

Castile United Church of Christ
 P.O. Box 512 Castile, NY 14427
 Church E-Mail: Castile_UCC@yahoo.com
 www.castileucc.com
 United Flyer Editor: Marlene Loomis
 Temporary Pastor: Tammy Lathan
 Cell Phone: 969-0695



December 2021

“United Flyer”

Away In A Manger

William J. Kirkpatrick

F/A Gm/Bb C Dm C F/A Gm/Bb
 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a
 The cat - tle, are low - ing, the ba - by a -
 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to

4 C7/G Gm/Bb C F F/A
 bed, wakes, the sus laid
 stay clos sus no
 er, and

7 Gm/Bb Gm/Bb C
 down cry His the
 love - ing me Lord
 me dear

10 F/A F Gm/Bb Dm/A
 bright sky looked y,
 Je - sus! Look in sky,
 child - ren in care, the
 and

13 C7/G Bb/F C/E F Dm F/A Bb6 C F
 lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
 fit us for heav - en to live with Thee there.

Let's Talk ABOUT Tammy

This month we are going to get to know our Temporary Pastor, Tammy Lathan, a little better.

Tammy's birthday is June 11, 1958. She and her brother, Tom Wing, grew up in Hume, NY and attend the Hume United Methodist Church.

Tammy attended Fillmore Central School and graduated in 1976. She then attended Olean Business Institute with a Secretarial Degree. In June of 1979 she married her longtime boyfriend Ron Lathan. They have one daughter, Melissa, a son in law, Christopher and two grand kitties.

Tammy has worked at Monroe Community College in Rochester (In charge of the Student Activities Desk), Pavilion State Bank (Secretary to the Bank President) and then Letchworth Central School (Secretary to the School Superintendent). Tammy retired from that position on August, 31, 2021 after 25 years of service.

While Tammy and her husband lived in Wyoming for 25 years she attend the Pavilion United Methodist Church. During that time she was a Lay Leader at the United Methodist Church, took Lay Leader Training at the same time as Eric Kelly and was a Pulpit Supply Preacher.

Tammy and Ron moved to Silver Lake in 2013. Tammy's husband, Ron will be retiring on November 30, 2021 after 41 years for Livingston Associates/C. P. Ward in Scottsville and they are looking forward to continuing their love of travel. Tammy also LOVES **Crazy Socks & TURTLES.**



Church Directory

Building Hours: 8:00 AM- 2:00 PM

Tuesday - Friday

Temporary Pastor: Tammy Lathan

Tammy's Cell: (585) 969-0695

Church Phone: (585) 493-2840

Church E-mail: Castile_UCC@yahoo.com

Website: www.castileucc.com

Administrative Coord.: Marlene Loomis - 493-2968

Admin. Coord. Hours: Tues.- Fri. 8:00 AM- 2:00 PM

Bd. of Elder Chair: Bonnie Miller - 237-3958

Bd. of Trustees Chair: Dennis Miller - 493-2743

Church Moderator: Charles Miller - 237-3958

Custodian: Melissa Dake - 493-3215

Director of Music: Barb Meyer - 322-7396

Supt. of Buildings & Grounds: Greg VanSlyke - 493-5874



Our Wednesday Fireside Chats are held at 6:00 PM on Castile UCC's Facebook Page. If you would be interested in doing one of these chats, please contact Marcy VanZandt at 493-2119 or the church office.



December Preaching Schedule

First Sunday of Advent – November 28th

Light one candle for **HOPE**

Second Sunday of Advent – December 5th

Light one candle for **PEACE**

Third Sunday of Advent – December 12th

Light one candle for **JOY**

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 19th

Light one candle for **LOVE**

Christmas Eve – December 24

Light one candle for **CHRIST**



Preparing the Way...

Sun., December 5 - Angel Action Gift Sunday

This year the church will be sponsoring 5 Families from Angel Action for Christmas.

