



Connecting UCC and Disciples Congregations in Western New York

***In a Critical Time, We Are Called***

*by Hope Douglas Harle-Mould*

***In a critical time, we are called:***

**We are called to be shalom-makers,**

who are always out on the edge, opposing the next war—

so that, perhaps, it may not come.

**We are called to be wise-fools,**

who soulfully believe that nonviolence can dethrone tyrants,

upend oppressors, and *overturn the tables* of unjust laws and institutions.

**We are called to be witnesses,**

who take our prayers and presence directly to the powers that be,

to challenge cruelty that is legal and poverty that is acceptable.

**We are called to be patriots,**

who in practicing the highest form of democracy—dissent—

are loving our country into its *better angels*.

**We are called to be advocates,**

who stand with, are friends with, and see God's gifts in

the untouchables and outcasts of our age,

who take as our teachers and leaders those whom supremacy has downtrodden.

**We are called to be futurists,**

who create the ideas whose time has come,

who visualize the structures needed to bring into being God's global village.

**We are called to be artists,**

who feed and give flight to the human spirit,

who give us as a foretaste—in a fragmented world—of a mosaic world of oneness.

**We are called to be flawed but faithful disciples,**

who learn—from activism's failures—that God's arc of justice yet triumphs,

that the power *to uproot, to overthrow, to build, and to plant*

wells up from humility's spirituality.

**And we are called to be Christ-like clowns,**

who cry when others laugh...because we see more suffering,

and who laugh when others cry...because we see further ahead—

to the hope.

**From Rev. Krista Ulrich,  
Western Area Youth Representative**

**Western Area Youth (WAY) Report**




Western Area Youth  
Summer 2026 Mission Trip!

# 2026 Mission Trip

Join us for a week filled  
with faith, service,  
community, and mission!

July 6-12, 2026

Greenville, PA  
Registration coming soon!

**WAY Mission trip registration:**



*Scan the QR code or click the link:  
<https://www.zionucc.com/way>*

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**From Arcade United Church of Christ**

**Congratulations, Pastor Josh Bower -  
Approved for Ordination!**



**Pastor Josh Bower and his wife, Nicole**



The Winter WAY Retreat is in the books! Don't forget that registration is live for our Mission Trip! We did some good work at Epiphany UCC, the Clarence Food Pantry, and St. Luke's Mission of Mercy. We made Valentines cards for the City Mission and blankets for folks in our community. We had two great evenings of worship, a relaxing sound bath, some great food and a lot of fun!

**#onebodymanyparts**

*(Taken from WAY Facebook page)*

On Wednesday, November 12, 2025, Pastor Josh Bower of Arcade United Church of Christ, met with the CSEOA Association in Ohio, Committee on Ministry, and was unanimously approved for ordination.

*We are so extremely happy for you, Pastor Josh and we recognize all of the time, dedication and hard work you committed to receiving approval for your ordination...all while putting so much energy, heart and soul into your ministry at Arcade UCC! We couldn't be more proud to call you, our pastor!*

**From Sarah Bohnstadt, Director of Housing,  
United Church Manor**



Reflecting on 2025, we are pleased to share the completion of several important building and grounds improvements. Over the summer, we replaced curbing and concrete sidewalks and added new walkways to enhance accessibility and safety for our residents and visitors. We also replaced dated window treatments in each apartment with new roller blinds selected for their durability, low maintenance, and ease of cleaning. An added benefit of these blinds is their ability to effectively control light while contributing to energy efficiency by providing an additional layer of insulation during the cold and blustery months.

This year, we also took a break from *Baskets & Brunch*, our annual fundraiser, and instead launched a direct sponsorship campaign. We were deeply encouraged as many of our most trusted supporters stepped forward to help us continue this important work. We extend our sincere gratitude to our friends from the Western New York Area Churches in Covenant, with special thanks to St. Matthew's, Epiphany, Cleveland Heights, Ebenezer, and Pilgrim Memorial for their generous contributions.

Because of this support, we were able to provide many special activities and treats for our tenants throughout the year, including transportation for shopping, football parties, pancake breakfasts, a fish fry lunch, our summer picnic, visits from Mr. Softee, cider and donuts, and our annual holiday dinner. These experiences strengthen our sense of community and bring joy and connection to our residents.

We continue to seek United Church of Christ members interested in serving on our Board of Directors, which meets six times per year. Board members play a vital role in advising leadership, establishing policy and direction, and supporting the overall mission and promotion of United Church Manor. To learn more, please contact Sarah Bohnstadt at 716-668-5804.

Here's to another wonderful year ahead!

