

THE Lamplighter

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FALL TRANSITION

September 6th is our final summer 9:30 am worship service. Since we didn't have an Onanda Park service this year, join us for a more **relaxed** Labor Day Weekend service (with Communion) before we return to our normal fall schedule (8:45 and 11 am services) on the 13th.



SEPTEMBER 2026 EVENTS

Sept 1

Stewards, 6:30 pm

Sept 6

Final summer service at 9:30 am

Sept 7

Office closed for holiday

Sept 13

Return to 2 services at 8:45 & 11 am
Sunday School Kickoff Breakfast, 9:45

Sept 14

Trustees, 7:00 pm

Sept 21

Official Board, 7:00 pm



FROM THE PASTOR

Give Careful Thought *to Your Ways*

September is a pivot month for most of us. Summer is coming to a close and fall schedules are kicking off. School is back in session, and we move back to two services at The United Church. Most of us enjoy summer calendars with fewer obligations, but

when September rolls around, our planners quickly begin to fill. We begin to consider our commitments. What events and commitments deserve to be a priority for us? In short, what are we going to allow to fill our calendar in this busy season?

The first Sunday in September is a special one for us. It's Labor Day weekend, and we will gather in one service at 9:30 a.m. We are planning a more casual service with communion. It will include guitar music, a skit, and a sermon that introduces us to the fall series.

We're stepping into a new series on the last three books of the Old Testament. The title of the series is "The Last Prophets." We will walk together through Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. This series will take us through the season of Advent. The context of this series is fascinating. The people of God have returned from exile and are putting their city back in order. As you might imagine, it takes time to rebuild. And it is crucial to plan and strategize. In this sense, this series naturally highlights the fall season change.

Haggai uses a phrase four times in his short book (1:5, 1:7, 2:15, 2:18). He tells the people, "give careful thought to your ways." In our busy and hurried world we rarely do this. We are often going non-stop from the time we get up to the time we lay our heads on the pillow at night. It is not that we are negligent. We are just too busy to take time to pause and reflect. In ancient Israel during

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FROM THE PASTOR

Give Careful Thought to Your Ways

lay in ruins. God gives them just short of twenty years and then addresses them through the prophet Haggai. Zechariah comes along just a few months later. Malachi

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this season of rebuilding, the people had focused their energy on their own houses. But they had not yet taken the time to rebuild the temple. It still

comes one to two generations later. And then there is silence for 400 years. The Old Testament closes with this group of people resettled in the land. Silence until Jesus comes on the scene.

The challenge for the people of God is to consider their priorities. They'd been moving along, not really intentional. God is calling them to consider, to plan, to invest their time and energy in places that honor Him. As we step into this fall season, I'm eager to walk through these books with you. I hope you'll be a part of this study by reading the passages ahead of time and showing up on Sunday mornings to engage these important texts together.

Wade



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

September 06 - Preparing for the Fall (Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi)

Additional Readings: Psalm 126:1-6, Hebrews 1:1-2

September 13 - Priorities (Haggai 1:1-15)

Additional Readings: Psalm 127:1-2, Matthew 6:19-21, 33

September 20 - From This Day On (Haggai 2:1-23)

Additional Readings: Psalm 46:1-7, Matthew 8:1-4

September 27 - Return to Me (Zechariah 1:1-21)

Additional Readings: Psalm 130, James 4:8

*“Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain.
Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand
guard in vain.”*

- Psalm 127:1

FAMILY NEWS



Celebrating

We celebrate the birth of Henry Benjamin Boseck on June 30th. He is the son of **Ben and Emily Boseck** and grandson of **Becky and Jim Boseck**. Please keep the family in your prayers during this special time.

We celebrate the birth of **Eleanor Lane Van Iseghem**, on July 21st. She is the daughter of **Curtis and Sarah Van Iseghem** and granddaughter of **Louise and Kerry Van Iseghem**. The family lives in Wake Forest, NC. Please keep them in your prayers during this special time.

