

Good News



First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca

315 N. Cayuga Street • Ithaca, NY, 14850 • 607-272-2800 • Rev. Kirianne Weaver, Senior Pastor • Rev. Cynthia A. Weaver, Pastoral Supply

Need to Submit an Article? Please send it to the office: office@firstpresithaca.org by the due date. We print and mail the Good News on a monthly basis. Email subscriptions also available.

EARLY Due Date for Christmas Issue: Monday, November 15th.

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Worship Schedule for November 2021:

Sunday, November 7, 10am:

Communion Sunday and All Saints Day.

Scripture: Mark 12: 38-44

Message: “Out of Our Poverty”

Sunday, November 14, 10am:

Deacons Sunday

This Sunday, the Board of Deacons of our church lead the service, discussing the ministry of visitation and care they help our congregation live out as a family of faith.

Sunday, November 21, 10am:

Stewardship Sunday

Scripture: The story of Hannah from 1 Samuel 1 and 2.

Message: “A Prayer for a Generation.”

Sunday, November 28, 10am:

The First Sunday of Advent!

Scripture: Jeremiah 33: 14-16

Message: “The Days Are Surely Coming”

*This same Sunday, starting at 3:30pm, come for the **Hanging of the Greens!** We'll begin with the outside lights (dress warmly!) and move indoors as the sky grows darker. At 5pm we'll stop for dinner, enjoy dessert with a Christmas Carol, and then go upstairs to the Sanctuary before saying goodnight for a very short moment of music and spirit, to bless the newly decorated space and enjoy its beauty. 3:30pm-6pm!*

Dear friends,

A number of times, people have said to me that they wished they had known all about someone's life before they read their obituary. I have said the same thing to myself—we read a summation of the life of one we have just lost, and suddenly realize all the questions we wish we had asked! Except it is now too late, and we ache all the more for what we have lost.

I had that experience reading Florence Finch's biography, and then had it again just recently when I read Christina Wu's obituary. I have included it on pages 6-7; it was not published in the local papers, and I fear many may have missed this incredible story, told in loving detail and with personality.

...Oh, you're still reading the cover page? If you have turned back here, you know now what I mean. There are incredible stories tucked away in one another's lives. How can we learn these better, and how can we discover the incredible ways God has shaped us each?

I have been thinking for a long time that I would love for us to have a church storytelling time—something like the Moth Radio Hour, but framed as stories of faith. Not overt faith, necessarily; the experiences that have shaped me most have been more confusing than clear, more complex than declamatory. And yet, each has had some learning in it for me, some softening of my heart or thinking. (Some people think this a fault, but Jesus asked us not to be hard-hearted, not to be so stiff-necked!)

What's Inside:

- **Small Group Experiences**
- **Stewardship Sunday**
- **Hanging of the Greens**
- **A Buildings & Properties Work Party**
- **Memorial Services for Priscilla Lynch**
- **Join a CSA and pick it up at church!**

The only thing is, such a time wouldn't be any fun at all unless the congregation were willing to share its stories... unless YOU were willing to share YOUR stories. Only if we can tell one another about the things that have happened to us, or that we have done, could such a gathering be fruitful.

I know what some of you will say. Research shows that people fear public speaking more than death itself. Maybe your heart rate has already risen a few notches, just because I have asked this question out loud, and posed this idea... even though all the angels say, “Don't be afraid!”

But if a small part of you wants to hear other people's stories — wants to hear them enough that you are willing to risk speaking yourself, and blowing your great stories before your obituary (because let's face it, you WON'T actually die from this)... then think about this. And tell me you'd do it. And, if we set a date some day, then come. How else will we learn what God is doing in this, our amazing family of faith?

Be well, pray often, and... think about it.