From Shannon King, on behalf of Arcade UCC

## Continued Community Youth Outreach at Arcade UCC



*Dona Roll reads a book about the Christmas season to a class from Arcade Elementary.*



*The “Imagine That!” after-school program presents a Christmas performance for their families, friends and members of Arcade UCC.*



*Pastor Josh Bower, “The Happy Scientist,” and Avery, a student from the elementary school, pose for a picture during the fun winter-themed science experiment.*

For the fourth year in a row, Arcade UCC hosted their Christmas Extravaganza for the students of Arcade Elementary! Over the span of three days, every classroom from Arcade Elementary visited Arcade UCC to enjoy a read-aloud story, and an awesome experiment presented by the Happy Scientist (Pastor Josh Bower). The church was decorated to the hilt and students enjoyed seeing the various manger scenes, getting a picture taken under the balloon arch and visiting with the church volunteers. It was a truly festive and fun way to connect with so many of our area youth during this special time of year!

Arcade UCC also provides an after-school program for students from Arcade Elementary School twice a week at the church entitled, “Imagine That!” The students enjoy fun activities, games, snacks and much more! On December 18, kids from the “Imagine That!” program shared the Christmas story with their families and friends through a performance at the church. So many smiles, so much love and support, and absolutely adorable! What a wonderful way to ring in the holidays!

A February Break Vacation Bible School was also offered at Arcade UCC. Students participated in fun and educational activities, took part in interactive Bible stories, celebrated Mardi Gras, honored Ash Wednesday, had snacks, did crafts, and much more. A fun and engaging time for all and a wonderful way to spend the break from school!



*Making Mardi Gras “floats” for the parade.*



*Deb Wood teaches a Godly Play lesson.*

From Mary Tanski, St. Paul's UCC

## Installation for Rev. Anne Dunlap at St. Paul's UCC



On Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, St. Paul's UCC of Wendellville had the privilege and honor to install Rev. Anne Dunlap as their new settled pastor. Pastor Anne began as a supply pastor when their longtime pastor had retired. She and St. Paul's quickly built a relationship that led to her becoming their part-time interim and ultimately being called as their settled pastor.

The installation service on Sunday was a beautiful celebration, welcoming Pastor Anne into the St. Paul's family. Nearly 100 people were in attendance. Many area pastors and church members came to participate in the service and some came just to show their support. They welcomed Rev. Liz Kearny from Longview, WA as the guest preacher. The choir performed a few anthems, one of which was "Sometimes A Light Surprises" which was arranged by Anne's mom, Judy Dunlap.

St. Paul's is thrilled to be entering this new chapter and is looking ahead to a bright future and partnership with Pastor Anne.

## Community Christmas Cantata



Ballads can tell the meaningful stories of our faith through music. The cantata, *Night of the Father's Love* by Pepper Choplin, brought the timeless story of Christmas to life once more. All of the mystery, the awe, and the palpable excitement of that night are imaginatively captured in a Christmas mosaic that combines fragments of the familiar with a unique perspective in word and music. "Night of the Father's Love" skillfully guides the listener through the Christmas story, as though hearing it again for the first time (JWPepper.com). Local musicians and singers from the Pioneer community came together for this musical occasion on Sunday, December 14 at Arcade UCC, directed by Dona Roll.



**Don't forget to set your clocks 1-hour ahead! Begins at 2am on Sunday, March 8, 2026!**

## What's Old is New Again



During the upcoming Lenten season, the congregation at Kenmore United Church of Christ (KUCC) will be spending a lot of time counting their blessings. They will be counting the ways to celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> year. Plans are moving ahead to have monthly events including a spaghetti dinner on April 10. They have just completed renovations to their Pastor's Study and front entryway. When Faith UCC, Williamsville, decided to sell their building, some of their members went there to see if there was anything they might be able to use and enjoy in their church. There was a beautiful piece of wooden furniture which housed their banner collection. It was too large for any space at KUCC, but with a little vision and creativity, they were able to remove the door and repurpose it in their newly remodeled entryway. The attached photo shows how beautiful it is. It looks like it was created for their space. Please think about visiting them during this special year. More information will be coming about the events that will take place, including an Open House. Stay warm and think Spring!

## Wrapped in Love

### Prayer Shawl Ministry at St. Matthew's UCC

Since last July, members and friends at St. Matthew's have enjoyed creating and giving prayer shawls to those who could use comfort, encouragement, and a sense that they are thought about and cared for – a 'wearable hug.'

People (not even sure who all the knitters, crocheters, quilters are!) are making shawls at home and donating their creations to the church who in turn prays over them during worship once a month. Pastor Kayti has created cotton 'Wrapped in Love' tags that she sews into each shawl. The blessed shawls are then put in a bag with a special card made by the children. They are then delivered to individuals (friends and strangers) at their homes, senior care facilities, and hospitals.