Remembrance

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Claire Sheppard**, whose mother, **Dorine Jelensperger**, passed away on August 11th. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Some of you will remember **Paul Maffin** (son of **Dorothy**), from years ago. His wife Margaret contacted us to let us know that Paul passed on July 31. Please keep his family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Throughout the summer months our Trustees, Decorating Team, staff and volunteers have worked diligently on the education floor improvements while also coordinating and contributing to the kitchen renovations. At the time of writing this update, the work in these areas has commenced but not all of the projects are completed yet. Below you will be reminded of the renovation plans. The improvements that were completed by mid-August, are noted.

Kitchen Improvements

The renovations began at the end of May with removal of equipment and supplies. The epoxy floors have been installed in the hallway and kitchen providing improved safety and cleanliness and they look beautiful! This work set the stage for the next steps to begin. We can look forward to shelving, preparation surfaces and storage that will enhance the accessibility, efficiency, functionality and organization of our kitchen. While we are able to retain our freezers, refrigerators and range hood (with required parts), we will also enjoy the benefits from the more efficient and reliable new appliances that will be installed. Our large sinks will have new faucets and the hand washing sink will be updated. Our familiar and dependable stainless steel shelving and retained surfaces will be cleaned and polished and our butcher block surface will also be cleaned and prepared for continued use. The kitchen will benefit from the installation of a suspended ceiling system, and finally, our walls will be brightened with a coat of paint.

Education Floor Improvements:

The fresh paint and hallway flooring, along with the new lighting, ceiling tiles and blinds has brought a bright and refreshed feeling to these spaces for welcoming back our children and youth this Fall. The “face lift” work for the bathrooms, has begun with the necessary preparation for the space reconfiguration and installation of the new countertops and toilets.

The choir room boasts fresh paint and new ceiling tiles, lighting and flooring. The unused bathroom has been transformed to a greatly needed storage space.

As we get closer to the completion of these renovation and improvement goals, we are reminded of the love and generosity of the Boyce Family and the wisdom and commitment of the Boyce Memorial Gift Discernment Team. We recognize the perseverance and dedication of our Trustees, staff and congregation members who have contributed to the careful planning and hard work necessary to accomplish our goals. We have been encouraged by your prayers and patience as our Trustees, volunteers and staff have navigated these renovations. For all of these things, we thank our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, whose grace has sustained us, and we look forward with joyful anticipation to serving Him together, in our newly renewed space.



Finance Corner

Financial report through July 31st

- Total expenses match the budget, but **total income is down 5.77% from 2025 and 8.02% from budget.**
- During the first seven months of the year, donations were \$12,810.35 less than budgeted and \$15,882.86 less than the same period in 2025.
- Net income for the first seven months was \$23,952.41 less than budgeted and \$31,004.41 less than the same period in 2025.

This report is just on the operating funds. All the renovations taking place are paid from the Boyce Memorial Fund which is not available to pay our general operating costs. Operating funds pay the church staff, the building insurance, heat, electricity, and all the supplies needed to create the programs that are so important to so many of us. **Please prayerfully consider increasing your donations to the operating fund.**

When I arrived at The United Church in 2021, one of the first things I had to figure out was what it actually meant to be both Baptist and Presbyterian.

This is not a simple question.

Baptists have long held that no creed should be imposed on a local congregation. “No creed but the Bible” is how the old saying goes. The local church, gathered under Scripture, works out its own convictions. No denomination hands you a theological checklist and requires you to sign it. This is a deeply held conviction about the freedom of conscience before God.

Presbyterians have a different perspective. Confession is in their DNA. The Apostles’ Creed. The Nicene Creed. The Westminster Confession of Faith. These documents are the church’s collected memory, centuries of believers confessing together: this is what we have found the Bible to teach. For Presbyterians, confessions are not a substitute for Scripture. They are the church’s way of passing Scripture to the next generation.

So which are we?

Both.

When I came here, I had to shepherd people from both traditions. Some in our congregation have a deep Baptist instinct. They want to hold their convictions freely, accountable to Scripture and not to a denomination. Others carry the Presbyterian instinct. They want to know where the church stands, anchored to something tested and trusted over time.

