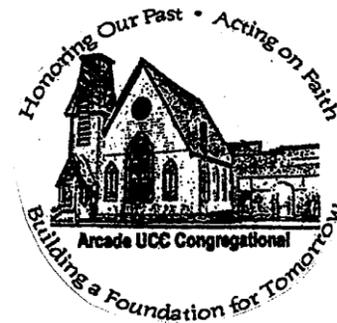


# The Carillon

United Church of Christ, Congregational

(585) 492-4530

Editor: Kathy May



## November 2014

Ah, November – a great month!! The riches of God’s bounty are gathered; grass begins its dormant life for a few months; leaves are strewn like gently falling snow across lawns, roadways, fields and every place imaginable; our furnaces have begun their ritual of bringing much welcomed heat to our chilly abodes and the temperatures fall (except for this week where we stand to set a new record for high temperatures); wildlife begins to scurry, foraging for their winter meals and homes. Yes, November is a great month!! Did you know that November also is designated as Aviation month, Child Safety and Protection month AND Good Nutrition month? And as if that weren’t enough to celebrate, certain November days are specially recognized as well: Nov 1 (National Author’s Day and Family Literacy Day); Nov 4 (National Candy Day); Nov 7 (Hug-a-Bear Day – but I really don’t think they mean a REAL live bear); Nov 8 (the X-Ray was discovered); Nov 11 (Veterans Day); Nov 15 (America Recycles Day); Nov 18-25 (National Bible Week); Nov 26 (National Cake Day and Nov 27 (Thanksgiving Day));. Talk about something for everyone!!

I am sure there are folk *somewhere* who look forward to each of these “holidays” and we should respect their celebrations, no matter how crazy some of these commemorations might appear to us. Now, while I don’t personally need any candy in my diet, and even though I do appreciate a hug when I act like a bear at home, and as I am not an author, but do a lot of reading, and while I appreciate the tool of X-rays in the health profession, and as I fully support recycling of our products and using frequently and often our Holy Bibles, and as I am quite well off without any cake in my daily cuisine, I wholeheartedly rejoice that there is tucked away in the depths of November a day we consciously and deliberately are to give thanks!

Growing up, I can remember my Mom and Dad and Grandmother constantly reminding me and my brothers and sister to always use and never forget our “pleases and thank yous”! No matter what it was we were doing, these words would become a part of our situation. As I have grown older, I still try to remember these words in every part of my life – but I have to admit sometimes it takes a mental consciousness to actually get the words out.

Such is the case, I believe, with many of us and Thanksgiving (or giving thanks). This 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the

month of November was first proclaimed a national day of giving thanks on November 26, 1789 “as a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and single favors of Almighty God”. So, 225 years later we are still honoring this holiday – though my perspective is that many have forgotten the original intent of the day. Oh sure, we have gatherings of family and friends, we have scrumptious meals (or perhaps really banquets), and don’t forget Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade (with Santa Claus bringing up the rear) and football, football and more football (pre-game shows, the games, then post-game follow-ups). But so many folk totally forget (or worse, ignore) the giving of thanks for a whole variety of things.

What about our life in general (our very breath), even with all its challenges and hurdles? What about our family, friends, acquaintances? What about our homes and all that makes them “homey”? What about the forgiveness of our sins and God’s gift of salvation? What about hope and mercy and compassion and love? What about our freedoms and rights and privileges we so take for granted?

This year, I would challenge each of you (if you don’t already make this a part of your routine) to make time for special thanks on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>. Maybe it will be immediately before your meal, or perhaps it will be even before you gather around the table. Maybe your thanks will be a time of everyone sharing what they are specifically appreciative of in their lives or maybe it will be a prayer led by the oldest (or youngest) person present. Maybe your thanks will be short and to the point or perhaps more protracted covering many, many things. Whatever the time, whatever the words, I challenge you to give thanks!!