**Quilted shawls made by kids during their Mission Sunday.**

To date (since August 20), they have blessed 69 shawls – five of which are waiting to be given away. They will continue this ministry long after the NY Conference's Easter contest deadline but they started it as part of the *Together in Love* mission project that was announced at last year's Annual Meeting. It's been exciting to know that people all over NY state are working together, making one prayer shawl at a time - caring for others by *wrapping them in love*.

**From Rev. Hope Schwartz  
on behalf of Compassion Not Cruelty**



**“Christ has no body but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
compassion on this world,  
Yours are the feet with which he walks  
to do good,  
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the  
world.**

**Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,  
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.  
Christ has no body now but yours.”**

This wisdom from St. Teresa of Avila paints a picture of what Christ looks like in our world. Christ looks like you and me and all of us doing what Jesus would do. We are the body of Christ. Ours are the hands and the feet and the eyes of Jesus in this world. We are called to use our hands and our feet and our eyes to show forth compassion to others, especially to the marginalized.

A yearning to do something about the cruelty all around us was stirred within the hearts of a small group of clergy in our churches. The who and the what and the how and the why of responding to the cruelty around us was and is found in Jesus of Nazareth. Evidenced in his life and ministry, Jesus offers us the antidote to cruelty: compassion. It was Jesus who practiced and preached compassion throughout his earthly ministry. As followers of Jesus, we are being sent into the world to do what he did.

This call has been transformed into a movement in our local churches and beyond! Compassion Not Cruelty is the movement that was born in response to the cruelty around us. Founded upon Jesus, ours is a call that transcends denominational distinctions, political divisions, theological differences. Because of this, others have heard the call to compassion too!

This movement is growing and growing and growing all across WNY and the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ. So far, nine congregations in four

denominations have joined the movement. And this, y’all, is just the beginning!

If you find yourself wondering what you can do in response to the cruelty all around us, I have some good news for you! You can join the movement too! Yours can be the hands and the feet and the eyes through which Christ’s compassion can reach into this world. You can be a blessing to the world here and there and everywhere you go because Christ has no body but yours.

Let us be the hands and the feet and the heart of Jesus today, tomorrow, and all the days to come. And it was so!

**Mission and Values**

**Our Mission**

Compassion Not Cruelty is a growing movement of organized Christians committed to modelling and mobilizing the compassion Jesus of Nazareth practiced and taught. Our community seeks to be a living example of Christ’s love in action.

**Our Values**

We value compassion by affirming the dignity of every human being, treating everyone with decency, and honoring our nation’s democratic principles, institutions and the rule of law. Recognizing our shared humanity, we are grounded in the nonviolent power of Christ’s love as we work for the common good. In a nation where government policy promotes Christian nationalism, cruelty, violence, hatred and massive wealth for a few, our movement stands as a counterforce—grounded in compassion, justice, and inclusion.



**Upcoming Events**

**NO KINGS RALLY**

Saturday, March 28 • 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
Compassion Not Cruelty people will gather at Niagara Square on the north side of the monument (right side if you're facing City Hall, 65 Niagara Square, 14202.) Please bring Compassion Not Cruelty, church, and other respectful signs.

**"BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR NOW"**

Saturday, April 18 • 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
St. Joseph University Roman Catholic Church  
3269 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14214

**Information**

**Website:** [CompassionNotCruelty.org](http://CompassionNotCruelty.org)  
**Email:** [info@CompassionNotCruelty.org](mailto:info@CompassionNotCruelty.org)  
**Facebook:** CompassionNotCrueltyNY  
**Instagram:** CompassionNotCrueltyNY

**In Memoriam**



Cheryl R. Ketchum (nee Ricketson) of Elma, NY entered into rest August 28, 2025; Beloved wife of 43 years to David Ketchum; devoted mother of Mark (Jennifer) Ketchum, Jennifer (Joel) Boucher, and Kathryn (Matthew) Ziolkowski; cherished grandmother of Riley & Tyler Ketchum, Blakeley, Eleanor & Jack Boucher, Mason & Makenzie Ziolkowski; loving daughter of the late Harlan & Betty (nee Blakeley) Ricketson; dear sister of Sandy (Bruce) West and Susan (Larry) Semans; also survived by many loving family. Cheryl was a devoted member of the East Aurora Christian Church for her entire life.

