

The Lamplighter

The United Church
11 Gibson Street



Canandaigua, NY
585-394-0503

Worship Services, 8:45 and 11:00 am

December 2024

Rev. Dr. Wade Allen

- Dec 1** – First Sunday of Advent
- Dec 2** – Joint Official Board/Trustees meeting, 7:00 pm
- Dec 3** – Stewards, 6:30 pm
- Dec 6** – Christmas Organ Concert (Duane Prill), 7:00 pm
- Dec 13** – Youth Mall trip
- Dec 14** – All Church Game Night, 6:30 pm
- Dec 15** – Christmas Pageant, 10:00 am
- Dec 15** – FLSO Concert, 3:00 pm
- Dec 20** – Annual Reports due
- Dec 23-Jan 3** – Church Office closed for holiday



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Between the Comings: Anticipating Christ in Advent

This is the time of year when we begin to make plans. For some, that planning includes purchasing gifts for loved ones. For others, it means organizing a family gathering or arranging travel. We are preparing, getting ready for what is to come.

As we step into the season of Advent, we turn over the liturgical calendar to a new year. At the same time, we prepare our hearts for Jesus' coming. On the one hand, we join the people of old in their anticipation of the coming Messiah. For hundreds of years, the people of God waited for Him to come, to show up, to fulfill His promises. As far back as Genesis 3, God pointed to a time when sin and death would be conquered:

(Genesis 3:15 NIV) "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

This verse is known as the protoevangelium or the first gospel. Here, God, speaking to the serpent, gives us a glimpse of His plan for salvation and victory over sin and evil. Throughout the Old Testament, we find passages that point to Jesus' coming, from Isaiah 7:14 and 9:6-7 to Micah 5:2 and Zechariah 9:9. The season of Advent is a time of longing, of looking forward to all that God will do. And at Christmas, we celebrate the fulfillment of these promises.

Advent is also a season of anticipating Jesus' promise to return—to make all things right, to establish a new Kingdom and a new earth. We are living in between the comings of Jesus. So, as we reflect on the anticipation of His first coming, we also prepare for His second. As we plan for the holiday season, whether by purchasing gifts or making travel arrangements, let's not neglect the spiritual preparation for Jesus' return.

I've included the Scripture passages below to aid in your worship preparation each week. Please note that December will include two combined services at 11 AM (December 22 and 29), and a Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service at 7 PM. Our December 29 service will be a prayer service for the coming year.

Looking forward to engaging the Scriptures with you each week,

Worship Schedule and Readings for December

- December 01 - Living with Urgency and Expectation: Preparing for Christ's Return (Luke 21:25-36)
Additional Readings: Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
- December 08 - Expectant Hearts: Waiting on God (Philippians 1:3-11)
Additional Readings: Luke 1:68-79, Luke 3:1-6
- December 15 - Joy in Every Season (Philippians 4:4-7)
Additional Readings: Isaiah 12:2-6, Luke 3:7-18
- December 22 (11 AM only) - Mary's Yes: Embracing God's Call (Luke 1:39-55)
Additional Readings: Psalm 80:1-7, Luke 1:39-55
- December 24 (7 PM) - Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service (Luke 2:1-20)
- December 29 (11 AM only) - New Year Prayer Service



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

REMEMBERING:

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Adam Thorman**, whose grandfather, **James Thorman**, passed away on October 26th. Please keep the Thorman family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Karen Roaix**, whose nephew, **Torrance Coleman**, passed away on October 21st. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Claire Sheppard** for the loss of her sister-in-law, **Amy Jelensperger**, on November 6. Please keep the Sheppard family in your prayers during this difficult time.



