



The Carillon

United Church of Christ, Congregational, Arcade

Pastor Josh Bower

(585) 492-4530

Editor: Shannon King

March 2026

Arcade UCC Winter Vacation Bible School



Arcade UCC held their Winter Vacation Bible School from February 17-19 this year. 20 kids took part in this fun-filled event, along with many adults! The three days were filled with crafts, games, activities, snacks, Godly Play stories, music and more! Each day brought a new themed focus from Mardi Gras with a pancake breakfast, parade and guest musicians (thank you, Nate and Nick!), to Ash Wednesday with the burning and receiving of the ashes. Thank you to everyone who made this wonderful outreach happen - We couldn't do it without you! You have certainly touched the lives of all of these kiddos and they loved every minute of their time with you!



Upcoming Events at Arcade UCC

- Gentle Exercise class - Mondays at 10 am. All are welcome!
- Coffee Break and Bible Study, Tuesdays from 9-11am, Arcade UCC library. Bible Study at 10 am. All are welcome!
- Women’s Fellowship meeting, Sunday, March 8 after service
- One Great Hour of Sharing, Sun., March 15
- Council, Thur., March 26, 6 pm
- Community Dinner, spaghetti, Sat., March 28, 4-6pm, team 3 working
- Palm Sunday Cantata, Sun., March 29, 3 pm



March Bible Readings

- 1 Gen 12:1-4a
Ps 121
Rom 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17 or Matt 17:1-9
- 8 Ex 17:1-7
Ps 95
Rom 5:1-11
John 4:5-42
- 15 1 Sam 16:1-13
Ps 23
Eph 5:8-14
John 9:1-41
- 22 Ezek 37:1-14
Ps 130
Rom 8:6-11
John 11:1-45
- 29 Ps 118:1-2, 19-29
Matt 21:1-11
Isa 50:4-9a
Ps 31:9-16
Phil 2:5-11
Matt 26:14-27:66 or Matt 27:11-54



March Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Mike Tanner | 17 Michelle Karpinski |
| 12 Gwen Becht | 23 Lois Anneler |
| 15 Scarlett Caldwell | 27 Pastor Josh Bower |
| 16 Diane Szpak | |



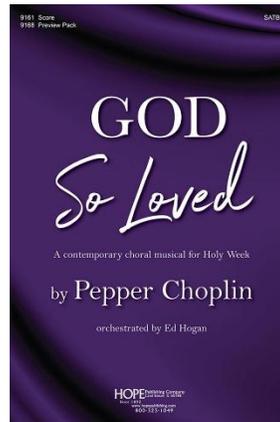
Don't forget to set your clocks 1-hour ahead! Begins at 2am on Sunday, March 8, 2026!



I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their prayers, visits from Pastor Josh, cards, calls and goodies during my recent illness. I am progressing slowly but it is going to be a long haul. Please keep the prayers coming, especially prayers for patience. Anyone who knows me understands this is something I struggle with. I feel you are all my guardian angels. A very special angel (Helen) was with me that day and got me to the hospital to save me from a very different outcome. God Bless Helen! God Bless My Church Family.



Suzanne



Palm Sunday Cantata News! YOU are invited!

This year’s Pioneer Association of Churches (PAC) Palm Sunday Cantata will be performed at Hope’s Community Center, March 29th at 3:00 p.m.

Free admission! Accessible to all! Pioneer Area musicians and friends will present *God So Loved: A Contemporary Choral Musical for Holy Week* by Pepper Choplin. This musical tells the remarkable Passion story. The theme of God’s love is highlighted in every step of Jesus’ journey to the cross. Enter into Holy Week with us. Donations of toiletries and non-perishable food items will be collected to support our PAC Food Pantry and Satellite.

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

Arcade UCC's 18th Annual Souper Bowl of Caring

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY RESULTS!

Souper Bowl of Caring 2026 is in the books! February 8th was the date and, as always, everyone was extremely generous.

\$575 was raised from donations and the delicious soups that were made and sold. This money was donated to our local food pantries to fight hunger in our community!

Thank you all for your generosity and continued support of this important mission.

The 55th ANNUAL ARCADE WINTERFEST – A HUGE SUCCESS!

(Photo credit – Bonnie Cady)



The Chili Cook-off!



Happy 90th birthday to Shirley Kriedeman!

A special coffee hour celebration was held after service on Sun., Feb. 1st to celebrate Shirley!

Cindy, Shirley's niece poses with her above by the delicious cake/cupcakes.

(Photo credit – Ginger Comstock)



The women of Arcade UCC held a very successful bake sale during the Winterfest in the church library. One of the best in years!



Adeline and Avery Gertis, with some help from mom, Stacy Gertis, created a sculpture that earned them third place!

