

The Carillon

United Church of Christ, Congregational

(585) 492-4530

Editor: Kathy May

May 2016



I can remember as a child hearing the adults speak of the month of May, not just in ordinary everyday terms, but as something very special, as the “**merry month of May**”. And I would think, “What is it that makes May so merry – so special?” Not until several years later did I realize the significance of calling May “merry”. A nursery rhyme, whose author I cannot find, explained to me in child-like truth why May is so very special. The rhyme goes like this: **In the merry month of May, When green leaves begin to spring, Little lambs do skip like fairies Birds do couple, build and sing.** Ahh! Now I get it!! May is special – May is merry – because that’s the month when life seems to erupt from winter’s cavernous darkness and isolation. May is the month when our lawns begin to cry out for the mowers in earnest; when trees show their budding newness; when creatures of all sizes and varieties undergo the annual, methodical process of starting new families; when the rains of April show forth their fruit in the form of a plethora of colorful blossoms with fragrances which to many are absolutely intoxicating! Ah, yes – the merry month of May.

And as if that was not enough to make May merry, as American Christians we consecrate the month with three additional days of celebration, which, I believe, hold true to May’s merriment: Mother’s Day, Memorial Day and Pentecost.

There is truly no creature, no product of God’s creativity and originality quite like “mother”. It’s our mothers who have given us life; it’s our mothers who have nursed and nurtured us with food for our bodies, our minds and our souls; it’s our mothers who have traditionally shown us how to incorporate feelings and emotions in our lives (something that as recent as my generation was poo-pooed for boys and thought to be exclusively for girls). I think of my Mom and I can’t help but smile at all the practical, useful lessons she taught me (whether she knew it or not): lessons like how to cook (which for a man can be no small feat), basic sewing, how to properly clean a house. But more, so much more, than this, how to be kind to others (no matter who or what they are), how to live in a committed relationship, how to share, how to love! Yes, mothers are indeed special – so how wise and appropriate to celebrate them and all they stand for in the merry month of May.

Now many of you would question my reasoning as to why Memorial Day is in May – that merry month. There’s not very much “merry” about Memorial Day is there? After all we visit cemeteries, remembering those who have served so faithfully our nation and given their lives either

during that service or following it; we remember, too, all our loved ones and friends who have left this earth to take residence in heaven. So why is Memorial Day in the merry month of May? Simply put, because we commemorate, on Memorial Day, *life*: life as it was given to us by the brave and dedicated service of those who fought for the principles of freedom and equality for which our nation stands AND life as it is now the fulfilled promise for all eternity of those who have gone before us, having lived earthly lives in discipleship of Jesus Christ. What greater life could there possibly be; what greater cause for celebration could we have than to recognize and hold up the *life* given us both here and in heaven? Now it makes sense to celebrate Memorial Day in May!

And that brings us to the third additional day of celebration in May, Pentecost. Why should Pentecost be housed in May’s domain? It was 50 days after Easter (the day that Jesus was brought forever back to life by the powerful, merciful, gracious, loving hand of God) that many had gathered in commemoration of the ancient Jewish festival *Pentecost* (yes, that’s right – the day itself has been around for millennia, but about 2000 years ago was given new meaning). At *Pentecost* (or Shavuot), the ancients celebrated this as the day they received the *Torah* at Mount Sinai. While the crowds from all over the world at that time had gathered to celebrate *Pentecost* something strange and exciting happened. A huge wind blew upon them and tongues of fire descended about them. “*All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them* – Acts 2.4. Christ had kept his promise (the promise to send His Holy Spirit as advocate for all the peoples, even though He himself had been ascended to heaven to God’s right hand). It was with this act of being filled with the Holy Spirit that today we celebrate Pentecost as the **birth of the Church**, whereby the gospel of Christ Jesus has transcended barriers of language and filled the hearts and minds of countless of the world’s peoples. How appropriate, then, to have May contain this day of life, as well – a day of life for the Church of Jesus Christ in the world.

So you see, the month of May is called merry because it is the month (perhaps more than any other) of life. As you proceed down the days and weeks of May, I ask that you continually remember the significance of each day – especially those holidays that are therein contained – and celebrate not only the day, but more importantly the life that is contained in each of those days!

