

The Lamplighter

The United Church
11 Gibson Street



Canandaigua, NY
585-394-0503

Worship Services, 8:45 and 11:00 am

November 2024

Rev. Dr. Wade Allen

- Nov 2 – Adult Education Seminar, 9am – 3pm
- Nov 4 – Trustees, 7:00 pm
- Nov 5 – Stewards, 6:30 pm
- Nov 8 – Patriotic Organ Concert (Bob Green), 7:00 pm
- Nov 9 – All Church Game Night, 6:30 pm
- Nov 11 – Office closed for Veteran’s Day
- Nov 21 – Staff event offsite
- Nov 28-29 – Office closed for Thanksgiving



Table of Contents

Pastor’s Page..	Page 2
Care Ministry..	Page 3
Mission News.....	Page 4-5
Fellowship Events.....	Page 6
Concert flyer.....	Page 7
Treasurer’s Report.....	Page 8
Children’s and Family Ministry.....	Pages 9-11
Youth and Adult Ministry.....	Page 12-13
Pastoral Ministry.....	Page 14
Calendar.....	Page 15
Poinsettia Order Form.....	inserted



Gratitude in Action: Recognizing God's Gifts and Living in Response

As we complete our study in Genesis this month, we will reflect on all that God has been doing throughout the study. Following this series, we will begin a two-part series on gratitude before the Advent season. Certainly, this is an appropriate time to consider thankfulness for all God has given us. We will spend the fourth Sunday of November eating too much food on a holiday called *Thanksgiving*.

So what does it mean to be thankful? What is gratitude all about?

In the first sermon (November 17), we will examine the parable of the wedding banquet. The invited guests refuse to come, opening the seats to the least likely attendees. When the king, who represents God, provides for improbable guests, one guest refuses to wear the provided attire. His actions show a lack of gratitude. He is given much but refuses to align his actions with the king. Thus, gratitude involves understanding all that God has done for us and responding to the grace given to us. It is more than a simple *thank you*. It is about submitting our lives to our Creator and allowing God to remake us into all He wants us to be.

In the second sermon (November 24), we will reflect on the story of the ten lepers. While all receive healing, only one returns to give thanks. We will also explore Psalm 107, which describes how spiritual healing comes through a grateful heart. Gratitude is more than a polite *thank you*. It is a life posture of response to God's blessings.

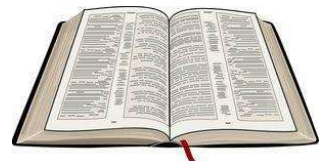
May this season of Thanksgiving be more than a hearty meal. My prayer is that God reveals the blessings in our lives and helps each of us learn to live lives of gratitude.

I hope you will join us each week in worship. Below are the Scripture readings for each week for you to read before coming to church. May this harvest season prompt us to consider all God has given us.

Wade

Worship Schedule and Readings for November

- November 03 - Blessings, Legacy, and the Lion of Judah (Genesis 49)
No Additional Readings
- November 10 - Living in God's Abundant Provision (Genesis 50)
Additional Readings: Psalm 105:16-22, Philippians 4:10-13, 19
- November 17 - The King's Invitation: Responding with Gratitude (Matthew 22:1-14)
Additional Readings: Psalm 100, Colossians 3:12-17
- November 24 - A Thankful Heart (Psalm 107)
Additional Readings: Luke 17:11-19, Philippians 4:4-7



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

REMEMBERING:

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Mary Lou Havens** for the passing of her brother, **Bob Carson** on October 14th. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

CELEBRATING:

We joyfully celebrate the birth of **Annie Lynn Milillo** on October 8th. Her parents are **Bailey and Bill Milillo**, her grandparents are **Burt and Stacie Kem**, and her great-grandparents are **Shirley Kem and Bruce and Jan Comstock**. Please keep the family in your prayers during this special time.



Congratulations to **Madison Russell and James O'Brien**, who were married on October 13th. Madison's parents are **David and Carolyn Russell**. The new Mr. and Mrs. O'Brien are living in the Buffalo area.

