



THE Lamplighter

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

THE SUMMER SCHEDULE IS COMING!

Beginning on Sunday, May 24th, we will have one worship service at 9:30 am.
The summer schedule will continue through Labor Day weekend.



MAY 2026 EVENTS

May 4

Trustees, 7:00 pm

May 5

Stewards, 6:30 pm

May 9

Family Game Night, 6:30 pm

May 17

Sunday School breakfast, 9:45 am
Children's Day service, 11:00 am

May 17

Wendy & Jim's Concert, 3 pm

May 18

Official Board, 7:00 pm

May 23

Chicken BBQ

May 24

Pentecost
Summer services begin, 9:30 am

May 25

Memorial Day - Office closed

FROM THE PASTOR

He is
Still at Work

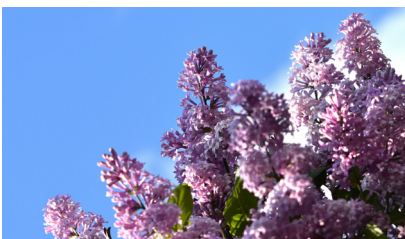
May is a month of endings and beginnings. In some ways, we transition to summer during this month. While the city school system is still in session, the weather begins to warm and many of the church programs begin to shift. On Memorial Day weekend, we move to combined summer service. It just happens to be Pentecost Sunday, and we will conclude a five month series on the Gospel of John. And then the following week, we begin a new sermon series on Paul's letter to the church at Philippi. Endings and beginnings.

Pentecost is the birthday of the church. Jesus has ascended into heaven, and the Holy Spirit comes to empower the church for all that is ahead. It must have been an exciting time with so many new

dynamics. New people came into the church, God was working and moving in powerful ways. Yet the change must have been challenging for some. Jesus was no longer present in the flesh. The church was facing persecution. I wonder if some of the disciples longed to go back to the way things were. But Jesus had told them that they were being sent out in the same way that the Father had sent him. And the end of one era meant the beginning of a new one.

As we step into the month of May, as we consider what Pentecost meant for the early church, the dynamic of transition is at the forefront of our minds. The next week, we will step into a new sermon series on Philippians. The date is May 31. Did you know that the cornerstone of our church building was laid on May 30, 1871? That means that when we gather to worship on May 31, 2026,

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INSIDE: **Page 4:** Prayers for May
Pages 8-10: Mission updates
Pages 14-15: Many Concerts!

FROM THE PASTOR

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we will be gathering just a day after the 155th anniversary of our cornerstone. Can you imagine standing on the corner of Main Street and Gibson on that day? How much change and transition has our world experienced since that day?

Change is never easy. It was not easy for the disciples, and I am sure that there have been seasons of change in The United

Church that have been disruptive and even contentious. But God is always in the business of moving His mission forward. Paul encourages the church at Philippi, “being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 1:6) God has been working through a people at the corner of Main and Gibson for 155 years. He is not finished yet. And He continues to prompt us toward new beginnings.

As the trees begin to green in the month of May, celebrate the new beginning of spring. But also remember that we don’t have to be afraid of transitions. He breathed life into the early church. He sustained Paul and the Philippians through hardship. He planted a congregation at this corner 155 years ago. He is still at work. Let’s trust Him together through every ending and beginning He brings our way.

Wade

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

May 03 - Consider how Jesus, the Christ, is The Way, The Truth, The Life (John 14:1-14)

Additional Readings: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, 1 Peter 2:2-10

May 10 - Love, Obey, Abide (John 14:15-21)

Additional Readings: Psalm 66:8-20, 1 Peter 3:13-22

May 17 - The Prayer Before the Cross (John 17:1-11)

Additional Readings: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35, 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

May 24 - Sent and Equipped (John 20:19-23)

Additional Readings: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

May 31 - 155 Years and Counting (Philippians 1:1-11)

Additional Readings: Psalm 145:1-9, Romans 8:28-39



“*And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ - to the glory and praise of God.*”

- Philippians 1:9-11

A BRIEF REMINDER OF WHERE WE HAVE BEEN:

2023: The estate of Lester and Grace Boyce generously provided a memorial gift of \$500,000.

2024-2025: The Boyce Discernment Team was established with a diverse cross-sectional representation of the congregation, including staff, Official Board members, Trustees and other congregation members. The team engaged in an intentional prayerful process to determine how to best steward this gift to meet our congregation's present needs and future ministries, while also reflecting the Boyce family's love for our church.

January 2025: A meeting was held with our congregation to share the Discernment Teams process and to invite feedback.

February 2025: The team presented a comprehensive proposal to the Official Board.

