



THE Lamplighter

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SUMMER 2026 EVENTS

July 3
Office closed for holiday

July 12
VBS Kickoff, 6:30 pm

July 13-17
Vacation Bible School, 9 am - noon

July 16
RPO at Bristol Mt, 7:30 pm

July 25
Mini Golf, 10 am

July 29
Care Ministries Ice Cream Social, 6:30 pm

August 15
Youth Retreat

August 17-21
Mission Experiences

August 28
Building closed for sewer line work

August 30
Mission Sunday
Red Wings game, 1:00 pm



SUMMER WORSHIP TIME
From Memorial Day through Labor Day Weekend, join us at our summer worship time of 9:30 am. We return to the fall schedule on September 13th.



FROM THE PASTOR

Keep Moving Forward

Summer in Canandaigua is a glorious season. Sunny skies and warmer weather. Sure, Wegmans is a bit more crowded, but the seasonal energy in and around town is palpable. So what do you have planned? Will you spend more time on the lake? Perhaps a hike? Are you preparing for travel to another region? How about time with family and friends? Most of us find energy in such plans.

When it comes to your faith, what are you looking forward to this summer?

As we continue to explore Paul's letter to the church at Philippi, we find Paul in a similar mode of deliberation and anticipation. But he is not making plans for time at the lake. He is in prison. And his

preparation involves caring for the people he loves, the Christians in a church he planted. While his circumstances are not ideal, he approaches the task with joy.

Look at how Paul describes this work, "one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal." In June, we walked with Paul as he grappled with his situation. After much deliberation, Paul was willing to submit himself to hardship and suffering. He was willing to model Jesus as he explained in the Christ Hymn. He then moved to an active pursuit of forgetting the past and leaning into faithful obedience, open-handedness, and gratitude for all that God is doing through his life.

As we live in these summer months, God does not require us to sacrifice fun, family, travel or leisure. But in all of this, is our mindset God-centered? Are we

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Page 8: Spotlight on new Missionaries
Pages 10: So Many Birthdays!

FROM THE PASTOR

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seeking Him? Are we pursuing Jesus in the middle of it all?

So how can we do this? First of all, engage God's Word this summer. I have included the passages below. Read them slowly as you prepare for worship each week. If you are in town this summer, let me encourage you to join the church family for the combined summer service at 9:30 AM each Sunday morning.

And finally, as you enjoy this special season, bring God into your time on the lake, in the woods, with family, or even on your travels. Seek God as the psalmist writes in Psalm 5:3, "In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly." Enjoy this season and keep moving forward in your faith.

Wade

Keep Moving Forward



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

July 05 - The Christ Hymn: Part 2 (Philippians 2:5-11)

Additional Readings: Psalm 97:1-7, Romans 10:9-13

July 12 - Our Work, God's Work (Philippians 2:12-18)

Additional Readings: Deuteronomy 32:1-4, John 15:1-8

July 19 - Living Examples (Philippians 2:19-30)

Additional Readings: Psalm 112:1-9, 2 Timothy 2:1-7

July 26 - Garbage and Glory (Philippians 3:1-11)

Additional Readings: Psalm 73:23-28, Galatians 2:15-21

August 02 - Pressing On (Philippians 3:12-4:1)

Additional Readings: Psalm 84:1-7, Hebrews 12:1-3

August 09 - The Peace That Guards (Philippians 4:1-9)

Additional Readings: Psalm 34:1-8, Matthew 6:25-34

August 16 - The Secret of Contentment (Philippians 4:10-20)

Additional Readings: Psalm 23:1-6, 1 Timothy 6:6-10

August 23 - Where the Gospel Goes (Philippians 4:21-23)

Additional Readings: Psalm 67:1-5, 2 Corinthians 13:11-14

August 30 - Mission Sunday (None)

Additional Readings: Psalm 96:1-9, Isaiah 6:1-8

“I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”
- Philippians 3:14

FAMILY NEWS



Celebrating

We joyfully welcome the birth of **Kayce Howard Hance** on May 26th. He is the son of **Brooke and Dakota Hance**, and the grandson of **Christina and Bruce Hartpence**. Please keep the family in your prayers during this special time.

We also celebrate the birth of **Caleb James Appleton** on June 7th. He is the son of **Jacob and Leah Appleton**. **Gail Benjamin** is his Great-Grandma. Great Aunt and Uncle are **Julie and Dale Zajac**. Please keep the family in your prayers during this special time.

Remembrance

Our prayers and sympathy are with **June Pettit**, for the loss of her sister on June 6th. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Last month, Christy and I traveled to Indianapolis for the 2026 National Gathering of The Fellowship Community (TFC). We came home encouraged, challenged, and convinced that The United Church is well positioned for the days ahead.