The Angel Action ornaments will be hung on a Christmas tree in the church narthex on Nov. 21. Please stop by the church and select an ornament then return the **UNWRAPPED** gift with the tag taped to it on **Sunday, December 5, 2021.**

Sun., December 19, 2021 - Christmas Pageant

This year the Board of Elders and the Board of Christian have joined together for the four weeks of Advent to bring you, "The Year of the Perfect Christmas Tree". This is a story written by Gloria Houston and a part of it will be read each week during the Children's message, with the end of the book that will be performed as this year's Christmas Pageant.

Our story takes place in 1914-1915 in the Appalachian mountains. Come and take a step back in time...

Following our Christmas Pageant we invite everyone to our annual "Birthday Party for Jesus" in the Embling Dining Hall for some old fashioned refreshments.



December 24, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Greetings from Bonnie Miller...

I know that if I mention Christmas Eve you just might say that it is too far away to even think of BUT it is not. This is meant to entice you to attend our Candlelight service as we follow a group of shepherds who are in the fields caring for their flocks.

Why were these lowly people chosen to be the first ones to see the newborn Christ child? These men were dirty, smelly, hardworking and probably had on all the clothing that they owned. But when the angels appear in the heavens above and share the news about the baby's birth in the stable in Bethlehem, they never hesitate a moment and immediately leave the fields and head toward the stable. Shepherds, hurry

Hurry... Hurry... run to the manger to see the newborn King.

See you at 7:00 PM on Christmas Eve and just maybe you might meet a shepherd or two. or hear the story of a lamb.



Use Christmas Cards as Prayer Reminders

As Christmas Cards arrive in December, place them in a basket in a noticeable area. Once a day, pull out one card and pray for that person or family.

Keep the Christmas card basket out all year if you wish and pray regularly for other families. You may even want to write the person a note signed by you and your family saying, "We prayed for you today!"



Blue Christmas

"Blue" Christmas with Those Who Mourn

Blue? Yes, blue as in the blues. As in "I am feeling blue."

Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future and a number of other human situations.

Holiday gatherings and festivities can be painful for many people in our congregation and community. With a growing attentiveness to the needs of people who are "blue" at Christmas, increasing numbers of churches are creating a sacred opportunity for people living through difficulties. Such a service is reflective, accepting where we are, and offering healing and hope. This year Castile UCC will be offering a short "Blue" Christmas Service.



The service will be broadcast live on Facebook, Sunday, November 28, 2021 at 6:00 PM. **You are invited to join us online or in person at the church.**



Christian Education News

Christmas is Coming...

Sun., November 28

Making ornaments for Pageant Christmas Tree

Sun., December 5

Making ornaments for Pageant Christmas Tree

Sun., December 12

Christmas Pageant rehearsal

Sun., December 19

Christmas Pageant followed by a "Birthday Party for Jesus" held in the Embling Dining Hall.

Sun., December 26 – No Sunday School

Memorial Christmas Poinsettias - \$10.00

Deadline is December 15, 2021

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Given By:

Check _____ Cash _____



Before You Buy

Before you buy a bunch of stuff for family and friends this holiday season... **Try asking them what they really need.**

Maybe they need help with a utility bill, or a car payment, or the rent.

Maybe they need a kid free night and could use a free babysitter.

Maybe they need a night off cooking or could use a homemade meal.

Maybe they need help with gas for their car.

Maybe they need a night out with friends.

Maybe they need a cup of coffee and someone to just listen.

Maybe they need help making the holidays bright for their children.

Maybe YOU could be the one to give them what they really need this SEASON rather than just more "stuff".

5:55 PM - P.T.P.

Prayer is the speaking part of your relationship with God. Think of Prayer as a conversation. You speak to God in Prayer, then you listen attentively as He speaks to you as you read your Bible.

You know we can all benefit from techniques, guidelines, or train of thought... **Try using P. T. P.**

Praise, Thanks, Petition.

- PRAISE GOD for who He is, and what He has done for us as Creator...
- THANK GOD for all His blessings He has afforded us in our lives, including the gift of His Son, Jesus...
- Then, PETITION GOD for what you need.