Following the Board's approval, the memorial gift was allocated across three areas including \$250,000 to Building and Infrastructure Improvements, \$100,000 to Mission and Spiritual Development Support and \$150,000 to Ministry and Program Support Reserves. **Please see the 2025 Annual Report for specific information regarding these allocations.**

Building and Infrastructure goals were identified and include the following areas:

Kitchen renovations, Welcome Center enhancements, technology updates, Fellowship Room updates, essential maintenance projects, historic displays and educational space refreshment.

PROGRESS TOWARDS OUR BUILDING AND INFRASTRUCTURE GOALS:

So much work has been completed already as we enjoy the improvements in our Welcome Center, Fellowship Room and Missions space, along with our new coat room. Refreshment of our educational spaces has commenced with paint in the upstairs chapel, hallway and classrooms. Additional plans for this area of the church include bathroom renovations, some new flooring and new lighting.

We look forward to our kitchen renovations and continued development of our historical display and library in the near future.

Additionally, we have been making improvements in the area of technology and security. A full update will be shared in the near future.

A POINT TO PONDER:

The Ministry and the Feedback Teams have been asked why we are using the Boyce Memorial gift to provide these improvements instead of compensating for deficits in meeting our pledge and donation needs.

Here is the answer: Utilizing this memorial gift to pay our operating expenses would negate the prayerful discernment process the Holy Spirit guided us through. It is also not a sustainable or fiscally responsible approach to managing our budgetary needs. Finally, as a congregation we would risk becoming complacent in our responsibility to faithfully give to meet the needs of our church, as we are called to do.

Remembrance

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Mary Anne Bell**, whose husband, **Jack Schermond**, passed away in December in Florida. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Sara Henderson**, whose father, **Daniel Stella**, passed away on April 1. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Celebration

We joyfully celebrate the birth of **Jude Francis Cloutier** on February 26 in Denver. He is the son of **Dan and Emily Cloutier** and grandson of **Robert and Pat Cloutier**. Please keep the family in your prayers during this special time.

We joyfully celebrate the birth of **Marion Sumpter's** 25th great-grandchild, **Quinn Margaret Cafarella**, in early April! Marion has been blessed with 3 other great-grandchildren in the last few months, as well. It's hard to keep up! Please keep the whole family in your prayers during this special time.



FAMILY MINISTRY



Sunday School

As their Lenten offering, **Sunday school children** collected **diapers, wipes, and formula** for **CareNet Canandaigua**. Our goal was to collect 20 items by Easter Sunday. We exceeded our goal and collected 25 items! Thank you for your generosity.

Kids and teens were encouraged to invite their school teachers to join us for late worship on **Sunday, April 19**. We were blessed to have some teachers join us on **School Teacher Appreciation Sunday**. Each teacher who came received a flower from the student who invited them. We

also had a reception after the late service to celebrate teachers' hard work and dedication at our local public schools.

As we will wrap up our Sunday school year for all ages, we like to remember and celebrate our year together with a **Sunday School celebration breakfast**, which will happen on **May 17th at 9:45am**. All are welcome to join us for this special time together! Please bring a dish to pass if you're able.

Nursery

Once we transition to summer 9:30am services, on May 24, **we need two volunteers to serve in the nursery each Sunday**. As a reminder, **we make a promise at the baptism/dedication of children to help the child and their family grow in faith**. One way we can do that is by offering nursery care so that parents of young children can participate in worship without the distraction of their little ones. **We need more nursery volunteers**. If you are interested, please let Louise Van Iseghem or Carolyn know. All nursery volunteers need to be background checked - you can ask Carolyn about how to get a background check - it's quick and easy! Thank you so much for sharing in this ministry to the youngest in our church family!



Prayers in May

Memorial Day weekend brings an end to our regular ministry year. With the slower pace of ministry in May, I can devote more time to prayer. Each day, I will pray for different aspects of family ministry. Will you join me in prayer this month?

May 1 - Families/Parents in our church
May 2 - preschool Sunday school
May 3 - elementary Sunday school
May 4 - middle school Sunday school
May 5 - high school Sunday school
May 6 - parenting coffee hour/adult Sunday school
May 7 - families who visit our church
May 8 - Church life events
May 9 - Youth Club worship
May 10 - Youth Club family time
May 11 - Youth Club Bible classes
May 12 - Youth Club recreation
May 13 - The Cause students
May 14 - VBS preschool participants
May 15 - VBS adult volunteers

May 16 - VBS elementary participants
May 17 - VBS teen volunteers
May 18 - nursery children
May 19 - nursery parents
May 20 - nursery volunteers
May 21 - Children's Sunday school teachers
May 22 - Student's Sunday school teachers
May 23 - Adult Sunday school teachers
May 24 - Youth Club Bible teachers
May 25 - Youth Club recreation leaders
May 26 - Youth Club worship leaders and helpers
May 27 - Youth Club table parents
May 28 - The Cause Bible teachers
May 29 - The Cause activity leaders
May 30 - The Cause worship leaders
May 31 - The Cause dinner providers

Thank you for joining me in prayer for the family ministries of our church.

