NOVEMBER 2026

THE UNITED CHURCH CANANDAIGUA

THE Lamplighter

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



NOVEMBER 2026 EVENTS

Nov 2
Trustees, 7:00 pm

Nov 3
Stewards, 6:30 pm

Nov 7
Beaver Camp Dinner, 5:30 pm

Nov 11
Office closed for holiday

Nov 15
Exploring Membership, 9:45 am

Nov 22
Harvest Gathering & Advent Decorating, 5:00 pm

Nov 26-27
Office closed for holiday

Nov 29
First Sunday of Advent
Intergen. Sunday School, 9:45 am



SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING CALLED

A special congregational meeting of the United Church will be held after the 11:00 service, in the sanctuary, on Sunday, December 6th, 2026. The purpose of the meeting is to approve amendments to our Covenant of Union.



FROM THE PASTOR

Never the *Leftovers*

We are beginning preparations for Thanksgiving. Family members have purchased plane tickets, and the turkey is ordered from Fisher Hill Farms. We always cook more than we need so we can enjoy the leftovers and not have to cook on the day after Thanksgiving. But leftovers are never as good as the freshly prepared meal.

As we continue to work our way through the final books of the Old Testament, we find the people of God bringing their leftovers to God. They are offering their blind, lame, and sick animals as sacrifices in worship. And as we come to the Sunday following Thanksgiving, we will consider this dynamic.

Before we get to the final Sunday in November, we will walk through the final chapters of Zechariah. While God's people have not offered God their best, God's steadfast love for his people remains strong. We will consider how God chooses to come to his people in the midst of their unfaithfulness. And God's coming is not quite how they would have imagined it. God comes in humility, riding on a donkey (November 1). He is sold for only 30 pieces of silver (November 8), pierced for us (November 15), but comes as the one true King (November 22). And while his people offer leftovers, God gives his very best to us.

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FROM THE PASTOR



Never the *Leftovers*

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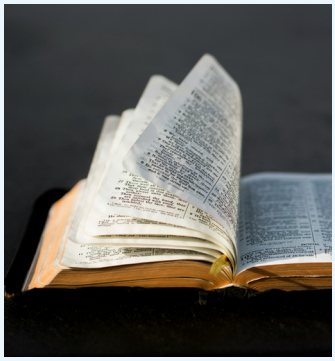
As we step into the season of Advent, we look forward to Jesus' coming. From the perspective of the people in the Old Testament, they are looking forward to his first coming. From our perspective, we are looking forward to his coming again. In both cases, God comes to us and offers hope in a world that desperately needs him. As we flip over to Malachi on the final Sunday of the month, God's first word to us is about how much he loves us.

(Malachi 1:2 NIV) ***"I have loved you," says the LORD...***

So how will we approach this Advent season? First of all, it is important to remember that God gave everything for us. He entered our world and chose the suffering of the Cross so that we could be forgiven of our sins. Secondly, the question for us is how will we respond to God's grace? Will we take it for granted or will we respond in gratitude for all he has given? Will we give God the best of our time, attention, money, and worship? Or will we pull the leftovers out of the fridge for God?

As we enter this season, enjoy the bounty of all that we have been given. Let's be careful to return our very best to God.

Wade



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

November 01 - Your King Is Coming (Zechariah 9-10)
Additional Readings: Psalm 40:1-5, Philippians 2:5-11
November 08 - The Rejected Shepherd (Zechariah 11)
Additional Readings: Psalm 78:70-72, Matthew 26:14-16
November 15 - Pierced for Us (Zechariah 12-13)
Additional Readings: Psalm 32:1-5, 1 John 1:7-2:2
November 22 - The King Is Coming (Zechariah 14)
Additional Readings: Psalm 97:1-6, Revelation 22:1-5
November 29 - I Have Always Loved You (Malachi 1)
Additional Readings: Psalm 80:1-7, Isaiah 64:1-9

*"Many, O Lord My God, are the wonders you have done.
The things you planned for us no one can recount to you;
were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare."*
- Psalm 40:5



FAMILY NEWS

Remembrance

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Kristy Aldrich**, whose father, **Brent Gibbs**, passed away on September 24th. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with the family of **MacKenzi McClung**, who passed away suddenly on October 6th. Kenzi's great-grandparents were long-time church members, **John and Shirley Wilcox** and **Bill and Bev Gustin.** Please keep the entire McClung family as well as the Keuka College community in your prayers during this difficult time.

