

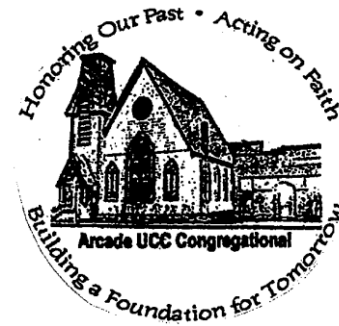
# The Carillon

United Church of Christ, Congregational

(585) 492-4530

Editor: Kathy May

## February 2016



Ah, the month of February! Though the shortest of months, February is home to several special days. Some are not all that well known, like National Freedom Day, The Day the Music Died (Buddy Holly, Richie Valens and the Big Bopper died in a plane crash in 1959), Wave All your Fingers at Your Neighbor Day, Toothache Day, Do a Grouch a Favor Day, and National Tooth Fairy Day. Then again, there are several special days that are much more familiar to all of us: Abraham Lincoln's Birthday, Valentine's Day, President's Day, and George Washington's Birthday.

Yet, of all the commemorations we, as Americans, have come up with in February, one that is near and dear to my heart is....*Groundhog Day*. Yup!! I really am intrigued with **Punxsutawney Phil** (or Phyllis) and all the hoopla surrounding the meteorological acumen exhibited (or not). While various legends and myths exist concerning the origin of Groundhog Day, we Americans have "fine tuned" it into almost a national holiday status. Groundhog Day, celebrated on February 2, is the day that the Groundhog comes out of his hole (usually with a little persuasion) after a long winter sleep to look for his shadow. If he sees it, he regards it as an omen of six more weeks of bad weather and returns to his hole. If the day is cloudy and, hence, shadow less, he takes it as a sign of spring and stays above ground.

Now, whether you follow faithfully the comings and goings of Punxsutawney Phil (Phyllis) or not, I believe there is a message for all of us in this February 2 celebration, and that message is the similarity between our Christian walk in life and Groundhog Day!!.

As Christians, we can all agree (I hope) that the presence of Christ is always with us in the form of the Holy Spirit. We find the truth of this in the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of John's gospel where Jesus promises his disciples (and each of us) that he will not leave us as orphans, but will be with us in the form of the "Advocate" (the Holy Spirit) whom God sends to us in Jesus' name. But while we agree on this truth, many Christians fail to act on it.

When life is treating us kindly, when we have minimal challenges and hurdles, when our "skies" are

bright and sunny, many Christians figuratively "see" their shadow and keep on living their lives in the manner they are accustomed, doing those things they want. Thinking they are doing just fine! These are the folk who live in the "status quo", placing the importance of Christ in their lives on a back burner because they just see no need with things going so well.

If, however, our "skies" are cloudy and dark in life – if we have one challenge after another and hurdles which we seemingly cannot even begin to cross – if life seems so cruel that we don't know what we're going to do, then our "shadows" are obscured. It's THEN we turn to Christ for help and encouragement.

Do you remember the famous painting of Jesus standing at a door, based on the scripture..."*I am standing at the door and knocking...*" (Rev. 3:20)? Do you remember that the door has no knob on the outside? That means WE have to open the door for Jesus to come in, he cannot (does not) let himself into our lives.

My point is: Jesus Christ is ready, willing and able to take over our lives NOW, bringing the tools we need to live life to the fullest. Don't wait until, like Punxsutawney Phil (Phyllis), our life's skies are so glum and cloudy that we are left no choice. If you want to talk about this step in your life or need some help in making this decision, please call me or stop in the office. Blessings – and may God grant you the strength and courage to make/take this step!! –

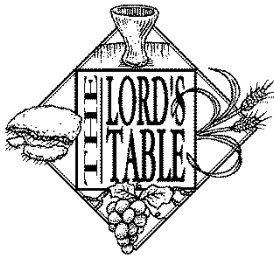
Shalom,

*Pastor Bob*

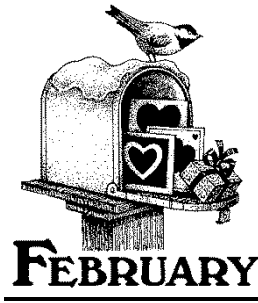
## Pastor's Fund

During the months of December and January contributions for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund have been given by: anonymous donors, Endowment Committee, Dale & Cindy Carlson, 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.