From Pastor Cindy

One of the many joys of my work with this congregation is being the staff liaison to our Board of Deacons which our Book of Order describes as, “The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service...” (G-2.0201). Although the deacons participate in outreach projects to our local community, their primary work is the care of the congregation. A recent example of this is the COVID outreach project they undertook. During the time the church was closed due to COVID the deacons worked to reach out to and check in with everyone in the congregation periodically. If we have your current contact information, you probably heard from a deacon one way or another.

Now that we are worshipping in person again, that does not mean the deacons will not be reaching out and caring for the congregation. As long as there is a congregation, the deacons’ work goes on. A sampling of this includes visiting those who can’t make it to church, sending cards of congratulations and condolence, and coordinating meals for parents just home with their newborn child. In addition, much of what the deacons do is behind the scenes. For example, they supply and prepare the communion elements, and after a Sunday communion service, they clean up. Yes, even though communion is a holy meal, there are still dishes to do afterward.

Our current Board of Deacons is comprised of Louis Chua, Abby Crimmins, Michael Dixon, Harris Faulkner, Mike George, Betsy Mann, Stella Martz, Tom Owens, Beth Patton, Deb Streeter, and John Ullberg. If you know of someone who might need a visit, a card, or a call, please let a deacon (or a pastor) know. This also holds if you are the one who would benefit from a visit from someone filled with compassion - please do let the deacons know.

I wanted to highlight the work of the deacons because the work they do is so important to our ability as a congregation to love and serve God. They are humble servants, and I am grateful for their example.

With love and gratitude,



Adult Education

Adult Education Classes

Nov. 7.

Greek Exegesis. Once upon a time, the book of Philemon was used to justify slavery and many of its most brutal acts. Recently, scholars have been working to suggest to the church that we have all misread this book. We will look at the letter together, one of the shortest texts of the Bible, and start with a careful reading of a few words and lines so that we might renew our understanding of this book. Led by Pastor Kirianne.

Nov. 14

For more than thirty years, our church has provided supplemental funding to graduate students at Cornell whose work holds promise to alleviate hunger and food insecurity outside of the United States. Cyprian Kaziba received the grants in 2019 and 2020. While at Cornell, Mr. Kaziba worked with farmers in the Buvuma Islands of Lake Victoria, Uganda, to develop trainings in climate smart farming practices and start a revolving loan program to support implementation of these practices.

Nov. 21

Sermon Talk-back. When COVID had sent us all into remote-only worship, we had regular “sermon talk-backs” after church in which people were invited to comment on the sermon or ask questions it raised. We liked it then, so we want to keep it going. Join us for a Sermon Talk-back after Stewardship Sunday! Led by Pastor Kirianne.

Nov. 28

Peace Price Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu has said “forgiveness is the best form of self-interest.” He also said, “If you can find it in yourself to forgive, then you are no longer chained to the perpetrator.” Elmer Ewing will lead us as we share our thoughts about the pros and cons of forgiving.

