers to serve those who are sick, undergoing medical procedures, or receiving treatments. As a member of our team, you'll have the opportunity to offer support, encouragement, and a caring presence during times of need. Whether through visits, phone calls, offering rides, preparing a meal, or other means of connection, your involvement can provide comfort and hope to those who need it most. If you feel called to serve, we would love to have you join us. Together, we can make a meaningful impact to our church family.

*"A special thank you for the lunch on Monday. Thank you to Christy and Sandi for putting it all together. Thank you young people for being a part at our table - Anna and Elijah - and for being together with Wanda, Joan, Antonet. Such a blessing. Thank you again.
Jane Laird*

(A thank you for the Youth Mission Experience for Special

.....

Greeter/Offering Coordinator

October: Phil Klingler

If you are interested in joining one or both of these teams, please see Phil, or Tech Help in the Welcome Center, for help or more info.



2024 World Mission Offering in October

All month we are receiving the World Mission Offering to support both of our denominations. This year we are given the opportunity to work with other Christians in helping to change the world for God’s glory. Our gifts support American Baptist global servants as they share the good news all over the world. This enables all of us, through the dedicated work of these ministries, to participate in God’s life-changing mission around the

globe. At the same time, through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, we are able to help people and communities affected by crisis and catastrophic events witness the healing love of Christ. Currently our gifts are being used in responding to hurricanes in our country, flooding in Ghana, humanitarian assistance in Israel/Palestine and in Ukraine, and in many other parts of our world. We are asking that you pray for both the givers and receivers of our gifts, remembering that our giving on October 6 will support God’s mission all around the world.



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 October.** 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, October 20. If you would find it easier, you can write a check and mark it FP Gift Cards. Thank you for your support of these families in need.



The Christian missionary

You do need courage to step out in faith. The missionary journey sometimes contains obstacles — like visas, language learning, finances, doubts, loneliness, fear, and more.

On October 13th, Christine Lafferty, the United Church’s newest named commissioned international missionary, will be with us in worship and participate in discussion 9:45 – 10:45. Christy has been serving God and her brothers and sisters in Nicaragua since 2012 as a part of AMOS Health and Hope. AMOS uses an empowering approach, **following Christ’s example of listening** to and healing the most vulnerable, **engaging** communities as full partners by training local leaders as community health promoters. Their programs provide preventive and curative health services primarily to rural communities with significant barriers to health care.



Christy facilitates short-term mission opportunities, engages churches as partners in long-term ministry, and helps share the stories of lives being saved and transformed in Nicaragua. She also has a special interest in women’s health and in her free time has worked with couples as a birth doula and childbirth educator.

Nicaragua joins Haiti, Venezuela, and Cuba as nationals eligible for Humanitarian Parole visa status to the US. Missionaries and church leaders in each country serve with many uncertainties.

Come to worship service October 13 and join the intergenerational experience with Christy in the dining room between our services, 9:45 – 10:45. **Sign up to join lunch with Christy** following the 11:00 service. She knows both the language and culture of those she serves.

Rejoice with Tim and Patti Long as they begin life as retired missionaries!

Missionaries Ryan and Alethia White send us greetings

Dear friends,

Nearly one year ago, our family arrived in the U.S. hoping we were properly prepared to spend an entire year in our “home country,” a place we had not lived in for a decade and where our daughters had little experience outside of summer holidays. It was an emotional departure from Berlin, although we were excited at the prospect of spending more time with our family and friends here in the States. It is a true thing that something can be both lovely and hard and we must make space in ourselves to hold both those truths at once.

Practically speaking, I (Alethia) often felt like a stranger in a strange land as we navigated school set up for the first time in the U.S., buying a car for the year, and all the little etiquettes that make up a culture and a place. Continuing our regional liaison work from this time zone felt like working backwards from what we had been used to working from 6 hours ahead of the United States. Slowly we settled into a routine. We were happy to be able to participate in conferences and gatherings held here in the U.S. without the overseas flight to manage. Ryan traveled to Atlanta, GA for the Matthew 25 Summit and I flew 15 hours to Dubai in November to be part of the PC(USA) COP28 delegation, addressing climate change at the UN level. In January, I found myself again crossing the ocean to participate in a joint effort, *People on the Move* partner consultation in Rome. I thought a lot about how I appreciate the fact that living in Europe makes it easy to travel for meetings by train and often in the same time zone. It was a different perspective this past year, not by any means negative, often surprising, ultimately an experience I am thankful for.

