

February
2015



**ROSS COMMUNITY
CHURCH**
Reaching Out-Touching Lives
United Methodist Church

2943 Hamilton-Cleves Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45013
(513) 868-2923



Rev. Larry Gallaher
Pastor

513-443-4866
pastor@rossumc.org

Our Mission

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

Dear Friends and Members of Ross Community Church,
Sometimes when I sit down to write to you via our newsletter I know what to say. It's like preparing a message for Sunday sometimes it's easier than others.

This is one of those times when it's easy to write. During this month we enter into the Lenten season. What a time of reflection as we look inwardly to the condition of our hearts. Lent is a wonderful time to reflect on our spiritual condition and make any change if needed. Lent is a reflective season to say it best.

Starting on February 1st we will begin a message series entitled "I Love My Church." We will look at areas such as connecting, serving, sharing and giving. I am looking forward to this series with great anticipation that we will look at church differently as we go forward. After all, we are the church and we should love each other.

We will begin the season of Lent on February 18th when we have our Ash Wednesday service. We will spend time reflecting on Christ and His place in our world, lives and church. Everyone who chooses will receive ashes on the foreheads. The purpose of Ash Wednesday is the name given to the first day of the season of Lent, in which ashes are applied to the foreheads of Christians to signify an inner repentance. I want to encourage you to attend.

Then in early March we are going to begin a Lenten study entitled "Renegade Gospel" which will begin on Monday evenings. We will conclude the study on Easter Sunday morning during our Sunday school time. By the way we will have the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday also.

We will interrupt the "I Love My Church" series with a series on prayer during Lent. I want us to reflect during the Lenten series on prayer in our lives. This series will cover areas about dreaming bigger, thinking about what you pray, about believing as a start.

God is so good let's continue to thank for all He is doing in our midst.

God bless you,
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 Sunday School during Church Service)

CONTACTS

Pastor:

Rev. Larry Gallaher 513-443-4866

Lay Leader:

Jim Rechel 513-521-5223

Assistant Lay Leader:

Leroy Singleton 513-593-4433

Church Council

Phil Brown 513-868-2338

Trustees

Bud Kottman 513-738-3603

Sunday School Superintendent:

Sandy Hogeback 812-593-2984

Music Director:

Sally Rechel 513-521-5223

Pianist:

Lori Campbell 513-863-1421

Cornett:

Karen Auffinger 513-738-5225

Drums:

Chip Schoepf 513-738-8105

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/>

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 the month

@ 7:00 p.m.

+

United Methodist Men

Last Saturday of the month

@ 8:00 a.m.

"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



We pray that you enjoy the beautiful flower bouquets on the

Church Altar on Sunday mornings.

If you wish to have special flowers to commemorate or in memory of a special occasion or person please contact Debbie Gilman @ 513-923-9457 at least two weeks prior to the date you wish the special flowers to be displayed.



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

Thank You, Editor

COMMUNION



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



NURTURE & MISSIONS



Submitted by Judy Kottman

January kind of slipped by, so we'll take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in Operation Magi. We're discussing the possibility of arranging times for each family to meet at church to supply their "Wish List" next year. The **Sharing Closet** continues to be "**Under Construction**" and Nancy Beckman will keep us informed of updates and is open for assistance.

Our first "**Movie Night**" was a success and very enjoyable. We will plan more in the upcoming months and look for small groups, families and friends to sponsor a night. Everyone seemed to enjoy the pizza from Ross Pizza; and desserts and snacks provided by those who attended.

"Ash Wednesday" Soup Supper -- February 18 at 6:00 p.m.

Soup Supper will precede Ash Wednesday Service. Please bring a pot of your favorite soup or a dessert to share.

Lenten Breakfast's - "Family Breakfast Club"

We're discussing the possibility of having a few breakfasts before Sunday Worship during Lent. This would be a time of joining in song, devotion and fellowship before the worship service. **More information will follow.**

"Family Breakfast Club" is a new program we would like to have in place so families with young children might bring them to Sunday School and take this opportunity to sit down and get to know other parents and see where it might go from here.