This is the first in a series of articles I'll be sharing over the coming months. Together, they'll take us through our theological convictions, an honest look at where our denominations are today, and what the road ahead looks like for The United Church. I hope you'll read along.

Before I tell you about the gathering, let me take you back. Way back. Because to understand where we are, it helps to understand how we got here.

The First Baptist Church of Canandaigua was founded in 1835. First Presbyterian came along in 1870. For decades, these two congregations worshiped separately on the same small-town landscape, each with its own history, tradition, and denominational identity.

Then, on December 13, 1942, the Baptist church building on Main Street was destroyed by fire. The Presbyterians responded by opening their doors. What began as a temporary arrangement slowly became more permanent, and by 1961, the two congregations officially merged. They took on a new name: The United Church.

The founding document that governs us, the Covenant Union, captures the spirit of the church beautifully: "We represent two denominations, but are one people of God, united in love and service, to God and to each other through Jesus Christ."

That was not a small thing to say in 1961. Denominational identity was serious business. People were Baptists, or they were Presbyterians. These labels carried theological weight, cultural meaning, and deep loyalty. To choose to be simply United was a countercultural act of faith.

Over the past six decades, the denominational landscape in America has shifted dramatically, and our own congregation has shifted along with it. Both of our parent denominations have experienced significant decline. The Presbyterian

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Summer Internship

Going from full summer staff at Beaver Camp to a summer intern here at the United Church was probably one of the paths I would have least expected to be led down a few years ago. Even just last Christmas, I still had no idea what my summer would look like. For those who do not know yet, my name is **Summer Cunningham**, and I am serving our church as the **Ministry Immersion Intern** for twelve weeks this summer. That means that rather than simply getting coffee and taking orders, our church leadership has created a unique way for me to get a taste of what ministry is like; from writing curriculum for the youth and helping out at the food pantry to accompanying our staff on visits to nursing homes and more, I am certainly getting that taste of ministry! During my free time, I have several books that I am working through, and spend time each week meeting with Pastor Wade and Christy to talk about my experiences and to enjoy deep theological and vocational discussion.

Ministry is so much more than what it looks like on the outside, and I have learned that, more than anything, flexibility and compassion lie at the heart. These past few years have taken me through a journey full of trials, and I have learned that there is no way through this life except to reach up and hold the hand of God. Matthew 6:25-27 says this: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?" It is quite remarkable that these words were a part of what Jesus chose to preach in His very first sermon. It is more remarkable yet that people wanted to throw Him off the mountain afterwards, yet animosity does always seem to be our reaction when facing rebuke. Instead of fighting back against the challenges that God throws at me, I have found it much more valuable and rewarding to raise my palms heavenward and accept His will as it is. Growth can only happen when we have the faith to step out of the safety of the boat and into the tempest of the waves. The important thing to remember is that God is never afraid to stand with us in those waves, no matter how thunderous they get. As I continue to stretch and grow, surrounded by a faith family that loves and supports me, it has become profoundly clear just how faithful God has been and continues to be through it all.

INTERN'S REPORT





Nursery

Our **nursery** is **open** during **summer worship services**. Please consider **volunteering in the nursery**, as this gives parents of the youngest in our church family time to truly **connect with God**. You can sign up in the Services app or by letting Louise V know you are interested. We need 2 nursery volunteers every Sunday through September 6. We need even more volunteers once we return to two services on September 13, so if summer is too busy, please consider volunteering in the fall. If you have questions about serving in the nursery, please contact Louise V.

Rainforest Falls VBS

Attention VBS volunteers: crew leaders, crew helpers, station leaders, station helpers, and nursery care. Please mark your calendar for our **Rainforest Falls VBS training**. Choose **one** of the following **mandatory** trainings to attend:

July 2 at 2-2:30 pm

July 8 at 7-8:30 pm

VBS Supplies needed for donation or borrowing

We are gathering supplies needed for our **Rain Forest Falls VBS!** Please check out the **leaf tags in the welcome center** and donate/lend if you are able.

Additional odds and ends also needed to borrow: butterfly net, 5 balloon pumps, heart shaped cookie cutters, white Christmas lights, 3" wye joint (T or Y).

Please keep checking this list as more items may be added! Thank you! Supply contact: Cathy Bush.



Planting Hope!

As part of **Rainforest Falls VBS**, our church will participate in **Operation Kid-to-Kid**. This **missions project** gives kids the chance to bring **hope** and **food** to **kids in Central America**. In some Central American villages, children go to bed without enough to eat, and parents struggle to provide healthy meals. Without key nutrients like vitamin C, kids face sickness, weakened immune systems, and even long-term health problems.

trees like oranges, bananas, mangoes, and papayas provide sweet, nutritious food kids love. These trees don't just **feed a family**—they also give parents a way to **earn income** and even **bless their neighbors** by sharing seedlings. Plus, planting trees **protects the land from erosion and flooding!** This helps communities during seasons of heavy rain.