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INTERN’S REPORT



Summer Internship

When I agreed to take on this position for the summer as the Ministry Immersion Intern, I truly had no idea what I was agreeing to, nor what awaited me. I could never have guessed the things I would learn, nor the connections I would make with our staff and church family alike. Looking back now, I can clearly see that there was no way anyone could have given me a justified answer as to what this job entailed, simply because there is no one accurate description of ministry. What I did not understand going into this was that the question was never “what is ministry?” but rather “what isn’t ministry?” See, the reason nobody can ever truly define

all that ministry is, is simply because ministry is so all encompassing that

there is no way to identify or put this term into a small box. No matter who you are, what you do, or what type of person you are, everyone has the unique, God given gift to be a part of ministry. What I mean is that you all have spiritual gifts. Looking around in our church family, some gifts may seem more profound, but only because they are more obvious. This does not mean that any gift is more important than another, or that any gift has less significance; just that God knows each and every one of us so intricately that He gave each of us a way to individually make a difference in the world. Where some may be social butterflies and be able to openly and boldly proclaim the gospel, others may be good at going about this in a more subtle way that has an entirely different audience. In this way, every person can be touched by the Holy Spirit, and each person has a way to shine the light of Jesus. And maybe for some, you find yourself suddenly feeling capable of more than you were willing to admit. As I wrap up another chapter in my life, I want to encourage you all to take a leap of faith with me, and in doing so, try to identify one spiritual gift you feel God has given you. Pray about this, and trust that God will use you in ways you can never imagine. John 15:5 says this, “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing”. Open your heart to the possibilities that lie in front of you, and go into the world, wielding the fruits of the Spirit and knowing that you can make a difference.

Lastly, I would like to offer my gratitude for the immense support I have received throughout the internship this summer from everyone in our congregation. This has been an incredible experience that could not have been nearly as impactful without the participation of the committees, groups, members, staff, and personal notes of encouragement from individuals who made me feel more than welcomed and loved. I am truly grateful to all of you, and will miss being a part of such a wonderful church family in my time away. I look forward to seeing the many ways that the Lord will work through our church moving forward.

~Summer Cunningham

Both instincts are right. The work has been learning how to live into both of these traditions at the same time.

So why this article? Why does this matter so much at this time and place?

Because we live in a noisy world. There are voices telling people what Christianity is, what it should let go of, and what it needs to become. Some of those voices are inside the church. The volume is high and the confusion is real. In this environment, knowing what you believe and why is not a luxury. It is essential.

This is one of the reasons our connection to The Fellowship Community has been so meaningful. TFC is a network of Gospel-centered churches within the PC(USA) that has done careful theological work to articulate what holds us together. Their Essential Tenets document (available at the link <https://bit.ly/tfc-beliefs> or QR code) is not a new creed handed down from above. It is an expression of what Scripture teaches, rooted in the Reformed tradition, and freely embraced by churches like ours. For a congregation that draws from two traditions, it helps us know what we believe.

So what do we believe?

Our own Statement of Belief puts it clearly. We believe that God lives in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is not a distant force. He is a communion of persons, and we are invited into that communion.

We believe that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully human. He died for our sins, rose from the dead, ascended to the Father, and will come again. As TFC's Essential Tenets put it, the one "born of Mary, died at Calvary, and walked with disciples to Emmaus is the same Jesus Christ who is now ascended and who will one day return." Jesus is not a figure from history we admire. He is the living Lord we follow.



We believe that Scripture is the unique and authoritative Word of God. The Bible is not one resource among many. It is the place where God speaks, and the standard by which everything else is measured.

We believe that humanity, though capable of good, is sinful. We need rescue. And that rescue comes only through personal faith in Jesus Christ. This is why the Gospel is such good news.

In 1 Peter 2:9, which I mentioned in the first article of this series, the Apostle Peter calls the church "a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession." We believe that. The church is a community of believers, empowered by the Holy Spirit to spread the Good News.

We need to know what we believe. Not so we can win arguments. But so we can hold these convictions freely, as our own. So we can stand firm, speak clearly, and pass the faith on to the next generation.

The Fellowship Community helps us do that. In the months ahead I will share more about what TFC is and why our connection to them matters. But for now, it is enough to state: we know what we believe. Churches across the country are holding these same convictions. We are not alone.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Wade".

This article is part of an ongoing series on The United Church and our denominational connections, including The Fellowship Community. Past installments are posted at uccdga.org/tfc.

