



THE
UNITED
CHURCH
CANANDAIGUA

OCTOBER 2025

THE Lamplighter

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



OCTOBER 2025 EVENTS

Oct 1

Youth Club resumes, 3:00 pm

Oct 6

Trustees, 7:00 pm

Oct 7

Stewards, 6:30 pm

Oct 12

Intergenerational Sun School 9:45 am

Oct 13

Office Closed for holiday

Oct 18

Senior Luncheon, 11:00 am

Oct 18

Game Night, 6:30 pm

Oct 19

FLSO Concert, 3:00 pm

Oct 20

Official Board, 7:00 pm

Oct 25

Fall into Canandaigua, 11 am - 3 pm

FROM THE PASTOR

Defending Against *Spiritual Deception*

Do you remember the story of the Trojan horse? The ancient Greeks couldn't conquer Troy by force, so they built a wooden horse, filled it with soldiers, and left it as a "gift." The Trojans, thinking they'd won, brought their enemy's weapon inside their own walls. The city fell. It was not from an outside attack, but from an enemy that destroyed from within.

This October, as we walk through 2 Peter 2, we will discover that the church faces a similar danger. Peter

warns us that false teachers don't announce themselves as enemies. They come disguised as gifts, using biblical language and building relationships. Then they use that trust to bring destruction from within.

What Peter described in the first century sounds familiar today. False teachers still work in secret. They mix error with truth rather than replacing it entirely. They target the vulnerable, looking for those who are struggling or confused.

continues Page 2



INSIDE:

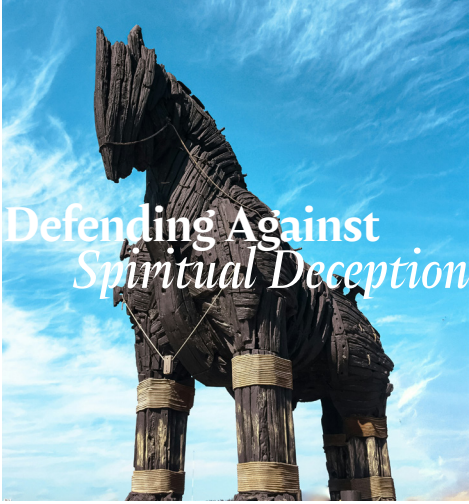
Page 3: Pastor and Staff Appreciation

Page 7: Youth Club/LOGOS

Page 10: Mission Opportunities

FROM THE PASTOR

continued from Page 1



Defending Against Spiritual Deception

They treat ministry like a business opportunity. They value immediate gratification rather than godly wisdom. Most troubling, they show no reverence, displaying arrogant confidence instead of humble fear of God.

Like the Trojans, we can be deceived if we're not careful. But Peter's warning gives us hope. If

we know the enemy's strategy, we can defend against it. The good news is that we don't have to fall for spiritual counterfeits.

Here are a few ways we can resist false teachers:

We need to know God's Word. The only way to recognize a counterfeit is to know the real thing. Bank tellers don't study fake money. They handle real bills so much that fakes feel wrong immediately. We need to be familiar with God's Word. When false teaching comes our way, we'll recognize it.

Also, we need to remain connected to mature believers. False teachers often isolate people from healthy community. Stay plugged into community with believers who know God's Word and aren't afraid to speak truth in love. We need each other's wisdom and accountability.

The enemy is still trying to sneak his soldiers inside the church today. But we don't have to be deceived. We have God's Word, the Holy Spirit, and each other. We have everything we need to recognize false teaching.

The Trojans fell because they were deceived. We don't have to fall. We can stand firm in God's truth, protect our church family, and defend the gospel that has been entrusted to us.

Wade

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

October 05 - The Enemy Within (2 Peter 2:1-3)

Additional Readings: Jeremiah 23:16-22, Matthew 7:15-20

October 12 - Angels, Arks, and Ashes (2 Peter 2:4-10a)

Additional Readings: Psalm 103:8-14, Luke 13:1-9

October 19 - Blots and Blemishes (2 Peter 2:10b-16)

Additional Readings: Psalm 1, Numbers 22:21-34

October 26 - Christian Freedom in a Changing World (2 Peter 2:17-22)

Additional Readings: Jude 24-25, Matthew 7:15-20



“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.- Matthew 7:15-20”

TREASURER'S REPORT

During the month of August, we spent \$4,221.65 more than we took in. For the Year to Date, we have taken in \$2,830.35 more than we have spent. Donations are \$416.22 more than budgeted and \$15,172.70 more than 2024. Actual income year to date is \$335,342.85. For comparison, 2024 income at this point in the year was \$316,346.62.

