

# The Carillon

United Church of Christ, Congregational, Arcade

Pastor Josh Bower

(585) 492-4530

Editor: Shannon King

**May 2025**

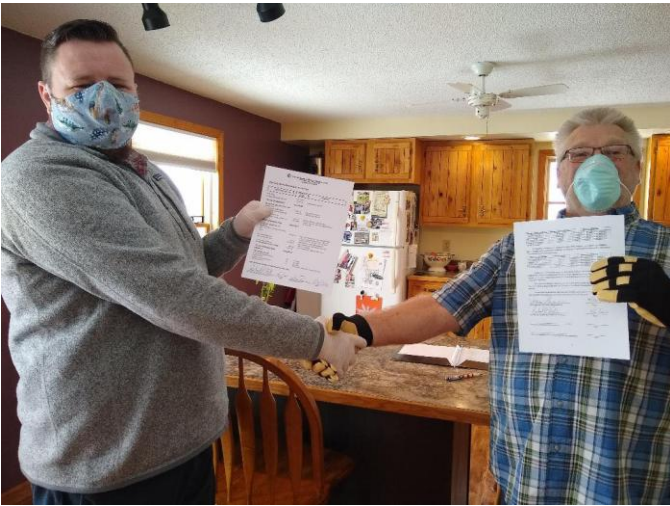
## Local Artist Leads Imagine That After-School Program in Paint Class!



A HUGE thank you to Stacy Gertis for leading a fun paint day with our Imagine That after-school kiddos! Check out all those awesome sunsets - what a talented bunch of artists!



## Congratulations, Pastor Josh on Five Years of Ministry with Arcade UCC!



April 15, 2025 marked five years of ministry with the great folks of **Arcade United Church of Christ, Congregational!** We've come a long way since this early pandemic picture where we completed the call agreement while social distanced. It has been and continues to be a very blessed journey!

- Pastor Josh Bower, Facebook post,  
April 15, 2025



From the entire Arcade UCC Church family, we thank you, Pastor Josh, for all you have done and continue to do for our church and our community. Your generosity, love, genuine care and passion for helping others and for making a positive impact in the lives of our area youth is something that we are forever grateful for. You are truly a blessing and a God-send. Congratulations on five years of amazing ministry and outreach through Arcade UCC!



## **Upcoming Events at Arcade UCC**

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

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

- Fri., May 2, 9 am – 4pm and Sat., May 3, 9 am – 2 pm - Arcade UCC Rummage Sale Wetzel Hall
- Sat., May 3 – Arcade's annual Earth Day Town-wide Cleanup, 9 am – 12 pm. Meet at Village Office.
- Spring WNYACIC Meeting with workshops, May 3 – see Vanessa for more info
- Wed., May 14, 1 pm – Workers Union mtg.
- Talent Auction ideas to Debi – deadline – May 25
- Student Art Expo and Reception – Sun., June 1, following service, Wetzel Hall
- Talent Auction bidding: June 8-22. Auction will be held June 22 following worship service.
- UCCNY Annual Meeting in Albany, June 6-7.

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### **May Birthdays**

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

### **May Anniversaries**

- 1 Liz & Wally Lowth – 55 years
- 10 Molly & Glen Holland – 56 years
- 26 Nick & Kahla Taylor – 6 years



**\*\*Please note: Greeters are now being asked to also fill the role of Usher on their day. If you are unable to fill this role, please contact Shannon in advance and we will find someone to take the Usher's duties for you. Thank you!**

### **May Readers and Greeters/Ushers**

Date: 5/4  
Reader: Amy Tillinghast  
Greeters/Ushers: Bill & Karen Schaper

Date: 5/11  
Reader: Dona Roll  
Greeters/Ushers: Dirk Norwich & Nate Tillinghast

Date: 5/18  
Reader: Jeff Mason  
Greeters/Ushers: Jim & Sheila Vrenna

Date: 5/25  
Reader: Mike Tanner  
Greeters/Ushers: Ginger Comstock & Jo Sixt

### **May Bible Readings**

- 4 Acts 9:1-6, (7-10) and Ps 30  
Rev 5:11-14  
John 21:1-9
- 11 Acts 9:36-43 and 23  
Rev 7:9-17  
John 10:22-30
- 18 Acts 11:1-18  
Ps 148  
Rev 21:1-6  
John 13:31-35
- 25 Acts 16:9-15  
Ps 67  
Rev 21:10, 22-22:5  
John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

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## NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

