



The Carillon

United Church of Christ, Congregational, Arcade

Pastor Josh Bower

(585) 492-4530

Editor: Shannon King

July-August 2026



A Devotional for July/August

The Devotional: Finding Peace in the Present

Scripture

"He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.'" — Psalm 46:10

July Devotion

July is often the busiest, warmest month of the year. Between summer travel, family gatherings, and packed schedules, it is easy to let the fast pace of the season distract you. Even in the church calendar, we are in "Ordinary Time," a season meant for steady, faithful growth. In Psalm 46:10, the command to "be still" translates in Hebrew to *raphah*, which

means to "let go," "relax," or "cease striving." It is an invitation to stop relying on your own strength and instead yield to the sovereignty of God.

As you enjoy the sunshine and the fullness of summer, let it be a physical reminder to soak in the light of Christ's presence. Just as nature rests in the heat of the day, take a moment to quiet your soul. Whether you are on vacation or navigating your daily routine, give yourself permission to step back, let go of your burdens, and remember that He is in control.

Prayer

Lord, thank You for the blessings, warmth, and opportunities this season brings. When my schedule feels overwhelming and my mind is racing, help me to be still. Remind me to let go of my striving so I can rest in the quiet assurance of Your love and sovereignty. In Jesus' name, Amen.

August Devotion:

August often brings a flurry of "getting ready"—preparing for school, wrapping up summer travel, or anticipating the busyness of fall. In the middle of this rushing, God invites us to pause. The Hebrew word for "be still" translates to *letting go* or *relaxing your grip*. God is already at work in your life, both in the vibrant moments of joy and the challenging seasons of waiting. You don't have to carry the weight of the world on your own shoulders. When you slow down and "be still," you create space to recognize His sovereignty, hear His voice, and receive the rest He offers.

Prayer:

Lord, thank you for the gift of today. Forgive me for rushing past the moments of blessing you have placed right in front of me. Help me to let go of my anxieties, quiet my heart, and trust in your perfect guidance. Give me the strength I need for today, and the peace to rest in your care. In Jesus' name, Amen.



July Birthdays

- 3 Sharon Koch 16 Phil Tanner
- 3 Pierce Landis 19 Shelby Lund
- 4 Peter Roll 23 Nathan Sledge
- 31 Darlene Lang

July Anniversaries

- Stacey & Bob Fudella, 7/4, 13 years
- Jay & Kathy May, 7/5, 45 years
- Darwin & Lois Anneler, 7/16, 55 years
- Tom & Cailynn, 7/22, 4 years

July Bible Readings

- 5 Gen 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 and Ps 45:10-17
or Song of Sol 2:8-13
Zech 9:9-12 and Ps 145:8-14
Rom 7:15-25a
Matt 11:16-19, 25-30
- 12 Gen 25:19-34 and Ps 119:105-112
Isa 55:10-13 and Ps 65: (1-8), 9-13
Rom 8:1-11
Matt 13:1-9, 18-23
- 19 Gen 28:10-19a and Ps 139:1-12, 23-24
Wisd of Sol 12:13, 16-19 or Isa 44:6-8 and
Ps 86:11-17
Rom 8:12-25
Matt 13:24-30, 36-43
- 26 Gen 29:15-28 and Ps 105:1-11, 45b or
Ps 128
1 Kings 3:5-12 and Ps 119:129-136
Rom 8:26-39
Matt 13:31-33, 44-52



August Birthdays

- 4 Joshua Taylor 24 Cailynn Call
- 5 Chelby Uhteg 26 Rich Vogt III
- 8 Lee Pirdy 26 Lorelei Taylor
- 11 Evan Call 28 Diana Vogt
- 11 Ashley Vogt 29 Glen Holland
- 31 Kelsey Lund

August Anniversaries

- Jim & Sheila Vrenna, 8/4, 26 years
- Joel & Michael Ferry, 8/11, 14 years
- Skip & Amy Tillinghast, 8/17, 30 years
- Rich & Helena Vogt, 8/23, 46 years

August Bible Readings

- 2 Gen 32:22-31 and Ps 17:1-7, 15
Isa 55:1-5 and Ps 145:8-9, 14-21
Rom 9:1-5
Matt 14:13-21
- 9 Gen 37:1-4, 12-28 and
Ps 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
1 Kings 19:9-18 and Ps 85:8-13
Rom 10:5-15
Matt 14:22-33
- 16 Gen 45:1-15 and Ps 133
Isa 56:1, 6-8 and Ps 67
Rom 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matt 15: (10-20), 21-28
- 23 Ex 1:8-2:10 and Ps 124
Isa 51:1-6 and Ps 138
Rom 12:1-8
Matt 16:13-20
- 30 Ex 3:1-15 and Ps 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Jer 15:15-21 and Ps 26:1-8
Rom 12:9-21
Matt 16:21-28

IMPORTANT NOTICES FOR COMMITTEES

The Church Council will begin working on the tentative 2026-27 budget during its summer meetings. If you belong to a committee that is part of the church budget, please submit any suggested changes to your part of the budget by **Friday, August 14**. You can leave your suggestions in the treasurer’s mailbox at church or email them to amyslpccc@yahoo.com.