Pastor and Staff Appreciation Month

STAFF APPRECIATION

Did you know that the second Sunday of October is recognized as **Pastor Appreciation Day**? The tradition began with Focus on the Family in the 1990s, starting as a single day before expanding to the whole month. The month offers a chance for churches to express gratitude in various ways.

Our church (by way of the Staff Relations Committee) has made October a month to appreciate all of our staff. As a church family, we are thankful for those who have been chosen, and choose to, work within our church to build strong foundations, maintain and grow connections, teach us Biblical truths and lead us in our Christian journey. We pray that all of our staff can continue to guide us faithfully and let their God given talents shine here at the United Church.

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

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



Join Us for Game Night!

Looking for something fun to do? Join us for Game Night on **Saturday, October 18, from 6:30-8:30 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. We look forward to seeing you there!



Stampin' Up

October 25 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 the Monday prior.

Email Nancy Burt-Preece: nancyburtprece@gmail.com

2025 Christmas Cantata

The United Church Choir, accompanied by instrumentalists, are presenting an exciting and beautiful Christmas Cantata for our morning worship service on **Sunday, December 21st**, called, "Sing We Noel" by Joel Raney. We encourage you to be a part of this engaging presentation. **Practices started in September are held Wednesday nights, 7:00-7:40 pm in the choir room and.** Let's spread the word to all your musical friends (both vocal and instrumental). Please contact Georgia Sperano either in person or at gsperano@rochester.rr.com to express your interest.



CARE MINISTRY

Fostering Community Within Care Ministry

Care Ministry is made up of many different teams: Stewards, Care Ministers, Transportation, Meal Train, Hospitality, Prayer Shawl, Visitation, Card Ministry and Support. Each one serves in a unique way, yet all share the same heart: to show Christ's love through compassion and care.

In the upcoming year, one of our goals is to foster deeper community between these teams. We know that when we connect with one another, encourage one another, and pray for one another, our ministry to others grows even stronger. Care happens best when it begins with relationships among those who serve.

You'll see more opportunities in the months ahead for fellowship, training, and gathering together as a Care Ministry family. These times are meant to remind us that we don't serve alone, we are part of something larger, united by Christ and called to extend His love to our church and community.

As part of this vision, we're continuing our "Why I Serve" series. In this issue, members of the Prayer Shawl Teams share what this ministry means to them and the love they knit into every stitch. May their stories encourage each of us to keep offering our own gifts with joy and faithfulness.



Knitting with Purpose: Team Members Speak from the Heart

Within our church family, a quiet but meaningful ministry takes place through the hands of those who knit lap blankets. Each blanket is lovingly created to bring warmth and comfort to someone walking through surgery, illness, or a difficult season. More than stitches and yarn, these blankets carry prayers and the assurance that no one is alone in their journey. In this issue, several of our knitters share what this ministry means to them and the love they hope each blanket conveys.

What inspired you to be part of this ministry of making prayer shawls?



Chris P. (from the Crafty Christians Prayer Shawl Ministry)

What started as a way to make prayer shawls, and not drive after dark, has also become a place to make hats for Gleaners and Golisano NICU, as well as warm afghans - some for our congregation and some for Family Promise and infants. God has provided yarn, a cozy pattern, and the ability to make them. I give all the glory to God, even when people tell me how they stay warm with their afghan.

Rachel R. (from the Prayer Shawl Ministry)

I have always enjoyed knitting, but a family only needs so many sweaters, socks and caps. When I read about the Prayer Shawl Ministry, it seemed like a perfect service project for our church. Just then I discovered two others who were led to the same conclusion. So in 2005 we began knitting and crocheting prayer shawls as a group, meeting together to work once a month. Then a number of retired women took up the challenge by meeting every week. We have received many encouraging responses from those receiving the shawls. I hope we can continue this ministry and we invite others to join with either group. Also, please share a need for a shawl and personally

deliver it. During the past 20 years approximately 150 shawls have been shared.

Doris G. (from the Crafty Christians Prayer Shawl Ministry)

I first became inspired by the ministry of knitting blankets and shawls for others when I was working at another church and they had a group called "Knitting Nellies". I broke my wrist and was laid up for a while and I became a recipient of a loving shawl. I still have that shawl 20 years later and it still is very comforting and I still love those "Knitting Nellies", and I am very happy to be a part of the same ministries.



