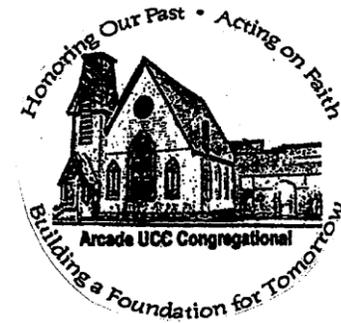


The Carillon

United Church of Christ, Congregational

(585) 492-4530

Editor: Kathy May



December 2014/January 2015

I really love this time of year! All the lights and other wonderful decorations; the aromas of wassail and several varieties of cinnamon, vanilla, pine, and a whole host of Christmas-time treats and adornments; the festivities and uplifted moods of people sharing the glad tidings; and just the sense that something is different this time of year. One of the things I love most is that the radio station I regularly listen to plays *nothing* but Christmas music - from the day after Thanksgiving (or even earlier if the right mood strikes those in charge) until Christmas Day - 24/7. I just like the strains as they melodiously travel the airwaves - kind of like a perpetual pick-me-up in a world that seems, especially this year, to be topsy-turvy. One song I hear quite often is the classic, "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas". In fact, just this morning I heard it again as I sat in my study at home preparing for this issue of our newsletter. And as I looked out the window and felt the 40-ish degree air as the door opened and closed, and saw the green grass (well, okay, so maybe it's somewhat brown grass), I thought - **NOT!!** It is anything BUT beginning to look a lot like Christmas, at least here in Arcade! It's wet and soggy and damp and cloudy. Not at all like Christmas is supposed to look! Now, go back in time a couple of weeks and the picture would have been (and was) entirely different, with almost 7 FEET of snow in "Snowvember" for our not-too-distant neighbors to the north and west. It just goes to prove that things are not always as they seem, are they? For instance, when folk ask us how we're doing, we might smile and respond "fine", while pain ravages our bones and bodies or those of our loved ones; or when our hearts are aching for any number of reasons. Or as the old adage says, "*caveat emptor*" - "Buyer Beware", as we look at that really neat and clean used car only to find out the hard way that it doesn't run worth a can of beans.

When that cute little cuddly, chubby, crying baby was born, oh so long ago, in a little village called Bethlehem in a barn, little did the majority of people know who he was or what he would become! Just like the residents under Roman oppression in that part of the world, we

(even today) find it difficult to envision this baby being the Messiah - the liberator - the King that would bring freedom and life and scripture's fulfillment into the world. But that's exactly what he did, didn't he? Things are not indeed, always as they seem!

How about you - are YOU as you seem? Are you as happy as you seem to those who share life with you? Are you as strong in dealing with life's foibles as you would have us believe? Are you as dedicated to prayer, scripture study, and helping others as you should be? Are you as committed to your church as you said you would be when you joined into her community?

Christmas is called the "season of giving" - and for obvious reasons. As we have been given the most precious of gifts - the person of Jesus the Christ; as we give to others in a wide variety of ways; why not give, this Christmas, to yourself - the gift of renewal? As we enter this season of Advent (which also begins a new church year) in anticipation of the birth of our Savior at Christmas, I invite you to renew your commitment, your dedication, your faithfulness to Jesus Christ; renew the habit of attending worship; renew your desire to be Christ's light in the world by being a friend to others who find themselves on the "short end" of life's "stick."

It wasn't until *after* Christ's death that people realized who he truly was!! Don't wait to be counted as one of His faithful. Be the person you have been created and called to be!

Cathy and I wish for each of you a very Blessed and Joyous Christmas!

Shalom,

Pastor Bob

Let's keep Christ in Christmas!!!



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.

