



THE Lamplighter

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

FRESH FACES

Thank you to all those church members that have completed their terms in leadership positions. The new class of officers approved at the Annual Meeting will be installed or ordained during the February 8th worship services. For a list of the current board positions, please see the back of the bulletin most weeks.



FEBRUARY 2026 EVENTS

Feb 2

Trustees, 7:00 pm

Feb 3

Stewards, 6:30 pm

Feb 8

Ordination and Installation of new officers at both services

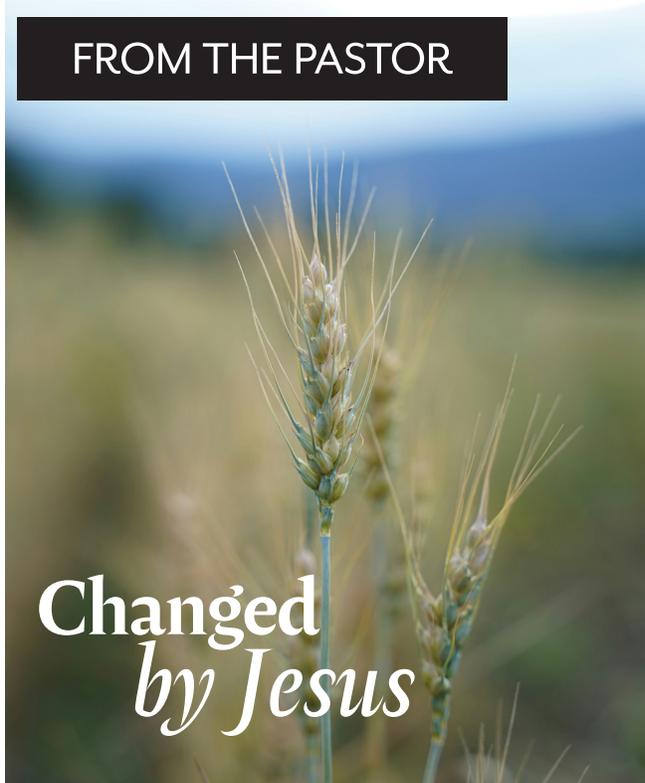
Feb 15

Exploring Membership Class, 10:00 am

Feb 16

Office closed for holiday
Official Board, 7:00 pm

FROM THE PASTOR



This February, we continue to journey through John's Gospel. We will explore four very different encounters with Jesus. In each of these meetings the people involved are forever changed. As we experience these stories, they continue to speak to us today.

We begin in the temple courts (February 1), where Jesus finds God's house turned into a marketplace. With righteous anger, he overturns tables and drives out those who've made worship transactional. Jesus

is then challenged to prove his authority. His words are shocking to those who heard them for the first time: "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it in three days." Jesus is not talking about the building. He's talking about his body and is pointing toward his death and resurrection.

Then we meet Nicodemus (February 8), a religious leader who comes to Jesus under cover of darkness. He has questions for Jesus. Jesus' words surprised Nicodemus. "You must be born from above." Nicodemus doesn't get this. We still struggle to understand. But Jesus isn't asking us to understand every detail. He's inviting us to experience new birth and to be transformed by

continues Page 2

INSIDE:

Page 2: New Member Class

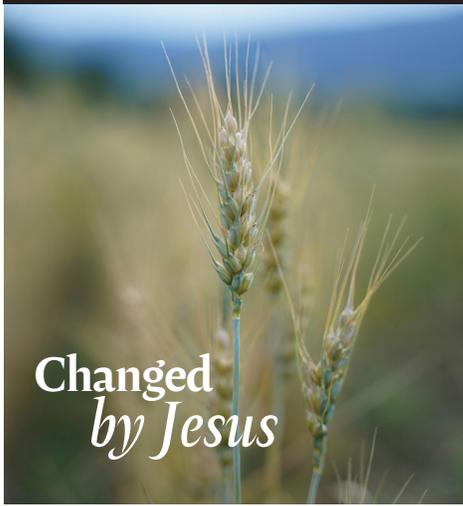
Page 5: What is Circle 7?

