



THE
UNITED
CHURCH
CANANDAIGUA

JUNE 2025

THE Lamplighter

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



JUNE 2025 EVENTS

June 1

Church Picnic, 11:45 am

June 2

Trustees, 7:00 pm

June 3

Stewards, 6:30 pm

June 8

Graduates' Sunday

June 16

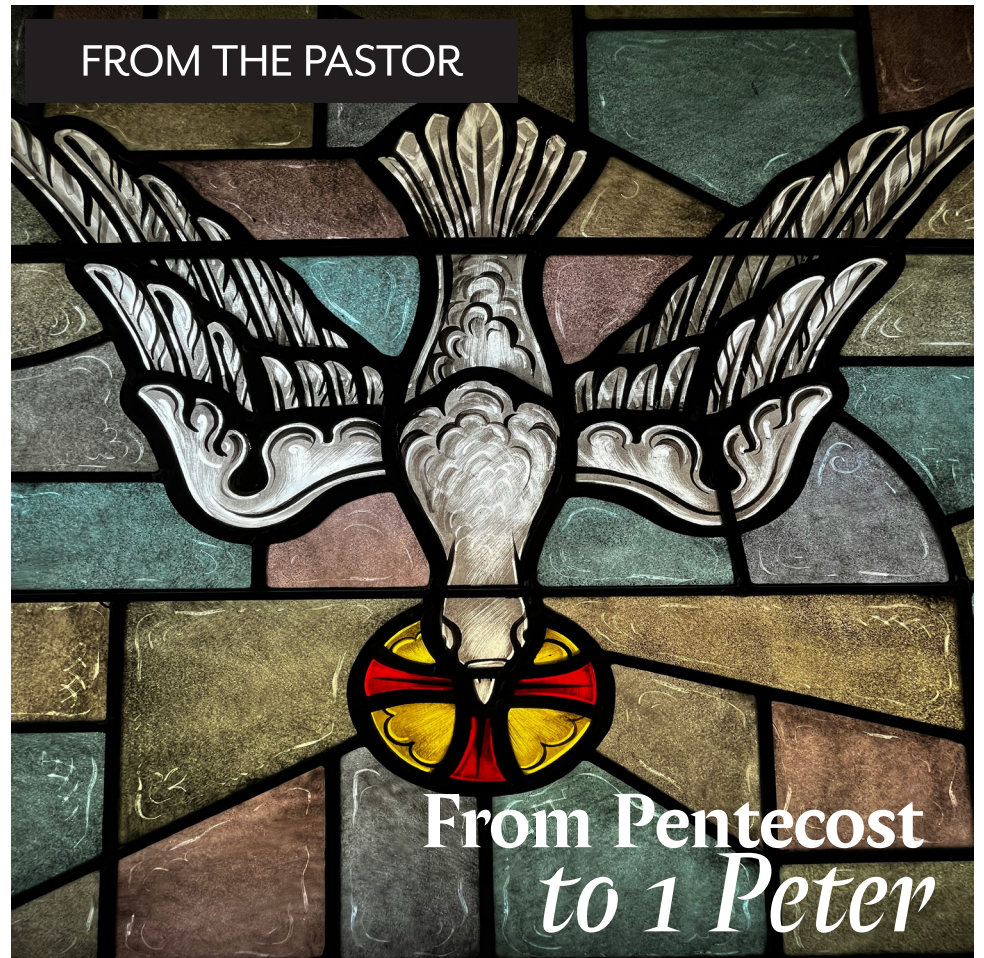
Official Board, 7:00 pm



JOIN US FOR COFFEE HOUR

Beginning in mid-June, we will be hosting a coffee hour following the 9:30 am worship service. Linger in the newly redecorated Welcome Center, introduce yourself to visitors and enjoy a cup of coffee and the fellowship of friends.

FROM THE PASTOR



From Pentecost to 1 Peter

June arrives with summer warmth and brings a transition in our church life. We'll be concluding our Psalms series and continuing with our combined 9:30 AM worship service that began on May 25th. These combined services offer a wonderful opportunity for us to worship

together as one congregation. It gives us an opportunity to connect with members we might not regularly see during the year. I encourage you to take a moment to introduce yourself to someone new as we blend together for the summer months.

continues Page 2

INSIDE:

Page 5: Summer Card Ministry

Page 7: Graduates' Sunday

Page 10: Hands On Mission Opportunities

FROM THE PASTOR

From Pentecost to 1 Peter

continued from Page 1

We begin the month with the final services in our Psalms series, celebrating God's sovereignty in Psalm 97. Then on June 8th, we'll observe Pentecost through Psalm 104's beautiful recognition of God's Spirit. For Pentecost Sunday, I invite you to wear something red as a visual reminder of the Holy Spirit's presence.