FAMILY MINISTRY



Summer Camp

This summer, **34** children from our church were sent to Christian camps with your help from our campership fund. **Our mission budget provides ½ the cost for one week at a Christian camp for any child that attends Sunday School, Youth Club, and/ or The Cause.** This can make a huge difference for parents who otherwise may have to decide between sending only one of several children to camp, or no one at all. With all the different choices available for

kids, we are so glad to encourage them with a lasting experience, one that will strengthen their relationship with Jesus Christ....one that has *eternal* benefits! **Thank you for your support!**

Rainforest Falls VBS: Exploring the Nature of God!



The week of July 13-17 was a valuable week in the Kingdom of God as 36 children (11 from our church, 25 from the community) explored 5 foundational truths about the nature of God. The daily Bible points taught kids that God is our creator, God knows everything, God is our safe place, God is love, and God is forever! Kids were guided on a rainforest adventure, and met adorable Bible Buddies. Children learned about the daily Bible point and Bible stories through drama, songs, games, science experiments, videos and crafts. God faithfully provided 55 adults, teens, and tweens who served as crew leaders, station leaders, snack preparers, station helpers, crew helpers, nursery caregivers, and photographers. **Thank you also to ALL who supported us with generous donations, prayers, scenery help, set up, and clean up! We appreciate each of you!** Our VBS



mission project, Operation Kid to Kid, raised \$411.10 for fruit trees in Central America. What a generous bunch of VBS families! **That's a God sighting!**

"To Him who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all we can think or ask, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen!" Ephesians 3:20-21



Nursery Needs Volunteers

Nursery Care for **infants through preschoolers** is provided every Sunday. The nursery is staffed with volunteers during the 11:00 Worship service and during the Sunday School hour. **We need MORE nursery volunteers to help care for our littlest ones.** We can use adults and kids aged 7th grade and up. Please contact Louise Van Iseghem or the church office if you are interested in volunteering for the nursery. *Please note that all people 18 and over who volunteer in the nursery need to be background checked* – this is a quick and easy process! Contact Carolyn to be checked.



Summer Recap

The summer season was full of wonderful activities! We had several youth support our Vacation Bible School - we treated them with dessert and pizza after a couple of the days. Check out more details on the Children's page. At Kingdom Bound, we joined 13,000 people at Darien Lake for fun in the sun, and worship in the evening (with Josiah Queen!). At the time of this writing, the Youth Retreat is a day away (Theme: Hearing God's Voice), and the Summer Mission Experiences (for youth, this included support for CareNet, Salvation Army, and our church!) is around the corner. More will be shared during Mission Sunday on August 30 and future Lamplighter editions.



Ministry Immersion Internship

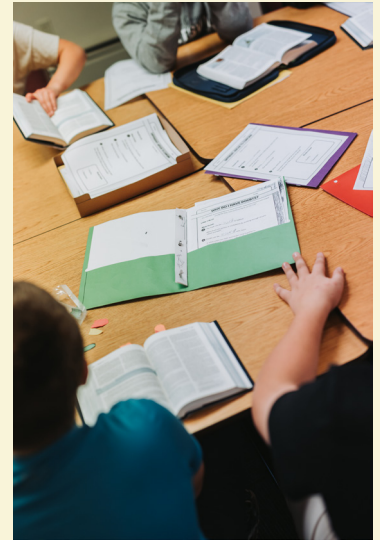
We want to give a big **THANK YOU to Summer Cunningham**, who served our church faithfully through our new internship this past summer season. She supported all sorts of ministries and activities throughout the church, including with our youth. She came to Kingdom Bound, is planning to be involved in the Youth Retreat, and generated curriculum for the Fall. We engaged in numerous, meaningful conversations about ministry life and the dynamics of faithful pastoral service to the next generation of believers. Keep her in your prayers as she continues on with new life experiences!

Ministry Year Pastoral Vision

Last year, we spent a notable amount of time on the **Lordship of Christ**. As a natural outflow of that focus, this year's theme is **Imitating Christ**. Pastor Wally will be speaking on this during a Sunday Morning to kick-off the Sunday School year, and this theme will be integrated into all our teachings throughout the remainder of the year. Join us in prayer as we seek to imitate Christ in our lives.