Center insert: Mexican Dinner Night



FROM THE PASTOR

continued from Page 1



Changed
by Jesus

God's Spirit moving like wind that "blows wherever it pleases."

On Transfiguration Sunday (February 15), Jesus speaks about his "hour." This is the moment everything has been moving toward. Again, Jesus' words catch us off guard. His hour of glory isn't found on a mountaintop

in dazzling light. It's found on a cross. "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies," Jesus says, "it remains alone. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." Glory through sacrifice. Life through death. Again, Jesus is pointing us to the Cross.

Finally, we travel with Jesus to Samaria (February 22),

where he meets a woman at a well in the heat of the day. She comes alone in order to avoid everyone else. But Jesus doesn't avoid her. In fact, He seeks her out. He offers her "living water" that will satisfy her deepest thirst. This woman becomes the first evangelist in Samaria, running to tell everyone about the Savior of the world.

How do these stories connect? Each encounter with Jesus changes everything. The religious leaders learn Jesus is more than a miracle worker. He's the very presence of God. Nicodemus finds that entering God's kingdom requires being born anew. Those seeking Jesus find true glory at the cross. The Samaritan woman learns worship is about Spirit and truth, not location.

These aren't just ancient stories. Each one is an invitation for us today. This month, I invite you to read the passages each week before you come to worship. Pray that Jesus will speak to you through these readings and consider how His words will transform you.

You know, when we truly encounter Jesus, we never leave the same.

Wade

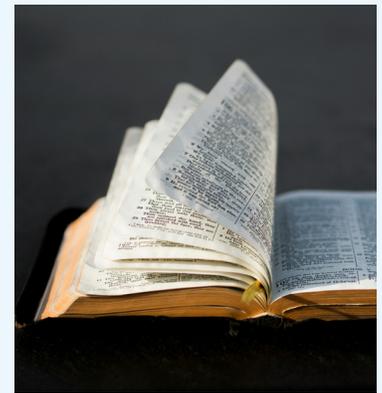
WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 01 - More Than a Miracle Worker (John 2:13-25)
Additional Readings: Psalm 15, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

February 08 - Born From Above (John 3:1-17)
Additional Readings: Psalm 112:1-9, 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

February 15 - Glory Through the Cross (John 12:20-36)
Additional Readings: Psalm 2, 2 Peter 1:16-21

February 22 - Living Water (John 4:1-42)
Additional Readings: Psalm 32, Romans 5:12-19



For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

- John 3:16-17

Exploring Membership Class

February 15, from 10-11 am in the Fellowship Room/library.

Are you interested in learning more about our church community and what it means to be a member? We warmly invite you to join us for our upcoming Exploring Membership class, where you'll have the opportunity to deepen your understanding of our church's mission, values, and community life. Visit the link on the church website:

https://bit.ly/ucc_em or call the church office to register (585-394-0503).



Thank You, Care Ministry

Stephen and I are so touched by your gesture of support and cannot adequately express our gratitude for the many ways our church family has helped to shoulder our burdens. The love and support we've received have brought peace and comfort, relief and hope, and most importantly, God's love and continued care into our life. We are most certainly not walking alone through this challenging season.