We returned to Berlin in early August, again leaving one home for another. **The question of home is one we return to often, not only in our personal lives, but as we work to support migration advocacy on behalf of our partners who do so much to try to welcome people who are also struggling with the concept of home.** For our family, this year has been a year of first experiences, of reconnection with family, friends, U.S. culture and congregations whom we haven't seen in some years due to pandemic travel restrictions. All in all, it has been a full year, as a year often is, and we look ahead now to returning to Berlin having grown in experience and perspective, to friends and colleagues there, and to a place both sweetly familiar and ever foreign. Living in the in between means we must make space for both those truths at once.



Finger Lakes Symphony Orchestra
S. Shade Zajac, Music Director

Stories in Music

Sunday, October 20th
3:00 pm
United Church of Canandaigua
11 Gibson St., Canandaigua

Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage - Mendelssohn
Lemminkäinen's Return - Sibelius
The Noon Witch - Dvorak
Peter and the Wolf - Prokofiev



www.flso.org



Ticket Prices
\$15 Adults
\$10 Students (with valid ID)
Children 12 and under FREE
(with accompanying paid ticket)

Fellowship Events

Join us for an all church game night!

Saturday, October 19, 7-9pm.

Bring a favorite board game or card game. Dessert and drinks will be provided.

Contact Mary Beth Fortunato with any questions at

mbweber@hotmail.com or 585-451-1758.

Bring a dessert to share, if you wish



Stampin' Up! The next Stampin' Up class is scheduled for October 19th from 9 – 2 in the Fellowship Room. This class is a “Stamp a Stack” with 10 assorted cards for \$42. Please contact Sharon Meyer to make a reservation by September 30. Feel free to bring a lunch!



Save the Date! You are all invited to a 90th birthday party for Hiram Bailey!

October 26th, from Noon to 3 pm in the Dining Room

(no gifts please) RSVP to Linda Bailey by text 601-248-1264



REMEMBERING:

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Wade Allen** and family for the passing of their close friend, **Dan Lemen** on August 28th. Please keep the Allen family and Dan's widow, **Ella Mae**, in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Kathie Meredith** for the passing of her beloved husband, **David Crowe** on August 29th. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Karen and David Sanford** for the passing of their sister-in-law, **Nancy Pratt** in August. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Helen Secrest** for the passing of her son, **Randy**, on August 29th. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Bill Fortunato** for the passing of his brother, **Tom**, on September 4th. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Jinilee Hildebrandt**, whose mother-in-law, **Cheryl**, passed away suddenly on September 4th. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

CELEBRATING:

We joyfully celebrate the birth of **Emerson Scott Marlin** on August 26th in Colorado. His parents are **Tyler and Andy Marlin**, and his grandparents are **Alison and Phil Boseck**. Please keep the family in your prayers during this special time.

We joyfully celebrate the birth of **Yayoue Matthias and Marc Simeon's** newborn daughter, **Gracie**, on August 28th. Please keep the family in your prayers during this special time.



Treasurer's Report for August

Treasurer's Financial Summary for Aug 2024

Description	Jan-Aug 2024 Actual	Jan-Aug 2024 Budget
Income		
Total Giving	303,402.19	317,887.16
Other Income	12,587.71	8,977.62
Total Income	315,989.90	326,864.78
Spending		
Education and Ministry	26,731.30	27,353.33
Operating	54,683.06	50,111.11
Personnel & Related	241,476.02	249,400.34
Total Expenses	322,890.38	326,864.78
Net Income Year to Date	(6,900.48)	0.00

From January through August, we have spent \$6900.48 more than we have taken in. Our donations are \$14,484.97 less than we budgeted year to date. If you have fallen behind on your pledge, please make every effort to catch up.

If you are able to give more, we have lots of great programming coming up

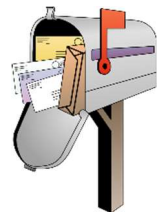
Thank you!

Nancy Lamberson

Treasurer

Be on the lookout for a Stewardship letter and 2025 pledge forms arriving in mid-October!