Beaver Camp Fundraiser Dinner

MISSIONS

For 25 years The United Church has supported Beaver Camp financially. But, when we look at all the blessings we've received through this partnership, it is quite astounding. In the last five years alone, we've sent over 45 children and teens not just to attend camp there, but to go outside their comfort zone, make godly friendships, and develop their faith. We've also sent many of our teens and young adults to work as summer staff members. The experience of spending a summer serving at Beaver Camp is truly transformational. Three of our four daughters have attended and worked there for several summers. This "job" is like nothing they have or will ever do again. It is much more than a way to earn some extra cash; it is a priceless discipleship opportunity. Because of our partnership with Beaver Camp, our church will be hosting a fundraiser dinner on **November 7th from 5:30-7:30 PM**. During the event, the director of camp will speak about the mission of Beaver Camp, and then several summer staff will participate in a roundtable to share some of the ways God is working through camp. You may even see some familiar faces. Tickets are complimentary, and we graciously ask guests to make a donation to help support the event and its mission. Your generosity is appreciated! Please see Bob and Brenda Cunningham for tickets. The deadline to reserve a seat is November 1st.







Foodlink "Pop-Up Food Pantry"

will welcome United Church volunteers on **Monday, November 16th from 9:00-11:00am** at the Town of Canandaigua Highway Barn, 5440 Route 5 & 20. This monthly food distribution gives us a "hands on" opportunity to join with other community volunteers in providing emergency food relief to neighbors in need. Contact Linda W. for more information.



THANK YOU

for so generously blessing others through the blessings you have received from our so faithful God. The past few months, this congregation donated school supplies for the Back to School Angel Tree, donated diapers and wipes to families needing these essentials at CareNet, gave gas and grocery cards to Family Promise of Ontario Country and contributed to our World Mission Offering that went to International Ministries (ABC) and Presbyterian Disaster Relief. Not to mention the ongoing collection for local food pantries.

Thank you!!!! ***We are blessed to be a blessing to others.*** – Your Mission Committee

Christmas Angel Tree

On **November 22** the giving trees in the Welcome Center will be up and loaded with gift tags. If you are able to help with this outreach, please take a tag or two, and indicate your selection on the clipboard. Purchase the items, and **return the wrapped gifts by Sunday, December 6**. Be sure to **affix the angel tree tag to your gift** as this is needed to help with sorting and distribution. Many thanks for sharing out of what God has generously provided for you! Questions? Please see Cathy Bush or Mary Lou Havens – the Mission Collections Team!





MISSIONS

2027 Inter-generational Mission Trip

The 2027 trip will once again be going to **Black Mountain, NC** and is moving forward with planning. While there is not as much need for Hurricane Helene relief work, our church has developed a relationship with the **Valley Hope Foundation (valleyhopefoundation.org)** that we are eager to continue! The work with them will continue to be light construction and helping with the food sorting/distribution that they provide to the several counties in that area.

We are also hoping to work with **Black Mountain Home for children (BMH) (blackmountainhome.org)**. This organization works with children displaced from their families.



When children are in need of out-of-home placement, BMH can meet those needs through all the stages and phases of their growing up years. From infants born prematurely or with addictions to young adults working toward an educational or career goal, the ministry provides a safe, supportive home for youth of all ages and stages.

Programs include:

- *Community-based foster care (foster families needed).*
- *Campus-based cottage care on our campuses in Black Mountain and Pisgah Forest, NC.*
- *Independent Living Program for older youth continuing their education beyond high school or working toward a career goal through our Apprenticeship Program.*
- *Lifelong Living for those with developmental disabilities who will need support as they move into adulthood.*

The work with this organization will be determined as we get closer.

The mission trip will once again be the week of Spring Break so that families are able to participate, **March 20 – March 26**. The cost for the trip is low and scholarships are available. Please contact Sonya B. (sonya.brooks99@yahoo.com) with any questions or if you are interested in joining the trip.

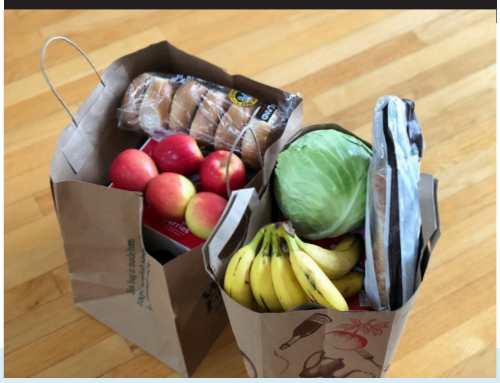


Mexico 2027!