Fall Ministries

We will be studying **Revelation** for Youth Club (MS'ers) and The Cause (HS'ers) using a **head-heart-hands Bible study approach**. Some of you may recall the SOAP Bible Study method from last year - that will still be used, with the HHH study method integrated in! Our **Intergenerational Sunday School Kick-Off** is September 13 - Join us and support the potluck! For **High School** Sunday School, we will be encountering various New Testament passages. More to come on **Middle School** Sunday School - you can expect game times integrated with the HS'ers each Sunday! See below for upcoming dates.



SS Teacher Training

It is that time of year again! We look forward to connecting with our faithful teachers in preparation for the ministry year. Keep an eye on your emails for dates and times (if you haven't already attended one by the time this article is read!)

90-Day Outlook

- **UpRise Festival** - September 11-12 - Contact Pastor Mark or Ray M for info!
- **Intergenerational Sunday School Kick-Off** - September 13 - Potluck.... Sign-up in the Welcome Center to support!
- **Sunday School Special Speaker w/ Wally Fleming** - September 20 (HS'ers invited!)
- **The Cause Kick-Off** - September 20 - Parents invited for the last 30 minutes!
- **Youth Club Kick-Off** - October 7 - Parents Invited!
- **Intergenerational Sunday School Class** - October 11
- **Senior Companions Fall Event** - October 17 - Youth invited to support!
- **2026 Fall REVIVE Rally** - October 18 - Check LeTourneau's Website for more info!
- **Beaver Camp Fundraiser** - November 7
- **Harvest Gathering & Advent Decorations** - November 22 - More details to come!



ADULT & YOUNG ADULT



Summer Recap

This summer season included new ideas and efforts! We experimented with an after-Sunday service **Summer Coffee & Conversation Small Groups**, which reflected on the sermon. A Young Adult group also walked into town for coffee and back. As mid-summer and all of its special activities hit, this activity became more spotty. That said, we are grateful for the interest and participation, and this experience will serve as helpful information for future summer-time efforts. We also hosted a **25-35-Somethings gathering at Onanda Park** on the same day as the Youth Retreat in August (this article was submitted the day before the event, so more recap

to come!). This year, we expanded the **Mission Experiences Week** to include adult-teams, namely a Cleaning Team and a Habitat for Humanity Team. Thank you to the Trustees and the Mission Group for all of their efforts!

Ministry Year Pastoral Vision

Last year, we spent a notable amount of time on the **Lordship of Christ**. This was largely interacted with during young adult connections, with the 25-35-somethings, and the Ferris Hills group. As a natural outflow of that focus - and with an effort to expand this year's theme to other adult ministries - we will be focusing on **Imitating Christ**. Pastor Wally will be speaking on this during a Sunday Morning Small Group kick-off this year. This theme will be integrated into our youth programming, and Adult Ministry leaders will be equipped with this vision as they faithfully serve in their various roles. Join us in prayer as we seek to imitate Christ in our lives.

Sunday Morning Small Groups

When we return in the Fall, we will be starting our young adult and adult Sunday morning small groups with **Pastor Wally Fleming** (September 20). The following week, all of our small groups will follow the sermon series until the Advent season. We will have a **young adult small group**, a **25-35-something small group**, the **Parenting Coffee Hour**, and two **all-adult small groups**. There will also be a **"What We Believe" small group, led by Pastor Wade** (all adults invited!)

25-35-Somethings Small Group

This group continues to meet on Wednesdays at 4:30, through the summer, and onward into the Fall! Most recently, we covered 1 Timothy (including sensitive conversations around church polity, sexuality, and gender). Moving forward, we are studying various passages in relation to the theme of spirituality and spiritual powers. Join our 8 regular attendees for these fascinating conversations!

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.

Northeastern Theology Conference

Join Pastor Mark on a trip to Roberts Wesleyan to attend a Theology Conference themed **Spirit and Scripture** (October 3). We will be covering the **Holy Spirit** during one of our Sunday Morning Small Groups during Advent, so this will be a relevant topic for our community!

Pastor Mark's Dissertation Support Team

This November, I (Mark) am scheduled to submit my dissertation proposal to Northern Seminary. As part of the process, a group of people from in and around the church will walk alongside me as I develop my paper. The exact nature of anyone's involvement will be custom to the interests of those wanting to be involved (anywhere from prayer support, joining me for coffee to chat, to carefully reviewing and handling the text). More to come, and if you have any interest in joining me on this multi-year journey, please let me know!