In mid-June, we'll turn our attention to 1 Peter, a letter that speaks with relevance to our contemporary context. Peter wrote to early Christians facing pressure from their surrounding culture. This is similar to situation today. He addresses them as "chosen exiles," capturing the tension of being specially chosen by God while living as sojourners in a society with different values and priorities.

Rather than offering simplistic answers, Peter grounds believers in their identity in Christ while providing practical guidance for faithful living. Throughout this series, we'll explore themes of holy living in challenging circumstances, our formation as God's "spiritual house" built of "living stones," and our calling to be distinct in our faith while remaining engaged with our community.

As we gather at our combined 9:30 AM service this summer, I look forward to our worship together. May the Spirit of Pentecost bring renewed energy to our gatherings, and may the wisdom of 1 Peter strengthen us as God's people for this time and place.

Wade

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 01 - The Lord Reigns (Psalm 97)

Additional Readings: John 17:20-26, Acts 16:16-34

June 08 - Spirit of Renewal (Psalm 104:24-35)

Additional Readings: Acts 2:1-21, Romans 8:14-17

June 15 - Chosen Exiles: Standing Firm in Shifting Culture (1 Peter 1:1-12)

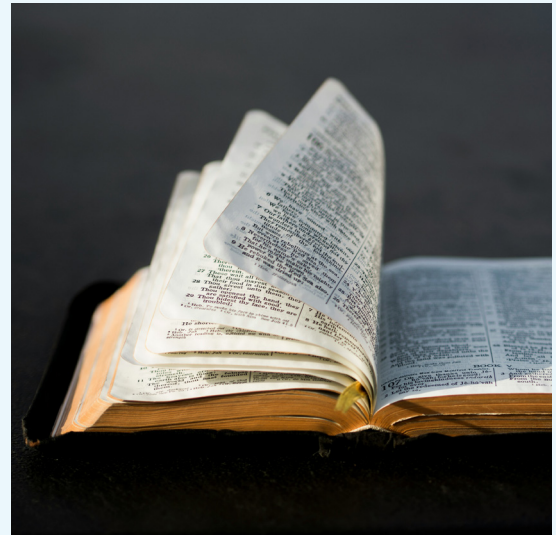
Additional Readings: John 15:18-21, Psalm 84:1-7

June 22 - Alert, Sober, and Set Apart (1 Peter 1:13-2:3)

Additional Readings: Matthew 5:13-16, Psalm 34:8-14

June 29 - Living Stones: Building God's Spiritual House (1 Peter 2:4-10)

Additional Readings: Matthew 21:42-44, Psalm 84:1-4



*“I will sing to the Lord all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.”*
- Psalm 104:33

Church Picnic

Join us for the Annual Church Picnic on **Sunday, June 1**. Plan to arrive by 11:45am, and we'll eat at noon. Please bring a main dish, side dish, or dessert to share. Sign up on the office door to bring a main dish (no hot dogs this year!). Drinks and table service provided. Please label dishes and serving utensils. Feel free to bring outdoor games. Baker Park Pavilion, 185 Buffalo St, Canandaigua. Questions? Contact Mary Beth Fortunato at mbweber@hotmail.com or 585-451-1758.



FELLOWSHIP

Stampin' Up

June 21 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 June 15th. Email Nancy Burt-Preece: nancyburtpreece@gmail.com

Volunteers Needed

If you'd like to help out **later this summer** with preparations for our **new Pictorial Directory**, please let Becky Boseck or the church office know! We could use a few folks to help get families scheduled for their appointments and make phone calls to those we miss on Sunday mornings. The photo dates will be September 11-13 (and maybe the 10th if we run out of slots.)

Remembrance

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Nancy Gerstner**, whose husband, **David Gerstner**, passed away on April 23rd. Please keep the Gerstner family in your prayers during this difficult time.



Thank You from Kory Massey

Stephen and I thank God for the gracious help, encouragement, and prayers that you continue to share with us. You are helping to shoulder our burdens, yet again, and we are incredibly grateful for all the love you've shared with us.

