

Our Mission
"Centered in Christ"
"Strength for Today"
"Hope for Tomorrow"



December
2017

Merry Christmas!



Rev. Larry Gallaher
Pastor

513-443-4866
pastor@rossumc.org

Ross Community Church UMC
2943 Hamilton Cleves Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45013



Dear Church Family,

As we think about the month of December being upon us let's not lose sight of one of the most important happenings in Christendom. It is so easy to get wrapped up in the "things" that need to be done that we forget the real meaning of the season. It is all about Jesus and His birth. Thinking about what the birth of Jesus means to each of us changes our perspective on the season.

We will, over the next month, see many people who will wish you a "Happy Holiday". Respond with a hearty "Merry Christmas." They may want to say, "Merry Christmas" but for some reason feel hindered or reluctant. Give them the "Good News" that the King is born, and we celebrate His birth.

As Christians, we need to take back the Christian holidays and celebrate the real meaning of them in our lives and reflect each year on something significant that brings us to remembrance of those times in our lives. In fact, as those who oppose everything that comes before them persecute the nation, let's commit to taking back our country. God has blessed us and we need to always keep that in our minds.

Before we know it we'll be writing 2018 on correspondence and wonder where 2017 went. Don't let this year pass without thinking about the many blessings God has given to you.

We have our faith to take hold of and be thankful that God still rules. We have our families that we love so much, don't let the season pass without saying to each one of them how much we need them and love them. Don't forget your friends that mean so much to know, where would we be without that special someone who will listen to us, cherish our thoughts and maintain our confidence. Remember our wonderful country that God has given us and give thanks that we are so blessed. Your church and your church family are the mainstays in our life providing support and love that is so vital.

I close with a simple two-word blessing on each of you "Merry Christmas."

Pastor Larry

Information Page

Ross Community Church

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE +

Sunday School

9:15 – 10:00

(For All Ages)

+

Fellowship

10:00 – 10:30

+

Church Service

10:30

(Children's Church 1st & 2nd
Sunday's during summer)

+

Thursday Service

Praise Music

&

Message

7:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

+

United Methodist

Women

Second Tuesday of the month

@ 10:00 a.m.

+

Trustees – Nurture & Missions

First Tuesday of the month

@ 6:30 p.m.

+

Church Council

Second Monday of odd months

@ 7:00 p.m.

+

United Methodist Men

Last Saturday of the month

@ 9:00 a.m.

CONTACTS

Pastor:

Rev. Larry Gallaher 513-443-4866

Church Office:

Emily Adams 513-868-2923
emily.fs.adams@gmail.com

Lay Leader:

Jim Rechel 513-521-5223

Church Council:

Phil Brown 513-868-2338

Pastor Parish Chair:

Brenda Brown 513-868-2338

Trustees:

Wayne Estep 513-896-5851

Sunday School Superintendent:

Sandy Hogeback 812-593-2984

Nursery Attendant: (Ages birth through four years)

Robin Montgomery 513-892-2295

Prayer Chain:

Vicky Foster 513-738-3748

Newsletter:

Phil Brown 513-868-2338

Visit the Ross Community United Methodist
Church web page at: <http://www.rossumc.org/>

Prayer Chain

To have someone placed on the
Prayer Chain please call Vicky Foster
at 513-738-3749 or email
vfoster@zoomtown.com.



If you wish to be added to the Prayer Chain
send Vicky your email address.

COMMUNION

If you are **home bound**
and would like to
receive communion
please contact the
church office at (513)
868-2923. Rev Larry
Gallaher will return
your call.



"Prayer Shawl Ministry"

Please spread the
word: -----If anyone has a
family member, friend, etc.
that is gravely ill, please let
me know in the Sunday
service, or email me at
www.carolfarmer90@yahoo.com. Also contact me for
more information. This
program is 100%
voluntary, and the Church
has not spent a penny. We
can also use more
volunteers. Have a great
day in the Lord.

Submitted by Carol Farmer

Altar Flowers

If you would like to place flowers on the altar,
in memory or in honor of someone, please
contact Debbie Kunick at 513-490-0382.



