

****From Our Members****

Keep In Prayer

**Dot S Izzy R Carol J Helen P
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
Sunday Morning Worship, 10:00 am**

Worship Sponsors, for the week of:

January 7 Sherry Williams in memory of her father Arland Nelson

January 14 Dan Mack in honor of 47th birthday

January 21 Judy Smith in honor of their anniversary

January 28 Open

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

Carriage House: Pastor Wayne and Donna lead worship at the Carriage House on the third Sunday of the month, 1:30pm

Annual Meeting: January 25 and 28
Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, Jan. 28 after worship (and after worship on Thursday, Jan. 25). Items on the agenda include election of committee members, approval of 2017 reports and a vote on our Welcome Covenant. If passed, we will submit the Covenant to the UCC Open and Affirming Coalition and ask to be formally recognized as an Open and Affirming congregation.

Spaghetti Dinner & Cake Auction: January 28
Following our Annual Meeting we will have our annual spaghetti dinner and cake auction to benefit our Christian Education work. Come and enjoy the fellowship and a good meal and bring a cake or baked good for the auction. Always a lot of fun!

Follow The Star Walking Program:

Help us as a congregation walk our way to Bethlehem before the end of Epiphany, Feb. 11. The season of Epiphany is associated with the journey of the Wise Men who journeyed to see the newborn Christ-child. That leaves us about six weeks to walk 3000 miles. Sound impossible? How about the fact that we have already walked about 3000 miles since we began tracking *about six weeks ago!* Thanks to everyone who has turned in mileage. Keep up the healthy habit!

We extend our sympathy to **Mary Wallen** and family on the death of **Roger Wallen**, December 9, 2017.


Thank you to all the members and friends for your cards, prayers and gifts this Christmas season and throughout the year. I am truly blessed to serve such a wonderful congregation and give thanks to God for the ministry we share.

Peace,
Pastor Wayne

My Church Family

Thank you so much for the gift of money. I really appreciate it. (It was not necessary) Thank you for cards and prayers on my retirement from custodian. I really appreciate all the help and support I got while being custodian. I will always be her to help in any way I can.
Thanks.

Penny

May your troubles be less,
your blessings be more,
and nothing but happiness
COME THROUGH YOUR DOOR!


Financial Report
November 2017

Income

Building	\$310
Christian Ed.	\$0
Current	\$6631
Local Mission	\$10
Non Food Bank	\$1110

Expenses

Building	\$831
Christian Ed.	\$105
Current	\$4575
Local Mission	\$100
Non Food Bank	\$1395

Account Balances

American Legion	\$3361
Building	\$3519
Christian Ed.	\$662
Current	\$-1314
Local Mission	\$821
Memorials	\$2668
Non Food Bank	\$9480
Youth Fell.	\$3989

American Funds \$46,882

Our Building expenses for November included \$536 for the bathroom upgrade (paint and flooring, CLI Inc. paid for the other \$3000 worth of work) and about \$300 at the parsonage, mostly for furnace boiler work.

Christian Ed expenses included the Advent Devotionals.

Local Mission was to help a family in need with rent.

Current expenses are utilities and payroll. While Current looks good as of November 30, in early December we paid many of our final quarter bills. At the December Council meeting, our treasurer, Terry, reported a deficit in Current of just over \$6000. We expect to make up much of this in December and hope to come close to breaking even.

Thank you for your support of the ministry and mission of our church.

A full financial report is available upon request.

**Come and join with us,
To know God,
To share God's love,
And to serve God together!**



From the Pastor

For the past six months we have talked about what it means to be a church where, “No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you’re welcome here.”

We want this to be more than a saying over the kitchen door. We want this to be the heart of who we are as a church. It has been reflected in our Mission Statement for over 20 years – “Come and join with us.” That implies, “no matter who you are.”

At our Annual Congregational meeting, you will be asked to vote to approve the following *Welcome Covenant*.

When we, the Monroeville United Church of Christ, say in our Mission Statement, “Come and join with us,” we mean you, whoever you may be, for we embrace the diversity of the whole human family regardless of age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, faith history, economic condition, education, physical or mental ability.

We seek to be a faith community where all can feel safe, valued, and cared for. Even though we may not all think alike, we can love one another together.

*We intentionally welcome all God’s children, “No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey.”
Come and join with us.*

This Covenant is the fruit of the work put in by the Welcome committee and the congregation over the past six months. Together, we have discussed what it means to welcome everyone, with special emphasis on those who have not always felt welcomed by the church in general.

If approved (and I hope it will be), we will submit this Covenant to the UCC Open and Affirming Coalition and asked to be formally recognized as an Open and Affirming Congregation. This designation is a public statement to the LGBTQ community that not only are they welcome, but they are affirmed for who they are and celebrated for the gifts they bring to the church.

This is not the end for us, however. In 2018, I hope we will look at how we welcome people with disabilities, the elderly, and those with mental illness. All of these groups have, from time to time, found the Christian church to be less than welcoming.

The goal is not just to be a welcoming church, but to be shaped by God as a welcoming people. What we do as a church helps shape who we are as people. May we lead the way in declaring the worth and dignity of all God’s people, for all are surely welcome in God’s kingdom!