It's not too late to consider joining our mission team on next year's mission trip…**March 14-24, 2027**. Our next meeting will be a Zoom meeting on Monday, November 2nd at 7:00pm. Several team members have just returned from Clean Water U training (photo below!) and are looking forward to continuing trip planning with Eigner Juarez, our in-country Living Waters for the World network coordinator at this meeting. Please contact Linda W. for the details.

And you are just in time for letting us know you will support us by helping with next year's **"Mexico Night Dinner."** This proved a popular and delicious fundraiser last year and we are already planning for another dinner next year on **Sunday, March 7th**. A dinner committee is forming. Will you join us? Please contact Lori M.

Mission Grocery Donations



Grocery bills are increasing. These costs affect our local food pantries as well as your own budget. More families are showing up to "shop" to put food on the table. CCIA (Canandaigua Churches in Action) reported a record number of families in September. It costs these organizations more dollars to purchase the items families need. If you are able, please purchase a few extra items when you shop, and place them in the Mission Center cart. We'll make sure they reach the Salvation Army and CCIA food pantries and the people who need them. Needed: staples such as spaghetti sauce, tuna, canned fruit and vegetables, cereal (which is not always available through FoodLink). Thank you for sharing!

Missionary Spotlight - God Is Already There: Getting to Know Christy Lafferty

Sometimes, the bonds of faith reach much farther than the walls of our church. For years, Christy Lafferty has been part of that larger circle of connection, serving God and her neighbors in Nicaragua while remaining connected to our congregation here in Canandaigua. Her story reminds us that the family of faith is larger than we sometimes imagine.



You may remember Christy's name from the missionary section of our bulletin. Perhaps you have prayed for her work in Nicaragua with AMOS or even met her during a visit a couple years ago. We thought it would be fruitful to refamiliarize ourselves with Christy and her work.

Christy has served with AMOS Health and Hope in Nicaragua since 2012. AMOS works to improve healthcare to vulnerable communities. In rural villages, that means training people to provide basic care, educate families, and help neighbors respond to medical emergencies. It's both the healthcare content and the community readiness. AMOS also has a WASH program, supporting access to clean water for sanitation and hygiene. In and around Managua, AMOS operates clinics and brings people together through programs supporting expectant mothers, young children, and the wellness of older adults.

Christy's own responsibilities have changed over the years. She began in communications and fundraising, later coordinated visiting mission teams, and is now helping develop new initiatives, such as a community garden and sharing AMOS' community-based approach with other organizations. Throughout those changes, one thing has remained constant: her love for God, the mission, and the relationships that make it possible.

Personally, Christy is both light-hearted and pragmatic. She laughs easily while also seeing challenges to navigate. She has a warm, engaging personality that keeps a sharp eye on opportunities for better systems and analysis. As she said, "God wants us to understand his abundance and live into it." Christy and her husband Abel also keep busy raising son AJ, nearly a teenager. All three of them celebrate birthdays this month (Christy on Nov 1, Abel on Nov 30, and AJ right between them on Nov 15).

Faith is woven into Christy's daily life, both personally and at AMOS. Each Friday, the staff gathers for devotions and a shared meal. Wednesday mornings offer a quieter prayer circle, a chance to reflect on Scripture, share concerns, or simply sit silently in God's presence. Christy describes these gatherings as especially meaningful.

Perhaps the most beautiful insight Christy shared was about how AMOS approaches the communities it serves. The missionaries don't arrive believing they have all the answers. Instead, they come with humility, recognizing that people already possess knowledge, abilities, resources, and faith. The missionary calling is to come alongside, listen, and build on those strengths.

As Christy reminds us, **"God is already there."**

We invite you to join our prayers for Christy to continue being grounded in God's word, faith, and prayer, for the people and resources to sustain and grow the ministry, and for the Lafferty family. Christy is grateful for all manner of our support.

~ written by Amie M. (her missionary liaison)

COMPANION BIRTHDAYS



Celebrating Hiram B.

Hiram will be a **young 92 years old** on the **11th** of this month! While he loves the fall, with all of its beautiful colors and the hunting season, he fondly remembers building tunnels through the winter snowdrifts. His favorite hymn is *The Old Rugged Cross* and his favorite scripture is Psalm 23. Hiram and his wife, Linda, left for their home in Mississippi in October and will celebrate his special day with family and friends in the warmer south, while escaping the cold, winter months of the north. Happy birthday, Hiram! We pray for a healthy winter and hurry back to your United Church family in the spring!

~Written by Steward Leslie R.

Celebrating Kurt W.