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.

May Greeters

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Randy & Debi Lutz | 22 Gordon & Ginger |
| 8 Lary Schafer & Dirk Norwich | Comstock |
| 15 Diane Szpak & Sharon Hawley | 29 Bill & Karen Schaper |

May Readers

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1 Leanne Pokigo | 22 Deb Scott |
| 8 Dona Roll | 29 Sheila Vrenna |
| 15 Lary Schaefer | |

May Nursery Schedule

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1 Kathy May | 22 Denielle Romance |
| 8 Sheila Vrenna | 29 Kathy May |
| 15 Deb Wood | |

May Worship Coordinators

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Bev Giles | 22 Ryan Bechdel |
| 8 Shirley Kriedeman | 29 Jo Sixt |
| 15 Wally Lowth | |

May Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Rachel Boldt | 17 Debi Lutz |
| 4 Ginger Comstock | 19 Harv Roll |
| 8 Kelly Bechdel | 24 Barbara Newman |
| 11 Gary Bray | 29 Karen Schaper |
| 11 Mike Giles | 31 Nathan Tillinghast |
| 12 Sandy Deinhart | |

May Anniversaries

- | |
|-----------------------------------|
| 1 John & Kim Common – 6 yrs. |
| 1 Liz & Wally Lowth – 46 yrs. |
| 10 Mick & Molly Holland – 47 yrs. |

Pastor's Fund

Donations received during the month of April to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund of UCC, Congregational have been given by an anonymous donor, and Pastor Bob.

This fund is used at the Pastor's discretion to help area folk in times of special need, of which there have been many this year. All contributions are greatly appreciated. If you would like to donate, just send your check to the church, designated for the Pastor's Fund.

May Bible Readings

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Acts 16:9-15 | 22 Prov 8:1-4, 22-31 |
| Psalm 67 | Psalm 8 |
| Rev 21:10, 22-22:5 | Rom 5:1-5 |
| John 14:23-29 | John 16:12-15 |
| 8 Acts 16:16-34 | 29 1 Kings 8:22-23, 41-43 |
| Psalm 97 | Psalm 96:1-9 |
| Rev 22:12-14, 16-17 | Gal 1:1-12 |
| John 17:20-26 | Luke 7:1-10 |
| 15 Acts 2:1-21 | |
| Psalm 104.24-34, 35b | |
| Rom 8:14-17 | |
| John 14:8-17 (25-27) | |

Worship in May:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| May 1: | 6 th Sunday of Easter
The Sacrament of Holy Communion
Scripture: Acts 16: 9-15
John 14: 23-29
Sermon: <i>God's Direction</i> |
| May 8: | 7 th Sunday of Easter
Mother's day
Scripture: 2 Timothy 1: 1-5
John 17: 20-26
Sermon: <i>Faith Mothers</i> |
| May 15: | Pentecost Sunday
The Rite of Confirmation
Scripture: Acts 2: 1-21
Sermon: <i>Happy Birthday to You, Church!</i> |
| May 22: | Trinity Sunday
Youth End of Year Program |
| May 29: | 2 nd Sunday after Pentecost
Memorial Day Sunday
Scripture: Galatians 1: 1-12
Luke 7: 1-10
Sermon: <i>The Gift of Prayer</i> |

2nd Sunday Pot Luck

There will be NO 2nd Sunday Pot Luck in May, as the second Sunday is Mother's Day. There will also be NO Pot Luck in June.

The 2nd Sunday Dinners will resume in the fall and will be announced in our bulletins as well as the *Carillon*.

Mother's Day

Sunday, May 8 is **Mother's Day** – a time we set aside to recognize and celebrate all our mothers as well as those who are like mothers to us in what they do and say for us.

Here at UCC, Congregational it will be a special day indeed. We will start by having a Mother's Day Breakfast at **8:45 am** for all mothers in our congregation and their guests. Actually everyone is welcome! The guest chefs for the morning will be men of the church. Following breakfast we will celebrate Mother's day in worship at our usual hour of **10:30am**.

A sign-up sheet is at the back of the sanctuary so we know how much food to prepare. Mark your calendars and plan to join us for this special Mother's Day time together.

