

December  
2014



Merry Christmas

**ROSS COMMUNITY**  
C H U R C H  
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](mailto:pastor@rossumc.org)

**Our Mission**

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

Dear Church Family and Friends,

It's hard to believe we are almost into December and we are in the midst of February weather. Hopefully when you read my letter in February we will be rejoicing with May weather. I've said enough about the weather for this letter.

I love Christmas (now) and I have been listening to Christmas music since November 1<sup>st</sup> on 93.3. I really enjoy the Advent season but I must admit there was a time I had a very difficult time trying to enjoy Christmas or anything for that matter. After the loss of someone you love and adore there is a dark time in our lives when all seems lost.

If I can reflect on possibly what God was thinking when He sent Jesus to Mary through the Holy Spirit to be born at Christmas time? God had a plan for us that was redemption and reconciliation for the sins we had committed. He knew, in His plan that Jesus was going to do miracles, forgive people's sins and yes ultimately die on the cross for you and me, in fact for everyone. He knew what was going to happen to His Son, we do know what will happen to our loved ones. Think about what He thought for those thirty - three years that Jesus was on the earth. But we can share what we have which is the greatest gift of all.

I have come to not understand the circumstances of what I experienced but I come to realize that I serve a God who loves me, who cared enough to give His Son for me, that's the real joy of Christmas and the peace I have. He is the giver of life; I know that for certain. It is receiving His gift and then re-gifting it to others.

So, let's all enjoy the season. Advent at Ross is going to be a wonderful time of worship, fellowship and blessings. I will be doing a series on Advent that I am excited about sharing the Christmas message. We have the all Church Christmas Celebration on December 2<sup>nd</sup> (see Linda Estep for your personal ticket), the Gaither Homecoming on the 11<sup>th</sup>, December 14<sup>th</sup> we will be enjoying brunch (check with Jan Gump) and afterwards filling stocking and wrapping blankets for Operation Magi. I've heard much about Operation Magi I am looking forward to being a part of the celebration. We will have one Christmas Eve Celebration on the 24<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:00 PM.

Cindy and I are looking forward to sharing our first Christmas season with you and looking forward with grateful to serving our church community in 2015.

God bless you,  
Pastor Larry

# ROSS COMMUNITY CHURCH

## Information Page

### CONTACTS

**Pastor:** Rev. Larry Gallaher 513-443-4866

**Lay Leader:** Jim Rechel

**Assistant Lay Leader:** Leroy Singleton

**Music Director:** Sally Rechel

**Pianist:** Lori Campbell / Craig Eppich

**Cornett:** Karen Auffinger

**Drums:** Chip Schoepf

**Nursery Attendant:** Robin Montgomery  
(Ages birth through four years)

**Prayer Chain:** Vicky Foster 513-738-3748

**Newsletter:** Phil Brown 513-868-2338  
rcumnewsletter@gmail.com

### 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.



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



### **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*

### **Monthly Meetings**

#### **U.M. Women**

Second Tuesday of the month @ 10:00 am

#### **Trustees, Nurture & Missions Committees**

First Tuesday of the month @ 6:30 pm

#### **Administrative Council**

Second Thursday of the month @ 7:00 pm

#### **U.M. Men**

Last Saturday of the month @ 8:00 am

### **“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](mailto: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 Lynn Schernbeck (738-4959) for the date of your choice and it will be announced in the church bulletin.

# Trustees Report

Another year is about to be history and we look back to see what improvements have been made to our church. Also, what have we accomplished to improve the efficiencies in our church and to maintain the building. The structure itself is very sound, but needed roof maintenance this year. We were fortunate to receive a donation from a church member for shelving in the utility room. This was a major improvement, because once in there it may have taken days to find your way back out. Our church was built with no storage. Early summer we received a phone call from Nancy Beckman and ask if we would like some file cabinets, what a blessing. We placed cabinets in the offices, classrooms, multipurpose, community, and music rooms. Thanks to Towne Physical Therapy. Now I would like to tell you about the high cost of running this building. We were able to break away from Suburban Propane this year after a two-year struggle because they owned the 2-1,000 gallon tanks in the ground behind the church and would not sell the tanks to us. So we were trapped to pay their high prices. We were able to purchase fuel this year at a favorable price and immediately saved \$1.50 per gallon on our fall fill-up from Heyob. Also this year, we will install smart thermostats on the nine furnaces in the building for better temperature control & economy. September 2013 thru August 2014 our propane bill was \$9,500. Bad winter last year at high prices. We will do whole lot better with Heyob's prices. Our electricity cost \$8,913. This year we plan to remove the mercury vapor bulbs & replace them with LED at a cost of about \$50 per fixture, times 8. Also, replacing all spotlights in the sanctuary ceiling with LED bulbs (80 ea). We will be getting financial help on this project and I will keep you informed as we progress with this project. Our building is insured for 1 million dollars and with our liability coverage our insurance premium is \$2,700 a year. Our landscape and snow removal was \$4,390. We are truly blessed by the generosity of this congregation that allows our church to continue on. Trustees take their work very seriously and are very budget conscious as they pursue each task.