November 14 - Kurt is one of our Special Members and is celebrating his **84th birthday** this month. (Kurt will also be celebrating **60 years of marriage with his wife Linda** this month!) Kurt is a veteran of the U. S. Air Force and we thank him for his service along with our other veterans whom we honor this month on Veteran's Day. Fun facts about Kurt, he loves the Yankees, and was an athlete himself, participating in track and cross country running. Please wish our friend Kurt well on his special day and keep him in your prayers.

~Written by Steward Dan F.

Celebrating Ruth B.

On **November 18th** we celebrate the **95th birthday** of Ruth B., a woman whose life reflects faith, family, and friendship, and the strength of her farm roots. She grew up on a farm on North Bloomfield Road in Canandaigua with two brothers and three sisters. She remained proud of the lessons learned and the strength of her farm roots.

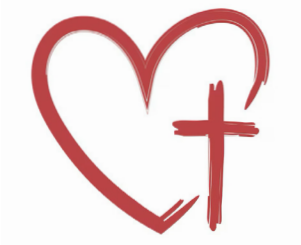
She carried that love of big families into her own home, raising five children—three boys and two girls—in Bloomfield, where she lived for 43 years before returning to Canandaigua. For over twenty of those years, she and her husband ran a charming antique shop right from their home, welcoming neighbors, travelers, and friends with the same warmth she brought to everything she did.

Her days were filled with gardening, baking, sewing, craft projects and playing the piano, but her greatest joy was her growing family. She dearly loves her 10 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren, celebrating each new addition with pride and gratitude.

Friendship was a treasured part of her life as well. For more than 30 years, she enjoyed morning coffee five days a week with her neighbors Ann and Mill, a simple ritual that became a beloved tradition.

A lifelong member of the United Church (since 1943!), her legacy now spans **six generations in our congregation** through Lauren, Mark, and Carter. Her life is a beautiful reminder of steady faith, strong roots, and the joy found in family, friendship, and community. Happy 95th Birthday!

~Written by her daughter, Nancy A. and Steward Bev F.



A Reminder: Sunday Morning Prayer Support

If you would like someone to pray with you, Prayer Support is available in the Narthex following Sunday worship. Our Stewards and Care Ministers are there and ready to pray with you.

Join the First-Service Offering Team

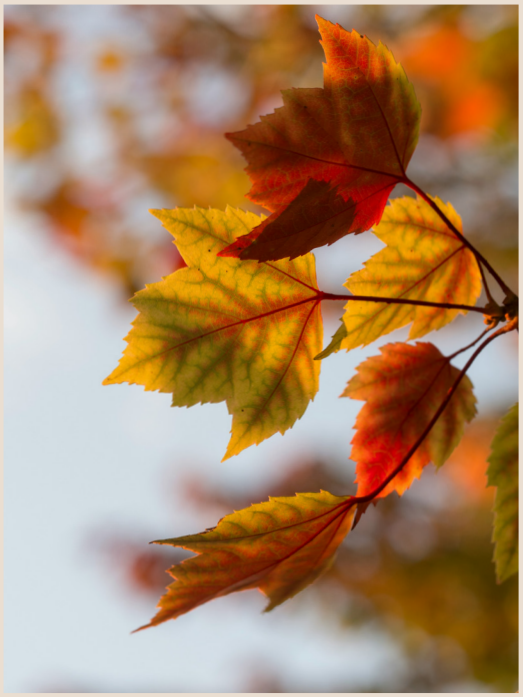
We're looking for more people to help receive the offering during the first service. Adding volunteers will make the schedule easier to fill and allow everyone to serve less frequently. If you're not currently part of the offering team, please consider joining us. Let Carolyn, our church secretary, or Christy, our Director of Care Ministry, know, and we'll help you feel comfortable and prepared before you serve.



Bringing Hope and Help

The Stewards Assistance Fund has brought help and hope to several church families facing unexpected needs. Throughout November, we are highlighting this vital ministry as part of our holiday-season giving emphasis. All loose offerings received on the first Sunday will be directed to the fund. Your generosity makes this care possible!





Fall Fellowship & Fun

Our Stewards recently hosted a Fall Fellowship and Fun gathering with our Companions and church friends ages 85 and older.

The day began with worship, a message from Wade, piano duets by Georgia S. and June P., and Communion. Several Companions and Friends shared their thoughts as they completed the sentence, "My heart is satisfied in God because…"

The fun continued in the Dining Hall with lunch, activities, prizes, and a sing-along featuring some favorite oldies, accompanied by piano and guitar.

