

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



January  
 2016

**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

# Happy New Year!

*Pastor Larry is out of town & I am posting article he shared by email on 11-23-15.*

## Church Family

*It's been fifteen months and three weeks since the Pastor Parish Relations Committee and I met for the "interview" to be considered as your pastor. I am extremely happy to serve as your pastor during this period.*

*In order to see where we are I took a look at 2014 and compared them to year to date (11/15/2015) results to compare them. We have six more weeks of 2015 but I looked at year-end 2014 to year to date 2015.*

	2014		2015	
	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual
Passionate Worship (Actual Attendance)	82	73	83	74
Radical Hospitality (Profession of Faith)	4	0	5	6
Intentional Faith Development (Average Small Group Att.)	70	9	60	22
Extreme Generosity	\$2,350.00	\$2,061.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,024.00

*The above results are mixed when we review them. I am excited about what I am seeing, though. Our average attendance over the past four weeks is 81. Our average small group attendance is 16, which includes mainly our Sunday school attendance. Our Lenten study (from spring 2015) numbers are included in the above but our Advent study numbers will now be included in our Worship numbers since it is being held on Thursday night. Our average income is down a bit from last year but over the past weeks we are averaging \$2,150.50.*

*As you can see our results are trending positively.*

*Continued on page 5*

# Information Page

Ross Community Church

## SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

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### Sunday School

9:15 – 10:00

*(For All Ages)*

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### Fellowship

10:00 – 10:30

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### Church Service

10:30

*(Children's Church 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday's during summer)*

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### Thursday Service

Praise Music

&

Message

7:00 p.m.

## CONTACTS

### Pastor:

Rev. Larry Gallaher 513-443-4866

### Lay Leader:

Jim Rechel 513-521-5223

### Lay Leader:

Wes Flannery 513-896-6124

### Church Council

Phil Brown 513-868-2338

### Trustees

Jim Lynch 513-737-9998

### Sunday School Superintendent:

Sandy Hogeback 812-593-2984

### Music Director:

### Pianist:

### 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

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### 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*

@ 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](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*

Please send your e-mail address to [rcumcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto: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, Lay Leader Jim Rechel or Lay Leader Wes Flannery will return your call.

## 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.





Submitted by Judy Kottman



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Ross Community Church  
United Methodist  
Women  
Faith, Hope & Love  
In Action



Submitted by Judy Creasy

**Christmas 2015** is history but all the memories are still fresh in our minds. **Operation Magi** presented eleven local families with a Merry Christmas supplied by families and friends from Ross Community Church. This year was especially exciting as the recipients picked up items and were greeted by Pastor Larry, Nancy and Doug, and Bud and myself. They were able to see our church and know that they're welcome at any time and were presented a Bible.

We shared an evening at **Niederman Farm** enjoying **A Walk Through The Bible** followed by hot chocolate, cookies and fellowship in the barn. We were blessed with a group of **Carolers** giving their time to visit shut-ins from our church serenading them with **Christmas Carols** and sharing **Christmas cheer**.

Of course, we cannot forget the **Advent** series "**Under Wrap**" and a beautiful **Christmas Eve** service. All this plus time spent with our families cannot help but make us count our blessings.

**Wishing everyone a Happy New Year.**

**Dates to remember:**

We've some activities on the agenda and dates will follow when finalized. For now:

**Ash Wednesday**, February 10. Soup Supper and Service

**Pictorial Directory Update**

I believe everyone has received his or her photos from those taken at Ross Church. If you had your picture taken at Immanuel Lutheran in Hamilton yours should arrive by mid January. The directory will not be ready for a couple months. We've still some selections to make and will meet with the representative mid January. Thank you for your patience.

Jan Gump, Pastor Larry, and Judy Kottman

The women will have a morning meeting on **January 12<sup>th</sup>** in the Church at **10:00 a.m.**, in order to plan the UMW Women's activities for the new year.

Please keep trying to help Carol Farmer by crocheting **Prayer Shawls** or by donating yarn for the Shawls. Also remember to continue bringing your old eyeglasses to church.

The following women's meeting will be on **Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016** in the church at **10:00 a.m.**

**I wish everyone a very Happy New Year.**



Linda Kunick and friend Maria.

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1 Connor Ray  
 8 Doug Beckman  
 8 Leroy Hogeback  
 12 Reva Denney  
 16 Ruby Landis  
 23 Chrystal Fauver



26 Jan Gump  
 26 Judy Kottman  
 30 Aileen Wynn  
 31 Brenda Brown  
 31 Taryn Lewis



# Happy January Birthday



## CONTINUING PRAYERS

Continuing prayers for the vision of Ross Community United Methodist Church; Our Church Family; our President, our Nation and our military personnel; Pastor Larry and Cindy; Pastor Grant and Ann; Bev Papet; Gary & Larry Brown (brothers of Phil); Vicki Hilton; Steve Jacobs; Jake Phelps and family; Jo and Randy Anderson & great grandson Tyson and family; Don and Annette Hegner; Earl Whirls; Prentice Family; Tim Zecher; Tari Halcomb; Melissa Schoepf; AJ Pittman and family; Denzil & Helen Burch; and Dick and Jan Stewart and family.