CATA Theology Conference
Spirit & Scripture
October 3, 2026

Intergenerational Women's Group

In the spring of this year the United Church hosted an Intergenerational Women's Retreat. Over 65 women across four generations attended and the feedback we received was very positive. Many commented on the fact when women gather support is shared, relationships are built and faith is strengthened. With such a wonderful response and an interest in continuing these gatherings we are offering an Intergenerational Women's Group monthly this fall, September through January. Our hope is to foster relationships across generational boundaries to provide faith, encouragement and shared wisdom. Mothers & Daughters, Friends across generations and all individuals are invited. Prayer, open discussion, individual experiences and small break-out activities will be included.

The group will be facilitated by Nancy Bowllan and held the third Thursday of each month from 5pm to 6:15pm. Location at United TBD. A snack and childcare will be provided. Please contact Nancy Bowllan at 585-683-1914 if you have any questions or would be interested in participating. May Jesus guide us in this process.

90-Day Outlook

- **Intergenerational Sunday School Kick-Off** - September 13 - Potluck.... Sign-up in the Welcome Center to support!
- **Adult Sunday Morning Small Group Kick-Off (with Wally Fleming)** - September 20
- **Northeastern Theology Conference** - October 3 - Theme: Spirit and Scripture
- **Intergenerational Sunday School Class** - October 11
- **Adult Retreat (w/ Wally Fleming at Onanda Park)** - October 24
- **Exploring Membership Class** - November 15
- **Harvest Gathering & Advent Decorations** - November 22 - More details to come!

ADULT & YOUNG ADULT



United Church Choir – It's the place to be!



Practices begin **Wednesday, September 9th, 7 pm** in our **newly updated choir room!** Folders filled with fresh, new anthems await you. We warmly welcome **new members!** For more information please contact Georgia Sperano, gsperano@rochester.rr.com

MISSIONS

Foodlink “Pop-Up Food Pantry”

will welcome United Church volunteers on **Monday, September 28th from 9:00-11:00am** at the Town of Canandaigua Highway Barn, 5440 Route 5 & 20. This worthy program offers fresh produce, dairy, and much more to food insecure families. Working with Ontario Cares we package food items coming off the Foodlink truck and load them into vehicles as recipients drive their cars through the barn. We have a steady group of about eight of us. But we'd love to have more. Speak with Linda Werts if you have this Monday morning free for “hands-on” mission.



Habitat for Humanity Dedication

Greater Rochester Habitat for Humanity invites us to the special Dedication of their **128 Tillotson Street** home on **Friday, September 25th at 3:00pm**. Yes, this is the home we framed the walls for at last year's “Framing Frenzy.” And the home we worked on at this year's Mission Week. What a joy it will be to celebrate new home ownership with this family. Please let Linda Werts know if you plan to attend.



Mexico Mission Trip 2027

Mexico 2027 dates are set! **March 14-24, 2027** and the mission team is forming. Lori McMillen and Linda Werts are looking forward to training at the Living Waters for the World (LWW) “Clean Water U” this month. We'll be joined by several Newark Rotarians and this New York LWW trained team will be exploring a possible “renewal” project of one of the older LWW water systems in either Fall 2027 or Spring 2028. Of course these are future plans. Our March trip will include engaging with mission partners in the water communities of **Cedralito,**

Limones, and Tabi and returning to brothers and sisters in Christ at **Iglesia Emmanuel in Bacalar**. In Tabi we'll continue and expand tech opportunities and train young adults to be health and spiritual community “educators” as well as review the sustainability of the plant. We'll take a card making activity, organized for us by Nancy Burt-

Preece, with us for the Bacalar congregation. And of course there will be some opportunity for tourism. If these preliminary plans interest you please reach out now to Lori or Ray McMillen or Linda Werts and come to a **next meeting at 7pm on Thursday, September 17th**. Rotary's theme for this year is **Create Lasting Impact**. Perhaps God is calling you for just such a mission...



Mission Week Sneak Peek!



Care Teams Ice Cream Social

Our second Care Team Volunteer Ice Cream Social was a fun evening filled with ice cream, laughter, and time together!