Care Ministry, Christy Allen Director



Happy Birthday to our Senior Companions (aka: special members):

December 14 Esther Pullis is celebrating her 94th birthday! She has been serving in our community for many years. Esther grew up in California and has lived many places across the US as she pastored with her husband, Claude, a Baptist pastor. Esther and Claude retired to Canandaigua in the 1990's, and ever since she has greeted people in our church building with a welcoming smile and an invitation to join us in worship. Esther currently lives at Quail Summit. You can greet her at worship most Sundays. Many wishes for a joyous new year to Esther. Happy Birthday! *By Steward Rachel Rensberger*

December 31 Ernestine (Ernie) Ernie and her husband Mac previously lived in Hilton for many years where they raised 5 wonderful sons. One of their sons is John Eveleigh, a long time member of our church family. She has been blessed with 8 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, and she enjoys spending time with each and every one of them. Ernestine and Mac spend most of the summer at their cottage in Cape Vincent, NY overlooking the St. Lawrence River. It's a great place to relax and reconnect with family and friends. The rest of the year they live in Canandaigua, allowing them to be closer to their family. They have been a wonderful addition to the United Church family. Ernie has recently joined the Knitting Club at church alongside her daughter-in-law, Jen Eveleigh. Ernie is enjoying learning this new craft as well as making new friends here at church! *By Steward Margie Wall*

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The Care Ministry welcomes our newest Ministry: The Transportation Team!

Our mission is to provide reliable transportation helping individuals access medical care, doctor appointments and other essential needs while fostering care, connection, and support within our church community.

A special thank you to Margie Wall, our Transportation Team Coordinator, for leading this important effort!

Volunteers will have the flexibility to accept opportunities based on their availability, making it easy to serve when it works best for them.

Please contact Margie Wall or Christy if you are interested in serving with us!

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Share Christmas Joy with Our Senior

Companions!

Help brighten the holidays for our Senior Companions (formerly known as Special Members) by writing them a Christmas card! Cards, along with names and addresses, will be available in the Welcome Center. Let's remind them they're a valued part of our church family this season.



Announcing a New Name for Our Special Members:

Senior Companions!

We're excited to announce a fresh name for our cherished special members:

They will now be known as **Senior Companions!** This new name beautifully reflects who they are to us—valued friends and companions to our Stewards and our entire church family.

Senior Companions highlights the special role they play in our congregation and the meaningful connections we share with them. Let's celebrate this change as we continue to nurture these important relationships!



Faith and Action

“Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good **tidings of great joy which will be to all people.**” Luke 2:10



God’s perfect gift into an imperfect world. The Christ child lived, celebrated, and shared bread, and lived in an imperfect world.

“Joy for all people.” 152 years is our Canandaigua history worshipped God in our building. Faithful members from our denomination connections brought the “tidings of great joy” to Ontario County. God’s great gift was never limited to the Bethlehem region.

“And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.”

Do not be afraid to share the good news. Live the good news. Share with others living the gospel in challenging environments. Pray for messengers working in

- Communities that were devastated by 2024 floods and/or fire
- South Sudan with ten years of warfare (missionaries Shelvis and Nancy Smith Mather family)
- Nicaragua with government acting against Catholic and protestant groups (missionary Christine Lafferty)
- American government and government agencies (multiple Bible study/prayer gatherings)
- Baptist pastors in Columbia and Iberoamerica region (missionaries Carlos Bonilla and Mayra Giovanetti)
- Haiti – both leaders in Haiti remaining within the borders and outside the borders (Hospital Saing Croix, Haitian pastors, and Called to Care Canandaigua)
- Western Europe with “people on the move” from Ukraine and Africa (missionaries Ryan and Alethia White and family)



Do not be afraid. Share the GOOD NEWS with all the shepherds and “wise men” you meet this season. Share the NEWS with young and old. “For God so loved the world He.....” to all. Celebrate and worship.

The United Church will be joining the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign on Saturday, November 30th from 10:00am to 4:00pm at Runnings...making a difference with every ring! Will you join us for an hour shift? Sign up on the office door or contact Linda Werts. All donations stay local and impact the lives of our community neighbors in times of need.