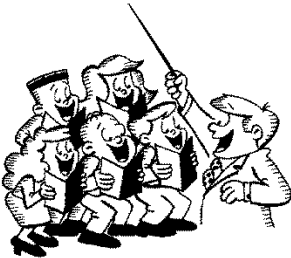


If you or someone you know would like to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion at home, please let Kathy in the church office know. You may reach the church office at 585-492-4530 or via email at [arc-ucc@juno.com](mailto:arc-ucc@juno.com).



## **February Bible Readings**

7	Ex 34:29-35 Psalm 99 2 Cor 3:12-4:2 Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)	21	Gen 15:1-12, 17-18 Psalm 27 Phil 3:17-4:1 Luke 13:31-35
14	Deut 26:1-11 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Rom 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13	28	Isa 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 1 Cor 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9



Anyone from 9<sup>th</sup> 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**

7 Jay & Kathy May	21 Romance Family
14 Gordon & Ginger Comstock	28 Molly Holland & Margaret Homan

## **February Readers**

7 F.I.S.H.	21 Mike Tanner
14 Leanne Pokigo	28 Dona Roll

## **February Nursery Schedule**

7 Souper Bowl of Caring	21 Deb Wood
14 Denielle Romance	28

## **February Worship Coordinators**

7 Margaret Homan	21 Shirley Kriedeman
14 Bev Giles	28

## **February Birthdays**

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
12 Jeff Mason	

## **February Anniversaries**

4 Bill & Madeline Hall – 44 yrs.

## **Worship in February:**

February 7:	Transfiguration Sunday The Sacrament of Holy Communion The Last Sunday after Epiphany Souper-Bowl of Caring Sunday
February 14:	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent Valentine's Day Scripture: Romans 10: 8b-13 Luke 4: 1-13 Sermon: <i>Provisions in the Wilderness</i>
February 21:	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent Scripture: Philippians 3: 17-4:1 Luke 13: 31-35 Sermon: <i>Blessed Oppression</i>
February 28:	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent Scripture: Isaiah 55: 1-9 Luke 13: 1-9 Sermon: <i>Just Rewards?</i>

## **LONGEVITY MILESTONES**

Congratulations to Doris Grenchon on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her church membership on February 14, and to Jo Sixt on the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her membership on February 25.



## Souper Bowl Sunday

On Sunday, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating a special Sunday at Arcade UCC!! It's *Souper Bowl of*

*Caring Sunday*. Our F.I.S.H. group, 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 our Arcade Food Pantry.

We will also celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion during worship. 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 7 as we help fight hunger!

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Pot Luck

On Sunday, February 14, we will enjoy together our **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Pot Luck** immediately following worship. This month, our 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Pot Luck falls on Valentine's Day. What better way to treat YOUR Valentine than to take him/her to dinner at church? A special Valentine will also be given to everyone present.

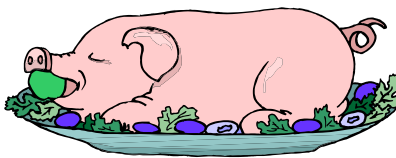
This is a time of fellowship and great food, so plan on joining us for dinner the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month after worship. Please bring a dish to share and your table service. Drinks will be provided. This is a great way to get to know each other a little better!! See you there.

## Arcade Winterfest 2016

The weekend of February 12, 13 and 14 is Arcade's 2016 Winterfest. The theme this year is "*Celebrity Style*".

As part of the festivities that weekend, our annex windows have been decorated by Deb Wood and Vanessa Adams and are being entered in the window decorating contest. Make sure to stop by and take a look at them!

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 \$12 and the meal is served Family Style.



## Roast Pork Dinner

Saturday, February 20, 2016

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 Debbie or Tom Scott.

