

****From Our Members****

Keep In Prayer

**Roger W Dot S Herb S Izzy R
Carol J Helen P Dick L
Cancer Services of Erie County**

"To know God is to be changed by God; true knowledge of God leads to worship."

John Calvin

Thursday Evening Worship, 6:30pm
-No Thursday Worship on Thanksgiving, Nov. 23
Sunday Morning Worship, 10:00 am

All Saints Worship:

Thursday, November 2/Sunday, November 5
Join us as we celebrate the "great cloud of witnesses" who walked before us in faith and passed on to us the ministry we engage in today. During worship we will honor those who have been members of our church for 50 years or more and look back on what the church and world was like in 1967.

Worship Sponsors, for the week of:
Nov. 5: Scott Horn, in celebration of Eloise Horn's birthday
Nov. 12: Debi Eldridge, in celebration of daughter Jamie's birthday
Nov. 19: Grandma & Grandpa, in celebration of Gracyn Sparks' 2nd birthday
Nov. 26: Brewers & Watkins, in memory of Julius & Velda Kelley

Thank you to all our sponsors!
Suggested donation of \$5 goes toward our Local Mission fund.

Little Free Library

Check out all the Little Free Libraries in our area.
Go to the World Map at
<https://littlefreelibrary.org/ourmap/>

Welcome/Open and Affirming Committee

(Jenny Mercer, Sharon Ruggles, Jay Sellers, Sherry Williams)

On Thursday, November 9 at 7:15pm, we will take a look at the "clobber passages" in the Bible used to justify discrimination against homosexuals. This is an opportunity to learn what to say when someone says, "But doesn't the Bible say...?"

The committee will be drafting our Welcome Statement in November & December. Watch for details and the opportunity to give feedback.

Head Usher for November: Scott Horn

Follow the Star Walking Program

As a church, our goal is to walk from Monroeville to Bethlehem by Christmas Eve (or the end of Epiphany). That's 6043 miles! We can do it, and build a healthy habit at the same time. First, walking is good for the body. Second, walking is good for the spirit as it gives you time to think and listen for God's presence. So get walking. Then fill out one of the walking slips and put it in the jug and let's see how quickly we can get to Bethlehem.



We extend our sympathy to **Juanita Ries & Pat Sparks & families** on the passing of their son & brother Raymond (Skip) Ries on September 25, 2017 in Florida.

Welcome to **Roger & Mary Wallen**, who were received into membership on Thursday evening, October 12, 2017.

Financial Report

September 2017

Income

Building	\$2025
Christian Ed.	\$0
Current	\$5001
Local Mission	\$1113
Non Food Bank	\$395

Expenses

Building	\$223
Christian Ed.	\$0
Current	\$9705
Local Mission	\$300
Non Food Bank	\$1003

Account Balances

American Legion	\$1874
Building	\$4057
Christian Ed.	\$767
Current	\$-5767
Local Mission	\$1942
Memorials	\$2778
Non Food Bank	\$10948
Youth Fell.	\$3989

American Funds \$45,881

The balance in our Current Account is a cause for concern. The Current Account is used to pay the primary bill associated with the church. These include the cost of a full-time pastor, utilities, insurance, taxes, etc. These are the bills that keep the church's ministry going.

Our third quarter deficit of nearly \$5800 is one of the deepest deficits we've had in a number of years. Perhaps more concerning is the fact that we have about \$20,000 of expected expenses in the fourth quarter of the year. That means to finish the year even we will need to take in over \$25,000 in income in our Current Account in the final three months of 2017. That would amount to about 35% of our total giving for the year.

Our decreased giving seems to coincide with a decrease in worship attendance. What seems to be happening is that when people miss worship for whatever reason, they do not give for that week. But our offering is not the price of admission, like a ticket to a movie or a sporting event. Our giving is a reflection of our faith and an act of love.

We encourage you to make your weekly offering to the church a spiritual practice, much like the act of prayer. Write the check, fill out the envelope, and in prayer ask God's blessing upon the gift, the giver, and all who benefit from your generosity. Reflect on how you have been blessed and the joy that comes with giving back. If you are in worship, take pleasure in placing your gift in the offering plate. And if you are not in worship, put a stamp on the envelope and send it in the mail knowing you have made a difference.

The ministry of Monroeville UCC is making a difference in our world. Please, be an active part of that ministry. Thank you for your gifts.



Monroeville Congregational Community United Church of Christ
Council Minutes of October 10th 2017

Present: Wayne Chasney, Terry Meyers, Becky Sparks, Sue Ann Miller, Scott Horn, Shane Zehnder
Wayne opened with prayer; all repeated the mission statement.