"Again, here is what I tell you. Suppose two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for. My Father in heaven will do it for you." ~ Matthew 18:19

Vacation Bible School

Don't delay - register for VBS today - we are halfway full!

Rainforest Falls VBS: Exploring the Nature of God



Kick-off: Sun., July 12, 2026 at 6:30pm
July 13-17, 2026, 9am - 12noon
Contact Deb Marshall with any questions

All children, ages **4 years old** through those who **completed 5th grade**, are welcome to **participate!** Be sure to **invite your friends** to join us!

Tweens/teens who **completed 6th - 12th grade** are **encouraged** to **volunteer!** **Adults** are needed as **volunteers**, too!



FAMILY MINISTRY

Summer Camp

Parents don't forget that **all campership requests must be submitted by May 20.** What is a **campership?** Our church believes that the Christian camp experience is so important that **we will pay 1/2 the tuition for one week at any Christian day camp or overnight camp!** This is not a need based scholarship - this is for every family sending a child to Christian camp this summer! The only qualification is that your child currently participates in Sunday morning ministry, Youth Club, and/or The Cause. **Parents, please note: Beaver Camp** has a special **discount code** for **camperships.** BEFORE you register your child, please contact Deb for their discount code. For LeTourneau and other Christian camps, our process remains the same, once you're signed up, send the registration confirmation to Deb, and we will take care of the campership. Parents, you can find **camp information** in the **Missions Room** (the room right next to Deb's office). Check it out to see which camp works best for your family. Any questions? Please see Deb Marshall.



Upcoming Events

- May 10** - Last day of Sunday school classes for all ages
- May 17** - Sunday School celebration breakfast for all ages at 9:45am
- Children's Day service at 11am
- May 24** - Summer schedule begins, one service of Worship at 9:30am

Join Us for Game Night!

Looking for something fun to do? Join us for a Game Night on **Saturday, May 9, 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!



YOUTH



Sunday School

Our **Middle School** and **High School classes** continue. MS/HS activity time at the beginning of Sunday School also continues. This time of year, we are making plans on bridging students from one ministry to another, such as inviting the high school seniors into the young adult small group. We are also planning a “Faith Journey” for our juniors and seniors; this special event is intended to provide a special experience, where students reflect on their walk with Jesus and the church up to this point in their lives, and to use that reflection as part of their discernment process for the future. Pray for our students who are transitioning into different ministries, that they may continue to grow in their love of the Lord and neighbor.

High School Youth Group (The Cause)

Recently, we engaged in conversation about dating and marriage. These classes - while sensitive - were well-received and navigated by our student body. We are also giving attention to special music opportunities for our youth band, as well as planning for next students (and band members) who will join us next year.

Youth Club Middle School Group Bible Study

Depending on when you read this, Youth Club may be over! We had a challenging yet cherished year of learning and growing with such a large and diverse class of students. Towards the end, we did a year-end-reflection class, along with a “warm and fuzzies” class, where we spent time blessing our 8th grade students (who are graduating Youth Club and entering The Cause) with kind words. A special shout-out to our Bible Study facilitators, including Ed Blance, Jen Callard, and Lauren Slomski. We needed every one of them with such a large group. Their wisdom, patience, and love was needed every week - thank you!



School District Connects

Our mid-week connects continue, with Victor, Marcus Whitman, and Canandaigua school districts. I routinely get feedback from students and parents who express an appreciation for this mid-week connect for our students. The students really do value connecting with friends, especially their faith-based friendships!

Chicken BBQ Fundraiser

On **Saturday, May 23**, we are hosting our next chicken bbq fundraiser. We will be in the **Runnings plaza** again, late-morning ‘till sold out. Funds raised go toward our youth missions and programs. Thank you for your support!



Youth Ministry Activities - Also on the church calendar online

Sunday School - May 3, 10, 17 (end-of-year celebration)

The Cause - May 3, 17, 31

Connects - 1x month per school district

- **Canandaigua** - Thursday, May 14, 6:45AM (Tim Hortons, exact location TBD)
- **Marcus Whitman** - Monday, May 18, 2:30PM (Gorham Free Library)
- **Victor** - Thursday, May 21, 6:45AM (Dunkin', Main Street)

Save the Dates

- **Chicken BBQ Fundraiser** - May 23 (volunteer sign-up coming soon)
- **Faith Journey** - May 30 (HS Juniors and Seniors only)
- **VBS** - July 13-17 (MS and HS students can support!)
- **Kingdom Bound** - July 28
- **Youth Retreat** - August 15
- **Mission Experiences** - August 17-21

Sunday Morning Small Groups

Our **Young Adults Group** just finished a study in Revelation and a discussion on dating/marriage. May is full of reflection and celebration of a wonderful year of small grouping for the young adults! This really was a great group to engage with and grow with. The **Bible Study Group** continues with their study by NT Wright titled "Faith Working Through Love". The **Choir Group** is following the sermon series in the Gospel of John. The **Parenting Group** continues with the curriculum titled "The Art of Parenting".