"Sign Investigation"

No, no one has stolen the church sign, but obviously there is some chatter about the possibility of a new sign for church. We are in the infant stages of considering what we should do with regard to our present sign. In a 12-month period we spent approximately \$1,000.00 for the rental sign, which if you didn't notice was there from Fall 2013 Craft Fair thru Christmas 2013. Then brought back March 3, 2014 to advertise Easter programs and remained thru Fall 2014 Craft Fair.

Just seems to make sense to look into what we can do and have something to show for the money. We can reassure you that you will be updated as progress is made but don't expect it overnight. We've many projects and plans for 2015. Furthermore, I've heard from other Pastors that signs don't do a lot to get people into churches. It takes the congregation to work inviting friends and neighbors. However, having a sign that "pop's out" is perhaps a sure way that in passing someone might be reminded that this is the church someone told him or her about and if we're really lucky they may drop in on a Sunday.

*It takes a church family
to run a church!*



*If Able * * * Volunteer*



Submitted by Judy Creasy

The UMW monthly meeting will be on February 10, 2015 at 10:00AM at the church. We will be planning the Mother's and Special Others Banquet on May 5th, 2015. A Hawaiian Luau theme has been suggested.

Please remember to continue bringing your old eyeglasses to church.

The next meeting will be a dinner on Tuesday, March 10, 2015, at 6:30PM at Chinese Lantern restaurant.

Sunday Message

Lenten Series

February 18 thru April 5

Prayer

Communing With Our Father

February 18	Ash Wednesday
"The ACTS of Prayer"	
February 22	"The Prayer of Faith"
March 1	"Dream Bigger Than You Ever Imagined"
March 8	"Think what You Pray"
March 15	"Keep Believing"
March 22	"Pray Hard"
March 29	"Love In Sharing"
April 5 - Easter --	"Love By Giving"

There is always room in the House of God for Believers and those who are seeking Light.



Wednesday, February 18

Ash Wednesday / Soup Supper

Soup Supper @ 6 p.m., Service @ 7:00 p.m.

Please bring your favorite soup or a dessert to share.

Contact Person: Judy Kottman

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Tuesday, March 10

UMW Dinner Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

Chinese Lantern

965 Main Street

Hamilton, Ohio

There is plenty of parking next to the restaurant.

For reservations contact: Brenda Oliver

in the spotlight

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

A huge shout out to Wayne and Linda Estep. Both, prior to worship service, take care of getting items for our coffee hour ready and then getting it on the tables following the service. They, along with other volunteers, stay after to clean up the kitchen. They are generally the last ones to leave the church.

Wayne is often the person who counts the number in attendance for Sunday Worship Service. Linda takes care of keeping our membership directory updated and has recently compiled the list of birthdays, which are inserted in our bulletins. She is also working on compiling an Organizational Manual, which will give everyone an overview of all committees and duties assigned, etc.

Wayne and Linda take care of inserting the list of upcoming events in the pew pads and collecting the sheets from these pads after each service.

In the event of needing a delicious cake for an occasion, it is once again, Wayne and Linda.

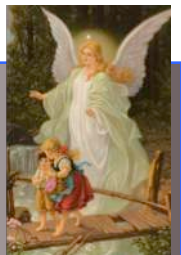
Wayne is also the chairperson of the newly formed Capital Building Fund Committee.

Thank you so much Wayne and Linda Estep for all you do for your church, both seen and unseen. **You are Very Much Appreciated.**

CONTINUING PRAYERS

Continuing prayers for the vision of Ross Community United Methodist Church, Our Church Family; Pastor Larry and Cindy; Pastor John and Lisa; Pastor Kyle and Karen; Pastor Grant and Ann; Bev Papet, our President, our nation and our military personnel, Gary Brown, Vicki Hilton, Dorothy Gard, Steve Jacobs, Linda Jacobs, Jake Phelps and family, Jo and Randy Anderson's great grandson Tyson and family, Bill & Linda Wright's sister-in-law; Annette Hegner (ongoing health issues); the Whirls Family; the Brownfield Family; the Merz Family; the Prentice Family; Tim Zecher and Tari Halcomb.