It was a good day of connection, singing, and laughter.















TREASURER'S REPORT



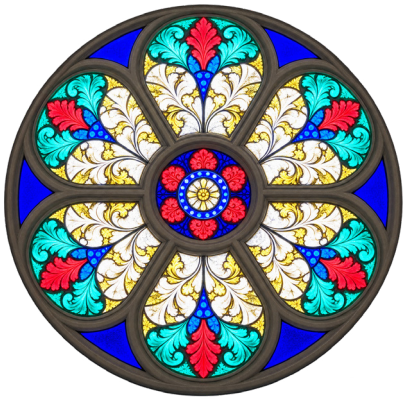
Financial Report through September 30th.

During the first nine months of the year, donations and pledges received were $18,617.29 less than budgeted and $4,993.29 less than the same period in 2025. Total net loss for this period was $28,725.25. Our budget for 2026 predicted that we would have a deficit of $23,621.31, so we have lost an additional $5,103.94 so far.

We have had two months so far this year where we have not even been able to cover all of the costs for the staff let alone any other expenses that we incur on a regular basis. The staff are doing all that they can to cut back on costs. Ultimately, our financial problems are not due to spending more than expected; they are due to a large decrease in pledges and donations that we were unable to predict. **Please prayerfully consider contributing more to help keep our programs going.**

We will begin the budgeting process for 2027 very soon and anticipate having less money to allocate to programs. For this reason, **we are not inviting budget requests for 2027**. At some point this fall, we will contact each program/team/committee and let you know how much we anticipate being able to allocate to you. All groups will be receiving less than they have in the past.

A Note from Your Financial Secretary



If you have not yet returned your pledge to the church, I invite you to do so as soon as possible. You can mail them back, put them in the offering plate or the box marked "Pledges" in the Welcome Center on Sunday, or fill them out digitally by following the link on our website or scanning the QR code below.

I hope you've been watching the weekly bulletins to track our pledging progress.
The beautiful stained glass rose window (as seen up in our balcony) has been colored in one segment at a time as pledges come in. Please help us reach a participation goal of 120 pledges received!

Exploring Membership Class

In 1942, fire destroyed the First Baptist Church of Canandaigua. A few years later, the Presbyterians down the street opened their doors. That invitation became The United Church.



We'd love to tell you more of that story. Join us for our **Exploring Membership class on Sunday, November 15, from 9:45 to 10:45 AM.** We'll share our history and how our two traditions shape our life today. We'll also walk through the ways you can become a member. Bring your questions!

Whether you're ready to join or just want to learn more, you're welcome.

Sign up online at uccdga.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3937216 or call the church office.

CHURCH LIFE EVENTS



Game Night

Looking for something fun to do? Join us for a Game Night on **Saturday, November 14, from 6:30-8:30 pm.** This family friendly event offers an opportunity for church members of all ages to come together and enjoy a variety of board games, card games, and friendly competition. Whether you're a seasoned game master or just looking to have fun, there's something for everyone. **Snacks and refreshments will be available** to enjoy as you engage in lighthearted fun and connect with others in the church community. Bring your friends, family, or come solo -- game night is a great way to meet new people and build lasting relationships. We look forward to seeing you there!



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



POINSETTIA ORDERS

Please Print Legibly

Name: _____

I would like to order _____ Poinsettias at $13.00 each.
They are given in Memory or Honor (circle one) of:

1. **Honor/Memory of:** _____

   Given by: _____

2. **Honor/Memory of:** _____

   Given by: _____

3. **Honor/Memory of:** _____

   Given by: _____

4. **Honor/Memory of:** _____

   Given by: _____

5. **Honor/Memory of:** _____

   Given by: _____

Place this in the offering plate WITH your cash in an envelope or check made payable to "The United Church".
List in the memo section "Poinsettias". You may also mail it in or bring to the church office.

ORDERS MUST BE IN NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13.

You may pick up your poinsettia(s) after church on Christmas Eve or on Dec 27th. Thank you!

CHILDREN'S & FAMILY MINISTRY



Youth Club

Our Wednesday afterschool ministry for children in 2nd-8th grade, is off to a great start with 37 children registered for the program! After school, we enjoy the four parts that make up Youth Club, which are: Recreation, Bible Study, Worship, and Family Time, which includes dinner. We have 38 dedicated volunteers helping each week with Youth Club, including parents and grandparents of the children who attend.



Below is a list our 2026-2027 volunteers. Please keep this ministry in your prayers.