The 55th **Arcade Winterfest**, the weekend of February 13-14, was for lovers and we all truly LOVED spending our Valentine's Day out and about in our community doing all the wonderful activities the Winterfest provided! It began with the king/queen pageant Friday night at the Arcade Elementary school, followed by a day FULL of activities on Saturday! There was something for everyone! The Lion's Club had their pancake breakfast at Arcade UCC beginning at 8am. It was one of, if not THE most successful pancake breakfast they have hosted! The Women's Fellowship of Arcade UCC opened their Bake Sale at 9am, and participated in the chili cook-off at 10 am. Both of their events were by far, the most profitable in years! The Craft Show at the elementary school began at 9am, followed by the parade at 11am.

The day continued with the library book sale, the Braving the Elements 5K, a Kids Fun Run, the Art Show at the old fire hall, dodgeball, horseshoe and hockey tournaments, horse-drawn wagon rides at the park, darts competition at Beer Justice, the scavenger hunt, dinner and dance/live band at the Arcade VFW, dinner and comedy show at Turkey Run and much more!!! Each event had an amazing turn-out and Arcade's Winterfest spirit shone brightly!

This year, we had plenty of snow for the Winterfest snow sculptures! This tradition has been an important part of every Winterfest through the years. Our very own Adeline, Avery, and Stacey Gertis won third place with their adorable snow sculpture this year!! Congratulations!



We are already looking ahead to next year's Winterfest 2027 on Feb. 12-13! Mark your calendars!

Women's Fellowship will meet the 2nd Sunday of each month after worship until further notice. Thank you!



Women's Fellowship Winterfest Bake Sale and Chili Cook-off!



The women of Arcade UCC's Women's Fellowship participated in the Winterfest this year in a couple of different ways. They entered the chili cook-off and raised \$158! Although they didn't win the competition, they had so much fun being a part of the Winterfest festivities!

They also held a bake sale which was a BIG success as well! \$703 was raised from the bake sale! A total of \$861 was brought in from both events! That is the most they have raised from these events in years! The money will be given to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

Sharon Hawley stated that Kathy May's sign that she placed outside brought attention to the sale in the church library. The nicer weather also played a role in bringing more folks out for the festivities. And of course, the beautiful supply of delicious goodies from the church at large also played a big role in their successful sale!

Great job to all who participated! 

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.



Congratulations to Nick Tillinghast, who became the organist at Immanuel Lutheran Church in East Aurora in December. Nick had generously shared his talent on the piano and organ with our congregation for several years, and we wish him well in his new position.



Gentle Exercise Class
Every Monday at 10 am
in Wetzel Hall.
All are welcome!
See Shannon King with
questions.



The following people are having anniversaries of their church membership:
 Jo Sixt, 25th anniversary on February 25;
 Gary Bray, Sharon Nichols, Molly Holland and Jeff Mason, 65th anniversary on March 26;
 and Grace Gilbert and Len Mason, 70th anniversary on March 25.

We offer our deepest sympathy to Carol Abel, Eunice Abel, Karen Czesak, and the rest of the Abel family on the sudden passing of their son, husband, brother, father and grandfather, David Abel, who passed away on January 12. David had lived in Cassadaga since 1982.

We offer our sympathy to John and Bonnie Cady on the death of John's brother, Arthur "Randy" Cady, who passed away in South Carolina on December 1. Randy formerly lived in Delevan.

We offer our sympathy to Betty and Frank Laurey on the death of Betty's brother, Daryl Morgan, in Texas on November 4, and the death of Frank's brother-in-law, Richard "Dick" Fuller of Delevan on December 21.

We offer our sympathy to Stacey Fudela and her daughters on the death of their mother and grandmother, Diane Neamon, in Florida on November 3.



UPCOMING FREE COMMUNITY DINNER

Saturday, March 28, 4-6 pm
Spaghetti dinner
Eat-in only!
Spread the word!
Team 3 working.

Coffee Hour and Bible Study Every Tuesday!



Coffee Break and Bible Study continue on Tuesdays from 9am – 11am! Come enjoy free coffee, refreshments and good conversation! The Bible Study is held at 10am as well. Meet in the church library. Open to the community. Spread the word!



Food Collection

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.