*Blessings,
Kory and Stephen*



~~~~~

*Dear Stewards,  
I thank you for all of the lovely cards, caring messages and prayers. They warm my heart and are always an encouragement.*

## Happy Birthday, Bob Ledgerwood!

Bob is a man who will be 72 years old in February. He has attended the United Church for many years, but is now mostly home bound from MS. He has many Friends from the Church and attends a weekly Bible study. Bob was a Pharmacist at the VA for many years. His Family, including several Grandkids, visit weekly. Bob loves football and music from the 70s. He is proud to talk about the many band concerts he attended and his time living in Los Angeles. Bob is a wonderful Father and Christian, and a blessing to all who know him.

*God Bless you,  
Ernestine M.*



## Care Team Volunteers this one's for you! Celebrating the Care You Give

If you serve with any of our Care Ministry teams: *Stewards, Care Ministers, Visitation, Meal Train, Transportation, Card Ministry, Prayer Shawl, Hospitality, or Support Team* , you're invited to a **Care Team Potluck Fellowship & Appreciation Gathering** on **Sunday, March 15, from 12:00-2:00 p.m.**, right after second service in the **Dining Hall**.

Bring a favorite dish to share, grab a seat at the table, and enjoy a fun, relaxed time with others who serve in Care Ministry. This is a chance to laugh, connect, be encouraged, and take time to be celebrated for the care you give, with appreciation from our ministry team coordinators.

**Come hungry! we'd love to see you there!**



*As we begin a new year of service, we welcome **Becky B., Margie W., Melissa W., Nancy G., and Randy B.** as they join the **Board of Stewards**. We ask God's blessing over all our Stewards in 2026, that their service may be guided by wisdom and compassion as they care for and serve our church family.*

# TREASURER



## Looking Back at 2025 With Gratitude — and Forward With Hope

As we close the books on 2025, we're grateful for the many ways our congregation has supported the mission and ministries of our church. While our income for the year came in below budget, our dedicated staff worked diligently to keep expenses down as well. Their careful stewardship deserves our appreciation.

Even with these savings, we did need to draw from our reserves to meet this year's expenses. Those reserves are a blessing, but they are not a long-term solution.

Looking ahead to 2026, pledge commitments so far are about the same as last year, which means we will need the continued generosity of the congregation to sustain our ministries at their current level.

The good news is that every gift—large or small—makes a meaningful difference. Together, we can strengthen our financial foundation and ensure that our church continues to be a place of worship, service, and community for all.

Thank you for all the ways you support this church. Your generosity is truly appreciated, and your continued giving will help us move confidently into the year ahead.

Nancy Lamberson, Treasurer

## Celebration

We joyfully celebrate the birth of **Hazel Beth Merenuk**, daughter of **Brooke and Jared Merenuk**, and first granddaughter of **Mary Beth and Bill Fortunato**. She was born on January 17 in Florida. Please keep the family in your prayers during this special time.

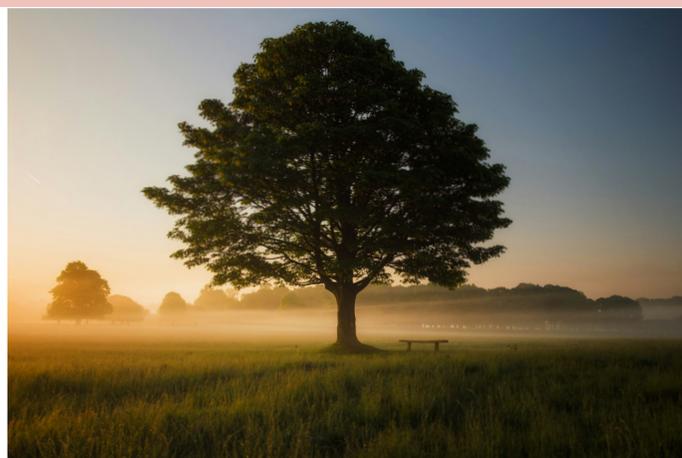
## Remembrance

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Karen Roaix** for the loss of her sister-in-law, **Nancy Marie Inglesby** (January 2), and brother-in-law, **Paul Inglesby** (January 6). Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Gloria Baker** on the recent loss of her husband, **John Baker**. **Bonnie Ritts** is their daughter. Please keep the Baker and Ritts families in your prayers during this difficult time.



## FAMILY NEWS



## Spotlight on Circle Seven

Circle 7 meets on the **second Tuesday of each month** from September to June. Meetings begin at **11:30 am** in the church Fellowship Room with lunch brought from home followed by a dessert provided by the hostesses of the month, a business meeting, devotions, and a program. In June and December we enjoy a special luncheon at a local establishment. We have a membership of approximately 19. Doris Goodemote serves diligently as our chairwoman leading our meetings.

