

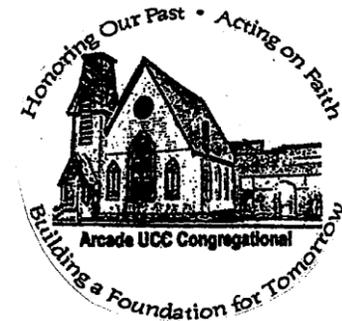
The Carillon

United Church of Christ, Congregational

(585) 492-4530

Editor: Kathy May

February 2015



New Year's Day, Valentine's Day, our nation's birthday, Veteran's Day, Christmas Day – what do they all have in common? Well, these days (and more which I haven't mentioned) are holidays with set dates of celebration. Like your birthday – it's on a particular DATE and falls whenever that date might appear. Now, there is an advantage to all this – it gives us the opportunity to plan our commemorations because we know when it will occur. But what about holidays like Easter – the day Christians celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead? We never seem to know off-hand whether Easter will be early, late or in between in any given year. How is the date of Easter decided?

Following the First Council of Nicaea (a council of Christian bishops convened in Nicaea in Bithynia by the Roman Emperor Constantine I in AD 325), the date for Easter was completely divorced from the Jewish calendar and its computations for Passover, which had been the case up to that point. Thereafter, in principle, Easter fell on the Sunday after the 14th day of the first lunar month of spring. The first lunar month of spring is the one that has its 14th day fall on or after the Northern spring equinox; the 14th day of a lunar month is usually the day of full moon, and in this case is called Paschal Full Moon. However, the vernal equinox and the full moon were not determined by astronomical observation or accurate calculation. Instead, the vernal equinox was fixed to fall on the 21st day of March in the Julian calendar, while the first day of lunar months (known as the ecclesiastical new moon) were computed using a fixed scheme; the 14th day is known as the ecclesiastical full moon. Easter thus falls on the Sunday after the ecclesiastical full moon falling on or after 21 March.

Phew! That's a lot to digest in trying to determine when Easter is in any particular year. But that's not the only confusing commemoration we observe in the spring of the year. Just prior to Easter, Christians travel through a period we call Lent, and this, too, can be a source of some confusion for many. Just what is the meaning of Lent?

Lent is a period of fasting, moderation, and self-denial traditionally observed by devout Christians. It begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with Easter Sunday. The length of the Lenten season was established in the 4th century as 46 days (40 days, not counting Sundays). During Lent, participants eat

sparingly or give up a particular food or habit. It's not uncommon for people to give up smoking during Lent, or to swear off watching television or eating candy or telling lies. *It's six weeks of self-discipline.* Lent began as a way for Christians to remind themselves of the value of repentance - the activity of reviewing one's actions and feeling contrition or regret for past wrongs. It generally involves a commitment to personal change and resolving to live a more responsible and humane life. The seriousness of the Lenten season was seen as similar to how people in the Old Testament fasted and repented in sackcloth and ashes (Esther 4:1-3; Jeremiah 6:26). However, over the centuries Lenten observances have developed a much more "sacramental" value. Many Christians believe that giving something up for Lent is a way to attain God's blessing. But the Bible teaches that grace cannot be earned; grace is "the gift of righteousness" (Romans 5:17). Also, Jesus taught that fasting should be done discreetly: "When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen" (Matthew 6:16-18).

If a Christian wishes to observe Lent, he or she is free to do so. The key is to focus on repenting of sin and consecrating oneself to God. Lent should not be a time of boasting of one's sacrifice or trying to earn God's favor or increasing God's love. God's love for us could not be any greater than it already is.

Ash Wednesday this year is February 18 – a day designating the beginning of Lent which leads us to Easter (April 3). It is my hope that you will find it in your heart to observe Lent by practicing moderation and self-denial in your life - as your limitations permit, keeping at the forefront of your Lenten journey prayer, meditation and generosity above and beyond your "normal" practices. Use these 40 days as a time of spiritual growth.

May your Lenten journey be a blessed one as you contemplate the teachings, sufferings, and sacrifices Jesus made for US through his Godly love for all.