Please return your pledge forms promptly or follow links to the online form, if you prefer. Returning your pledge information in November helps us to create a more accurate budget for 2025!



Tech Help

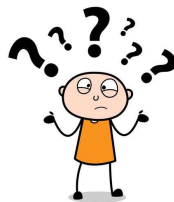


church center
by planning center

We are now doing signups for volunteer roles online! If you would like to greet or take offering (those 2 jobs will now be split and you can do just one or the other if you prefer!), serve in the nursery or help with the camera/sound/livestream jobs, follow the link below or scan the QR code below. If those jobs don't show up as options for you but you'd like to be put on the teams, let a staff member know, and we'll help you! We can also help if you have any difficulty with the app or computer stuff. <https://services.planningcenteronline.com/>



Confused? Need help? Ask a staff member or look for tech help folks in the Welcome Center on Sundays.



CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

What's happened...

Our Sunday school year is off to a great start! Children ages 3-years-old through High School are welcome to join their age/grade-based class on any Sunday. We also offer classes for adults; right now, we are offering a Bible study on Genesis (downstairs) and Parenting Coffee hour (Fellowship Room). Nursery care is offered for infants and toddlers so that everyone can participate in the Sunday school hour. When it works for your family's schedule, we hope you will join us at 9:45am! We have many dedicated volunteers helping each week with Sunday school. Below is a list of our 2024-2025 volunteers. Please keep this ministry in your prayers.

Our Sunday Morning Team 2024-2025

Nursery Coordinators: Louise Van Iseghem

Nursery during Sunday School (infants — 2-years-old): Megan French, Christine Phelps, Claire Sheppard, and Marcea Stave

Music (3-year-olds – 5th grade): Jim & Becky Boseck

Children's Time (K-2nd during 11am Worship): Ric and Ellen Parsons

Learning to Worship (3rd grade): Julie Stave and Wanda Munt (**Prayer partner:** Kathy Eagan)

Adult Sunday school: Gail Benjamin, Bob and Brenda Cunningham, Melissa Long, Steve Simpson, Dale and Julie Zajac

Sunday school classes:

3 & 4 year olds, K: Deb Marshall and Liz Thorman

1st — 3rd grade: Christina Hartpence and Mary Wisner

4th & 5th grade: Ali Boseck and Chelsea Emmal

MS (6th - 8th grade): Christy Allen and Sandi DiCicco

HS (9th - 12th grade): Ray McMillen and Mark Slomski

Prayer Partners:

Robin Payne

Roberta O'Brien

Sharon Erb

Sue Vadney

Marion Sumpter

What's happening...

What is LOGOS? LOGOS is a Christian ministry that works in partnership with local church leaders to build young disciples of Jesus Christ. We have been blessed to have Youth Club (LOGOS) at our church for 58 years!!! At The United Church, we have two LOGOS programs:

Youth Club for 2nd - 8th grade, Wednesdays after school until 6:30pm, October - April

The Cause for 9th-12th grade students, Sundays, 5:00-7:30pm, mid-September - mid-June

Please join us during either service on September 29 for our LOGOS dedication when we come before the Lord to ask His guidance and blessings upon our LOGOS students and workers for this coming year.

CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

What's happening (continued)...

Needed: Pizza Servers and Kitchen "Cleaner Uppers" For the first Youth Club, **October 2**, from 5:15-6:30ish, *2 pizza servers* are needed in the fellowship room to serve parents stopping by for a quick bite before our opening program. AND *5 to work clean up* in the downstairs dining room kitchen after our pizza dinner (we'll use paper products this night), so YC students, workers and parents can all be part of our opening program in the sanctuary.

Please sign up on Deb's door. Thank you!

Parents of Youth Club Students ~ Please plan to join us by 6pm on the first day of Youth Club (Oct. 2) for our opening Youth Club. Beginning at 5:30pm, you can grab a quick slice of pizza in the fellowship room, then proceed to the sanctuary to sit with your child by 6pm. Our time should conclude at 6:30. We are planning something special for this time together.