Drivers from Middle School:
Jim A, Wade A, Lauren and Mark S

Walkers from Primary/Elementary School:
Elaine A, Ed B, Becky B, and Bruce G

Recreation/Play:
Games – Wade A, Julie Z
Crafts – Jinilee H, Sandi M, Karen R

Bible Study:
Grade 2 – Kathy E, Grace P (Prayer partner: Beth S)
Grade 3 – Summer C, Julie Z (Prayer partner: Karen S)
Grade 4 – Kory Massey, Julie S (Prayer partner: Wanda M)
Grade 5 – Chelsea E, Joyce L (Prayer partner: Joan D)
Middle School – Mark and Lauren S, Ed B (Prayer partner: Mary Lou H)

Worship:
Leaders – Nancy BP, Becky B
Groups – Jeannie B, Kathy E, Joyce L, Julie S, Linda W, Julie Z
Sound – Grace P

Family Time:
Cooks/Kitchen Crew – Rich B, Connie F, Bruce G, Ryan M, Gary P, Kerry VI
Dinner Themes – Connie F and Margie W
Dinner Dean – Deb M
Shoppers – Sonya B and Wendy B

Table Parents – Wade A, Jenny B, Ed B, Jeannie B, Becky B, Nancy BP, Kathy E, Bev F, Dan F, Deb G, Grace P, Julie S, Mark S, Linda W

Childcare: Claire S and teen helpers



Thanksgiving Offering/ Mission Project



During the month of November, our Sunday morning families are invited to take part in our Thanksgiving Offering/Mission Project. This year, we are collecting items for the CCIA and Salvation Army food pantries. Our goal is to collect 50 items for these pantries. **Children and youth are encouraged to bring donations to Sunday school during the month of November.** We will begin receiving items on November 1 and we will count up our donations on November 29. The **most needed items for these food pantries are:** cereal, tuna fish, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, canned soups, canned vegetables, canned fruits, boxed pasta (spaghetti and elbows), mac-n-cheese, canned pork-n-beans, canned meals, toilet paper, toothpaste, deodorant, and shampoo.



Christmas Pageant

for ages 3-years-old through high school. Mark your calendars!

Saturday, December 19 – Christmas Pageant practice at 9:30am; Mall trip for 6th+

Sunday, December 20 – Christmas Pageant at 10am (kids arrive at 9:30am)

Upcoming Events...

Sunday, November 29 – Advent begins

Saturday, December 13 – Last Sunday School classes of 2026

Sunday, December 20 – One service of Worship at 11am

Sunday, December 27 – One service of Worship at 11am

Sunday, January 3, 2027 - stay tuned for a special Intergenerational Sunday school at 9:45am; we will also return to two services at 8:45am and 11am





YOUTH

Mark's Pastoral Reflection

Watching the next generation take the lead in faith communities.

In October, a group of students from several churches hosted a prayer event at the local KOA Campground. This is a student organized and planned event. Their theme for the event is "Rooted" (their selected verse is Matthew 18:20). Interestingly, this past summer I was engaged in several conversations with our own students at The United Church about the desire to engage with other youth groups. God and His mysterious ways! ***Join me in prayer as we see the Lord work through the next generation.***

CareNet Support - Our collaboration with Youth Ministry and Care Net continues.

Early last month, four of our middle school and high school students participated in a CareNet fundraiser. This is the second year in a row we have partnered with them in their Fall fundraiser. The deep-felt gratitude expressed by CareNet for our helpful students affirms this important relationship. ***Pray for CareNet and their important work in our community.***

Youth Groups - Deep Bible study, intentional prayer times, and relevant discussions are in store for our students…

Our **High School youth group** have begun their 6-week study on the book of Revelation. We are focusing on the 7 churches in the beginning chapters of the book, and using the **Head, Heart, Hands** Bible study structure. Our **Middle School youth group** is entering into the Alpha curriculum series, which covers the basics of the faith, and ties in relevant examples in today's world of faithfully living out our faith. Both groups are also practicing the **ACTS prayer acronym** during our prayer times (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication), with a current focus on Adoration. As previously mentioned, we are looking to connect all elements of our youth groups to **Imitating Jesus**; ***pray for our youth as we continue this journey.***

Youth Sunday School - Learning and connection continue to be the focus during our Sunday School Classes

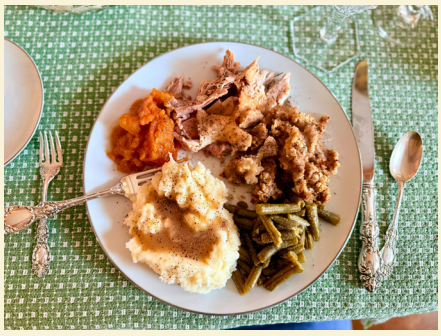
Our **High School** students have journeyed through a sampling of the Gospels as they focused on our Savior, and are now studying what it means to have a well-rounded faith. Our **Middle School** students have recently walked through the Fruits of the Spirit, and are now focused on the everyday-habits of those who follow Jesus. Before their studies, both the Middle School and High School students come together for activity time, which gets them up and moving, all while fostering healthy friendships with one another.