Shalom,

Pastor Bob



If you or someone you know would like to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion at home, please let Kathy in the church office know. You may reach the church office at 585-492-4530 or via email at arc-ucc@juno.com.



Anyone from 9th grade up is invited to share with us in our music ministry. Rehearsal is at 8:45am on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm.

February Greeters

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Michael & Joel Ferry | 15 Shirley Kriedeman & Sharon Hawley |
| 8 Lary Schaefer & Lois Yauchzy | 22 Jo Sixt & Helena Vogt |

February Readers

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1 F.I.S.H. | 15 Debi Lutz |
| 8 Penny Rutledge | 22 Sheila Vrenna |

February Nursery Schedule

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Souper Bowl of Caring | 15 Sheila Vrenna |
| 8 Gwen St. John | 22 Sharon Koch |

February Worship Coordinators

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 1 Molly Holland | 16 Bev Giles |
| 8 Sheila Vrenna | 22 Harv Roll |

February Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 3 Ron Deinhart | 12 Jeff Mason |
| 5 Megan (Roll) Brown | 19 Helen Vogt |
| 5 Sydney Taylor | 22 Jessica Craig |
| 6 Jacob Romance | 23 Wyn Roll |
| 9 Kathy May | 24 Penny Rutledge |

Pastor's Fund

During the months of December and January contributions for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund have been given by: anonymous donors, F. Wood in Memory of Diane Wood, Workers' Union, Women's Fellowship, Phyllis Pierce, Endowment Committee, Dale and Cindy Carlson, the Family of Gerry St. John, the St. John Family through the Memorial Fund, and Pastor Bob.

This fund is used in helping area folk in times of need. Your donations are greatly appreciated and may be given to Pastor or mailed to the church, indicated for the Pastor's Fund.

February Bible Readings

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Deut 18:15-20 | 15 2 Kings 2:1-12 |
| Psalm 111 | Psalm 50:1-6 |
| 1 Cor 8:1-13 | 2 Cor 4:3-6 |
| Mark 1:21-28 | Mark 9:2-9 |
| 8 Isa 40:21-31 | 22 Gen 9:8-17 |
| Psalm 174:1-11, 20c | Psalm 25:1-10 |
| 1 Cor 9:16-23 | 1 Peter 3:18-22 |
| Mark 1:29-39 | Mark 1:9-15 |

Worship in February:

- February 1: 4th Sunday after Epiphany
Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday
The Sacrament of Holy Communion
- February 8: 5th Sunday after Epiphany
Scripture: Isaiah 40: 21-31
Mark 1: 29-39
Sermon: *He That?*
- February 15: Transfiguration Sunday
Scripture: 1 John 3: 11-24
John 13: 31-35
Sermon: *God, My Valentine*
- February 22: 1st Sunday in Lent
The Sacrament of Holy Communion
Scripture: Revelation 4: 1-4, 10-11;
5:13; 19:5-7a
Matthew 6: 1-15
Sermon: *Praying for Priorities*

February Anniversaries

- 4 Bill & Madeline Hall – 42 yrs.



tacklehunger.org

Souper Bowl Sunday

On Sunday, February 1, we will be celebrating a special Sunday at Arcade UCC!! It's *Souper Bowl of*

Caring Sunday. While we won't be tailgating prior to the New England Patriots/Seattle Seahawks game in Super Bowl XLIX, we WILL have a wonderful worship.

Our F.I.S.H. and O.C.T.O.P.I. groups, along with all our youth, will be leading the worship, focusing on hunger and giving us the opportunity to bring our non-perishable food items and/or monetary offerings for the PAC Food Pantry. Following worship, there will be a time of Fellowship with soup, during which you will have the opportunity to greet all our youth, first-hand.

Please plan on joining with us on February 1 as we help fight hunger!

2nd Sunday Pot Luck

On Sunday, February 8, we will enjoy our 2nd Sunday Pot Luck immediately following worship.

This is a time of fellowship and great food, so plan on joining us for dinner the 2nd Sunday of each month after worship. Please bring a dish to share. Table service and drinks will be provided.