### Palm Sunday Cantata 2025



Photo credit for picture above: Ginger Comstock



The Palm Sunday Community Cantata was held at Hope Lutheran Church on Sunday, April 13 at 3 pm. Talented singers and musician, comprised of performers from all around the Pioneer Area, lifted their voices and sang songs of praise. Our own Laurie Sledge expertly accompanied under the direction of our own Dona Roll. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this glorious production of *Sanctuary* come together! This event is always a meaningful beginning to Holy

Week. If you missed the performance, or would like to watch it again, simply click the link here: <https://www.facebook.com/hopearcadeny/videos/9470845036298672>

Special thanks to Dona Roll for organizing and directing the performance and to Pastor Shawn Hannon and Hope Lutheran for welcoming everyone to their community center on Palm Sunday!



*Diane Szpak enjoys a visit from her furry friend, Keeva, Dona Roll's cute canine.*

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**Arcade UCC held an Agape feast on Maundy Thursday.**



Many of our past confirmands were confirmed into membership in the month of May, so there are several anniversaries this May. Jim Wood and Jon Edmunds were confirmed 40 years ago, on May 26, 1985, and Jaleesa Ard-Sledge, Sara Czesak and Collin Tuttle were confirmed 20 years ago, on May 15, 2005.



**Submitted by Jay May**

This year's Ride for Roswell is scheduled for Saturday, June 28th...our team (Team May) is riding on the 10-Mile River Route leaving from the UB Campus at 9:00AM. Our team is made up of family members who have been a significant part of my Cancer Journey; encouraging me, supporting me and pushing me along its path. There were also a lot of giggles, smiles and tears along the way. It's been a tradition of ours to go to the Ride Kick-Off event on Friday, June 27th at the UB campus to celebrate with the parade of the various department's Medical and Research staffs and some of the Cancer Survivors. This part of the weekend is the most emotional part; you get to see some of the patients that were going through the same treatments. We all get to follow up with old friends made through Roswell.

And...this is the 30-year anniversary of the Ride for Roswell! Come out and show your support!

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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 that same day. 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.

## Earth Day Cleanup



### Arcade's Earth Day Townwide Cleanup

Arcade will be having its annual Earth Day townwide cleanup on

**Saturday, May 3** from

**9am-noon. Meet at the Arcade Village Office by 9 am** to receive gloves, bags and your assignment of where to help clean up! All are welcome to help beautify our community! Your help is greatly appreciated!

## 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!**

**(Please note: There will be no gentle exercise class on Mon., May 26<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day).**



### **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](mailto: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.





**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 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month from 4-7pm and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month from 9-11am.**



**Strengthen the Church Offering**

**Offering Date: Pentecost Sunday,  
June 8th, 2025**

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](#).

**Mark Your Calendars!**



The Women's Fellowship is organizing a rummage sale to be held on Fri., May 2 from 9am – 4pm and Sat., May 3 from 9 am – 2 pm. All profits will be donated to the general fund. Everyone is encouraged to participate. The following is a partial list of suggested items that can be donated. As you do your spring cleaning, keep these in mind. Please have all items clean and ready for sale. **We will begin to accept items Sun., April 27. Please bring items directly to Wetzel Hall. There will be someone available at the church Mon., April 28 – Thur., May 1 from 9 am – 12:30 pm to accept any donation drop-offs. If those times don't work for you, please contact the church office (585-492-4530) for alternative times.**



**Student Art Expo at Arcade UCC! Join us Sun., June 1<sup>st</sup> following worship service for a Student Art Expo and Reception in Wetzel Hall. For a donation to the Imagine That after-school program, you can choose one of the students' original art pieces to take home!**



**Arcade UCC's Talent Auction Returns!  
Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Have all talent auction ideas to Debi Lutz by May 25.  
Bidding will run Sun., June 8-Sun., June 15.



**Looking Ahead....Arcade UCC's Fall Festival! Sat., October 11, 2025 - 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 Wright, Dirk Norwich

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

**Team 3:** Jim & Sheila Vrenna, Thomas & Shirley Wright, Gwen St. John, Jeff Mason, Lary Schaefer, Shirley Kriedeman, Linda Korczak, Thomas Wright, Dirk Norwich

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

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May 24<sup>th</sup> – **Team 1** – sloppy joe  
June 28<sup>th</sup> – **Team 3** – meatball sub  
July 26<sup>th</sup> – **Team 1** – hot dogs  
August 23<sup>rd</sup> – **Team 2** – hot dogs  
September 27<sup>th</sup> – **Team 4** – sloppy joe  
October 25<sup>th</sup> – **Team 3** – spaghetti  
November 29<sup>th</sup> – **Team 2** – spaghetti  
December 27<sup>th</sup> – **Team 1** – mac & cheese

### **UPCOMING FREE COMMUNITY DINNER**

**Saturday, May 24, 4-6 pm**

**Sloppy Joe dinner-Dine-in only!**

**Spread the word-Accessible to all!**



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](http://www.arcadeucc.com) for up-to-date information, pictures, calendar of events and more!



