

The Carillon

United Church of Christ, Congregational, Arcade
(585) 492-4530
Editor: Shannon King

Special Edition – August 2020

****Please read the following letter from Pastor Josh prior to filling out the survey.**

Greetings Arcade UCC!

“Extra! Extra! Read all about it!” I’ve always wanted to be able to say that. As most of you probably know, there is normally only one edition on the Carillon for the summer months. However, with the current COVID crisis, as well as a flurry of news and activity over the last month, we have decided to put out a special edition of the newsletter for August. One of the main reasons for doing this is to keep you all updated about the decisions that are being talked through, thought out, prayed about, and decided upon by the church council leadership concerning reopening the church building.

At our meeting on Tuesday, July 28, the council unanimously voted to stay in “Step One” of our reopening plan for at least the next 30 days. This means that our Sunday services will continue to be online-only (or DVD) at this time. Please know that much discussion, thought, and prayer by all of our church council leaders, and myself, went into this decision. These are not votes that are taken lightly, as the consideration and well-being of our entire church body is taken into account by each voting

member. To that end, we thought that it would be helpful to hear from all of you. So, in the email that was sent out by Shannon, or if you receive a hard copy of the newsletter, on a page later on in this publication, there is a link to an online survey where you can make your voice heard considering the reopening of the church building. I ask that you all please take a few minutes to fill out this survey as your answers will be very helpful with decision making moving forward.

A few things to know about the survey:

- We ask that anyone with internet access **please complete the survey online**. The link is in the email you received this publication in and is also located later in the newsletter.
- If you do not have access to the internet, the questions are all published later in this newsletter. Please fill them out and mail back to or drop off at the church if you are able.
- **The survey can be taken anonymously, or you can enter your email at the beginning. It is your choice on how you would like to proceed. Please note that there are a couple questions that some may consider “personal”.**
- Please try to complete the survey by **Wednesday, August 19**, so the council has adequate time to review the information prior to our next meeting.

This survey is primarily about a return to in-person worship, so I wanted to take a few minutes to let all of you know what that would look like in the age of COVID-19. Below are some important points to note:

- We will ask that masks be worn at all times while within the church building. We love to see your smiling faces, but we know that you are smiling underneath the mask.
- Physical distance of 6 feet in all directions will be maintained.
- Ushers and signage will direct you to the sanctuary a few minutes before service begins. An usher will take your temperature and make sure you apply hand sanitizer as they direct you to your seat. Immediately

following service, you will again be directed to the exits.

- There will be no congregating or visiting in the sanctuary before or after the service. There will be no coffee hour gathering.
- Music will be provided as it is now for our online worship in the form of pre-recorded videos which will be projected on the screen at the church. There will be no live choir or Far Cry singing and, unfortunately, **no congregational singing.**
- A children's message will be provided, but kids will be asked to stay in their seats with their families. There will be no nursery or Sunday School/Godly Play.
- Communion will be online-only on Communion Sundays – a video will be provided on our Facebook page for folks to join in communion in the homes once the church service is over.

As you can see, in-person worship in the age of COVID-19 is unlike anything we have experienced before. Some of the most wonderful parts of gathering together for a church service are not plausible in the current state of our world. **Please keep this in mind as you answer the questions on the survey.**

With everything changing around us, it is hard to know where we can turn for comfort. Luckily, we worship an unchanging God. Even though the world may be changing around us, including the way we do church, we still follow a God who stands firm and can offer us rest from a weary world. Our God is still love. The author of Hebrews tells us in chapter 13 that: *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow."* Take comfort in the knowledge that in an ever-changing world, the loving and liberating message of Jesus stays the same.

If you would like to see more details about returning to in-person worship, our full plan is posted on our website. We as your church leadership will continue to remain as transparent and approachable as possible as we work together to make sure we have a safe and healthy return to

our church building. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Peace,
Pastor Josh

The following is the link to Arcade UCC's return to church survey. Please use the link below to take and submit the survey if you have internet access.

<https://s.surveymonkey.com/2Tvmoj-8LZ>

For those without internet access, please fill out the following survey and mail it to the church at Arcade UCC, PO Box 95, Arcade, NY 14009, or drop it off at the church during Pastor Josh's office hours (tentatively Tuesdays from 2-6pm and Thursdays 10am-2pm).

Please submit your survey by August 19. Thank you!



Arcade UCC Re-Opening Survey

How do you currently feel concerning the COVID-19 pandemic.*

- Very Calm
- Calm
- Neutral
- Concerned
- Very Concerned

Please answer with how strongly you agree with the following statement: "I have missed attending in-person worship while the church building has been closed"*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- No Opinion

Please answer with how strongly you agree with the following statement: "The Facebook (or DVD) services have adequately served my spiritual needs."*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- No Opinion

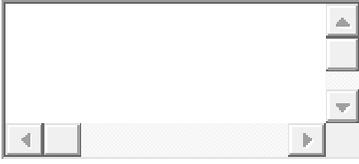
If you answered "disagree" or "strongly disagree" to the previous question, please explain:



Please answer with how strongly you agree with the following statement: "It is easy for me to access the Facebook (or DVD) services."*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- No Opinion

If you answered “disagree” or “strongly disagree” to the previous question, please explain:



Please answer with how strongly you agree with the following statement: “Despite the pandemic, I still feel connected with my church family.”*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- No Opinion

Please answer with how strongly you agree with the following statement: “If Arcade UCC returned to in-person worship this weekend, I would feel comfortable attending the service.”*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- No Opinion

Please answer with how strongly you agree with the following statement: “If the church building opened, but I didn’t feel comfortable attending, I would continue to watch the services on Facebook (or DVD).”*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- No Opinion

Please answer with how strongly you agree with the following statement: “If the church building were to remain closed for an extended period of time, I would continue to support the ministries of Arcade UCC to the best of my abilities.”*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- No Opinion

Please answer with how strongly you agree with the following statement: "I trust that the pastor and leadership of Arcade UCC are making decisions about reopening with the best interests of the entire congregation in mind."*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- No Opinion

Thank you for your time!

Nominations for Annual Meeting 2020-21

****Please call Debi Lutz, Moderator, at 585-492-4008 if you do NOT plan on keeping the position.**

PASTOR

Josh Bower

PASTOR EMERITUS

Rev. Charles W. Hobbs

OFFICERS: (Elected Annually)

Moderator:

Debi Lutz

Clerk:

Liz Lowth

Assistant Clerk:

Helena Vogt

Treasurer:

Jeff Mason

Assistant Treasurer:

Margaret Homan

Financial Secretary:

Amy Tillinghast

Assistant Financial Secretary:

Randy Lutz

Historian:

Jeff Mason

CHURCH COUNCIL

Term Ending 2021

Wally Lowth Kim Common

Term Ending 2022

Deb Wood Bill Schaper

Term Ending 2023

Dirk Norwich *

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

Deb Wood

DELEGATES (Elected Annually)

UCC State Conference

Vanessa Adams

UCC Western Area (4)

Vanessa Adams

Ginger Comstock

Dirk Norwich

*

Pioneer Assoc. of Churches (PAC)

Margaret Homan

Shirley Kriedeman

COMMITTEES (Elected and/or Appointed Annually)

Endowment:

10/2021 Randy Lutz, Margaret Homan, Gwen

St. John

10/2022 Molly Holland

10/2023 *

Memorials: Debi Lutz, Molly Holland, Bill Schaper, Gwen St. John

STANDING COMMITTEES (at least 4 elected annually, each for a maximum of 5 years)

Outreach: Sheila Vrenna, Liz Lowth, Wally Lowth, Kim Common, Dirk Norwich, Jo Sixt, Cherry Carl, Margaret Homan, Ginger Comstock

Worship/Music: Vanessa Adams, Rich Vogt, Ginger Comstock, Helena Vogt, Ryan Bechdel, Dona Roll (ex-officio)

Christian Education: Liz Lowth, Shannon King, Vanessa Adams, Dona Roll, Jim Vrenna, Sheila Vrenna, Rich Vogt, Debi Lutz

Stewardship: Shannon King

Building & Grounds: Mike Giles, Randy Lutz, Bill Schaper, Lary Schaefer, Wally Fridman, Debi Lutz

Plymouth Crossroads Donations

Plymouth Crossroads donations can be mailed to the church (PO Box 95, Arcade, NY 14009). Please send your donations made out to Arcade UCC by the **end of August** and mark your check for Plymouth Crossroads in the memo. Thank you for supporting this not-for-profit organization that supports disconnected, abused and homeless young men in the Buffalo and surrounding areas.

Zoom Coffee Hours Begin!

On **August 9**, following our online worship service, there will be a **Zoom Coffee Hour celebration to welcome Bill and Jamey Craft and Cherry Carl!** A link to the Zoom meeting will be sent via email. A phone number will also be provided for those who would like to call in. Be sure to join us on August 9th!

Zoom Book Study with Pastor Josh

Pastor Josh will be hosting a **Zoom Book Study** on Wednesday nights **from 6-7pm beginning August 19**. The book is "Velvet Elvis" by Rob Bell and the cost of the book is \$10. If cost is an issue, the church can cover it. Please email, text or call Pastor Josh by August 10 to let him know if you will be participating so that enough books can be ordered. 716-864-5270 or joshua.bower39@gmail.com