**From Rev. Krista Ulrich**

**Monthly Moderator's Moment**

At our February meeting of the WNYACIC Council, we approved Kathy Reandeau as Treasurer for the Association. We are grateful she will be joining our group! We would be remiss if we did not offer a rather sizeable thank you to Rev. Lynn Morgan for his dedication to this position. He has put in extra time as we worked to find his replacement. Lynn has certainly helped to make this transition an easy one. With gratitude, we wish Lynn well!

The bulk of our conversation at this month's meeting focused on the Spring Area Meeting. This is what we know so far:

- **When:** Saturday, April 25: 9am-2pm
- **Where:** Church of the Nativity
- **Schedule:** To include worship, recognition, two breakout sessions with topic choices and lunch.

We will be forwarding information regarding open registration shortly. We are finalizing our workshop facilitators and workshop titles this week. Keep your eyes on your email for more information.

Please remember that the approved minutes from the prior month's meeting are available on the WNYACIC website each month. Speaking of the website...it's a work in progress. We are working to gradually update the website.

If you have any questions regarding our meetings or concerns regarding the WNYACIC, please don't hesitate to reach out.

In peace,  
Rev. Krista Ulrich (716-572-5642)  
[Mybabes2@roadrunner.com](mailto:Mybabes2@roadrunner.com)



**Save  
the Date**

Saturday, April 25, 2026

**WNYACIC  
Spring Meeting**

Location:  
Church of the Nativity  
1530 Colvin Boulevard, Buffalo 14223  
Time: 9am-2pm

Stay tuned for more information ....



**Dunkirk Camp &  
Conference Center  
Information**  
[www.dunkirkcc.com](http://www.dunkirkcc.com)

We would like to thank all our supporters for a great 2025 camping season. We observed growth in camper attendance last year, along with many smiling faces!



DUNKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER is looking for a **Health Coordinator** for the 2026 Summer Camp season.

25 hours per week for 12 weeks @ \$20/hour  
June 1 – August 21, 2026

**For more info, call Anne @ 716-366-1900.**  
Great Summer job for someone retired or working in the schools!

**Experience:**

PA, RN, LPN, Paramedic or EMT

**Responsibilities:**

- Ensuring that all campers have the necessary medical documents required to attend camp.
- Work with parents and doctors' offices to obtain these documents prior to the first day of camp and ensure that all medications are properly listed on the forms.
- Assist Camp Nurse at check-in
- Make sure Nurse's Cabin is properly set up before camp starts.
- Set up forms and log books for Camp Nurse.

***Cleveland Heights Christian Church, DOC will be participating in the World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 6th. CHCC is inviting prayer requests from our covenant community. These prayers will be shared amongst our church pastor and eldership and said throughout the day. When requesting a prayer, please offer the person's first name only and a brief description of their needs. You may submit more than one prayer request. Please send your prayer requests to Pastor Lisa Peterangelo at: [tqtqch230@outlook.com](mailto:tqtqch230@outlook.com).***

**DCC 2026 CAMP SCHEDULE**

DCC is excited to announce registration is now open for the 2026 Camping Season which includes camps for everyone! Register Today at [www.dunkirkcc.com](http://www.dunkirkcc.com)

Register by April 15<sup>th</sup> to receive the Early Bird Discount. We also offer First-Time Camper, Multi-Week Camper, and Sibling Discounts.

|                  |                                 |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>MARCH</b>     |                                 |
| March 27 – 29    | DCC Scrapbook Weekend           |
| <b>APRIL</b>     |                                 |
| April 24 – 26    | Harry Potter Camp               |
| <b>JUNE</b>      |                                 |
| June 5 – 7       | Women’s Weekend                 |
| June 15 – 19     | Fun over 50 Camp                |
| June 19 – 21     | <b>(NEW) Camp Good Ol’ Days</b> |
| June 28 – July 1 | Pilgrim Mini Camp               |
| <b>JULY</b>      |                                 |
| June 28 – July 4 | Pilgrim Camp                    |
| June 28 – July 4 | Senior High Camp                |
| June 5 – 11      | Family Camp 1                   |
| July 12 – 18     | Outdoor Adventure Camp          |
| July 19 – 25     | Family Camp 2                   |
| July 26 – Aug 1  | Pioneer Camp                    |
| <b>AUGUST</b>    |                                 |
| August 2 – 8     | Soccer Camp                     |
| August 2 – 8     | Swim Camp                       |
| August 9 – 15    | Junior High Camp                |
| August 17 – 20   | <b>(NEW) Clergy Retreat</b>     |
| August 20 – 23   | One Piece at a Time Camp        |
| <b>SEPTEMBER</b> |                                 |
| Sept 18 – 20     | Star Wars Camp                  |
| Sept 25 – 27     | Wellness & Mindfulness Retreat  |
| <b>OCTOBER</b>   |                                 |
| October 9 – 11   | Fall Adventure Camp             |
| <b>NOVEMBER</b>  |                                 |
| Nov 6 – 8        | DCC Scrapbook Weekend           |