Care Ministry

Christy Allen Director

Happy Birthday to our Special Members:

November 11 **Hiram Bailey** turns 90 this month. He has been a member of the United Church for over 27 years. He has always been a quiet, but active church member. He is a “behind the scenes” kinda guy. It was Hiram that set up all the chairs and tables for Sunday school, committee meetings, luncheons, celebrations, as well as, numerous other church activities. Coffee was always hot and ready on Sunday mornings, complemented by the coffee cake he would bake, too! The garbage cans were always emptied, placed on the street. The United Church always had the best shoveled sidewalks on the entire block during winter! Even more importantly, Hiram was the head cook/chef for all the many years we hosted the Harvest Dinners here at church (he knew his way around the kitchen), as well as cooking and baking for the youth groups. Our communion bread was also lovingly made by Hiram each month. As you can see, many of the things that we sometimes take for granted, that often go unnoticed until they’re recognized, were always taken care of by Hiram. Having spent a lifetime serving others, Hiram and his wife Linda now live comfortably in Clifton Springs, NY, and Bogue Chitto, MS. When in the area, we love seeing his smiling face at church. Happy Birthday!! -written by Steward Margie Wall

November 14 **Kurt Werts** is one of our Special Member “birthday boys” this month, celebrating his 82nd trip around the sun! (Kurt will also be celebrating 58 years of marriage with his wife Linda this month!) Kurt is a veteran of the U. S. armed services and we thank him for his service along with our other veterans whom we honor this month on Veteran’s Day. If you didn’t know, Kurt is also a father of 2 daughters and a son, and is retired from teaching Global Studies in Sodus, NY. Please wish our friend Kurt well on his special day and keep him in your prayers. - by Steward Dan Frye

November 18 **Ruth Bullock** is my special member who is one of six children and grew up on the Day Farm in Bloomfield. One of her brothers still lives on the farm. She graduated from Canandaigua Academy and had 5 children. Many of you know her daughter Nancy Abdallah. Ruth is also a talented lady. She plays the piano to this day and has painted china plates on display in her home. She is a gifted seamstress and is famous for her chocolate chip cookies. Ruth loves flowers and has enjoyed gardening over the years. What I love most about Ruth is her beautiful smile and hugs! - by Steward Bev Fehrenbach

Happy 58th Wedding Anniversary to Linda and Kurt Werts on November 25th!

Greeter/Offering Coordinator

November: Dan Frye

If you are interested in joining one or both of these teams, please see Dan for help or more info.

Loose offerings and designated contributions for the Stewards Assistance Fund will be collected on Communion Sunday, November 3 and December 8. This fund is specifically dedicated to supporting our church family who may find themselves in need of temporary financial assistance during challenging times.

Poinsettia Order Forms

*** Due December 1 ***

Order Your Christmas Poinsettias!

Poinsettia order forms are now available! Look for them in this newsletter, your Church bulletin and the Welcome Center! Help us decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season by purchasing a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one. The plants will adorn the church starting December 13 and will remain on display through our Christmas Eve service. After the service, you are welcome to take your poinsettia home.

Each poinsettia costs \$11 per plant. You can return your order form and payment to the offering plate, drop it off at the Church Office, or mail it to 11 Gibson Street, Canandaigua, NY 14424.

Thank you for helping to bring beauty to our sanctuary this Christmas!

"Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."

Psalm 106:1

THANK YOU! We give thanks for...

- Contributions for hurricane relief given in October in our World Mission Offering collection
- Contributions for missionary support given in October in our World Mission Offering collection
- Welcoming missionary Christy Lafferty on October 13. She has returned to Nicaragua to provide Christian hope and health with American Baptist International Ministries
- Gift card contributions to Family Promise of Ontario County
- Shopping cart food contributions each week
- Prayers for Canandaigua, our country, and beyond our borders



"You have a wonderful and very active community at United Church of Canandaigua and I was truly grateful to get the chance to be in 2 services, intergenerational Sunday School class time, and a lunch! The people I met were so kind and I really enjoyed the service too." Christy Lafferty

Missionary Christy Lafferty sharing during Sunday School on Oct 13th.