In January, we welcomed new member, Ernie McKenzie

In March, we welcomed new member, Leslie Roof

In September, we welcomed new member, Jennifer Eveleigh

CIRCLE SEVEN



### Programs we have enjoyed this year include:

- Cathy Bush and Wendy Stoddard gave an update on Called to Care Canandaigua and an overview of the immigration terms and process.
- A field trip to CareNet of Canandaigua, with a tour of the facility and refreshments provided.
- Russell Lyons informed us about The Spot, which provides food, clothing, and backpacks with school supplies to those in need in Canandaigua as well as Victor Central Schools.
- Todd Bernhardt, Director of Family Promise of Ontario County, gave us an update on activity, including the plans and progress of the Static Site on Main Street.
- Hannah Jaeger, from Child Advocacy Center of the Finger Lakes, came to inform us as to what CAC is and what is provided. She told us about the Gala to raise needed support. We provided a basket of child appropriate items for their silent auction.
- Michael Megalo, Public Health Specialist from Ontario County Public Health, reminded us about being prepared for emergencies.
- Christine Lotyczewski, from Ontario County Public Health, brought us up to date on the various Public Health programs and how they help us.
- We met on Veterans Day and contributed service stories of relatives or friends.

Circle 7 members have provided support this past year by serving as hostesses for memorial services, preparing snack food for VBS and Youth Club as well as table assistants, providing items and bags for Kids Kits for Church World Service, items for Christmas stocking project, angel tree items, knitting and crocheting prayer shawls, collecting metal pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House project, providing support for people in Family Promise, and collecting used postage stamps for the Allied Stamp Ministry, which provides lesson series for Spanish speaking countries.

Our June luncheon was held at the Brady J's restaurant with 12 people attending. Regular meetings resumed in September. Our December luncheon was catered by Casa Italiana and 13 people enjoyed fellowship and trivia program by Christine Palmer in the church dining room.

Respectfully submitted by Beverly Fehrenbach, Secretary

Money collected and distributed in 2025:  
\$300.01 to CareNet of Canandaigua  
\$200.00 to The Spot

Respectfully submitted by Christine Palmer, Treasurer

## MISSIONS



### 2026 Mexico Mission Trip

**“Sharing the Joy of Togetherness!”**

As you are reading this message, trip participants are making plans with our in-country partners for a purposeful mission trip. In general our trip to Quintana Roo will...

—strengthen covenant relationships with Living Water for the World (LWW) water committees and faith communities in Cedralito, Limones, and Tabi and assess the sustainability of each water plant

—offer opportunities to engage in bottling and delivery activities

at the water plants

—strengthen a developing relationship with Pastor Leodegario Hernández and the congregation of Iglesia Emmanuel in Bacalar

Specific activities will include a day of service in the Emmanuel Church’s mission community of San Fernando, installation of a generator at the Cedralito plant, and a technology project introduced in the Tabi community.

As we prepare for traveling in March we would love to have your support. Please keep us and our in-country faith partners in prayer as they continue providing safe drinking water to their communities. Feel free to join us in our fundraising activities...especially the Mexican Night Dinner on Sunday, March 1st. (see the flyer) We’re serving enchiladas, salbutes, street corn, chips, salsa and tres leches cake. \$15 tickets can be purchased on Sunday mornings. We

are looking for helpers for set up and clean up, in the kitchen to run the dishwasher, and to make tres leches cakes... recipe provided...for dessert. If you have interest and availability please contact SheaLeigh B., Mary H., Lori M. or Linda W. Proceeds from the dinner will help fund our in-country activities and projects.