**\*\*NEW FOR DCC 2026 SEASON\*\***

**(NEW) Camp Good Ol’ Days**

June 19 – 21

Directed by Kathleen Shrader and Phoenix Rollek

Do you miss those days of waking up, knowing you were going to camp? Where you see all of your friends from last year and spend a few days laughing, running around, and exploring? Well, here’s your chance to have that again! Camp Good Ol’ Days is for adults ages 21-35 to spend time being a kid again. Adventures, games, crafts, hikes, and bonfires all centered around our adult selves being a child at heart.

**(NEW) Clergy Retreat**

August 17 – 20

Directed by Rev. Krista Ulrich

A retreat for clergy to find respite and fellowship. There will be planned discussion sessions (that are optional) or simply take some time to read, nap or sit and look out over beautiful Lake Erie. In addition to morning communion and evening worship, we will enjoy the pool, walks down to the lake, campfires and more. This time is meant to feed the one who feeds others.

**DCC UPCOMING EVENTS**

Can't wait until summer to get back to camp? No problem!

**DCC Scrapbook Weekends**

March 27-29

Directed by Jennifer Vacanti

If you are an avid scrapper or new at this, you are welcome to join us! We not only make photo pages, we share fun, food, and fellowship at our scrapbook retreat!

**Meat Raffle to Benefit DCC**

Sat. April 11; Doors Open at 6pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Spin at 7pm

Main Transit Fire Department

6777 Main Street, Williamsville

\$10 per ticket; For tickets email

[rcummins496@gmail.com](mailto:rcummins496@gmail.com)



# MEAT RAFFLE

TO BENEFIT  
DUNKIRK CAMP AND  
CONFERENCE CENTER

MAIN TRANSIT FIRE DEPARTMENT  
6777 MAIN ST, WILLIAMSVILLE NY 14221

**SATURDAY APRIL 11TH**  
DOORS OPEN 6:00PM  
FIRST SPIN 7:00PM

**\$10 PER TICKET  
OR \$70 FOR A TABLE OF 8**

TICKET INCLUDES:  
BEER, WINE, SODA AND A CHANCE AT DOOR PRIZES

DOOR PRIZES: FREE WEEK AT CAMP & MASTERBUILT SMOKER  
(NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL ALLOWED)

BASKET RAFFLE AND SIDE RAFFLES  
AT ADDITIONAL COST

**FOR TICKETS EMAIL RACHEL  
RCUMMINS496@GMAIL.COM**



### Harry Potter Weekend

April 24-26 | Grades 3-9

Directed by Mike Hanes, Scott Benaglio, Allison Aungst



## Harry Potter Weekend

at Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center



**April 24-26, 2026**  
*Overnight Weekend Camp for youth in grades 3-9*

Spend a weekend playing Harry Potter inspired games and activities. Enjoy a few "Muggle-free" days playing Quidditch, attending potions class, wand dueling, making custom wands and much, much more!

**Register at [www.dunkirkcc.com](http://www.dunkirkcc.com)**  
e-mail: [mhanes@dunkirkcc.com](mailto:mhanes@dunkirkcc.com)

### Work Weekend & Summer Kickoff

May 15 - 17

Save the date and join us in kicking off the summer season and helping get the camp ready! We need your help with cleaning buildings, cabins and preparing the grounds for the summer season. Lodging provided if needed. Meals are provided on Saturday. Please let us know if you are planning to come!



Dunkirk Camp and Conference Center was voted Best of the Best Summer Camp in Chautauque County for the third year in a row. Come experience why!



For information about renting at our facility for weddings & receptions, banquets, meetings, picnics and more, visit our website [www.dunkirkcc.com](http://www.dunkirkcc.com), scan the QR code here or call our camp office at 716-366-1900.

### From Rev. Gary Burdick

### Thoughts on Dunkirk Camp and Conference Center

Someone asked me recently how our beloved Camp is able to keep going when so many camps have closed. My short answer was leadership which includes the Camp Board Committees, Directors, Counselors, Staff and many volunteers. What is also so evident is the financial support of churches and individuals. Lastly, Camp fills many needs: the need for relationship, the need for being outdoors and exercise, the need for faith development and renewal, and the need to experience peace, love and the presence of God. See what camps are offered on [dunkirkcc.com](http://dunkirkcc.com)