We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Paul Sanio, who passed away on March 27. We are especially thinking of Diane Szpak, who was his devoted and caring friend for the last several years. Paul and his late wife, Gerda, joined our church in 1996, and he was always available to help with church activities and projects. Paul was a retired social studies teacher at Burgard High School in Buffalo, where the students dedicated their yearbook to him in 1992. A memorial service will be held at a later time.



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

**Coffee Break and Open For Prayer  
Every Tuesday Morning!**



**Coffee Break and Open for Prayer are held every Tuesday from 9-11am at Arcade UCC. All are welcome to join us for coffee, refreshments and wonderful fellowship! Rev. Harrison Putnam will be holding a Bible Study at 10am as well. Meet in the church library. Spread the word! Open to the community!**

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## Committee Reports

### Financial News

#### February 2025

##### Revenues:

Pledges: \$5,095.00  
Regular Giving: \$290.00  
Loose Offering: \$110.00  
Fundraisers: \$0  
Misc. Donations: \$0  
Online Service Charge: -\$10.61  
**Total Revenue: \$5,298.39**

##### Expenditures:

Benevolences: \$0  
Office/Administration: \$2,626.16  
Pastoral Administration: \$5,334.27  
Worship & Music: \$1,197.98  
Education Ministry: \$0  
Outreach Ministry: \$0  
Buildings & Grounds: \$1,988.93  
Pastor/Parish/Stewardship: \$0  
**Total Expenditures: \$11,147.34**  
Deficit for February \$5,662.95

#### March 2025

##### Revenues:

Pledges: \$8,255.00  
Regular Giving: \$160.00  
Loose Offering: \$316.00  
Fundraisers: \$0  
Misc. Donations: \$235.00  
Online Service Charge: -\$21.22  
From Endowment to cover deficit: \$15,000  
**Total Revenue: \$23,944.78**

##### Expenditures:

Benevolences: \$200.00  
Office/Administration: \$1,368.30  
Pastoral Administration: \$5,334.27  
Worship & Music: \$1,468.91  
Education Ministry: \$127.78  
Outreach Ministry: \$463.07  
Buildings & Grounds: \$3,298.00  
Pastor/Parish/Stewardship: \$0  
**Total Expenditures: \$12,260.33**  
Surplus for March: \$11,684.45

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**Office Phone:** (585)492-4530  
**Office E-mail:** [uccarcade@gmail.com](mailto:uccarcade@gmail.com)  
**Website:** [www.arcadeucc.com](http://www.arcadeucc.com)  
**Worship Schedule:** 9:30am In person and  
Online Worship

## MARY HOSFORD FISHER WOMEN'S

### FELLOWSHIP – April 7, 2025

The meeting was opened by chair, Suzanne Norton. There were 8 members present.

#### Joys and Concerns were shared.

**Devotions:** Suzanne brought an excerpt from the Carillon written by Pastor Josh regarding "rolling away the stone."

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** Motion carried unanimously.

**Finance Report:** Ginger Comstock provided a financial report from March 3 to April 7. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Old Business:

The letter being sent to Elianna Lang regarding her scholarship was read and will be sent to Elianna with a check for \$500.

Sheila Vrenna provided an article on Margaret Homan to be included in July/August Carillon along with information as to who the winner of Hal & Margaret Homan scholarship is.

#### New Business:

**Rummage Sale** – Suzanne felt church should only be open from 9:30-12:30 Monday, April 28 through Thursday May 1 for drop offs for the rummage sale. If this isn't convenient for some, maybe appointments could be made for later times.

**Art Show and Exposition** – to be held June 1 in Wetzel Hall following service. Helen will take care of decorating and setting up the Art Show. The sale will be open to the church and donations for artwork will be accepted to benefit our Imagine That after school program. Suzanne would like coffee hour to be a bit more than our normal coffee hour.

There will be no meeting in May due to the Rummage Sale. After closing with the Lord's Prayer, Karen Schaper made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:30pm. Motion carried. Next meeting June 2, 2025 – noon – picnic at Kathy May's home.

Respectfully submitted – Kathy May, Secretary

#### 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, 2025.

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.