One Great Hour of Sharing-2026 (OGHS)



One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of

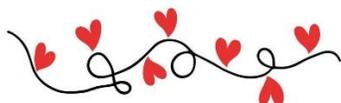
Christ that supports partners worldwide with ministries that fund health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response. Many churches will recognize OGHS in March. *Ways to donate: Mail checks to United Church of Christ, P.O. Box 71957, Cleveland, Ohio 44194 or give online via a secure donation form using this link: <https://support.ucc.org/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing/one-great-hour-of-sharing-donation>*



***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.

“Thanks ever so much for the special 90th birthday celebration. The flowers, gifts, cards and special coffee hour were much appreciated and enjoyed.”
~Shirley Kriedeman



Financial News

January 2026

Revenues:

Pledges: \$3,906.89
Regular Giving: \$170.00
Loose Offering: \$220.00
Fundraisers: \$0
Misc. Donations: \$96.00
Online Service Charge: \$-10.61
Total Revenue: \$4,382.28

Expenditures:

Benevolences: \$0
Office/Administration: \$1,464.31
Pastoral Administration: \$5,458.14
Worship & Music: \$1,330.64
Education Ministry: \$94.28
Outreach Ministry: \$47.65
Buildings & Grounds: \$1,212.33
Pastor/Parish/Stewardship: \$0
Total Expenditures: \$9,607.35
Deficit for January \$5,225.07

Budgeted Revenue: \$117,244.00

Expenses: \$161,018.49

YTD Revenue received as of January 31, 2026:
\$40,099.80 + \$10,000 from savings

YTD Expenses as of January 31, 2026: \$44,729.55

MY THOUGHTS

**Taken from NY Happenings
February 25, 2026**

A major snowstorm came up the eastern coast and blanketed much of the southeastern parts of New York with snow about two feet deep a few days ago. Some of you may still be trying to move some of it! I was out of the area as the storm was approaching. I was so far off the grid that I did not even hear about the storm until Sunday morning (the day it was forecasted to hit), and much of what I heard was on the national news. The words being thrown around were: blizzard, Nor'easter, and bomb cyclone.

(Incidentally, “bomb cyclone” may be my new favorite weather term. So dramatic!)

Monday morning, I texted a neighbor to find out whether the houses on my street lost power and how much snow we had. The response I received conveyed confusion as to why I was asking something so stupid. "Just a bit more snow on top of what we already have. No power outages."

It reminded me of how the same events always seem to hit us all a little differently. What is catastrophic for me may just be a minor inconvenience for you. What keeps you up at night may not even cross my mind. What stops me in my tracks may be just another Tuesday for you. So much of life is about how we experience it rather than about the event itself.

I wonder how it might change my daily interactions if I could just remember that no two people experience the world in exactly the same way. Would I be more understanding of the person who fears things that I love? Would I offer a little more grace to the people who frustrate me most in my life? I think we could all stand to offer a little more grace, understanding that we do not even know about all the storms raging in the lives of people all around us.



Rev. Barbara VanOlpen
Associate Conference Minister
for Clergy and Congregations

Comments can be sent
to bvanolpen@uccny.org



Upcoming Rummage Sale Info!

The Women's Fellowship is organizing a rummage sale to

be held on **May 1 and 2 from 9am – 4pm. 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 are unable to accept items until Sun., April 26. Please bring items directly to Wetzel Hall.**

Clothing: Baby and children's clothing – **ADULT CLOTHING accepted only with original sales tag.**

Kitchen: dishes, cookware, dish towels, pot holders, small appliances, utensils, heaters, canning supplies.

Bedding: blankets, sheets, quilts, bedspreads, comforters – **NO BED PILLOWS please.**

Home: Afghans, throws, deco pillows, throw rugs, tablecloths, picture frames, knick-knacks, antiques, curtains, draperies, antique furniture.

Bath: small accessories, towels, washcloths, bath mats, scales, shower curtains (NEW shower curtains only please)

Electronics: DVD's and DVD players, CD's and players, radios, game systems, record players, fans, heaters, all in working condition – **NO TV'S OR COMPUTERS**

Personal: purses, scarves, gloves, jewelry, watches, belts. **NO SHOES**

Crafts: All craft items – yarn, buttons, craft books, thread, trims, fabric, batting, polyfill, scissors, etc.

Kids: Toys, games, car seats, booster seats, high chairs, strollers, baby furniture

Outside: lawn ornaments, urns, flower pots, gardening tools, lights, lawn furniture

Books: All books – **NO ENCYCLOPEDIAS**

Sports: Sporting equipment (especially kids) balls, bats, hockey sticks, shin guards, skates, helmets (biking, snowmobiling, motorcycle) adult and kids, skis, camping gear, hunting and fishing gear, sleds, games

Hand tools: Saws, hammers, drills and bits, trimmers, screwdrivers, etc.

The Carillon

The Carillon is being compiled, printed and mailed by Shannon King and Audrey Erick. Please continue to watch for the deadline date for your articles and reports and submit them to the church office. We hope to produce a quality newsletter. Any suggestions are welcomed. The deadline for the April issue is March 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 In person and Online Worship