

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



February
2018



Rev. Larry Gallaher
Pastor

513-443-4866
pastor@rossumc.org

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

Dear Church Family,

Greetings, and I wish you a blessed month of February. I am reading a book by Marjorie Thompson titled "*Soul Feast*" and it is an amazing piece of literature. She asks a question that is very intriguing to think about. It is "Why should a tide of spiritual ferment be rising in our time with such force?"

She gives several reasons for her belief and I share them adding some comments concerning each. She calls them cultural factors.

1. Western culture has been steeped in the worldview of rationalism. Rationalism makes the reason the final authority in what is right. If the modern scientific mind cannot prove something, then it is dismissed from our thinking. As a result, the sacred sanctity of life has been lost according to Thompson.
2. Secondly, she says that technological advances have led to unbelievable changes in virtually every level of our lives. These advancements have been both good and bad for our society. We no longer talk over the fence to our neighbors, families no longer share time together we just text them. We still connect but we do so with a non - face-to-face type relationship. We are no longer personal but distant in our relationships.
3. We are living in a culture that glorifies superficial values. It must be the best, from the best store with the best label or we do not want it. Sacrifice hardly exists in our society today.
4. Our society seems increasingly paralyzed by fear, shaping the way we govern and defend our selves. She supports this thought with reference to the post 911 era we live in. Fears of job loss, cancer, medical costs, drug addictions, long-term disability are but a few of what many people fear.

While I agree with what she says I still know who holds my hand as I go into the future. He is the same one who has brought me through in the past. He is a God that grants safety, favor, supply. No need to fear He has us in His hands. Thank you, Jesus.

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.

(Editor's Note: Received by email from Kevin & Tanya Applegate.)

Hola from Antigua, Guatemala.

We are settling in here and getting ourselves acclimated with living in another country. Our first days consisted of unpacking our 8 bags, grocery shopping (10 minute walk from our house), browsing the outdoor market, cleaning all the dishes/pots/pans in our kitchen (it came furnished), learning how to clean our fruits and vegetables properly and familiarizing ourselves with the town. We enjoyed New Year's Eve on the rooftop of one of our team members' house watching the fireworks going off all around us and marveling that we were beginning a new year and new ministry in Guatemala.

Our Base construction is coming along nicely, but we only have a week until our first Squad of 43 arrive. We have spent 2 of our days at the Base cleaning bathrooms, floors and windows, setting up bunk beds, putting sheets and blankets on them and setting up the water filtration system. The workers are still tiling one of the bedrooms and the kitchen has a long way to go. We will spend the next week buying dishes, pots & pans for the kitchen, receiving appliances (washer/dryer, refrigerator), hanging shower curtains and window curtains, buying tables/chairs for the meeting room and more cleaning. Everything is so dusty and dirty, and we don't have sod in yet so the dirt just keeps blowing back in. We will also be meeting with our team (there are 11 of us at the moment, but 2 will go back to the states in 3 weeks) to finalize all of our roles, rules for the base, schedules, menus, etc. (I've attached a few pictures of the Base and a picture of us in front of our house the day we arrived.)

The Squad coming in will be here for 2 months. They will live at the Base and then go out in smaller teams to do ministry throughout the area each day. (For those of you at Cornerstone Church, one of the girls on this Squad, Drew, was a counselor at SpringHill Camp at Cornerstone this past summer and stayed at our house! Small world.)

We would love you to join us in prayer for a few specific things over the next month:

- Car – We need to find a car pretty soon as it's a 25 minute drive out to the Base from where we live. We are praying for an SUV, in our price range and preferably being sold by an American. (Also in order to buy a car we have to get some governmental NIT number which is apparently an all day process of waiting in line. Woo Hoo!)
- Base Preparations – We need to have things ready for our Squad by Thursday afternoon – this includes the Base ready to receive them, our cooks ready to go and all the ministry hosts scheduled and ready to receive them.
- Pray for us as we prepare to receive this Squad – that we will know what they need spiritually and be able to disciple them well.