### New York Conference UCC Annual Meeting



The Annual Meeting will be at Silver Bay beginning at **2:00 p.m. on Friday, May 15, 2026**, and conclude on **Saturday, May 16**, with **Closing Worship**. Parking is free. Registration for the Annual Meeting **closes on Friday, April 14, 2026**. Click here to register: <https://www.shelbygiving.com/App/Form/62487e-d8-e315-40ae-b176-fe137af66b67>

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### Happenings Eblast Sign Up

Click Here to receive the Happenings weekly e-mail newsletter and special announcements:  
<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/1b2mKO8/Happenings>

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### Churches in Transition

- Amherst Community Church, Snyder
- Faith UCC, Boston
- Kenilworth UCC, Buffalo
- St. Stephens Bethlehem UCC, Buffalo
- Salem UCC, Tonawanda

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### **From Jeff Mason, Former Finance Committee Member**

### Endowment Report

The Endowment report for this issue of the Vineyard includes the usual quarterly report of the Endowment monies as of December 31, 2025, and the usual report on the annual disbursements made from the Endowment in January 2026. It also includes two significant changes that were voted on in the fall of 2025 that took effect as of January 2026. Now that my term on the Finance Committee has expired, it is also my final Vineyard report.

First, the December 31 quarterly report: The value of the Osaic Funds account on December 31 was \$52,206.94, which was a decrease of \$928.33 from the September 30 value. The United Church Funds account ending in 010 stood at \$86,040.60 on December 31, which was an increase of \$3,641.44 since September 30. Our largest investment is in the United Church Funds account ending in 009. Its value on December 31 was \$697,951.24, which was an increase of \$15,810.04 since September 30. The total of all investments on December 31 was \$836,198.78, an increase of \$18,502.30.

Second, the annual disbursements from the Endowment: One of the duties of the Finance Committee each September is to determine the amount to be distributed from the Endowment the following January by figuring 5 percent of the average of the total Endowment value for the four preceding quarters. The January 2026 disbursement of \$38,333.00, which was approved at the Annual Meeting in November, represents 5 percent of the average total value of the Endowment at the end of September and December 2024, and at the end of March and June 2025.

Third, a change in investments: The Western Area Finance Committee voted in September to terminate our investment in the Osaic Funds. This should have been finalized before parts of the membership of the Finance Committee changed at the end of 2025, but a series of

problems delayed this until early January. We have received a large check and three small dividend checks from Osaic for a total of \$52,228.36. Out of that money, our annual 2026 disbursement of \$38,333 was paid to recipients on January 24, and the remainder was invested in a \$13,895.36 one-year term note at 3.400 percent interest from the UCC Cornerstone Fund. That note, plus interest, will probably be used toward the next annual disbursement in January 2027.

Fourth: a change in the annual disbursement: The Annual Meeting in November approved a change in the percentages to be paid to recipients from the annual Endowment disbursement. Based on this new method, the following payments were made on January 24: \$9,583.25 (25%) to Dunkirk Conference Center; \$9,583.25 (25%) to Plymouth Crossroads; \$7,666.60 (20%) to the Western Area's Community Ministries Committee; \$3,833.30 (10%) to the United Church Manor; \$2,874.98 (7.5%) to Western Area Youth; \$2,874.98 (7.5%) to the United Church Home Society for Senior Wishes; and \$1,916.64 (5%) to the WHYACIC Budget Contingency Fund, for a total of \$38,000.00.

### One Great Hour of Sharing-2026 (OGHS)



One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ that

supports partners worldwide with ministries that fund health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response. Many churches will recognize OGHS in March. Ways to donate: Mail checks to United Church of Christ, P.O. Box 71957, Cleveland, Ohio 44194 or give online via a secure donation form using this link:

<https://support.ucc.org/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing/one-great-hour-of-sharing-donation>

### Pie Sale



*East Aurora Christian Church will be holding its 32nd Annual Pie Sale at East Aurora's July Third celebration at Hamlin Park.*

**Hamlin Park, 166 South Grove Street,  
East Aurora, NY**

**Friday, July 3, starting at 5 PM**

*EACC members donate homemade fruit and other pies for the sale, cut up the pies, and sell the pie slices. Please plan to visit the Park for a delicious slice of pie. Proceeds will benefit non-profits. Thanks for your support.*

### Trinity Cooks for their Community Free Meal

**Trinity United Church of Christ  
30 Erie Avenue  
Gowanda, NY  
716-532-3004**

We serve dinners from 4 pm until 6 pm or until all the meals are gone. Drive up or walk up only. Limit of 6 meals per car.

Sat., March 14:  
Goulash, side salad, fruit, bread & cookies

Sat., April 11:  
Pulled pork sandwich, mac and cheese, veggie & cookies

## 4th Annual Rummage Sale



Saturday June 20, 2026  
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

East Aurora Christian Church  
464 Main St., East Aurora 14052  
North Grove Entrance

Items to include gently used household items.  
The day's events include a Bake Sale.