Thank you,  
Bud Kottman, Chair

## Misplaced & Hopefully Found

When RCUMC moved from downtown Ross to our present location the cross, which hangs in the Cross Room, was moved by hand up State Route 128 by members of the church at that time. There was a VCR video made of this journey, which has become misplaced. **We are looking for that VCR video.** We are thinking the video has been stored away within the present church location. If you have seen the video or know someone who may have a copy, please let us know. We would like to place the VCR video with our other historical documents. Thank You.



## United Methodist Women

*Submitted by: Judy Creasy*

The UMW "Church Christmas Celebration" will be on December 2, 2014 at 6:30PM. All members are invited to join us for our dinner. We will be catering Milillo's Italian food, will have Christmas entertainment and will be exchanging Christmas ornaments. Linda Estep is selling the tickets, be sure to buy your tickets.

Our December meeting will be a morning meeting on Monday, December 1st in the church at 10:00AM. We will be decorating for the Christmas dinner. Please mark your calendars.

We are still collecting old eyeglasses. Please remember bring them to church for a donation to a third world country missions group.

The first meeting next year will be on Tuesday, January 13, 2015, at 10:00AM in the church. We will be having another evening dinner in February.



*Hospice of Hamilton*  
*Experience. Compassionate. Caring.™*

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Hospice of Hamilton is seeking compassionate-committed volunteers to provide essential service in Butler County for our hospice patients. We are looking for volunteers who are willing to be a respite volunteer in our home care program, or 'friendly visitors' in local long-term care facilities, as well as volunteers in our Hamilton In-Patient Unit. We are having a special volunteer training at our Hospice of Hamilton In-Patient Unit at 1010 Eaton Ave. Hamilton, OH 45013 on Saturday, January 10, 2015. Please contact Judy Russell at 246-9168 or [judy\\_russell@trihealth.com](mailto:judy_russell@trihealth.com) if you are interested. Pre-registration is required by December 22, 2014.



332 Dayton Street • Suite 210 • Hamilton, OH 45011 • 541-414-HOPE (4673)

Hello Miss Nancy and Ross Community Church,

THANK YOU so much for partnering with Missions In Motion International Ministries and PraiseFest Ministries in our Shoes for H.O.P.E. program. Because of YOUR support and donations, together we have collected and shipped over 40,000+ pairs of shoes to Haiti and Africa; and that's just the beginning as we continue to have partners come on board all the time to be a part of the Shoes for H.O.P.E. program. As a result of your generosity, micro-enterprises are being started to help people be self sustaining and people will have shoes that do not have shoes; the remarkable result is Ross Community Church directly impacted people's lives both spiritually and physically for the Kingdom of God! Every shoe makes a difference!

Enclosed is a check for \$57.20 for the 572 lbs of shoes that your organization so generously donated! Words cannot express how blessed and thankful we are for your wonderful support!

Your generous donation of new and used shoes will make a difference in the lives of people everywhere, and can possibly save their lives. Shoes can be used to prevent the hardship and life-threatening symptoms caused by soil transmitted parasitic infections. Approximately two billion people worldwide suffer with parasitic diseases that could be prevented by wearing shoes. Thank you for making a difference!

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Again, thank you so much for partnering with us and making a POSITIVE IMPACT both, SPIRITUALLY and PHYSICALLY, across the street and around the world!

Blessings,

Cathy Shupe

Cathy Shupe, CEO  
Missions In Motion International Ministries  
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info@missions-in-motion.org

we're GOING places. come WITH us • www.missions-in-motion.org

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### 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 due to ongoing heart problems, 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.



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.

# Ross Community Church

## Hear Ye - Hear Ye!!

### Sunday, November 30 Coffee Hour/Light Lunch - Immediately after service.

Please stay for a light lunch after church. Instead of desserts, we plan to have a light lunch during Coffee Hour. If you would like to bring something for the lunch, suggestions are: finger sandwiches, appetizers, fruit or vegetable trays, relishes, crackers with cheese spread, chips & dip, pretzels, Fritos, and cookies. For more information, contact Brenda Oliver or Judy Creasy.