Christmas Joy

On the first Christmas God gave us the perfect gift in Jesus Christ. Each year, in December, our United Church receives an offering which is used to honor and thank church leaders who have devoted their lives to faithfully guiding us as we strive to follow Jesus. Our church combines the Presbyterian Joy offering, the American Baptist Retired Ministers and Missionaries offering and the America for Christ offering into our one Christmas offering. Our gifts support and thank retired church workers as well as assist current church workers in times of need. This offering also assists future leaders as they pursue their education at Presbyterian schools and colleges equipping communities of color and provides grants to American Baptist seminaries and colleges.

In addition to honoring our past ministers, missionaries and their families we are helping to cultivate leaders and to equip disciples in showing how the power of Christian love can change the world.

As we remember the wondrous works of Christ let us show our love and our thanks by giving generously to our Christmas Joy offering. You may use the enclosed envelopes, indicate Christmas offering on your check, or choose the Christmas Joy fund for online giving.

A 2025 Mexico Mission Trip has organized! A ten day trip is planned from March 8th through the 17th focused on three work days in Cedralito to rehab a Living Waters for the World (LWW) water plant installed in 2022. But offering time to renew and strengthen relationships with brothers and sisters of faith in Tabi, Limones and hopefully with the worshipping congregation at Iglesia Emmanuel in Bacalar. Ken Allen, Ray McMillen, Sarah Cole and Linda Werts invite you to join our “mission team.” Speak with any of us for known details and join our next meeting over Zoom scheduled for Thursday, December 5th at 7:30pm. A trip registration form is available now. We are ball parking the cost at about \$1,500-\$1,600. As you know the United Church “mission trip fund” helps with some of the cost. Please contact Linda Werts for more information and the Zoom link for the December 5th meeting.

Join Us for a Listening & Feedback Session: The Boyce Discernment Team

Dear Church Family,

We are excited to invite you to a special meeting during the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:45 AM) on Sunday, January 12, where the Boyce Discernment Team will present their work on discerning the best uses for a significant donation generously given to The United Church in the fall of 2023. This gift presents a wonderful opportunity for ministry growth, and the discernment team has been prayerfully considering how we can honor the spirit of this gift while meeting the needs of our church and community. During the meeting, members of the Boyce Discernment Team will share their findings and insights, providing a glimpse into the process they've undertaken to thoughtfully evaluate potential uses for the donation. Most importantly, this session will be an opportunity for you, the congregation, to share your own perspectives and feedback. We value your voice, as each member's insight is crucial in shaping how this gift can impact our community for years to come.

Please mark your calendars for this meaningful time of listening, learning, and sharing together. We hope you will join us to engage with the discernment process, lend your voice, and help us steward this gift with faith and vision.

Annual Meeting

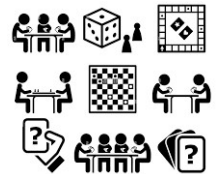
The Annual Meeting of the United Church will be held after the second service, in the dining room, on Sunday, January 26th, 2025. Immediately after the 11:00 service the youth will host a baked potato lunch. This will be followed by the Annual Meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the 2025 budget, elect officers, review the activities of 2024, and do any other business appropriate to the meeting.



Fellowship Events

Game Night – December 14th

Come join us for a fun family game night December 14th 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 December 7th from 9 – 2 in the Fellowship Room. Please contact Sharon Meyer to make a reservation by December 1st.

Holiday Concerts

Please see the enclosed flyers for details on our Christmas Organ concert on December 6th and a Finger Lakes Symphony Orchestra concert (right here) on December 15th.

Though the church office will be **closed from Dec 23 through Jan 3**, we will be checking phone and email messages, so please let us know if you have any prayer requests or need to contact a staff member. There will be folks about, but the flexibility for the staff to work from home as we're able during the holiday week is a special treat.



Treasurer's Report for October

Treasurer's Financial Summary for Oct 2024

Description	Jan-Oct 2024 Actual	Jan-Oct 2024 Budget
Income		
Total Giving	372,638.07	397,358.95
Other Income	12,563.36	11,222.03
Total Income	385,201.43	408,580.98
Spending		
Education and Ministry	30,090.00	34,191.67
Operating	61,032.20	62,638.88
Personnel & Related	305,466.01	311,750.43
Total Expenses	396,588.21	408,580.98
Net Income Year to Date	(11,386.78)	0.00

From January through October, we have spent \$11,386.78 more than we have taken in. Our donations are \$24,720.88 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

If you have not yet returned your 2025 pledge form, you can find additional ones in the welcome center.

