

MARCH 2025



THE Lamplighter

11 Gibson St., Canandaigua, NY 14424 • office@uccdga.org • (585) 394-0503



A NEW LOOK...

You may have noticed that lately the church website, Sunday bulletins, social media posts, and this monthly newsletter have a fresh look involving more color and a new logo for the United Church. You may even see more familiar faces on the pages. These changes were made possible through a new copier contract with better

color rates, adaptable and creative staff members, and the efforts of a Communications Team excited to present a cohesive and professional “look” for the church while retaining the history and traditions that we hold dear. We encourage you to look around and let us know what you think!

MARCH 2025 EVENTS

March 3

Trustees, 7:00 pm

March 16

Organ Concert, 3:00 pm

March 17

Stewards Training, 9:00 am - noon

March 17

Official Board, 7:00 pm

March 19

Youth Club goes Ice Skating

March 22

Bowling Night at Roseland

March 30

Ministry Involvement Day, 9:45 am

FROM THE PASTOR

Journey into *the Heart of Lent*

Lent *invites* us into a journey that mirrors Christ’s own path. As we enter this season of reflection, our Scripture readings *illuminate* a narrative that moves from the Father affirming the Son through wilderness testing to the ultimate expression of God’s love.

We begin on the mountain of Transfiguration, where God’s glory *breaks through* the veil of ordinary existence. This revelation *serves* not merely as a spectacular display but as essential preparation for the valley that follows. The radiance of

Christ’s transformed presence *offers* us the same strength it provided the disciples as they faced the challenges ahead.

The wilderness is next, where we *witness* Jesus’s confrontation with temptation. Here emerges a profound truth: even the incarnate Word relies on the written Word. This testing *reveals* how Scripture becomes our sustenance in desolate places. What might this tell us about our own moments of spiritual testing?

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Page 11: Easter Lily order form

Journey into
the Heart of Lent

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The journey then leads us through the reality of God's love met with human resistance. Jesus's lament over Jerusalem *opens* a window into God's heart – persistent love continuing even in the face of rejection. This narrative *challenges* our understanding of both God's patience and human response.

When we *encounter* the questions of tragedy and suffering, Jesus's teaching through the fig tree parable *offers*

unexpected insights. The journey culminates in three interconnected parables of losing and finding. These narratives *reveal* the relentless nature of God's love – a love that actively seeks what is lost until it is found. Through these stories, we *discover* that Lent isn't about our search for God, but rather about allowing ourselves to be found by the One who never stops searching.

This Lenten path *invites* us into a deeper understanding of how God transforms our wanderings into experiences of grace. Each text *offers* fresh insights into God's redemptive work. What might we learn as we journey through these ancient words that still speak with living power? ▲

Wade

“A voice came from the cloud saying, ‘This is my son, whom I have chosen; Listen to him.’”
- Luke 9:35

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- **March 02** - Transfiguration Sunday (Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a))
Additional Readings: 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2, Psalm 99
- **March 09** - Standing Strong: Jesus's Battle in the Wilderness (Luke 4:1-13)
Additional Readings: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16, Romans 10:8b-13
- **March 16** - Love Rejected (Luke 13:31-35)
Additional Readings: Philippians 3:17-4:1, Psalm 27
- **March 23** - When Bad Things Happen: Jesus on Tragedy and Truth (Luke 13:1-9)
Additional Readings: Psalm 63:1-8, Isaiah 55:1-9
- **March 30** - Lost and Found: Three Stories of God's Love (Luke 15)
Additional Readings: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Psalm 32



What's happened...

We invited friends to **Youth Club** on February 12 since our original date for Bring a Friend night was canceled due to a snow day. We had 19 friends join the regular group of 60 kids who come to Youth Club. What a joy to share the love of Jesus with so many children! In late February and early March, the Youth Club children will decorate and fill **Birthday Bags**. (The birthday bag assembly also got moved due to the snow day). These bags are given to families in need who use our local food pantries and have a child in their family who is celebrating a birthday. **Thank you to all who donated to this service project!**

Sunday school and **Youth Club** kids received age-appropriate **Lenten** devotionals. It is our hope that providing these devotionals to children and youth will give them an opportunity to grow closer to our Lord and Savior Jesus. It is also a special time that families can engage in **faith conversations at home**. Parents are encouraged to set aside daily time to use the devotionals together. Please join me in **praying for our families** as they engage in faith conversations through this Lenten season!