### Sunday, November 30 Thirty-One Party (UMW Fundraiser) - 1:00 p.m.

The party will be held in the large Sunday School Room immediately after the Coffee Hour/Light Lunch. The consultant will be here to show us all their trendy and affordable purses, totes, bags, etc. Great for Christmas gifts! For more information, contact Judy Creasy or Debbie Kunick.

### Tuesday, December 2 Church Christmas Banquet @ 6:30 p.m.

We are happy to announce that all men, women, children, family & friends are invited to our annual banquet. Dinner catered by Milillo's. Musical entertainment by vocalist Brad Hoover and Ross High choir members. Contact Linda Estep for tickets.

### Thursday, December 11 @ 7:00 p.m. Gaither Homecoming Show, Highland Heights, KY.

Judy Kottman organized a church group. Thanks Judy!

### Sunday, December 14 Brunch and Operation Magi Wrap-Up - After Service

In place of our usual Coffee Hour, we are having a brunch. A sign up sheet and suggestions of what to bring (with recipes) is available. After brunch, we will fill stockings and wrap blankets for Operation Magi.





*Submitted by Judy Kottman*

## “Luminaries”

We’re ready for clean gallon milk and water cartons to be delivered to church. We will assemble the luminaries on Tuesday, December 16 at 9:30 a.m. We will need volunteers to help place them on Christmas Eve and to light them before the Christmas Eve Service.



## “Operation Magi”



Operation Magi is in full swing around the Sanctuary. Names are hung with care above each table and we invite everyone to take as many as they like. What better way could there be to celebrate “Happy Birthday Jesus” than to share our treasures with others. We ask that you return the items gift-wrapped with the tag intact on **Sunday, Dec 14.**

## December 14 BRUNCH

Worship Service will be followed by a Brunch (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday but not 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Brunch) being organized by Jan Gump. We invite everyone to take part by choosing an item from Jan’s list to bring to share for the brunch.

## “Stocking Stuffing & Wrap-Up”

Before leaving the brunch, we request you fill a stocking with items provided and wrap another item for members of the Operation Magi Families. Santa may also stop by with his “list and check it twice, he’s gonna find out whose naughty and nice”.



## “Operation Magi” Gift Distribution

**Sunday, December 21** We ask for volunteers to help distribute the Operation Magi gifts to the families following Worship Service. Nancy will direct us in the distribution procedure and answer any questions we might have.

## “Country Barrel Restaurant”

A huge “**Thank You**” to our friends at Country Barrel Restaurant in Okeana, OH. This year they are collecting towels for **Operation Magi** recipients. We miss you Craig and Micky but thanks for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers.

As you can see Advent 2014 is a busy time at Ross Community Church. We keep moving forward with old and new traditions. We want to say “Thank You” to everyone who is helping in any way, no matter how big or small. Without you we couldn’t do it. And so we say, “Merry Christmas to All, and to All we send God’s Blessings for a joyous, wonderful and safe Holiday Season and A Healthy and Happy New Year”.



# December

3 Linda Kunick  
 3 Keith Mabis  
 3 Justin Merz  
 5 Owen Bressler  
 7 Lynn Schernbeck  
 8 Lynette Conrad  
 11 Butch Foster



11 Kyle McNeely  
 14 Henry Brown  
 15 Bill Oliver  
 21 Lisa Guliano  
 23 Kae Parrott  
 28 Beth Casbeer

# Ushers & Greeters

December	January
7 Wayne & Linda Estep 14 Butch & Trey Foster 21 Roger & Judy Creasy 28 Bill & Brenda Oliver	4 Jim & Sally Rechel 11 Phil & Brenda Brown 18 Debbie Gilman & Lois Lynch 25 Wayne & Linda Estep

If you wish to be included on the Ushers & Greeters list please contact Lay Leader Jim Rechel.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL & Jr. Church



*Submitted by Sandy Hogeback*

We now have 3 Sunday School Classes before Church starts. We have an Adult Class, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade to 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Class and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