****Mission and Ministries****

Mission Committee Meeting: January 11,
7:15pm

We will discuss our 2018 mission focus

Non Food Bank

In December we served 201 households and gave out over 3,100 items.

Next Date: January 17, 9:00am to 2:00pm

We are collecting men's/women's deodorant

Thanks to our recent donors including;

Twenty First Century Foundation

Janotta & Herner Inc.

First Presbyterian Church, Norwalk

Huron County Board of Developmental

Disabilities

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

Noisy Offering:

December: UCC Christmas Fund

Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Fund this year!

January: No Noisy Offering

Little Free Library

Check out all the Little Free Libraries in our area.

Go to the World Map at

Christian Education

After a very successful Advent series of workshops for families after worship (thank you, Joyce, Deb & Tracy!), we are excited to offer more opportunities to our children and families. Let us know if you have any ideas for future learning opportunities.

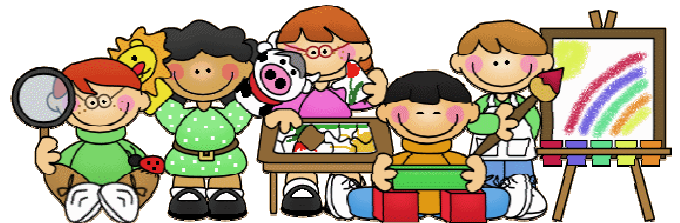
The Advent devotionals were provided by the Christian Ed of the church.

Lenten devotionals will be available in mid-February.

What a delightful experience it was, working with our preschoolers, their Moms, Dads and family members during our Advent activities. Olivia Garwood, Carter Mercer, Harlow Tinker and Mackenzie Sparks made their own Advent wreath and Nativity scene. On the sidelines were Eloise Mercer, Otto Tinker and Owen Garwood. Joining the last session, storybook time, were Jay'vawn, Prayer and Gabbriella Johnson and Layla, Chloe and Wyatt Olson.

The children and adults were eager to participate, making Sunday Church time an important part of their young lives. We need to keep their interest alive as a start to rebuilding our Christian Education Department.

The Christian Education Committee
Debbie Jones, Tracy Rhoad, Joyce Schaefer



**Monroeville Congregational Community United Church
of Christ**

Council Minutes of December 12th 2017

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

Wayne opened with prayer; all repeated the mission statement.

November's Council Minutes were reviewed by Council Members. Minutes were approved by all members present.

Pastor's Report:

Worship – 7 (3 Sunday, 4 Thursday, 0 Carriage House)

Church Meetings – 2

Confirmation – 1

Non Food Bank

Basket Auction

CAC Board Meeting

Hospital Calls & Member Visits

Average attendance for November – 57.3

Treasurer's Report:

We are currently \$6,004 in the hole with the following worships ahead of us for 2017. December 10th, 17th, three services on the 24th and the 31st. Becky motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report. Shane seconded the motion, motion carried.

Mission Committee: No report

Christian Education: After worship Advent Activities have been going well.

Non Food Bank:

The Non Food Bank received a donation of \$4,000 from the 21st Century Foundation of Monroeville, along with other givings this month. Dog and cat food will also be available again this month.

Welcoming/Opening and Affirming:

Straw poll will be taken beginning December 17th regarding the ONA Welcoming Statement. Then voted on at the January 28th at the Annual Meeting.

Building:

Terry completed the work on the parsonage in November. We will have to readdress the termite damage mentioned in November's Council Minutes. Thank you Terry for your time.

It was decided to update the lighting in the foyer to match the new lighting in the remodeled Education Wing. Terry will take care of the labor with funds for the lighting to come from the American Legion Fund.

Becky motioned to go ahead with updating the lights in the foyer. Motion was seconded by Debi, motion carried.

Business:

Annual Meeting, Spaghetti Dinner, Cake Auction along with a vote on the Welcoming/Opening and Affirming Welcoming Statement to be held January 28th 2018.

The following Committee Members terms are ending and replacements are needed. Please see Wayne or a Council Member if interested.

Council-Sue and Jeff

Mission-Missy and Sherry

Christian Education-Tracy and Joyce along with two open seats

Next Council Meeting January 9th 2018.

**Monroeville Congregational Community United Church
of Christ**

Congregational Meeting Minutes regarding 2018
Spending Plan November 26th 2017

President Becky Sparks called the meeting to order. It was found there were enough congregation members present to have a quorum. The spending plan Council voted on was put before the congregation. Sherry Williams motioned to accept the 2018 Spending Plan as presented by Council President Becky Sparks. Sharon Ruggles seconded the motion, motion carried.

Submitted by Shane Zehnder

Fisher-Titus Medical Center Health Ministry Program

Healthy Habits-Newsletter/ Bulletin Insert
January 2018

Thoughts for the New Year:

- I won't look back; God knows the fruitless efforts, the wasted hours, the sinning the regrets: I'll leave them all with Him who blots the record, and mercifully forgives and then forgets.
- I won't look forward. God sees the future, the road that is short or long will lead me home. He will be with me for every trial, and burden that may come.
- But I'll look up- into the face of Jesus, for there my heart can rest, my fears are stilled. There is where I will find joy and love, light for darkness, peace and hope fulfilled.

***“...He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus!”
Philippians 1:6.***