What's happening...

On **March 19th**, the **Youth Club kids** will go **ice skating** at the Greater Canandaigua Civic Center. After we arrive at church and have a snack, we will divide up into cars and head over to the ice skating rink. We will skate for about an hour and then have pizza and soda. **Parents**, please note, **pick up your children early at 5:30pm** at the **Greater Canandaigua Civic Center**.

On **March 23**, **Sunday school children and youth** will be given **Rice Bowls**. These bowls are filled with loose change or bills to help feed children in orphanages all over the world. We appreciate the support of this special Lenten offering!



FAMILY MINISTRY

On **March 30**, Sunday school children will **invite their school teachers** to join us for the 11am worship service. We will recognize our special guests during the service and have a **cookie and punch reception** for families and their teacher guests following the service. We look forward to honoring teachers on this special Sunday!

Personal Reflection - Less is More
I recently came across a quote that stuck with me: *'The more we build a life we can't wait to live, the more time and passion we find to live it.'* The author suggests that building a life you 'can't wait to live' doesn't always require adding more. In fact, it often involves removing things that drain us or suck our energy... read more on our website at www.uccdga.org

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

True North VBS: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World

Registration opens March 1st!

July 14-18, 2025, 9am - 12noon

Kick-off: Sun., July 13, 2025 at 6:30pm

As kids trek the tundra at **True North VBS**, they'll explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today. Pointing them toward Jesus, True North VBS shows kids that He is a faithful friend we can always trust. He's our True North!

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

Tweens/teens who completed 6th - 12th grade are *encouraged* to **volunteer!**

Adults are needed as **volunteers**, too!

Contact Deb Marshall with any questions



REGISTER MARCH 1ST!



CARE MINISTRY

DETAILS OF OUR NEW CARE MINISTRY

Our church is committed to serving and supporting one another through life's joys and challenges. To better organize our efforts, we have established a Care Ministry that brings together several teams, each with a specific focus on caring for our church family. Here is an overview of how this ministry is structured and how you can get involved.

STEWARDS

The Board of Stewards is made up of 12 elected board members. Each plays a vital role in ministering to our senior companions—those 90 years and older or those with ongoing care needs. Stewards also coordinate responsibilities such as door greeters and offering collection, as well as prepare Communion.

CARE TEAMS

Hospitality Team (Coordinator: June Pettit)

The Hospitality Team welcomes individuals in the sanctuary, helping newcomers and long-time members feel noticed and connected.

Transportation Team (Coordinator: Margie Wall)

This team provides rides for those who need transportation to church services, medical appointments, or essential errands. Volunteers respond to a need when their schedule allows.

Meal Train Team (Coordinator: Louise Van Iseghem)

This team organizes and delivers meals to those within our church family in times of need. Volunteers sign up on days they are available to provide a meal.

HELPING HANDS CARE MINISTERS

Care Ministers deliver compassionate, competent, Christ-centered spiritual care. These volunteers will be well-trained for responsibilities that might include:

- Visiting individuals at the hospital and/or place of residence
- Accompanying individuals to medical appointments
- Alerting Coordinator of need for means of transportation where needed
- Conducting weekly/bi-weekly/monthly check-ins via call, text, or personal message
- Alerting Meal Train Coordinator of need for prepared meals
- Offering Christ-centered encouragement, assurance, guidance, and support
- Extending a listening ear and asking appropriate questions
- Reading scripture and praying



HELPING HANDS SUPPORT TEAM



The Support Team provides practical help, such as running errands, household tasks, light repairs, light house cleaning, seasonal chores, moving help, and many other acts of kindness. Volunteers respond to a need when their schedule allows.

Join Our New Support Team! The Need is Great!