NOVEMBER 2021

First Presbyterian Church * 315 N Cayuga St, Ithaca, NY 14850 * (607) 272-2800 * www.firstpresithaca.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>7 COMMUNION SUNDAY—All Saints 9am—Youth Group 9:30 am - Nursery (2nd Fl) 10 am - Worship Service (Sanctuary) WITH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 10:15 am—Godly Play 11 am—Fellowship Time 11:15 am—Adult Ed (Sanctuary) 3:30 pm—Recital—Susan VanSickle</p>	<p>1 3 pm—Kendal Worship & Communion 7 pm—Deacons Mtg (Hybrid) 7 pm—Study Group</p>	<p>2 7 pm - AA Mtg (Dodds and Fireside) 7 pm—Kava Irish Music- 3rd floor</p>	<p>3 6:30 pm—Finger Lakes Pipe Band</p>	<p>4 11am: Memorial service for Priscilla Lynch—Herson Wagner funeral home 6:30 Community Games Night 7:30p—Chancel Choir</p>	<p>5 10 am—Al-Anon</p>	<p>6 John Weiss and the Friendship Center Meals—Kitchen</p>
<p>8 7 pm—Study Group</p>	<p>9 2:30 pm - WMSL Mtg (Z) 4 pm - Adult Ed (Z) 7 pm - AA Mtg (Dodds and Fireside) 7 pm—Kava Irish Music- 3rd floor</p>	<p>10 6 pm—YMSS Mtg (Z) 6:30 pm—Finger Lakes Pipe Band 7pm—Personnel Mtg (Z)</p>	<p>11 9 am—B & P Mtg 6:30 pm Community Game Night 7 pm—Piperventilators—3rd floor 7:30—Chancel Choir</p>	<p>12 10 am—Al-Anon</p>	<p>13 10 am—Missioners Mtg (Z)</p>	<p>20 1:00 pm Steve Spinelli Concert with Cornell (Sanctuary)</p>
<p>14 - DEACONS SUNDAY 9 am—Youth Group 9:30 am - Nursery (2nd Fl) 10 am - Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:15 am—Godly Play 11 am—Fellowship Time 11:15 am—Adult Ed (Sanctuary) 11:15 am—Recital—Susan VanSickle</p>	<p>15 GOOD NEWS DUE 7 pm—Study Group</p>	<p>16 1:30 pm—Finance Comm 6:30 pm—Tai Chi (Narthex) 7 pm - AA Mtg (Dodds and Fireside) 7 pm—Kava Irish Music- 3rd floor</p>	<p>17 SESSION DUE 6:30 pm—Finger Lakes Pipe Band</p>	<p>18 6:30 pm Community Game Night 7:00 pm—JPIC Mtg—(Z) 7 pm—Piperventilators—3rd floor 7:30—Chancel Choir</p>	<p>19 10 am—Al-Anon</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>21 - STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 9 am—Youth Group 9:30 am - Nursery (2nd Fl) 10 am - Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:15 am—Godly Play 11 am—Fellowship Time 11:15 am—Adult Ed (Sanctuary)</p>	<p>22 7:00 pm Session (Hybrid) 7 pm—Study Group</p>	<p>23 GOOD NEWS MAILING 6:30 pm - Tai Chi—Narthex 7 pm - AA Mtg (Dodds and Fireside) 7 pm—Kava Irish Music- 3rd floor</p>	<p>24 CLOSED 6:30 pm—Finger Lakes Pipe Band</p>	<p>25 CLOSED Happy Thanksgiving! 6:30 pm Community Game Night 7 pm—Piperventilators—3rd floor</p>	<p>26 CLOSED 10 am—Al-Anon</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9 am—Youth Group 9:30 am - Nursery (2nd Fl) 10 am - Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:15 am—Godly Play 11 am—Fellowship Time 11:15 am—Adult Ed (Sanctuary) 3:30—Hanging of the Greens</p>	<p>29 7 pm—Study Group</p>	<p>30 6:30 pm - Tai Chi—Narthex 7 pm - AA Mtg (Dodds and Fireside) 7 pm—Kava Irish Music- 3rd floor</p>				

Worship, Music, & Spiritual Life

All-Church Advent Devotional Project

We are very excited to be working on our Advent Devotional project! So many members and friends of the church are writing Advent devotionals to share with our church family this coming season. We thank all of you who are working on your submissions.

The devotional will be sent out by email each day in Advent. If you already get the church's emails, sent through "mailchimp," you do not need to sign up for these devotionals; they will come to you.

However, if you do not get group emails from the church, for instance the remote worship emails we sent out when church was not meeting in-person, please make sure we know your email address and have added it to our list by contacting the office

Linda Sharpe, Administrator
607-272-2800
office@firstpresithaca.org

We look forward to this special way of connecting, at a time when our interconnectedness as a family of faith is more important than ever.



Old Photos Game!

Answers from last month:



Barth and Martha Mapes

Beth Patton

Jean Hsu

Congratulations to last month's winner:

Bobbie Kohut, who was 3 for 3!