*Proceeds benefit the General Fund*



**A Reminder:** The 4<sup>th</sup> 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. We encourage you to bring your items to worship with you on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday. Thank You.

## WNYACIC Winter Meeting

Saturday, February 27 is the date of our next Western New York Area Churches in Covenant Winter Meeting.

**"Sacred Conversations" at Kenilworth UCC, 45 Dalton, Buffalo, NY 14223** (*located in the Town of Tonawanda at the corner of Dalton and Decatur, 2 blocks west of Niagara Falls Blvd.*)

Registration is \$8.00 per person and includes lunch. Schedule is as follows:

Registration	8:30-9:15 AM
Worship	9:15-9:45 AM
Workshops	10:00-12:00 noon
Lunch and Announcements	12:15-12:50 PM
Workshops with closing prayer	1:00-3:00 PM

Everyone is invited to attend. If you are interested in attending this event, please contact Pastor Bob by Feb. 22.

## ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Unless otherwise specified by the donor, the principal amounts of gifts to the Endowment Fund are retained and preserved, and only the income earnings from the managed investments of the principal may be spent.

Of these total earnings, one half **may** be spent annually for a specific project or program, and at such other times as deemed necessary and/or feasible for capital improvements and/or major buildings and grounds maintenance programs of the church. These funds may roll over from year to year. The current balance is \$3,800.23.

One fourth shall be spent annually for outreach into the Community, Western New York State and Overseas. These funds **must** be allocated annually. \$1,900.12 must be disbursed before January 1, 2017.

### 2015 Disbursements:

Dunkirk Conference Center	\$200
PAC Food Pantry	\$250
St. Luke's Mission	\$150
NY Help (Honduras)	\$250
Pioneer PRO	\$200
Plymouth Crossroads	\$150
Genesis House, Olean	\$150
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$400

One fourth **may** be spent annually for any purpose listed above. These funds may roll over from year to year. \$6,694.98 has been carried over, creating a balance of \$8595.10.

The biggest anticipated expense for 2016 is the completion of the parking lot project.

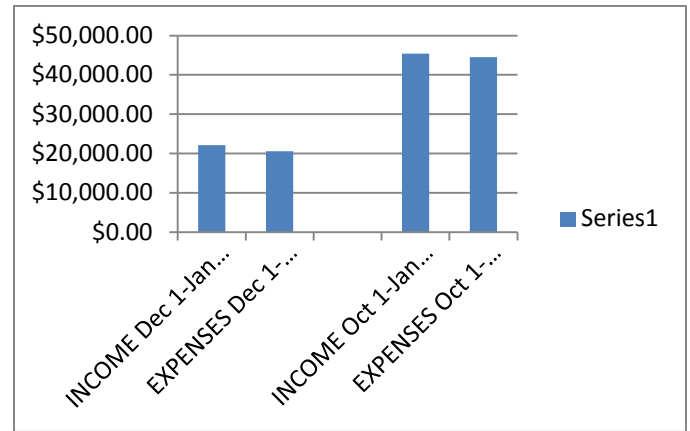
Respectfully Submitted,  
Beverly Giles, Chair

## 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.



## FINANCIAL NEWS

Our non-pass-through expenditures in December and January included \$13,046.71 pastor's salary and benefits; \$4,451.97 other salaries; \$752.68 insurance; \$640 village utilities; \$490.22 copier lease; \$410.76 elevator maintenance; \$400 Our Church's Wider Mission to the state and national United Church of Christ; \$400 cleaning; \$398 travel; \$170.28 phone bills; \$145 replacement door lock; \$131 gas bill; \$97.50 snowplowing; \$64 online service; \$57.30 baptism and poinsettia; \$50 Chamber of Commerce dues; \$42.12 office supplies; \$39.20 postage; and \$32 Sunday School activities.

The Christmas Fund offering in December totaled \$271, which has been sent to the New York Conference office.

The Christmas Memorial Blessings offerings totaled \$615, which has been sent to Crabb Oil to help some of their customers with winter heating bills.