A 2025 Mexico Mission Trip is being planned and organized!

You are invited to come and learn more...Thursday, November 14th from 6:00pm-8:00pm at the Werts' home 195 Saxton Lane. Dinner and fellowship at 6:00pm followed by an introduction to this Living Waters for the World (LWW) trip. March dates are being considered. It is planned as a "work trip" to upgrade the LWW water plant in Cedralito, Quintana Roo, Mexico which was installed in 2011. Other days may include visits with brothers and sisters of faith at churches and water plants in Limones and Tabi.

Several overnights will be in Bacalar and it is hoped we may reconnect with the faith family at Iglesia Emmanuel where several United Church members may remember the Presbytery trips and your partnership. And of course there will be a day of tourism! It appears that the newly excavated Mayan Ruin of Ichkabal, near Bacalar, will finally be open. Yes, we are recruiting team members...do you have a heart for serving others? Do you speak Spanish? Are you under 70 years and willing to serve as a driver? Or are you simply open to a transforming opportunity to serve on a Living Waters for the World mission which has empowered community and church leaders in the rural community of Cedralito (population approximately 400) to continue a sustainable ministry providing clean water at an affordable price. Please RSVP to Linda Werts lwerts@aol.com or 315-447-0276.



Denominational Hurricane responses

Hurricanes Helene and Milton devastated many parts of the southeast in the last month. There are immense short-term needs and as it will take years to recover in some areas there will be long-term needs as well. Let us all keep the affected people in our prayers. Our denominational responses are outlined below.

* * * * *

PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Relief) is in communication with all affected presbyteries and National VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) to share information and coordinate resources as damage is assessed. PDA has deployed a National Response Team to Tampa Bay Presbytery, Presbytery of Western North Carolina, Northeast Georgia Presbytery and Holston Presbytery. They have approved several initial assistance grant requests and are anticipating additional requests from affected presbyteries to help respond to needs in their communities.

PDA is part of a large and dedicated community of disaster response organizations. PDA has three initial deployment teams in Tampa Bay Presbytery, Holston Presbytery (Eastern Tennessee), and Western North Carolina Presbytery. Two additional deployments are scheduled to Northeast Georgia Presbytery and Foothills Presbytery (South Carolina).

In addition, PDA has sent six initial assistance grants to six Presbyteries to support unmet immediate needs and two church damage grants. We anticipate additional grant requests.

Progress is being made but much emergency/response work needs to happen to restore basic services. Please continue to pray for survivors, those who have experienced loss of loved ones, and responders.

Know that your support of PDA is addressing immediate needs and will provide the necessary resources to support the long-term recovery, which will take many years.

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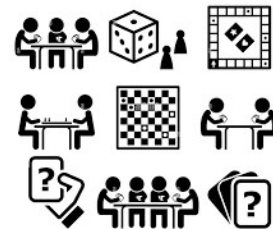
While Helene was still gaining strength over the Gulf of Mexico, the Rev. Lisa Harris Lee, director of **ABHMS' (American Baptist Home Mission Societies)** Healing & Transforming Communities unit, communicated with Dr. James Harrison, executive minister of American Baptist Churches of the South, and other ABCOTS leaders to inform them about ABHMS' plan of action, which includes working alongside these leaders as soon as is practical to coordinate needed assistance following the immediate support provided by FEMA, local agencies, the Red Cross and other first responders. Said Harris Lee, "This timely outreach demonstrates ABHMS' commitment to both early disaster relief efforts and longer-term renewal of lives in the weeks, months, and years to come."

OGHS funds are directed to the designated disaster areas in the U.S. and Puerto Rico to address immediate needs and often long afterward as additional needs emerge. All your gifts will make a difference in the lives of people you may or may not know and show the love of God when and where it is needed most.