Returning your pledge information promptly 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! Our aim is to have 130 families pledge and an Operating total of \$398,160. As of this writing (11/18), we have received 81 pledges indicating gifts of \$248,057 to the Operating budget and \$82,574 to the Missions budget.



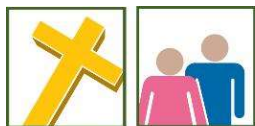
Tech Corner

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!



Are you the person in charge of writing your committee or group's Annual Report?



If so, please get those to Carolyn in the office by December 15th! If you need to wait for end of year numbers, please send to her ASAP after January 1st. If you'd like a copy of last year's sent to you, she's happy to do that. Thank you so much!

CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

What's happened...

During the month of November, our families were invited to take part in our **One Great Hour of Sharing** mission project. Each day, they read a sharing calendar, and put coins in a **fish bank** as directed. Fish banks are coming in and **we'll soon see how God multiplies the gifts we bring to bless others.**

Youth Club kids filled **52 stockings** for Metro World Child on Wednesday, November 6th. These stockings were then mailed to **Metro World Child in Brooklyn**. The stockings are given to children in need at a special Christmas program for families. Everyone who attends this program hears the gospel message. *Thank you to the many people who helped with this project!* It was a **true team effort** of felt cutters, stocking sewers, stocking stuffer donations, and creativity of the Youth Club kids. Please pray that these stockings will be tangible evidence of Christ's love to those who receive them.

What's happening...

The **Christmas Angel Tree** is up in the gathering area and loaded with gift tags. We partner with St. Benedict's Parish (St. Mary's) to get tags for our Christmas Angel Tree. The requests on the Angel Tree are for local needs. Once you have picked a tag, please purchase the item(s), and return the *wrapped* gifts to church by **Sunday, December 8. Please be sure to affix the Angel tree tag to your gift as this is required to help with sorting and distribution.** Many thanks for sharing with others from what God has abundantly provided for you! Questions? Please see Deb Marshall.

We are very excited to introduce a new **Christmas Pageant** this season. Youth Club and Sunday school kids have been working hard to get ready for this. For children aged Kindergarten through 12th grade who would like to be a part of this year's pageant, we will have **one mandatory practice on Saturday, December 14th from 9:30-11am** in the sanctuary. The Christmas Pageant will take place **Sunday, December 15th during the Sunday school hour (at 10:00)** in the sanctuary. On December 15th, *children in the pageant need to arrive between 9:30-9:45 to get into costumes.* The pageant will be followed by a birthday party for Jesus in the fellowship room.

The season of **Advent** is the 4 weeks prior to Christmas when we prepare our hearts for the coming Messiah. Children and youth will receive Advent devotionals in Sunday School. Let us know if you need one!

- For preschool through Kindergarten: **"O Little Town of Bethlehem"** allows kids to build a town of Bethlehem and add stickers for each day of Advent. Each day, kids read a scripture verse, a poem about a different part of the Christmas story, and place a sticker on their display.
- For 1st grade through 3rd grade: **"Time for a Savior."** These daily devotions include scripture and a devotion for families to read together.
- For 4th grade and 5th grade: **"Rejoice in Hope."** This devotional guide includes a daily scripture, reflection, prayer, and action for families to do together.
- For Middle School: **"Oh, Come On, It's Advent."** These daily devotionals for students include scripture and a teen-oriented reflection.
- For High School: Pastor Mark has select offerings for high school students.

This year Advent begins on December 1st. It is our hope is that families set aside a special time each day to come together and share in the anticipation of Jesus' birth. **"O Come, Let Us Adore Him!"**

CHILDREN’S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Upcoming Events...