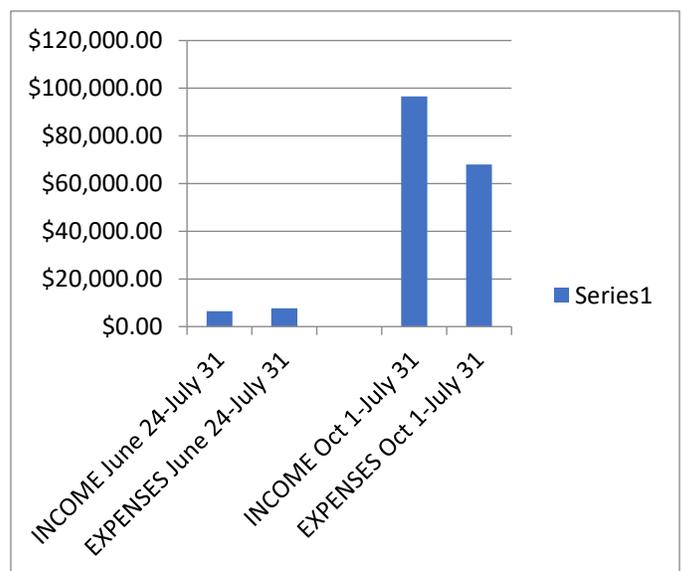
Live Streaming Services
We will continue to have online services each Sunday at 9:30am through our Facebook page until we are able to reconvene at church. We are now streaming live each Sunday! Visit Arcade United Church of Christ Facebook page to worship together while we are apart! Communion services will be held the first Sunday of each month and Pastor Josh will bless the elements virtually at your own table.

Important to Note...

The UCC recommends no Sunday School or nursery care at this time. We will keep you updated as the guidelines change and as re-opening approaches.

Financial Report

INCOME June 24-July 31	\$6,422.17
EXPENSES June 24-July 31	\$7,675.75
INCOME Oct 1-July 31	\$96,501.51
EXPENSES Oct 1-July 31	\$68,006.12



Pastor Josh Office Hours at the Church

Tentatively: Tuesdays 2-6pm
and Thursdays 10am-2pm

Anyone who would like to stop in during these times, please email Pastor Josh at Joshua.bower39@gmail.com to schedule a meeting. Please also follow physical distancing and mask rules during the meeting time. Thank you!

Donation to Hope Lutheran's Community Center

At the June 2020 Council meeting, it was decided to donate \$10,000 to Hope Lutheran's Community Center. This building is going to be a vital part of our community and church for years to come. Many of our youth and other members of our congregation will be making very good use of this community center through youth group and many other opportunities with Hope. An anonymous donor had made the generous offer to Hope Lutheran to match all donations made, which paired with our donation, will help finalize the construction tremendously! Our Memorial Fund provided 50% of the donation from Arcade UCC, while Endowment covered the other half. Pastor Shawn Hannon was extremely appreciative and overwhelmed with our donation. The following is his thank you letter to Arcade UCC.



Pastor, Council, & Brothers & Sisters in Christ
At Arcade UCC,

For all that you are & all that you do for the kingdom and our community, I thank you. Your gift to the future with Hope Community Center redefines congregational partnership and exceeds any expectation. How to thank you?!

As we continue our final push, we are financially in a great position thanks to your gift, but more than that we are moved, inspired, & driven by your continued partnership and support. You are a clear example of all that we can accomplish together.

From the bottom of my heart and on behalf of all of Hope, Thank you & Thanks Be To God For You.

In Christ,

Shawn Hannon

2 East Main Street • Arcade, New York 14009 • www.HopeArcade.org
Phone: (585) 492-2530 • Email: Office@HopeArcade.org
Rev. Shawn Hannon, Pastor • Rev. Neil Kattermann, Pastor Emeritus
Julie Tingue, Ministry Coordinator • Paul Blackwell, Director of Music • Carol Boldt & Margie Rung, Administrators

Pastor, Council, & Brothers & Sisters in Christ at
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From the bottom of my heart and on behalf of all of Hope, Thank you & Thanks Be To God For You.

In Christ,

Shawn Hannon

Arcade UCC-Ride for Roswell

Arcade UCC Fights Cancer is the name of the group headed by Jamey Craft that met at the Arcade Park to do a 3-mile Ride for Roswell on Saturday, August 1st. The team raised money for cancer research for Roswell and then rode their bikes for this important cause. Riders included: Jamey and Bill Craft, Cherry Carl, Jim and Sheila Vrenna, Ginger Comstock, Jeff Mason, Jay and Kathy May, Pastor Josh Bower, Payton and Jake Romance, Shannon, Brody and Bryson King. Dona Roll provided support, counted laps and documented the event! Thank you to all who organized, participated and donated!



Arcade UCC Service and Picnic at the Park

This year's service and picnic at the Arcade Park will be held on Sunday, August 30 at 11am. It will be held at the big shelter by the park cabin. Please bring a mask and your own picnic food. Unfortunately, no sharing of food will be allowed. You are welcome to bring your own chair as there is plenty of room to spread out and socially distance while still being able to enjoy the worship service! The service will be on Facebook live for those who wish to worship from home.

The Carillon

The Carillon is being compiled, printed and mailed by a committee of three – Audrey Erick, Margaret Homan, Shannon King. 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 September issue is August 20, 2020.

We welcome articles and written pieces from our congregation! For this reason, we need to add the disclaimer that the views written in the Carillon are not necessarily the views of the Arcade United Church of Christ, Congregational, but are those of the individuals who write the submissions.

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Published 10 times per year by the United Church of Christ, Congregational, 297 Main St., PO Box 95, Arcade, NY 14009.

Office Phone: (585)492-4530
Office E-mail: uccarcade@gmail.com
Website: www.arcadeucc.com
Worship Schedule: 9:30am live streaming worship service every Sunday on our Facebook page