### In Memory of Ken Allen

The mission committee has established a **scholarship(s) to the Living Waters for the World’s “Clean Water U.”** It was Ken’s greatest hope that the United Church would put together a water team to partner with another community in Mexico in need of clean water. The first step would be to train at a “Clean Water U” session in either the Spring at Camp Johnsonburg, New Jersey or in the Fall at Camp Hopewell in Oxford, Mississippi. Volunteers train in one of three workshops...CWU 101-Water Management and Relationship Development, CWU 102-Health and Spiritual Education, CWU 103-Water Testing, Water System Installation, Operation, and Management. As a legacy to Ken Allen’s commitment to water-focused mission work, contributions to the scholarship fund may be made with checks to United Church with memo **“CWU Scholarship.”** To express an interest in CWU training speak with Linda Werts.

### Silent Auction

**June 7-14, 2026**

As March approaches, we look forward to our church’s participation in mission trips to Mexico and North Carolina in March. These trips are made possible in part by funds raised in our Bi-Annual Silent Auctions. Now is the time to think about how you can help with our largest fundraiser.

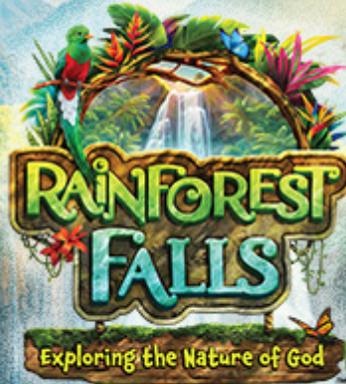
Please consider participating as a **donor** of an auction item, a **member** of the planning committee, a **bidder** at the auction, or an **auction worker**. It takes much planning and many hands to make this happen. We would appreciate any help you can give us.

Donations for the auction can be home crafted items, store bought items, gift baskets, pledges of your time or talents to help someone [such as 1 or 2 hours of gardening or babysitting time]; antiques, a boat ride on Canandaigua Lake, a home cooked meal for a group of people, etc.

**Please let the mission committee know by May 20th if you have a donation,** this will help us with our planning.



# Save the date!



## Mark Your Calendar...

Come explore with us at **Rainforest Falls VBS!! July 13-17, 2026, 9am - 12noon**  
 Kick-off: Sun., July 12, 2026 at 6:30pm  
 Registration will begin in March

All children, ages **4 years old** through those who **completed 5th grade**, are welcome to **participate!**  
 Children/teens who **completed 6th - 12th grade** are *encouraged* to **volunteer!**

**Adults** are needed as **volunteers** as well - how will YOU be involved in this eternally valuable week of ministry???

## Join Us for Game Night!

Looking for something fun to do? Join us for Game Night on **Saturday, February 14, 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!

## FELLOWSHIP & EVENTS

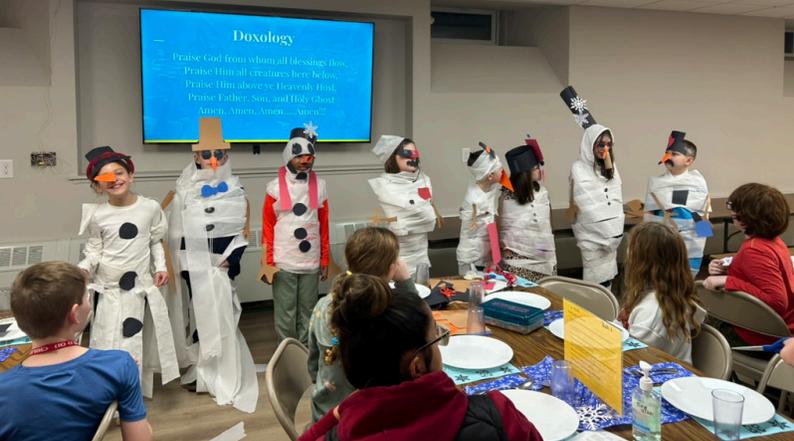


## Stampin' Up

**February 28th from 10:00-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](mailto:nancyburtprece@gmail.com)

## FAMILY MINISTRY



## Youth Club

On **January 21st**, the **Youth Club** kids were able to **invite one friend** to join them at Youth Club. We had many friends come and see all the fun we have each week ~ we had a snow festival! We invite these friends to continue coming to Youth Club for the rest of the year, and each year we usually have a few friends who decide to do that! We are so blessed to be able to continue to share this valuable ministry with so many children and their families.

On February 25, the Youth Club kids will be filling "**birthday bags.**" These bags are filled with **cake mix, frosting, birthday candles, balloons, and birthday napkins.** The bags are decorated and filled by our Youth Club kids and then given to local food pantries for families who

are celebrating a birthday. You can help by **donating** the aforementioned items **by Feb 22nd**. There is a collection box in Deb Marshall's office.



## Sunday School

Sunday school resumed on **January 4, 2026** with an **intergenerational** Sunday school class focused on the theme of **comfort**. This is part of a series on **Compassion** that we began



in our first Intergenerational Sunday school class in October. So far, we've worked through 3 sessions titled: "Come to Me," "A Cup of Cold Water," and "The One Who Comforts Us." Each session combines discussion, activities, scripture reading, reflection, and prayer. We have one more **Intergenerational Sunday School class** on **March 29, 2026 at 9:45am** in the **Downstairs Dining Room**. We will be working through the last session of this series called "Having Compassion," and we hope to see you there!