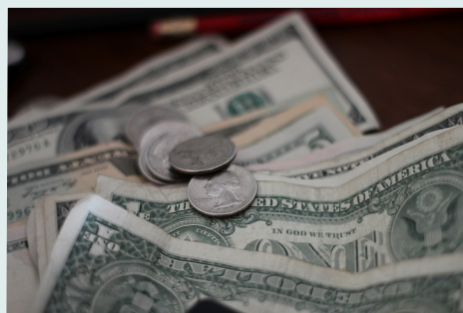
Mission Treasurer Needed

Do you like numbers? Have you wanted to help the church's missions but weren't sure of a good fit for you? Our long-term treasurer, Regie Allen, will be retiring from this role at the end of the year. The position involves maintaining the Missions bank account, disbursing checks on a monthly basis to the groups we support as well as campership checks, maintaining Excel spreadsheets for the various sub-accounts that Missions uses, reports for the Annual report, and attendance at the monthly Missions meeting. Regie will train the new person so only basic banking and excel skills are necessary. Please contact Sonya Brooks (sonya.brooks99@yahoo.com) if you have any questions and/or are interested.

TREASURER

April Finances

As of the end of April, we are showing a \$15,871.44 net income. This is \$20,649.90 more than was budgeted for January-April. Expenses for January-April are \$12,939.75 under budget. Donations are \$16,477.16 ahead of budget.



Care Ministry Opportunities

Looking for a meaningful way to serve? Our Care Ministry offers several ways to share God's love through practical support:

- **Support Team** -- Coordinator: Lydia
- **Hospitality Team** -- Coordinator: June
- **Meal Train Team** -- Coordinator: Louise
- **Transportation Team** -- Coordinator: Margie
- **Care Minister Team** -- Coordinator: Louise

If you're interested in joining any of these teams, please reach out to Christy or connect with one of the coordinators listed above. Your care can make a real difference.



On the first Sunday of June, loose offerings will go toward the Steward's Assistance Fund, helping support those in our church family in need. Thank you for your generosity!

A Glimpse into the Ministry of Stewards: In Their Own Words

The role of a Steward often happens quietly, behind the scenes, but the impact is deeply felt. Whether visiting a senior companion, preparing for worship, or simply offering a listening ear, Stewards help build connection and care within our church family.

I recently asked three Stewards to share a favorite part of their role. Here's what they had to say:

Bill F.:

"My favorite part of being a Steward is hearing people I visit tell their story. I love letting them describe important things in their lives and see that I appreciate the wonderful people they are."

Bev F.:

"One of the responsibilities I enjoy about being a Steward is visiting my senior companion. When I arrive their whole face lights up with a smile. I think they are genuinely happy to think someone wants to keep them connected to their church family."

Gail B.:

"I've only been on Stewards for a couple of months, but I love how the group feels like a family and I feel a part of them already. I was a little amazed at all that they do...lots of quiet, behind-the-scenes stuff. (For example, I never thought about who sets up our Communion service each month... it's a labor of love done by the Stewards.) And I especially love the connections we make with our church's senior companions. God's love is certainly pulsating in the heart of every steward."

Summer Care Ministry: Send a Card to a Senior Companion

This June and July, join us in our Senior Companion Summer Card Ministry, a simple and meaningful way to show care and connection.

Our Senior Companions (*previously known as “special members”*) are those in our church family who are aging or facing ongoing health challenges and may be less able to attend in-person gatherings. When you send a handwritten card, you’re offering more than words, you’re sending encouragement, connection, and the reminder that they are loved and not forgotten.

A table will be set up starting June 1 with names, addresses, and cards available for you to take. Feel free to send one card or many throughout the summer months!

Let’s work together to brighten someone’s day and strengthen the bonds of love in our church family, one card at a time.

CARE MINISTRY



Hidden Needs in Plain Sight



Seeing one another with care-filled eyes....

In any church family, there are needs that sit quietly beneath the surface. A warm smile might hide a weary heart. A quick greeting may mask the ache of loneliness. Someone faithfully showing up each Sunday may be quietly carrying the weight of grief, illness, or caregiving fatigue.

These needs are often hidden, not because people don’t want support, but because pain can be hard to name, and life rarely slows down long enough to let us see each other clearly.