### Donation Days:

Gently used items will be graciously accepted.

Saturday, May 16, 2026, 10 AM-2 PM  
Sunday, May 17, 2026, 11 AM-2 PM  
Saturday, June 13, 2026, 10 AM – 2 PM  
Sunday, June 14, 2026, 11 AM – 2 PM



Friday, May 1 and  
Saturday, May 2, 2026  
9 am – 4 pm  
Arcade United Church of Christ  
297 Main St., Arcade, NY 14009  
Something for everyone!  
Building is accessible to all.

## 2026 National UCC Database and Directory Reporting

The deadline is **April 10, 2026**, at midnight. The Database and Directories (DAD) (formally the Data Hub) has been restructured. It will look different to you, but the data asked for is the same, and easier to enter.

### IMPORTANT

If you created an account last year, you will use the same username and password you created. Otherwise, you will be asked to create an account and then enter your church ID#, which is the number 46 followed by your church number (ex: 461018). **IF** you are creating an account for the first time, your starting password will be:

**newyearnewdata2026**

Need further training? Join us on Zoom:

**Wednesday March 18, 2026 at 12:00pm**

Join Zoom <https://uccny-org.zoom.us/j/87138302887>

Meeting ID: 871 3830 2887

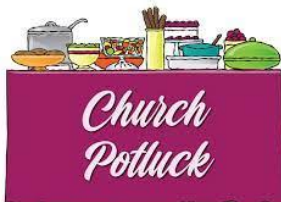
### Upcoming Events at First Congregational UCC

132 N. Main St.  
Angola, NY 14006  
716-549-2115



#### A Psalm and a Snack!

Explore the Lectionary Psalms of the Lenten Season, Sundays during Lent at 11:30 am in the church parlor. Join us for a 15-minute examination of a new Psalm each Sunday of Lent.



#### Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith

Lenten Pot-luck Supper and Bible Study

Thursdays: March 5, 12, 19, and 26

5:30 pm

Our Thursday evening gatherings will be a time for Bible Study and reflection as we explore scripture and seek to deepen our connection with Christ during this Holy Lenten Season.



#### Ham & Scalloped Potato Dinner

Sunday, March 15

11:30 am – 4:30 pm or sold out

Dine-in/Take out/Drive-thru

Includes: ham, scalloped potatoes, vegetable, roll and dessert, \$15 per person

Pre-sale encouraged – Mon.-Fri. 9 am – 1 pm  
at the church office or call 716-549-2115

### Upcoming Events at St. John's UCC, Strykersville

608 Centerline Rd, Strykersville, NY 14145  
(Located at the corner of Dutch Hollow & Centerline Roads in Strykersville)

Accessible to all!



#### Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ

Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> from 11 am-sold out  
Includes: chicken, roll & butter, baked beans, potato salad, and dessert  
\*\* Take out ONLY\*\*



#### Treasure Sale

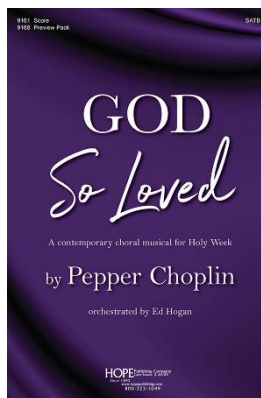
Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>

Doors open at 9:00 am

Something for EVERYONE!

One man's trash is another man's treasure!

### Palm Sunday Cantata



This year's Pioneer Association of Churches (PAC) Palm Sunday Cantata will be performed at Hope Lutheran's Community Center, 2 E. Main St., Arcade 14009, on March 29th at 3:00 pm. Free admission! Accessible to all!

Pioneer Area musicians and friends will present *God So Loved: A Contemporary Choral Musical for Holy Week* by Pepper Choplin. This musical tells the remarkable Passion story. The theme of God's love is highlighted in every step of Jesus' journey to the cross. Enter into Holy Week with us. Donations of toiletries and non-perishable food items will be collected to support our PAC Food Pantry and Satellite.

### All in a Day's Work

A poem by Hope Douglas Harle-Mould

At the village of Nain,  
Jesus sees the funeral procession of the widow's only son,  
comes near and simply raises the dead.

Near Martha and Mary's home in Bethany,  
Jesus sees the sealed tomb of his friend Lazarus,  
comes near and simply raises the dead.

At the home of the synagogue leader Jairus,  
Jesus sees the room in which the deceased little girl lies,  
comes near and simply raises the dead.