The World Relief Committee of the Board of General Ministries of American Baptist Churches USA administers OGHS. The committee facilitates American Baptist emergency relief, disaster rehabilitation, refugee work and development assistance by establishing policy guidelines and overseeing the distribution of the annual OGHS offering received by churches.



Fellowship Events



Game Night – November 9th

Come join us for a fun family game night November 9th from 6:30-8:30 in the Fellowship Room. Feel free to bring a friend, a favorite game to play, or a snack to share. We hope to see you there!

Stampin' Up! The next Stampin' Up class is scheduled for November 16th from 9 – 12 in the Fellowship Room. Please contact Sharon Meyer to make a reservation by November 10. We will be making the cards pictured.



Do you hear bells ringing?

Listen for them in the month of December. The United Church has received a gracious donation of a complete set of 3-4 octaves of handbells along with music and other equipment. With grateful hearts we want to thank the family of Chuck and Anne Morey for the gift. Chuck and Ann purchased and started a bell choir at the Wesleyan church (now Crosswinds) thirty to forty years ago. Their children, Melody Burri, Kris Macumber, Lisa Bennett and Greg Morey are excited to know the bells will ring again.

We plan to use a few of the bells in a small manner in the month of December.

Plans are under way to begin an official bell choir, to be conducted in the manner of a “small group” in 2025. If you are interested in learning to play bells and join this group, please contact June Pettit or Nancy Burt-Preece.



Reserve the evening of **December 6th at 7:00 pm** for our annual **Christmas Organ Concert**. Nationally celebrated organist Duane Prill will be entertaining us with Christmas music, hymns and sing-a-long Carols. Together with talented flute and cello accompaniment, this will be a Christmas experience you won't want to miss.



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**

Treasurer's Report for September

Treasurer's Financial Summary for Sept 2024

Description	Jan-Sept 2024 Actual	Jan-Sept 2024 Budget
Income		
Total Giving	346,416.33	357,623.06
Other Income	12,603.46	10,099.82
Total Income	359,019.79	367,722.88
Spending		
Education and Ministry	27,740.60	30,772.50
Operating	57,498.63	56,375.00
Personnel & Related	271,001.83	280,575.38
Total Expenses	356,241.06	367,722.88
Net Income Year to Date	2,778.73	0.00

From January through September, we have taken in \$2,778.73 more than we have spent. Our donations are \$11,206.73 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



You have probably received a Stewardship letter and 2025 pledge forms recently

If we missed you, extra copies are available in the Welcome Center. 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! Watch the frog poster outside the office to gauge how close we are to our pledging goals!



Tech Corner

The church has recently installed some new hardware, so there is a **new guest wifi password**. Look for the signs around church to update your devices if you use our wifi!

If you are struggling to access the church app or sign up for volunteer slots, ask any church staff member, or look for one of our **tech helpers** after church on Sundays!

Also, just a friendly reminder to help you avoid scams: If you are ever in doubt about an email or text, you can call the office and we'll help you figure it out. No one from the church will ask you to secretly go get gift cards. Don't click any links you're not sure of. You can always contact the person directly via the contact information you have (not replying to a sketchy email or calling a number provided in an email or text.) Same goes for any business, like Amazon or UPS. Also, if anyone overpays you for an item or service and asks you to send them the difference ... chances are the check is fake and you will lose your money and be sad.



CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

What's happened...

Youth Club, our Wednesday afterschool ministry for children in 2nd-8th grade, is off to a great start with 61 children registered for the program! After school, we enjoy the four parts that make up Youth Club, which are: Recreation, Bible Study, Worship, and Family Time, which includes dinner. We have many dedicated volunteers helping each week with Youth Club, including parents of the children who attend – they provide snack for the children and help with kitchen clean-up. Below is a list of our 2023-2024 volunteers. Please keep this ministry in your prayers.

