The Carillon

United Church of Christ, Congregational, Arcade
Pastor Josh Bower
Editor: Shannon King

Dec. 2026 – Jan. 2027

Charge to the Arcade UCC Congregation

I would ask you, the Arcade United Church of Christ congregation, to please consider these next remarks as part and parcel of the instruction manual for the care and the feeding of your beloved pastor.

Yes, you have been doing much of this for a while now, but it never hurts to be reminded of some of the things you can do to keep the relationship with your pastor healthy and positive. This is not an exhaustive list, and please do not think because I list something here that I think you aren't already doing these things.

The first charge is an obvious one, and really, is kind of easy. And the rest of the charges proceed from this: Love Josh.

Love him enough to tell him when he has spinach in his teeth, by which I mean love him enough to tell him when something's amiss, and he would want to know, even if the conversation might be awkward.

Love him enough to trust him when he suggests something new, even if it scares you, or you might disagree.

Love him enough to support his Sabbaths, and his Sabbaticals, because recreation and renewal are critical in a pastor's personal and professional life.

Love him enough to allow him to take risks, make mistakes, misspeak, be human, because pastors aren't perfect, even if many of us strive to be.

Love him enough to remember and celebrate the important dates in his life: his wedding anniversary with Nicole, the anniversary of his ordination, the anniversary of his first day serving you here at Arcade UCC.

Love him enough to encourage him to keep reading, keep learning, keep growing, and love him enough to ask him to bring some of those new ideas and thoughts into this loving community.

I'm sure you get the idea by now, that my charge to you as a congregation being served by the Reverend Josh Bower is to love him in as many ways as you can, for his sake, for your own sake, and for the health of this church, and the wider church. Love really is the answer. Amen.

~ Delivered October 24, 2026 by the Rev. Gary Ferner
Associate Conference Minister for Search and Call, UCCNY



The Reverends Joshua Bower and Gary Ferner at the ordination of Rev. Bower held at Arcade UCC.



December Birthdays

3 Randy Lutz
7 Jessica Langley
16 Sheila Vrenna
17 Stacey Fudella



January Birthdays

1 Karen Czesak
2 Shannon King
8 Katelynn Rogers
9 Jim Vrenna
13 Janelle Chernogorec
23 Marilyn Pirdy
24 Sharon Hawley
24 Dirk Norwich
31 Shirley Kriedeman



December Anniversaries

31 Lary & Barbara Schaefer – 44 years



January Anniversaries

3 Bill & Karen Schaper – 57 years

December Bible Readings

6 **Isa 40:1-11**
Ps 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

13 Isa 61:1-4, 8-11
Ps 126 or Luke 1:46b-55
1 Thess 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

20 2 Sam 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:46b-55 or Ps 89:1-4, 19-26
Rom 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

27 Isa 61:10-62:3
Ps 148
Gal 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

January Bible Readings

3 Jer 31:7-14 or Sirach24:1-12
Ps 147:12-20 or Wisd of Sol 10:15-21
Eph 1:3-14
John 1:(1-9), 10-18

10 Gen 1:1-5
Ps 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

17 1 Sam 3:1-10, (11-20)
Ps 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Cor 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

24 Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Ps 62:5-12
1 Cor 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

31 Deut 18:15-20
Ps 111
1 Cor 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

Keep in Touch!

Want updated information on what's happening in your church? Like to know what's coming up? Join us on Facebook, Arcade United Church of Christ, Congregational, or visit our website at www.arcadeucc.com for up-to-date information, pictures, calendar of events and more!





Upcoming Important Dates at a Glance

- **Gentle Exercise class** every Monday at 10 am, Wetzel Hall, all are welcome!
- **Coffee Break & Bible Study**– 9am-11am every Tuesday. All are welcome!
- **Sunday, Nov. 29 – Advent begins**
- **Tues., Dec. 1-Thur., Dec. 3: Christmas Extravaganza with Arcade Elementary School!**
- **Thur., Dec. 3 – Women's Fellowship Christmas Party, 5 pm, The Grove**
- **Sat., Dec. 12, 6:30 pm – Christmas Tractor Parade in Arcade**
- **Sun., Dec. 13, 3 pm –Annual Christmas Cantata, Arcade UCC**
- **Sat., Dec. 19, 4-6 pm – Free Community Dinner, mac & cheese, Team 1 is working**
- **Mon., Dec. 21 – Workers Union meeting, Great Room, 1 pm**
- **Thur., Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Service, 5 pm**



ARCADE UCC
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
THURSDAY, DEC. 24 AT 5PM
PLEASE JOIN US!