September Council Minutes were reviewed by Council members. Scott motioned to accept the minutes as read. Terry seconded the motion, motion carried.

Council then reviewed the minutes from an additional Council Meeting held October 1st, 2017 regarding Christie Lane Industries. Scott motioned to accept the minutes as read and Sue Ann seconded the motion, motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

Worship – 9 (4 Sundays, 4 Thursdays, 1 Carriage House)

Church Meetings – 2

Fellowship Events – 1

Non Food Bank – 1

CAC Board Meeting

Hospital Calls & Member Visits

September attendance was down, however Thursday night worship has been up.

November 19th a substitute pastor will be needed, most likely a member of the congregation will lead worship.

Treasurer's Report:

We are currently \$5269.00 in the hole. Sue Ann motioned to accept the Treasure's Report as read, Shane seconded the motion, motion carried.

Mission Committee:

Sunday October 15th is the Cancer Health Fair after worship.

October's Noisy Offering will go to Neighbors in Need.

November will go to OCWM.

December will go to the Christmas Fund.

Non Food Bank:

Non Food Bank served 226 households during the month of September.

Charity tracker was used for the first time and went better than expected.

Welcoming/ Open and Affirming:

On October 12th Thursday night service will host guest speaker, Norwalk High School Student, Mallory Williams.

Building:

Pending building projects are as follows:

Parsonage windows to be wrapped

Louvers to be painted

Undercroft bathroom renovation to begin in October

Completed projects are as follows:

Parking lot cracks sealed

Undercroft carpet cleaned

Business:

It was motioned to place \$1000.00 yearly in OCWM and to make CUE a designated mission giving project.

The 2018 Spending Plan was discussed. Scott motioned to accept the 2018 Mission Plan with Sue Ann seconding the motion, motion carried. Congregational Meeting to accept the 2018 Spending Plan will be November 26th on Stewardship Sunday.

Scott motioned to adjourn the meeting with Sue Ann seconding the motion, motion carried. Next meeting November 14th.

Submitted by: Shane Zehnder

Council Minutes of September 24th 2017

Present: Wayne Chasney, Becky Sparks, Terry Meyers, Debi Eldridge, Shane Zehnder, Sue Ann Miller, Scott Horn.

Council held a special meeting regarding Christie Lane Industries use of the undercroft. Christie Lane Industries had proposed to Wayne the use of the undercroft for their clients. They would utilize the undercroft during week days for the yearly rent of \$4000.00. Christie Lane Industries would also cover the cost of remodeling the undercroft bathroom to make it more functional for their clients. The church would only be responsible for the cost of the flooring at a price of \$750.00.

It was motioned to go ahead with the rental of the undercroft and the bathroom repairs and seconded. All council members present agreed and the motion carried.

Submitted by: Shane Zehnder

From the Pastor

Teresa of Avila wrote, "God has no hands on earth but ours."

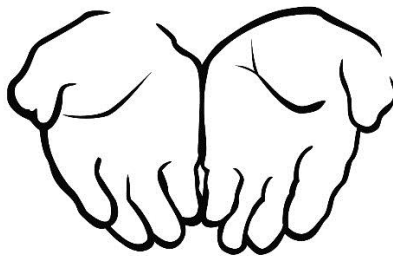
It is our hands that carry on the ministry of Jesus Christ. Our hands share the good news of God's love and forgiveness. Our hands feed the hungry and clothe the naked. Our hands work for peace on earth. Our hands offer comfort to those who suffer. Our hands.

The church is an extension of our hands. Together, we are able to do amazing work in Jesus' name. We support one another in good times and bad; we help our neighbors in our community through our mission and ministry; we make a difference in our world through the wider church. God's hands are made flesh and bone through the work of our church, and the church throughout the world.

In worship on Sunday, November 26, and Thursday, November 16, we will celebrate the hands of our church and all the lives we have touched. We will recommit ourselves to the work of the church and we will have a little fun, too. This is a day to celebrate our lives as God's generous people and remember why we are members of this faith family. Our hands will be blessed for the work of building God's kingdom here on earth.

After worship we will have a Congregational Meeting to consider and vote on the proposed Spending Plan for 2018. Our Spending Plan represents the ministry we do in God's name.

Come and join hands together in the work of being God's church.



