



The Carillon

United Church of Christ, Congregational, Arcade

Pastor Josh Bower

(585) 492-4530

Editor: Shannon King

May 2026

A Very Special Day Held at Arcade UCC on April 19, 2026!



On Sunday, April 19, 2026, Arcade UCC recognized Rev. Josh Bower as an ordained minister with a signing of a new covenant. It was a very special day, as they looked back over the six years that Rev. Bower has been with Arcade UCC and all that has flourished and grown in that short time. Rev. Josh Bower, Bill Schaper and Rich Vogt each signed the new covenant in front of the congregation. Bill also created a beautiful stained-glass cross, which was given to Rev. Bower in honor of the special occasion by Bill and Karen (see photo above – credit to Ginger Comstock.)

Following the service, the congregation also voted to become an Open and Affirming church. *Taken from Arcade UCC's Facebook page, April 21, 2026:* History was made this weekend at Arcade United Church of Christ. On Sunday, April 19th, our congregation voted, officially and unanimously, to declare ourselves an Open and Affirming church.

"Open and Affirming (ONA) is the United Church of Christ's (UCC) designation for congregations, campus ministries, and other bodies in the UCC which make a public covenant of welcome into their full

life and ministry to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions."

[\(https://www.ucc.org/.../wider.../gsim/lgbtqia/lgbt_ona/\)](https://www.ucc.org/.../wider.../gsim/lgbtqia/lgbt_ona/)

While we recognize that there are varying beliefs across the wide spectrum of Christianity, we proudly offer our congregation as an affirming, safe, and loving place for ALL people. We boldly proclaim what we are taught in the scriptures - that God's love, grace, salvation, and care is for every person, regardless of who they love, how they identify, or where they are from.

Guided by the teachings of Jesus, Arcade United Church of Christ has been on the front edge of movements that fight for equal rights and protections since its founding in 1813.

Our church was prominent in the abolition movement of the 1800s, the women's suffrage movement of the late 1800's and early 1900's, and continues to fight for rights for all to this very day. Arcade UCC is now the first church - not only in our community, but also the only church of ANY denomination within many miles of our rural community - that is Open and Affirming.

For all those who have been harmed, ignored, or turned away from God's wider church in the past, know that you have a home here at Arcade UCC. Because no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are AFFIRMED at Arcade United Church of Christ.



Eddie Holmes made one of her famous scrumptious cakes for the reception following the April 19th service. The cake stated, "Congratulations on your Ordination," followed by, "You're stuck with us!" written on the side. 😊



Rev. Josh Bower poses with his wife, Nicole, and his parents, at the ordination reception.





Upcoming Events at Arcade UCC

WEEKLY: Gentle Exercise class - Mondays at 10 am. All are welcome!

WEEKLY: Coffee Break Tuesdays from 9-11am, Arcade UCC library. Bible Study at 10 am.

Sat., May 2 – Funeral and Celebration of life for Gloria Vogt, Arcade UCC

Sun., May 3 – Women’s Fellowship meeting following service

Sat., May 9 – Affordable Housing Fair, Arcade UCC, 10 am – 3 pm

Sun., May 10 – Begin bringing in Rummage Sale items – take to Wetzel Hall

Fri., May 15 & Sat., May 16 – Rummage Sale, Arcade UCC, 9 am-4 pm

Sun., May 17 – Outreach meeting, 10:45 am

Tues., May 19 – Workers Union meeting, 1 pm

Sun., May 24 – Pentecost/Strengthen the Church Offering

Thur., May 28 – Council meeting, 6 pm

Sat., May 30 – Free Community Dinner, sloppy joes, 4-6 pm, Team 1 working

May Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Rachel Boldt | 20 Ashley May |
| 4 Ginger Comstock | 22 Caitlin Sopic |
| 6 Adam Slocum | 23 Candy Hayden |
| 6 Andy Slocum | 25 Stacy Gertis |
| 11 Al Hummer | 25 John Cady |
| 11 Gary Bray | 29 Karen Schaper |
| 13 Alison Camp | 30 Kellie Ann Barker |
| 17 Debi Lutz | 31 Nate Tillinghast |