December Greeters

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 7 Tillinghast Family | 21 Lary Schaefer & Jeff Mason |
| 14 Romance Family | 28 Penny Rutledge & Margaret Homan |

December Readers

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 7 Josh Taylor | 21 Rich Vogt |
| 14 Frank Wood | 28 Leanne Pokigo |

December Nursery Schedule

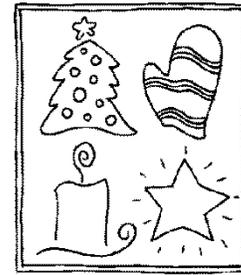
- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 7 Shannon King | 21 Danielle Romance |
| 14 Children's Program | 28 Sheila Vrenna |

December Worship Coordinators

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| 7 Molly Holland | 21 Bev Giles |
| 14 Shirley Kriedeman | 28 Harv Roll |

December Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 3 Randy Lutz | 16 Sheila Vrenna |
| 6 Diana Stiles | 17 Stacey Lund |
| 11 George Norton | 22 Davis Garlapo |



DECEMBER

December Bible Readings

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 7 | Isa 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Pet 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8 | 21 | 2 Sam 7:1-11, 16
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Rom 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38 |
| 14 | Isa 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
1 Thess 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28 | 28 | Isa 61:10-62:3
Psalm 148
Gal 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40 |

Bell Ringers Needed!

It is that time of year once again when we look ahead to Advent and Christmas. This month we will be searching for eager Bell Ringers for the Annual Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign.

Help us spread the word and look for volunteers to assist us in our efforts this upcoming season. To volunteer, call Ernest Floyd at 716-258-2633 or Dawn Harrison at 716-492-2428 to be added to their schedule of volunteers. Thank you!

PAC ADVENT WORSHIP

Everyone is welcomed to share with our sisters and brothers throughout our area for PAC Advent Worship. On **Wednesdays, December 3, 10 and 17** we will gather at Hope Lutheran Church, 2 E. Main St. in Arcade for worship each week at 11am. Many of the PAC Pastors will participate in these services.

Following worship each week, there will be a luncheon hosted by various churches. Arcade UCC will host the December 4 luncheon. Please, mark your calendars and set aside time to join in Advent Worship and lunch on these dates.

Youth Lead Worship

On Sunday, December 14, our youth will present their Christmas Program during our morning service. The traditional Christmas story will be creatively and dramatically told as our youth lead us in worship.

You are ALL invited to come along with your friends, family and neighbors as we support our youth in this presentation!!

Christmas Eve Worship

Everyone (you, your family and friends) is invited to join with us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus, the Christ, during our Christmas Eve Worship Service.

This year we will join together in **ONE** Christmas Eve Service at **7pm** - a time that will allow the entire family to worship together. This service will be focused on being together as family and will include familiar Christmas carols, scripture and special candle lighting.

Make note and plan on being with us as we celebrate the coming of God's greatest gift to humankind – Jesus Christ!

January Greeters

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 4 John & Carol Abel | 18 Gwen & Laurel Becht
& Candy Hayden |
| 11 Mike & Bev Giles | 25 Mike & Leanne Pokigo |

January Readers

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 4 Mike Tanner | 18 Jeff Mason |
| 11 Justin Romance | 25 Sam Tillinghast |

January Nursery Schedule

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 4 Sharon Koch | 18 Kathy May |
| 11 Deb Wood | 25 Shannon King |

January Worship Coordinators

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 4 Mike Pokigo | 18 Margaret Homan |
| 11 Wally Lowth | 25 Jo Sixt |

January Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Karen Czesak | 24 Dirk Norwich |
| 8 Katelyn Rogers | 24 Sharon Hawley |
| 9 Jim Vrenna | 26 Mike Pokigo |
| 17 Paul Sanio | 27 Gordon Comstock |
| 18 Sue Kasprzyk | 29 Lloyd Knose |
| 19 Aaron Czesak | 31 Shirley Kriedeman |
| 23 Marilyn Piridy | |

January Anniversaries

- 1 Lary & Barbara Schaefer – 32 yrs.
- 1 Charles & Barbara Newman
- 3 Bill & Karen Schaper – 45 yrs.