Each Sunday, we offer **Sunday school classes for all ages**. We have classes upstairs for 3-year-olds all the way through seniors in High School. We also offer a variety of classes for adults, including Parenting Coffee Hour, a Young Adult group, a Bible Study (currently focused on James), and a Choir group (ends early for choir members to get to practice before the 11am service). All Sunday school classes are "come when you can" style,

so please join us when your schedule allows! Nursery care is provided so that parents of young children can either teach a class or attend a class of their choice.

## Lent

The season of **Lent** begins on **Ash Wednesday**, which is **February 18th** this year. All children who attend Sunday school will be given an age appropriate **Lent devotional** and older students will be encouraged to take one. We work hard at picking out Lent devotionals each year, and we hope these help children and families spend time **growing closer to God** and one another during this special church season.



## Sunday School

Our **Middle School** and **High School classes** continue. Now that pageant practice is over, we have returned to our MS/HS activity time at the beginning of Sunday School, which supports relationship building and cultivates some Sunday morning energy. Both groups continue to use the LIVE curriculum, with Middle School going through “Bible 101” and High School going through “God is Pursuing”.

## High School Youth Group (The Cause)

We are currently working through Romans 10 and 12. In January, our students are in a “Preach-it Teach-it” series where they make their own lessons, with a plan to produce a Bible Study for the Middle School Youth Club students. Our youth band continues to practice and grow, with plans for Sunday morning worship. Dinner time is still largely supported by our parents - thank you!



YOUTH

## Youth Club Middle School Group Bible Study

This class is following the same studies as the high school group. Like the HS'ers, they will produce a Bible Study for younger students, and then use the HS-produced Bible Study lesson themselves. Our group is large, so we split Bible time into two rotating groups, with the other group enjoying activity time (often in the same theme as the lesson).

## School District Connects

Our mid-week connects continue, with Victor, Marcus Whitman, and Canandaigua connects active. Our homeschooling connect is being planned for February.

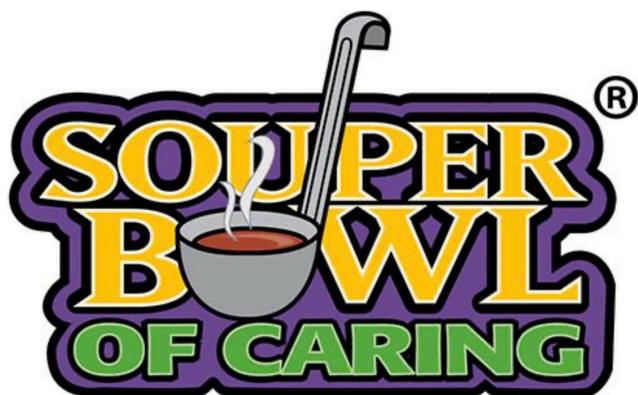
## Youth Ice Skating Event & Annual Meeting Fundraiser

We planned an ice-skating event for our middle school and high school students (January 24). This was coupled with efforts to prep for the annual meeting (January 25). Thank you all for supporting our youth program and mission experiences!



## February Special Events

We will be hosting our **Souper Bowl of Caring fundraiser** (February 8th). Funds raised will be donated to Canandaigua Christian Churches in Action (CCIA).



**Youth Ministry Activities** - Also on the church calendar online

**Youth Club** - February 4, 11, 25

**Sunday School** - February 1, 8, 22

**The Cause** - February 1, 22

**Connects** - 1x month per school district

- **Canandaigua** - Thursday, February 12, 6:45AM (Tim Hortons, North)
- **Marcus Whitman** - Monday, February 16, 2:30PM (Gorham Free Library)
- **Victor** - Thursday, February 19, 6:45AM (Dunkin', Main Street)
- **Homeschool** - Contact Mark for month-specific meetups!



## Student Spotlight

**Name:** Amelia C.

**Grade:** Junior in high school

**School:** Marcus Whitman

### What's your favorite way to spend a Saturday?

My favorite way to spend a Saturday would be sleeping in, (not having any homework to do of course!), and spending time relaxing and having fun with my family and friends.

### If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

If I had to pick one spot to travel to, I would without a doubt pick Bora Bora. Ever since I heard about it years ago, I've wanted to go there to see the beautiful sunny beaches and crystal clear water.