In Memoriam

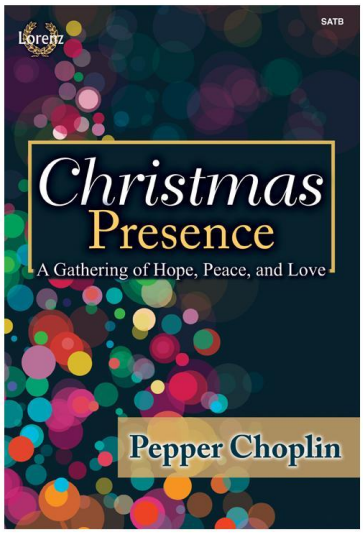


We are deeply grateful for the life Mrs. Jane Seyler Roan Kerstetter lived and for the important lessons she shared with her grandson, our Rev. Josh Bower. Mrs. Kerstetter, 87, died peacefully, November 14, 2026, surrounded by her family. We extend our sympathy to her family on the loss of their mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother. Her husband, William Kerstetter, preceded her in death.

Pastor wrote the following on his Facebook page on November 18: *"Of all the lessons she taught me in life – and there were many – the most important lesson I learned from my Grammy was to always care for those that no one else was looking out for. Whether they be students in her classroom, neighborhood kids that needed a hot meal and safe place, even the stray cats she kept fed daily until her passing, she always made sure you knew you were loved."*

Reverend Josh Bower and Pastor Frank Hartzel officiated the service which was held at Rote United Methodist Church in Mill Hall, PA on Saturday, November 28, 2026.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be sent to the Rote United Methodist Church, 102 Beagle Road, Mill Hall, PA 17751.



Christmas Cantata
Presented by the Arcade United Church of Christ Choir and Friends

Sunday, December 13, 3 p.m. Arcade UCC

"Christmas Presence: A Gathering of Hope, Peace, and Love" by Pepper Choplin

Publisher's description:
"From the pen of Pepper Choplin comes Christmas Presence, a musical telling of the Christmas story and its impact on our lives and the lives of those around us. From the energetic opener, The World Awaits Your Coming, to the reflective Still They Are Here, this work inspires us to dwell on the important and profound way that Christmas brings us together through the joy of Christ's birth. Beautiful original melodies and thoughtful texts are paired with and inspired by favorite carols of old in a unique and creative way. The finale features an inspiring call to action: "Go into the world to be a Christmas Presence, bringing hope, peace, and love to a world in need."





Opportunities for Christmas Giving

Reverse Advent giving to local PAC food pantries. This year we are trying a different theme each week, then planning on delivering to the pantry each Monday. Here are the themes, but please feel free to bring what you can.

Week 1-Nov. 29th: Cereal and canned fruit

Week 2-Dec. 6th: Peanut butter, jelly, soups, tuna

Week 3-Dec. 13th: Baking mixes, flour, sugar, spices

Week 4-Dec. 20st: Toiletries/paper products, boxed noodles and potatoes and other sides.



The Giving Tree at Pioneer Central School

Pioneer schools will once again be participating in the Giving Tree. This program provides families in need with gift cards which allow them to purchase clothing, toys and food for their children through the generous donations of the community. Gift cards are purchased from area businesses like Arcade Market. Donations of all sizes help with the mission. Your generosity is greatly appreciated! Send checks payable to Pioneer Giving Tree to Pioneer High School, PO Box 579, Yorkshire, NY 14173, Attn: Louise Harrick. Thank you for putting smiles on the faces of these young people this Christmas!

Women's Fellowship
Christmas Party

The Grove (formerly Chanderson's)

Thursday, December 3

5 pm

All women of the church invited!

We will be ordering from the menu.

Sign up outside of the sanctuary if you plan to attend.



Gentle Exercise… Did You Know?