Office: Emily Adams, Administrative Assistant: Office hours 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Please send your e-mail address
to emily.fs.adams@gmail.com if
you would prefer to receive your
issue of The Ross Community
United Methodist Church
Newsletter by e-mail.

What's happening in December?

December 2nd - Gallaher Open House 1791 Hanover Way Hamilton, Ohio 45013. You are invited. 1:00 to 5:00 PM.

December 7th - Annual Christmas Banquet at 6:30 PM. (Tickets are still available).

December 17th - Deadline for Operation Magi gifts wrapped and returned to the church

December 18th - 22nd - Operation Magi distribution: This is a special time and you are welcome to join at the church during this time, you will be blessed and moved.

December 24th - Christmas Eve Sunday

- **Morning Worship @ 10:30 AM**, we will not have Sunday School scheduled or a Fellowship Hour following church.
- **Evening Christmas Eve Service - 7:00 PM** This will be our traditional Christmas Eve Service with communion and a candlelight closing.

December 25th - Merry Christmas



03	Linda Kunick	11	Butch Foster
07	Lynn Schernbeck	14	Henry Brown
08	Lynette Conrad	15	Bill Oliver
11	Kyle McNeely	15	Lantz Lewis
		25	Baby Jesus

TRUSTEES

Trustees 2017 Yearend Report

Submitted by Wayne Estep



The trustees have oversight and care of all local church property, buildings, and equipment to further the mission of the church. This work is done in consultation with the pastor.

Ongoing Maintenance

- All of our annual inspections on emergency lighting, fire extinguishers and back flush on our water system has been completed.
- Weekly, our building is cleaned and our lawn is mowed.
- In the winter, snow removal is done as needed.
- Outside window cleaning is done twice a year and our cross room window is cleaned June, July, August, September and November.
- Every 2 years, our landscaping around the church is updated.
- Every 3 years, our carpets are cleaned.
- Every 3 years, our septic tanks are cleaned.
- All other maintenance, painting and cleaning is done as needed.

2017 Special Projects

- Sealing and Striping of our parking lot was completed by Sealco Cincy.
- Paver Walkway from the parking lot to the back entrance of the sanctuary was completed by Hess Landscaping.
- The shed behind the church was improved by temporarily moving it and replacing the base with stone. It was a great savings thanks to Butch Foster.
- A faulty air conditioner was replaced by one of our rarely used ones. This was a great savings thanks to Roger Creasy.
- Premier Energy - propane contract renewed. We prepaid for the season giving us a savings of \$420.
- Biennial Landscaping was done by Connaughton Landscaping.
- Republic Services Trash Removal - renewed a 3-year contract this year.
- A new children's pedi pad has been installed on our AED unit.
- We had Verdin Bell service our church bell. Thanks to Greg Conrad for changing the timing of the bell for us.

All in all, we had a very productive year. The trustees are proud to say that our church and land are both in excellent condition.

October 3, 2017

Inner City Children's Fund
c/o Ross Community United Methodist Church
2943 Hamilton Cleves Rd.
Hamilton, OH 45013

Re: Inner City Children's Fund

To the members of Ross Community United Methodist Church:

Thank you so very much for your gift of \$500 for Hurricane Harvey aid. It is completely unexpected!

My wife, Debby, and I personally know many families who have been financially and emotionally wrecked by Hurricane Harvey. With 40+ inches of rain, thousands of "non-flood plain" homes flooded. Just today a woman asked me whether she had to pay her \$150,000 mortgage on her condominium in a complex that the owners' association has decided not to rebuild. A Houston business I am representing in a dispute just sent me a message telling me to give up the fight; the business no longer exists. Residential streets are canyons, the canyon walls being TV sets, mattresses, rugs, furniture, sheet rock, etc. Thankfully, everyone is pitching in.

I will pass on your \$500 gift directly to the Salvation Army and ask that it go to Hurricane Harvey relief; its National Commander receives \$13,000 a year plus housing. 96% of donated dollars goes to its causes. God bless your church, which likewise does wonderful and similarly efficient work for your local families.