Church Membership

If you are searching for a church home or if you already attend our congregation, but have not become a member and would like to, now is the time! Pastor Bob would like to have new member sessions with any and all who would like to make Arcade UCC, Congregational their church home.

Please contact Pastor Bob with your interest and for more details.

Bible Study

Our weekly Bible Study meets on Wednesdays at 7pm in the Great Room. We look at studies based on current events, using scripture as a foundation for discussion. The lessons should prove to be not only timely, but also interesting, thought-provoking and informative for all who join us. Everyone is welcome.

WNYACIC SPRING MEETING

Our Western New York Area Churches in Covenant Spring Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 1 at Arcade UCC from 1-5pm.

The theme, *Bursting into Bloom*, will feature a celebration of Ordinations, Installations and Anniversaries. Registration is \$8.00 (includes a lunch and all materials). Everyone is invited to attend and join in fellowship with our sisters and brothers from the Western Area.



Pentecost/Confirmation

Sunday, May 15 is a real "double-header" for us!! First, this Sunday is **Pentecost**, the day we celebrate the birthday of the church. In commemoration of the Holy Spirit's presence made known by rushing winds and flames of fire among the crowd gathered together 2000 years ago we invite each of you to wear **RED** that day.

Also on this day, we will celebrate the rite of CONFIRMATION – accepting into our church membership *Nick Tillinghast*. Nick has studied this past year, learning about the church and its various functions and parts.

Please plan on joining us on May 15 for a very special day at Arcade UCC!!

Ordination/Installation for Sara E. Campbell

On Saturday, May 7, St. Stephens/Bethlehem UCC in Amherst will celebrate the Ordination to Christian Ministry and Installation as Pastor and Teacher of *Sara E. Campbell*. This special celebration will be held at St. Stephens/Bethlehem at 11am, with a reception following. Our Church Choir has been asked to sing at this service.

Sara served as our pulpit supply during Pastor Bob's sabbatical last summer and came to know many of you through her ministry. Please join us in commemorating this very special time for Sara. If you are interested in to carpooling, please see Pastor Bob.



June 10-12 are the dates for this year's NY Conference Annual Meeting, to be held at the Hyatt-Regency, Rochester, New York. This meeting will be a combined gathering with the Christian Church (Disciples

of Christ) and has the theme, *Let Justice Roll*. The featured speakers for the event are: **Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II**, (pastor and political leader in North Carolina) and **Rev. Dr. Donna Schaper** (Senior Minister of historic Judson Memorial Chapel in New York City).

Representing our church this year are Gordon and Ginger Comstock, Dona Roll, Dirk Norwich and Pastor Bob. Please keep these folk and all of the meeting participants in your prayers.

Religious Service Awards

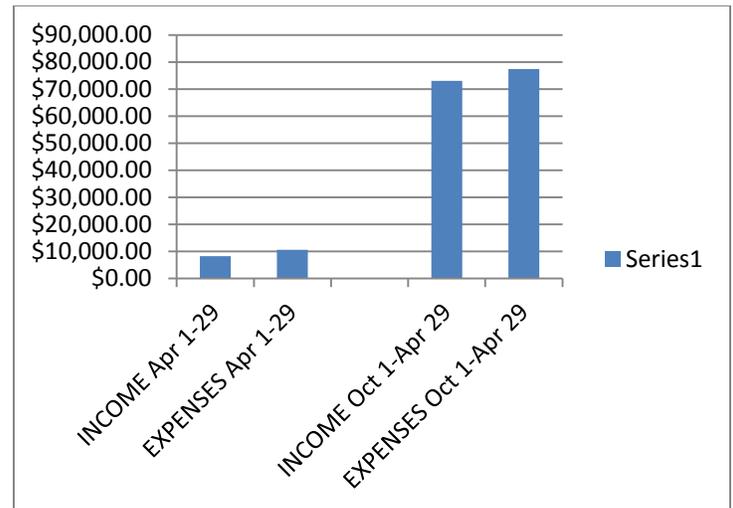
Each year churches and religious organizations in the Buffalo area award Religious Service Awards to people who exhibit service to their organizations and community. The awards are sponsored by the Network of Religious Communities – a diverse ecumenical group of individuals and religious organizations who are dedicated to breaking the barriers which so often separate those of different faith traditions.

