

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



Rev. Larry Gallaher
Pastor

513-443-4866
pastor@rossumc.org

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

Dear Church Family,

The joy of the Christmas season is upon us in the month of December. Many will look at this season and grudgingly complain about the money they will spend and the consternation about what to buy for someone for Christmas with the money they must spend. Then they must put up a Christmas tree and make certain all the ornaments are perfect (in our home someone continues to move them around until we take the tree down, but I enjoy watching her do it). Oh yes, and what about putting up the Christmas lights outside on the only nice day of the year when we could have watched Ohio State trounce Michigan. So many things to do and so little time after all we only have a few more days until Christmas.

All the worry, all the stress at a time when we should stop and just relax and really enjoy the season. I know most of us will do just that. A few years ago, Cindy and I decided we were not going to let it all concern us. We go shopping, have some fun, enjoy some food and just watch the others stressing out. This is a wonderful time of the year for us.

But if we were to stop and think about the real meaning of the season what would we think? Would our minds wander back to Biblical days wondering what was going on in the mind of Mary? God had spoken to both Joseph and Mary but were they relaxed and certain what would occur in their young lives?

Christmas is time to just stop and be thankful for the life we have. It's a time to stop and be thankful for our families. Christmas is a time to be thankful for our country, for those who keep us safe that will not be with their families this holiday season. Christmas is time to be thankful for our health, we have some issues that set us back, but it could be much worse. Christmas is time to be thankful for our church and the freedom we have to worship in this country.

As I thought about this article I was reminded (Allyson, I hope you don't mind me saying this) of what Allyson Cecil has been sharing all year. Allyson has shared on Facebook each day of the year what a blessing her mom is to her. Let's take this month to share what someone means to us.

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 513-490-0381 or
djklykbutterfly@gmail.com.



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.



Ross Community
U.M. Women
Faith, Hope & Love
In Action



Submitted by Judy Creasy



Hall & Door Monitor

December	2018
2	Doug Beckman
9	Judy Creasy
16	Sharon Mortimer
23	Wayne Estep
30	Jim Rechel
January	2019
6	Phil Brown
13	Roger Creasy
20	Butch Foster
27	Doug Beckman

The next U.M. Women's meeting will be on Tuesday, December 4, 2018 in the church at 10:00 a.m.

In December, the women will continue selling the Terri Lynn nuts and candy. All the proceeds of these sales will go to the Dorothy Gard Scholarship fund. Watch "This Week at Ross" for more details.

We are hoping the whole church will attend the Christmas dinner on Thursday, December 6th at 6:30 p.m. The dinner will be grilled chicken, au gratin potatoes, green beans, etc. The U.M. Women are bringing Christmas cookies for dessert, with a cookie exchange.

The praise band will be playing Christmas carols. Buy your dinner tickets from Linda Estep, \$15.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children ages 5 to 10.



On December 2, 9, 16, and 23, Jan Gump will be available to take your flower dedications for 2019. So, please be thinking about it and be ready! It will be \$20 again in 2019 and you can select as many Sundays as you would like to honor your family, friends, birthdays, anniversaries, other special days and occasions or whatever you choose.

Submitted by Jan Gump



Worship Leaders

December	2018
2	Chip Schoepf
9	Sally Rechel
16	Tom Bevington
23	Greg Conrad
30	Debbie Kunick
January	2019
6	Roger Creasy
13	Tim Zecher
20	Nancy Beckman
27	Jim Rechel
February	2019
3	Debbie Gilman



4 Roger & Judy Creasy
21 Randy & Jo Anderson

Merry Christmas To All!
&
A Happy & Prosperous New Year!

December Birthdays



- 03 Linda Kunick
- 03 Jan Stewart
- 07 Brelan Bryant
- 08 Lynn Schernbeck
- 08 Lynette Conrad
- 11 Kyle McNeely

- 11 Butch Foster
- 14 Henry Brown
- 15 Bill Oliver
- 15 Lantz Lewis
- 25 Jesus





**Ross Community United Methodist Church
Ad Council Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2018**

In Attendance: Brenda Brown; Phil Brown; Wayne Estep; Vicky Foster; Larry Gallaher; Debbie Gilman; Sharon Mortimer; Bruce Armstrong; Donna Armstrong; Helen Armstrong; Brandon Armstrong (guest).

Miscellaneous

- Devotional - Pastor Larry, First Timothy 2:2 - Purpose of church - bind us together to do greater works!
- Devotional for next meeting (January 14, 2019) - Brenda Brown
- Minutes from September 17, 2018 meeting stand approved as read. Bruce Armstrong moves that the minutes be accepted. Wayne Estep seconds the motion. **Motion carried.**

Opening Prayer (Pastor Larry)

Opening Remarks (Pastor Larry)

- MISH - play - Dead Serious around teen suicide - will be held at the high school - looking for churches to sponsor a meal (lunch or dinner) for a two night performance in February. Also request that adults be available to talk to the kids. They are also requesting there is a counselor there - Larry suggested Jeff Baker. Larry will follow-up and then will send an e-mail to Phil with what is involved and Phil will send to Ad Council Group. This has been fairly successful in the past.
- Plan to decorate the church after men's group on November 24.
- Salvation Army - looking for kettle ringers - Larry volunteered the men - maybe the UMW would do it too.