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

### Worship Leader

### Greeters / Ushers

#### Jan

3 Roger Creasy	Debbie Gilman & Del Foster
10 Nancy Beckman	Wayne & Linda Estep
17 Leroy Singleton	Butch & Trey Foster
24 Debbie Gilman	Roger & Judy Creasy
31 Tom Bevington	Bill & Brenda Oliver

#### Feb

7 Tim Zecher	Jim & Sally Rechel
14 Greg Conrad	Phil & Brenda Brown
21 Jim Rechel	Bud & Judy Kottman
31 Wes Flannery	Debbie Gilman & Del Foster

## Junior Church

### We need your HELP!

We would like to have Jr Church 2 Sundays a month. With Debbie and me singing during church it is hard for us to do the Jr Church. We would like to do the Jr church the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. Jr Church starts after the children's moment. We have material for the Jr Church. When school is out for the summer, we will revalue the program at that time. Also if you have any ideas for this program let us know.

Please let Debbie or me (Sandy Hogeback) know if you can help.



2015 is about to draw to a close but there is so much we can do in 2016. We need to consider the following:

1. Increasing our number of small groups and attendees in these groups. These can meet weekly, bi-weekly or monthly. We need four to five people to step up and say, "I will host a small group." You do not have to lead it just open your home to hosting. If you want to lead that's even better.  
Wes Flannery is a new Lay Leader at Ross, he will be looking toward this goal for us, I am happy to have Jim Rechel and Wes serve us as Lay Leaders, we have two very capable leaders.
2. We need to increase our weekly worship attendance. We have a congregation that is blessed with the ability and resources to travel to warmer climates in the winter or to take trips during the year. That is wonderful but when they are gone there is a vacancy. You can assist by inviting your family and friends. You can assist by providing names of those you know that I can contact, you can follow up with those in our directory that are absent. It's all about kingdom building. We have a goal to average at least eighty people per week in 2016.
3. We have been faithful in our giving. But we need to increase our giving to meet the goals and plans we have for 2016. It will not take much to get us there but if you are not giving on a faithful basis, pray about it, seek God's direction on what you should do. In order to accomplish our goals we need to average \$2,500.00 per week in income.
4. We need to add to our church membership. We have several people (28) that are on our membership roll that do not have any affiliation with our church. I am going to continue to offer them pastoral care if they desire but we are going to remove them from our active roll to a constituency roll. We will care for them but at the same time seek new members who will attend, support and be an active part of our fellowship. This has been a good year so I would like to build on that number and add another 6 people this year.
5. We will plan more activities to do during the fall and winter season. Summers are difficult to keep activities going forward and the summers off will give those in leadership a break from their rolls. We have an awesome group of members who have joined our Vision Team but if you want to come see what we are doing and even join, you are welcome.
6. I'm excited about our Thursday evening services. We have had people attend that said they cannot attend on Sunday for various reasons. I'm committed to Thursday, as I know many others are also. We will continue to monitor what we are doing and make changes if necessary. We will continue.
7. I'm excited about the direction our music ministry is going. We have many talented people who should lend their talents to continue to bless our worship services. With that said, Greg, Todd, Chip and Karen do a wonderful job leading our music program. It takes talent, commitment, desire and a love for God to do what they do, practice, plan, practice and practice. You might note I did not mention Lori. Lori has tendered her resignation as our pianist effective December 31<sup>st</sup>. Lori will be missed she has a wonderful gift but God never forgets His people. We will move forward. He will provide someone who is also talented. Thank you, Lori.

I cannot thank everyone who serves so faithfully here. Some of you have served for many years and done an excellent job - thanks. Some in an interim position for an extended time. Those of you not involved there is a place for you, let's talk.

2016 will be another exciting year for us, God is good and in control. Stay in faith, stay encouraged, and pray about your part in the church and the kingdom. We need you never forget that.

Pastor Larry

*Otterbein Lebanon's 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
Renaissance Feaste  
January 7 & 8, 2016  
6:00 P.M. (Doors Open at 5:30 P.M.)*

Everyone is cordially invited to the Otterbein Lebanon Senior Lifestyle Community's Campus, 585 N. St. Rt. 741, Lebanon, Ohio, to attend the 2016 Renaissance Feaste.

On these two evenings our Multipurpose Room is magically turned into a Great Hall of a castle.

It is two evenings when the hall fills with a cast of close to fifty performers including the court, special guests, assorted kings, pages, and court musicians and dancers. All of these performers appear in 16<sup>th</sup> century authentic costuming. The evening is a collaborative effort of the residents, community, and employee partners.

It is two evenings featuring Christmas and authentic Renaissance music. The Otterbein Recorder Choir, Otterbein's Renaissance Chorale and a harpist all perform special music. A special dancer is also included.

It is two evenings when revelers in the Great Hall feast on a Renaissance Meal of roast pork, red potatoes, winter vegetables and salad. The meal culminates with the serving of flaming pudding midst copious toasts from the wassail bowl.

**Renaissance Feaste seating is limited and all seats are reserved.  
Tickets are \$18 per person and include the complete dinner and entertainment.**

Call early for choice seating. Reservations may be made by calling the Otterbein Lebanon's Renaissance "Hot Line" at 513-696-8575 after December 7, 2015.  
**Last day for Orders is December 30, 2015.**