Thank you for your prayers and support over the past few months. We were able to fit everything we owned into a 12'x17' storage unit, get our cars sold and finish moving out of our house. Those last few weeks were so stressful but we got it all done. We appreciate your support and love for us so much. We will continue to keep you updated via emails, FaceBook posts, Instagram and our blog – <http://kevinapplegate.myadventures.org/>

Blessings,

Kevin & Tanya

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear RCUMC Members and Friends,

For the class I am taking, I am reading a book called *Soul Feast* by Marjorie J. Thompson. She makes a point I think is vitally important. "When we begin to steep ourselves in Scripture on a regular basis, we hear the Sunday Scripture readings differently. Our own daily prayer becomes tilled soil for receiving the seed of God's Word in the liturgy." (Pg. 60).

Sunday Joys and Concerns: We would like to ask for a bit of help to expand Joys and Concerns, in response to a wonderful idea from Sharon Mortimer. If you know of someone in need of prayer, please fill out the person's name--with a few brief details about your request--on a prayer request card from the pockets in the sanctuary seat backs. Then place the card in the offering basket. This will help us be sure to add these requests to our prayer chain. (If you are not part of the Prayer Chain but would like to be added, please contact [Vicky Foster](#).)

Missions: We also continue to collect your outdated prescription **glasses**, reading glasses, and empty **pill bottles** for the mission field. June Taylor has told me that without these bottles, many patients must carry medications home in their hands. We can only imagine the condition they might be in when they arrive home, considering the humidity and climate.

Did you like the change in the **order of service** last week? Please continue to list your **prayer requests** that are mentioned during Joys and Concerns on the prayer cards and place them in the offering plates. We will add them to our Prayer Chain.

In the past, it has been our practice to have members and friends sign up to contribute toward the cost of the **altar flowers** in honor of birthdays, anniversaries, or other special life events. We hope to reinstitute that opportunity, and we will soon have a sign-up calendar posted for your convenience.

We will observe **Ash Wednesday** on February 14 with a potluck soup dinner at 6:00 p.m., followed by a worship service and imposition of ashes at 7:00 p.m.

Nine women participated in the first meeting of the new **Women's Bible Study**, which will be meeting on the last Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. I wasn't there, but I heard several good reports. Thanks for coming and thanks for sharing!

If you haven't seen it yet, be sure to check out the **new bookcase** just outside the Cross Room. It's loaded with books you're welcome to borrow on the honor system. I've also laid some journals on the top shelf for your use. Feel free to take one and journal our thoughts as you read.

We could sure use some people willing to teach our children's **Sunday School** class, to give Vicky a break! There is a signup sheet on the classroom door. Please prayerfully consider if you could serve.

Chrysalis Boys Flight #16 for young men ages 15-25 is scheduled for February 17-19. The cost is \$65 and scholarships are available. Please see the flyer outside the office or check with Greg or me for more

Look forward to seeing you on Sunday!

PASTOR LARRY



Happy February Birthday

1	Wanda Bevington	21	Lauryn Campbell
2	Tiffany Truman	23	Carol Farmer
4	Nancy Beckman	26	Heather Rheinfrank
11	Korinne Rheinfrank	27	Debbie Kunick
12	Larry Gallaher	27	Karen McNeely
12	Gary Mortimer	29	Terry Merz



February 19
Leroy & Sandy Hogback



NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

We extend deepest sympathy to the family of **Beverly Papet**, who passed away on January 24 at the age of 88. The family will be traveling to this area in late July and a memorial service will be held at that time.

Nancy Beckman reports that she has just transferred \$100 each to Ross Middle School and Ross High School from your generous donations to the **Quarters for Kids** school lunch program. As you may recall, the schools have found it necessary in some cases to deny lunches to students with accounts in arrears. Your contributions are deeply appreciated. They mean these children are fed a midday meal and are not trying to learn on an empty stomach. The collection "lunch bag" is on the kitchen counter near the narthex. Thank you for keeping those quarters coming!

We received a gracious note from **Randy and Jo Armstrong**, which said, in part, "Please thank the congregation for the beautiful flowers... Randy has been hospitalized for several months and it's been tough... He finally got home the first of the year and is doing better after a pacemaker implant... He still needs one more very minor surgery. ... Just starting to get out a little bit. We hope to see you soon. I'm sure your prayers helped Randy's recovery."