Memorial Service for Priscilla Lynch:

Thursday, Nov. 4:

Calling hours 10-11,

Service at 11am

at Herson-Wagner

Funeral Home,

110 S. Geneva St.



A Heads-Up:

This Christmas Eve, we are planning to have two services: one at 7pm and one at 11pm. This idea came to be because we want to make sure everyone is able to socially distance during the services, and sing all the carols to our hearts' content!

In addition, however, we find ourselves in the rare discovery that the pandemic has brought us *back* to a tradition, rather than merely taking traditions away from us! Our church used to hold a midnight service every Christmas Eve, until it seemed the lateness of the hour was too much for many worshipers.

We are working hard to make both services beautiful, different from one another, and worth the attending. Plan to join us:



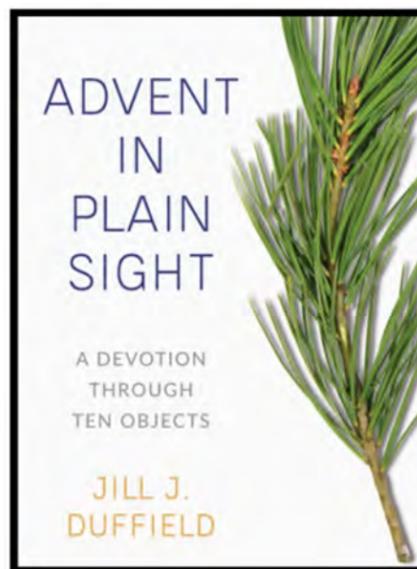
**Christmas Eve Services
December 24, 2021
at 7pm and 11pm!**

Small Group Study: Advent in Plain Sight

Small group opportunity during Advent and Christmastide

As we approach another winter with the pandemic still present in our world, we anticipate the coming of the Christ child into our lives to shine light on God at work in this world. Jill J. Duffield has written a daily devotional for small group discussion, taking ordinary objects which appear in the biblical narratives of messianic prophesy and incarnation to find new meaning in the biblical account of Jesus' coming. Through objects such as gates, trees, cloth, light, and water, Jill asks the reader to encounter God's kingdom of heaven on earth and discern divine possibility in what at first glance appears to be utterly mundane. Jill is our guide as we become aware of Immanuel, God with us, past, present, and future.

Sharing our personal experiences after reading the short daily devotionals will expand our own understanding and connect us with others in our community of faith. Our hybrid church services and committee/board meetings leave us yearning for deeper conversations with each other. Meeting for an hour a week can provide that spiritual openness which only a faith community can offer. This study is designed for six weeks, beginning the week of November 28th, offering groups on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday depending on people's schedules. Each short reading centers on a theme and includes Scripture, commentary, questions for reflection, and a prayer for the day.



Sign up after services beginning October 31st or online (mscourtney228@gmail.com), indicating your preference of meeting day. Groups will meet via Zoom at 7 PM or can meet during the day if there is enough interest. Weekly theme-based questions will guide the discussion although we have found that small group meetings are influenced often by the Holy Spirit working through group members. We encourage you to form groups based on shared interests, such as young families, intergenerational gatherings, and committee or action groups. Books are available online or can be ordered through local bookstores: Jill J. Duffield, Advent in Plain Sight, A Devotion through Ten Objects. Westminster John Knox Press.

Take advantage of this seasonal focus on spiritual life and reclaim the original meaning of Christmas. The people who join the group determine the group's direction and significance. Sign up during November in person or online.

Building Manager Office Cleanup Party!

Your faithful Buildings and Properties Committee is planning an office cleanup party, and would love your help! There are two offices filled with paint and putty, bottles, tools, nuts and bolts, and all the rest. We need lots of kinds of skills: organizers, haulers, and people who know their way around building materials!

Kiri is planning to bring donuts, and the office coffee machine will be perking. Park in the parking lot and stay for the Veteran's Day Memorial service in Dewitt Park. Many hands make light work!