Harvest Potluck Gathering & Advent Decoration Night - A celebratory gathering with our church family…

Join us at **5PM on November 22** for Christmas worship music (led by our high school youth group), a potluck dinner (to celebrate Thanksgiving together), and Advent decorating! ***Everyone is invited!*** ***Check out the Adult Ministry page for our need for volunteer support during this event!***

Here is our agenda:

- **4:30pm** - High School Worship Band arrives for practice/set up
- **5:00pm** - Welcome and Worship (youth lead the time of worship)
- **5:30pm** - Thanksgiving-Themed Dinner Potluck (youth will enjoy food with the rest of our church family)
- **6:15pm** - Church Advent Decorating (MS/HS students will prioritize upstairs and youth room)
- **7:45pm** - End



90-Day Outlook - Save the dates…

- **Beaver Camp Fundraiser** - November 7
- **Harvest Gathering & Advent Decorations** - November 22
- **The Cause Christmas Party** - December 13
- **Christmas Mall Trip** - December 19
- **Christmas Pageant** - December 20
- **Intergenerational Sunday School Class** - January 3, 2027
- **Youth Night** - January 23, 2027
- **Annual Meeting Fundraiser** - January 24, 2027
- **Women's Intergenerational Half-Day Retreat** - January 30 (9:30am-1:00pm)

Monthly Fellowship Opportunities - Come join us…

- **Canandaigua Connect** (6th-12th grade) - Second Thursday, 6:45am (Tim Horton's, across from Tops)
- **Game Night** - Second Saturday, 6:30pm



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Join us at **5PM on November 22** for Christmas worship music, a potluck dinner, and Advent decorating! ***Everyone is invited!***

Here is our agenda:

- **5:00pm - Welcome and Worship**
- **5:30pm - Thanksgiving-Themed Dinner Potluck**
- **6:15pm - Church Advent Decorating (all ages)**
- **7:45pm - End**

We need your help! ***Sign-Up in the Welcome Center OR Online!***

- Dining Hall Room Set Up and Clean Up
- Potluck Set Up and Clean Up
- Worship Tech Support
- Christmas Tree Assembly & Decorating
- Various Advent Decorations (Sanctuary, Welcome Center, etc.)
- Upstairs and Youth Room Decoration
- Support of Children ornament creation activities





Mark's Pastoral Reflection

God's mysterious movements in life and community. The Saturday before our Sunday school ministry started for the year, a group of us gathered to pray. We started in the sanctuary, huddled together in the front pews for several minutes. During our prayer time, a man entered the sanctuary, sat in a pew towards the back, and prayed privately. Afterwards, I had the opportunity to introduce myself and to learn his story. Fast forwarding a bit, he and I now meet for coffee on a regular basis, settling on a monthly cadence the first week every month. Our central and repeated topic of conversation is the importance of human connection and the desire to know God. Isn't God mysterious in His ways? ***Pray for this man and for the Spirit's guidance as we faithfully connect with others in our community.***

Intergenerational Women's Half-Day Retreat - Save the date!

Remember last year's retreat that included over 60 women that gathered together for food, fellowship, and faith discussions? Well, we are preparing for another gathering on **January 30, 9:30am-1pm!** Our theme is: **Women of Influence.** ***Pray for those preparing this important event, and get ready to join us late January!***





ADULT & YOUNG ADULT

Sunday Morning Small Groups - A time of fellowship, faith discussions, and prayerful study...

First, thank you to the Missions team for leading us faithfully in a Mission-focused Intergenerational Sunday School class in mid-October! Now, we have returned to our normal Fall classes. Join us any time, any week for any of our Sunday morning small groups, listed below. Most of our groups are currently covering the sermon series. Come join us every week, 9:45am-10:45am!