During Rainforest Falls VBS, **kids and adults** will have the opportunity to **donate** to Operation Kid-to-Kid. A **\$9** donation provides a family in Central America with a fruit tree that will keep giving for years to come. Families even receive support in planting and caring for their trees! In just a few years, that little tree can become an orchard, offering food, income, and hope.



Summer Campers

Miracle Mountain Ranch

Jules C - July 5-10, Horse Mania

Beaver Camp

Eva C - July 5-10, Bears

Paige M - July 19-24, Bears

Sophie M - July 19-24, Wilderness Outpost

Elise C - Aug 2-7, Bears

Adele M - Aug 2-7, Bears

Isaiah S - Aug 2-7, Bears

Josiah S - Aug 2-7, Beavers

Aubrey B - Aug 9-14, Teen Camp

Lily M - Aug 9-14, Teen Camp

Amelia C - Aug 9-14, Teen Camp*

Anna Z - Aug 9-14, Teen Camp

LeTourneau Christian Camp

Hagen C - Jun 29-July 3, Sports Camp

Reed C - Jun 29-July 3, Sports Camp

Jamie C - July 6-10, Puddle Jumpers

Alison M - July 6-10, Wave Riders Camp*

Mackenzie M - July 6-10, Arts and Crafts Camp*

Billy C - July 13-17, Pickleball/Basketball Camp

Rowan B - July 20-24, Kingdom Conquest (overnight)

Joy C - July 20-24, Kingdom Conquest (overnight)

Sydney C - July 20-24, Kingdom Conquest (overnight)

Kailynn S - July 20-24, Kingdom Conquest (overnight)

Sam Q - July 27-31, Knights and Riders

David Q - July 27-31, Knights and Riders

Jesse C - Aug 3-7, Wacky Water Camp

Wyatt P - Aug 3-7, Wacky Water Camp

Levi A - Aug 17-21, Battlezone Camp

Lizzie A - Aug 17-21, Battlezone Camp

Asher A - Aug 17-21, Battlezone Camp

Graham B - Aug 17-21, Battlezone Camp

Carter S - Aug 17-21, Battlezone Camp

Camp-in-Daigua

Jed C - July 20-24

Aria H - July 20-24

Ian R - July 20-24

*not receiving a campership



Please keep our **campers** in prayer as they head to Christian camp this summer. **We pray their hearts will be open** to all God has for them while they are at camp. Keep the list below somewhere handy so that you can **pray for our campers all summer long!**



Want to connect with a camper?

We have “**camp notes**” available in the Welcome Center **for every camper**. Inside every specially made card, there is a note describing the camper and a note telling when the camp note needs to be mailed to arrive on time. **If you are interested/willing to write a note to a camper, please pick up a card**. They are addressed and stamped, so all you need to do is write a note and send it at the correct time. Any questions? Please contact Sarah G.

YOUTH



We are excited for summer activities! Youth (and their friends) are invited. If you can assist at all during these events, please let us know. These events also need registration so that we can plan accordingly.

Save the Dates

- **VBS** - July 13-17 (MS and HS students can support!)
- **Kingdom Bound** - July 28
- **Youth Retreat** - August 15
- **Mission Experiences** - August 17-21
- **Sunday School Kick-Off** - September 13

Kingdom Bound

Ray McMillen and Mark Slomski are coordinating a group trip on **Tuesday, July 28**. This is a youth-focused event, but young adults and adults are invited to attend, too. This is a fun day full of theme-park rides and impactful evening devotions/worship.



**KINGDOM
BOUND
MINISTRIES**
THE GOSPEL THROUGH THE ARTS



Youth Retreat

We are planning a full-day retreat at Onanda Park on **Saturday, August 15**. Students and their friends are invited to join us for our summer youth retreat! Enjoy food, fellowship, games, devotions, and more! The devotional theme will be on hearing God's voice in your life. **Please come prepared for the variety of activities and environments we plan to enjoy!**

Summer Mission Experiences

For a third year, we are coordinating meaningful, relational, and local mission experiences for our youth (and supporting adults). This will take place the week after the youth retreat, August 17-21. Exact details are TBD, but you can expect:

- **Relationship building** with Senior Companions
- **Service work** in partnership with a local organization and at the church
- **Donation collections/distributions**
- **Fun Day** (Seabreeze)
- Check out the **adult ministry page** to learn more about adult mission experiences that same week!