Arcade UCC offers a Gentle Exercise Class every Monday at 10 am in Wetzel Hall and all are welcome! The class collects monetary donations that are given to the local food pantries, to Arcade UCC and to individuals in need. The donations are voluntary and not required in order to take the class. However, it has been an amazing community outreach to help others through the generosity of those who attend the class! Thank you to those who continue to help! And on top of the contributions that are made through the class, it is a ton of fun with a lot of laughs! All while exercising, moving and getting/staying healthy! Join us!!

If anyone has good news they would like in the upcoming issues of the Carillon, please contact Shannon King in the Church office, uccarcade@gmail.com or 585-492-4530.



Christmas Extravaganza with Arcade Elementary

Tues., Dec. 1-Thur., Dec. 3

THE SALVATION ARMY DOING THE MOST GOOD

The Salvation Army bell-ringing at the Arcade Tops will begin November 17 and continue until December 24. We do not ring on Sundays. There will be no ringing on Thanksgiving. Times are one-hour blocks (minimum) from 9 am to 6 pm. You can certainly sign up for more than one hour if you wish!

Please bring music if you like, bring the kids, dress festively! We have a chair if needed. Also remember to dress warmly as we are in the foyer and it can be chilly. We thank Tops so much for letting us stand inside.

Our community has been so very generous with their volunteering and donations all these years and we thank you for that. Let's hope this year will be no different. Much of the money raised will be given to the local food banks of Arcade and Sardinia, and to help with other needs of the local community.

To sign up to ring the bell, please call Dawn Harrison at 585-492-2428.



Community Dinner Committees-2027

Team 1: Randy & Debi Lutz, Molly Holland, Jay & Kathy May, Mike Tanner, Shirley Kriedeman, Linda Korczak, Sharon Hawley, Shirley Wright, Dirk Norwich, Justin & Janelle Chernogorec

Team 2: Jay & Kathy May, Randy & Debi Lutz, Edie Holmes, Diane Szpak, Ginger Comstock, Shirley Kriedeman, Linda Korczak, Sharon Hawley, Shirley Wright, Dirk Norwich

Team 3: Jim & Sheila Vrenna, Suzanne Norton, Helen Boling, Jeff Mason, Chet Weir, Bruce Dennis, Lary Schaefer, Shirley Kriedeman, Linda Korczak, Sharon Hawley, Shirley Wright, Dirk Norwich

Team 4: Rich & Helena Vogt, Dona Roll, Judy Feine, Kim Common, Amy & Nate Tillinghast, Shirley Kriedeman, Linda Korczak, Sharon Hawley, Shirley Wright, Dirk Norwich



Community Dinner Dates for 2027:

Jan.30-Team 3

Feb.27-Team 2

Mar.20-Team 3

April 24-Team 4

May 29-Team 1

June 26-Team 4

July 31-Team 1

Aug.28-Team 2

Sept.25-Team 4

Oct.30-Team 3

Nov.27-Team 2

Dec.18-Team 1

Live Streaming Services

We continue to have online services each Sunday at 9:30am through our Facebook page if you are unable to join us in person! Join us from anywhere! Worship bulletins are sent via email in advance. If you do not already receive these, please contact the church office to ask to be placed on the email list. (585-492-4530).



Prayer List Updates

As you look at the prayer list in the Sunday bulletins, if you see anything that should be updated, please contact Shannon in the church office. Of course, we are all ready to pray for anyone in need, but if you see a name that no longer needs to be listed, or should be added, please let us know. Thank you!



Margaret Homan Memorial "Rides to Doctors" Mission is intended to help members of our congregation get to regularly scheduled appointments when no family members or friends are available. It is not for emergencies. Please always call 911 for emergencies. To sign up for a ride to your doctor's appointment please call Kim Common at 716-796-4396, Sheila Vrenna at 585-653-5046 or the church office at least a week to ten days before your appointment.



Coffee Break/Bible Study

From 9-11am each Tuesday, Arcade UCC is hosting a "Coffee Break" for the community. It is held in the church library. Coffee and goodies are served free of charge and the community is welcome to stop by to enjoy good conversation and a hot beverage. Bible Study offered as well! Good for the body and soul! Welcome all!



