

The Carillon

United Church of Christ, Congregational

(585) 492-4530

Editor: Kathy May

May 2017

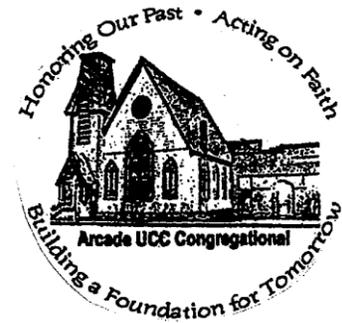
Having spent almost 30 years of my life in the profession of Pharmacy, I have had the opportunity to see a lot (many times more than I would like) of people suffering from a variety of disease states. Ranging from the more common infectious maladies that people get quite regularly to the all-too-common hypertension (high blood pressure), hyperlipidemia (high cholesterol), heart and breathing difficulties. But, at least for me, one of the most devastating maladies I saw, again all-too-often, was dementia - including Alzheimer's. This malady is so devastating because the person afflicted is transformed by different degrees into someone who they really are not - doing and saying many times things that are totally out of character. Along with this devastating affliction comes the significantly limited, or in some cases total loss of, memory - short-term, long-term or both. It is because memories play such an important part in our lives, both consciously and subconsciously, that its loss or diminishing is so devastating for both the patient and their network of family and friends.

For me, the month of May is about memories because it includes several days that invoke for me (and many more) thoughts of days past in a variety of ways. Let me share my reasoning, and perhaps you will agree.

May 1 is *May Day* - originally a day to remember the Haymarket Riot of 1886 in Chicago, Illinois. Even though the riot occurred on May 4, it was the culmination of unrest which began on May 1, thus it was remembered as a day of anarchy and socialist unrest. As time has progressed, however, May Day has become a day to commemorate the social and economic achievements of all the working class (blue and white-collar alike). Thus, we remember.

Then, on May 14, we come to one of America's favorite holidays - Mother's Day. On this day, we honor our mothers - those persons who either by birth or by their actions are as mothers to us through love, kindness, compassion, caring, encouraging, and so much more. It's on this day we acknowledge our mother's influence on our lives, whether they are yet in our midst or have gone before us to God's heavenly realm. On this day also, we celebrate the blessing of the Christian Home, which for many have been influenced by our mothers or "adopted" mothers. It's a special day, indeed.

Then, on May 29, we celebrate yet another day of tribute and remembrance - Memorial Day. Originally



called Decoration Day, Memorial Day was inaugurated to memorialize those who gave their lives in the Union Army during the American Civil War. The day was expanded after World War I to include all who have died in any war or military action. In more recent years, Memorial Day has morphed, by tradition, into a day to fondly keep in our minds all those who have died. And we do so by decorating their graves with flowers and ornaments. Remembering is what Memorial Day is all about!

And then, tucked within the confines of this month of May (on May 25) we remember again - this time commemorating the *ascension* (or heaven-bound raising) of our Lord Jesus, the Christ. From the *Book of Acts* we are told that Jesus proceeded to the right hand of God's heavenly throne from the Mount of Olives, a place within a day's journey from Jerusalem and from which many gospel accounts occurred (Jesus' procession into the Holy City on Palm Sunday, his teaching of the disciples, the agony and betrayal on Thursday evening of Holy Week in the Garden of Gethsemane among others). Occurring 40 days after Jesus' resurrection at Easter, Ascension Day is a time of joyful affirmation of his promise to his disciples (and to us) being fulfilled! The Book of Acts tells us Jesus told his disciples just before his ascension: "*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*" (Acts 1:8). Hearing these words of our Savior and recognizing his rising into God's heavenly realm, Ascension Day truly **IS** a day to remember!