****Mission and Ministries****

2017 Mission Focus – Cancer Services of Erie County

Thank you to Cancer Services, FTMC and the Mission Committee for hosting our Cancer Awareness Health Fair on Oct. 15. Much useful information was shared and the refreshments were awesome!

Non Food Bank

In October we served 214 households and over 3,000 items.

Next Date: November 15, 9:00-noon and 2:00-5:00pm

We continue to collect toothpaste from our church family.

New Times: Beginning in January the NFB hours will be from 9:00am to 2:00pm

A big thank you to CLI Inc. and everyone who attended and supported our Fondue and Wine Pairing evening at 16 West Main. The food and wine were wonderful and \$1000 was raised for the Non Food Bank. Big thanks to John, Holly, Tamara Kagy and all our volunteers!

Thanks to our recent donors including;

St. Joseph's Catholic School
Norwalk Red Hats

Thanks to everyone who drops off items and helps in any way with this ministry.

Noisy Offering:

October: Neighbors in Need

November: Our Church's Wider Mission

December: UCC Christmas Fund

November Noisy Offering: Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)

OCWM is how we support the United Church of Christ beyond the local church.

At the Association level, OCWM provides for the office in Tiffin and our Association Minister & support staff. The Northwest Ohio Association provides support for pastors and churches and directly assists in the Search and Call process when a church needs a pastor.

At the Conference level, OCWM supports our Ohio Conference minister & staff, our church camps, disaster ministries and other resources to benefit churches.

Nationally, OCWM provides for our National Offices in Cleveland and the work of our National staff, including disaster ministries, justice and witness ministries, resources for youth and young adults and our mission around the world.

As a church, we commit to \$700 per year for all these ministries. For 2018, Council is raising that commitment to \$1000. Our Noisy Offering is above and beyond that commitment. Please give as you are able. Thank you.

November 2017: Safe Roads for All

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

I traveled from San Salvador, the capital of El Salvador, to Managua, Nicaragua by bus. As we arrived at the Salvadoran side of the border with Honduras, a police officer entered the bus to make a check. I was focused on writing in my diary and did not pay attention. I think that made him suspicious and I was asked to dismount the bus for a check. I got off the bus, picked up my suitcase, and went to an office where three policemen started interrogating me about who I was and what I do. I told them that I am a missionary and pastor. Checking my luggage, they found my prayer cards that corroborated what I was saying. After a while, I was released and I left very angry about their rude treatment.

Despite the fact that I passed the test, the incident continued to irritate me. Back in El Salvador, I learned that Charlie, a young boy whose best friend disappeared, lived terrified by gangs. One gang accused him of handing his friend over to the opposite gang, and the other gang chased him for introducing his friend into their territory. Both gangs threatened him with death. He could not endure more and chose to migrate without documents to the north and then to the United States. He told me that he hopes to find his mother and that he spent a long time in Mexico and California.

In this young boy I see all travelers like him. I was legal on the bus, and I was treated poorly. He is traveling without documents. He will not be treated the same way I was; they will not be considerate. He is exposing himself to assault, extortion, and kidnapping as he flees violence, looking for safety.

Charlie's story reminds us to bring the protective light of Jesus to those who travel in unsafe and uncertain places. May the light of Jesus open safe roads to those who are in transit and bring peace to this world.

Ricardo Mayol serves with the Ecumenical Christian Council of Guatemala (Consejo Ecueménico Cristiano de Guatemala – CECG). His appointment is made possible by your gifts to Disciples Mission Fund, Our Church's Wider Mission, and your special gifts.

Fisher-Titus Medical Center Health Ministry Program

Healthy Habits-Newsletter/ Bulletin Insert
November 2017

As we prepare for Thanksgiving we are thankful for many things. One of the things we should be thankful for is **The Gift of Our Days.**

All of Our Days are a gift from God. Whether our life is long or short, all of our days are in the Lord's hands (Ps.39:4). At times we may find it difficult to understand why some die at a very young age, while others live for years with difficult health problems. Our comfort should be that the circumstances and length of our lives is not an indication of God's love.

How to grow older in God's Grace:

1. Remember that all of our days are a gift from God.
2. Respect the life that God has blessed us with. Do things to protect our physical, emotional and spiritual health.
3. Accept that life means change. Try to develop a flexible and positive attitude to make adjustments easier.
4. Value the past and learn from it. When we take our past with us into the future, we create a more meaningful future.
5. Turn to our faithful God for help. The same God who gave us life and guided us in our youth, is present to embrace us during difficult times, and gently bring us to Himself. (taken in part from Seasons for Wholeness: Vol. 1)

"Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:20