Drivers from Middle School:

Pastor Wade Allen, Cathy Bush, Claire Sheppard,
Pastor Mark Slomski

Walkers from Primary/Elementary School and St. Mary's:

Ed Blance, Becky Boseck, Bruce Gardner, and
Kathy Eagan

Recreation/Play:

Games – Pastor Wade Allen, Lauren Slomski

Crafts – Sandi Munson, Julie Zajac

Bible Study:

Grade 2 – Kathy Eagan, Grace Payne (Prayer partner: Beth Smythe)

Grade 3 – Cathy Bush, Joyce Laursen (Prayer partner: Karen Sanford)

Grade 4 – Ryan Marshall, Sarah Gross (Prayer partner: Joan Danaher)

Grade 5 – Lydia Busch, Julie Zajac (Prayer partner: Mary Lou Havens)

Middle School – Pastor Mark and Lauren Slomski, Ed Blance (Prayer partner: Wanda Munt)

Worship:

Leaders – Nancy Burt-Preece, Becky Boseck

Groups – Cathy Bush, Linda Daggs, Kathy Eagan, Sharon Erb, Bev Fehrenbach, Joyce Laursen, Julie Zajac

Sound – Grace Payne

Family Time:

Cooks/Kitchen Crew – Rich Bush, Megan French, Bruce Gardner, Gary Preece, Vickie Salato, Claire Sheppard

Dinner Themes – Connie Frye and Margie Wall

Dinner Dean – Deb Marshall

Shoppers – Sonya Brooks and Beth Johnson

Table Parents – Pastor Wade Allen, Jenny Baxter, Ed Blance, Becky Boseck, Sonya Brooks, Nancy Burt-Preece, Linda Daggs, Kathy Eagan, Sharon Erb, Bev Fehrenbach, Dan Frye, Deb Gardner, Joyce Laursen, Kory Massey, Grace Payne, Robin Sheppard, Julie Sperano, Lauren Slomski, Pastor Mark Slomski, Linda Wells

Childcare:

Claire Sheppard

CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

What's happening...

During the month of November, our families are invited to take part in our One Great Hour of Sharing mission project. Each day, read the sharing calendar, and as you are able, put coins in the fish bank as directed. This is a great learning experience for families as through the calendar we learn about the needs of others around the world and see how we can help through sharing what God has given us. **OGHS Fish banks and sharing calendars are given to Sunday School children in late October.** Please let us know if you would like to receive one. Please **return your fish banks on Sunday, November 24**, and we'll see how God multiplies the gifts we bring to bless others.

On November 17, the Christmas Angel Tree will be up in the Welcome Center and loaded with gift tags. If you are able to help with this outreach, you may obtain a tag by taking a tag off the tree in the Welcome Center or calling the church office at 585-394-0503 and asking if there are tags left to be fulfilled. Once you have received a tag (or information about a tag), please purchase the items, and return the *wrapped* gifts by ***Sunday, December 1.*** **Please be sure to affix the angel tree tag to your gift as this is required to help with sorting and distribution.** If you sign up for a gift via phone, we will put your name on the tag and hold the tag until you bring your gifts to church, so *please put your name on a note and attach it to the gifts you bring.* Many thanks for sharing with others from what God has abundantly provided for you! Questions? Please see Deb Marshall.

Upcoming Events...

Saturday, November 2 – Adult Ed Seminar at The United Church, 9am -3pm. Please register for this event

Sunday, December 1 – Advent begins

Wednesday, December 11 – Christmas Musical/Pageant at 5:45pm

Saturday, December 14 – Christmas Musical/Pageant practice at 9:30am

Sunday, December 15 – Christmas Musical/Pageant at 10am (kids arrive at 9:30am)

Sunday, December 22 – One service of Worship at 11am

Sunday, December 29 – One service of Worship at 11am

Personal reflection...

This month, I'm sharing an article from "Focus on Faith" because I think we can all use more of God's peace in this tumultuous world we live in.

If you've been around the church for any length of time, you've likely heard Philippians 4:8 quoted. It is a familiar verse—that we should focus our attention and our minds on things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable. Some of us can even repeat the list by heart.