We were grateful to welcome more than 45 volunteers - over half of our Care Team! Pastor Wade and our intern, Summer, kept the scoops coming, while the topping table was a favorite--especially the vanilla sugar wafers and mini M&M's.

Volunteers wore Mardi Gras beads in the color of the team they serve on, making it easy to see the many areas of Care Ministry represented. It was a relaxed evening to visit with familiar faces, meet volunteers from other teams, and simply enjoy being together.

We plan to make this an annual tradition as part of our ongoing commitment to strengthening relationships among Care Ministry volunteers. If you're not already part of Care Ministry, we'd be glad to help you find a place to connect and serve!



BIRTHDAY SPOTLIGHT



Celebrating Mary Jane L.

Our friend Jane is celebrating her birthday on **September 30!** She gives thanks to the Lord that she feels stronger these days than she has in a few years! (Mary) Jane was born in Williamson and lived in Red Creek and has lived and raised her family in Webster and Macedon. When she was young she rode and grew to love horses. She worked in banking and Real estate. Jane was born again in 1974 and she joined our church family in 2022, after visiting with her friend Wanda and finding us very welcoming, loving and focused on the Lord. She is a true prayer warrior, compiling a list of those she meets who need God's help, guidance and love and praying for them daily. Her favorite Bible verse is Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct your path." Happy birthday, Jane! May all of God's blessings descend upon you!

-written by Steward Becky B.

Prayer Support Following Worship

As part of our desire to provide meaningful ways to care for and connect with our church family, we are now offering **Prayer Support** following each Sunday worship service.

Sometimes we carry burdens that are difficult to share publicly, yet we long for someone to pray with us. Prayer Support offers a quiet, caring opportunity to receive personal prayer in a private setting.

Our Prayer Support Team is made up of trained Care Ministers and Stewards who are prepared to listen with compassion and pray with you. Following the service, they will be available in the Narthex and will greet you if you would like someone to pray with or for you. Whether you are facing a challenge, celebrating an answered prayer, seeking guidance, or simply desiring encouragement, they would be honored to spend a few moments in prayer with you.

You don't have to carry life's joys and burdens alone. We invite you to stop by after worship whenever you would like someone to pray alongside you.



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

Save the Date Fall Fellowship & Fun

A special time of worship, Communion, lunch, and connection for those in our church family who are 85 years of age and older.

Saturday, October 17 from 11:00-1:00



What Does Care Ministry Actually Do?

When you hear the words *Care Ministry*, what comes to mind?

Several people have asked about the different Care Ministry teams and what each one does. I thought this would be a great opportunity to introduce the teams and share how they work together to provide care, support, and connection throughout our church family.

Care Ministry Leadership Team - Provides guidance, encouragement, and support to the Director of Care Ministry and the Care Ministry teams while helping identify new ways to care for our church family.

Card Ministry - Sends cards throughout the year to remind people they are remembered and cared for.

Care Ministers - Provides trained, short-term support to care recipients, offering prayer, encouragement, and companionship as they walk through a difficult season or life challenge.

Connection Ministry - Pairs Senior Companions - those who, for various reasons, are no longer able to connect with the church as they once did - with a Steward who helps them stay connected through visits, calls, cards, events, and friendship.

Hospitality Team - Welcomes people on Sunday mornings by greeting new faces, familiar faces, and reconnecting with those they have not seen in a while, helping everyone feel noticed and at home.

Meal Train Team - Coordinates meals for those experiencing illness, recovery, or other significant life events.

Prayer Shawl Ministry and Crafty Christians - Creates handmade prayer shawls and other gifts as tangible reminders of prayer, care, and God's love.

Prayer Support Team - Offers prayer after Sunday worship for anyone seeking encouragement, comfort, or support through trained Care Ministers and Stewards.

Stewards - Provides ongoing support to Senior Companions, prepares Communion, celebrates new births with flowers, and assists with other ministries of care. They are nominated and elected, serve three-year terms, and meet monthly.

Transportation Team - Provides rides to medical appointments, church services, and church-sponsored activities.

Visitation Team - Visits those in our church family in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and at home, connecting in person, by phone, or through FaceTime to offer encouragement, companionship, and prayer.