### What's a food you could eat every week and never get tired of?

If I had to pick a food to eat every week and somehow not get tired of it, I would definitely pick BLT's!

### What's something you're looking forward to after high school (or in the next season of life)?

Something that I'm looking forward to after Highschool would honestly just be the college experience. I'm really excited to get out of the daily high school schedule, have some fun, and make some life long friends.

## Faith & Reflection

**What's a Bible verse that means a lot to you right now, and why?** A verse that means a lot to me right now would have to be Ecclesiastes 3:11. "He has made everything beautiful in his time..." I have always been a person who likes to fix things, solve problems, and always do what I can for whoever I can. This isn't usually a bad thing, but it makes me frustrated whenever I can't fix something. This verse helps remind me that I'm not the one controlling things, and it gives me reassurance that God will take care of everything in his perfect timing.

**How has your faith grown over the past year?** I was blessed with the wonderful opportunity to work at a Christian camp over the summer, in Lowville New York, called Beaver Camp. My faith grew immensely due to this, because I was always surrounded by loving people who clearly had such a strong faith. I was only there for a few weeks, but whenever I was, I constantly could feel God's presence all around me. Because of that, it caused me to try and live out my faith more, and made Jesus be the one I would look to first, rather than trying to do things myself.

## • 2026 Retreats - Save the Dates!

- **Youth Retreat** - Saturday, August 15 @ Onanda Park (Crouch Hall)
- **Adult Retreat** - Saturday, October 24 @ Onanda Park (Crouch Hall) - Guest speaker TBA!
- **Other Retreats Proposed - Young Adult Retreat and Men's Half-Day Retreat**
- **Summer Mission Experiences** - Save the Dates! August 17-21, including youth, young adult, and adults!



## Sunday Morning Small Groups

Our young adult/adult ministries have begun the new year with a variety of Sunday School offerings. Our Young Adults Group continue through select passages in Romans, using the SOAP method. The Bible Study Group that meets in the Downstairs Dining Hall continues with their study on James. The new Choir Group meets on the second floor (Room 26), and is now following the sermon series in the Gospel of John. The Parenting Group continues to meet in the Fellowship Room, and are (at the time of writing this article) determining their next topic/series.



## Mid-Week Connects

Our Ferris Hills group has been meeting monthly, which includes worship and a devotional. The Quail Summit group has started to meet, which has involved fellowship and snacks!

## Adult Ministry Bible Studies

As a reminder, we have a men's group that meets every Wednesday morning at 7am at the church for breakfast, fellowship, Bible study, and prayer. We also have a group of women that meet every Thursday at 1pm at the church - also a Bible study.

## Half-Day Women's Retreat

Inspired and supported by the discernment and effort of Nancy B. and Christy A., this retreat was been planned and scheduled for January 31, 10am-1pm. This was intended for an intergenerational setting, and (at the time of this writing) included almost 60 women registered! The study was being created by Christy and Nancy, and focused on examples of women in the Bible, and how women can support one another in life/faith.



## Passion Conference

We had two young adults (Grace P. and Jen P.) attend the Passion Conference in early January. This time, it was in Texas in an Major League Baseball stadium (with approximately 40,000 young adults in attendance). Grace and Jen kept us in the loop along the way - another year full of worship, devotion, and fellowship! Check out the picture!



## Young Adult Coffee Outing

In early January (home from college!), we had the rare opportunity to get several of our young adults together for a lunch outing after church. It was great to see all of them together. Check out the picture!



### Young Adult and Adult Ministry Activities - Also on the church calendar online

- **Sunday School** - February 1, 8, 22