But there's something incredibly important about this verse that often goes overlooked—the context!

The Holy Spirit, through the Apostle Paul, didn't place this verse in isolation. Just like almost everything in Scripture, it is part of a broader conversation. It's not an instruction without promise. It's actually part of a conversation on how we find peace in our lives.

In the verses just before, we are instructed to bring our worries, our anxieties, and our struggles to God through prayer. He encourages us to present our requests with thanksgiving, and in return, we are promised something remarkable: "the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

That's a verse we know well, right? Many of us have leaned on it during difficult times, trusting in God's peace to guard our hearts.

But Paul doesn't stop there.

He goes on to reveal another key to experiencing peace that transcends understanding. Immediately after talking about prayer, he instructs us to shift our focus to "Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

And then ties that practice again to peace: "Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."

In other words, peace doesn't just come from praying about our anxieties. It also comes from what we fill our minds with each day. Our thoughts shape our worldview, our emotions, our responses, our actions, and our words. When we dwell on the noise of this world—ungodly entertainment, toxic media, negative influences—our hearts and minds become restless, anxious, and unsettled.

But when we intentionally focus on things that are true, noble, pure, and praiseworthy, we invite the peace of God into our lives in a deeper way.

Are you in need of more of God's peace in your life today?

If so, Paul gives you three steps to begin realizing it: 1) Present your requests to God with thanksgiving; 2) Focus your attention on the things of God; and 3) Put this into practice.

God's peace is available to you today. And that is exactly how we find it.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you." Philippians 4:6-9

YOUTH

Reflections & Learnings

The Cause continues with the curriculum titled “*Can I Ask That? Hard Questions about God and Faith*”. This is producing quality conversation among our youth. With numerous 9th graders now in the program, we are learning how this is changing the needs of this ministry. We are also enjoying getting to know the 9th grader parents, many of which are new to the high school youth program.

Middle School and High School **Sunday School** continues with Deep Discipleship as our curriculum. Last month, we had the unique opportunity to witness the baptism of two Youth Club friends across the street at The United Methodist Church. This was a valuable opportunity to reflect on the meaning of baptism, exercise our ecumenical relationship with another church, and support friends of the faith!

Middle School **Youth Club** has started up, and will be using Deep Discipleship for their curriculum. We are lining up the coursework with the Sunday School content, as that is how the overall product is designed to work. Lauren Slomski and Ed Blance assist with the Bible Study. We have 20 students this year!

We planned a **special event** at the Long Acre Farm Corn Maze in October, but canceled the event when no students registered for the event. We will reflect on this result and make adjustments next Fall. Our **monthly school district connects** (including Victor, Canandaigua, and Marcus Whitman) continue! 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!

Our **Youth Ministry Team** continues its work. We meet about every other month. This year’s team includes: Julie Zajac, Dale Zajac, Lauren Slomski, Kayleigh Sheppard, Ray McMillen, Sandi DiCicco, Jen Callard, and Jini Hildrebrandt!

Looking Forward

Connect Canandaigua – November 14 @ 6:45 AM (North Road Tim Hortons) (Second Thursday)

Connect Marcus Whitman – November 18 @ 2:30 PM (Gorham Free Library) (Third Monday)

Youth Ministry Team Meeting - November 19 @ 6:30 PM (includes dinner)

Connect Victor – November 21 @ 6:45 AM (Main Street Tim Hortons) (Third Thursday)

Christmas Mall Trip - December 13 @ time TBD (overnight offering also to be determined later)



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

ADULT & YOUNG ADULT

Reflections & Learnings

There is preliminary work being done in nuancing the **young adult ministry** into college student ministry and 20/30-something ministry. These groups have different needs, and there may be a strategy in having these separate groups overlap at times. More prayer and discernment needed.

The women's group (led by Stephanie Wall, and is considered a 20/30-something ministry) continues to meet at our church every other week or so. This group is growing in size and serves as a wonderful example of what ministry for this demographic can look like.