ALONG with your personal petitions should be prayers of intercessions... praying on behalf of others.

So SET YOUR Phone Alarm for 5:55 everyday – Take time to stop and PRAY P.T.P.



Just a Prayer Concern Reminder:

In order to add some one to our Prayer Concern List, you must get the person's permission first.



Altar Flowers

December – Advent Display & Memorial Poinsettias



Child Care (None provided at this time)



Clerks Records

Births

Stella Joe Schumacher – born November 7, 2021
Parents: Seth & Rachel Schumacher
Grandparents: Wayne & Pamela Patridge

Newsletter Deadline

All newsletter articles for the “United Flyer” are due **by the 15th of each** month and are at the discretion of the church office.



Board of Trustees News

Trustee's Items:

Organ Tuning - Nov. 4 by Parsons Pipe Organ Builders

Safety Inspection - Nov. 3 by Wyo. Co. Safety Inspector

Trustees' Repairs:

- Light bulbs in Pastor's Office replaced
- New ballast replaced in downstairs light
- Replaced emergency light in Sunday School hallway
- Added a smoke detector to old sound system room

St. Pauly's Used Clothing Drop-off Box

What to Donate: Used clothing, shoes, belts, purses, linens, blankets, curtains, and stuffed animals.

What NOT to Donate: Furniture, electronics, household items, books, toys, rags, pillows or fabric scraps. **Our latest check: \$159.04.**



Smile... Our Clothing Shed is now monitored by a Camera System.



Sexual Harassment Training

On Wed., Nov. 10 at 3:00 PM, our Temporary Pastor, Tammy Lathan and Admin. Coordinator, Marlene Loomis attended the mandatory Sexual Harassment Training.

In accordance with the New York State there is a copy of this policy and a reporting form on file in the church office.

New Church Sign Update:

All American Sign Company has received our deposit for the new sign. The two new posts have been installed for the new sign.

Please keep watching out front... it is our hope to have it installed by Christmas.

We have recently received a grant for \$1,000.00 from the Genesee Valley Assoc. towards our new sign. Many thanks!

Quilt Raffle to Benefit the Church Sign:

Tickets are \$5.00 each or 3/\$10.00
and will go on sale Sun., November 21

Drawing to be held on Sunday, December 19 at
11:30 AM (At the Christmas Pageant Brunch)

Queen Size Quilt w/ 2 pillowcases



Quilt made and donated by Sheri Brandes



Pastoral Search News

Thank you to our congregation for your continued support. We have recently received a resume of a Pastoral Candidate interested in our profile.

Our Pastoral Search Committee reviewed the profile in depth and at this time we have decided to continue in our search for a Settled Pastor.

Committee Members are:

Tyler King: Chair

Marlene Loomis: Contact Person

Debbie Beeman

Lynn McNamara

Barbara Meyer

Cliff Scott

Thank You's

To **Beverly Edwards** for returning \$184.50 in pop cans and water bottles. (This covered the whole summer.)

To **Dennis & Dawn Miller** for donating a case of pew size hand sanitizers.

To **Paul Scott** for purchasing the new emergency light and smoke detector for the church.

To **Castile UCC Women's Fellowship** for donating \$500.00 toward the new sign and for blessing our Military with \$25.00 Amazon gift cards for Christmas.

To the **Letchworth Central School, National Honor Society** for hosting their annual Food Drive to benefit local Church Pantries. These drives help us all stay connected with one another through generosity and caring.

To **Tom Reagan** for cleaning out the gutters on the church.



Church Rental Fees:

We would like to remind you that the Embling Dining Hall is available for rent. With the upcoming Holidays, this is a wonderful space to hold family parties.

The fee is \$50.00 for members and \$100.00 for non-members.



Missions News

SERRV items will be available most weeks.

Remember this missions project when looking for unique Christmas gifts. Thank you for supporting this project for over 20 years!