If you're already doing this kind of work informally or have a skill you'd like to share, we'd love to add you to the team! We're organizing a Support Team to ensure we can respond quickly and effectively when assistance is needed!

Joining does not mean you have to help with every request—just when you're available and able.

Interested in serving or want to learn more? Contact Christy.

Senior Companion “Mac” McKenzie

Mac McKenzie will celebrate his **97th birthday on March 22nd**. Mac resides at the Hammock Apartments here in Canandaigua with his loving wife, “Ernie”.

Mac enjoys many visits with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He enjoys building beautiful models of Clipper sailing ships, fully rigged and with a complete set of sails. These ships are finished to the finest details.

He also enjoys days spent at his cottage at Cape Vincent with family. Much of his time is spent boating and fishing around the islands.

His favorite hymns are “**Lord of the Dance**” and “**Ave Maria**”. He enjoys making wings with his own secret sauce recipe.

His favorite football team is the **NY Giants**.

God bless him on his special day.

Written by Steward: Phil Klingler

Senior Companion Eleanor Oskamp

Eleanor Oskamp is celebrating her **101st Birthday on March 17th!**

It’s no surprise that she’s our oldest member! With her favorite sport being baseball and her favorite team being the **NY Yankees**, last year for her 100th, her daughters arranged for the Yankee organization to send her birthday wishes, which they did!

Considering that she’s been a fan for over 80 years, the team sent her a signed baseball and several other Yankee team memorabilia. She was thrilled and still likes to recount the surprise.

Happy 101st Birthday, Eleanor!

Written by Virginia Holroyd

**Celebrating**

We joyfully celebrate the birth of **Asher Emmanuel Blanco** on February 6th. His parents are **Lauren and Jerome Blanco** and his grandparents are **Sarah and Jon Gross**. Abigail is his proud big sister. Please keep the family in your prayers during this special time.

Remembering

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Christina Hartpence** and **Karen Crow**, whose father, **Robert Baer**, passed away on February 14th. Please keep the Baer, Hartpence, and Crow families in your prayers during this difficult time.



MISSIONS



Mexico Mission Trip

March 8-17th, 2025, our church Living Waters for the World (LWW) team (Linda Werts, Ray McMillen, and Ken Allen) and others will travel to the rural community of Cedralito in the southeast corner of the Mexican state of Quintana Roo on the Yucatán Peninsula. Cedralito is one of our LWW partners. Their plant has been operating for 13 years supplying the community and surrounding area with safe, clean water. The Water plant needs updating to continue to supply life-giving water to the people.

“Clean water transforms their future. Living Water transforms all.”

FAITH AND ACTION

As Ken, Ray, and Linda prepare for their Mexico Mission Trip we are asking for your help. We will be worshipping with the faith community of **Iglesia Emmanuel in Bacalar, Mexico** on Tues, March 11. We know that several of you have fond memories of your time spent with members of the church and connecting in hands-on mission projects. **On Sun, March 2, we invite you to join us for a photo in the sanctuary following the 11:00am worship service.** We are hoping we may be able to restore a relationship with this congregation during our days in Bacalar.

North Carolina Hurricane Relief Mission Trip

There are seventeen individuals signed up to go to North Carolina on our hurricane relief mission trip **April 13-18**. It is a true intergenerational trip with ages 9 and up! The group we will be working with is Seabees Outreach Ministry, a ministry of Navy veterans. Their base camp is located in Fairview, NC just 11 miles from Asheville. They have been working tirelessly since Hurricane Helene devastated the area.

I CAN'T GO ON A TRIP, HOW CAN I STILL HELP?

Mexico

A GoFundMe account has been established to assist with the costs. If you are led to give to this mission, go to GoFundMe.com, search for keyword: **Cedralito**. To give directly- make Check out to The United Church with “Mexico mission trip” on memo line.

Thank You and God Bless You!

North Carolina

The leader there has said that gift cards are a tremendous help. The stores, in order of priority, that have been requested are:
1-Home Depot
2-Ingles(regional grocery store)
3-Target
4-Walmart
Any gift cards can be given to the church office. Thank you for any assistance!