Sunday, December 1 – Advent begins

Saturday, December 14 – Christmas pageant practice at 9:30am

Sunday, December 15 – Christmas Pageant at 10am

Sunday, December 22 – ONE service at **11am** *No Early Service or Sunday school*

Sunday, December 29 – ONE prayer service at **11am** *No Early Service or Sunday school*

Sunday, January 5 – 8:45am service, 9:45am Intergenerational Sunday school ~**please bring a dish to pass** if you’re able~ 11am service

Personal reflection...

I recently read this quote, “**Rest is a weapon given to us by God. The enemy hates it because he wants us to be stressed and occupied.**” ~ Elizabeth Elliot

This quote really struck me. In 2024, I’ve been trying to focus on rest and get better at it. (Yep, I’m still working on it!!) I’ve read about rest, and I often read things like, “rest is a gift,” or “rest is a command given because God knows we need it.” But, I had never read anything that said “rest is a weapon” until I saw this quote.

I like the new perspective this quote gives. If satan wants us to be stressed and occupied, shouldn’t we be striving for the opposite of those things? While scripture is clear our life on earth won’t be smooth sailing, Jesus did offer a peace that passes all understanding. In my mind, being at peace does seem to be opposite of being stressed.

I think we all know what it’s like to be occupied. This can take on many forms - we can be busy, we can be pre-occupied with worries or anxieties or a never ending “to do” list, we can be occupied by our social media feed. The list goes on and on. Clearly, satan has figured out many ways to keep us occupied. So, how do we become unoccupied, or free? As Christians, we know the only true and lasting freedom comes through Christ. So, if we abide in Christ and have relationship with him, we are free.

But how do we practically, daily use the ‘weapon of rest’ against the enemy’s desire to keep us stressed and occupied? I think it varies from person to person, and I think it changes depending on the season of life we are in. For me, right now, I have discovered that I need to schedule time each day to spend with the Lord, to exercise, to work, to spend with my family, to get my kids where they need to be, and to do other household tasks. Because my days typically fill up once all those things are in place, I need at least one day a week as Sabbath - a day that is not driven by my “to do” list, but is relaxed and filled with things that bring me joy. I also find that some downtime each day is helpful to keep me from being stressed.

You may need to structure your days and weeks differently than me because of different demands on your time. But, we can all use rest, and I bet most of us could use more of it. As we enter the season of Advent, let’s make a plan to rest once a week, even in the midst of this busy season. I pray you will have peace and freedom as you use rest as a weapon against the enemy! And I pray you will notice how much better you feel!

~Deb

“Six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest.” Exodus 23:12a

YOUTH

Reflections & Learnings

The Cause continues with the curriculum titled “Can I Ask That? Hard Questions about God and Faith”. We have ventured through questions such as: "Is it wrong to doubt God?", "Is hell real? How could God send someone there?", and "Can I do something so bad God won't forgive me?". Our students are doing a wonderful job navigating these sensitive discussions with one another.

Middle School and High School Sunday School continues with a curriculum known as Deep Discipleship. We have covered a few topics by now, including the habits of Jesus, navigating fear, and engaging various apologetic topics.

Middle School Youth Club also continues using Deep Discipleship for their curriculum. We are lined up with the Middle School Sunday School curriculum. With many of our Youth Club students not attending Sunday School, we have discovered the richness of discussing the same topics in two different contexts. For those that attend both, they are still benefiting from the conversation, as the curriculum approaches the same topic from different angles (e.g. small group context vs. large group context).

Our **December Special Event** is the long-standing Christmas Mall Trip. Our High School students lead our Middle School Students around the mall to buy presents for their loved ones. This is a highlight event for our students! As part of the Christmas season, the high school group is donating toys for children in poverty across the globe through Operation Christmas Child. As always, our **monthly school district connects** (including Victor, Canandaigua, and Marcus Whitman) continue!

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 Hildebrandt!