**Thursday, November 11,
on Veteran's Day,
from 9am-11am!**

Youth and Children

Youth Activities for November

Please invite friends and family members to join us at anytime. Godly Play is our K—5th Sunday School curriculum and is held during the service after the children's time. Youth Group is for 6th—12th graders and is held at 9—9:50 am on Sunday mornings. If there is a three day weekend, per the school calendars, the youth group does not meet.

Date	Acolyte	GP Story	Storyteller	Doorpersion	Youth Group Discussion	YG Facilitator
11/7	Jacob/Annalee	The Great Family	Suzanne	Ben	Story Telling Project	Suzanne / Tavie
11/14	Liam / Joseph A	The Exodus	Suzanne	Laura	Story Telling Project	Laura / Suzanne
11/21	Suzanne	The 10 Best Ways	Laura	Ben	Story Telling Project	Tavie / Laura
11/28	MooEh Soe	Advent 1st Week	Ben	Laura	No Youth Group	

Intergenerational Special Event, Pie Baking:

When: Saturday, November 13, 2021

Time: 1 pm—4 pm (please bring your favorite snack to share!)

Where: Dodds Hall in First Presbyterian Church located at 315 N Cayuga St.

Details of Service: It is a tradition of First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca to host a Turkey Tuesday meal on the Tuesday of Thanksgiving week. This year due to the restriction of COVID-19, we will not be hosting our regularly planned meal. However, The Ultimate ReEntry Opportunity (URO) program has a small group and they will be hosting their small Meal of Gratitude on November 17th at our church. Just like our youth would make pies for our meal, I hope we will be able to round up enough people to make pies for URO. This will be a wonderful church service project. COVID-19 protocols include spacing 6 feet apart in Dodds Hall, the use of an air purifier and asking everyone to be masked.

More about (taken from URO website): The mission of URO is to eliminate systemic barriers to reentry in Tompkins County using a collective impact model. This means working with those impacted by incarceration, governmental policy makers, researchers, nonprofit organizations, and community members to make structural changes—create safe and affordable housing, improve employment prospects, increase transportation access, close gaps in health care and other social services.

Announcements and Reminders

Can you find the words listed below in this Word Search?



- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Kitchen Cupboard | reformation | decorations | stewardship |
| youth group | all saints | Godly Play | gratitude |
| harvest | stories | farmers | worship |
| deacons | thanks | ornaments | giving |
| hanging of the greens | anthem | advent | choir |

Birthdays in November



- 1 – Kyounghee Han
- 6 – John Weiss
- 13 – Joshua Yoon
- 19 – Lisa Everts
- 19 – Robert Kohut
- 22 – Kate Hubbs
- 25 – Maurice Haltom
- 26 – Glen Dowell
- 28 – Jan Favaro

...We would love to add your birthday and/or your anniversary. If it's not here, please let the office know and we will be happy to add it!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to
Virginia and Lamont Hine, November 7th !

All Saints Bulletin:

Please help us commemorate the church's loved ones for our All Saints Bulletin. Each year, we print the names of those who have, over the course of the past year (from November 1 2020-the present), become part of the Communion of Saints. Names need not represent members; they are all whom we have loved and will miss.

Send names by Monday, November 1 to Linda at: office@firstpresithaca.org



We hold in our constant prayer:

Ann Cedarholm; Bobbie Collyer;
Tom Hurst; Betsy Mann; Gayle Park;
David Morey; Jean Radice; Connie and
Don Scott and their family; Bibs Warner,

and Marianne Weaver.

Our prayers are also with Linda Sharpe, as her mom ails in Florida; with Heather Lane, whose mom has been diagnosed with cancer; and with the families of Betty Wayman, Priscilla Lynch, Christina Wu, and Meredyth Jones on their losses. With love and care, the church.

