

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



February  
2019



**Rev. Larry Gallaher**  
Pastor

513-443-4866  
[pastor@rossumc.org](mailto:pastor@rossumc.org)

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

## The Last Supper Thoughts

We celebrate communion together the first Sunday of each month. I will read the account from one the Gospel writers or Paul's words to the Corinthians. We hear these "this is My body given for you; do this in remembrance of Me" and "this cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you." Luke in his writing said this "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer" (Luke 22:15). Jesus was about to be crucified but He still wanted to be with disciples. What does that passage say to you? As I read this passage it seems as though He had a deep desire to spend additional time with them.

His disciples are like we are today, we are imperfect, yet He desires to spend time with us as He did them. He wanted to be with them, and they were arguing over who would sit next to Him. He loved these men and wanted time with them. He was about to go through some very intense times, and He wanted them along beside Him. What a wonderful and comforting thought to know Jesus wants to be with us. My son's grandfather was a glowing example of a Christ Follower. I always enjoyed sitting and talking with him about his relationship with Jesus. It was deep, it was personal, and it was lasting. He died at the age of ninety-six looking forward to heaven. As we read this passage, I believe it is saying that He needed them at this time, (He needs us today) or at least with Him during this time of struggle.

The other thing I see is that although He needed them, they didn't seem to need Him at that time. They were arguing, thinking about themselves. Being a bit selfish to say the least. Are we the same way, He has not changed, have we changed? They were looking at their needs not His. Arguing while they were spending these last moments with the greatest man that ever walked the earth.

As we celebrate communion in the future let's look at it this way. When we are welcomed into His presence what do we do? Do we think of ourselves or do we listen to Him, as He desires to spend time with us? Let's focus on what He is saying to us as a church, as an individual, let's hear Him. Hearing Him will leave a deep and lasting impression on 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 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>  
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](mailto: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](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 Debbie Kunick at 513-490-0381 or  
[djklykbutterfly@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 United Methodist Church  
Ad Council Meeting Minutes  
January 14, 2019

In Attendance: Bruce Armstrong; Donna Armstrong; Brenda Brown; Phil Brown; Judy Creasy; Wayne Estep; Vicky Foster; Larry Gallaher; Debbie Gilman; Jan Gump; Jim Rechel.  
Guests: Roger Creasy; Rita Garrison.

**Miscellaneous**

- Devotional - Brenda Brown - Jesus Calling from Emmaus Walk -
- Devotional for next meeting (March 11, 2019) - Jim Rechel
- Minutes from November 5, 2018 meeting stand approved as read. Brenda Brown moves that the minutes be accepted. Judy Creasy seconds the motion. **Motion carried.**

**Opening Prayer** (Pastor Larry)

**Opening Remarks** (Pastor Larry)

- Dead Serious Play - request from last Ad Council Meeting - Larry hasn't heard anything else, assume they have church sponsorship.
- Church cancellations / notifications - Larry will get our church added to the local stations - Channel 5, 9, 12 and 19.
- Robin's celebration of life will be Saturday, January 19. Grant would like food. Expect a big turn-out. Will plan for food for 75 people. Brenda will contact church members for sides / desserts. Will do pulled pork with slider buns. - Postponed until spring due to weather concerns.
- Music survey - lots of positive comments.
- Larry also plans to do a worship service survey

**Ad Council Chair** (Phil Brown)

- Nothing discussed.

**UM Men** (Wayne Estep)

- Next meeting January 26, at 9:00

**UM Women** (Judy Creasy)

- Next meeting - February 12, 10 am

**SPRC** (Brenda Brown)

- Will meet sometime in February.