As we move into the slower rhythm of summer, let’s take time to look again. Let’s listen more closely, ask intentional questions, and extend compassion with no strings attached. You don’t need to have all the answers, your presence, your listening ear, and your willingness to check in can open the door to healing connection.

And when the Spirit nudges you toward someone, whether it’s through a name that comes to mind, or a face you haven’t seen in a while, respond with care. A call. A card. A coffee date. A prayer.

Often, the very people who seem “fine” are the ones who most need to know they are seen, loved, and not alone.



Happy Birthday, Dorothy!

Senior Companion Dorothy S. is celebrating her **91st** birthday this month. Currently Dorothy is living at the Geneva Living Center but was active in the United Church for years. As a child she remembers when the Baptist Church burned. Dorothy has spent much of her life on a farm. She was crowned Cherry Pie Queen at age 15 and competed in Chicago and placed 5th in the nation. Her favorite pies though are pumpkin and sweet potato. As a young woman, she obtained her nursing degree but chose to get married and raised 5 sons. Dorothy loves birds and always enjoyed watching them at her feeders. She enjoys doing word searches and visiting with family and friends.

-Written by her Steward, Sharyn C.

FAMILY MINISTRY



Summer Camp: We have **22 children** signed up to attend Christian summer camp. You have the opportunity to connect with one (or some) of them by writing a camp note! In the month of June, a “**camp note tree**” will be out in the gathering area with **pre-addressed envelopes**. Inside you will find a card and **information about the camper** that you are writing to. You will also see **when you need to mail their card**, as some campers go to camp at the end of June and some don't go until August. Our campers are listed in the weekly bulletin so that you can pray for them as well. We hope you enjoy connecting with the children and youth attending camp this summer!



VBS: We are preparing for **True North VBS**, which will be held **July 14-18, from 9am-12noon**. We need **lots of help** - both to *prepare and during the week* of VBS. How will YOU be involved? There are **MANY** options! You can take a supply donation tag off the board in the Welcome Center and **donate needed items**; you can **volunteer** during the week of VBS; you can pick up VBS prayer cards in the Welcome Center and **pray for our VBS** and/or you can **join a scenery work day** and create our wilderness/northern lights themed décor. **We would love your help!** If you have questions about VBS, please see Deb Marshall.



There are some ways you can help with VBS right now! You are invited to join us for a VBS scenery work day. Come for as long as you can. We have a lot of different ways you can help. We have scheduled two work days so far: Tuesday May 27, 9am-12noon and Monday, June 2, 9am-12noon

We also need some donations for VBS. We have created an Amazon wishlist for some items. Here's the link: <https://a.co/ijlxUDh>. We also need to borrow the following items: artificial Christmas trees (any size), a canoe, and one or two wooden paddles. Stay tuned - there will be many more donations needed as we continue planning. Thanks in advance for your support!

Nursery: We need some help in our nursery this summer. Each Sunday, we need 2 people in the nursery to lovingly care for the youngest in our church family. We ask that people sign up for nursery duty during the summer months since summer schedules often include being out of town on weekends. If you know you'll be in town, and you enjoy babies and toddlers, might you consider helping out? You can sign up using the church center or services app for a Sunday that works for you. Please note that all people 18 and over who volunteer in the nursery need to be background checked – this is a quick and easy process! Contact Carolyn to be checked.



Graduate Sunday! On **Sunday, June 8**, we will celebrate our graduates! If you have a high school grad or college grad in your family, please plan to join us for Graduate Sunday at 9:30am on June 8. High school graduates will be called up front and college grads will be recognized. All graduates will be prayed for during the service. After the service, all are invited to enjoy a cake and punch reception.

Rice Bowls, our Children's Lenten Offering, collected \$40 in donations for orphaned and hungry children around the world! Thank you for generously giving out of what God has given you! Still have a Rice Bowl at home? You can turn it in anytime this month.



YOUTH



Thank You!

Another program year of Christian education has ended. We are grateful to the parents who supported their student's participation, and the volunteers who poured into the next generation with love, wisdom, and care. We are coordinating a volunteer appreciation event on June 14 at 5pm (includes dinner).

2025 Fundraising - Update

We submitted over \$2,200 into the bank from the BBQ in May, after selling 507 chickens! Funds raised go towards Youth missions and ministry. Thank you for your support!