Summer Small Groups

Based on feedback and interest of a couple of facilitators, we are planning summer small groups after service! Exact dates to be determined, but you can expect weekly Sunday morning small group offerings after church service. One of the offerings being considered is a group that continues to follow the sermon series (much of the summer will be in Philippians). We are also considering a young adult small group, which will definitely include coffee-outings!

Mid-Week Connects

Our Ferris Hills group now meets every other week, and the Quail Summit group continues! We've been receiving positive feedback about these connects. We spend time together socially and devotionally.

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. The church calendar provides additional information for open events in the church.

25-35-Somethings Small Group

This group continues! We are now onto topical conversations. The most recent conversation was on the topic of gift giving (and what the biblical model of gift giving is). We are moving onto other topics, including "viral" topics in today's world, which often finds itself within the realm of Christian apologetics. This diverse group of adults is a joy to engage with, and we are learning together!



Stampin' Up

May 16th 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



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

- **Sunday School** - May 3, 10, 17 (end-of-year celebration!)
- **25-35-Somethings Small Group** - Every Tuesday, 4:00 PM.
- **Men's Weekly Bible Study and Prayer Breakfast** - Every Wednesday, 7:00AM
- **Weekly Adult Bible Study** - Every Thursday, 1:00PM
- **Connects** -
- **Ferris Hills** - Wednesday, May 6, 20 (1:00PM)
- **Quail Summit** - Tuesday, May 26, (3:00PM)

MISSIONS



Mexico Trip

In last month's Lamplighter, we shared that our team would soon be returning from our trip to Mexico. We are grateful to now be able to share a glimpse of what that time held.

We spent several meaningful days with our sister church, Iglesia Emmanuel in Bacalar, worshipping together and building relationships that continue to grow with each visit. One evening, we attended a women's service and were warmly welcomed into a birthday celebration — a simple but beautiful reminder of how faith and community are so closely woven together. We also had the opportunity to meet with church leaders, visit



their mission church in San Fernando, and join in Sunday school and worship services. Throughout our time together, we found ourselves in conversation about how we might deepen our connection in ways that are more personal and lasting. Those conversations are still unfolding, and we look forward to exploring them further with our own church leadership in the months ahead.

Our work with the Living Waters for the World water plants gave us a deeper appreciation for the care, commitment, and creativity within each community. While the systems share many similarities, each site reflects the unique rhythms and resources of the people who sustain it. It was a privilege to come alongside them — learning, supporting, and gaining a better understanding of what it takes to provide safe water in these communities.

Spending several days in Tabi allowed us to experience daily life a bit more fully. We visited the local clinic and a secondary school, roughly equivalent to our middle school years, and were grateful for the opportunity to connect, observe, and learn. These moments, though simple, often left the deepest impressions.

We return home thankful — for the relationships strengthened, for what we have learned, and for the ways God continues to work through partnership and presence. Thank you for your continued prayers and support. We look forward to sharing more in the months ahead as we continue to reflect on where this journey may lead.

Clean Water U

The United Church has a long history of supporting **Living Waters for the World** through the legacy of **Ken Allen** as “ambassador” for its ministry of clean water and through the leadership of Linda W. in forming teams to partner with rural Mexican communities to install and maintain water purification plants in Cedralito, Limones, and Tabi.

Living Waters for the World empowers everyday people to change lives through clean water. The mission committee would like to honor Ken's dream that the United Church form a team to train at Clean Water U (CWU) by providing a **scholarship** to attend a CWU training. The next session will be held at **Camp Johnsonburg, NJ** from **September 22-26th**.



There are three choices of workshops:

CWU 101 “Water Project Management and Relationship Development” focuses on providing the resources, tools and knowledge to ensure successful partnerships and sustainable water systems.

CWU 102 “Health and Spiritual Education” focuses on the health and spiritual curriculum which trains local leaders to conduct ongoing health education in their communities.

CWU 103 “Water Testing, Water System Installation, Operation and Maintenance” gives hands-on experience installing a complete system and learning how to pass this knowledge on to operating in-country partners who will manage, operate and maintain the system.

To learn more or to apply for the scholarship speak with Sonya B. or Linda W. Cost of training is \$1,450 for new students and \$800 for returning students.

BLANKET THE WORLD WITH LOVE

As followers of Jesus we are called to love our neighbors— especially in their time of need. On **Sunday, May 10**, we will be receiving our special offering for **Church World Service blankets**. A simple blanket can provide comfort, warmth and hope to our neighbors during their most challenging times. A gift of \$10.00 provides a blanket to someone in need. We can be the hands and feet of Christ in the world as we give generously and help to Blanket the World in Love.