Youth Club Mission Project: Christmas Stockings for NYC. Christmas, already???? Well, it's almost time for our Youth Club mission project of making, filling and sending Christmas stockings to Metro Ministries in NYC in time for their special Christmas parties for inner-city children. Many inner-city children do not know what it's like to receive something handmade with love and care. These filled stockings show we care...because Christ cares for them, we care. *Would you be willing to provide stocking stuffers for this project?* **Items must be new, small and able to fit into a 5x9" stocking.** Please bring your donations anytime to Deb's office. Items need to be donated *by November 3*. Thank you!!

Items needed: bouncy balls, small puzzles, gum, socks, hard candy, hair accessories, jump ropes, coin purses, jewelry, watches, trading cards, pencils/pencil sharpeners, gloves, hats, toy cars, yo-yos, small games, small stuffed animals or dolls, etc!!! Note: Coloring books are too large for these stockings. Please no toy weapons or "GI Joe" type figures. **Thank you!!**

Upcoming Events...

Sunday, September 29 - During both services: Dedicate LOGOS volunteers

Wednesday, October 2 - Youth Club begins! (Register online by Sept 25th)

Sunday, October 13 – Intergenerational Sunday school at 9:45am in the downstairs dining room. Please bring a dish to pass if you are able.

Saturday, November 2 – Adult Ed Seminar at The United Church, 9am-3pm

CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Personal reflection...

One of the first things that attracted Ryan and I to The United Church about 14 years ago was the warm welcome we received. Of course, on the first Sunday we arrived, a certain dear woman (Esther) made sure we were greeted and collected our demographic information. After our visit, we received a handwritten note in the mail, thanking us for coming. However, what really impacted us was our subsequent visits to The United Church. We walked in and were greeted by many people who seemed genuinely glad to see us. It felt like we were returning to a place where we were loved—like we were returning home.

We talk a lot about our church family here at The United Church. I am grateful to be a part of this family where I feel seen, loved, and heard. Not only do I feel welcomed; I feel like I belong here. If you have been around our church for a few years, you may notice that God continues to grow our church family. It is wonderful to see Him at work. I hope everyone who walks through our doors has the same experience we did—that they feel warmly welcomed and valued during their first visit and warmly greeted at every visit afterward.

With family also come ups and downs. Our church family has experienced the joy of welcoming a new baby, but we've also grieved the loss of loved ones. We've experienced the excitement of working together to offer ministries for all ages and pooling resources for a new organ and a renovated basement. We've debated difficult topics in Sunday school settings and come together to worship the Lord as one family of faith.

Wouldn't it be great if our church were known not only as warm and welcoming but also for our name? What if people in Canandaigua knew that The United Church is not just our name but our identity? We are a unified church family who truly looks forward to worshiping and learning together on Sunday mornings. We are bound together by our faith in Christ, and we enjoy caring for each other and reaching out to those in our community and around the world.

Furthermore, it's my hope that over the next few years, our church family will be intentional about being actively engaged in ministry outside of our church building. We are abundantly blessed by God with many wonderful ministries that happen within the four walls of our church. But I wonder how God wants to use us outside of our building. How can we step out into Canandaigua and make a difference in our community for the glory of God? Is God calling you to engage in this way?

~ Deb

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. 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: 35-40

YOUTH

Reflections & Learnings

The Cause started Sunday, September 15, with parents invited! This year, we will be spending much of our time in the second book of the curriculum titled “Can I Ask That? Hard Questions about God and Faith”. We have several 9th graders entering into the program, and we are excited to learn and grow with them!

Our **Youth Ministry Team** continues their faithful work! The team plans to meet in September. We will be reflecting on this past summer’s activities, making plans for the Fall, and discerning the best way to minister to our students. This year’s team includes: Julie Zajac, Dale Zajac, Lauren Slomski, Kayleigh Sheppard, Ray McMillen, Sandi DiCicco, Jen Callard, and Jini Hildrebrandt!

Middle School and High School **Sunday School** starts up on Sunday, September 15, along with the rest of the Sunday School offerings at our church. Both groups will be using Deep Discipleship as our curriculum.

The **Middle School Youth Club** will be starting in October, and they will also be using Deep Discipleship. Lauren Slomski will be the primary facilitator of the Youth Club Bible Study and Faith Discussions.