TAI CHI

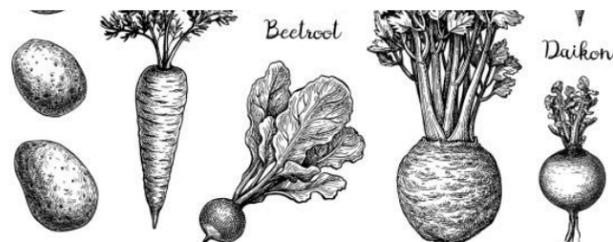
Please join us for Tai Chi in the Narthex on Tuesday evenings, 6:30-7:30. We are taking a two week break Nov. 2 and 9, but we will begin again for six weeks on Nov. 16. Maurice Haltom is an experienced and excellent teacher who donates his time to teach us. We are fortunate to have him lead us in movement and meditation.

Join a CSA with us!

Kirianne invites you to join her in signing up for the Full Plate CSA this winter. The Full Plate costs \$350 for 12 weeks: fresh salad/cooking greens, root crops, onions, garlic, potatoes, winter squash, dry beans, fermented products and sprouts. **Side dish CSAs** are also available: Fruit, Dairy, Bakery, & Beans.

So far, we have about 6 CSA shares we are picking up together. One person will pick our shares up from Stick and Stone Farm and bring them to church. Shares would be stored in the kitchen (using fridges and counters when needed) through Sunday morning, a great time to pick up your shares when you are already coming for church!

This is great for the environment and for our local community! Together, we can eat locally and seasonally, save shipping, reduce packaging, support local farmers and promote environmental living! If you're interested and have questions, contact Kirianne at kirianne@firstpresithaca.org ... or just sign up for your share with Full Plate, and choose to have your box(es) picked up from the Stick and Stone Farm. *And if you are joining us, make sure you let Kiri know—or we won't know to pick up your share!*



From the Deacons

DEACONS SUNDAY is coming!
November 14th!

We are glad to see people again for in-person church and for church related activities. We hope to see you on November 14th!

KITCHEN CUPBOARD

Our church continues to support the work of the Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard, one of the main food pantries in Tompkins County for needy individuals and families. Your donations of money and food are very helpful. In addition, volunteers from our congregation pack food orders on the first and third Thursdays of each month between 1:30 and 3:00pm. If you are interested in helping to pack food orders, please contact Tom Owens at 607 280-7866 or tgo2@cornell.edu.



ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to remember or honor someone by ordering altar flowers, please see Stella Martz or email her at stellamartz@gmail.com.



Stewardship Sunday—Nov. 21

This church congregation, faithfully through the years, has had a strong tradition of giving that is beautiful and impressive. It is hard to know whether to publicize gifts given, especially when they are given by those who, in their own lives, were not flashy or ostentatious; when the Beischers, for instance, gave an incredible bequest to the church, several people told me that they were stunned—as a couple, they were quiet and modest, but their gratitude to God was not. Their gift gave us the capacity to fund our full-time Director of Christian Education position, which has been an amazing gift and a tremendous ministry for our church.

In the current season, as we come back together again on the other side of what by all accounts has been a life-changing season, what is it that we want to imagine as a congregation? What do we want most to do and be? I know that exciting things are on our horizon; it's not just the energy of our people of faith right now, it's the signs I see as a leader. There are ideas afoot. There are possibilities presenting themselves. I can't wait to see where it takes us next.

What do you imagine, and what would you like to see taking place? The kingdom of God is among us, and calling to us each; the Spirit speaks, and we listen. We take off our shoes; we approach the burning bush; we recognize we are in the presence of holiness, and when it calls our name and asks us to give ourselves to the service of the one Who Is, we hesitate, and stutter, and then accept God's call.

The bush is afire—what do you see?

Stewardship Sunday: November 21, 2021.

At the 10am service and thereafter, we will receive our community's faithful pledges of gifts to God, the first-fruits of our work; and pray for the future God is calling us to create here on earth.

Hanging of the Greens!