Summer Internship Collaboration

Per her action plan, Summer C. has been supporting and participating in a variety of ministry activities alongside me. Looking forward, she will be reading a book along with me titled "Sacred Rhythms: Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation (Transforming Resources)", which was recommended by Pastor Wally Fleming. She will also be involved in planning/attending our youth retreat, planning the youth missions week, and producing program-year Bible studies on Revelation. (see her article on page 3)

Fall Program

When we return in the Fall, we are starting with a **study on Revelation** for Youth Club (MS'ers) and The Cause (HS'ers) using a **head-heart-hands** Bible study approach. In particular, we are looking to integrate **faith formation practices with classic Bible Study** to foster a holistic growing experience.

Summer Coffee & Conversation Small Groups

We continue with our weekly small groups after Sunday service during the summer. It has started with good attendance, with May 31 including 8 people in the adult group (Fellowship Room) and 6 young adults (who walk to town for coffee and back). We pray, if the Lord wills, that this will foster additional discipleship opportunities during the summer season, when our main programs are not in session. These groups discuss the sermon series and life in general.



ADULT & YOUNG ADULT

25-35-Somethings Small Group

This group continues to meet on Wednesdays at 4:30, through the summer. We thank God that this unlikely group meets at such an unlikely time and is growing closer together. We continue to engage in topical discussions, as well as share our testimonies.

Summer Mission Experiences

This year, we are looking to expand our mission experiences week (check out the youth page!) into a church-wide effort, including young adults and adults. Planning is underway, with representatives from the Trustees, Missions, SRC, Care Ministry, and Youth Ministry, among others. If you are interested in supporting the planning process, please reach out to Pastor Mark. You can expect sign-ups and registration pages to be published as the week approaches (August 17-21).

Fall Program - Sunday Morning Small Groups

When we return in the Fall, we will be starting our young adult and adult Sunday morning small groups with a guest speaker: Wally Fleming (September 20). The following week, all of our small groups will follow along with the sermon series until the Advent season. We will have a young adult group (they will walk out to coffee and back while discussing the sermon passage), a parenting group (Fellowship Room), and two all-adult small groups (one upstairs, one downstairs). There will also be a Faith Foundations small group that Pastor Wade will be facilitating during the same time (all adults will be invited!)



Adult Retreat

Pastor Wally will also be facilitating this year's adult retreat on October 24 at Onanda Park! More details to come!

Adult Ministry Bible Studies

As always, we have a men's group that meets every Wednesday at 7 am at the church for breakfast, fellowship, Bible study, and prayer. We also have a group of women that meets every Thursday at 1 pm at the church (also a Bible study). The church calendar provides additional information for open events in the church.

Save-The-Dates

- **Mission Experiences** - August 17-21
- **Adult Sunday School Kick-Off (with Wally Fleming)** - September 20
- **Adult Retreat (With Wally Fleming at Onanda Park)** - October 24



MISSIONS



Foodlink “Pop-Up Food Pantry”

will appreciate volunteers for the summer food distributions on **Monday July 20th** and **Monday, August 3rd from 9:00-11:00am** at the Town of Canandaigua Highway Barn, 5440 Route 5&20. This worthy community activity helps food insecure individuals and families supplement their food budgets and gives our United Church members an opportunity to partner with Ontario Cares. Please wear closed-toe shoes and speak with Linda Werts if you will be volunteering for the first time.

Back to School Angel Tree

For 3 Sundays **beginning August 2**, school supply tags will be up on the Welcome Center trees. We invite you to please **choose a tag and return the items with the tag attached to church by Sunday, August 23**. Supplies are needed by this date so we can sort and get these to the families before Labor Day. Last year we were able to help 8 students in our community with this boost. **Thanks in advance for your generosity!** Questions? See Cathy Bush. **If your children need school supply assistance, please let us know!**

Mexico 2027

Planning is well under way for the short term mission experience of renewing relationships with our faith partners in Bacalar, Cedralito, Limones, and Tabi in Quintana Roo, Mexico, engaging in projects and activities in partner communities, and enjoying a bit of tourism. If you are ready to join the team or even just curious about the trip please speak with Linda Werts and join our monthly conversations.

“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!” Psalm 133:1

Spotlight on Missionaries - Meredith and Matt Snell

The Snells host a home-centered, hospitality ministry to **soldiers and families stationed at Ft. Drum, NY**. They host weekly potlucks and Bible studies, as well as various community-building activities centering on sharing the gospel and their lives with the military. They strive to come alongside young families far from home. They seek to foster relationships with single soldiers in the barracks, sharing the gospel and discipling young believers. They nurture relationships within the community so that folks have a network of support when they are going through challenges such as deployments and moves. The summer months bring their own challenges as it is common for people to move on to their next assignments during this season. Please pray for our military service members as they transition to their next place of duty—moving is so stressful! Please pray for the Snells as they send out people and keep their hearts and arms open to welcome new folks in!