Scrap Metal Mission

• cast iron • copper • stainless steel • steel • brass
• aluminum • lawn mowers • electric motors • old machinery • power tools • hand tools • batteries

Please, NO: T.V.'s, computers, air conditioners, freezer, refrigerators (nothing with Freon in it.)

Contact Chuck Klein at 567-8204 for pick up.

★
THE CHRISTMAS FUND
for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

Giving to the Christmas Fund gives you an opportunity to be a part of a ministry that cares for the active and retired clergy and lay persons of the United Church of Christ.

The Christmas Fund Offering Ingathering will be on December 19, 2021.



December Birthdays

- 2 - Makenzie McCallister
- 3 - Steven Miller
- 3 - Nicole Granger
- 11 - Nolan Bannister
- 13 - Sarah Andrews
- 14 - Elizabeth (Davis) Frost
- 17 - Calvin Lindsey
- 18 - Steven Weaver
- 23 - Amber Sears
- 28 - Darla Huntz
- 30 - Lynn McNamara



December Anniversaries

- 8 - Theodore & Rose Ann Lindsay
- 28 - Steve & Barbara Meyer



Castile UCC Food Pantry

The Castile UCC Food Pantry is open. Thank you to our New Food Pantry Coordinator: Sally Bliss.

This Emergency Food Pantry is open to residence in the Town of Castile and can be visited monthly.

Please continue to call the church office at 585-494-2840 to make an appointment.



The Cross on the Wall

A Cross on the Wall is not a sign of your Christianity, it is a reminder that Christ should be the center of our lives.

This is our final cross in our series. This cross is one we have all looked at for many years. Our Sanctuary Cross! I reached out to Rev. Clyde Embling for some history of this cross.

I remember asking the architect, W. M. Moll, who designed our sanctuary back in 1963 about the cross. (He was a Lutheran and involved in the Lutheran Church.) He told me, that when it came to designing the cross, "I JUST WANTED IT TO BE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CROSS THAT I COULD MAKE."

I also remember that after many years, {some of the pieces of blue glass glued to the diamond panel in the middle fell off inside, leaving a 3 inch spot of clear glass which let white light shine out.}

I am quite sure it was Hal Seymour who climbed up there with a big, long ladder (and found that there were some fallen pieces of stained glass and taped up some colored paper in their place and it looked much better.

About 25 years ago, some more pieces of glass had fallen away, and Tom Reagan climbed up and tried to glue all the pieces back in place, but they did not all stay. It was difficult to try to glue them vertically and not have them slide down. Some more have come off and need to be reglued. Fortunately, the pieces are all contained within the central "box".



Additional Information added by Tom Reagan:

About 15 years ago, the original neon light behind the cross stopped working and Scott Chamberlain and his father, Bill Chamberlain, took the cross down by themselves and replaced the specially fabricated light with strings of little lights to illuminate the cross and central stained glass. About 5 years ago, when we got the projector and screen for church services, the cross was rehung several feet higher on the front wall to allow space for the screen below it. The Mennonites built the case for the screen and moved the cross when they hung the screen.}

Added by Marlene Loomis

Another interesting fact... that has not changed through all of this... if you are in the sanctuary in the evening, with just the cross light, you can see arrows light a path all the way down the aisle carpet. Rev. Embling showed this to me and my husband to be, back in 1980!



Women’s Fellowship

Our Mission Statement:

“Through the belief in our Living God, our mission is to reach out and support families and individuals in need, by sharing ideas and creativity, using our time and talents to strengthen ties in the community.”

2021 Chairperson: Marcy VanZandt
Vice-Chair: Bonnie Miller **Sec.:** Mary Reagan
Correspondence: Carol Becker
Treasurer: Cindy Feroletto

Next Women’s Fellowship Meeting
Monday, December 13 at 11:00 AM
ALL Women are INVITED!!

RUMMAGE SALE THANK YOU’S

This is an ongoing THANK YOU to the entire church for all your help in assisting us in disbursing our remaining Rummage Sale treasurers. We are very appreciative for your brainstorming efforts in solving this situation.