Important Summer Dates

- **Vacation Bible School** - July 13-18 - Check in with Children's Ministry for details
- **Kingdom Bound** - July 28 - More details to come!
- **Youth Summer Retreat** - 6th-12th grade; August 16, 9a-9p
- **Summer Mission Experiences** - 6-12 grade; August 18-22
- **Framing Frenzy** - August 23 - Check in with the Missions Team for details

Check the church calendar online for upcoming youth events, including the summer retreat and local missions experiences!

ADULT & YOUNG ADULT

Adult Faith Education - Another program year of adult Sunday School has ended. We are grateful for the volunteers who spent so much time and effort into teaching and supporting others. We are coordinating a volunteer appreciation event on June 14 at 5pm (includes dinner).

Important Summer Dates

- **Adult Summer Retreat** - August 16, 9:30a-11:30; shorter and with air conditioning... based on your feedback! We will be covering Sabbath rest.



Check the church calendar online for upcoming events, including open small groups, ministry team meetings, monthly connects, and special events (such as the summer retreat!)

Who Am I? A Reflection on Sermon Preparation

A couple Lamplighters ago, I reflected on the ordinary and extraordinary nature of corporate worship. The sacred and secular elements of our Sunday morning gatherings belong together, as they engage the fullness of God's design.

This month, I continue to reflect on corporate worship, specifically my approach to creating a sermon. As an inexperienced pastor whose primary focus is youth, young adult, and adult ministry programs here at The United Church, my sermon writing process is admittedly half-baked and hardly seasoned.

Currently, I am self-reflecting on my heart posture towards sermon creation, and the need to be humbled and maintain that humility during the process. Below I have structured my reflection with the heart posture at the beginning of each short paragraph (boldened), followed by a heart-felt response.

Who am I to speak before the Lord speaks to me? In the opening verses of the Scriptures, God speaks, and creation responds. I *must* respond the same. This means I need to open my heart and ears to listen to/for the word of God, because He speaks to me (and all of us). I pray my response - every time - is "Here I Am, Lord" (and of course, with a corresponding pure and obedient heart). *I must respond!*

Who am I to speak to others before I speak with God? God speaks to me through His Word, through the Spirit, and through His creation. I *must* respond to God in prayer. I *must* make the inspired Psalms my own. The Psalmist who wrote Ps. 96 articulates how all of creation praises the Lord. I *must* join the fields, the trees, and the sea in praise! In times of despair, I *must* lament and cry out to the Lord using Psalm 22:1, just as Jesus the Christ had done. *I must pray!*

Who am I to open my mouth before I listen to those who have preached the word before me? I *must* learn from the wisdom and teachings of the early church fathers, whether it be St. Augustine or St. Basil the Great. I *must* consider the pleas and protests of my ancestors of the reformation, including Luther, our presbyterian forefather John Calvin, and even (I dare say!) the Council of Trent. Even today - I *must* carefully listen to the great NT Wright and Tim Keller. I *must* listen to Pastor Wade and the archived sermons of Dr. Doug Cullum. *I must listen!*

Who am I to produce my own words about Scripture without engaging the community God has given me? What does my wife think? What does my child think? What does my church family think (whether it be fellow staff, the worship planning team, elders, and others)? Who have I included into my sermon process? In Acts, the church leaders demonstrated communal discernment. *I must communally discern!*

Who am I? A young minister in need of God's words in my life, and a humility to hear and learn from others before me and with me. I pray that a humble posture takes root in my life as the Lord speaks to me and through me.

FROM PASTOR MARK



*"If the Lord does not build the house, it is useless for the builders to work on it.
If the Lord does not protect a city, it is useless for the guard to stay alert."*

Psalms 127:1

The **United Church Safety Team** is dedicated to providing a safe and secure environment for all to develop a relationship with Jesus our Lord. Through collaboration with surrounding churches, team members are trained to welcome and secure our congregants, and to be a safety resource for those in need. Please connect with Mark Slomski if you feel called to serve in this unique way.

MISSIONS



“Hands on” mission opportunities abound! You are invited to let the light of Christ shine through you in service to others...

“First Fridays” at Cameron! Join a small group of us who will return with our presence to Cameron Community Ministries in Rochester to serve and pack lunches for the guests who come to enjoy a free meal. We’ll work from 11:30am-1:30pm beginning Friday, June 5th and carpool from the church. Please let Mary Lou Havens know of your interest.