CCIA

Canandaigua Churches In Action (CCIA)

is one of the local organizations that the United Church is a strong supporter of and sits on the Board. A 2024 recap of CCIA's activities - They served 3,699 families with emergency food. In addition to walk-in services, the CCIA continued to provide rental assistance. In 2024, they assisted 40 families to help pay their rent and stay in their apartment. The Resource Room handed out 3,315 bus passes. Free dental care with cleanings, fillings, extractions and dentures were provided to 100 adults.



Kids Kits

During the month of March our congregation has an opportunity to join other caring people in bringing hope and love to neighbors near and far! Church World Service has been able to make a lasting impact on countless children, thanks, in part, to our contributions of many school kits donated each year. **This year the school kit has been updated and has become the CWS Kids Kit**, a kit filled with essentials to fuel children's creativity and learning- whether at home or in the classroom.

In March our church will be collecting the items needed to fill Kids Kits. We have a good supply of colorful cloth bags, made by talented and generous members, which we will be filling with the following items:



ITEMS NEEDED FOR EACH KIDS KIT

- one box of 12 colored pencils (in box)
- one 2 pocket folder
- one glue stick
- one pair blunt (rounded tip) scissors
- one 70-page count spiral notebook
- one 12" ruler
- one hand-held pencil sharpener
- one large eraser
- six unsharpened pencils with erasers
- one box 24 crayons.
- An optional item would be a handmade or store-bought pencil pouch.

Please donate only the listed items. Because of your generosity, children can have the supplies they need to learn, create, and succeed.

*“Filled with Hope.
Packed with Love.”*



TREASURER



January Finances

During January, we took in \$57,073.46 in income and spent \$49,358.79 which included several large one-time expenses. We've started off the year in good shape with a net income of \$7714.67. We had estimated that we would have a net loss of \$2413.27 at this point. Thank you for your faithful giving!

YOUTH



Thank You!

In January, we raised over \$600.00 during our potato bar fundraiser, with funds going towards our missions and ministry fund for youth and young adults. In February, we collected a large tote full of shelf-stable food items for local families as part of the Souper Bowl of Caring Fundraiser. Keep an eye out for more fundraising opportunities, including our shareholder fundraiser and chicken BBQ's!

North Carolina Missions Trip

(April 13-18) - A group - including a number of our youth - is planning to be a part of disaster relief efforts. More details can be found through the missions team. Please keep our group in your prayers!

Check the church calendar online for upcoming youth events..

Youth Ministry Mission Statement -

In January, the youth ministry team developed a mission statement. Feel free to refer to this while praying for our youth!

“To guide youth in developing a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through faith-based connections with peers and across generations, equipping them to live out their faith in daily life”.

ADULT & YOUNG ADULT

Small Group Development

Jen Eveleigh and Mark Slomski continue to make progress on the small group initiative. In addition to the many small groups our church members have been involved in for many years (some of them for decades!), we have several additional small groups are starting (and for some of them, **re**starting), with more needed. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or ideas!

Monthly Connects

In addition to our monthly connect at Ferris Hills, we began a connect at Quail Summit for the first time in February! We plan to connect the first Tuesday of every month at 3:00 pm.

Lent Devotionals

As we prepare our hearts and minds for the seasonal journey towards Easter, we are offering two different devotionals for your consideration. Our first devotional is a daily worship guide (just like our Advent devotional). Enjoy a devotional liturgy with the Lord through various categories of worship, prayer, reading, and catechesis. Our other devotional is produced through Christianity Today, and provides 15 devotionals to use during the Lenten season. These will be made available in the Welcome Center.

Adult Ministry Mission Statement

In January, the adult ministry team developed a mission statement. Feel free to refer to this while praying for our adult ministry!

“To provide learning and fellowship opportunities that inspire a hunger for God’s Word and a deeper embrace of His plan of salvation, so we may grow through the mind of Christ, live like Christ, and share the gospel with others.”





In January, I asked the youth, young adult, adult, and safety ministry teams to develop 2025 goals. Check them out below!