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**Trustees** (Wayne Estep)

- Furnace / Air Conditioner Replacements - See info in financial area below

**Finance Committee** (Debbie Gilman & Judy Creasy)

- Thanks to Debbie for all her work.
- Judy completed the 2018 giving statements and will hand out next week at church. She printed 51 giving statements - a lot on delete list. Had a slight increase from last year (printed 48).
- Pledges - seems like it was a little under \$100,000
- Overall, we took in \$1,062 over what we spent (offering less expenses)
- November and December - worship - money for flowers for next year ... went ahead and deposited in 2018.
- Office supplies up a little. Bought postage for mailing bills because of postage rate change. Copier had some overages. Web and internet - domain fees increased slightly.
- Maintenance - fire extinguishers and lights inspected. Plumbing repairs to the restrooms. Had a propane fill. Wayne locked in amount for the winter. Approximately \$1400 per fill.
- General fund - operating fund - ahead of where we were last year. Building fund - received \$6,000 donation in December (earmarked for new HVAC). Heifer - \$1,375 for two years' collections.
- Budget proposal sheet - Debbie lowered some budget items that were overinflated the last couple of years.
- If something comes up that isn't budgeted for, we meet and discuss. We have enough money to take care of any emergencies that come up.
- Nothing changed with payroll and benefits other than nursery - added \$520 per year.
- Improvements - heating and air - need to replace some of the units - Roger will do the work, or we can hire someone if we want and pay them.
  - The amount Roger received from Coleman to replace all 9 units is approximately \$30,000 (includes stainless steel burners). Made in USA. Ten years warranty and parts. This doesn't include any duct work needed.
    - **Larry will check into a grant from the District**
  - Will this help with the noise issue in the sanctuary? Probably not - may not be as loud as the ones we have now.
  - Timeline - if we get a grant from the district, would replace all at the same time. If not, replace the units on a three year basis (three in 2019; three in 2020; three in 2021).

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- Next step - Move forward - get a written proposal to do three units ... have \$6,000 earmarked - perhaps mention to the congregation ... may get donations.
- Debbie will add \$12,000 to budget for new furnace and air conditioners. This will change the total line for budget to \$123,883. Donna Armstrong makes a motion that we accept 2019 budget for \$123,883 - Wayne Estep seconds the motion (which includes \$12,000 for three furnaces / air conditioners). **Motion carried.**

**Hospitality / Outreach -**

- Plan is to do the car show this year on June 1, 1-3 pm, awards at 4 pm
- Will plan for same amount of trophy money (sponsorships). Anticipate a larger number than 31 cars that showed up last year. Have 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place trophies.
- Need another way to judge - competitor judging - each registrant gets to cast a vote for the car they think is best.
- Would like to see 50-60 cars this year. The idea is to introduce the people to this church ...
- Live Band
- Free will donation
- Include on the ad that people should feel free to bring canopies.

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

Closing Prayer (Pastor Larry)

***Next Meeting - March 11, 2019, 7 pm***



- 01 Wanda Bevington
- 02 Tiffany Truman
- 04 Nancy Beckman
- 11 Korinne Rheinfrank
- 12 Pastor Larry Gallaher
- 12 Gary Mortimer
- 21 Lauryn Campbell
- 23 Carol Farmer
- 23 Alex Creighton
- 26 Heather Rheinfrank
- 27 Debbie Kunick
- 27 Karen McNeely
- 29 Terry Merz

# Happy Anniversary



**February 19**

**Leroy & Sandy Hogeback**

## Hall & Door Monitor

February	2019
3	Judy Creasy
10	Sharon Mortimer
17	Wayne Estep
24	Jim Rechel
March	2019
3	Phil Brown
10	Roger Creasy
17	Butch Foster
24	Doug Beckman
31	Judy Creasy

## Worship Leaders

February	2019
3	Debbie Gilman
10	Chip Schoepf
17	Sally Rechel
24	Tom Bevington
March	2019
3	Greg Conrad
10	Debbie Kunick
17	Roger Creasy
24	Tim Zecher
31	Nancy Beckman

By Eric Seiberling

Every guest visit is a chance to show the love of Christ. It's also key to be mindful that visiting a new church can prompt some anxiety. It can liken the nervousness and uncertainty you've felt as you started a new job, attended a new school or moved to a new area.