## IN MEMORIAM

We extend our sympathy to Len Mason and his family on the death of their son, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and cousin, Scott Mason. Scott, who was confirmed in our church in 1973, died on December 5. A memorial service will be held in church at 11:00 on Saturday, February 27.

We also extend our sympathy to Sandy Deinhart and her family on the death of their husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother and cousin, Ronald Deinhart. Sandy and Ron joined our church in 2005, and Ron had served as a member of the Finance Committee. His memorial service, with military honors, was held in church on January 30.

## 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 10** (Ash Wednesday) we will gather each Wednesday during Lent (February 17, 24, March 2, 9, 16) at Hope Lutheran Church for worship at 11am followed by a luncheon, hosted each week by one of our PAC churches.

**Each Wednesday evening in Lent (February 10, 17, 24, March 2, 9, 16)** 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 *Living Lent as a People of the Resurrection*, 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.

## Lent 2016

As we begin the month of February, we are also commemorating in her midst a very special and holy season of the Church year - the Season of Lent. February 10, Ash Wednesday, marks our entry into this season of repentance, prayer, study and reflection, remembrance, and anticipation. And I invite you to participate in a very active and intentional way.

The Lenten season is a forty-day period (not counting Sundays), culminating in the days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday - three days known as the *tridium*. The *tridium* represents, respectively, Christ's final meal with his disciples, Christ's crucifixion and Christ's death-rest in the tomb. Lent ends with the first service of Easter, this year on March 27. In the earliest days of the church, for some, Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of a period of preparation for membership into the Church. The initiates would go through forty days of hearing biblical stories and learning about the faith in order to prepare for baptism, which would traditionally occur in the early morning hours of Easter. Another tradition begins the Lenten Season with the imposition of ashes as a symbol of humility and penitence along with our confession of sin. We are reminded of God's expulsion of Adam and Eve from the garden of paradise with the words, "you are dust, and to dust you shall return." For Christians, this solemn season leads to Easter when we celebrate with much joy and adulation the resurrection of our Lord and its accompanying gift of salvation through Christ and the assurance of our return to live in God's realm which has no end.

At United Church of Christ in Arcade, I would encourage each of you, as you are able, to attend worship throughout Lent, as we prepare ourselves individually and communally as a family of God, through confession, prayer, the hearing of God's Word, and the opportunity to give for the benefit of others.

## WORKERS UNION

The December 9 meeting of Workers Union was held at the home of Lois Yauchzy and a wonderful time was had by all. The Christmas lights and decorations of trees and angels were beautiful and the festive dessert made by Margaret Homan was elegant! But wait – there's more!!

Mike Giles entertained the group with pictures of his trip (Bev, too) to Africa. The scenery was beautiful and his description of the birds and animals was most enjoyable.

Plans were made for the 2016 meetings which won't begin until Mary 9 at 1:00pm in the church. We would enjoy having more of our friends join us.

Gwen St. John, Secretary

## February Gatherings

- 1 Women's Fellowship – 1pm
  - 2 Worship/Music - 6:30pm
  - 3 Christian Education – 4pm
  - 3, 10, 17, 24 – Choir Rehearsal – 6pm
  - 3 Bible Study – 7pm
  - 10, 17, 24 - Lenten Service @ Hope Lutheran – 11am followed by a luncheon
  - 10, 17, 24– Bible Study – 6:30pm – Soup & Bread supper Followed by Bible Study
  - 9 Outreach – 7pm
  - 10 Building & Grounds – 7pm
  - 13 Swiss Steak Dinner – 4:30pm – Arcade United Methodist Church
  - 20 Roast Pork Dinner – Arcade UCC – 4:30pm - ?
  - 23 Council – 7pm
  - 27 Community Dinner - 4-6:00pm
- NOTE:** Weight Watchers meets Wednesday evenings at 5:00pm in Wetzel Hall.

The Carillon is being compiled, printed and mailed by a committee of three – Audrey Erick, Margaret Homan 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 28, 2016.

## The Carillon

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

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**Office E-mail:** [arc-ucc@juno.com](mailto:arc-ucc@juno.com)

**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