WOW! That's a lot of remembering, isn't it - at least for one month? But remembering is not just something we should do on special days set aside for that reason. It's something we should do, according to scripture, everyday!! Just as the Psalmist reminds us that God **remembers** His covenant (special promise) each day to be our God (Psalm 105:8) so must we - *just as often* - **remember** our special promise to be His people (Psalm 95:7) - to talk with God, listen to God, be obedient in God's directions, and put our full trust in God (John 14:1). It's when we do this (to our fullest abilities) that our lives then become blessings - for God, for others, and for ourselves! And that's what *I* believe life is all about.

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

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 7 Mike Tanner &
Dirk Norwich | 21 Gwen Becht |
| 14 Suzanne Norton &
Helen Knose | 28 Wally & Liz Lowth |

May Readers

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 7 Rich Vogt | 21 Bev Giles |
| 14 Leanne Pokigo | 28 Mike Tanner |

May Nursery Schedule

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 7 Deb Wood | 21 Sheila Vrenna |
| 14 Amy Tillinghast | 28 Shannon King |

May Worship Coordinators

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 7 Shirley Kriedeman | 21 Nathan Tillinghast |
| 14 Wally Lowth | 28 Jo Sixt |

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 – 7 yrs. |
| 1 Liz & Wally Lowth – 47 yrs. |
| 10 Mick & Molly Holland – 48 yrs. |

Pastor's Fund

Donations received during the month of April to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund of UCC, Congregational have been given by Bill Hall, 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

- | | |
|---|---|
| 7 Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
1 Pet 2:19-25
John 10:1-10 | 21 Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:8-20
1 Pet 3:13-22
John 14:15-21 |
| 14 Acts 7:55-601
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Pet 2:2-10
John 14:1-14 | 28 Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Pet 4:12-14, 5:6-11
John 17:1-11 |

Worship in May:

- May 7: 4th Sunday of Easter
The Sacrament of Holy Communion
Scripture: Acts 2: 42-47
John 10: 1-10
Sermon: *Would Jesus Belong to Our Church?*
- May 14: 5th Sunday of Easter
Mothers' Day
Festival of the Christian Home
To Be Announced
- May 21: 6th Sunday of Easter
Sunday School Program
- May 28: 7th Sunday of Easter
Memorial Day Sunday
To Be Announced
- June 4: Pentecost Sunday
The Sacrament of Holy Communion
The Rev. Linda Harle-Mould
Guest Preacher

NY Conference United Church of Christ Annual Meeting

The 2017 Annual Meeting of the NY Conference, United Church of Christ and the Regional Synod of New York, Reformed Church in America, will be held on Thursday and Friday, May 25-26 at the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown, NY.

Jim Herrington will be the Guest Speaker and leader of the Clergy Retreat for this year's meeting. He has been a pastor for 45 years and has served as a denominational executive and pastor to pastors since 1989. He has worked with hundreds of congregations from a variety of traditions around the challenges of personal and congregational transformation. In 1998 he became the founding Executive Director of Mission Houston, a ministry that works to build unity in the body of Christ across lines that would normally divide. In 2007 he co-founded Faithwalking, a spiritual formation ministry that equips people and congregations to live missionally. Today Faithwalking is an active ministry in the U.S., Canada, and Central America.

These are some very important actions that will come before the Annual Meeting of the New York Conference during the Business Sections of our Plenary time together. Action items will be:

1. Vote on the 2018 Conference Budget.
2. Vote on a slate of Nominees for Conference Board and General Synod Delegates.
3. Vote on proposed revisions to the By-laws of the Conference (To Be Posted online and sent via email before April 24th).

There will also be a vote to have the Associations of the New York Conference vote to add a \$2.00 Conference per capita to their Association per capita invoice which each Association will then forward to the Conference. If all Associations agree to this new policy, the Conference will discontinue the Covenant Share special offering. The Associations are being asked to take this vote prior to the 2018 Annual Meeting. It will require a positive vote of all Associations for this policy to take effect in 2019.

Rationale: Compliance rate to the Covenant Share offering is low. Largest annual amount received was approximately \$27,000. Full compliance would result in a Per Capital income line item of \$66,000. Churches respond well to the Association per capita invoice. This is a system used in many UCC Conferences.