In fact, a recent [survey](#), conducted by the [Barna Group](#) on behalf of United Methodist Communications, of spiritual seekers found that the top motivator for considering a church was knowing that everyone will be welcomed.

However, as I shared in the recent screencast series, [guest readiness and hospitality](#) are more than being nice to newcomers. Familiarity can lead to a blindness toward the unintentional roadblocks in your church. Every real or perceived obstacle can make people bypass your church or not return after a first visit.

Make a new routine by occasionally reviewing how a visitor may experience your church the first time. Here's a checklist of what to look for:

1. **Outdated (or no) website.** According to [writer Thom Rainer](#), seven out of 10 guests find a church to visit through a Google Search. Unfortunately, many church websites are out of date or lacking essential information for visitors, i.e. providing only a mailing (P.O. Box) address instead of a mappable one. Sometimes it's easier to pass along information via social media instead of logging into the back end of your website, so the site becomes evergreen but dated. There are easy remedies:
  - Update your free "[Find A Church](#)" listing and find website help — from novice to advanced — in the [UMCOM archives](#).
  - Take the time to [update your Google map listing](#). Many churches fail to claim their listing and lose a significant opportunity to connect with people seeking a new church home.
2. **Neglected church exterior.** Unless hidden by overgrown grass, shrubbery or trees, your property is a model of your church's welcome. People may not know your church's name, but they remember your building and grounds. [Your ministry begins at the curb](#), so keep the hedges trimmed, the grass cut and the flowerbeds weeded. The parking lot needs to be sealed and clearly striped.
3. **Inadequate exterior signage.** Many exterior signs are too small, too cluttered or too dimly lit for passersby to notice. Sometimes the signs focus on clever sayings rather than providing key information. Drive by your church at the posted speed limit with a passenger recording a video through the windshield. Show it to 10 people unfamiliar with your church; ask what they remember seeing. Signs should be limited to the most essential elements: church name/logo, service times, phone number and website.
4. **Hard to find parking.** While regular attenders know the best times to navigate your lot and find legal overflow spots, visitors will not. (Nothing discourages a return visit than finding a grumpy note or parking ticket as you leave.) Install highly visible and readable directional signage at least 100 feet from the entries and within your lot(s).
5. **No visitor parking.** A surprising number of churches I've visited lack designated visitor parking or inadequate signs leading people to the reserved spots. Try this test: Enter your parking lot five minutes before a service. If it's unclear where a guest should park as soon as you enter the lot, you need to improve your signage or have parking ushers in the lot before services. If that's your situation, immediately designate two to four highly visible spots for guests. (Some churches promote a second-time visitor parking spot to be intentionally welcoming to returning guests.)
6. **Which door?** Entrances are often poorly marked, if at all. Don't make visitors guess. The main door should be obvious by signage. Consider placing greeters outside the main door.
7. **Cluttered, dirty interiors.** Interiors matter. [Declutter your church immediately](#), and make sure all spaces (restrooms, classrooms, sanctuary, nursery) are clean. Set up systems/schedules to ensure that you stay decluttered and clean.
8. **Unclear interior signage.** It doesn't end at the parking lot. Guests don't automatically know how to find the nursery, children's area or the sanctuary. Signs inside your church must be visible, accurate and readable. Recruit people who have never been to your church and ask them to find key locations. If they can't, you need to upgrade your signs.
9. **Unsafe or unclean children's area.** We may have Safe Sanctuary policies to keep our children safe, but how do we communicate the totality of our efforts to visitors? First impressions matter — everything from a nursery sign-in process to making sure the children's area is well maintained and lit make an impact.
10. **Holy huddle of church members.** Members enjoy talking with one another and they should. Unfortunately, we're often so caught up in our own conversations that we overlook new faces. To make sure guests feel seen and welcomed, create a strong greeter program to help visitors find their way. Consider taking it a step further and seating them with a host inside the sanctuary to help them make early connections with members and the church.
11. **Greeting time is awkward and unfriendly.** [Thom Rainer](#) shares that six out of 10 visitors AND members hate the meet and greet. It often runs long and is uncomfortable. Visitors can be overlooked or overwhelmed by people looking to check a participatory box. Instead, use a host family trained in how to engage visitors and make them feel welcome; it's far more effective than "passing of the peace."