Join Us for a Meeting

The **“Hands On” Mission Team** invites you to join us on **Tuesday, May 19th at 4:00pm** as we review past and ongoing activities, talk over opportunities for the rest of the year, and begin planning for next mission trips. Not able to make this meeting? Share your thoughts with Linda W. or Sonya B.

2026 North Carolina Mission Trip



Our week in Black Mountain/Swannanoa, North Carolina involved work, re-kindling friendships in N.C. and making new ones in our church family. Our inter-generational group of nine included 2 youth, 1 young adult and 6 adults. It was so wonderful to spend time with others from our congregation.

Valley Hope Foundation (the local group that we partner with) has grown and continues to make strides in helping those still affected by Hurricane Helene. Many reasons contribute to the difficulty in meeting all the needs. We spent time power-washing a house and cleaning up debris around it, framing walls, laying new flooring and cleaning a camper. While progress is being made, the devastation left behind by the hurricane is still visible most places.

A major focus of Valley Hope is food distribution. They are a central hub for food distribution for several counties. They distribute nutritious food and essential relief supplies to families across Western North Carolina, ensuring that no neighbor is left behind in times of hardship. Our team spent a day ‘packing’ food that then was picked up by local food pantries and other small community distribution groups (and loaded by our group). Each organization received 1 - 2 skids of food, much of it fresh produce. We were able to add to their ‘order’ frozen venison and fish supplied by Earl and June P. It was so appreciated! A few of us also had the opportunity to talk with the individuals picking up the food. Each story was unique, but they shared a heart for Christ and the people in need in their community.



Last year’s community Easter event put on by Valley Hope was so successful that they were planning a larger version this year. The highlight of the event involves an Easter bunny in 3 helicopters dropping thousands Easter eggs for the kids!

We had a group filling the eggs (and counting and weighing) and organizing the supplies needed. The time spent at our house with the mission team was just as meaningful. We were one big family enjoying dinners, devotions and sharing, games and even a hot tub. We thank the Lord for providing the opportunity to help others and enrich our own spiritual journey. We also thank the Missions Team for providing funds from the Boyce fund to cover the house rental. Please take a moment to look at the Google Photo Album of the trip. <https://bit.ly/4ceJWom>



MISSIONS

Mission Trip Silent Auction 2026

Join us from **Sunday, June 7 through Sunday, June 14** as we come together to support mission work near and far.



Want to Help People Around the World – Even If You Can't Go Yourself?

Not everyone can travel on a mission trip, but **everyone can make a difference**. By donating an item or experience to the Silent Auction, you help send our Youth and Adult teams into the mission field — extending your compassion and generosity to places you may never be able to visit in person. Your gift becomes your *hands and feet* in ministry.

We Welcome a Variety of Donations

Consider offering: Handcrafted or new items ♪ Gift baskets ♪ Pledges of time or talent (gardening, babysitting, small projects) ♪ Antiques or collectibles ♪ Experiences (a boat ride on Canandaigua Lake, a home cooked meal, etc.) ♪ Cottage or vacation rentals



Where Your Support Goes

Funds raised help send teams to serve in meaningful ways, including:

- Youth Group Mission Trips
- Clean water installation teams in Mexico through *Living Waters for the World*
- Health clinics, computer labs, and libraries in Nicaragua with AMOS
- Hurricane recovery and rebuilding efforts in North Carolina

Your generosity helps share Christ's love in practical, life changing ways.

How to Participate

Please **prayerfully consider** how you might contribute. Many hands make this ministry possible, and we are grateful for every donation and every volunteer.

Donation forms and the collection box are available in the Welcome Center

For questions or to offer help, contact: **Nancy Abdallah** at nancycabdallah@gmail.com or 585-749-4313

TREASURER

March Financial summary

During the first quarter of 2026, we have taken in \$138,000 in donations which is \$16,850 above budget but \$9,650 less than in the same period in 2025. Our year-to-date net income is \$7400, which is \$18,000 less than in 2025. We are doing our best to keep expenses down but we expect to end the year with a sizable deficit. Please keep in mind that the renovation work you see being done does not use any of your donations – it comes from a separate fund given specifically for that purpose. Please prayerfully consider increasing your donations to the operating funds so that we can keep providing quality programming for all ages!

Nancy Lamberson, Treasurer

Assistance Fund Offering

On the **first Sunday** of May, **loose offering** will be designated for the **Stewards Assistance Fund**. This fund allows us to care for those in our church family in practical and meaningful ways during times of need. Your generosity helps us quietly extend compassion and support when it is needed most. If you would like to give directly to the Assistance Fund at any time, simply note "Assistance Fund" on your check or envelope.