If you know of additions or deletions, please see or call Vicky Foster @ 738-3748. Please give your e-mail address to Vicky for the Prayer Chain.



Ushers & Greeters

February	
22	Jim & Sally Rechel
March	
1	Jim & Sally Rechel
8	Phil & Brenda Brown
15	Debbie Gilman & Lois Lynch
22	Wayne & Linda Estep
29	Butch & Trey Foster
April	
5	Roger & Judy Creasy
12	Bill & Brenda Oliver

February Anniversary



19 Leroy & Sandy Hogeback

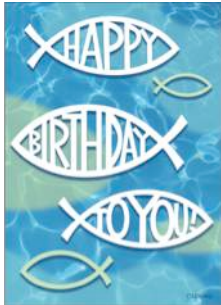
Worship

February	
22	Leroy Singleton
March	
1	Debbie Gilman
8	Nancy Beckman
15	Tom Bevington
22	Tim Zecher
29	Greg Conrad
April	
5	Wes Flannery
12	Roger Creasy
19	Jim Rechel



February

1	Wanda Bevington
4	Nancy Beckman
11	Korinne Rheinfrank
12	Larry Gallaher
12	Gary Mortimer
17	Reba Burnette
21	Lauryn Campbell



23	Carol Farmer
23	Alex Creighton
26	Heather Rheinfrank
27	Debbie Kunick
27	Karen McNeely
29	Terry Merz

Leaders

Welcome



On January 25, 2015 we welcomed five new members to our church family. They are: (Left to right) David Flannery and Cierra, Todd, Karyn and Trysta Taylor.



Welcomes that Don't Smother Guests

by Bob Metcalf

I am a volunteer on the Greeters Ministry Team at my church. Recently, I received a forwarded e-mail originating from prospects who have been visiting our church. If you want to build a checklist of items that a church can do to make guests feel welcome, you could not find a better place to start than one created by these guests.

Here's what the email said:

Bret - Thanks again for having lunch with Suzi and me today. We really appreciated the chance to get to know you better and learn more about the ministry at ClearView. As we shared with you this afternoon, from a visitor's perspective, the reception we received at ClearView is as good as we've experienced anywhere. It's obvious there's been a lot of thought as to how to make guests feel noticed, welcome, and attended to -- yet not smothered. A difficult balance, but you guys hit it right on. Some of the things we really appreciated.

- Visitor's parking spots
- Greeters that were expecting us
- The personal escort to our Sunday School class
- Warm reception at Sunday School
- Follow-up e-mail from the class coordinator
- Invite to the monthly Class Prayer Breakfast
- Several follow-up cards since
- You recognized us as visitors and greeted us

The greeting ministry is well done. Keep up the good work and pass our thanks on to those who help make it happen. They are making a difference!

It feels good to be a part of church that is maturing believers not only through open and closed groups but by asking them to serve on ministry teams as well. It also feels good to be complimented by our pastor when he receives compliments.

Do you have a plan for welcoming guests?

Submitted by Judy Kottman



SUNDAY SCHOOL

&

Jr. Church



Submitted by Sandy Hogeback

We now have 3 Sunday School Classes before Church starts. We have an Adult Class, 1st Grade to 3rd Grade Class and 4th Grade & older Class. We also have a nursery that is open for anyone from birth to age four.

We started a Jr. Church program that meets after the Children's Moments in the Sunday School classroom. We meet first in the Cross Room so we can do a "Joys and Concerns" and have prayer. After the prayer we go to the classroom for a story and craft.

We need people to volunteer to do Jr. Church. Sarah Hogeback will be there to help you with Jr. Church. We will be ordering material to be used for Jr. Church or if you have something you want to use. There will be a sign up sheet in the hallway.