Arcade Area Food Pantry

The food pantry located at the United Methodist Church on the corner of Pearl and Main Streets is open every Monday and Thursday from 12:30-2pm. During this time, bags of food are brought out to the vehicles.

Wed., Dec. 2, 4-7 pm
Sat., Dec. 19, 9-11 am
Wed., Jan. 6, 4-7 pm
Sat., Jan. 16, 9-11 am
(every first Wednesday from 4-7 pm and third Saturday from 9 -11 am of the month)

The drive-thru food truck in the Arcade Park will be held:
Dec. 17 from 10 am – noon.
Anyone in need is welcome! Please spread the word!

The Christmas Fund Offering



For over a century, **The Christmas Fund** has provided direct financial assistance to the healers in all our lives: retired and active UCC ministers, church workers, and their families. Whether you donate at Christmastime, have benefited directly from our grant or leadership programs, or simply believe in this ministry, **you are part of The Christmas Fund community**.

Consider **donating to The Christmas Fund** today to ensure more healers receive the loving support of the Church in their deepest moment of need. **The Christmas Fund was here for them**. And regardless of who you are or what brought you to the United Church of Christ, **The Christmas Fund is here for you**.

Your gift is more than just a testament to your belief in the values of the United Church of Christ; it is a critical lifeline for those who depend on our grant programs for love and support. Thank you again for your generosity.

Visit www.christmasfund.org to learn more and to donate online. Or scan the QR code below!

This Christmas, celebrate the blessings in your life by making a gift to our ministers, church workers, and their families.

Visit christmasfund.org to learn more and donate online.

Donate Online Here!



Committee Reports

Outreach Meeting

The Outreach meeting was called to order at 10:50 on November 15, 2026 by Chairperson Sheila Vrenna. Members also present were Dirk Norwich, Ginger Comstock and Debi Lutz.

A motion was made by Dirk to accept the October minutes with a date change for the November meeting from the 16th to the 15th. Ginger seconded the motion. Passed

The Community Dinner served 90 and collected $230. The schedule was updated for next year. Dirk is going to work on putting his receipts together. A card of thank you will be sent to Jo Sixt for her years on the committee.

We continue to thank Karen Schaper for sending out cards.

There were no changes to the Bible Study and Coffee Break time.

There are no scheduled rides to appointments at this time.

The food collection at the Arcade Market was very successful. The food will be distributed between the two Arcade Food Pantries. A total of 14 boxes and $361.25 was collected.

A reminder that Reverse Advent Food Collection starts on November 29th.

We may be asked to decorate a door in the annex.



Our next meeting is December 13th at 10:45.

A motion was made by Sheila and seconded by Dirk to adjourn at 11:20. Passed

BUILDING & GROUNDS MEETING

October 22, 2026 – 10am

In attendance: Dona Roll, Ginger Comstock, Justin Chernogorec, Kathy May

Plow Contract – Kathy received the plowing contract from Lee Lawn Care. Pricing remained the same as last year at $16.00 per plow. Contract will be signed and mailed back to them. Dona has spoken with Mike Sampson and he has agreed to do the sidewalk shoveling on the weekends. Weekdays are not covered yet.

Lifepak Update – We need to do an update on the AED unit in the annex. Justin will do this next week while he's at church setting up in the pavilion for Halloween.

Boiler issues – we continue to have an issue with the boiler heating when it's not needed regardless of thermostat setting. Kathy has contacted Stacy Thompson (who installed the boiler) several times and there has been no response. It was decided to try NOCO. Kathy will contact them.

Disaster Preparedness Webinar – Kathy, Ginger and Bruce attended a Disaster Preparedness Webinar. One of subjects covered involved communication with members. We realize we have several members who live alone and we need to make sure they are safe and have the help they need. Also, it was suggested that we make a video of the contents of the church proper and the annex to keep it on file in case an insurance claim needs to be made. We can keep this on our to-do list.