September 27 is the deadline for non-financial annual reports from committees to be submitted. Please email them (if possible) to uccarcade@gmail.com . Thank you!

Gordan's Legacy Go-Getters Ride for Roswell



Ginger Comstock, Sheila Vrenna and Errol Ireland rode locally for the Ride for Roswell at the Arcade Park on Sat., June 20 at 9 am. They comprised the team, "Gordan's Legacy Go-Getters."
Photo credit Dona Roll



Dona Roll, Jeff Mason and Jim Vrenna were there to show support and snap a few photographs.
Photo credit Dona Roll



It was a beautiful day to ride! **The team raised \$1098 for Ride for Roswell!**
Photo credit Jeff Mason



Congratulations to Scarlett on her UPK Graduation June 18, 2026!

Scarlett is the daughter of Blake and Courtney Caldwell, sister to Crew Caldwell and Great-Granddaughter of Deb Wood. We congratulate this adorable graduate on a job well done and a very successful pre-K year!



Our Sympathies

We extend our deepest sympathy to Gwen Becht, Candy Hayden and the rest of their family on the death of Gwen's son and Candy's brother, Richard Becht Jr., on June 2.

Father's Day Reception



The Women's Fellowship of Arcade UCC held a Father's Day reception following the service on Sun., June 21. Here, the men of the church get first dibs on the array of delicious foods.

Did You Know?

Our church and annex are part of the Downtown Arcade Commercial Historic District, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on May 11. Although churches and not-for-profit organizations are not eligible for tax benefits, owners of properties on the National Register are eligible to apply for state historic preservation matching grants.



NY/HELP Update

The two pictures below are from a poor village in the La Laguna area. The school had been badly damaged and the parents got together to construct a new school. NY/HELP sent money for them to put in a cement floor. A church in Perry sent money for their roof.

So far this year, NY/HELP has spent a little over \$3000 more than they have raised, so it will be hard to finance more projects and still pay for salaries and clinic medicines until they have more donations. If anyone feels moved to donate to NY/HELP, it would be most welcome. Please scan the QR code at the bottom to donate or you can give a check made payable to NY/HELP to Ginger Comstock who will gladly get it to them!



Mark Your Calendars and Save the Date!



Arcade UCC will be worshipping in the Arcade Village Park on Sunday, August 30th at 11am. We will meet in the large shelter behind the park cabin. Picnic to follow the service. Bring your lawn chair, a dish to pass, place settings and drinks. The main dish will be provided. We hope you can join us!



School Supply Giveaway!

Monday, August 17, 10 am:
Join us to help fill backpacks with school supplies

Tuesday, August 18, 9am-12pm and 5-7pm: Free School Supply Giveaway

***School supplies will target middle and high school students (elementary school supplies are provided by the schools). Although this is primarily for students of the Pioneer district, please let us know if there is anyone in need outside of the district.

We are always accepting monetary donations for this ministry! Please put it in the offering tray with a note to state that it goes to the School Supply giveaway. Or send via mail to the church: Arcade UCC, PO Box 95, Arcade, NY 14009. It can also be donated to the Fundraiser account through Paypal on our webpage – please put a note that it is to be designated to the school supplies. Click the link below to access our webpage donation page: <https://www.arcadeucc.com/give>

THANK YOU!!!



The Nominations Sign-up sheet for the upcoming Annual Meeting will be available on the sign-up table outside the Sanctuary door from August 30th – September 30th.



Community Coffee Break is held every Tuesday from 9-11am! Bible Study is at 10 am. The coffee is hot and the conversation is flowing! Be sure to stop by the church library and spread the word! Open and free to the community!



LOOKING AHEAD....

- **August 30, 11am** – Outdoor Service and Picnic in the Arcade Park
- On **September 6**, we will celebrate Commitment Sunday – a time when we prayerfully and generously respond to our commitment in support of our congregation for 2026-27. PLEASE, plan on joining us for worship that day as we commit to God our financial support.
- Budget Hearing – **Sun., Sept. 27**
- **Sun., September 27** – Deadline for non-financial annual reports from committees
- **Sat., Oct. 10** – Fall Festival



**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.



**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.**



Fall Festival News
As you know, this is our largest fundraiser and requires all "hands on deck" on Sat., October 10.