“Meals & Missions”

At the November Women’s Fellowship meeting it was decided to wait until Spring to resume “Meals & Missions”.

“Comfort Quilts”

Women’s Fellowship recently donated Comfort Quilts to The Cloisters in Warsaw, NY, the Batavia Veteran’s Home and the Buffalo Veteran’s Home. Thank you to all of our sewers!!!

“Hats for the Homeless”

Again, this year Women’s Fellowship will be collecting “Hats for the Homeless” through December.



These can either be knitted, crocheted, sewn out of fleece or for those who don’t knit or crochet, store boughten is just as nice. We are also collecting athletic tube socks.

Socks are the number one request from Open Door mission.



Military Personal Addresses

No address at this time:

Joshua Chicelli	Christopher Meyer
Rich Reed	Nathan Scott
Tyler Smith	Garrison Villeneuve

Michael Close
260 Owens Ct. Apt 28
Oceanside, CA 92058

Anthony Feroletto
142 Droms Rd.
Glenville, NY 12302



PV2 Lindsey, Tristin
304 N. McCarthy Ave.
Bldg. 845 Ste 117-Branch
Eglin AFB, FL 32542

Major Michael McLaughlin
8116 Gray Wolf Drive
Fort Drum, NY 13603

Page, Christopher Michael

3742 Patriot Drive Apt 201

Mail Box 5

Abilene, Texas 74606

Joshua Soble

2726 Trojan Ct.

Lenmore, CA 93245

Sara Torres

11537 Laurel Lake Square

Fairfax, VA 22030



Just Dropping By... Gifts of God

By Yevet Tenney

Submitted by Greg VanSlyke

The witches and ghosts of Halloween have scarcely flown out of the stores before Christmas carols start to waft through the atmosphere. The glitter and glitz of the holiday start to line the shelves reminding us that it is time to buy, buy, buy! Christmas is on its way, and the mental list starts to form.

The kids don't need baby dolls, trucks, transformers or video games like they received last year. Cell phones and tablets have enough games to spare. New clothes are a no-no. You are, after all, from the dinosaur foundation of fashion. Gift cards are so impersonal. The knot in the stomach starts to tighten. What can I do that is better than last year? What can I give my children that won't be destroyed in the first week or clutter their closet for the next year and become a battle of wills cleaning up bedrooms? What do you give children who have everything, but appreciate so little?

I think the Lord must be facing the same dilemma with His children. America is the most affluent country in the world. High-rise buildings, filled with stuff, scratch the very tummy of heaven. There are cars in nearly every driveway, devices in nearly every hand, and food of every kind is piled

high on nearly every table. Yet people walk around as if they had only pickles for breakfast, lunch and dinner for the last six months. They honk horns in disgust! Fists pound the air with unsavory gestures and unpleasant language to every insignificant bump in the road. Anger and frustration permeates every walk of life.

For many, reverence for life and liberty have gone the way of all the earth, and the pursuit of happiness has become the avaricious pursuit of toys, gadgets and free stuff. God's gifts are stacked under the proverbial tree unopened and unappreciated by many. **What more could He give his children that would make them look up in awestruck wonder at the bounty of His glorious gifts?**

He already created the mountains and the snow for skiers, and the balmy beaches for those who have the need for sand between their toes. He even made the sun to warm the sand and the moon to shower the silver water with magnificent beauty. The stars glitter the sky with the miracle of infinity and speak of the endless creation of worlds yet unexplored. He made the forests filled with animals and plants in so many varieties that man can hardly categorize them. He made the placid lakes that mirror the wonder of spring, summer, fall and winter. He gave man and woman power and dominion over all of it. What is more, He gave them a mind and heart to enjoy the good things of the earth and promised that whatever His children asked for in faith they could receive. In the words of Napoleon Hill, "Whatever the mind can conceive, the mind can achieve."