Roof Repair/Replacement – The roof needed shingle replacement again this year due to the high winds we experienced. Repairs were made in July. Due to the 23-year age of the roof, it was suggested that we get some estimates on replacing the Church St. side. The representative from Neth and Sons Roofing who did the repair work didn't feel the roof was in dire need of replacement at this time but should be considered in the not-too-distant future. Kathy has received an estimate from Neth and Sons. She also contacted two other

roofers but has not received any information from them. Dona and Justin are both interested in possibly finding grant money for the replacement. We can revisit the estimate portion of this project in the spring.

Heat Tape for Gutters - Should heat tape be placed on the gutters in the area that's freezing and flooding the boiler room? A question for Randy.

Review fire alarm call list and procedure – A new call list for the fire alarm was made and will be forwarded to the Sheriff's Department. The procedure list when responding to an alarm will be distributed to those on the list. Kathy also reviewed the Safety Inspection Requirements from Wyoming County. We are currently up to date on all inspections.

Review Opening/Closing Duties – Ginger put together a list of duties for those opening and closing the church. We can change/update it as we go forward.

Bait Mouse Traps – Dona volunteered to take care of this.

Remove car stops – Randy has taken care of doing this in the past. Justin can help if needed.

Council request for maintenance plan – Council requested that a plan be developed to maintain the building. As all of our systems, carpets, paint, etc. age, we need to stagger updates from an affordability standpoint. Of concern at this point – the elevator (door replacement?) and the roof.

Future meeting – Our next meeting will be on November 20 at 10am. If this time works, we will continue to meet the 3rd Friday of the month at 10am.

Opening/Closing Schedule:
November – Kathy
December – Bruce
January – Justin
February – Dona
March – Ginger
April - Kathy

Financial Report

October 2026
Revenues:
Pledges: $18,354.04
Regular Giving: $754.00
Loose Offering: $295.00
Fundraisers: $10,055.70
Misc. Donations: $346.00
Building Use: $100.00
Total Revenue: $29,904.74

Expenditures:
Benevolences: $0
Office/Administration: $1,444.70
Pastoral Administration: $5,175.14
Worship & Music: $2,015.94
Education Ministry: $0
Outreach Ministry: $25.59
Buildings & Grounds: $1,725.50
Pastor/Parish/Stewardship: $0
Total Expenditures: $10,386.87
Surplus for October $19,507.87

Budgeted Revenue: $126,803.00
Expenses: $170,616.56
YTD Revenue received as of October 31, 2026: $29,904.74
YTD Expenses as of October 31, 2026: $10,386.87

Fall Festival Update:
Total Profit $11,173.00 Profit to Arcade UCC for the General Fund: $10,055.70
10% Community Donation ($1,117.30) was evenly divided between the NY Conference UCC "Together in Love" Initiative and the Community Food Pantry at Hope building project.



CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL-BLESSINGS PROJECT

If you are interested in participating in the Christmas Memorial-Blessings Project, please fill out this form and return it in the offering plate or to the church office at 297 Main St., PO Box 95, Arcade, NY by **December 20, 2026**. Please include your name and/or church offering envelope number.

Given by:_____
In Memory of_____$_____
In Honor of_____$_____
For Blessings Received $_____

This year's Christmas Memorial-Blessings donations will be given to local families in need.

Please enclose payment with this form. **Checks may be made payable to Arcade UCC. Please write Memorial Blessings in the memo.** Thank you for taking part in this project. If you have any questions, please call the church office, (585) 492-4530.



(Cut out to return with your Christmas Blessing offering or use the one found in the weekly worship bulletins.)



Carillon Newsletter

The Carillon is being compiled, printed and mailed by Audrey Erick and Shannon King. Please continue to watch for the deadline date for your articles and reports and give them to Shannon in the church office. We hope to produce a quality newsletter. Any suggestions are welcomed. The deadline for the February issue is January 20, 2026.

We welcome articles and written pieces from our congregation! For this reason, we need to add the disclaimer that the views written in the Carillon are not necessarily the views of the Arcade United Church of Christ, Congregational, but are those of the individuals who write the submissions.

Published 10 times per year by the United Church of Christ, Congregational, 297 Main St., PO Box 95, Arcade, NY 14009.

Office Phone: (585)492-4530
Office E-mail: uccarcade@gmail.com
Website: www.arcadeucc.com
Worship Schedule: 9:30am worship, in person and live-streaming on our Facebook page