

**First Fruits Food Pantry for November:** Tuna, peanut butter, chicken or tomato soups, canned green beans, macaroni, stuffing, rice, beans.

**Join Our Choir!**

Please see Matt Caputy if you are interested in becoming a member of our choir. We rehearse Thursday evenings from 7:30pm-9:00pm, and at 9:30am Sunday mornings.

**New! Support our Mitten Tree.**

The Mitten Tree is now standing tall in our Beard Ave. lobby, awaiting your gifts of warmth to decorate its branches. From now through Christmas, please bring in **mittens, gloves, scarves, socks and (new & packaged) underwear for all women, men, and kids.** All donations will go to Clara's Closet.

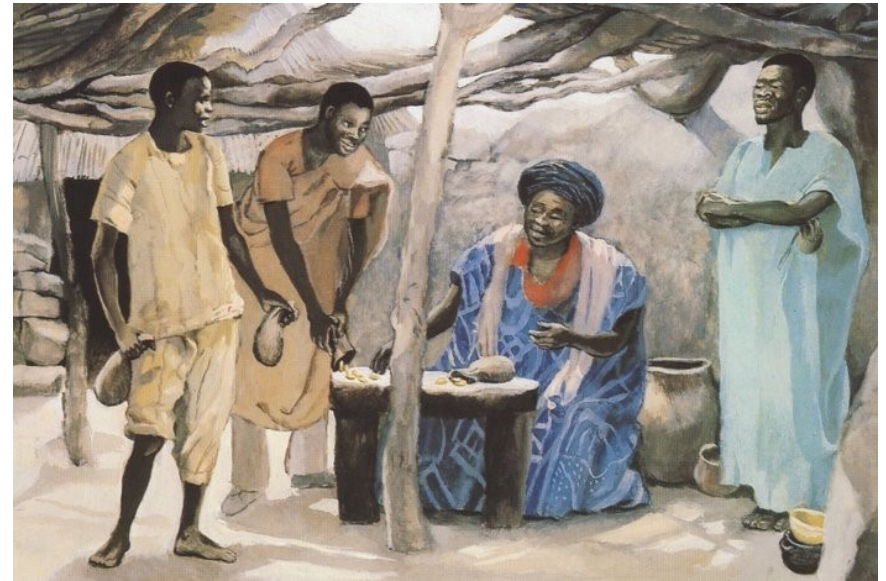


**New! "Safe Haven" Congregation Central Park UMC** has been named a **"Safe Haven" congregation** by The United Methodists of Upper New York. As such, we will remain committed to providing a safe and welcoming space for those who have lost their church home due to closure or disaffiliation, connecting them to individuals and groups as they seek to discern next steps in finding a new church home.



**Our church office will be closed Thursday & Friday this week.**

Use the QR Code Below to make your weekly donation, support Clara's Closet, or purchase tickets to any of our fundraising events. It's the fast & easy way to give.



**November 19th, 2023**

**25th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Thanksgiving**

**Central Park United Methodist Church**  
216 Beard Ave.  
Buffalo NY 14214

Website: [centralparkcomplex.com](http://centralparkcomplex.com)

E-Mail: [help@centralparkcomplex.com](mailto:help@centralparkcomplex.com)

Clara's Closet Website: [clarasclosetbuffalo.org](http://clarasclosetbuffalo.org)

**Rev. Mary A. Kelly, Pastor**

**Mr. Matthew Caputy, Minister of Music**  
Lector/Eucharistic Minister: **Mr. Dave May**

*We are a Christ-centered community of faith and love,  
reaching out to all.*

Cover art: "Parable of the Three Servants" by Jesus Mafa 1973

*The flowers at the altar today are designed by Jackie Paterniti and given by Levan & Kwennie Snell, in celebration and remembrance of their son Byron's birthday.*

**Prelude** Prelude in B Major, BWV 868 J.S. Bach

### Greeting

**+Opening Words:** United Methodist Book of Worship

*Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide all the nations upon the earth.*

**Let all the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.**

*The earth has brought forth its increase;  
May God, our own God, bless us.*

**Let all the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.**

**+Opening Hymn:** Hymnal #694  
"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

**Prayer of the Day:** J.M. Todd, England, 20th cent.

*Most gracious God, you crown the year with your goodness.*

*We praise you that you have ever fulfilled your promise*

*that, while earth remains, seedtime and harvest shall not cease.*

*We bless you for the order and constancy of nature,*

*for the beauty of earth and sky and sea,*

*and for the providence that year by year supplies our need.*

*We thank you for your blessing*

*on the work of those who plowed the soil and sowed the seed,*

*and have now gathered in the fruits of the earth.*

*And with our thanksgiving for these blessings,*

*accept our praise, O God,*

*for the eternal riches of your grace in Christ our Lord;*

*to whom, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit,*

*be all glory and honor and worship, forever and ever. Amen.*

**A Time for Children** Ms. Jackie Paterniti

**Choral Anthem:** "Now Thank We All Our God" J.S. Bach

**Prayer of Confession (Unison):** Discipleship Ministries

**Faithful God,**

**We confess that we do not give attention to the things that are of you. We listen to rumors and gossip instead of what is true and**

**honorable. We do not hold fast to justice. We do not train our hearts on what is pure and pleasing to you. In our words and our deeds, we stray from all that is commendable, excellent, and worthy of praise. We do not attend to all we have received and learned of your good news, and so we do not live in peace with you or with our neighbors. Forgive us, we pray. Free us to live as your grateful people.**

{Offer silent prayers of confession.}

**Assurance of Pardon:**

*Receive the good news: God pays attention to us when we pray.*

*God receives our confession and saves us by grace.*

*May the peace of God guard us in mind and heart now and forever.*

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*Listen with love to God's instruction revealed in the scriptures  
we're about to hear...*

**The Psalm:** Psalm 100:1-5 pew Bible page #552

**The New Testament:** 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 pew Bible page #205

**+The Gospel:** Luke 6:43-45 pew Bible page #65

*Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.*

**Thanks be to God!**

**The Sermon** The Rev. Mary A. Kelly

**+Hymn:** "For the Beauty of the Earth" Hymnal #92

**Minute Speaker:** Mr. Ken Thurlow

**Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory Anthem:** "Sheep May Safely Graze" J.S. Bach

**+Blessing our Gifts**

**Holy Communion** Hymnal #15

**The Lord's Prayer** Hymnal #895

**+Closing Hymn:** "Now Thank We All Our God" Hymnal #102

**+Benediction:** Discipleship Ministries

*May God's peace follow you wherever you go, guiding and guarding you, that you may live in joy and thanksgiving with God, self, neighbor, and all creation. Amen.*

**+Postlude** Fugue in B Major, BWV 868 J.S. Bach

**+denotes standing, as you are able.**