This is a great way to get to know each other better!!

Arcade Winterfest 2015

The weekend of February 13, 14, & 15 is Arcade's 2015 Winterfest. The theme this year is "Lovin' Country".

As part of the festivities that weekend, our church will be competing in the Chili Cook-off. Stop by Saturday, starting at 10am, if you like, and sample some of our deliciously delectable homemade chili. Make sure to view our Main St. windows that have been decorated by Women's Fellowship and are being entered in the window decorating contest.

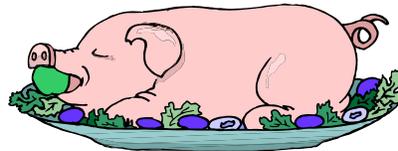
Then, after a full day of Winterfest fun, you are invited to join the community in feasting at the Arcade United Methodist Church's Swiss Steak Dinner, beginning at 4:30pm. Tickets are only \$10 and the meal is served Family Style.

Game Night

Had enough of the winter blahs? We've got the perfect remedy!! On Thursday, February 19, we invite you and your family and friends to a **GAME NIGHT from 6-8pm** in Wetzel Hall.

Bring along your favorite board game and some finger snacks to share (if you like). Then get together with others and just have a great time of fellowship and conversation and snacks!! If you've not played a certain game before – that's okay! We'll teach you – just come along!!

There will also be a Game Night in March on Thursday, March 19 from 6-8 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Bob. See you there!!!



Roast Pork Dinner

Saturday, February 21, 2015

4:30pm - ??????

Adults: \$12 Ages 6-12: \$7 5 & Under: FREE

United Church of Christ, Congregational
Corner of Main & Church Sts.
Arcade, NY

If you would like to help in any way with this dinner, please see Debi or Tom Scott.

Proceeds benefit the General Fund



A Reminder: The 4th Sunday of every month is designated as "Food Pantry Sunday" at which time we receive non-perishable goods for our

Arcade Food Pantry, sponsored by PAC. Please feel free to bring your items to worship with you on the 4th Sunday. Thank You.

WESTERN AREA MEETING

Saturday, February 28 is the date of our next Western Area Winter Meeting: **Livening Up Your Church and Community**. The event will be held from 8:30am-3:00pm at St. James UCC, 76 Main Street, Hamburg, NY.

This fun and educational day will be spent celebrating and learning about innovative programs and happenings in our local churches. There will also be some great worship.

This event is NOT just for our western area delegates and clergy. It is for **everyone, young and not-so-young and everyone in between!!**. If you'd like to attend (and renew or make some great friendships) please see Pastor Bob, as we will be car pooling and reservations are due ASAP (**NO LATER than February 15**). Registration is \$8 and includes lunch.

Please consider joining us for this informative and fellowship-filled day!!

Reminding You of an Opportunity!

It's painless and it's so easy – no strings, no fuss, no muss!! It's the opportunity YOU have to give to the church.

You know those refundable bottles and cans you accumulate and aren't quite sure what to do with or how to dispose of them? All you have to do is take them to *Isaac's Redemption Center* at 34 Liberty Street, Arcade, NY (bagged and rinsed clean). Tell them you wish for your refund to go to the UCC Church and instead of getting a refund for your cans/bottles, our church will get the monies AND our Church Council is considering matching these monies in some fashion. All these funds will be used for our Youth Ministry at Arcade UCC. If you are unable to get your cans/bottles to Isaac's yourself, call the church office and we will pick them up once a month and take them for you! How much easier could this be??

Won't you consider helping out our youth program? We sure would appreciate it!!! Thank you.

Lenten Worship

During Lent, we will have the opportunity for several special times of gathering in our church and in our community.

Beginning on Wednesday, February 18 (Ash Wednesday) we will gather each Wednesday during Lent - February 25, March 4, 11, 18, at Hope Lutheran Church for worship at 11am followed by a luncheon, hosted each week by one of our PAC churches.

Then, at Arcade UCC, we will gather on Ash Wednesday at 7pm in the sanctuary for our Ash Wednesday Worship. During the service we will be inviting you to participate in the Imposition of Ashes.