# Worship

## December

7 Roger Creasy  
 14 Jim Rechel  
 21 Leroy Singleton  
 28 Debbie Gilman

## January

4 Nancy Beckman  
 11 Tom Bevington  
 18 Tim Zecher  
 25 Greg Conrad

## February

1 Wes Flannery



# Leaders

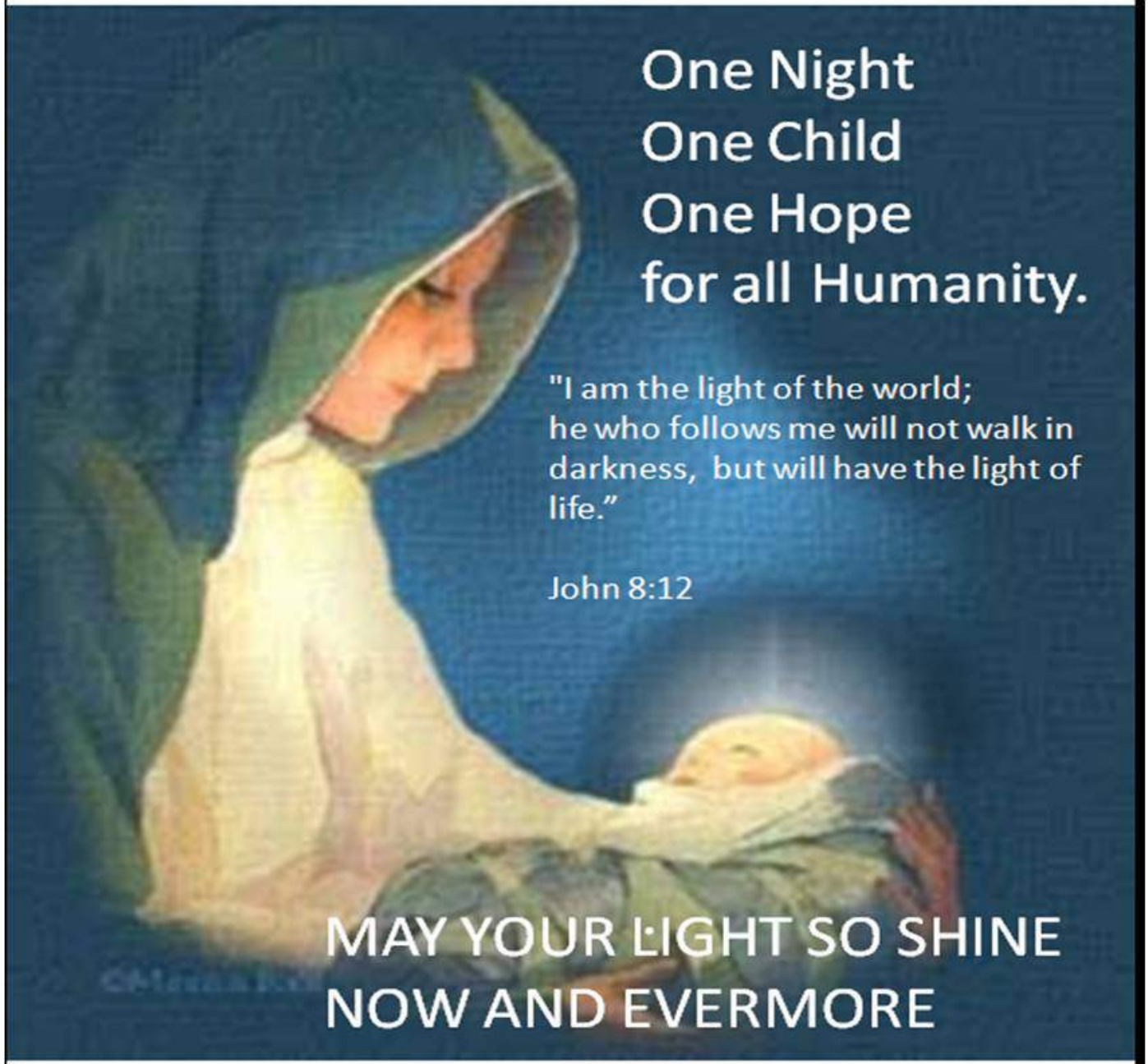
# December

# Anniversaries



4 Roger & Judy Creasy  
 20 Don & Annette Hegner  
 21 Randy & Jo Anderson  
 30 Marcus & Beth Casbeer

# Merry Christmas



One Night  
One Child  
One Hope  
for all Humanity.

"I am the light of the world;  
he who follows me will not walk in  
darkness, but will have the light of  
life."

John 8:12

MAY YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE  
NOW AND EVERMORE

and a  
**Happy New Year**  
**to All!**