Please keep the entire conference in your prayers that a meaningful, spiritually uplifting time might be had.

Mother's Day

Sunday, May 14th 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.

Here at Arcade UCC, Congregational it will be a special day indeed. We will start by having a Mother's Day Continental Breakfast at **9:15am** for all mothers in our congregation and their guests (actually for everyone). The guest chefs for the morning will be under the direction of Dirk Norwich. Following breakfast, we will celebrate Mother's day in worship at our usual hour of **10:30 am**.

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for this special Mother's Day time together.

WNYACIC SPRING MEETING

Our Western New York Area Churches in Covenant Spring Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 7 at St. John's UCC, 733 Central Ave., Dunkirk, NY 14048 from 1-5pm.

The meeting 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.

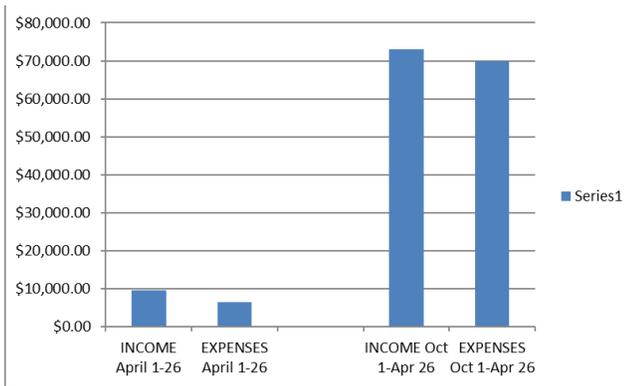


A Reminder: The 4th Sunday of every month is designated as "Food Pantry Sunday" at which time we receive non-perishable goods for our

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

Pastor's Leave

Pastor Bob will be on vacation/medical leave from May 9 through June 11. He will be receiving a left total knee replacement on May 9 and following up with rehab at Autumn View Rehabilitation Center. During this time if you have a Pastoral Emergency please call the Church Office at 585-492-4530. Thank you.



FINANCIAL NEWS

Our non-pass-through expenditures between April 1 and April 26 included \$2,452.66 pastor's salary and benefits; \$1,312 workers comp premium; \$1,300.55 other salaries on April 14; \$310 village utilities; \$250.21 copier expenses; \$189 gas bill; \$134.70 postage; \$105 boiler inspection; \$100 extra directories; \$85.49 phone bills; \$76.25 office supplies; \$67.50 snow removal; \$41.16 custodial supplies; \$39 online service; and \$34.53 funeral bulletins.

WORKERS UNION

Worker's Union met April 12 in the church annex. After dessert and coffee, cares and concerns were added to prayers for all. Minutes of the previous meeting and treasurer's report were read and accepted.

Gwen St. John presented a program on the religious history of upstate New York - so much history in our own backyard. It may be that this area was a tolerant refuge from various puritanical religions. Carl Carmer in his book *Listen for A Lonesome Drum*, explored the many beliefs from Evangelistic to Indian lore.

The next meeting will be May 10th at 1:00 PM in the annex. Join us for a great social time.

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!

MEMBERSHIP MILESTONES

We have 14 membership anniversaries this May: Gwen St. John, 30 years on May 17; George and Suzanne Norton, Jim Vrenna and Debbie Roll, 20 years on May 4; Penny Rutledge, Bill and Karen Schaper, Laurie Sledge, and Skip and Amy Tillinghast, 15 years on May 19; and Kelly Bechdel, Josh Taylor and Sam Tillinghast, 5 years on May 27.

Looking ahead

On Sunday, June 11, we are blessed and privileged to have Don and Maryjane Westra leading us in worship at our 10:30am hour.

Don and Maryjane have served the last 4 years with CEVER (Center for Vocational Education and Evangelical Reformed) in Yoro, Honduras, sponsored by the Evangelical and Reformed Church of Honduras. There will be a free-will special offering received that day to support the ministry these servants of God have so faithfully undertaken. Also, following our worship that day, we will gather in Wetzel Hall and enjoy a pot-luck dinner. I invite you to bring a dish to share as well as your table service. Drinks and rolls will be provided.