Ad Council Chair (Phil Brown)

- Church family picnic - September 23
 - Thanks to everyone who came and everyone who helped with music and clean-up
- Movie at church - September 30
 - Great job - thanks to Jim and Sally - very successful - but no more tear jerkers!!
- Church Conference - November 4
 - Thanks to Wayne, Linda, Tari, and Brenda for getting the food ready and cleaning up. Thanks to Debbie Gilman for the Treasurer's Report.

(Continued column to right.)

- Connecting Points - October 28
 - Eight different churches participated - thanks to all that helped greet and assisted with the food!

UM Men

- Next meeting, November 24, at 9:00
 - Will put up the Christmas tree and get out the decorations

UM Women

- Next meeting - November 11, 10 am
- Christmas dinner - December 6, 6 pm
 - Theme "Christmas in the Country"

SPRC

- Nursery Attendant
 - Decided every other week - Gabrielle Truman will be in the nursery - will pay her \$10 per hour
 - Will enforce that ages birth through kindergarten are to be in nursery. Once a child is in first grade, they should be in the sanctuary during service.

Trustees (Wayne Estep)

- Nothing to report

Finance Committee (Debbie Gilman)

- Last two months only substantial bill is the carpet cleaning.
- Haven't received lawn mowing bills for a couple of months. Wayne will follow-up.
- Budget Plans -
 - Budget may be a little overinflated ...
 - Nursery - will take off the nursery budget
 - Nurture / Hospitality - budget - \$3,000
 - Changed insurance coverage - \$3,254 annual - significant savings
 - Music - Lower budget to \$1,500
 - Worship - keep at \$2,000
 - Evangelism committee - will combine with Worship
 - Trustees - Wayne will review and let Debbie know.

New Business -

- Butterfly release in memory of loved ones - suggested by Jan Gump - Live butterfly release around Memorial Day. Will research and plan for Memorial Day.
- Tune into Channel 12 News if weather is bad.

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Ross Community United Methodist Church
Ad Council Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2018

(Continued from page 5.)

Hospitality / Outreach -

- Car show for 2019 - Won't encourage motorcycles. Best place for the cars is the grass. Will have sponsors for the trophies. Want to get ad in the Show and Shine. Got a lot of response. Date - Saturday in April or May. Donna will check dates and e-mail Phil or Larry. Advertise that the people who bring their cars can bring canopies. Liked that it was fairly short. Positive feedback on the band.
- Christmas Challenge - will request our members bring at least one guest. More than one ... even better ... date - December 9. Will talk to Greg about tailoring music for the guests. Would also like to have a photo collage run on the monitor in the hall during the Christmas Challenge with photos of events we've sponsored / participated in. Also, have the photo albums out and available for guests to look at.
- The band would also like to find out what music the congregation likes to hear. Will include an insert in the bulletin soliciting feedback on the music the congregation would like to hear ... hymns; special requests.
- Band wants feedback from the congregation on a name for the band.
- Choir - would be great to have the choir participate with the band - maybe something for Thanksgiving and Christmas and every couple of months. Perhaps sing beginning hymn and ending hymn. Larry to talk to Sally.

Bruce Armstrong made a motion to close the Ad Council Meeting - Sharon Mortimer seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Closing Prayer (Pastor Larry)

Next Meeting - January 14, 2019, 7 pm



(Copied from "***This Week at Ross***")

Operation Magi - The tables for Operation Magi will be set up starting Sunday, with details from the Salvation Army about the children we have an opportunity to help. I encourage you to make a selection (or two or three!) and ensure that these children in need have a joyful Christmas.

Music Survey: Although our wonderful Praise Band does an inspired job leading our worship, it's always a good idea to check in from time to time on what music the congregation finds most conducive to worship. Please be thinking about your preferences and watch for a short questionnaire in your bulletin starting December 2.

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, November 21, 7:00 pm – Community Thanksgiving Service, Okeana UMC

Saturday, November 24, 9:00 am – United Methodist Men's Meeting

Thursday, December 6, 6:30 pm – Annual Christmas Banquet

Saturday, December 15 – Gallahers' Open House

Monday, December 24, 7:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service

I look forward to seeing you on Sunday!

Pastor Larry

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

On the first four Sundays of December, Jan Gump will be available to take your **flower dedications** for 2019. So, please be thinking about it and be ready! Cost for 2019 will still be \$20. You are welcome to select as many Sundays as you would like to honor your family, friends, birthdays, anniversaries, other special occasions, or whatever you choose.

The **History of Christmas Trees**. The evergreen fir **tree** has traditionally been used to celebrate winter festivals (pagan and Christian) for thousands of years. Pagans used branches of it to decorate their homes during the winter solstice, as it made them think of the spring to come.

Germany is credited with starting the **Christmas tree** tradition as we now know it in the 16th century when devout Christians brought decorated **trees** into their homes. Some built **Christmas** pyramids of wood and decorated them with evergreens and candles if wood was scarce.

In 2004, Pope John Paul called the **Christmas tree** a **symbol** of Christ. This very ancient custom, he said, exalts the value of life, as in winter what is evergreen becomes a sign of undying life, and it reminds Christians of the "**tree** of life" of Genesis 2:9, an image of Christ, the supreme gift of God to humanity.

Copied online at:

<https://www.whychristmas.com/customs/trees.shtml>