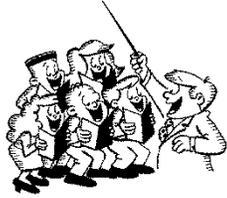
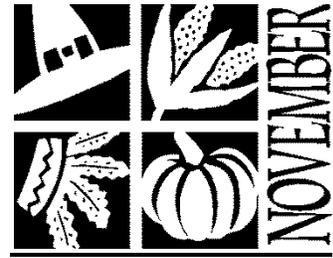
But why do this only on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each November? Why don’t you make a special time each and every day to give thanks for whatever is touching your heart? More than asking God for healing, guidance, support, strength, comfort, discernment and whatever, always, ALWAYS include a time of thanks giving because there is always something for which to give thanks!!

Have a most Happy and Bountiful Thanksgiving, my friends. And remember to give your thanks!!

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](mailto:arc-ucc@juno.com).



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.

**November Greeters**

- |   |                                    |    |                     |
|---|------------------------------------|----|---------------------|
| 2 | John & Carol Abel                  | 23 | Gwen & Laurel Becht |
| 9 | Margaret Homan & Shirley Kriedeman | 30 | Tom & Deb Scott     |

**November Readers**

- |    |                |    |                |
|----|----------------|----|----------------|
| 2  | Tom Scott      | 23 | Penny Rutledge |
| 9  | Marilyn Piridy | 30 | Debi Lutz      |
| 16 | Leanne Pokigo  |    |                |

**November Nursery Schedule**

- |    |                 |    |             |
|----|-----------------|----|-------------|
| 2  | Amy Tillinghast | 23 | Sharon Koch |
| 9  |                 | 30 | Deb Wood    |
| 16 | Sheila Vrenna   |    |             |

**November Worship Coordinators**

- |    |                   |    |                |
|----|-------------------|----|----------------|
| 2  | Shirley Kriedeman | 23 | Jo Sixt        |
| 9  | Tom Scott         | 30 | Margaret Homan |
| 16 | Wally Lowth       |    |                |

**November Birthdays**

- |    |                        |    |                  |
|----|------------------------|----|------------------|
| 3  | Rev. Robert Dievendorf | 20 | Leanne Pokigo    |
| 3  | Audrey Erick           | 22 | Ken Lingenfelter |
| 8  | Lary Schaefer          | 27 | Grace Gilbert    |
| 13 | Helen Knose            | 27 | Payton Romance   |
| 16 | Erin Zink              | 28 | Suzanne Norton   |
| 18 | Collin Tuttle          | 30 | Carol Abel       |

**November Anniversaries**

- 16 John & Carol Abel – 57 yrs.
- 25 Gerry & Gwen St. John – 66 yrs.

**November Bible Readings**

- |    |                      |    |                      |
|----|----------------------|----|----------------------|
| 2  | Josh 3:7-17          | 23 | Ezek 34:11-16, 20-24 |
|    | Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37 |    | Psalm 100            |
|    | 1 Thess 2:9-13       |    | Eph 1:15-23          |
|    | Matt 23:1-12         |    | Matt 25:31-46        |
| 9  | Josh 24:1-3a, 14-25  | 30 | Isa 64:1-9           |
|    | Psalm 78:1-7         |    | Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  |
|    | 1 Thess 4:13-18      |    | 1 Cor 1:3-9          |
|    | Matt 25:1-13         |    | Mark 13:24-37        |
| 16 | Judg 4:1-7           |    |                      |
|    | Psalm 123            |    |                      |
|    | 1 Thess 5:1-11       |    |                      |
|    | Matt 25:14-30        |    |                      |

**Worship in November:**

- November 2: 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
The Sacrament of Holy Communion  
*Daylight Savings Time Ends*  
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 10: 7-13  
Matthew 11: 25-30  
Sermon: *Is This a Test?*
- November 9: 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
*ReBuilt* will lead us in worship.
- November 16: 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Scripture: 1 Thess. 5: 1-11  
Matthew 25: 14-30  
Sermon: *Misplaced Faith?*
- November 23: 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
*Far Cry* Sunday  
Scripture: Psalm 100  
Matthew 25: 31-46  
Sermon: *The Praise Gate*
- November 30: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Scripture: Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19  
Sermon: *Restoration of Hope*

## Pastor's Fund

During the month of October contributions for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund have been given by: three anonymous donors, by Jim & Sheila Vrenna in honor of Norm Uhteg 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.