Sharing your Story (testimony) is an important element of church life engagement. In the last year or so, we have had people share their faith story during Sunday service. This will continue as the Lord leads. Another opportunity for sharing your story is through written testimony, and placing it here in the Lamplighter.

The following story is from our church friend, Bob. He felt led to share his story, particularly how he has grown in his study of the Bible. We have also included photos of his beautiful hand-writing - two note cards dedicated to writing out and sharing his testimony with us. Thank you Bob for your time, attention, and testimony! Bob has also offered to engage more with his Bible study approach for anyone interested in learning more. (Bob, if I incorrectly transcribed anything, I apologize!)



SHARE YOUR STORY

Growing up from an early age, I was most always building things. That is, working with hand and power tools first with lumber then with metals. In my era before community colleges not everyone went to university. In high school I did embrace shop and trade (vocational) courses. I did rather well in this, but did not develop a very learned vocabulary and was (still am) a very poor speller. When in High School, I did not think I would ever be able to go into and graduate from college. After serving in the military, I decided to take the then test to get into a community college in "upstate" (grew up on Long Island) New York. Studying science, I developed a method of reading and studying the textbooks. I underlined important words and sentences. Science words that I did not know, I looked for the definition in the glossary or collegiate dictionary, writing it on the bottom of the page the word appeared on. I also treated learned words I was not aware of in the same way. With the definition in place, I read the paragraph again. Next, I reread what I had slowly underlined, both sentences and important words. I repeated this process before being tested. I dated and initialed the section that I read.

For reading the Bible, with the intent of understanding the Word of God, I adopted the method noted above to the following: not much underlining necessary with the assigned reading verses, as we are given the essential or relevant.

First, read through a small paragraph to see if there are special Bible words or learned vocabulary that is not known. Write the word and definition at the bottom of the page.

Read again the small section with the meaning of the word understood.

Repeat this process for all assigned versus in the chapter.

Now for the third time, reread the whole assigned section at once. Date and initial. If in the future, once again you are assigned to read the section again, write "reread", and date and initial.

Try to reread the assigned verses Sunday morning before the service.

Please know that many common words could have more than one meaning such as spirit. If you read a section with the word spirit in it and do not fully understand it you need to look up all the meanings of spirit to find a definition that fits the concept the author is looking to convey to the reader. Example: John 4:23 "Yet a time is coming and has now come when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks" 5. Strong excitement or feeling or it's cause or enthusiasm. Psalm 32:2 "Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him in whose spirit there is no deceit." spirit 4. mood - state of mind or emotion. spirit 1. life giving force; 2. cap. the presence of God; 3. Gift; 4. mood (above); vivacity or enthusiasm; 6. alcoholic liquor.

Example: John 4:23 "Yet a time is coming and has now come when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks"

spirit 5. Strong excitement or feeling or it's cause or enthusiasm.

Psalm 32:2 "Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him in whose spirit there is no deceit"

spirit 4: mood - state of mind or emotion.

spirit 1: life-giving force;

spirit 2: the presence of God;

spirit 3: ghost;

spirit 4: mood (above);

spirit 5: vivacity or enthusiasm;

spirit 6. alcoholic liquor.

1 of 2

Growing up from an early age I was most always building things. That is, working with hand and power tools first with lumber then with metals. In my era before community colleges not everyone went to university. In high school I did embrace shop and trade (vocational) courses. I did rather well in this, but did not develop a very learned vocabulary and was (still am) a very poor speller. When in High School, I did not think I would ever be able to go into and graduate from college. After serving in the military, I decided to take the then test to get into a community college in "upstate" (grew up on Long Island) New York. Studying science, I developed a method of reading and studying the textbooks. I underlined important words and sentences. Science words that I did not know, I looked for the definition in the glossary or collegiate dictionary, writing it on the bottom of the page the word appeared on. I also treated learned words I was not aware of in the same way. With the definition in place, I read the paragraph again. Next, I reread what I had slowly underlined, both sentences and important words. I repeated this process before being tested. I dated and initialed the section that I read.

(2/22/2024)

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or learned vocabulary that is not known. Write the word and definition at the bottom of the page. Read again the small section with the meaning of the word understood. Repeat this process for all assigned verses in the chapter. Now for the third time reread the whole assigned section at once. Date and initial. If in the future once again you are assigned to read the section again, write "reread", date and initial. Try to reread the assigned verses Sunday morning before the service. Please know that many common words could have more than one meaning such as spirit. If you read a section with the word spirit in it and do not fully understand it you need to look up all the meanings of spirit to find a definition that fits the concept the author is looking to convey to the reader. Example: John 4:23 "Yet a time is coming and has now come when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks" 5. Strong excitement or feeling or it's cause or enthusiasm. Psalm 32:2 "Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him in whose spirit there is no deceit." spirit 4. mood - state of mind or emotion. spirit 1. life giving force; 2. cap. the presence of God; 3. Gift; 4. mood (above); vivacity or enthusiasm; 6. alcoholic liquor.