Again, thank you so much for your generous gift.

Sincerely,



Mark Miller
Attorney

MHM:dmr

"Twas the Night Before Christmas"

By Clement Clarke Moore

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled down for a long winter's nap,

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,

With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;

"Now, DASHER! now, DANCER! now, PRANCER and VIXEN!
On, COMET! on CUPID! on, DONDER and BLITZEN!
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my hand, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.

His eyes -- how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;

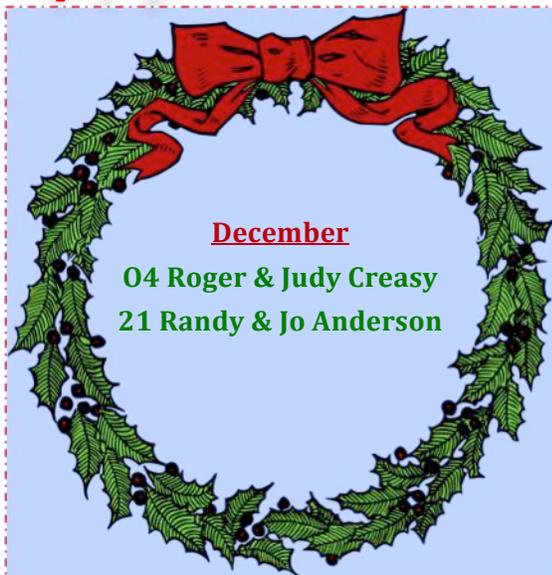
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a little round belly,
That shook, when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,
HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD-NIGHT!

Happy Anniversary



Ross Community United Methodist Church
Ad Council Minute Meetings
November 13, 2017

In Attendance: Brenda Brown; Phil Brown; Judy Creasy; Wayne Estep; Vicky Foster; Larry Gallaher; Debbie Gilman; Jan Gump; Sandy Hogeback; Debbie Kunick; Sharon Mortimer; Brenda Oliver.

Absent: Linda Estep; Bill Oliver; Jim Rechel.

Miscellaneous

- Devotional - Pastor Larry - The Struggle from our Daily Bread. Romans 8:28
- Devotional for next meeting (January 8, 2018) - Debbie Gilman
- Minutes from September 11, 2017 meeting stand approved as read. Sandy Hogeback moves that the minutes be accepted. Wayne Estep seconds the motion. **Motion carried.**

Opening Prayer (Pastor Larry)

Opening Remarks (Pastor Larry)

- Christmas Eve Services - December 24, 2017 - Brenda Brown makes a motion we have an abbreviated service on Christmas Eve morning and Christmas Eve service at 7 pm. Eliminate Sunday school - no coffee hour - **Motion carried**
- Discipleship Class - Will make it available on the day / time that works best for the majority. Experiencing God Study - 13 chapters in the book. A good place to start.
- Nomination Committee -
 - Debbie Gilman stepped up as Finance Chair
 - Allyson Cecil - member of Staff Parish Relations
 - Donna and Bruce Armstrong - Hospitality and Outreach (when they return, they plan to join the church).
- Church conference - no questions.

Ad Council Chair (Phil Brown)

- Church security while building occupied - Larry, Wayne, and Phil have discussed. Have started locking the doors when no one is watching the door. Will begin locking the doors on Sunday at 10:35 a.m. Members in this church carry weapons (with conceal and carry permits). Have added this to Safe Sanctuary Policy. Larry will contact the Assistant Police Chief and ask him to come to a men's group breakfast to talk about safety practices / active shooter.
- Next year, Wayne and Phil hope to begin a Tin Can Sailor Association for SW Ohio. Will pick a night once a month when no one else is in the church. Once it is started, the Tin Can Association will help advertise it. Plan to begin with articles in the newspapers - would like to start potentially in February. Will qualify for a small group.
- Picnic in October was very nice. About 54 people attended.

(Continued next column.)

(RCUMC minutes continued.)