## FINANCIAL NEWS

At the annual meeting on October 26, we adopted a budget of \$143,472.27 for the 2014-15 fiscal year. Although this is nearly \$5,000 less than the 13-14 budget, we still are projecting a \$12,000 deficit. It will be up to all of us to reduce this deficit by joining in the fellowship of fundraising activities and by keeping up our giving to the church.

Our biggest single fundraiser of the year is the annual Fall Festival. This year's event took place on October 18 and was a big success, thanks to the donations and labors of so many people. The final profit was just over \$3,500. In keeping with the spirit of tithing, we made a \$350 donation to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund to assist people in need.

The money from the Fall Festival also made it possible for us to finish fulfilling our calendar year 2014 obligations to the state and national United Church of Christ (\$800); the Western New York Area Churches in Covenant (\$642); and the Pioneer Association of Churches (\$150).

Other non-pass-through expenditures in October included \$5,517.48 pastor's salary and benefits; \$2,476.38 other salaries on October 15 and 31; \$530.34 copier lease; \$437.50 cleaning; \$376.34 insurance; \$356.56 village utilities; \$349.96 replacement equipment; \$336 travel; \$301 music copyright license renewal; \$265 gas; \$47.97 paper products; \$39.20 postage; \$34.99 online service; and \$23.74 office supplies.

During the month of October, our members gave generously to Neighbors in Need (\$325) and the UCC New York Conference Covenant Share (\$320). This money has been sent to the New York Conference. If you haven't given yet, you may still do so, since another check will be sent in December.

## The Stewardship Scoop

This article is planned to be written monthly by a member of our congregation (or of the Stewardship Committee) to keep you apprised of Stewardship-related themes and issues to ponder and prayerfully act upon as individual children of God and as a community of faith.

*When approached to write about what stewardship means for me, my thoughts are not immediately directed to money, as so often is the case. Yes, dollars are a necessity to manage the "business aspect" of the church and I understand we all share fiscal responsibility.*

*Stewardship for me, however, is about understanding all that we are and all that we have belongs to God. He has entrusted us to care for His gifts. I believe that the gifts of our hands are extensions of God's hands, enabling us to do all that he wants and needs from us.*

*Personally, I believe my God-given gift is the art of storytelling. I understand that a child's spirituality is innate and that God has asked me to nurture, but not shape them.*

*Godly Play is my call to Stewardship.*

*Deb Wood*



## **ReBuilt in Concert!**

On Sunday, November 9, the nationally touring group *ReBuilt* will be here with us in our 10:30am worship and then again that evening at 6pm.

Through poetry and song, Joe Davis, Jeff Sanders, and Bryan Synder will minister to us as we are transformed and renewed in our spirit. As in the past, this group is an inspiration to all who are present. At both services, in addition to our regular morning offering, there will be a Love Offering available to help offset the group's travel expenses.

Don't miss this great time of worship together at our 10:30am service and again at 6pm the evening of November 9. You will NOT be disappointed you came!!

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

On Sunday, **November 9**, we will enjoy together our 2<sup>nd</sup> *Sunday Pot Luck* immediately following worship.

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. Table service will be provided as will drinks. This is a great way to get to know each other a little better!! See you there.



## Veterans Recognition

On Sunday, November 16, during our morning worship, all veterans will be recognized for their service on our behalf.

Veterans: feel free to wear your service caps, jackets, medals, etc. on this special day. Please plan on joining us as we honor these men and women who have sacrificed for us!

## PAC Thanksgiving Turkeys

PAC (Pioneer Association of Churches) is receiving turkeys to give out to our food-pantry patrons. If you would like to donate you can donate a frozen turkey to the food pantry by no later than November 16 OR you can donate money so the pantry can purchase a turkey for the individuals who are in need.

Please see Pastor Bob or Margaret Homan if you have questions or would like to donate.

## Community Thanksgiving Worship

On Sunday, November 23, the PAC Churches will gather for a Community Thanksgiving Worship at 7pm at Arcade UCC, Congregational. Each church will participate in the service as we praise God for the bounty bestowed upon us throughout the year.

The message that evening will be by Rev. Dr. Robert Zimmerman. A special offering of canned goods and/or monetary gifts will be received during worship and will go to our local PAC food pantry.

Please mark your calendars and join us for this special time together.