Our **monthly school district connects** (including Victor, Canandaigua, and Marcus Whitman school districts) have started up again! We are grateful for the opportunity to build relationships with our students outside the four walls of the church during the mid-week! Parents are invited for fellowship, too! Check out the dates below for the next connection dates, times, and locations.

Our **Special Event** for October is the Corn Maze! We will plan to bring a group of students on Saturday, October 12. Keep an eye out for the event registration online. **This event will be for 8th grade and up.**

Looking Forward

Connect Canandaigua – October 10 @ 6:45 AM (North Road Tim Hortons) (Second Thursday)

Corn Maze Event - October 12, exact time TBD. 8th Grade students and up.

Connect Victor – October 17 @ 6:45 AM (Main Street Tim Hortons) (Third Thursday)

Connect Marcus Whitman – October 21 @ 2:30 PM (Gorham Free Library) (Third Monday)



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

ADULT & YOUNG ADULT

Reflections & Learnings

The **Adult Education Sunday School Hour** continues with a Bible Study on Genesis (to complement the Genesis sermon series, Adult Education Retreat theme, and the November lecture), We also continue to host the Parenting Coffee Hour, which provides a casual atmosphere for parents to come (even if they are late!), fellowship, take a breath, and engage in relevant faith discussions. There are prayerful plans for additional Adult Education Sunday School classes, so keep an eye out for updates in the coming months!

The **Young Adult Women's small group** (led by Stephanie Wall) continues to meet at our church every other week or so. **An FLCC Christian club** has started up and has had 20+ students express interest! Wendy Bacon is supporting this club and is keeping us informed as to how we can best support them. The Young Adult connects are being actively discerned, along with special events.

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! Our next adult monthly connect will be held at Ferris Hills, Wednesday, October 4, at 1:00 PM.

For **Special Events**, we are planning our first **United Church Seminar** (November 2), with our guest lecturer being Dr. Richard Middleton. He will be speaking on the Abraham & Isaac story, the suffering of Job, and the importance of the lament Psalms. This will be a public event.

The **Adult Education Ministry Team** continues efforts, facilitation, and discernment for the ministry. Please continue to keep this team in prayer as they serve in this important ministry. This year, our team includes: Brenda and Bob Cunningham, Steve Simpson, Gary Preece, Gail Benjamin, Adam Thorman, Bev Fehrenbach, and Melissa Long. Our **Young Adult Ministry Discernment** Team completed their efforts this past summer, and now the ministry will pivot to implementing that work, which includes formulating a permanent Youth Adults Ministry Team.

Looking Forward

Adult Connect - Wednesday, October 2 @ 1:00 PM (Ferris Hills)

Adult Education Seminar – Saturday, November 2 @ 9:00 AM



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PASTORAL MINISTRY

For those familiar with my last several articles through the Lamplighter, you know that I've been preparing myself for the election season. While this will be the last article I write on the matter, we all know that whatever "prep work" done in hearts and minds like mine will need to be applied well after the votes are cast, and still after the various happenings on inauguration day.

Below are my final reflections. I pray that my words and meditations are pleasing to our Redeemer.

Lean, don't bow - I heard this phrase a couple months ago. It has stuck with me since. Surely, many of us have our leanings, one way or another. Let's go ahead and *lean*. But, don't fall into some sort of political idolatry. Jesus is the only political figure we bow to.

Treat others as the God-images they are - The "Imago Dei" is the great equalizer - we are all made in God's image, even those we politically oppose. This accomplishes two things: We are reminded that no one is God (since we are the image and not God Himself), and yet every human being is sacred (as our existence reminds all others of God). This biblical anthropology humbles the prideful and raises the lowly. Presidential candidates are no exception.

Maintain an eschatological scope - This simply means, don't be short sighted. Yes, today's political choices *do matter*. In fact, they matter within the larger framework of eternity. Keeping an eternal scope calms political waves, as they are retained by the surpassing promises of God. At the same time, an eternal scope reminds us of the importance of living God-honoring lives now, both individually and societally.

We can, with God's help, handle ourselves politically in a manner that is category-defying - ... Well, at least defying the categories so often given to us in our society. A biblical framework cuts through the worldly patterns of political behavior. Let us be labeled according to the categories of the sermon on the mount, the decalogue, the love commandments, etc.