Friends & Fellowship: 85 & Up Fall Event

Saturday, October 18 at 11:00 a.m.

We're excited to host a special fall gathering for all in our church family who are **85 and older**. This meaningful event begins in the sanctuary with a time of music, devotion, and Communion, followed by lunch and shared fellowship.

Whether you are a Senior Companion or simply part of this cherished age group, we hope you'll join us for a morning filled with encouragement, connection, and celebration.

RSVP to Christy @ christy.allen@uccdga.org or the Church office



Stewards Assistance Fund Collection

On the first Sunday of October, November, and December, as part of our Sunday offering, we receive donations for the Stewards Assistance Fund. Any loose change given on these days is directed toward the fund. You may also write checks designated to this fund at any time. These gifts provide confidential support to those in our church family facing unexpected needs, allowing us to extend Christ's love in practical ways.

Remembrance

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Sandy Cleason**, whose brother, **Frank Lawrence**, passed away on August 17th. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with the **Hildebrandt Family**, whose grandfather, **Frank Davis**, passed away on August 23rd. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.



Celebrations

We joyfully celebrate the August 12th birth of **Natalie Maria Sitzanis**, **Sharyn Canham**'s first grandchild. Natalie's parents are **Gillian and Nick**, and her proud aunties are Bethany and Jessica. Please keep the family in your prayers during this special time.

CHILDREN'S & FAMILY MINISTRY



Sunday School

Our Sunday school year is off to a great start! Children ages 3-years-old through High School are welcome to join their age/grade based class on any Sunday. We also offer classes for adults; right now we are offering small group studies on 2 Peter. Nursery care is offered for infants and toddlers so that everyone can participate in the Sunday school hour. When it works for your family's schedule, we hope you will join us at 9:45am! We have many dedicated volunteers helping each week with Sunday school. Below is a list of our 2025-2026 volunteers. Please keep this ministry in your prayers.

Our Sunday Morning Team 2025-2026

Nursery Coordinators: Louise Van Iseghem

Nursery during Sunday School (infants — 2-years-old): Megan French and Claire Sheppard

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

Children's Time (K-5th during 11am Worship): Ric and Ellen Parsons

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

Adult Sunday school: Nancy Abdallah, Gail Benjamin, Bob and Brenda Cunningham, Paul Johnson, Steve Simpson, Liz and Adam Thorman, Melissa Wormer

Children's Sunday school classes:

3 & 4 year olds: Jen Callard and Jinilee Hildebrant, **Prayer Partner:** Robin Payne

K, 1st & 2nd grade: Amy Beyrle and Cara Piper; **Prayer Partner:** Roberta O'Brien

3rd, 4th & 5th grade: Ali Boseck and Mary Wiser; **Prayer Partner:** Sharon Erb

MS (6th - 8th grade): Sandi DiCicco and Blair Posson; **Prayer Partner:** Sue Vadney

HS (9th - 12th grade): Ray McMillen; **Prayer Partner:** Marion Sumpter



Mark Your Calendar...

Sunday, October 12 –
Intergenerational Sunday
school at 9:45am in the
downstairs dining room.
Please bring a dish to pass if
you are able.

Youth Club: What is LOGOS?

LOGOS is a Christian ministry that works in partnership with local church leaders to build young disciples of Jesus Christ. We have been blessed to have Youth Club (LOGOS) at our church for 59 years!!! At The United Church, we have two LOGOS programs:

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

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

Please join us during either service on September 28 for our LOGOS dedication when we come before the Lord to ask His guidance and blessings upon our LOGOS students and workers for this coming year.

Needed: Pizza Servers and Kitchen “Cleaner Uppers” For the first Youth Club, **October 1**, from 5:15-6:15ish, 2 *pizza servers* are needed in the fellowship room to serve parents stopping by for a quick bite before our opening program. AND from 5:30-6:30ish 5 *to work clean up* in the downstairs dining room kitchen after our pizza dinner (we'll use paper products this night), so YC students, workers and parents can all be part of our opening program in the sanctuary. **Please sign up on Deb's door. Thank you!**



Parents of Youth Club Students ~ Please plan to join us by 6pm on the first day of Youth Club (Oct. 2) for our opening Youth Club. Beginning at 5:40pm, you can grab a quick slice of pizza in the fellowship room, then proceed to the sanctuary to sit with your child by 6pm. Our time should conclude at 6:30. We are planning something special for this time together.