Announcing Jennifer Petracchi as Assistant Program Director at Beaver Camp

Beaver Camp is delighted to announce Jennifer will serve as assistant program director this upcoming summer. **The Character of God** is the summer theme based upon Exodus 34:6 and 7.

“And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, 7 maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”

Jennifer’s heart for ministry and her steady, Christ-centered leadership feel especially fitting. A former member of The Cause, during college she has served in several camp roles contributing to program development and camper engagement. Jen says “My favorite camp tradition is cabin time because I like being able to grow the cabin community while altering the activities to their interests.” **Grace Payne** is also returning to Beaver Camp to the kitchen staff skillfully preparing three tasty and nourishing meals each day! Let us pray for Jennifer and Grace plus all staff as they prepare for a season of ministry. Pray that God will fill them with wisdom, energy, and joy as they build on the truth of God’s steadfast love.



Mission Dollars at Work – A Mid Year Update on Your Impact

Every gift given to Missions at The United Church is already at work — feeding, sheltering, healing, teaching, and lifting up God’s people. As we reach the midpoint of the year, we want to celebrate the **real impact** your generosity is making **locally, nationally, and around the world**. Your giving is not theoretical. It is **moving, helping, and changing lives**.

Here is a look at what your mission dollars have accomplished so far:

Mission Budget Mid-Year Summary

Category	Budget	Spent	% Spent
Total Local	48,760.16	21,399.50	43.9%
Total Regional/National	22,200.00	12,000.00	54.1%
Total International	34,500.00	27,400.00	79.4%
Special Interest	5,436.04	1,370.00	25.2%
Totals	110,896.20	62,169.50	56.1%

Spotlight on LOCAL IMPACT – Caring for Our Neighbors in Ontario County

Your giving has strengthened ministries right here in our community: \$21,399.50

Food, Meals & Basic Hospitality-These ministries ensure that no neighbor goes hungry by offering warm meals, safe spaces, and compassionate hospitality to anyone in need.

- › Gleaners Community Kitchen
- › Cameron Community Ministries

Housing, Shelter & Emergency Support-These partners provide shelter, crisis assistance, and pathways to stability for individuals and families facing homelessness, unsafe housing, or sudden emergencies.

- › Salvation Army Emergency Relief & Phoenix Program
- › Family Promise of Ontario County
- › Habitat for Humanity (Greater Rochester)

Financial Assistance & Crisis Relief-This fund offers direct, immediate help to individuals experiencing unexpected hardship, providing short term support that can prevent deeper crisis.

- › Neighbor to Neighbor Fund

Family, Pregnancy & Life Support Services-This ministry walks alongside individuals and families during pregnancy and parenting challenges, offering compassionate care, counseling, and practical resources.

- › CareNet of Canandaigua

Faith Formation, Leadership & Spiritual Growth-These ministries strengthen the spiritual life of the church by supporting leadership development, mission initiatives, and opportunities for children, youth, and adults to grow in faith.

- › Per Capita
- › Presbyterian Mission
- › Camperships
- › LeTourneau Christian Center

These ministries remind us that mission begins at home — and your dollars are making sure no one in our community is left **behind**.

A Word of Gratitude Every dollar you give becomes a blessing in someone’s life. Thank you for being a generous church. Thank you for believing in mission. And thank you for helping us shine Christ’s light — here at home, across our nation, and around the world.



Celebrating Dorothy S.

Senior Companion Dorothy S. is celebrating her **92nd birthday on June 29th!** She is looking forward to celebrating her big day with her family and enjoying a piece of Carrot Cake. As a young woman Dorothy had always wanted to help people, so she started nursing studies at Rochester General. She decided she didn't like the city life and having grown up on a farm, moved back to this area to marry her sweetheart, James. Their farm was in Seneca Castle, where they raised five sons. As their sons were growing up, Dorothy says "Saturday was for cleaning and Sunday was for church". Dorothy was active with The United Church Sunday School, VBS, Youth Group and the Nursery, just to name a few. She has 14 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. After a fall, Dorothy moved to The Living Center at Geneva. While she was not happy about this move in the beginning, she now realizes this was the best thing for her and has settled in with visiting with other residents and enjoys all the daily activities, including attending the church service on Sunday. She especially loves visits and phone calls from her family and friends. Dorothy loves bird watching out her window and doing word searches. You will always find a word search book tucked on her lap when you go to visit and her face lights up when she receives a new one. It is a joy to visit with Dorothy and we wish her a very blessed day. Keep moving towards the big 100, Dorothy!

-written by Steward Leslie R

Celebrating Doris G.