May Anniversaries

- 1 Liz & Wally Lowth – 56 years
 10 Molly & Glen Holland – 57 years
 26 Nick & Kahla Taylor – 7 years



May Readers and Greeters/Ushers

Date: 5/3
Reader: Jeff Mason
Greeters/Ushers: Jim & Sheila Vrenna

Date: 5/10
Reader: Dona Roll
Greeters/Ushers: Bill & Karen Schaper

Date: 5/17
Reader: Debi Lutz
Greeters/Ushers: Jo Sixt & Karen Schaper

Date: 5/24
Reader: Jay May
Greeters/Ushers: Randy & Debi Lutz



May Bible Readings

- 3** Acts 7:55-60
Ps 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14
- 10** Acts 17:22-31
Ps 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21
- 17** Acts 1:6-14
Ps 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
John 17:1-11
- 24** Acts 2:1-21 or Num 11:24-30
Ps 104:24-34, 35b
1 Cor 12:3b-13 or **Acts 2:1-21**
John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39
- 31** **Gen 1:1-2:4a** and Ps 8
2 Cor 13:11-13
Matt 28:16-20
-

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE



The Palm Sunday Cantata was held at Hope Lutheran's community center gym on March 29.

Dona Roll led an amazing group of singers/performers as they told the story of Holy Week. Performers were from the Pioneer Area Churches and beyond!



Maundy Thursday service with an Agape Meal was held at Arcade UCC on Thur., April 2.



Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026



Congratulations to Nick Tillinghast on the 10th anniversary of his confirmation on May 17.



Ride for Roswell

Submitted by Jay May

The Ride for Roswell Celebration of Hope is Fri., June 26th at UB and the Ride itself is **Sat., June 27th**, beginning and ending at UB. Our team, Team May is once again riding the 10-Mile River Route. Our team will consist of family members and friends. It is a wonderful event and I am so grateful to all of the folks at Roswell.

For anyone who would like to stay local and still ride for Roswell, Sheila Vrenna and Ginger Comstock will be riding in the Arcade Park on on Sat., June 20 at 10 am, for team, "Gordon's Go-Getters." Please contact one of them if you would like to join them! They would love to have more folks join them! They will be raising money as well and any money donated will be given to the Ride for Roswell.

Donate here:

https://give.roswellpark.org/site/SPageNavigator/apiSearch_parts.html

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

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!



Gentle Exercise Class, every Monday in Wetzel Hall at 10 am! All are welcome!



Hope Lutheran Offers Respite Program for Individuals Living with Dementia

The **second and fourth Thursdays of every month** from 10:30am-2:30pm, Hope Lutheran of Arcade is offering a free respite program for individuals living with dementia. This program provides one-on-one social companionship, meaningful activities and active engagement provided by volunteers. Crafts, bingo, sing-a-longs, games, gentle exercise, pet therapy, lunch, snacks and more! The program does require registration and an evaluation to assure the program is a good fit for all involved. Please contact Hope Lutheran for further information at 585-492-2530 or julie@hopearcade.org.



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.





**2026 Women’s Fellowship
Monetary Assistance for
Children Wishing to Attend
Summer Camp Available**

Assistance will be determined by the number of camp attendees and current available funds.

Children of members of the church are eligible. We remain hopeful that we can be helpful for years to come.



**PAC Food Pantry
Hours are as
follows:**

Food Pantry at the United Methodist Church is open weekly on Mondays and Thursdays from 12:30-2pm.

Food Pantry at Hope Lutheran is open on the 1st Wednesday of each month from 4-7pm and the 3rd Saturday of each month from 9-11am.

PLEASE NOTE!

Outreach has set a May 15th deadline to turn in all information and photos that will be included in the new directory so that they can get it to the printer and hopefully have directories in people’s hands by June 1st. Donations to help with the expense of the new directory will be appreciated, but certainly not necessary.



**Strengthen
the Church**

Strengthen the Church Offering

**Offering Date: Pentecost
Sunday, May 24th, 2026**

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. **By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.**

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Contributions can be made online at any time [here](#).