In our anguished homes and crucified world,  
Christ sees our places of woundedness and hopelessness,  
comes near and simply raises the dead.

It's really no big deal—all in a day's work.  
Christ sees the dark and scary places in our lives,  
comes near and simply raises the dead.

Then he says to you and me—  
as he said to Jairus' daughter—  
"Now...how about something to eat?"



In the Vineyard asks the question...

*"What do you appreciate most about how your church supports your faith journey?"*

#### From Liz Lowth, member of Arcade UCC

"I can say honestly that I must be blessed because without my church and its members, it would have been a depressingly long time for me as I dealt with some health issues! I am truly blessed and extremely happy to belong to UCC of Arcade!"

We thank all of you for your feedback and replies to our queries each quarter and encourage anyone who would like to submit a response to do so! We love to hear from you! Please send them to [inthevineyardeditor@gmail.com](mailto:inthevineyardeditor@gmail.com). Thank you!



### Prayer Lists March – May 2026



#### March Prayer List

St. John's UCC, Dunkirk  
Elaine Ultech, Pastor  
New Light Christian Church, Buffalo  
Rev. Nadine Schrodt, pastor  
WNYACIC Executive Council  
Center for Christian Growth of WNY  
Plymouth Crossroads  
Jennifer McAndrew, Executive Director  
Global Partnership Prayers – Nicaragua,  
Hong Kong, South Africa, Honduras, India  
UCC Racial Justice Ministries

#### April Prayer List

Pilgrim-St. Luke's UCC, Buffalo  
Rev. Nancy Rosas, pastor  
St. John's UCC, Eden  
Rev. Dr. James Reidling, pastor  
Lockport UCC, Rev. Hope Schwartz, pastor  
Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center  
Coalition for Economic Justice, Buffalo  
WNY Peace Center  
Practical Resources for Churches (PRC)

#### May Prayer List

Faith UCC, Boston  
Rev. Dr. Ted Brelsford, pastor  
Rev. Gary Burdick, Pastor Emeritus  
Covenant UCC, Gasport  
Rev. Martin Hamann, interim pastor  
St. John's UCC, Strykersville  
Rev. Faith Schaut, supply pastor  
Western Association Church & Ministry Committee  
Network of Religious Communities  
UCC Coalition for Rural Ministries

# Painting For A Purpose

A benefit for Plymouth Crossroads hosted by Tessa Thorpe in conjunction with Designing Dish



**Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**  
 12pm Doors Open, 1pm Event Start

**Resurrection Life Church, Family Life Center**  
 2155 Old Union Rd, Buffalo, NY 14227

\*Post event piece pick-up: Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup> 12-4pm\*

**Check out Painting Pottery For A Purpose! This event is for all ages. It includes painting a pottery piece of your choice, bake sale, and raffles. Snacks and drinks are provided, as well as all needed event supplies!**

**\*NOTE\* This is a 3 step process:**

Step 1 – Register and choose your pottery piece.

Step 2 – Show up to the event and paint your piece. You'll leave your piece with us to kiln.

Step 3 – Return 1 week later, March 28<sup>th</sup>, at the same location between 12-4pm to pick up your piece!



**\$20**  
Buster Bunny

**POTTERY CHOICES**



**\$25**  
Egg Box



**\$20**  
Chick'n Egg



**\$25**  
Egg Plate

The "In the Vineyard" Editorial Board welcomes any meditations or devotions that tie into the church year for our newsletter's front page.  
 (Word count of 400-475 words, please.)  
 Please submit your piece to [inthevineyardeditor@gmail.com](mailto:inthevineyardeditor@gmail.com)  
 Thank you in advance!



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Scan here, or visit  
[www.plymouthcrossroads.org](http://www.plymouthcrossroads.org)  
 to register!  
**\*REGISTER BY MARCH 13TH\***



Visit the WNYACIC website:  
<https://wnyuccdoc.wixsite.com/wnyacic>  
 Send newsletter items to:  
[inthevineyardeditor@gmail.com](mailto:inthevineyardeditor@gmail.com)

**Church & Ministry Meetings –**

2nd Monday of each month, 9:30 am to 2:00 pm  
 Ebenezer UCC, 630 Main St., West Seneca. Members & guests are notified directly of any changes.



*In the Vineyard*, published four times a year, invites you to send us your comments and opinions, expressions of faith and announcements of events. We welcome information regarding the health and welfare of our clergy and others in the Western Area. Please write us when you know of a birth or celebration, a serious illness or a death in our church family—please include your name and telephone number.

Please have submissions for the upcoming summer issue in by **May 14, 2026** to  
[inthevineyardeditor@gmail.com](mailto:inthevineyardeditor@gmail.com)