Sunday, November 28,
from 3:30-6pm



Hard as it is to believe, the calendar confirms it! Advent begins on Sunday, November 28th! We will begin our Christmas preparation that day during the morning worship service and continue it with a Hanging of the Greens Party that afternoon. We will decorate indoors and out with lights and greenery while singing along to recordings of our favorite Christmas carols. Then before heading down to Dodd's Hall for a meal of soup and salad, we will dedicate our freshly decorated sanctuary to God's service during the Advent season of joyful waiting and preparation.

Come one, come all! From making paper chains to adorning the shrubs out front with strings of lights to assembling Christmas trees there is a project for all God's children of any age.

I think I can smell the mulled cider already.



An Amazing Life Story: Christina Wu.

Christina Wu, a schoolteacher, avid reader, and the heart of her family, died of lymphoma on September 27 in Ithaca, New York. Mrs. Wu, whom people often described as the kindest person they had ever met, was 92.

From her tumultuous childhood in Europe leading up to World War II, to building a life in the United States, Christina maintained a philosophical mindset and calm demeanor. She was prudent yet playful, caring and curious. She always saw the best in people.

Christina was born in New York City on Dec. 17, 1928. She was the first child of her mother, Chih-Yi Feng Chan, and her father, Crane Chan, a foreign service officer for China. In 1933, after the birth of Christina's younger brother Plato, the family moved to Hamburg, Germany, where her father was posted. Christina still remembers the day, as a little girl, when her family watched a loud Nazi march, with thousands of people raising their arms to salute Hitler.

A few years later, her father was assigned to Paris. Those early times were glamorous ones for Christina's family. Her parents were a dashing couple, and the family lived in an apartment overlooking the Bois du Boulogne, a sprawling park near the 16th arrondissement. Her parents hired a chef and hosted evening soirees with diplomats and artists. Plato was an art prodigy, whose paintings attracted early attention and were featured in a spread in a 1939 issue of *Vogue*, as well as in an article in *The New Yorker*. The siblings, who were very close, spent afternoons in the art gallery of famous Chinese art dealer C.T. Loo.

In 1938, as invasion by the German army loomed, the family moved to London. Plato exhibited his paintings to support the war effort, and his portrait of the Queen drew notice from her majesty herself. They were invited to Buckingham Palace, where Christina remembered tea and cookies with the first lady-in-waiting.

Her father returned to Paris, and thereafter was unable to rejoin them because of the war. Christina, Plato and her mother lived in a rooming house in Kensington, where as the weeks wore on, and finances became tighter, the family moved to the

higher, cheaper rooms. They often were awakened in the night by German bombing raids and had to scramble down into the London Underground for safety. Later, Christina's family moved out to the country to avoid the bombing, where she briefly attended a Russian ballet boarding school.

In the early 1940s, since she and Plato were American citizens, they were able to get spots on one of the last USO boats evacuating children to the United States. On that treacherous ocean passage, Christina remembers all the lights being extinguished at sunset, and the children being told to keep quiet, so as not to attract U-boats trolling the seas for Allied ships to sink.

She was 13 when they started a new life in New York City. The Chans found a small apartment on the Upper West Side, and her mother persuaded Horace Mann-Lincoln school to let Christina and her brother enroll on scholarship. While she spoke Cantonese, French, Mandarin and some German, her English was not her first language, and it was a struggle. But she loved the classes, particularly one in which students spent the semester taking apart an entire car. Her part was the differential.

When Christina was in high school, the head librarian of Columbia University's Teachers College took an interest in the family and advocated for Christina to attend Barnard College. She initially failed English, so her advisor made her sit in her office every day and write one paragraph. Her constant companion was a battered Webster's Dictionary which she referred to as her "best friend." Christina loved doing dissections in science, explaining, "Don't you wonder what's inside?"

She graduated with a bachelor's degree in English in 1951. The president of Barnard, who also took an interest in her, thought she would be an excellent teacher. For four years, she taught fourth grade at the private Brearley School for girls. The newscaster Walter Cronkite used to bring his daughter Nancy to her class – Christina described him as very pleasant.