Foodlink’s “Pop-Up Food Pantry” invites you to join with other community volunteers on Monday, June 30th at the Town of Canandaigua Highway Barn, 5440 Route 5 & 20 from 9:00am till around 11:00am. Volunteers are needed to prep food items and load them into cars as the clients drive through the barn. There’s great camaraderie and appreciation as we serve food insecure families in their time of need.

A Habitat for Humanity “Framing Frenzy” is coming to Canandaigua on Saturday, August 23rd in the Zion Fellowship parking lot! 100 volunteers are needed to frame the walls for a new home here in Canandaigua. Most needed are workers to hammer and nail the lumber into walls but there are other sit down or food prep tasks. Don’t miss out on this one day opportunity bringing our community together to offer shelter and hope for a family seeking home ownership. Speak with Linda Werts or Ken Allen to register yourself, your family, and your friends.

Mission Trips Near and Far are already in the works for 2026!

A **Mexico Mission Trip**, including some time spent renewing relationships with brothers and sisters of faith at Iglesia Emmanuel in Bacalar, is being planned for February. Speak with Linda Werts or Ray McMillen to learn more. Dates are already set...March 28th-April 1st...for a **Return to North Carolina Trip** working again with Valley Hope Foundation to bring disaster relief to the area. Speak with Sonya Brooks to learn more.

Care Net Volunteers Needed

*“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.
There are different types of service, but the same Lord.” 1 Corinthians 12:4-5*

Whatever your skills and interests, Care Net needs YOU!

- Are you creative? A great organizer? We need folks with new ideas for fundraisers, poster designers, community awareness people, and planners.
- Are you looking to donate **2-8 hours each month**? We could sure use you in the center from 12-2 on any or all Tuesdays. This volunteer work includes packaging and distribution of children’s supplies and getting to meet some very nice people.
- Have you retired from one of the helping professions? We need a teacher for Thursdays and/or late afternoons. The one-on-one parenting classes are done through Bright Course videos and worksheets. They are extremely rewarding to both teacher and student!
- Do you love adorable little children? You might enjoy helping at our Christmas party.
- Are you looking for a meaningful activity on Wednesdays or Fridays from 10-12? You might enjoy welcoming clients to the Baby Boutique, where they are able to select clothing and supplies for their babies and toddlers.

Whatever you can do, however you can help, we need you!

If volunteering at Care Net appeals to you, please contact

Kathi Nacca at church, at 585-953-7411, or at knacca@hotmail.com.





Back to School Angel Tree

MISSIONS

Volunteers needed, can you help?

Supplying students connected with our church with needed school supplies

If you are able to help with this worthy summer project, please let us know!

Tasks: obtaining school supply lists, prepping tags (cutting out, labeling, looping w/ yarn), sorting donations. Collections will begin in August. Contact Cathy Bush if interested! From your Missions Collection Team: Ken, Mary Lou, Cathy.

Mission Partnership - Salvation Army

Our congregation's partnership provides spiritual and social outreach in Canandaigua. Counseling and assistance is provided at the Salvation Army Monday to Friday 8:30 - 4:00 all year.

The **Canandaigua Salvation Army's** activities include:



- **Social Services** including counseling, rental assistance, medical assistance, utility assistance, and/or food pantry items provided to **1729 different people** last year.
- Monday to Friday **after School program** for grades 1-7 providing teaching/ homework assistance, crafts, games, and food.! (sounds like 180 evenings of Youth Club!)
- Monday to Friday **Summer day camp** (in partnership with Cdga City they will host **100 kiddos** in summer 2025 at the Cdga Salvation Army).
- A **senior center** was open Monday to Friday with coffee, games, crafts, and conversation.
- **Christmas Assistance** 2024 data: 1729 of God's children from two hundred fifty-nine families and fifty-seven individuals received assistance. 316 Nonperishable food boxes, 316 Produce and Dairy boxes, 316 Tops gift certificates for meat, 1,486 new clothing items, and toys for children were provided as an act of love. Each of the 1729 was required to preregister in November.



Services to feed, clothe, shelter and encourage our Canandaigua neighbors are provided by The Salvation Army in collaboration with CCIA, St. Mary's, our congregation, and the Cdga City government and Ontario Social Services. Our donations to the Welcome Center's shopping cart are donated to the Salvation Army and the CCIA food pantries.

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.





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Presbyterian-American Baptist
11 Gibson Street
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Non-Profit Org.
Postage Paid
Permit No. 26
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Or Current Resident