I'd like to ask everyone to check the postal address they have in their personal address records, on mailing lists, etc. for **Robin Montgomery**. The address in the current church directory is correct, but it appears that an incorrect address circulated at some point and may still be causing confusion. The correct address is:

24 S E ST APT C
Hamilton OH 45013-4743

(Editors Note: The above printed address is what the postal readers need to see to send letter to proper address per USPS Zip Code Look-Up.)

Worship Leaders

February		March		April	
4	Sally Rechel	4	Brenda Brown	1	Tim Zecher
11	Debbie Kunick	11	Chip Schoepf	8	Jim Rechel
18	Tom Bevington	18	Greg Conrad	15	Nancy Beckman
25	Kara Broughton	25	Roger Creasy	22	Debbie Gilman
				29	Sally Rechel
May		June			
6	Debbie Kunick	3	Chip Schoepf		
13	Tom Bevington	10	Greg Conrad		
20	Kara Broughton	17	Roger Creasy		
27	Brenda Brown	24	Tim Zecher		

Ross Community United Methodist Church
Ad Council Minute Meetings
January 22, 2018

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

Miscellaneous

- Devotional led by Debbie Gilman
- Devotional for next meeting (March 12, 2018) not assigned
- Brenda Brown had a correction to the SPRC section of the November minutes. The minutes are correct as reported at the meeting; Brenda notes that it should read that "it was voted to increase Emily's salary from \$140 to \$160". Sandy Hogeback moves that the minutes be accepted. Wayne Estep seconds the motion.

Motion carried.

Opening Prayer (Debbie Gilman)

Opening Remarks (Pastor Larry)

- Pastor Larry discussed a December dated letter from the Ross School System requesting raffle items, cash, gift cards for their after Prom function later in the year. Brenda Brown made a motion to again donate \$100. Wayne Estep seconds the motion. **Motion carried.**
- A letter has been received from the Gideons requesting to come to our May 6 service. After discussion, it was decided to not have them.
- The Cub Scouts will be in attendance at our service on February 11 and they will do a flag ceremony and collect the offering.
- Year end reports are due February 9 and he will get them in to the district.
- An anonymous donation in the amount of \$1000 was given to the Inner City Children's Fund in December.

Ad Council Chair (Phil Brown)

Chairman, Phil Brown reviewed the ongoing safety policy of having an individual in the entrance hallway during service and also locking the front door at 10:35.

- The Men's Group will have an individual from the Ross Police Department speak at their January 27 meeting on Church Safety.
- Wayne Estep and Phil Brown continue to work on the Tin Can Sailor Association for SW Ohio project and have selected February 22 as a target date for the first meeting so an intense advertising program can be started.
- In the event of inclement weather on Sunday morning, Pastor Larry will make the decision if the service is to be cancelled and it will be listed on Channel 12's Weather Watch.
- Phil reported that Emily has put out a new member's Directory, which can be received by email by contacting Emily.

UM Men (Wayne Estep)

- Next meeting - January 27, 2018 @ 9:00 a.m.
A member of the Ross Police Department will talk on church safety.

(Minutes continued top of column to right.)

(Minutes continued.)

UM Women (Judy Creasy)

- Judy reported that the next UMW meeting will be Tuesday morning, February 8, 2018 at 10 a.m.
- The Mother's & Special Others dinner will be on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 if this fits into the Praise Group schedule. Judy is checking with Greg.
- The next women's dinner will be Tuesday, June 12, 2018.

SPRC (Brenda Brown)

- Brenda reviewed Robin's situation. It was decided that Brenda and Phil Brown and Pastor Larry will visit with Robin to see what her needs and situation are for the future and will report back to Ad Council so a decision can be made how to handle this in the future.

Trustees (Wayne Estep)

- Wayne reported that new weather stripping has been put around the church doors so our heating/cooling system should be more efficient which will be reflected in future bills.
- Wayne and Roger have set the thermostats automatically to 55° when no one is using the building. (Pastor Larry said one of them still needs some adjustment)

Finance Committee (Debbie Gilman, Judy Creasy)

- Debbie Gilman reported that we ended the year \$9752.00 under budget.
- The two large expenditures for 2017 were the parking lot repair and the bill for \$1300 for propane.
- The pledges are down \$9000 from 2017.
- Judy has handed out or mailed all the 2017 Giving Statements
- Judy said that another person is needed to help count money on Sunday morning.