Our dear friend, Doris G., will be celebrating her **87th birthday on July 9th.** Doris always has a smile on her face. When she and her husband Jim joined our church years ago, they both donated their time working with the children in our Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. Jim was a great singer, and often sang with quartets and in church. They were also quite involved in Gideons International. These days Doris keeps busy being Chairwoman of our Circle 7 group, participating in the Prayer Shawl knitting group, attending the Thursday afternoon Bible Study and delivering Meals on Wheels at the apartment building where she lives. Happy birthday, Doris.

-written by Steward Gail B.

Celebrating Helen S.

Our sweet friend, Helen S., will be celebrating a birthday - her **94th on July 16th.** Helen and her husband Don met when she was in the 7th grade, wed when she was 18 years old, and were married for 54 years! They joined our church in 1985. Helen enjoyed working with the children in Sunday School. She loves to sew and, over the years, has created several costumes for the children's performances. Her "coat of many colors" is still in use today! Helen is a member of the ladies' knitting group making Prayer Shawls, and she also attends the Thursday afternoon Bible Study. You will often see Helen in church on Sunday with her daughter, Diane. Happy birthday, Helen.

- written by Steward Gail B.

Celebrating Larry H.

We wish Larry H. a most blessed and happy **96th birthday** which he is celebrating on **July 31.** Larry is a resident of Clark Meadow and enjoys living in his community. He also enjoys sharing memories of his many life experiences including serving in the U.S. Marine Corps presidential guard for Harry Truman, a long career as a design engineer with Eastman Kodak where he earned a patent on a medical device, and cherished memories of his children and late wife, Marge. Please wish Larry a happy birthday when you see him.

-written by his Steward, Dan F.

Celebrating Sandra C.

Sandy C. will celebrate her **90th birthday on August 29th.** Although she is unable to attend church due to health issues much of her time is spent reading and studying the Bible along with her devotionals. Sandy spent most of her life in the Palmyra area where she and her husband were involved with the youth group in their church. Sandy has always been an outdoors person and has many fond memories of skiing trips with her husband and children. She loves fruits of all sorts. Her grandparents had a farm in Sodus and she spent many happy summers there picking raspberries, blueberries, and cherries. We wish her a wonderful birthday month filled with fun, blessings, laughter and surprises.

-written by Steward Sharyn C.



A Summer Card Connection for Senior Companions

Summer often brings a change in the regular rhythm of church life. Many groups take a break from meeting during the week, which can mean fewer opportunities for connection for some of our Senior Companions. This makes it especially important to find other ways to stay in touch with those in our church family who may find it harder to attend worship services or church activities regularly.

Beginning in July, **cards and a list of names and addresses** for our Senior Companions will be available in the Welcome Center for anyone who would like to participate. Simply choose a name, write a short note of encouragement or a friendly hello, and help brighten someone's day. Cards, names, and addresses will be provided.

This simple ministry is one more way we can remind those navigating health concerns, mobility challenges, or other life changes that they are remembered, cared for, and still very much a part of our church family.



Thank You, Meal Train Team - Wow!

Over the past few months, our Meal Train Team has been **especially busy**, and we simply want to say thank you! Thank you for saying "yes" so often. Thank you for the extra trips to the grocery store, the recipes you prepared, and the time you gave. Your acts of kindness may seem simple, but they have brought comfort and encouragement to many. We are deeply grateful for the care you have shown.

Care Ministry Ice Cream Social

Wednesday, July 29 • 6:30 p.m.

Welcome Center

You're invited to our **Second Annual Care Ministry Ice Cream Social!**

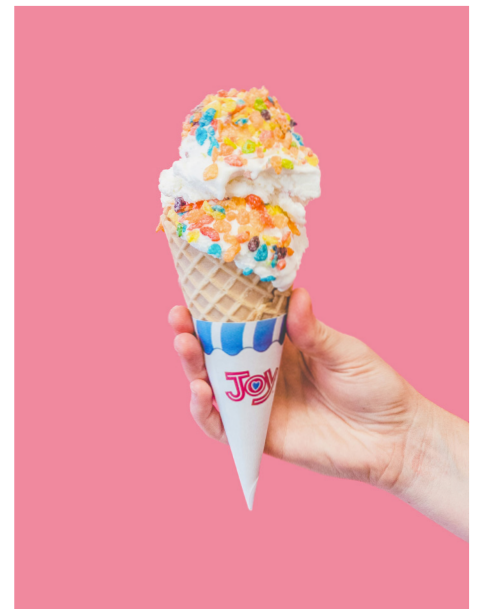
If you serve on a Care Ministry team, we'd love to spend an evening with you. Come enjoy ice cream, connect with friends, and get to know others who share a heart for caring for our church family.