An FLCC Christian club continues. Wendy Bacon is supporting this club and is keeping us informed as to how we can best support them. Also, our **College-aged-young adults lunch and Bible study** has started up again. We are currently attempting to meet weekly after church, though this will fluctuate frequently due to the dynamic lives of our college students.

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!

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. Jen Eveleigh and I are also making progress on the **Small Group Ministry Initiative** at the church. We have identified potential Small Group Leaders, and are looking to make connections with them before coming back to the congregation as a whole with small group offerings.

For **Special Events**, we are coming up on our first **The United Church Seminar** (November 2), with our guest lecturer being Dr. J. Richard Middleton. The seminar's focus is How we respond to suffering in our own life, the church, and in the wider world via a biblical theology of prayer. We also get to enjoy music from David Kraft, Earl & June Pettit, Joy VanRiper, Nancy Burt-Preece, and Georgia Sperano! Please come to support this event, and provide constructive feedback on this type of the event for future consideration.

We began our **monthly "adult" connect** at Ferris Hills on the first Wednesday of the month. We have several churches represented during our time together. I am discerning with the residents, the Ferris Hills Staff, and ministry partners as to what this may look like long term.

The **Adult Education Ministry Team** continues to meet every other month or so. This year, our team includes: Brenda and Bob Cunningham, Steve Simpson, Gary Preece, Gail Benjamin, Adam Thorman, Bev Fehrenbach, and Melissa Long.

Looking Forward

Adult Education Seminar – Saturday, November 2, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Adult Connect - Wednesday, November 6 @ 1:00 PM (Ferris Hills; First Wednesday of the month)



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

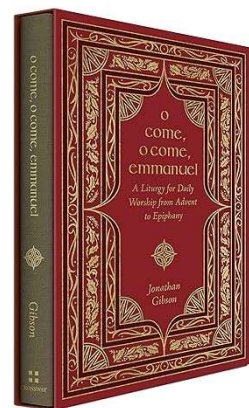
PASTORAL MINISTRY

In contrast to our society's calendar (January-December), the church calendar's "new year" starts with Advent. In this new-year season, we prepare our hearts to remember and celebrate the coming of Jesus, and lean onto the future hope and promises of the Lord's *second* coming. At our church, we have a tradition of providing Advent-themed devotionals to aid in that preparation. Please see below for this year's offerings:

Come, O Come, Emmanuel: A Liturgy for Daily Worship from Advent to Epiphany

Description: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel by Jonathan Gibson presents a 40-day devotional liturgy guiding readers through Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany—helping them keep their eyes fixed on Christ. Designed as a resource for the holiday season, each reading includes a guided meditation, applicable Scripture readings, hymns, prayers, creeds, and prompts for petition and confession. For individuals and families, this devotional will help Christians focus on Jesus and meditate on the mystery of his incarnation.

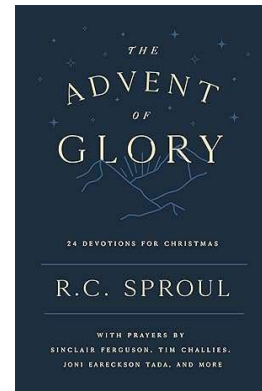
Note: I have used the non-Advent equivalent of this daily worship guide for several months now. It has done more for my devotional life than any other devotional guide that I can remember. I have found myself *excited* to use this guide every morning. More recently, I have used this guide as a daily worship for my *whole family* - Lauren, Carter, and myself. Our "little church" - as the great reformer Martin Luther would describe a family - gets to worship the Lord every day together. This book is also rooted in a Presbyterian heritage. *55x copies have been ordered for this Advent season.*



The Advent of Glory: 24 Devotions for Christmas

Description: These straightforward, short, and profound Advent readings have been edited from talks given by much-loved Bible teacher, Dr. R.C. Sproul, helping readers to benefit from his enduring insight and wisdom. They delve into the details of the Christmas story and reflect on how these impact our lives now, combining scholarly detail with heartwarming application. Each day also includes a prayer written by a well-known Bible teacher of our own day, to guide your own reflections.