SABBATICAL



The United Church recognizes the demanding nature of ministry and believes that sabbatical leaves are vital for the long-term health, effectiveness, and spiritual vitality of its ministry leaders. Sabbatical leave provides ministry leadership with an opportunity to step away from their regular duties with the purpose of spiritual and relational renewal, refreshment and rejuvenation, and personal and professional development.

We trust that this opportunity will enhance the personal ministry of the leader and benefit the church by promoting renewed vision, energy and creativity in ministry. Our Sabbatical Policy, was approved by the Official Board this past year and details the qualifications and process for applying for this leave. **Deb Marshall** meets all of the criteria and her sabbatical leave request has been approved by the OB.

She will begin her leave on **May 22** and she will return on **September 4**.

Deb has established a plan during her absence that will support her ongoing duties during her leave. She has identified a team of people that will safeguard these plans so our congregation's families will continue to be supported throughout her leave. Deb's work email will be monitored. Please continue to send communications to Deb's email address and those will be distributed to the appropriate decision makers.

Ministry is a lifestyle and it is very difficult to not live in "ministry mode". The nature of Deb's job merges tasks with social relationships. For these reasons, a successful sabbatical leave requires the ministry leader to completely disconnect from their duties, disengage from conversations and temporarily pause these relationships. Please do not be offended when Deb steps back from not only work duties but also church member contact. Doing so will allow Deb to maintain focus on rest and her other sabbatical goals and not on ministry.

We are grateful for our congregation's support to not only provide sabbatical for our ministry team, but to respect these boundaries to promote the success of our leaders. We truly hope that this time Deb takes away will allow her to return not only rested, but rejuvenated and energized to continue serving our congregation with the love and care she has shown over the last ten years.

Blessings,
The United Church Official Board and Staff Relations Committee

A Quotation from Redeeming Eden by Ingrid Faro

*"Sometimes faith is trusting God when we can't see the way or hear His voice.
Sometimes God leads in obscurity and asks us
to get up and do what we can with what we have.
Sometimes the greatest step of faith is into the unknown,
knowing only that Yahweh's hesed (loyal love)
will never cease to be present for his people."*

Try this breath prayer to help center your heart, mind and faith on God, as you look to Him for guidance:

Breath Prayer: (inhale) *Jesus, my Redeemer,* (exhale) *guide my steps.*

~Christy Allen



Senior Companion Circle: A Shift in Perspective

Our Senior Companion Circle has long been part of how we care for one another at The United Church. But recently, we've found ourselves gently shifting how we think about it.

Rather than focusing on age, we're focusing on **connection**.

For some, staying connected to church life becomes more challenging in lasting ways. Health changes, mobility, caregiving responsibilities, or life transitions can make it harder to remain as involved as before. This ministry exists so that no one quietly drifts to the edges when those changes become part of everyday life.

Each person is paired with a Steward, forming a consistent and meaningful connection to the life of the church, through conversation, encouragement, and presence, as well as, social events.

This continues to be a ministry for those who are part of our church family, reflecting our shared desire to care for one another with intention and grace.

More than anything, this is about making sure no one feels forgotten, and that each person knows they are seen, valued, and still very much a part of our church family.



A Word From One of Our Stewards



Don't you just love our church family!!!

One of the great ways I got to meet and know so many of the lovely members of our church was by accepting a position on the Board of Stewards. The once/month meetings (except in summer) are joyous occasions, with each member happy to be there and share how they are answering Jesus' call to serve each other.

Stewards take turns preparing Communion elements for church services; arranging greeters and offertory collectors; putting a rose in the front of church to share the joy of a new baby or grandbaby; sending greeting cards for special occasions; and - the best part - is we each have one or two senior companions from the church family that we get to know and love and spend fun time with. Each Fall we also have a luncheon for our senior companions where we all get together and have a wonderful time. Stewards is just ONE of the many joyful opportunities we have to strengthen the love and unity of our United Church family. *-written by Gail B.*

We Welcome Lou V. to the Senior Companion Stewards Circle

The Board of Stewards welcomes Lou (Louis) V. to our Senior Companion Circle. He was born January 14, 1937 and married his high school sweetheart, Carolyn, September 19, 1959. They have three adult children, Barbara Lynn (who has gone home to be with our Lord), Keith Louis and Sheryl Lynn. Lou served in the US Army and was employed with the Long Island Lighting Company for 38 years. He and Carolyn have lived in Sayville NY, Wilmington and Winnabow NC before moving to Canandaigua, joining UCC four years ago. We are happy they chose UCC and look forward to getting to know Lou better as a new Senior Companion. *- written by Steward Leslie R.*