Youth Club Mission Project: Christmas Stockings for NYC. Christmas, already???? Well, it's almost time for our Youth Club mission project of making, filling and sending Christmas stockings to Metro Ministries in NYC in time for their special Christmas parties for inner-city children. Many inner-city children do not know what it's like to receive something handmade with love and care. These filled stockings show we care....because Christ cares for them, we care. Would you be willing to provide stocking stuffers for this project? **Items**

must be new, small and able to fit into a 5x9" stocking. Please bring your donations anytime to Deb's office. Items need to be donated **by November 2**. Thank you!!

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

Important Dates...

Sunday, September 28 - During both services:
Dedicate LOGOS volunteers

Wednesday, October 1 - Youth Club begins!
(Register online by Sept 22nd)

YOUTH



From Pastor Mark - October means we are officially now full-speed in our program year. Bible studies are underway, our growing worship band (9 members this year!) is praising the Lord, faith-based relationships are being cultivated, and lots of food is being consumed! Keep our students, families, and ministry leaders in your prayers.

New Look in the Youth Room - Take a look at the High School youth room! Our Trustees worked very hard installing new ceiling tiles. Our first wave of canvas paintings have been hung on the walls - our new way of displaying student artwork! We also have new furniture (with more to be purchased and assembled) - single-seat chairs with swivel tables and cup holders! More work to be done throughout the room. Thank you to all who have helped!

Sunday Morning Church Bell Ringing - This year, we are inviting youth to pair up with their church friends and ring the big church bell, right at 10:55am, right before service! Two students plus an adult will team up to ring the bell effectively and safely. A schedule is created and is shared with our students (parents will be notified of this, too!). This will be a fun way for our youth to tell all of you that worship is about to start (and before David starts playing the organ!)

October Dates - Also on the church calendar online

Youth Club - EVERY Wednesday in October! 2:15PM for our first Middle School pick-up.

North Carolina Mission Trip Info - October 5, 12:00PM

Sunday School - October 5, 19, 26 (9:45AM)

Intergenerational Sunday School - October 12

The Cause - October 5, 19, 26

4:30PM - Youth Band Practice

5:00PM - Students Arrive

Connects - 1x month per school district

Canandaigua - Thursday, October 9, 6:45AM (Tim Hortons, North)

Victor - Thursday, October 16, 6:45AM (Dunkin', Main Street)

Marcus Whitman - Monday, October 20, 2:30PM (Gorham Free Library)

Homeschool - TBD

Game Night - Saturday, October 18, 6:30PM (The United Church)



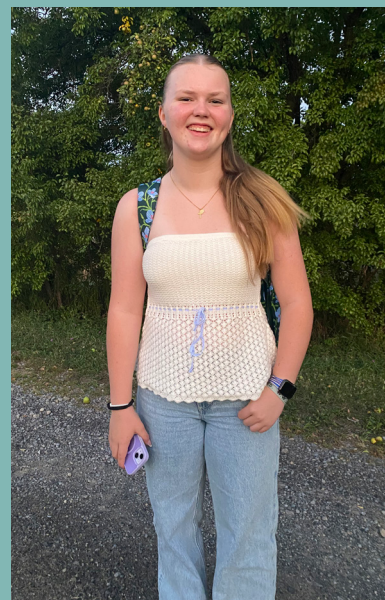
Student Spotlight

Hello! My name is Lily Munson, and I'm a freshman at Canandaigua Academy. I love being active and spending time outside! At school, I swim, dive, and play softball, and outside of school I ski and golf. If I could instantly be great at one thing, it would be fluently speaking American Sign Language. I also hope to gain more experience with outdoor activities like hunting and fishing—I'm currently working on getting my hunting license!

I've seen God in many different areas of my life, but one of the most powerful ways has been through the people He's surrounded me with. Some of my closest friends are people I met through church—whether in youth club, youth choir, or at Beaver Camp. I honestly couldn't imagine my life without them!

This past year, my faith has grown in ways I never expected. After taking a communicant's class last winter, I realized how little I was actually doing for my faith. From that point on, I made a promise to take my walk with God more seriously. Since then, I've been praying, reading my Bible, and worshiping Him daily.

I recently heard a quote that really challenged me: "If someone said to you, 'I didn't know you were a Christian,' what makes you think God wouldn't say the same thing?" This made me realize I wasn't sharing my faith with others. So, I started having conversations with teammates, peers, friends, and even strangers. It hasn't always been easy, but it's been worth it. I want to encourage you, too: don't be afraid to talk about your faith—you never know who needs to hear it!