The theme for 2026 is Sent Forth in Love. Congregations are invited to participate in a [scripture study](#), share announcements in your [newsletters or bulletins](#), and display a [poster](#) to promote the offering. Participating in the offering helps foster connections with the wider church and create possibilities for the church of tomorrow.

Outreach Committee members will be collecting food for the food pantries at Arcade Marketplace on Saturday, May 9th from 10:00 until 4:00. Many thanks to David and Jane Brass for allowing our team to continue to do this collection.



Mark Your Calendars!

Health and Housing Fair - Sat., May 9, 10am – 3pm at Arcade UCC. Free event! Housing improvement resources, energy efficiency programs & utility providers, health program information and checks, free kids' activities, free food, speak to reps about available programs, enter to win a portable induction stovetop or a \$50 Lowes gift card. Residents from Wyoming, Erie, Cattaraugus and neighboring counties encouraged to attend!



The Women's Fellowship is organizing a rummage sale to be held on **Fri., May 15 and Sat., May 16 from 9 am – 4 pm. All profits will be donated to the general fund.** Everyone is encouraged to participate. As you do your spring cleaning, keep items in mind for the sale! Please have all items clean and ready for sale. **We will begin to accept items Sun., May 10. Please bring items directly to Wetzel Hall. There will be someone at the church to accept any donation drop-offs from Monday, May 11 – Thursday, May 14 during the hours of 9:30 am – 12:30 pm. If those times don't work for you, please contact the church office (585-492-4530) for alternative times.**



Arcade UCC's Talent Auction Returns! Sunday, June 7th and 14th! Sign up outside the sanctuary to volunteer and state what talent you will be auctioning!



Looking Ahead....Arcade UCC's Fall Festival! Sat., October 10, 2026 - Please begin collecting baskets and new items for the basket raffle!!



Committees for Community Dinners

Team 1: Randy & Debi Lutz, Bonnie & John Cady, Molly Holland, Jay & Kathy May, Mike Tanner, Shirley Kriedeman, Linda Korczak, Thomas & Shirley Wright, Sharon Hawley, Jo Sixt, Dirk Norwich

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

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

May 30th – **Team 1** – sloppy joe
June 27th – **Team 3** – meatball sub
July 25th – **Team 1** – hot dogs
August 29rd – **Team 2** – hot dogs
September 26th – **Team 4** – sloppy joe
October 24th – **Team 3** – spaghetti
November 28th – **Team 2** – spaghetti
December 19th – **Team 1** – mac & cheese

UPCOMING FREE COMMUNITY DINNER

**Saturday, May 30, 4-6 pm
Sloppy Joe dinner-Dine-in only!
Spread the word-Accessible to all!**



Committee Reports

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!



Happy Mother's Day to All Mothers, Grandmothers and Mothers-to-be!

Coffee Break and Bible Study Every Tuesday Morning!



Coffee Break and Bible Study are held every Tuesday from 9-11am at Arcade UCC. All are welcome to join us for coffee, refreshments and wonderful fellowship! Meet in the church library. Spread the word! Open to the community!



Financial News

Easter Memorial Blessings totaled \$1,030 for the Backpack Ministry

March 2026

Revenues:

Pledges: \$12,803.89
Regular Giving: \$730.00
Loose Offering: \$267.00
Fundraisers: \$0
Misc. Donations: \$156.00
Online Service Charge: \$-10.61
Total Revenue: 13,946.28

\$15,000 from savings Endowment

Expenditures:

Benevolences: \$1,175.00
Office/Administration: \$1,586.88
Pastoral Administration: \$5,458.14
Worship & Music: \$1,807.12
Education Ministry: \$51.42
Outreach Ministry: \$0
Buildings & Grounds: \$2,385.89
Pastor/Parish/Stewardship: \$0
Total Expenditures: \$12,464.45
Surplus for February \$16,481.83

ENDOWMENT NEWS

Submitted by Jeff Mason

The Endowment Committee met on March 26. We had voted in November 2025 to donate \$500 to the Village of Arcade Electric Department to assist customers who were having trouble with their electric bills. Due to the cold temperatures and very high electric bills during this past winter, we voted to donate an additional \$500. The Village reports that a number of customers have recently fallen behind in paying their bills, so this donation was greatly appreciated.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING, April 12, 2026