Each Wednesday evening thereafter - February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25) we will gather in the Great Room at **6:30pm** for a soup and bread supper followed by a Lenten Bible Study. This year's study will be a focus on *The Parables of Lent* and is intended to help us on our Lenten journey of reflection.

Everyone is invited to share with us in all these times of fellowship and learning. If you have any questions concerning any of our Lenten gatherings, please call the church office.

Lenten Series

During the season of Lent, Pastor Bob will be preaching a series on Prayer, beginning on February 22 with *Praying for Priorities*. The subsequent Sundays of Lent will be: *Praying for Heaven*, *Praying for Provision*, *Praying for Relationships* and *Praying for Faithfulness*.

Also, this year during Lent, we will be celebrating Holy Communion each Sunday during worship. This is intended as a way we can more fully recall and appreciate the sacrifice Jesus made for every one of us on the cross.

Please join us as we powerfully celebrate Lent in 2015.

DISHWASHER UPDATE

As most of you know, our dishwasher died last fall after many, many years of faithful service. The Buildings and Grounds Committee spent a lot of time investigating replacements, and they were able to find a reconditioned dishwasher that fit into the same space occupied by the old one. It comes with a guarantee, and it can be serviced by the same Western New York resident who sold and installed it.

The Women's Fellowship took care of paying for the new dishwasher, with the help of two very generous donations. We thank the donors and the women for making this possible, and the Buildings and Grounds Committee for their thorough research in finding the best product for a good price. We all owe a big thank-you to Lloyd Knose, who spent many hours keeping the old dishwasher going for several more years than its normal life expectancy.

Several people from our church were here on the day the dishwasher was installed, and they were trained in its operation. Although it reportedly is very easy to use, we ask that no one use it without being trained first.

Stewardship

Perhaps you recall me mentioning that I believe (and a number of well-known church folk agree) that Stewardship is NOT an event reserved for the fall of the year when a congregation tries to raise commitments for giving for the following year's budget. Instead, Stewardship is an all-year way of life for everyone. Especially for those who profess to be Christian!!

Generosity to the church is not limited to, nor should it be limited to, our weekly offering or our occasional work at a special dinner or fundraiser. Generosity is a 52-week, 365-day occurrence - or at least it should be!

As a friendly reminder of this, there will be a basket placed in our sanctuary at both entrances/exits on the Sundays of February 8, 15, 22 for your *FREE-WILL* offerings. Perhaps it will be emptying your pockets of change or maybe it will be a more concerted donation of a check or dollars that you want to give as your response to the love of God in your life. This is being intentionally done in February, NOT to "wring you dry" of your assets and/or treasures, but as an opportunity for you to give over and above your already generous donation to the church in response to God's unending and ever-gracious love for you and all creation! February is thought of as "Love Month" since within its bounds we celebrate Valentine's Day, so what better month to show our special and deep love for God? I hope you will recognize this NOT as the church once again "begging" for money, but instead as an invitation to freely offer our love in a tangible and generous way. Thank you!

Pastor Bob

Mary Hosford Fisher Women's Fellowship

Seven members of Women's Fellowship met on Wednesday, January 5, 2015 at 1pm in the church annex.

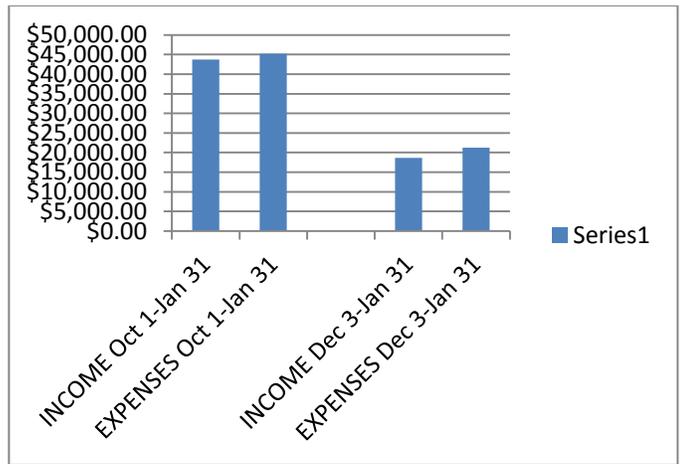
Suzanne Norton read "Reflections of the Christmas Story" by Janette Oke. We all joined hands and recited the Lord's Prayer.