- Parenting Coffee Hour
- All-Adult Small Groups *(we have two of them, with one ending at 10:30am)*
- 25-35 year-old small group
- 18-24 year-old small group
- "What We Believe" Class (runs through November 8)
- Exploring Membership Class (November 15 - 12:00pm)

25-35-Somethings Small Group - An important group in our community that continues to grow...

This growing group continues to meet weekly on **Wednesdays, 4:30pm-5:30pm**. The last several weeks, we have been taking turns bringing a topic of conversation to the group. Most recently it has included Christian nationalism (these people aren't afraid of the big topics!), Sabbath-keeping, and helping people while maintaining boundaries. We are now considering a second small group for 18-35 during the week, as well!

We have also started a periodic **guy's night** for this age group. Pizza, Football, and Ping Pong were included in their kick-off gathering. ***Please pray for this age group as we deepen fellowship and grow in faith.***

Mid-Week United Church Groups - Always open to newcomers...

- Knitters - Tuesdays, 11:00am
- Men's Breakfast - Wednesdays, 7:00am
- 25-35 year-olds Small Group - Wednesdays, 4:30pm
- Women's Bible Study - Thursdays, 1:00pm

Monthly United Church Groups - Join us...

- Ferris Hills - First and Third Wednesday, 1:00pm
- Cheerful Service Circle - Second Monday, 7:00pm
- Circle 7 - Second Tuesday, 11:30am
- Game Night - Second Saturday, 6:30pm
- Prayer Shawl Ministry - Third Tuesday, 7:00pm
- Quail Summit - Fourth Tuesday, 3:00pm

90-Day Outlook - Save the dates...

- **Harvest Gathering & Advent Decorations** - November 22
- **Intergenerational Sunday School Class** - January 3, 2027
- **Women's Intergenerational Half-Day Retreat** - January 30, 2027 (9:30am-1:00pm)

Thank you and keep in touch!

Words cannot express the extreme love and care that flowed through me as everybody come to wish me good-bye. That memory and those feelings will remain with me always, and I thank all who worked so hard to make it such a special event. I miss you all!

Marion Sumpter
24 Allen Ave.
Wyoming, OH 45215



Why We're Still Here

For the past few months, we've highlighted our connection to The Fellowship Community (TFC). I began back in July describing our experience in Indianapolis at the annual TFC Gathering and how this connection has served us well with the shifting dynamics of our congregation and our denominations. In September, we highlighted our belief statement and described how TFC helps us hold to the essential truths of our faith. And last month, we explored how our denominations have shifted from those essentials in recent years. I ended by saying we would talk about why we're still here.

Even in the midst of a majority of our members choosing to be "United," not affiliated with either of our denominations, The United Church values our broader connections and is striving to hold on to our association with other churches. We plan to remain in these denominations as long as it is faithfully possible. Our hope is that by remaining part of these denominations, we can model a commitment to the essentials of our Christian faith. This is why our connection to TFC is so important.

Every two years, the PC(USA) holds their General Assembly. In this meeting, resolutions are passed and the Book of Order is amended. This took place in 2024 and again this past summer. Each time this happens, I can expect emails and text messages asking why we are a part of this denomination. In recent years, the content of these changes has included shifts from convictions the church has held for thousands of years.

So what does it mean for us to remain connected? It does not mean that we agree with every resolution and amendment. And as a church in two denominations, we are not bound by these statements. One might make the case that we are damaging our reputation by this connection. Yet another could propose that our continual presence offers a faithful witness. There is certainly a messiness in holding relationships with those with whom you disagree. But it is a part of the fabric of our identity as The United Church. We have chosen unity over agreement on every issue. At the same time, we strive to remain centered on the Gospel, proclaiming the forgiveness of Jesus through His death and resurrection to all who will receive Him. We are not passively ignoring the drift, but we are actively discerning how to be the church God is calling us to be. God is doing wonderful work among us, and our desire is to continue to show up each day pursuing His will and way.

Where does this leave us? We are not naive to the possibility of further drift from the essential beliefs of faith in either of our denominations. There may come a time when it will not be possible for us to remain connected. But for now, we feel that God has called us to remain connected. TFC makes this connection fruitful, and even sustainable. If the day ever came when faithfulness required us to leave, we would not be starting over alone. TFC is made up of churches who have walked this same road, wrestled with the same questions, and chosen to stay grounded in the Gospel rather than walk away. That is not something we take for granted. We are joining hands with other churches in a Gospel-centered mission of proclaiming Jesus to the world around us. Next month, I will detail the work of TFC and how their efforts offer hope. Until then, let's remember Peter's words to the first century church.

(1 Peter 2:9, NIV) ***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.***

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.

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