Understand how values and virtues are upstream from politics and culture - Not satisfied with the political environment we experience today? Consider what feeds into it. Some things we cannot control, but other things we can. As Christians, we can focus on living our lives biblically. As generations pass, that faithful living amounts to something - God will bless faithful generations. This ought to cause us to reflect, collectively.

A proposed action to take: Live like the earliest of believers

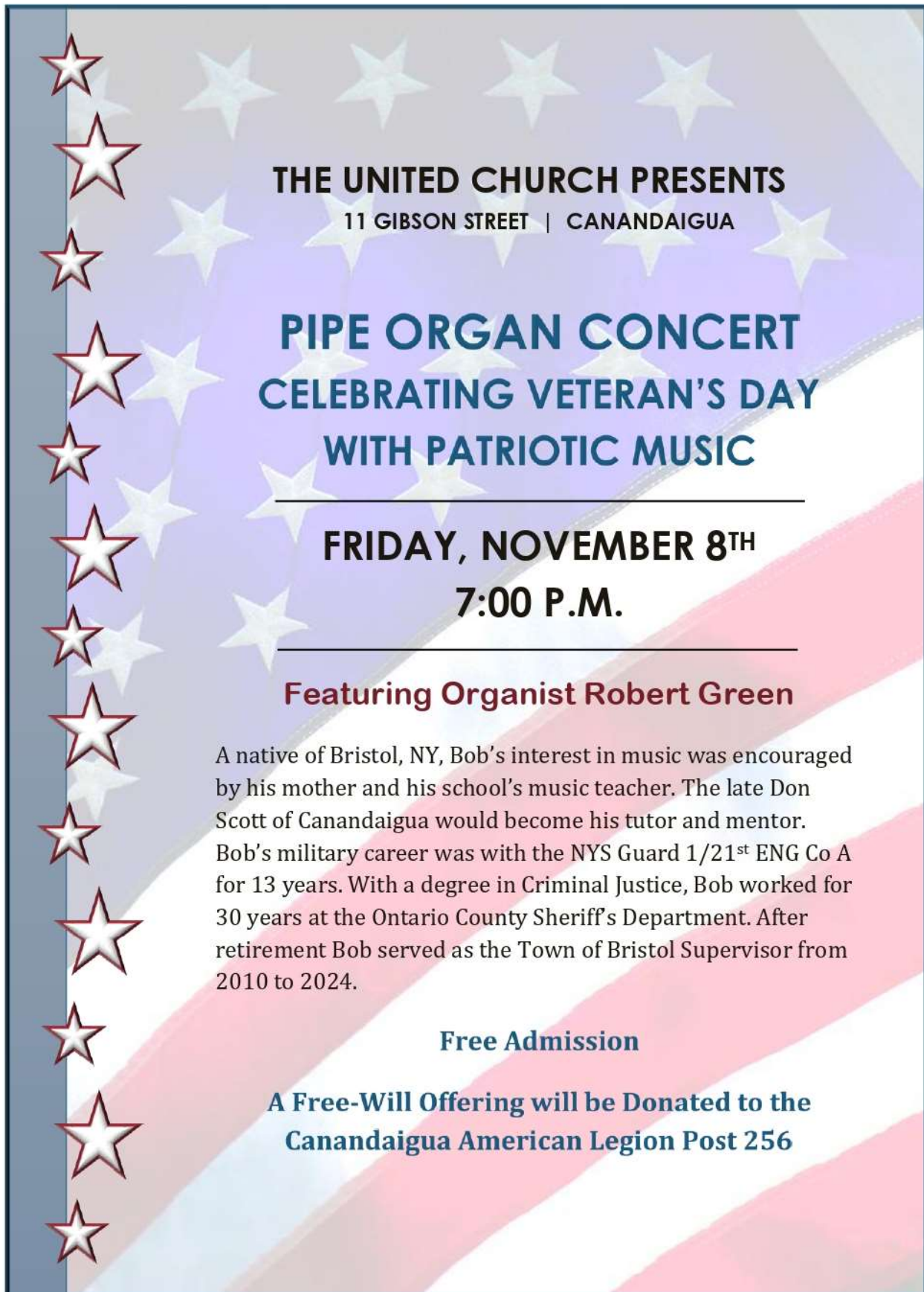
In my pastoral ministry, I am focusing on Acts 2:42 for the next 12 months. I believe there is something about this passage that communicates what we can control - those upstream factors that mold politics and culture - and offers a model for Christians to exercise today.