This year we, at Arcade UCC, have nominated **Bev** and **Mike Giles** and **Wally** and **Liz Lowth**. The banquet honoring recipients will be held at *Salvatore's Italian Gardens, 6461 Transit Road, Depew, NY* on May 3. Dinner is at 6 pm. The keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. Brian Arthur Brown, author and theologian.



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.



FINANCIAL NEWS

Our non-pass-through expenditures in April included \$5,577.48 pastor's salary and benefits; \$2,456.39 other salaries; \$1,127 workers comp premium; \$348.70 cleaning; \$281 village utilities; \$245.11 copier lease; \$164 gas bill; \$156 travel; \$100.17 Holy Week expenses; \$85.40 phone bills; \$59.35 baptism expenses; and \$32 online service.

Thanks to Rich Vogt and everyone else who helped with the chowder and hot dog sale during the local Trout Derby on April 16. The profit so far is nearly \$700, and several quarts of chowder have been frozen and are available for sale at \$6.75 per quart.

WORKERS UNION

Members of Workers Union met Wednesday, March 9 at 1pm in the church annex.

We had a very pleasant meeting that began with the concerns of many friends and family. As usual the dessert and coffee was super.

Plans were discussed for our visit to Phyllis Pierce at Jennie B. in Springville. Margaret Homan and Shirley Kriedeman are finalizing this special day.

The program was given by Gwen S. on the "Butterfly Effect" that can initiate kindnesses worldwide. A lot of interesting stories followed the Butterfly Trivia information.

Gwen St. John, Secretary

Note: The Upper Room is made available by Workers Union at no cost to you! Please use it for your daily prayers!

Laurie Sledge's Surprise Celebration for 25 Years as Arcade UCC's Organist

On April 17, Arcade UCC joyfully celebrated with Laurie Sledge her 25 years as our organist! Laurie began her tenure with Arcade on Easter Sunday in 1991 and continues to bring her special talents to our worship service each Sunday.

Tributes to Laurie were made by Wyn Roll, Margaret Homan, Dona Roll and Rich Vogt who all spoke of her dedication, talent and the special friendship they each share with her. Laurie was surprised by her mother, sister, children and their families who attended this service honoring her.

Following the service, a reception was held for Laurie in Wetzel Hall.

May Gatherings

- 1 WNYACIC Spring Meeting – 1-5pm
Arcade UCC
- 2 Women's Fellowship – 1pm
- 3 Network of Religious Communities Religious Service Awards – Salvatore's Italian Gardens
- 4, 11, 18, 25 -- Choir Rehearsal – 6pm
- 6, 7 Rummage Sale – 9am-4pm – Arcade UCC
- 10 Outreach – 7pm
- 11 Workers Union – 1pm
- 11 Christian Education – 4pm
- 11, 18, 25 – Bible Study – 7pm
- 11 Building & Grounds – 7pm
- 14 Swiss Steak Dinner – Arcade United Methodist Church – 4:30pm - ?
- 24 Council – 7pm
- 28 Community Dinner - 4-6:00pm

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

Rummage Sale!

Friday & Saturday
May 6 & 7
9am-4pm

United Church of Christ, Cong.
297 Main St.
Arcade, NY 14009

Proceeds to benefit the General Fund

The Carillon is being compiled, printed and mailed by a committee of four – Audrey Erick, Margaret Homan, Kathy May 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 June issue is May 22, 2016.

The Carillon

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Pastor: Rev. Robert C. Dievendorf
Office Phone: (585)492-4530
Office E-mail: arc-ucc@juno.com
Website: arcadeucc.org
Office Hours: 9:00am – 3:00pm (T-Th)
Worship Schedule: 8:45am – Sunday School
 9:00am Choir Rehearsal
 10:30am Worship

"Strengthen the Church" Offering

Strengthen The Church (STC) is a special mission offering to re-imagine and build the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not yet been heard.

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. STC funds will also be used to award grants to help congregations communicate the "God is still speaking," message.

Envelopes are available in the church narthex. Please give generously to this worthwhile offering!