Looking Forward

Connect Canandaigua – December 12 @ 6:45 AM (North Road Tim Hortons) (Second Thursday)

Christmas Mall Trip - December 13 @ 5:30 PM - 10:00 PM (no overnight)

Connect Marcus Whitman – December 16 @ 2:30 PM (Gorham Free Library) (Third Monday)

Connect Victor – December 19 @ 6:45 AM (Main Street Tim Hortons) (Third Thursday)



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

ADULT & YOUNG ADULT

Reflections & Learnings

A group of **young adults** (our group this year is primarily college-aged students) are preparing for the January 2025 trip to Atlanta for the Passion Conference! Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare their hearts and minds to worship the Lord and engage in the Scriptures with thousands of other young adults.

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. The Christian club also continues, with Wendy Bacon supporting this club and keeping us informed as to how we can best support them.

The **Adult Education Sunday School Hour** continues with a Bible Study on Genesis, which has recently covered lessons on Abraham, Covenant-Confirmation, Jacob, and God's Promises. We also continue to host the Parenting Coffee Hour. This casual group has covered a number of topics, including forgiveness, strengthening our faith, seeking what matters to God, patience, taking risks, and more.

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. In October, Jen Eveleigh and I hosted a small group facilitator information meeting, and are taking next steps towards new small group formation!

Our **monthly connect** at Ferris Hills on the first Wednesday of the month continues. In November (while I was away on vacation), Mr. Mike O'Brien facilitated worship with the group. In December, we plan to meet again, and also enjoy an additional Christmas-season connect through the Care Ministry.

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. In December, Joan Danaher will be joining the team, too!

Looking Forward

Adult Connect - Wednesday, December 4 @ 1:00 PM (Ferris Hills; First Wednesday of the month)



PASTORAL MINISTRY

With Advent upon us (the Christian New Year), we are provided an opportunity to recalibrate our priorities through remembering and living into the reality of Jesus' first coming. A part of that process is reflection and discernment on the context in which we live today, and what role God is inviting us to play in His story now. This article is part one of a larger reflection on the mission of the Church in a post-Christian culture. These articles are not intended to be comprehensive, but instead reflective from a pastoral perspective.

Introduction

The Western world is experiencing a principled shift in its historical relationship with Christianity. Responses to this change have been diverse. On one side of the spectrum, faith leaders plead with the church to "get with the times," often manifesting itself through political and power alliances. On the other side, Christian leaders proclaim the need to "defend its ground," expressing themselves similarly through political and power alliances.

One aspect of a comprehensive response by the Christian community borrows the title of the 2024 commencement speech by Old Testament scholar Dr. J. Richard Middleton: "*The Way Forward is Back.*" The church's mission in a post-Christian culture can rediscover the rich heritage of a pre-Christian culture. Specifically, the church can rediscover proclamation (belief), knowledge & wisdom (instruction), and practice (discipleship). For this article, I will reflect on the first of the three:

Proclamation (Belief)

A cornerstone of the church's mission in a post-Christian world is proclamation—a public declaration of Christian belief. The biblical term *kerygma* is an element of proclamation in Christian apologetics. Examples include the declaration of God's will by the Old Testament prophets, the authoritative messaging and prophetic fulfillments of Jesus' preaching (and ministry), and the apostolic preaching of the gospel. Today, the church can follow these biblical examples in its own proclamation.

Beyond its scriptural foundation, the church's proclamation is historically grounded. Belief is stabilized by millennia of Christian tradition. It is within this ancestral DNA that believers and their communities may recognize the origins of certain Western ideals that they have become accustomed to enjoying. In fact, some of the supposed "post-Christian" movements, currently unguided by biblical tenets, originate (perhaps unknowingly to those expressing them) from the groundwork provided by Christian ethics. As Dr. Christopher Watkins wrote in his book *Biblical Critical Theory*, "The secularization we have is a very Christian secularization: not an alternative to religion, but a Christian history."

When proclamation includes scriptural roots and historical connections, the message is commissioned in preaching. The faith community in a post-Christian world would do well to rediscover the biblical word *Quheleth*. As the late Eugene Peterson noted, a *Quheleth* is an assembler of the people into the presence of God. This post-Christian world needs to commission these preachers—preachers who are subject to scriptural and historical testing.