Please mark your calendars for this exciting day of worship, learning and food and fellowship.

Opportunity to Serve

As you have noticed, over the past several months, we have instituted the participation of *Liturgists* during our morning worship. The Liturgists assist our pastor in our worship services by leading our Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Psalmody (when part of the service), Invitation to Offering, Prayer of Dedication, and Joys and Concerns.

We would like to expand our list of people willing to participate in this program. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry and have the desire to serve God and your congregation in a respectful and reverent manner or if you have questions concerning what being a liturgist entails in more detail, please contact Pastor Bob.

Rummage Sale!

Friday & Saturday

May 5 & 6

9am-4pm

United Church of Christ, Cong.

297 Main St.

Arcade, NY 14009

Proceeds to benefit the General Fund

COUNCIL CORNER

The April meeting of the Arcade UCC Council was held Tuesday, April 25 in the church annex. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Rich Vogt. Devotions were led by Jeff Mason.

Minutes of the March meeting and treasurer's report were approved. The proposed lease agreement with Verizon for a cell antenna was discussed. Several questions that were raised at the Congregational meeting need to be addressed. The lease cannot be drawn up until approval is (officially) received from the Attorney General's office. Wally has received bids on the purchase of defibrillators for the church. Endowment has agreed to purchase 1 or 2 whichever is deemed necessary. Pastor Bob had requested that our church by-laws be reviewed and the by-laws were discussed at length. Several updates will need to be made. Committee reports were discussed. Jeff Mason asked if pulpit supply was set for Pastor Bob's medical leave. Rich Vogt will confirm that it is with the Worship/Music Committee.

Following closing prayer, meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.

Fundraisers

In order to meet our budget, we rely on several fundraising events. Our two biggest fundraisers are the upcoming Rummage Sale and the Fall Festival in mid-October. The rummage sale, organized by the Women's Fellowship, will take place in Wetzel Hall on May 5 and 6. If you're not going to be there working on the sale, we hope you'll stop in and shop.

Looking ahead to October, we hope you've begun gathering items that would make good baskets at the festival.

IN SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to Joan Kensinger and her family on the death of their husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great-grandfather, Donald Kensinger, who died on April 10. Don and Joan attended our church for many years, and Don was the last surviving World War II veteran in the Strykersville American Legion post. A graveside service, with military honors, was held on April 22.

Also on April 22, a memorial service, with military honors, was held in our church for Richard "Dick" Vogt Sr., who died on February 12.

We extend our sympathy to Debbie and Tom Scott on the passing of Debbie's mother, Verna McCarthy, who died on April 13. We enjoyed seeing Verna when she attended church with her family, and she was most recently with us at the pork dinner in February.

Mary Hosford Fisher Women's Fellowship

Mary Hosford Fisher Women's Fellowship met Monday, April 3, 2017 in the annex at 1pm. Suzanne Norton welcomed all eight members present and we had a time of sharing concerns and celebrations.

Gwen St. John read a story "What are You Doing?" which stressed the need to keep busy.

Minutes and financial reports were approved. PAC reminded us of a meeting with Roger, our pantry coordinator on Thursday, May 16. A final report on RADA was given. Items to serve for a luncheon following the memorial service for Dick Vogt were discussed. Reminder: Rummage Sale May 5-6!

Our next meeting will be May 1 at 1pm.

Margaret Homan, Secretary

May Gatherings

- 1 Women's Fellowship – 1pm
- 2 Worship/Music – 6:30pm
- 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 - Choir Rehearsal – 6pm
- 5, 6 Rummage Sale – 9am-4pm – Arcade UCC
- 7 WNYACIC Spring Meeting – 1-5pm
St. John's UCC, Dunkirk, NY
- 9 Outreach – 7pm
- 10 Workers Union – 1pm
- 15 PAC Meeting – 6:30pm – Machias UMC
- 22 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 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 21, 2017.

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