Youth

- › Produce relevant curriculum
- › Volunteers of all ages
- › Plug youth into church responsibilities
- › Ongoing relationships with charities/organizations
- › Continue to grow youth experiences

Young Adult

- › Maintain relationships
- › Tap into local young adult ministries and resources

Adult

- › Offer studies that expand bible literacy
- › Offer studies that make us hungry to learning and growing closer to God
- › Encourage and minister to people of all levels of their faith walk

Safety

- › Increase the number of people to serve during service.
- › Develop Job Description / Job Scope for safety members.
- › Develop / Provide Training for Staff/Safety Members/Ministry Volunteers/Congregation
- › Expand Access Control System

GET INVOLVED

SAVE THE DATE!

MARCH 30TH, 2025

(DOWNSTAIRS DINING HALL)

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A MINISTRY INVOLVEMENT DAY DURING THE ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR. JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST AND LEARN ABOUT THE MINISTRIES OF OUR CHURCH AND FIND OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO USE YOUR GIFTS



FELLOWSHIP

Game Night

Looking for something fun to do? Join us for Game Night in the Fellowship Room on **Saturday, March 8, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM.**

This family-friendly event offers an opportunity for church members of all ages to come together and enjoy a variety of board games, card games, and friendly competition. Whether you're a seasoned game master or just looking to have fun, there's something for everyone.

Snacks and refreshments will be available to enjoy as you engage in lighthearted fun and connect with others in the church community. Bring your friends, family, or come solo—Game Night is a great way to meet new people and build lasting relationships. Don't miss out on this enjoyable evening! For more information, please contact the church office. We look forward to seeing you there!

Stampin' Up

March 15 from 9:30-noon

Come join us to create some cards. No experience is needed. Cost is \$20 for 4 cards and envelopes. Please bring a tape runner or glue. I will have everything else needed. Please let me know if you are coming by **Monday March 10th.**

Email Nancy Burt-Preece:
nancyburtprece@gmail.com



“If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another ...”

- 1 John 1:7



Bowling Night

Saturday, March 22, 5:30-7:30pm

Roseland Bowl, 4357 Recreation Drive, Canandaigua
\$10 per person (\$40 maximum per family)

Pizza, drinks, & dessert provided

Register and pay on Planning Center, or contact Mary Beth Fortunato at mbweber@hotmail.com or 585-451-1758.

The registration deadline is March 16.

REGISTER NOW!



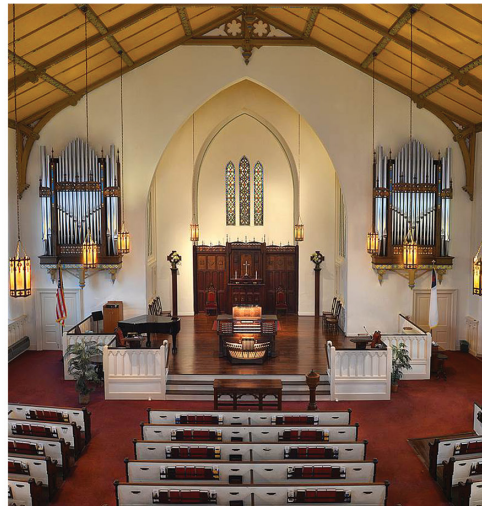
COMMUNITY ORGAN CONCERT

DANIEL CHANG - DAVID KRAFT
KATHERINE JOLLIFF - YONGEE YOON

Time: Sunday, March 16th
3 p.m.

Place: The United Church
11 Gibson Street
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Cost: Free entrance
Free-will offering



LILY ORDERS

Please Print Legibly

Name: _____

I would like to order _____ Lilies at **\$12.00 each**.
They are given in Memory or Honor (circle one) of:



1. Honor/Memory of: _____
Given by: _____
2. Honor/Memory of: _____
Given by: _____
3. Honor/Memory of: _____
Given by: _____

Place this in the offering plate WITH your check made payable to "The United Church Stewards". List in the memo section "Easter Lily". You may also mail it in or bring to the church office.

ORDERS MUST BE IN NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, APRIL 6.

Please pick up your lily after church on Easter Sunday. Thank you!

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

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Or Current Resident