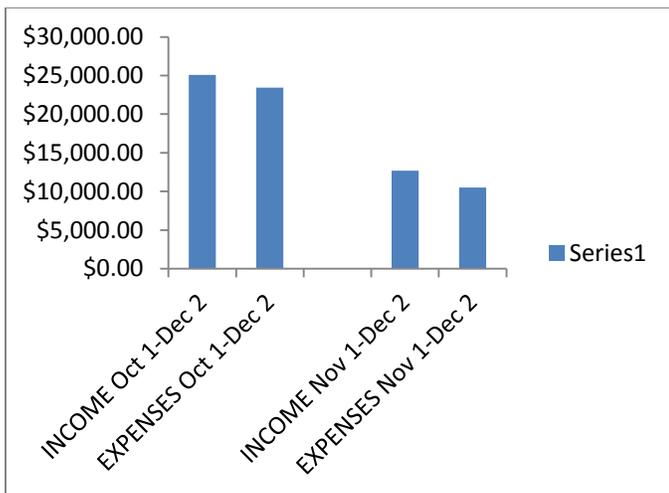


January Bible Readings:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| 4 Jer 31:7-14 | 18 1 Sam 3:1-10, 11-20 |
| Psalm 147:12-20 | Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 |
| Eph 1:3-14 | 1 Cor 6:12-20 |
| Jn 1:1-9, 10-18 | Jn 1:43-51 |
| 11 Gen 1:1-5 | 25 Jonah 3:1-5, 10 |
| Psalm 29 | Psalm 62:5-12 |
| Acts 19:1-7 | 1 Cor 7:29-31 |
| Mk 1:4-11 | Mk 1:14-20 |

Tree of Life Update

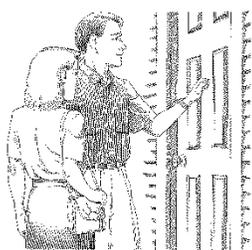
Memorial leaves were placed on the Tree of Life in October in memory of Frank and Pat Vadney, Bill Erick, Matthew Roll, Rev. Carl Marks and Don Reisdorf.



FINANCIAL NEWS

Our non-pass-through expenditures between November 1 and December 2 included \$5,577.48 pastor's salary and benefits; \$2,476.38 other salaries on November 14 and 28; \$529.34 insurance; \$397.80 elevator service; \$393.75 cleaning; \$356.56 elevator service; \$213 gas bill; \$203 mileage; \$96.78 bulletins; \$69.80 advertising; \$62.64 phones; \$53.99 office supplies; \$39.99 online service; and \$23.52 postage.

We thank everyone who donated to the Thanksgiving offering, which raised over \$900. We also thank the members of the Women's Fellowship, who donated \$400 from their profits at the German Dinner and Fall Festival, plus \$200 from the bake sale they held recently at Black Star Primitives.



SHEPHERD'S MINISTRY

One of the really neat aspects of the early Church was that its members took upon themselves the task (or better stated, the opportunity and privilege) of calling on their sisters and brothers. These visits were a way for the Church to keep in touch with everyone, sharing encouragement and nurturing. When a person (or family) needed a visit from the leader of the Christian community (Pastor), he/she was contacted for a follow-up.

Our Outreach Committee has been carrying on with this age old tradition by calling on those in our church family who are ill and are shut-ins. If you are interested or would like more information on this Shepherd's Ministry, please contact Carol or John Abel or Pastor Bob.

THANK YOU

Our church family Thanksgiving Dinner was a very enjoyable occasion. A huge "thank you" to all who made it a success. Planning- Kathy M; Set-up - Debi L., Jeff M. and Nathan T; KP - Debi L., Jeff M. and Vanessa A.; Clean-up - Debi and Tom, Kathy and Jay, Denielle and Justin, Debi and Randy, Jim and Sheila, Penny, Margaret, Jeff, Rich, Vanessa and Mike.

Thanks also goes out to all that prepared food and baked pies. Many other "hands made light work" on that special day in our church calendar.

Bev Giles



Christmas Fund Gifts Provided...

The generous gifts of UCC congregations and individuals to the Christmas Fund enabled the Pension Boards' Ministerial Assistance program to provide some form of assistance to impact the lives of hundreds of persons during the past year.

MONTHLY PENSION SUPPLEMENTATION for 408 lower-income retired UCC clergy/lay employees. Our retired clergy/lay employees relied on this income supplementation for basic needs such as food, utilities, and living and medical expenses. Since needs exceed the amount received through the Christmas Fund Offering, assistance was also supported by Our Church's Wider Mission and legacy gifts to Ministerial Assistance. The amount of pension supplementation totaled \$1,342,000 in 2013.

QUARTERLY HEALTH PREMIUM SUPPLEMENTATION for 239 lower- income retired UCC clergy/lay employees. These funds subsidized premiums for the UCC Medicare Supplement Plan with Rx so that individuals could afford and receive quality health care. Assistance totaled \$508,000 in 2013.