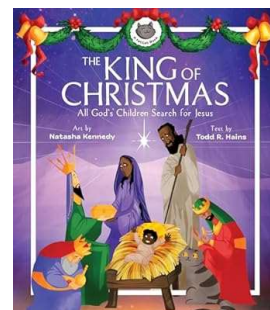
Note: RC Sproul is a legendary author, and shares a Presbyterian heritage. This devotional is expected to be accessible yet deep. *55x copies have been ordered for this Advent season.*



The King of Christmas: All God's Children Search for Jesus

Description: Inspired by the story of the magi and Mary's Magnificat, The King of Christmas invites children and families to share the joy of searching for Jesus during Advent. Join the wise men as they follow the light of the Christmas star, journeying over sea and field, through market and temple, to find the King of Christmas.

Note: I came across this book after using similar books from the same publisher with Carter. They are very well produced and are theologically competent. Recommended age is 4-8. *A copy of this book will be available in the children's library in the upstairs Chapel.*



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

November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>845am Worship Service 945am Sunday school for all ages 11am Worship Service 5pm The Cause</p> <p>3</p>	<p>1130am Al-Anon 7pm Small Group rm 26</p> <p>4</p>	<p>All-day ELECTION DAY! 10am Knitlers 10am Staff meeting 630pm Stewards: Stewards Meeting 7pm NA</p> <p>5</p>	<p>7am Men's Prayer Breakfast 1pm Adult Connect - Ferris Hills 330pm Youth Club 7pm Choir rehearsal</p> <p>6</p>	<p>1pm Bible Study</p> <p>7</p>	<p>7pm Organ Concert</p> <p>8</p>	<p>9am The United Church Seminar 1030am AFG District mtg</p> <p>2</p>
<p>845am Worship Service 945am Sunday school for all ages 11am Worship Service 5pm The Cause</p> <p>10</p>	<p>All-day Veterans Day - Office closed 10am Worship Team: Worship Planning Team Meeting 1130am Al-Anon 3pm ARC 7pm Cheerful Service Circle 7pm Small Group rm 26</p> <p>11</p>	<p>10am Knitlers 10am Staff meeting 1130am Circle 7 7pm Children's Ministry/Support Committee: Meeting 7pm Committee Night 7pm NA</p> <p>12</p>	<p>7am Men's Prayer Breakfast 330pm Youth Club 7pm Choir rehearsal</p> <p>13</p>	<p>645am Connect CA 1pm Bible Study</p> <p>14</p>	<p>All-day Lampighter due date 7pm Georgia in chapel</p> <p>15</p>	<p>9am Stampin' Up 7pm</p> <p>16</p>
<p>845am Worship Service 945am Sunday school for all ages 11am Worship Service 5pm The Cause</p> <p>17</p>	<p>1130am Al-Anon 230pm Connect MW/ 7pm Small Group rm 26</p> <p>18</p>	<p>10am Knitlers 630pm Youth Ministry Team Meeting 7pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm NA</p> <p>19</p>	<p>7am Men's Prayer Breakfast 330pm Youth Club 7pm Choir rehearsal</p> <p>20</p>	<p>All-day Staff Event offsite 645am Connect Victor 1pm Bible Study</p> <p>21</p>	<p>No events today</p> <p>22</p>	<p>No events today</p> <p>23</p>
<p>845am Worship Service 945am Sunday school for all ages 11am Worship Service 5pm The Cause</p> <p>24</p>	<p>1130am Al-Anon 7pm Small Group rm 26</p> <p>25</p>	<p>10am Knitlers 10am Staff meeting 7pm NA</p> <p>26</p>	<p>7am Men's Prayer Breakfast 7pm Choir rehearsal</p> <p>27</p>	<p>All-day Thanksgiving - office closed</p> <p>28</p>	<p>All-day Office closed</p> <p>29</p>	<p>No events today</p> <p>30</p>

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

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Or Current Resident