A BENEFIT CONCERT FOR CALLED TO CARE, CANANDAIGUA

JOURNEYS

A PROGRAM OF ORIGINAL AND TRADITIONAL SONGS BY
JIM KERR AND WENDY STODDARD

WHEN: SUNDAY, MAY 17, 3:00 PM
WHERE: UNITED CHURCH, 11 GIBSON STREET, CANANDAIGUA

FREE WILL OFFERINGS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

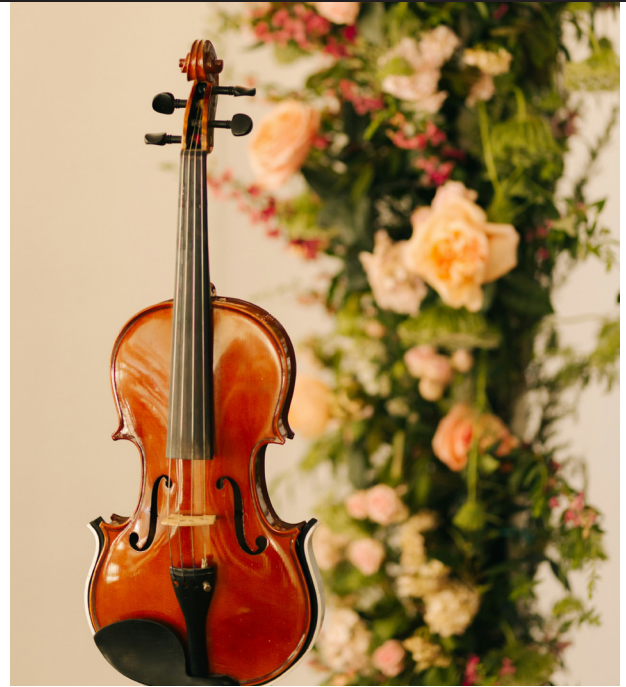
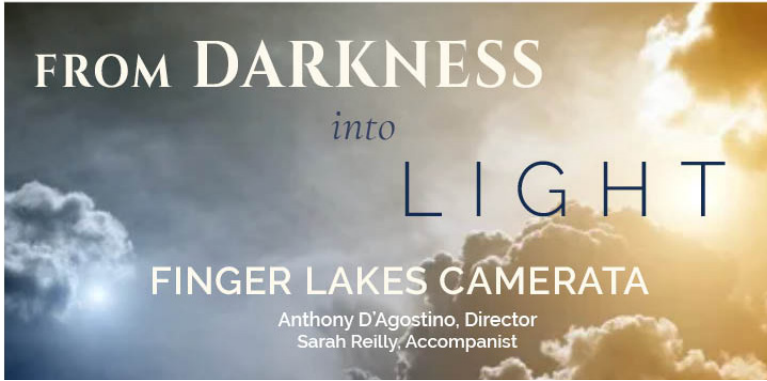


**CALLED TO CARE
CANANDAIGUA**
WELCOMING REFUGEES
& DISPLACED PERSONS

CALLED TO CARE, CANANDAIGUA IS A LOCAL, ALL VOLUNTEER, 501(C)3 ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE WELCOME AND RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES AND OTHER DISPLACED PERSONS.



CONCERT OPPORTUNITIES!
MAY IS MUSICAL AT THE UNITED CHURCH



Saturday, May 2, 2026 at 3:00 pm
United Church of Canandaigua
11 Gibson St.

Please join us for this unforgettable concert. Finger Lakes Camerata performs "Illuminare" by Elaine Hagenberg & "Dark Night of the Soul" by Ola Gjeilo. Additional works by Christopher Tinn.

We hope you will be able to make it! Two opportunities! A free will offering will be taken at Intermission to benefit the Dr. A. John Walker Foundation.

Gillian Vit, violin

Works by:
Arensky
Barber
Mozart
Prokofiev
Saint-Saëns
Wieniawski

Student of
Jeanelle Thompson

Huiping Cai,
Piano

Senior Recital
May 24th, 2026, 7:30PM
The United Church of Canandaigua
11 Gibson St. Canandaigua, NY 14424

FINGER LAKES SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
S. SHADE ZAJAC, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Rhythms of Renewal

SAINT-SAËNS INTRODUCTION AND RONDO CAPRICCIOSO
FEATURING
BENJAMIN SONG, VIOLIN
2026 MARK BRADLEY YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION WINNER

WORLD PREMIER OF "SUMMON THE SPIRIT" BY NANCY STRELAU
COMMISSIONED FOR THE FLSO

OTHER WORKS BY SIBELIUS, VERDI, CHABRIER, FAURÉ

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026
3:00 PM
UNITED CHURCH OF CANANDAIGUA
11 GIBSON STREET

TICKETS:
ADULTS \$15
STUDENTS (WITH VALID ID) \$10
CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER FREE WITH
ACCOMPANYING PAID TICKET

Learn more about the Council on the Arts



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Or Current Resident