CHRISTMAS "THANK YOU" GIFT CHECKS given to 543 retired UCC clergy/lay church employees. This special gift at Christmas time reminds these Veterans of the Cross that they have not been forgotten and that the Church is grateful for their service. Gifts totaled \$235,800 in 2013.

EMERGENCY GRANTS for 65 active or retired UCC clergy/lay employees. Sometimes those who serve the Church need our help, and emergency funds are available to assist in covering costs that arise unexpectedly – for example, large medical expenses, or home damage resulting from natural disasters. Emergency assistance totaled \$57,000 in 2013.

A Friendly Reminder

It's painless and it's so easy – no strings, no fuss, no muss!! It's the continuing 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 and counted, if you can). When you take them to Isaac's, just tell them you wish for your refund to go to the UCC Church. Instead of getting a refund for your cans/bottles, our church will get the monies periodically AND our Church Council is considering matching these monies in some fashion. All these funds will be used for Ministries at Arcade UCC. If you are unable to get your cans/bottles to Isaac's yourself, you can call the church office and we will make arrangements to pick them up once a month and take them for you! How much easier could this be??

NEWS OF OUR PEOPLE

We extend our deepest sympathy to Gwen St. John and her family on the death of their husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Gerald St. John, who died on November 8. Gwen and Gerry joined our church in 1987, and he was always a strong supporter of our church activities. Rev. Dievendorf officiated at his service in our church on November 14.

We also extend our sympathy to Jo Sixt and her family on the loss of their mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother, Dorothy Warner, who died recently. Rev. Dievendorf officiated at her interment service.

We continue in so many ways to miss our friends, Bill and Madeline Hall, who moved to South Carolina this summer to be closer to some of their family. They recently transferred their membership to the Tirzah Presbyterian Church in York, SC.

Our own Nick Tillinghast had the title role in "Amahl and the Night Visitors," which was presented at the Riviera Theater in North Tonawanda by the Nickel City Opera during Thanksgiving weekend. Many of us were impressed with Nick's talent when he performed the same role with the Pioneer Community Band and Chorus in our sanctuary a year ago.

Congratulations and best wishes for a long life together to Courtney Taylor and Blake Caldwell, who were married in our sanctuary by Rev. Dievendorf on November 1.

WORKERS UNION

Seven members of Workers Union met on Wednesday, November 12 at 1pm in the annex. Shirley Kriedeman welcomed everyone and we enjoyed a delicious apple cake prepared by Sharon Hawley. Co-hostesses Ginger Comstock and Shirley Kriedeman poured coffee.

During this time together we shared our many concerns and celebrations. Minutes of the September meeting were approved as read. The treasurer's report was also approved as given. News from PAC included numbers from a busy food pantry.

Our correspondence included a note from Cathy Dievendorf. Election of officers will be in December when dues will be collected.

We were reminded of a need for cookies for a reception following the November 23 Thanksgiving Service at 7pm at Arcade UCC.

The meeting was adjourned and a program was presented by Marilyn Piridy who read several beautiful pieces.

Our next meeting will be December 10 at 1pm in the annex.

Margaret Homan, Secretary



December Gatherings

- 1 Women's Fellowship – 1pm
- 2 Christian Education – 4pm
- 2 Worship/Music - 6:30pm
- 3 Outreach – 1pm
- 3, 10, 17 – PAC Advent Services – 11am @ Hope Lutheran Church with luncheon following.
- 3, 10, 17 – Choir Rehearsal – 6pm
- 10 Workers Union – 1pm
- 10 Building & Grounds – 7pm
- 14 Community Chorus/Community Band Christmas Concert – Hope Lutheran Church – 3pm
- 20 Community Dinner - 4-6:00pm
- 21 Council – following worship
- 24 Christmas Eve Worship – 7pm

January Gatherings

- 5 Women's Fellowship – 1pm
- 6 Worship/Music – 6:30pm
- 7 Outreach – 1pm
- 7, 14, 21, 28 – Choir Rehearsal – 6pm
- 11 Outreach Pot-luck luncheon – following worship
- 14 Building & Grounds – 7pm
- 24 Community Dinner – 4-6pm
- 27 Council – 7pm

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

United Church of Christ, Congregational

297 Main St.
Arcade, NY 14009

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 February issue is January 18, 2015.

The Carillon

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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