Please email Deb W. (bob41243@yahoo.com), Vanessa (vanessa_spas@yahoo.com) or Debi L. (debi5684@aol.com) if you are **not** available to work the event. Thanks!!

After Sept 1, we can begin accepting items for baskets. A table will be set up in the Great Room. All items for baskets must be new and the Committee will assess the best use for your items. The quality of our baskets is tantamount to our success....we have a great reputation which speaks volumes about your continued efforts!!
We will again accept **credit card payment for tickets, raffle items, and food!

We will again raffle a Bills basket this year!
So please plan to sell some tickets to your family and friends!



**Amazon Wishlist for Fall
Fest – Can You Help?**

This year we have an Amazon wish list starting now for various items that we need to complete some of the baskets that are already started. If you would like to help out, that helps keep our overhead costs down.

Please check back on the Amazon list as we will continue to add items needed to complete baskets and other materials needed to wrap them.

The Amazon link is:
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3FC9D7EHPK3OK?ref=cm_sw_em_r_un_un_nkl6vM MNwHHTe

Thank you-we can't do this without you!!!
Vanessa, Debi, and Deb



Financial News

May 2026

Revenues:

Pledges: \$8,801.11
 Regular Giving: \$610.00
 Loose Offering: \$211.00
 Fundraisers: \$2,281.00
 Misc. Donations: \$199.00
 Online Service Charge: \$0
Total Revenue: \$12,091.50

Expenditures:

Benevolences: \$0
 Office/Administration: \$1,293.06
 Pastoral Administration: \$5,710.66
 Worship & Music: \$1,236.22
 Education Ministry: \$0
 Outreach Ministry: \$0
 Buildings & Grounds: \$1,490.41
 Pastor/Parish/Stewardship: \$0
Total Expenditures: \$9,730.35
 Surplus for May \$2,361.15

Budgeted Revenue: \$117,244.00
 Expenses: \$161,018.49
 YTD Revenue received as of May 31, 2026:
 \$80,881.36 + \$20,000 from savings + \$15,000
 from Endowment
 YTD Expenses as of May 31,
 2026: \$93,343.50

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).

Pulpit Supply for Pastor Josh's Sabbatical

- July 5:** Jeff Mason
 "A Revolutionary Church"
July 12: Dona Roll & Friends
 "Culinary Arts Sunday"
July 19: Bill Schaper
July 26: Laurie Sledge
 "Music Bingo"
August 2 Bill Schaper
August 9: Rev. David Donner
August 16: Deb Wood
 "Godly Play"
August 23: Jenn McAndrew
 "Plymouth Crossroads/History Of Homeless Youth"
August 30: Rich Vogt
 Church Picnic, 11 am
Sept. 6: Dona, Ginger, Vanessa
 "Area/Annual/Convergence Meetings"

You are Invited to the

**250TH ANNIVERSARY
 CELEBRATION FOR AMERICA**

- AND -

**REVOLUTIONARY WAR VETERANS
 BURIED IN THE AREA**

JULY 25, 2026

EVENTS

11:00 AM Walk with Historian Jeff Mason through Arcade Rural Cemetery
 12:00 PM Ceremony at the gravesites of three Revolutionary Veterans
 (Entrance to cemetery on Prospect Street)
 1:00 PM Lunch at Arcade VFW Shelter
 Dedication of stone /
 Recognition of families
 Proclamations by Arcade Mayor & Supervisor
 Brief history by Jeff Mason
 3:00 PM Pioneer Community Band

COME & HELP US CELEBRATE!





Sat., July 25
4-6pm
Hot dogs
Team 1

Sat., Aug. 29
4-6pm
Hot Dogs
Team 2



**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.



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!

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, 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

Upcoming Community Dinner
Dates

- July 25th – **Team 1** – hot dogs
- August 29th – **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



COUNCIL MEETING – May 28, 2026

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

Opening Devotional: “Revive and Resist” - presented by Vanessa Adams, taken from the UCC Conference Annual Meeting, Rev. Brandan Robertson.