Members present: Sheila, Dirk, Ginger, Chet, and Kim

- **Call to Order & Cares and Concerns and Opening Prayer:** Meeting begins 10:55 am, Open with prayer. **Review of Minutes:** No questions. Minutes passed.
- **OLD BUSINESS:**
- **Community Suppers:** Update: March served 98, \$299.00 in donations.
- **Shepherd's Program:** Carol A. and Karen C. had been sending out cards. Sheila will check with Karen if they are still able to continue with Carol in rehab.
- **Rides to Doctors' Appointments—Margaret Homan Memorial:** No new
- **Open for Prayer and Coffee Break:** Continuing with a few more participants!
- **New Photo Directory:** Scheduled a deadline for May 15th to have everything to Stacy. Stacy knew someone in both Springville and Chaffee for printing. After we have totals for number of pages we can reach out to comparison shop prices. We will order white binders 5 1/2 x 8 1/2". There is no pocket in the front. Discussion ensued involving how to put our church picture on the front. The binders hold 200 pages and the rings are 1". We are planning on ordering 12 extra for new congregants. There was a suggestion to make our church family aware that the directories were free but a donation towards expenses would be accepted with much gratitude.
- **Food Collection:** Taking place May 9, 2026 at Brass' Arcade Market. Sheila made arrangements. 10-12: Dirk, Jo, Deb 12-2pm: Ginger, Kim, Chet 2-4PM Sheila and Jim
- **NEW BUSINESS:** None
- **Adjournment and next Meeting:** A motion to adjourn made by Sheila and 2nd by Kim, Meeting ended at 11:29 AM. Next meeting May 17 at 10:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted, Kimberly Common

COUNCIL MEETING – March 26, 2026

In attendance: Bill Schaper, Rich Vogt, Dirk Norwich, Jay May, Kim Common, Bonnie Cady, Amy Tillinghast, Pastor Josh Bower, Shannon King (secretary)

Opening Devotional: Rich Vogt, "We cannot ignore the instinct to care" – 4-letter words: care, love

May 28 Devotions: Vanessa Adams

Pastor's Report:

- A letter was received from Annette Gill with a \$200 check in it. Annette is responsible for helping people receive Medicare/Medicaid. She wanted to thank us for providing food to an individual in need whose own church was not responding to the need. Pastor emphasized that it's not about the check we received, but that we acted and helped someone in need.
- Open & Affirming vote for active members Sun., April 19 after service– can vote online or in person. Letters going out Sunday – will mail to those not in church. Email reminder will go out.
- Church Cameras – 1 internet line left to run from the office to the closet, then cameras will be ready to set up
- Sat., May 9, 10am-3pm – Affordable Housing Fair here at Arcade UCC. Vendors will be using the whole building, as well as the PAC food pantry which will be set up. Contact Josh if you have an idea for a vendor to participate in this.
- Note the change of date for the rummage sale – now Fri., May 15 and Sat., May 16
- Thur., April 2 there will be 40 kindergarteners at the church from 10-11:30 am for Easter activities – story, craft, egg hunt, basket hunt, science experiment (conducted by the Happy Scientist by request of the kindergarten teachers 😊)
- Pastor Josh's sabbatical – June, July and August – Worship and Music will be filling the pulpit. Pastor Josh will find someone to do in-home visits. Need someone to spearhead the school supply drive in August.
- Outreach will be collecting for the food pantry at Arcade Market, May 9, 10am-4pm (Dirk)
- Council voted on Pastor's new covenant **Bill Schaper made the motion to approve pastor's new covenant. Bonnie Cady seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (Bill)**

- Pastor will sign the new Covenant on April 19 during “A Time to Wonder.”
- Pastor’s ordination service will be held after Pastor returns from Sabbatical.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm following the Lord’s Prayer.

Next Meeting – May 28, 2026



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Website:	www.arcadeucc.com
Worship Schedule:	9:30am In person and Online Worship

The Carillon

The Carillon is being compiled, proofed, printed and mailed/emailed by Shannon King and Audrey Erick. We hope to produce a quality newsletter. Any suggestions are welcomed. The deadline for the June issue is May 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.