Conclusion

Our post-Christian society needs the church to conduct its mission. Join me this Advent season in proclaiming the Good News of Jesus' first coming! *For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.* - John 3:16



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

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

Non-Profit Org.
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Canandaigua, NY 14424

Or Current Resident



An Evening of Festive Christmas Music and Carols

**Friday
December 6th
7:00 PM**

*The United Church
11 Gibson Street
Canandaigua, NY 14424*

Featuring
Duane Prill,
Organist

Special Guests

*Annette Farrington, flute
Brian Donat, cello*

Duane Prill earned his master of music degree as a scholarship student in organ performance from Eastman School of Music and his bachelor of music degree summa cum laude from Ohio Wesleyan University. In addition, he is organist at Asbury First Methodist, Rochester, NY and tonal director for Parsons Pipe Organ Builders, Canandaigua, NY.

This concert is open to the community. A free-will offering will be received. Dessert reception afterwards.

Presented by The United Church of Canandaigua

Finger Lakes Symphony Orchestra
S. Shade Zajac, Music Director

Holiday Favorites!

The Nutcracker Ballet selections
The Christmas Song - Torme
Sleigh Ride - Anderson
Christmas Sing Along
and more.....

Sunday, December 15, 3:00 PM

United Church of Canandaigua
11 Gibson Street



www.flsso.org

Ticket Prices

\$15 Adults

\$10 Students (with valid ID)

**Children 12 and under FREE
(with accompanying paid ticket)**



December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 845am Worship Service 945am Sunday school for all ages 11am Worship Service</p>	<p>2 1130am Al-Anon 7pm Joint OE/Trustees meeting 7pm Official Board Meeting 7pm Small Group rm 26</p>	<p>3 10am Knitlers 10am Staff meeting 630pm Stewards Stewards Meeting 7pm NA</p>	<p>4 7am Men's Prayer Breakfast 1pm Adult Connect - Ferris Hills 330pm Youth Club 7pm Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>5 1pm Bible Study</p>	<p>6 7pm Organ concert</p>	<p>7 9am Stampin' Up 1030am AFG District mtg 2pm CTC party</p>
<p>8 845am Worship Service 945am Sunday school for all ages 11am Worship Service 5pm The Cause</p>	<p>9 1130am Al-Anon 3pm ARC 7pm Cheerful Service Circle 7pm Small Group rm 26</p>	<p>10 10am Knitlers 10am Staff meeting 1130am Circle 7 7pm Committee Night 7pm NA</p>	<p>11 7am Men's Prayer Breakfast 330pm Youth Club 7pm Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>12 645am Connect CA 1pm Bible Study</p>	<p>13 All-day Lampighter due date 530pm Youth Christmas Mall Trip</p>	<p>14 930am Pageant practice 630pm Game Night</p>
<p>15 845am Worship Service 10am Christmas Pageant 11am Worship Service 3pm FLSO Concert</p>	<p>16 10am Worship Team: Worship Planning Team Meeting 1130am Al-Anon 230pm Connect MW 7pm Missions Budget Team Meeting 7pm Small Group rm 26</p>	<p>17 10am Knitlers 10am Staff meeting 7pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm NA</p>	<p>18 7am Men's Prayer Breakfast 7pm Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>19 645am Connect Victor 1pm Bible Study</p>	<p>20 All-day Annual Reports due 330pm Georgia's party</p>	<p>21 No events today</p>
<p>22 11am Worship Service 12pm Youth choir party</p>	<p>23 All-day Office closed 1130am Al-Anon 7pm Small Group rm 26</p>	<p>24 All-day Office closed All-day Christmas Eve 7pm NA 7pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service</p>	<p>25 All-day Office closed All-day Christmas Day</p>	<p>26 All-day Office closed 1pm Bible Study</p>	<p>27 All-day Office closed</p>	<p>28 All-day Office closed 1pm Private party dining room</p>
<p>29 All-day Office closed 11am Worship Service</p>	<p>30 All-day Office closed 1130am Al-Anon</p>	<p>31 All-day Office closed 10am Knitlers 7pm NA</p>				