

****From Our Members****

Keep In Prayer

**Donna W Ellie J Eugene K Pat B
Laura B Debi E Dot S Izzy R Carol J
Helen P Olson Family Juanita R**

A note of thanks to all for the surprise card shower you gave me on Nov. 11th. I was very surprised and honored you'd think of me. I really appreciate all the beautiful cards and best wishes for my 92nd birthday. God bless all of you.

Eloise Horn

Worship Sponsors

Dec. 2 Wes & Missy Brewer
Dec. 9 Bill & Natalie Kaltenbach
Dec. 16 Betty Rhoad, in celebration of family birthdays
Dec. 23 Scott Horn, Merry Christmas
Dec. 30 Rudy & Judy Smith, in celebration of 3 great grandkids birthdays

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

Thursday Evening Worship, 6:30pm
No Thursday Worship on December 27
Sunday Morning Worship, 10:00 am

Lead Usher for December: Scott Horn

Advent begins December 2
The season of Advent is a time to prepare for the coming of the Christ-child. In this season as the days grow shorter we look forward to the light of God dawning in our world.
December 2: Hope
December 9: Peace
December 16: Joy
December 23: Love

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

Christmas Potluck is December 16
Join us after worship on Sunday, December 16 as we celebrate this season together. Meat and drinks are provided; bring a side or dessert to share.

We are collecting items for the Norwalk Area Food Bank and the Non-Food Bank too.



Christmas Eve Worship December 24

On Christmas Eve we will celebrate Jesus' birth at 4:00pm and 7:00pm. Both services will include carols, communion and candlelight. We hope to see you on this joy-filled night!

Christian Education

Thank you to everyone who came out for our hay ride. Special thanks to the Christian Education committee, Scott Horn, and Bob & Debbie Jones for all you did to make a great hay ride!

Sunday School

Each Sunday of Advent, the Christian Ed will offer a special activity for children and families as we prepare ourselves to receive the birth of the Christ-child.

Spaghetti Dinner & Cake Auction

January 27 after worship. All proceeds support the work of Christian Ed and sending kids to Summer Church Camp!

Youth Group will start meeting January 13. We are opening up to youth grades 5 and up. Thanks to Alyssa Smith for offering to be an advisor and getting it going!



Financial Report
October 2018

Income

Building	\$44
Christian Ed.	\$0
Current	\$6236
Local Mission	\$266
Non Food Bank	\$280

Expenses

Building	\$296
Christian Ed.	\$37
Current	\$4379
Local Mission	\$150
Non Food Bank	\$1389

Account Balances

American Legion	\$2100
Building	\$1866
Christian Ed.	\$1096
Current	\$-1088
Local Mission	\$1155
Memorials	\$2668
Non Food Bank	\$7720
Youth Fell.	\$3827

Reserves

American Funds (5/14)	\$48,306
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As we come to the year's end, as a church family we have much to be thankful for. The year 2018 has been a year of fruitful ministry touching many lives both near and far.

Locally, we continue to have the joy of worshiping together weekly and the support of one another in good times and bad. We have supported local missions including CLI Inc. and the Salvation Army as well as continuing the Non-Food Bank. We have also helped several local families that have fallen on hard times.

Beyond our own neighborhood we have supported the wider ministry and mission of the church through special offerings, regular support and Disaster Response.

All of this is made possible by your gifts to the church. As you see below, we are very close to ending 2018 with a positive balance in our Current Account. That would be a great blessing and set us up to continue being a vital church providing important ministry in 2019 and beyond.

THANK YOU for your support of our mission and ministry!

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



****Mission and Ministries****

2018 Mission Focus: CLI Inc.

THANK YOU to everyone who gave to our special Neighbors in Need offering. We collected \$279 for our neighbors in need!

The Christmas Fund Offering

For over a century, the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been a tangible expression of God's love and light in the world. Year after year, United Church of Christ (UCC) members and congregations have reached out in kindness, compassion, and gratitude to those who have faithfully shepherded our Church in the past and who now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs.

In 2017, UCC congregations and members generously contributed over \$1,500,000 to the Christmas Fund. This enabled the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance (UCBMA), the charitable arm of the Pension Boards, to provide, on behalf of the whole Church, Supplementation of Small Annuities, Retiree Health Premium Supplementation, Emergency Grants, and Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks to individuals in need.

On behalf of the hundreds of clergy, lay employees, and their families whose lives were touched by your support of the Christmas Fund Offering, we offer our sincere thanks for your generosity!

Non-Food Bank

Next Date: December 19, 9:00am to 2:00pm
We are collecting toothpaste & bar soap
In November we served 204 households.



Little Free Library – Take a Book, Give a Book

December 2018: New Hope

BY KAIROS PALESTINE ON NOVEMBER 29, 2018

*He will judge between the nations
and will settle disputes for many peoples.
They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.
Isaiah 2:4*

Advent is a time to turn toward Bethlehem and behold the occupants for whose sake the savior was born, those who still live under occupation, denied their freedom, dignity and independence. Advent calls all who espouse justice and peace to allow the people of Bethlehem to rejoice at Christmas by working for the restoration of their dignity, freedom and independence.

God is love, not a god of armies and wars, nor a god who orders one people to oppress another, nor a god that strips one people of their land and gives it to another. This is a season for refugees. Jesus took refuge in Egypt as a child when he escaped the oppression of the powerful of that time. Jesus walks today among the crowds of refugees; he walks with them and for them, teaching, healing, granting life and directing the attention of the strong to stop killing and displacing people. Jesus tells the leaders of the world to sheathe their swords and turn them into tools for life, as the prophet Isaiah said.