The freedom to choose is one of God's greatest gifts to men and women. It is interesting to note that men of faith have taken God at his word and have discovered laws of the universe that have blessed the entire human race. The Wright brothers conquered the sky; Edison opened the door to electricity and the wondrous gift of moving pictures. Ford and others made speedy transportation a reality. On the other hand, men of a different persuasion took God at his word and created untold misery and death among the

nations of the world. Hitler, with his dream of a super race, almost conquered the world. He destroyed thousands of innocent people in the process. God did not renege on His promise even in the face of such evil. I am certain it made Him sad that this great gift of agency was used for evil purposes, but a promise is a promise.

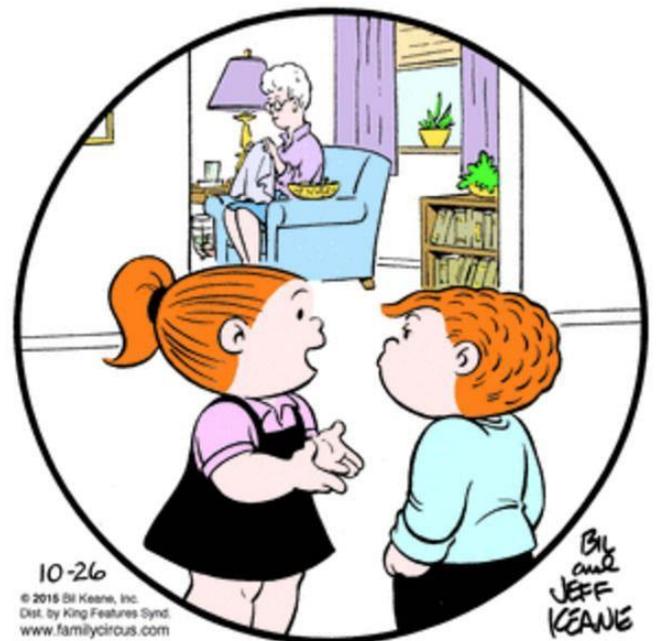
God gave man the ability to choose good or evil, and He honors the gift for everyone, all the time. It probably pains Him to see people passively letting their lives pass them by, allowing the world to swish them hither and yon with every wind of doctrine, never making a definite decision or determining what they really want out of life. They unwitting live by the philosophy: "Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die." Gratitude for the gift of agency never crosses their minds. It remains a magnificent unwrapped gift under God's Christmas tree.

Another gift that sits under His tree is the gift of memory. This gift of memory is a gift that has been handed down from father to son from Adam down through every God-fearing generation to the present. God instructed his prophets and others to write the laws that will bless and keep nations free from bondage, both physically and spiritually. The rules are written not only in the form of "Thou shalt not" but in the form of "Thou shalt." This memory book and the philosophy contained therein cost the best blood of every generation to preserve it – Isaiah, Peter, James, Paul, Thomas Becket, Thomas Moore, William Tyndale, Maximilian Kolbe, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and many more who died for their faith and the preservation of Christianity. To remember them and the sacrifices they made is a gift that we seldom open with gratitude or even think about.

Relatively few open the Bible on Christmas Day to read the story of the birth of the greatest gift ever to grace the earth, Jesus Christ the Savior of the world. We open the magical gadgets and gifts made possible by the faith of other men, but do we show faith in the one who made all this possible? Are we opening our own God-given gifts? The Bible says: "*As every man hath received*

the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" (1 Peter 4:10 KJV).

In other words, every person on Earth has been given a special gift over which he or she is to be a steward to bless our fellow beings. "For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith ..." and to another the gift of healing, the working of miracles, the gift of prophecy (1 Cor. 12:8-10 KJV) and so on. There are certainly other gifts that Paul could have mentioned. The gift of hope, a fervent desire to know for sure that Christ is leading our lives and to be able gaze into the future and see what the world needs and try with faith to fulfil that need. The gift of faith is not a gift at all if we look at the package and admire the ribbons, the shiny paper and the magnificent bow on top. We must open it and use it every day!



10-26
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**"The two places we know we're
always welcome are church
and Grandma's house."**