July 23rd Devotions: Jay May

Pastor’s Report:

- Vote on new member – Christine Lease – She took the new member class but does not want to stand up in front of the congregation, so it will go to Council vote. **Rich Vogt made the motion to accept Christine Lease as a member of Arcade UCC. Dirk Norwich seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
- Pastor asked to use the pavilion on July 25 and August 22 to do a free produce giveaway. He will be doing a few more in various locations in the area.
- Pastor’s ordination service will be Sun., Sept. 20 at 2 pm in Columbus OH at St. John’s UCC. In June, St. John’s will be showing a video from Arcade UCC highlighting O & A, Imagine That, etc. On July 12, Pastor Josh will preach in person at St. John’s. In August, Pastor will submit a video from his farm to St. John’s.
- Pride event in Olean – Sun., June 28th from 12-5pm. Pastor cannot attend, but we have had a presence there for several years now.

Will put in bulletins/announcements to see if anyone can go.

- Please contact Pastor while he is on sabbatical if there is an emergency or death.
- Pastoral Care visits will be covered by Rev. Katy Dean and other pastors. Vanessa can reach them.
- Pulpit supply list/schedule – please note, June 28 – no service here. Pastor Matt from Sardinia UMC will lead a joint service (Sardinia UMC, Chaffee Baptist and Arcade UCC) at the Sardinia Park – check to see if UMC will be live-streaming. Pulpit supply schedule was shared in the Carillon and will be in bulletins, month-by-month.
- Housing Fair was a success – 13 vendors – 25 people that came and signed up seeking help (health insurance, rabies information, heating assistance, etc.) They wish to do the event here again next year.

Old/Continuing Business:

- Church cameras – not done yet but will be in by Fall.
- Church roof grant – Jay – requested quote for repairs – hoping to hear back soon. We also want an estimate on replacing the entire roof. We want at least 2 quotes (from another qualified roofer with lift and insurance). Council will choose between the 2.

New Business:

- Fall Fest – Vanessa requested that of the 10% donation that we make from the Fall Fest profits, 2/3 of that go to the Hope Food Pantry new build and 1/3 go to NY State Together in Love (focuses on health and well-being of pastors and churches). This was passed by consensus of the majority of Council.
- PROMP2IMPACT – (Vanessa – from NY Conference Annual Meeting) – Arcade UCC is viewed as one of the THRIVING churches in the conference (Rev. Marsha Williams

specifically said that Arcade UCC has it figured out and is going places!) However, the State has identified several other churches that need to think about their legacy and plan what to do if they have to close. Focus is on sustainability, renewal, fundraising training and more. Churches are beginning to work together (shared Confirmation classes, worship services, etc.) Rev. Dr. Damaris Whittaker is paid by the State through a grant and can come to offer ideas and support. We could possibly have her join us to give us ideas to help us keep moving forward. Paperwork from this will be coming from Vanessa (who, by the way, was nominated and voted in to be on the State Board! Congratulations, Vanessa!)

- Side note: Nick Tillinghast will be performing at the Helium Comedy Club on June 30th and needs audience applause/support to move on in competition – if you can, go out for a fun night and support Nick!

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm following the Lord’s Prayer.

Next Meeting – July 23, 2026, 6 pm



Sun, Surf... and Staying Secure: Your Guide to Cyber-Safe Summer Travel

Take cybersecurity with you! Follow these essential tips to keep you and your tech safe and your vacation worry-free.

Before You Travel

1. Use official websites or phone numbers when booking travel related services such as airfare, hotel, or restaurant reservations.
2. Be wary of “too good to be true” travel offers or free upgrades.
3. Only pack tech that you need, to reduce the risk of data being lost or stolen.

4. Update your devices (Apps, OS) and perform a backup.
5. Make sure mobile devices have an auto-lock function requiring a password/pin/biometric to enable.
6. Most mobile devices have built-in locator features. Enable these to help track your device in case of loss or theft.
7. Notify your bank of your travel plans to avoid having your card declined for activity outside of your normal location.

While You’re Traveling

1. Public Wi-Fi networks can be insecure. If using, steer clear of online banking, credit card purchases, or accessing personal accounts with sensitive information.
2. Use wall outlets for charging devices instead of public USB ports in airports or hotels (as they could be compromised).
3. Use secure payment methods like credit cards or digital wallets (Apple Pay, Google Wallet, PayPal, Venmo) for added fraud protection.
4. Keep devices with you or stored securely (e.g., hotel safe, locked trunk).
5. Wait to post vacation check-ins, status updates, and photos until you've returned home. If people know you're away for an extended period, it could make your home a target for break-ins.

For a comprehensive list of travel tips, review [A Guide to Protecting Your Information & Privacy While Traveling | Security.org](#)

By following these simple tips, you can ensure a smooth experience for both your summer adventures and your digital security.





The Carillon

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

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

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Worship Schedule: 9:30am In person and
Online Worship