In the summer of 1955 in Boston, while at Harvard summer school, a friend introduced Christina to Ray Wu, a doctoral student in biochemistry at the

University of Pennsylvania. They fell in love, and were married on August, 11, 1956 in Philadelphia. He took a post at the Public Health Research Institute in New York City, and they moved into an apartment in Stuyvesant Town. Her son Albert was born in 1957. Brearley asked Christina to come back, but her mother told her "absolutely not," telling her she needed to take care of her family. So she retired from teaching. Her daughter Alice was born in 1959, and for a brief time, the family shared their apartment with both Christina's and Ray's mothers.

Christina devoted herself to her young family. Creative and whimsical, she excelled at arts and crafts activities, fashioning tiny toy animals and costumes for her children. She was also an enthusiastic booster of reading and was a regular booster of the Scholastic Book Club. Despite her frugal habits from the war, she allowed her children to buy as many volumes as they wanted. She once declared: "You can never spend too much on books."

In 1965, the Wus moved to Palo Alto, where Ray Wu was on a sabbatical at Stanford University. In 1966, they moved to Ithaca, New York, where Ray joined the faculty at Cornell University. They spent the next 55 years there, interrupted only by a six-month sabbatical in Cambridge, England. Christina worked as a volunteer for her children's school libraries and the community, at one point arranging a civil engineering study to improve water drainage in their neighborhood.

As the Chinese Cultural Revolution began to recede, she hosted cousin Karen Yan to come to the US, nurturing her and teaching her English in the Wu home for four years. This was followed by hosting another friend, Silvia Wu, for two years. On Thanksgiving, Christina and Ray would host two dinner shifts for foreign graduate students from the Wu lab. Christina also helped watch over and care for Ray's mother, and then her own mother, at the ends of their lives.

All the while, she was the supportive and nurturing grandmother to her daughter Alice's children, Alex and Adriana, who lived close by. She taped Chinese words on objects all over their home, to help them learn Mandarin.

In 2000, Christina and Ray Wu were in an

early wave of couples to move into Kendal, a new retirement community in Ithaca. They had been persuaded by former Cornell University President Dale Corson, who was one of its founders. Christina, 72 and healthy, initially resisted, exclaiming that they were really too young to be living there. However, she quickly reconciled, volunteering for various committees and activities.

After her childhood experience, she was offended by waste and extravagance. She was relentlessly frugal, wearing the same white cotton cardigan sweater and tearing tissues in half to use as napkins. Christina also found a way to boil down life's struggles: If you're tired, take a nap. If someplace is too far away, don't worry about going. If someone is being mean, feel sorry for that person, because they probably had a difficult childhood.

She was consistent in her simplicity, integrity, and common sense, and she helped others in ways big and small, getting the mail of residents who were sick and visiting them in the nursing unit. A friend said this: "She befriends everyone who needs a friend."

When Ray Wu died in 2008 after a brief illness, she had a network of friends close at hand. In 2012, she developed an aggressive lymphoma that was treated successfully with chemotherapy.

In those later years, she became even more engaged in Kendal, with activities that included the Nominations Committee, Resident History Committee, History Book Club, French Club, watercolor classes taught by a 100-year-old resident, and up to five exercise sessions per week. Christina attended concerts and lectures, always taking extensive notes as she did for a recent series on advances in neuroscience. Several times a week she watered the vibrant collection of plants that lined the long, bright windows in Kendal's main building.

She was entirely well during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, but developed a recurrence of her lymphoma, this time in a form that could not be treated. She was able to live independently in her cheerful cottage, where she was surrounded by books and issues of one of her favorite publications, *The Economist*. She ate almost every meal in her cottage with her children and grandchildren, and she gave out many of her soft hugs.

During 6 months of illness, she never complained. "I have been lucky," she declared. "Whatever happens, I will accept it."