We are given new hope, despite the cruelty of human against human, regardless of wars and ongoing death and hatred in the land of God. Indeed, because death is commanding hearts and injustice is escalating, we need new light and hope to come from the hearts of all believers in the Christmas message. Then the joy of Christmas will be fully realized in Bethlehem, where God's mystery still touches the Earth alongside human oppression and the pain of the oppressed.

H.B. Patriarch Michel Sabbah is the Latin Patriarch Emeritus of Jerusalem and Co-Author of the Kairos Palestine Document. To read the full message, go to: www.globalministries.org/kairos_palestine_announces_its_christmas_alert_2018

**Monroeville Congregational Community United Church
of Christ
Council Minutes of October 10th 2018**

Present: Becky Sparks, Scott Horn, Kim Davis, Brian Sparks, Debi Eldridge, Wayne Chasney, Shane Zehnder

Wayne opened with prayer; all repeated the mission statement.

September Council Minutes were reviewed by Council Members. Brian motioned to accept the minutes as read, Kim second the motion, motion accepted by Council.

Pastor's Report: Wayne had been working on Thank You Notes to Givers. Conducted a wedding on October 6th for non-members. November 4th is all Saints Sunday, which will honor 50 year members. He has also been invited to speak at the Bellevue Rotary about the Non Food Bank. Youth Basket Action is scheduled for November 25th.

Treasurer's Report: Wayne gave the Treasurer's Report at the Council Meeting. We are currently \$3,000 in the hole. Scott motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report. Debi second the motion, motion accepted by Council.

Mission Committee: September's Noisy Offering which went to Neighbor's in Need was a fair amount.

Christian Education: Hay ride is scheduled for October 21st. After worship activities are scheduled for the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month for the youth.

Non Food Bank: Have received a good amount of donations. The need has remained steady.

Welcoming/ ONA: Discussed replacing a pew with some chairs to make it easier for people with walkers and wheels chairs to get in and out. Also discussed hearing aids/ headsets.

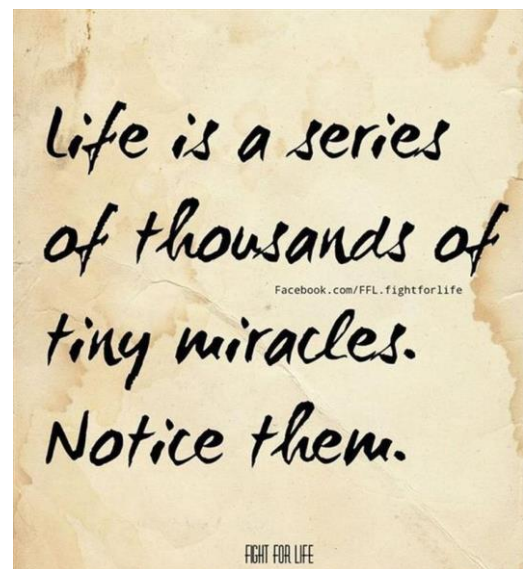
Building: Waiting for Daiello to fix the corrosion on the boiler pipes. Undercroft carpet to be cleaned October 23rd by Adrian's of Bellevue. Central Extermination to address the ants in the undercroft.

Business: Stewardship Celebration will be November 8 & 11. Discussed the 2019 Spending Plan including a 3%

raise for Pastor Wayne. Kim motioned to accept the Spending Plan for 2019 and present it to the congregation at a Congregational Meeting Nov. 8 & 11 for approval. Scott seconded the motion. Motion passed. Discussed paying Brenna Chasney for playing the piano during worship. Brian motioned to pay Brenna \$20.00 per service. Scott second the motion, motion accepted by Council.

Next Council Meeting scheduled for November 14th.

Minutes submitted by Shane Zehnder



From the Pastor

One of my fondest memories of the Advent and Christmas season happened when I was a teenager. I remember coming out of Christmas Eve worship at the small United Methodist church my dad served in Owls Head, New York. It was a frigid cold Christmas Eve; so cold, in fact, there was a thick frost on the *inside* of the wooden entryway doors. The ground was covered in a couple feet of snow that crunched as we walked and made everything glisten in the bright moonlight. The sky was clear and the stars twinkled above the mountains.

As I walked out of worship, the words of “Silent Night” still echoing in my head, I felt such a wonderful sense of calm and peace. It was one of those rare moments where everything seemed right in the world. My thoughts were not on what might be waiting under the tree in the morning; they were on what my world could be if this feeling of contentment could last.

For me, that is God’s promise of Christmas: a world of calm and peace where everything IS set right in the world, and not just for a moment, and not just for me. For everyone and forever.

Sometimes we look backward in order to see forward. I know I’ll never capture that moment again, but each time that moment comes into my mind it makes me long for that world God has promised. It inspires me to do what I can to share that sense of contentment with others. It fills me with hope for I know that with God, “all things are possible.”

This time of year is often filled with glimpses of God’s kingdom, from those serene moments of contentment to the good will and generosity that often comes with the season. These glimpses come in memories from the past and hope of the future.

I pray you catch a glimpse of God’s promise and a taste of God’s kingdom during this Advent and Christmas season. May your heart sing and may your whole being be filled with joy as we receive the gift of the Christ-child, the one who will show us all that this world can be.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Wayne