- **Men's Weekly Bible Study and Prayer Breakfast** - Every Wednesday, 7:00AM
- **Weekly Adult Bible Study** - Every Thursday, 1:00PM
- **Connects** -
- **Ferris Hills** - Wednesday, February 4, 1:00PM
- **Quail Summit** - Tuesday, February 24, 3:00PM
- **Game Night** - Saturday, February 14, 6:30PM



THE  
**UNITED  
CHURCH**  
CANANDAIGUA

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

Non-Profit Org.  
Postage Paid  
Permit No. 26  
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Or Current Resident



## Missionary Update

In 2026 we will be connected with six missionary individuals/families, some familiar and some new to us. Below is an introduction and over the course of 2026 we will highlight each in Lamplighter articles.

**Mayra Giovanetti & Carlos Bonilla**, known as “the BGs”. We are continuing our long relationship with this couple. God has used Carlos and Mayra as regional consultants for discipleship in churches and with ethnic groups in Colombia, Nicaragua, Spain, Chile, and throughout Iberoamerica and the Caribbean. Their ministry includes working with the Wayuu people in the Guajira, the northern region of Colombia.

**Christy Lafferty** has been serving God and her brothers and sisters in Nicaragua since 2012 as a part of AMOS Health and Hope. AMOS uses an empowering approach, following Christ’s example of listening to and healing the most vulnerable populations. AMOS



engages communities as full partners by training local leaders as community health promoters.

**Rev. Nancy and Rev. Shelvis Smith-Mather** Our long relationship with this missionary family ended last spring when PCUSA ended their missionary programs. We have been fortunate to re-connect with them and are able to support them in 2026. They have served in East Africa for nearly two decades. Nancy has led education initiatives to address widespread illiteracy. Shelvis—a University of Oxford graduate—helped develop a peace institute through RECONCILE that trains leaders nationwide. Currently, Shelvis serves as the RECONCILE Peace Institute Advisor, working with Sudanese and South Sudanese colleagues and Cambridge University to review, revise, and update the peace institute curriculum.



**Pastor Leodegario Hernandez** is the pastor of the Emmanuel Church of Bacalar, Mexico, a Presbyterian church. This is the church that the United Church has

a history with and that our mission team re-connected with them on last year’s trip to Mexico. The Limones church, where one of the water plants is, is a missionary church of the Bacalar church. We are supporting Paster Leo and his wife, Angela, as well as the Bacalar congregation.



**Sally Gates** is new to our missionary list. She serves with Greater Europe Mission (GEM). GEM UK is a missional movement of disciple-makers with a vision to see the neighborhoods of the UK—and the nations of Europe—transformed by Jesus through the mobilization and multiplication of workers, leaders, and churches. Her new role is Chief of Staff for GEM UK, where she’ll have the opportunity to help strengthen and grow our movement in several key areas: Sending out more missionaries across the UK and Europe. Planting more churches and disciple-making communities and enhancing pastoral care and training for our field workers.

**Matt and Meredith Snell** (also new to the United Church) are passionate about sharing the gospel and their lives with the military community stationed at Fort Drum. As a prior military family, they are keenly aware of the challenges faced by service members and their families. They desire to create a welcoming community for service members and their families to hear and respond to the gospel, grow in their relationships with Christ, develop meaningful relationships with others, and equip them to reach the nations for Christ.



# MEXICAN NIGHT DINNER



Sunday, March 1, 2026  
serving 5:00–7:00pm or until sold out  
United Church of Canandaigua  
11 Gibson Street, Canandaigua

**\$15 tickets**

may be purchased on Sunday mornings in February  
or by calling 315-447-0276, or at the door.

**Takeout meals available!**

Proceeds will benefit in-country tech and other projects.

**SEE YOU THERE!**