This fun evening is open to everyone serving on the:

- Stewards
- Care Ministers
- Visitation Team
- Meal Train Team
- Transportation Team
- Support Team
- Hospitality Team
- Card Ministry
- Prayer Shawl Ministry

Whether you're a familiar face or serving for the first time, we hope you'll join us. We look forward to celebrating another year of caring together!

Ice cream, fellowship, and plenty of sweet connections. We hope to see you there!





Who Will Bring Hope?

As I listened to a presentation at the Church Mental Health Summit by Nate Gustafson, one thought kept returning to my mind:

What does it take so that no one lives or dies without hope?

We live in a culture that often celebrates youth, independence, and productivity. Yet there is a growing population of older adults who are quietly facing health challenges, loss, loneliness, and uncertainty. Some have financial resources, while others struggle to make ends meet. But many share something in common: they feel forgotten. Nate described it

this way: people can be full of life, yet living without hope. Whether someone is facing a serious illness, adjusting to life in a care facility, grieving the loss of a spouse, or simply feeling isolated, one thing remains true: every person longs to be known, loved, and valued.

The presentation challenged listeners to become **“Agents of Hope”**: ordinary people willing to step out of their comfort zones and bring God’s love to those who are hurting. Hope doesn’t always come through grand gestures. More often, it arrives through simple acts of care: a visit, a phone call, a listening ear, a handwritten card, a ride to an appointment, delivering groceries, mowing a lawn, sharing a meal, stopping by for a chat, offering a prayer, or simply sitting beside someone and reminding them they are not alone.

One of the key themes was this: **Listen. Learn. Love.**

Listen to a person’s story. Learn what matters to them. Love them where they are. Sometimes people can no longer easily share their stories because of illness, memory loss, or physical limitations. Yet they still need someone who will slow down, notice them, and affirm their value. They need someone willing to say, “I see you. I hear you. I’m here with you.”

The speaker described three common enemies of hope: darkness, despair, and death. In the face of darkness, we offer care. In the face of despair, we offer connection. **In the face of death, not just physical death, but the kind of deep despair that causes a person to give up hope before their final breath, we offer compassionate community. This is where an entire battalion of caring people is needed to surround someone with love, presence, and hope.**

As followers of Christ, we are uniquely called to bring His light, comfort, and presence into these difficult places. Without care and connection, people can begin to feel unknown, unloved, untouched, afraid, alone, and abandoned. But through simple acts of kindness and faithful presence, we can help people feel known, loved, valued, and remembered.

Imagine what could happen if each of us accepted the call to become an Agent of Hope. What if no one in our church family had to face illness, grief, aging, or loneliness alone? What if every person knew they were cared for, connected, and deeply loved?

The good news is that bringing hope doesn’t require special training or extraordinary gifts. It simply requires a willing heart and a willingness to show up.

So let us answer the call: **Show up. Listen. Learn. Love.**

A caring visit. A phone call. A meal. A prayer. A warm embrace. An act of just showing up. These may seem small to us, but they can become lifelines of hope for someone who is struggling.

As Paul writes in Romans 15:13:

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

May we be people who overflow with hope, and share that hope generously with others.



RPO Outdoors at Bristol Mountain

Thursday, July 16 at 7:30 pm
 (rain date July 19)

Pre-concert family fun from 5:30 – 7:15, featuring fun for-all-ages activities (including RPO’s Musical Instrument Petting Zoo) and food trucks. Bring your own lawn chair or blanket – seating is not provided.

Tickets are \$10 per adult (kids under 18 free) and will be on sale from June 21 – July 5. **Watch your bulletin for a link to register and purchase tickets.**

Mini Golf at Roseland Water Park

Saturday, July 25 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Join us for mini golf fun for all ages, followed by Seneca Farms ice cream. Tickets are \$10 per person (\$30 maximum per family) and will be on sale from July 5 - 19.

Watch your bulletin for a link to register and purchase tickets.



Red Wings Baseball Game at ESL Ballpark

Sunday, August 30 – Game Time 1:05 pm, but come at least ½ hour early so you don’t miss the National Anthem sung by our very own Youth Choir!

Tickets are \$11 per person and will be on sale from August 2 - 16.

Watch your bulletin for a link to purchase tickets.

For more information on these events, or for assistance purchasing tickets, contact Mary Beth Fortunato at 585-451-1758 or mbweber@hotmail.com.