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12. **Poor lighting and sound.** If visitors have difficulty hearing or seeing what's going on during a service, they're less likely to return. Pay attention to the environment you're creating in the sanctuary and be sensitive. Remember, services can be too loud or bright as well as too soft or dim. If you're doing strobe lights or similar effects for special occasions and services, be certain to post signage at the entrances to warn those who are seizure prone.
13. **Insider language.** Whether it's used for a location (narthex, MacArthur's Hall) or ministries (Ignite, IHN), jargon excludes people, especially visitors. Use plain language to describe the locations and ministries of the church, particularly during the service and in the bulletin.
14. **No follow up.** Reach out to visitors within a week of them first attending your church. Be responsive to any questions they may have about membership and your various ministries. (Some churches have an information center to aid in facilitating this on-site.)

Consider giving visitors a useful gift to remind them of their visit. It's important to remember that you may not be able to meet the needs of all who visit your church. However, if you do your best to make them feel welcome, valued and listened to you'll be on your way to communicating a warm church family environment.

For more tips, I recommend Thom Rainer's "[Becoming a Welcoming Church](#)" as well as [United Methodist Communications' online welcoming resources](#) to help you consider and eliminate the often unseen barriers that hinder your reaching new people and demonstrating the love of Christ.



## Valentine's Day

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This article is about the romantic holiday and liturgical celebration. For Brazil's corresponding celebration, see Dia dos Namorados. For uses of Valentine, see Valentine. For other uses, see Valentine's Day (disambiguation). "St. Valentine's Day" redirects here. For the Bing Crosby album, see St. Valentine's Day (album).

**Valentine's Day**, also called **Saint Valentine's Day** or the **Feast of Saint Valentine**,<sup>[1]</sup> is celebrated annually on February 14. Originating as a Western Christian feast day honoring one or two early saints named Valentinus, Valentine's Day is recognized as a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and romantic love in many regions around the world, although it is not a public holiday in any country.

Martyrdom stories associated with various Valentines connected to February 14 are presented in martyrologies,<sup>[2]</sup> including a written account of Saint Valentine of Rome imprisonment for performing weddings for soldiers, who were forbidden to marry and for ministering to Christians persecuted under the Roman Empire.<sup>[3]</sup> According to legend, during his imprisonment Saint Valentine restored sight to the blind daughter of his judge,<sup>[4]</sup> and before his execution he wrote her a letter signed "Your Valentine" as a farewell.<sup>[5]</sup>

The day first became associated with romantic love within the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer in the 14th century, when the tradition of courtly love flourished. In 18th-century England, it evolved into an occasion in which lovers expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery, and sending greeting cards (known as "*valentines*"). Valentine's Day symbols that are used today include the heart-shaped outline, doves, and the figure of the winged Cupid. Since the 19th century, handwritten valentines have given way to mass-produced greeting cards.<sup>[6]</sup> In Europe, Saint Valentine's Keys are given to lovers "as a romantic symbol and an invitation to unlock the giver's heart", as well as to children, in order to ward off epilepsy (called Saint Valentine's Malady).<sup>[7]</sup>

Saint Valentine's Day is an official feast day in the Anglican Communion<sup>[8]</sup> and the Lutheran Church.<sup>[9]</sup> Many parts of the Eastern Orthodox Church also celebrate Saint Valentine's Day, albeit on July 6 and July 30, the former date in honor of the Roman presbyter Saint Valentine, and the latter date in honor of Hieromartyr Valentine, the Bishop of Interamna (modern Terni).<sup>[10]</sup>

(Copied from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentine's\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentine's_Day))