From Pastor Mark

Everyone is invited to participate in our Sunday School small group initiative, weekly at 9:45am. These small groups are open (meaning you can join anytime, even mid-series), facilitated by trained and experienced ministry leaders, and are all following the 2 Peter sermon series. As you may have heard, we aim to provide an environment for everyone, whether it be a group that ends early (for the choir members, for instance), a group with expanded social time and a “late start” (for those busy parents!), a young adult group, and general groups. Try it out, and let us know your feedback through a reflection class in November.

Sunday School Teacher/Facilitator Training

New for this year is training for our adult ministry teachers and facilitators. We discussed expectations and approaches, leadership qualifications, and program efforts. We are grateful for seasoned leaders that enabled our trainings to be an environment of open dialogue and shared ideas. If you are ever interested in facilitating a small group or teaching a Sunday School class, please reach out to Pastor Mark!



October Dates - Also on the church calendar online

North Carolina Mission Trip Info - October 5, 12:00PM

Sunday School - October 5, 19, 26 (9:45AM)

Intergenerational Sunday School - October 12

Men's Weekly Bible Study and Prayer Breakfast - Every Wednesday, 7:00AM

Weekly Adult Bible Study - Every Thursday, 1:00PM

Connects -

Ferris Hills - Wednesday, October 1, 1:00PM

Quail Summit - Tuesday, October 29, 3:00PM

Game Night - Saturday, October 18, 6:30PM (The United Church)



MISSIONS



On **Sunday, October 5**, we will be receiving our annual special offering for the World Mission Offering which will be shared equally with the American Baptist World Mission Offering and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program. This offering provides an opportunity for churches like ours to participate in God's life-changing mission around the globe.

American Baptist Global servants share the gospel in ways that are understandable in their unique places of service. For instance in places like Ukraine, International Mission's Global Consultant Kristy Engel has served internally displaced persons who are suffering the impact of war by helping to create sustainable medical systems. And, International Mission's Mike Mann's ministry uses coffee, a common commodity, to help hill tribe communities in northern Thailand build a sustainable life.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. There are many circumstances outside our control: wars, natural disasters, disease, accidents, and other people's actions and decisions. Our gifts enable sharing the healing love of Christ through communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic events. By sharing our resources we can respond to the needs around the world, tending to those who are suffering.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES: As activities are ramping up at church this fall, would you consider helping with our church's mission work? There will be **one-time events, ongoing opportunities and of course mission trips!** We are also in need of some new ideas and energies on our mission sub-teams! The Collections team takes care of special offerings, the Angel Tree, the 'shopping cart' and any other collections during the year. The Hands-On team works to offer meaningful ways for the congregation to get involved with, well, hands-on activities. Finally, there is the Missionaries Team. This group stays connected to our missionaries and keeps the congregation up-to-date. These teams only meet on an as needed basis so you wouldn't be committing to a lot of meetings! **Please contact Sonya Brooks (sonya.brooks99@yahoo.com) if you would like more information or want to join a team!**

Family Promise of Ontario County The Family Promise new Static Site is under construction on N. Main Street in Canandaigua! Meanwhile their ongoing work of helping current families facing homelessness continues. Our church is assisting by **collecting grocery and gas gift cards** to help their guests during the first half of October. Walmart, Tops, and Aldi are the most appreciated grocery cards, in \$25, \$50, or \$100 denominations. Kwik Fill, Exxon/Mobil, and Speedway gas cards are also very helpful and at Speedway they can be labeled "Fuel Purchases Only." If you can help these struggling families, please leave the gift cards in the church office or place in a marked envelope in the collection plate **by Sunday, October 19**. If you would find it easier, you can write a check to Family Promise, mark it FP Gift Cards on memo line. Thank you for your support of these families in need. – The Mission Collections Team

North Carolina Hurricane Relief Mission Trip 2026

On Mission Sunday many of you heard the wonderful testimonies of some of the individuals that went on this year's North Carolina mission trip. The work, connections made, and views of destruction were all incredibly moving. While Valley Hope Foundation (the group we worked with) continues their efforts, much more needs to be done. In the first half of 2025 Valley Hope Foundation removed 1.8 million pounds of debris, provided home repairs and demolitions to help families rebuild and distributed over 1.2 million pounds of food.