Each of these ministries serves in a different way, but together they share one purpose: to reflect the love of Christ through practical acts of care, compassion, and connection.

Every team is made up of volunteers who simply want to share Christ's love in practical ways. If you feel called to be part of Care Ministry, we'd love to help you discover a place where your gifts can make a difference.



STAFF MILESTONES

Georgia Sperano - 20 years as Choir Director

What does 20 years look like? Well, at the United Church it's a wonderful choir that blesses the congregation each week with worshipful and uplifting music.

And that has happened in a professional way because of Georgia Sperano. She has the ability to bring out the heart and emotion of any song. She's sensitive, caring, creative, and in the choir room can be down right hilarious.

September marks 20 years of Georgia being choir director here at the United Church.

We congratulate her and thank her for 20 wonderful years of service. Be sure to show her your appreciation in any meaningful way you see fit.



Deb Marshall – 10 years as Family Ministries Director

On Deb's tenth anniversary with our church we want to highlight and acknowledge the ways

Deb has used kindness and encouragement to delegate countless volunteers based on gifts noticed and calling them into service.

Our Youth Club, VBS and Sunday School programs have planted seeds in hundreds of children. Deb understands that children are not only the future of the church, waiting for some faraway date to begin to serve, but are an active part of the body of Christ today.

Deb's life's work has always demonstrated her love for families. Her gentleness and approachability allows not only children, but also their parents, to feel seen and heard in conversation and prayer.

Her love for Jesus is evident. This position can be uniquely tiring. Thank you for blessing our children with your energy and overflowing love of the Lord.

We are thankful that ten years ago Deb followed God's calling and has continued all these years to lead with joy.



Our church family will gather together–
September 13 during the Sunday School kickoff breakfast, 9:45-10:45, to celebrate **Deb!**
September 20 after the 11:00 service to celebrate **Georgia!**

Summer Season Custodial Efforts

We want to thank all those who signed up for various cleaning duties throughout the church this summer. Also, a special thank you to **Phoebe Russell** and **Jini Hildebrandt** for their helpful and high-quality support in restoring and maintaining the cleanliness of our beautiful church! Another thank you to the Staff Relations Committee for their help as we navigate change in the custodial position. (see the job listing on page 15)



CHURCH LIFE EVENTS

Game Night is Back!

Looking for something fun to do? Join us for a Game Night on **Saturday, September 12, from 6:30-8:30 pm**. This family friendly event offers an opportunity for church members of all ages to come together and enjoy a variety of board games, card games, and friendly competition. Whether you're a seasoned game master or just looking to have fun, there's something for everyone. **Snacks and**

refreshments will be available to enjoy as you engage in lighthearted fun and connect with others in the church community. Bring your friends, family, or come solo -- game night is a great way to meet new people and build lasting relationships. We look forward to seeing you there!

Stampin' Up

September 19th 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



Part Time Custodian Position Opening

Position Summary

The United Church of Canandaigua is seeking one or two dependable, self-motivated custodians to help maintain a clean, safe, and welcoming environment for worship services, ministries, and community events. The ideal candidate takes pride in their work, has a servant's heart, and enjoys supporting the mission of the church through facility care.

Responsibilities

- Clean sanctuary, classrooms, offices, restrooms, kitchens, dining room, windows, glass doors, and common areas
- Vacuum, sweep, mop, dust, and remove trash
- Set up and tear down tables and chairs for church events and activities
- Monitor and replenish cleaning and restroom supplies

Qualifications

- Previous custodial, janitorial, or cleaning experience preferred
- Ability to work independently and manage time effectively
- Physically able to lift 25-40 pounds and perform routine cleaning activities
- Reliable, trustworthy, and attentive to detail
- Ability to work flexible hours, including occasional evenings or weekends
- Supportive of the church's mission and values

Desired Characteristics

- Positive attitude and strong work ethic
- Friendly and respectful interaction with church members and visitors
- Dependable
- Commitment to maintaining a welcoming house of worship

Position Details

- \$16 per hour
- 20 hours per week, or 2 positions splitting job responsibilities
- Flexible hours

To Apply

Please email SRC@uccdga.org to indicate your interest, or to obtain more information.

JOB AVAILABLE



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