New Business

- Sandy Hogeback reported that the first Saturday Morning Women's Bible Study Group will meet Saturday, January 27 at 9:00 to coincide with the meeting of the Men's Group.
- Jan Gump suggested that we have the children stay in the sanctuary with their parents/grandparents until after the Children's Message so the children can have the experience of being a part of the worship service and it will give the Nursery attendant the opportunity to be in worship as well. She also suggested we reinstate the acolyte program to give the children the opportunity to participate in the service and to use some of our older teens as liturgists so they feel more a part of the church. Pastor Larry has been in contact with one of our teens and will follow up with others.

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)

Minutes taken by Jan Gump for Vicky Foster

Next Meeting - March 12, 2018, 7 pm

(An original hard copy of the minutes are posted in the Secretary's Office on the bulletin board.)

Every February 14, across the United States and in other places around the world, candy, flowers and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint, and where did these traditions come from? Find out about the history of this centuries-old holiday, from ancient Roman rituals to the customs of Victorian England.

The Legend of St. Valentine

The history of Valentine's Day—and the story of its patron saint—is shrouded in mystery. We do know that February has long been celebrated as a month of romance, and that St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. But who was Saint Valentine, and how did he become associated with this ancient rite?

The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and tortured. According to one legend, an imprisoned Valentine actually sent the first "valentine" greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl—possibly his jailor's daughter—who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter signed "From your Valentine," an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and—most importantly—romantic figure. By the [Middle Ages](#), perhaps thanks to this reputation, Valentine would become one of the most popular saints in England and France.

Origins of Valentine's Day: A Pagan Festival in February

While some believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death or burial—which probably occurred around A.D. 270—others claim that the Christian church may have decided to place St. Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to "Christianize" the pagan celebration of Lupercalia. Celebrated at the ides of February, or February 15, Lupercalia was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus.

To begin the festival, members of the Luperci, an order of Roman priests, would gather at a sacred cave where the infants Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome, were believed to have been cared for by a she-wolf or lupa. The priests would sacrifice a goat, for fertility, and a dog, for purification. They would then strip the goat's hide into strips, dip them into the sacrificial blood and take to the streets, gently slapping both women and crop fields with the goat hide. Far from being fearful, Roman women welcomed the touch of the hides because it was believed to make them more fertile in the coming year. Later in the day, according to legend, all the young women in the city would place their names in a big urn. The city's bachelors would each choose a name and become paired for the year with his chosen woman. These matches often ended in marriage.

Valentine's Day: A Day of Romance

Lupercalia survived the initial rise of Christianity and but was outlawed—as it was deemed "un-Christian"—at the end of the 5th century, when Pope Gelasius declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day. It was not until much later, however, that the day became definitively associated with love. During the Middle Ages, it was commonly believed in France and England that February 14 was the beginning of birds' mating season, which added to the idea that the middle of Valentine's Day should be a day for romance.

Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages, though written Valentine's didn't begin to appear until after 1400. The oldest known valentine still in existence today was a poem written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London following his capture at the [Battle of Agincourt](#). (The greeting is now part of the manuscript collection of the British Library in London, England.) Several years later, it is believed that King [Henry V](#) hired a writer named John Lydgate to compose a valentine note to Catherine of Valois.

Typical Valentine's Day Greetings

In addition to the United States, Valentine's Day is celebrated in Canada, [Mexico](#), the United Kingdom, France and Australia. In Great Britain, Valentine's Day began to be popularly celebrated around the 17th century. By the middle of the 18th, it was common for friends and lovers of all social classes to exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes, and by 1900 printed cards began to replace written letters due to improvements in printing technology. Ready-made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions in a time when direct expression of one's feelings was discouraged. Cheaper postage rates also contributed to an increase in the popularity of sending Valentine's Day greetings.

Americans probably began exchanging hand-made valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Esther A. Howland began selling the first mass-produced valentines in America. Howland, known as the "Mother of the Valentine," made elaborate creations with real lace, ribbons and colorful pictures known as "scrap." Today, according to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year. (An estimated 2.6 billion cards are sent for [Christmas](#).) Women purchase approximately 85 percent of all valentines.

<http://www.history.com/topics/valentines-day/history-of-valentines-day>