We will be having a second inter-generational trip to North Carolina next year, **March 29 -April 3** to contribute to these on-going efforts. There will be an **informational meeting on Sunday, Oct. 5** following the second service **in the Youth room**. Please come and learn about the trip and see if this might be an experience you want to try. There is work for all skill levels! If you cannot attend the meeting feel free to reach out to Sonya Brooks (sonya.brooks99@yahoo.com).



"Fall Into Canandaigua" offers non profit groups an opportunity to "outreach" in the community. The mission committee has decided to participate with a booth this year on **Saturday, October 25th** and we're asking for your help on this day when costumed children and their parents stop by each booth for a handout, interactive activity, and information about the group. We will want to promote our upcoming organ concerts, our worship times, and youth activities. **Do you have a pop up canopy** you can loan and help us set up and take down? Will you join us for an **hour shift between 11:00am-3:00pm?** Please contact Linda Werts lwerts@aol.com to offer your help.

Framing Frenzy The United Church supported last month's Framing Frenzy with 24 volunteers! It was a great opportunity to join with over fifty others in "hands on" mission work right here in Canandaigua to support the worthy work of Greater Rochester Habitat for Humanity in bringing hope to a family through home ownership. The walls framed in the parking lot of Zion Fellowship will be used in the construction of the new home going up on Tillotson Street in the near future. Our United Church contributed financially toward the \$10,000 needed for lumber and supplies with a donation of \$7,000 from the generous gift of the Boyce family. Funds were taken from the "Mission and Spiritual Development Support" allocation area and reflect well one of their intended uses..."local partnerships involving hands-on service." Other partners for the Frenzy included Zion Fellowship, First Congregational Church, Pathway Community Church, First United Methodist Church, St. John's Episcopal Church and the Canandaigua Rotary Club.



Iberoamerica and The Caribbean

Commissioned: August 4, 2000
Married: September 3, 1989

yes!

I WILL PARTNER WITH
CARLOS BONILLA & MAYRA GIOVANETTI IN MINISTRY!

CARLOS and MAYRA have been used by God in discipleship in churches and with ethnic groups in Colombia through UNIBAUTISTA. This includes the Wayuu in the Guajira-Northern Region. Their ministry also includes Chile, Spain, Nicaragua, and the wider regional context of Iberoamerica and the Caribbean. The BGs have served since 2000 through International Ministries, registered as the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society. They regularly write Acts and Love in Action—BGs Et Al. The BGs are regional consultants for discipleship that "love intentionally (Rom. 12:15) while correctly explaining the word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15), knowing God provides the growth (1 Cor. 3:6-9)".

Find updates at
<https://www.internationalministries.org/author/c-bonilla-m-giovanetti/>

Missionary Connections

The BGs (**Mayra Giovanetti & Carlos Bonilla**), our missionary partners, send greetings and remember the multiple times visiting the United Church. The BGs coordinated all in-country connections for the United Church's July 2016 Mission Trip to Bluefields Nicaragua.

Carlos and Mayra have been United Church missionary partners for many years. Our letters, prayers, and mission contributions enable them to serve. On August 4th they celebrated the 25 year anniversary of being commissioned by the American Baptist Churches in the USA and Puerto Rico for service! They have established and now maintain a vast network of connections by living in Chile, Spain, Nicaragua, Columbia (Carlos' roots) and Puerto Rico (Mayra's roots). Their current assignment is "regional consultants for discipleship in churches in Colombia, Nicaragua, Spain, Chile, throughout Iberoamerica and the Caribbean". More recently, the Dominican Republic has been added to their countries of regional service as God opens doors.

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15) and *"Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn."* (Romans 12:15) continue guiding their ministry in each country and each community.

Mayra and Carlos say *"Thanks for supporting us through prayer, love, and ongoing support which is needed to continue going and making disciples."* Let us celebrate with them a quarter of a century of God's faithfulness and their ministry.

First Fridays at Cameron! A small but growing group of United Church volunteers are partnering on the first Friday of each month to serve a noon hot meal to neighbors in the Cameron Street community of Rochester. If you would like to join the group on Friday, October 5th please talk with Mary Lou Havens 585-396-2037. Two or three of us carpool to Rochester, leaving Canandaigua around 11:00am and returning around 2:00pm.

Foodlink's Next "Pop-Up Food Pantry" is scheduled for Monday, October 20th at the Town of Canandaigua Highway Barn, 5440 Route 5&20. Volunteers are needed from 9:00am till around 11:00am. For those seeking food, vehicles enter from Buffalo Street with distribution beginning at 10:am. See Linda Werts to learn more.



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

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Or Current Resident