Stampin’ Up

August 15th 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



Caregiver Coffee Klatch

The Caregiver Coffee Klatch meets **every 1st and 3rd Monday from 10:30-11:30** in the fellowship room. This group is open to any caregiver from our church family or the community. Anyone may join us at any time. Flyers are available in the Gathering Area. Feel free to share a flyer with anyone you know who might find a time of rest, gentle conversation, and laughter a source of encouragement. Questions: Contact Kory at korymassey3@gmail.com

Church (U.S.A.) counted over 4 million members at its peak in the mid-1960s. Today that number is just above 1 million and is still falling. The American Baptist Churches USA has declined by more than 20% since 2000. These are not unique dynamics. Virtually every mainline denomination in America is declining.



What's behind the numbers? It is more than people simply losing interest in faith. The culture that once supported strong denominational identity has quietly shifted. And in turn, these organizations have responded. Denominational publishers that once supplied Sunday school curriculum have closed or been absorbed. Mission programs that once sent hundreds of supported co-workers overseas have been dramatically scaled back, and the PC(USA) recently laid off nearly its entire missionary workforce. Regional structures that once actively resourced local congregations have grown thinner. The denominations we joined in 1961 are not the same institutions they were then.

One of the most telling signs of this shift can be found in our own membership rolls. When we look at how our members affiliate, a growing majority now identify simply as United. They are neither Presbyterian nor Baptist, but members of The United Church. The name our founders chose has become, in a very real sense, who we are.

Families move to Canandaigua and find their way to us from outside our denominational traditions. People come to faith here without a prior church background. Children grow up in the congregation and many join as adults without a strong pull toward either the Presbyterian or Baptist identity. This reflects something happening across the country. People are increasingly choosing churches based on community, worship, and mission rather than denominational name. Our founders were ahead of their time.

Back to Indianapolis.

The Fellowship Community (TFC) is a network of Gospel-centered congregations within the PC(USA). Its purpose is not to replace the denomination, but to provide a place of support for churches within our denomination. Churches within this community come together to encourage one another, think together about mission, and pray.

The conversations felt honest and grounded. There was a deep commitment to doing the work of Jesus in the way of Jesus, and a genuine joy in doing it together.

One of the passages I found myself reading during those days in Indianapolis was 1 Peter 2:9: "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." That is the church. Not an institution, not a brand, but a people called by God, belonging to God, and sent by God.

This is the posture The United Church has always held, even if we haven't always named it that way.

Our relationship with the PC(USA) and the ABCUSA has never been primarily about institutional allegiance. It has been about connection to something larger than ourselves: a shared theological heritage, accountability to the broader Body of Christ, and access to resources and relationships beyond our small city. TFC helps us hold that connection while staying true to who we are. To be clear: none of this is an indication that we are planning to leave either denomination. We remain committed members of both, and we value what that connection means for our life together.

At the same time, we are increasingly a congregation that defines itself by the Gospel rather than by denominational affiliation. This is not a failure of loyalty. It is, perhaps, a fulfillment of what our founders were reaching for when they chose to be United rather than simply Baptist or Presbyterian.

I came home from Indianapolis thinking about what it means to be a church in this day and time. We take our theological roots seriously. We are genuinely connected to the wider Body of Christ through TFC and both of our denominations. And we are, at the same time, increasingly our own thing: a congregation formed by its community, its history, and its shared commitment to following Jesus.

That is a complicated identity. But it is an honest one. And it is worth celebrating.

I'm grateful to have been in Indianapolis among this community. And I am grateful to come home to you to serve alongside you in the work of the Kingdom of God.



Dear Church Family,

We are filled with gratitude and blessings for all your prayers for healing and cards of encouragement sent during my time of recovery from surgery. Delicious food arrived in abundance. Our church family is a daily blessing of care and commitment.

Love and thanks,
Rachel

Ladies Conference 2026

Nancy Burt-Preece was able to attend a conference with Francie Taylor a few years back. She is a wonderful speaker who loves the Lord and shares many Bible verses and encouragement. Nancy is hoping that we could get a group of United Church women to attend. We could easily carpool for both days. If you have any questions, please reach out to Nancy Burt-Preece.

The Ladies Conference is on **Friday (6:00pm) & Saturday (9:00am-3:00pm), August 21-22nd**. The theme will be **“Study To Be Quiet”, and the featured speaker will be Francie Taylor.**

There will be a continental breakfast at 9:00am on Saturday followed by a box lunch at noon. Ages 12 and up. There will not be a nursery.

Cost is \$30 per person, \$40/per person if registered after August 1st (includes boxed lunch, gift bag, etc...) Please register and pay online

To register:

<https://lbbc.info/ladies-conference-2026>

Ladies Conference
Study to be Quiet
1 Thessalonians 4:11
“And that ye study to be quiet...”
AUGUST 21-22
6 PM | 9AM - 3 PM
Guest Speaker
Francie Taylor



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CANANDAIGUA

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Presbyterian-American Baptist
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Or Current Resident