

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

December 11, 2022

*We welcome
the following new members
into our church family today:*

Kay Michelinie

Sponsor: D. Guy Burns

John & Susie Shafer

Sponsor: Sue Hawkes & Lin Case

*The First Congregational Church, UCC
Canandaigua, NY
New Members Ceremony*

Introduction

As we enter into a covenant welcoming these new members to our church family, let us remember the vision of the community of faith as described by the apostle Paul:

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

(Romans 12:9-13)

We welcome these new members as they join in our journey of faith together.

Question to the New Members

Kay, John and Susie, do you desire to join the First Congregational Church of Canandaigua, UCC, and do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in your faith, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of God as best as you are able? Do you promise to be a faithful follower of Jesus Christ, and to do all in your power to become the person that God created you to be?

New Member: I do.

Questions to the Sponsors

Guy, Sue and Lin, will you walk with these new members as they grow in faith and find connection to this church community? Will you invite them to live what they believe? Will you pray with and for them as they find their place in this family of faith?

Sponsors: I will

Questions to the Congregation

Do you as members of the First Congregational Church and you who are members of the church universal welcome these new members into this church family?

Welcome by the Congregation

We welcome you with joy to the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and vision that God has given us. We promise to give you encouragement and support and to work with you as we grow together in our faith and in our commitment to this church family.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We thank you, O God, for these unique and beloved individuals who have come to join our family of faith. May they find among us a deep love and concern for them and their well-being. Enable them to find their place of service among us. Grant that they may grow in grace and love. Guide them in their journeys and help them to always know your love. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Welcome Presentation of Certificate and Flowers

***Moderator and Deacon:* In the name of Jesus Christ and on behalf of this congregation, we welcome you into the membership of this church and extend to you our hand of fellowship.**

Declaration of Thanksgiving

May our journey together as people of God reflect the reality of our commitment to one another and to Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen!

***New Members and Congregation:* Thanks be to God!**