## Thanksgiving Dinner

The time is here and we have MUCH to be thankful for, especially as we begin our 203<sup>rd</sup> year as a congregation!!! Help us celebrate giving thanks as our congregation gathers for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner. The dinner will be on **Sunday, November 16** following worship.

As in years past, there is a sign-up sheet in the sanctuary for food items to help bring this meal together. Set the date aside and join us with family and friends, won't you, for this very special time of giving thanks, food and fellowship!!

## Prayer and Sharing

I firmly believe (and feel) the presence of the Holy Spirit to be in, among and with each of us in our community of faith.

As one way of responding to this presence, in this "new year" for UCC, Congregational at Arcade, New York, I would like to meet the **2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 10am** in the Great Room for coffee (and perhaps a treat or two), fellowship, sharing and prayer.

The gathering should last no longer (and probably less) than one hour. I intend to use this time for lifting up special needs we might have ourselves or for those we know AND our church and her missions and programs as we continue to faithfully follow Jesus the Christ in our living. This will start on Thursday, November 13.



## Advent Sermon Series

This Advent Season, which begins on Sunday, November 30, Pastor Bob will be preaching a series on what the four Sundays represent.

November 30 will be *Restoration of Hope*, December 7 will be *Restoration of Peace* and December 21 will be *Restoration of Love*. On December 14 we will celebrate worship with our annual Youth Christmas Program.

Come and join us, won't you, for this series and our Youth Program during Advent??

## Congregational Boundary Awareness Training

A course in congregational Boundary Awareness Training will be held on Saturday, November 15, 2014 from 9am – noon at Faith United Church of Christ, 1300 Maple Rd., Williamsville.

Congregational members are invited to come and learn about healthy boundaries for themselves and clergy, to share thoughts, ideas and have questions answered. There will be no charge for this training.

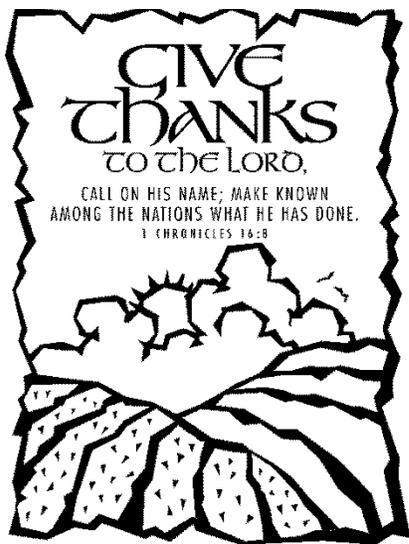
For reservations, contact Rev. Robert C. Dievendorf at 585 492-4530 by November 10.

## GRANTS RECEIVED

Some questions were raised at the Annual Meeting about any grants the church has received. Grants are given for specific purposes and do not count toward the budget, since they are “pass-through” income. There were no grants received during the 2013-14 fiscal year.

Three grants were received in the 2012-13 fiscal year. The Western Area Department of Community Ministries provided \$1,125 to start a bereavement support group, and most of that money has been spent. The UCC Justice and Witness Ministries program provided \$1,000 to support our monthly free community dinners, and that money has been spent.

The third grant was \$1,000, also from the DCM of the Western Area. It was for a proposal from our 2013 Bicentennial to create an outdoor prayer garden on the church property. After further consideration, the Council decided this project would be impractical, so the grant money has been returned.



## November Gatherings

- 2 WNYACIC Fall Meeting – St. Peter’s UCC, West Seneca – 1pm
- 3 Women’s Fellowship – 1pm
- 4 Worship/Music – 6:30pm
- 5,12, 19 – Choir – 6pm
- 5 Outreach Committee – 1pm
- 9 Council – 7pm
- 12 CEC – 3:30pm
- 12 Building & Grounds – 7pm
- 16 Thanksgiving Dinner – Following worship  
Sign-up for needed food items in back of the sanctuary.
- 23 PAC Thanksgiving Service – 7pm – Arcade UCC
- 25 Council – 7pm
- 27 Community Dinner – 4-6pm

**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, 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 December/January issue is November 23, 2014.

### 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

## Hanging of the Greens

Please join in the “Hanging of the Greens” to decorate our church for Advent. We will gather on Saturday, November 22 at 10am. Everyone is welcome!

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