In one sense, we do much of this already. Our church is blessed with this type of vibrancy. At the same time, we are invited to take another look. How does our community of believers emulate our faith ancestors in a way that makes positive change in our political world? Those changes start in worship. Those changes start at the dinner table. Those changes move from the heart and head to the hands and feet. Those changes start in environments described in Acts 2:42: *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*



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

Save the date!!!



THE UNITED CHURCH PRESENTS
11 GIBSON STREET | CANANDAIGUA

**PIPE ORGAN CONCERT
CELEBRATING VETERAN'S DAY
WITH PATRIOTIC MUSIC**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH
7:00 P.M.**

Featuring Organist Robert Green

A native of Bristol, NY, Bob's interest in music was encouraged by his mother and his school's music teacher. The late Don Scott of Canandaigua would become his tutor and mentor. Bob's military career was with the NYS Guard 1/21st ENG Co A for 13 years. With a degree in Criminal Justice, Bob worked for 30 years at the Ontario County Sheriff's Department. After retirement Bob served as the Town of Bristol Supervisor from 2010 to 2024.

Free Admission

**A Free-Will Offering will be Donated to the
Canandaigua American Legion Post 256**

October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>845am Worship Service 945am Sunday school for all ages 11am Worship Service 12pm Young Adult Lunch 5pm The Cause</p> <p>6</p>	<p>1130am Al-Anon 7pm Trustees</p> <p>7</p>	<p>10am Board of Trustees: BUILDING - renew snow removal contract 10am Knitters 10am Staff meeting 1pm Book Club 630pm Stewards Meeting</p> <p>8</p>	<p>7am Men's Prayer Breakfast 1pm Adult Connect - Ferris Hills 230pm Youth Club 7pm Choir rehearsal</p> <p>9</p>	<p>1pm Bible Study</p> <p>10</p>	<p>9am Pres. Women 10am Board of Trustees: INSPECTIONS - schedule fire extinguisher inspection (usually November, but check tickets on extinguishers for due date)</p> <p>11</p>	<p>1030am AFG District mtg 11am Special Member Brunch</p> <p>12</p>
<p>845am Worship Service 945am Intergenerational Sunday School 11am Worship Service 1pm Mobile Music Recitals</p> <p>13</p>	<p>10am Worship Team: Worship Planning Team Meeting 1130am Al-Anon 3pm ARC 7pm Cheerful Service Circle</p> <p>14</p>	<p>10am Knitters 10am Staff meeting 7pm NA 7pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm FLSO rehearsal</p> <p>15</p>	<p>7am Men's Prayer Breakfast 330pm Youth Club 7pm Choir rehearsal</p> <p>16</p>	<p>645am Connect Victor 1pm Bible Study</p> <p>17</p>	<p>All-day Lamplighter due date 130pm Georgia's event</p> <p>18</p>	<p>9am Stampir' Up 7pm Game Night</p> <p>19</p>
<p>845am Worship Service 945am Sunday school for all ages 11am Worship Service 3pm FLSO concert 5pm The Cause</p> <p>20</p>	<p>1130am Al-Anon 230pm Connect MW 7pm Official Board: Meeting</p> <p>21</p>	<p>10am Knitters 10am Staff meeting 7pm NA</p> <p>22</p>	<p>7am Men's Prayer Breakfast 330pm Youth Club 7pm Choir rehearsal</p> <p>23</p>	<p>1pm Bible Study</p> <p>24</p>	<p>No events today</p> <p>25</p>	<p>12pm Hiram's birthday party</p> <p>26</p>
<p>845am Worship Service 945am Sunday school for all ages 11am Worship Service 5pm The Cause</p> <p>27</p>	<p>1130am Al-Anon</p> <p>28</p>	<p>10am Knitters 10am Staff meeting 7pm NA</p> <p>29</p>	<p>7am Men's Prayer Breakfast 330pm Youth Club 7pm Choir rehearsal</p> <p>30</p>	<p>1pm Bible Study</p> <p>31</p>		

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

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Or Current Resident