UM Men

- Next meeting - November 25, 2017 @ 9:00 a.m.
- Larry will try to get the Ross Police Department or the Butler County Sheriff's Office to attend to talk about church safety. Suggestion to contact other churches to see if they are interested in attending too.

UM Women

- Women's annual church Christmas dinner -
 - December 7, 2017 - Thursday is the best night for the praise band. Italian dinner. Linda is selling tickets.

SPRC

- Had an SPRC meeting last Monday. Voted to increase Emily's salary from \$180 to \$200 per week, beginning January 1, 2018. Voted to give Larry a 5% salary increase effective January 1, 2018. Larry will work out with Debbie how he wants housing, expense reimbursement and salary split.
- Robin - approved paying her through the end of November. Will meet the end of November to decide if we pay her through the end of the year if she isn't able to return.

Trustees (Wayne Estep)

- Doing great!

Finance Committee (Bill Oliver, Debbie Gilman, Judy Creasy)

- Bill plans to send the stewardship letters this Friday. Stewardship Sunday is November 26.
- 2018 preliminary budget is available - Finance Committee hasn't had a chance to meet yet.
 - Debbie met with the committee leaders and they've all submitted their budgets.
 - We significantly paired down our budget from 2017. Don't foresee any major expenses at this time.
 - Looked at expenses for the entire year period - August / September of 2016 through October 2017 to get averages of costs for all expenses. Good measure to go review. Contemplated what we might need to do go forward.
 - Altar flowers are less - Debbie Kunick is doing them now and doing a great job.
 - Insurance has gone up over the last couple of years. May want to consider an Umbrella Policy at some point.
 - Apportionments paid at 100%
 - Pretty much under budget year to date.
 - Using missions and compassion fund to pay Robin and also someone donated money for that purpose.
 - Have stopped giving money to those who knock on our door. Will give them food and health products.
 - Will file the budget for audit.
 - Dollar General - completed a hold harmless agreement to partner with them for toys.

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(RCUMC minutes continued from previous page column 2.)

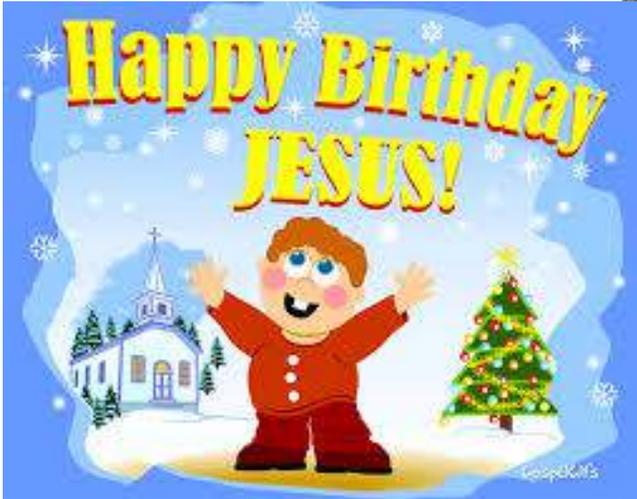
New Business -

- Next year, we should add a Budget Approval meeting in October, so we make sure we have everything we need for Debbie.
- Sandy is going to start a women's bible study on Saturdays in January - meet once a month - maybe do same Saturday as men's breakfast.
- Sandy, Tiffany Truman, and Roseann Ratliff are planning a Bunco night for men and women - first one targeted for February. If the turn-out is good, may do it again.

Brenda Brown made a motion to close the Ad Council Meeting - Wayne Estep seconded the motion. **Motion carried** to close the meeting.

Closing Prayer (Pastor Larry)

Next Meeting - January 8, 2018, 7 pm



Worship Leaders



	December	January	February
	03 Debbie Kunick	07 Roger Creasy	04 Sally Rechel
	10 Tom Bevington	14 Jim Rechel	11 Debbie Kunick
	17 Tim Zecher	21 Nancy Beckman	18 Tom Bevington
	24 Chip Schoepf	28 Debbie Gilman	25 Tim Zecher
	31 Greg Conrad		