The minutes of the previous meeting and treasurer's report were approved.

The next PAC meeting will be held on Monday, January 26 at 6:30pm at Arcade UCC. UCC will be serving the Lenten luncheon on March 4 at Hope Lutheran Church. Anna Hope is looking for a replacement for her job at the PAC Food Pantry.

A rummage sale is being planned for May 1 and 2. Net proceeds will be given to the General Fund. The new dishwasher will be installed on January 15 and those that will be using it are asked to be there for instructions on its operation.

Our next meeting will be February 2.



FINANCIAL NEWS

Our non-pass-through expenditures between December 3 and January 31 included \$13,046.71 pastor's salary and benefits; \$4,952.76 other salaries in December and January; \$752.68 insurance; \$713.12 village utilities; \$488.90 copier; \$400 cleaning; \$213 gas bills; \$157 service on old dishwasher; \$144 travel; \$78.32 bulletins; \$75 plowing; \$69 postage; \$50 Chamber of Commerce dues; \$39.99 computer; phone \$36.13; \$29.41 Sunday School activities; \$27.87 custodial and office supplies.

Our church family donated \$540 to the Christmas Memorial Blessings campaign. This money has been turned over to Crabb Oil & Propane to assist their customers who are having trouble paying their heating bills this winter.

We also received \$349 in donations to the Christmas Fund of the United Church of Christ. This money is used to supplement the pensions of retired pastors and church staff members, and to current pastors who are experiencing financial hardships.

Endowment Committee

Disbursement of mission funds in December from the Endowment account were as follows:

NY/Help – Honduras	\$250
PAC Food Pantry	\$250
Dunkirk Camp & Conference Ctr.	\$200
Pioneer PRO	\$200
Buffalo City Mission	\$150
St. Luke's Mission of Mercy	\$150
Plymouth Crossroads	\$150
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$400

MEMBERSHIP MILESTONES

Congratulations to Barbara Newman who joined our membership on January 18.

Congratulations also to Kim Common on her 25th anniversary of church membership on February 18!

February Gatherings

- 2 Women's Fellowship – 1pm
- 3 Worship/Music - 6:30pm
- 4 Outreach – 1pm
- 4 Christian Education – 4pm
- 4, 11, 25 – Choir Rehearsal – 6pm
- 4, 11, 25– Bible Study – 6:30pm – Soup & Bread supper
Followed by Bible Study
- 11 Building & Grounds – 7pm
- 14 Winterfest Chili Cook-off – 10:00am
- 14 Swiss Steak Dinner – 4:30pm – Arcade United
Methodist Church
- 18 Ash Wednesday Fish Fry – St. Mary's Parish
417 W. Main St., Arcade, 4-7pm
- 18 Ash Wednesday Service – Arcade UCC – 7pm
- 21 Roast Pork Dinner – Arcade UCC – 4:30pm - ?
- 24 Council – 7pm
- 25 Lenten Service @ Hope Lutheran – 11am
followed by a luncheon
- 28 Community Dinner - 4-6:00pm

NOTE: Weight Watchers meets Wednesday evenings at 5:00pm in Wetzell Hall.

The Carillon is being compiled, printed and mailed by a committee of four – Audrey Erick, Margaret Homan Marilyn Piridy and Sheila Vrenna. Please continue to watch for the deadline date for your articles and reports and give them to any of the above members. We hope to produce a quality newsletter. Any suggestions are welcomed. The deadline for the March issue is February 22, 2015.

The Carillon

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Website: arcadeucc.org
Office Hours: 9:00am – 3:00pm (T-Th)
Worship Schedule: 8:45am – Sunday School
8:45am Choir Rehearsal
10:30am Worship

United Church of Christ, Congregational

297 Main St.,
Arcade, NY 14009