

## *The Messenger*    *December 2018*



**Congregational Meeting** is called for **Sunday, December 9** following worship. The purpose will be to elect officers for the Class of 2022 and hear a report from the Session on the “State of the Church”.



**Annual Committee Reports** are due in the office by **Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**. Please be prompt and you might get a prize!



### **Thank You for Your Special Offering**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
We give thanks to you for your support of Special Offerings, our collective witness to the love of Jesus Christ. By participating in Special Offerings your congregation joins other churches to change lives around the world—through ministries of compassion, advocacy, development, peacemaking, a Christian formation, education and witness.

With gratitude to God for our shared mission,  
Bryce Wiebe  
Director, Special Offerings, PCUSA



**The Christmas Joy Offering** will be received on Sunday, December 23. This offering exists to support church workers, past and present, who find themselves in urgent financial need, and the Historically Presbyterian schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Envelopes for this offering are in your offering envelope box. Please plan to give generously on December 23.

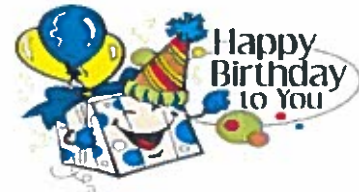
**Respect the Deadline!**



**Newsletter Deadline**  
for January is  
December 12th.



**Ruth Esther Circle**  
meets Wednesday,  
December 5th  
at 11:00 am for a potluck and  
cookie exchange.



**8 Judy Simensen**  
**16 Carol Godfrey**  
**31 Betty Gambrell**  
**Lana Gay**



**Deacon's  
Corner**

Christmas is just around the corner. Deacons successful Chili Supper allows us to sponsor 7 families this year. Soon, Angel Tree Tags will be on the Christmas tree. Please feel free to pick one, sign your name in the book on the piano by the name you chose off the tree. Wrapped gifts will be needed under the tree by December 16. As always, the Deacons appreciate your support, without your help this project would not be successful.



**20 Cindy & Steve Anglin**  
**22 Betty & Doug Gambrell**



**Westwood Financial Report - 2018**

<b>October:</b>	<b><u>Receipts</u></b>	<b><u>Expenses</u></b>	<b><u>Balance</u></b>
Current Funds	7,068.37	7,832.79	-764.42
Per Capita	50.00	500.00	-450.00
Benevolence	105.00	105.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,223.37</b>	<b>8,437.79</b>	<b>-1,214.42</b>
<b>Year-To-Date:</b>			
Current Funds	70,796.87	75,601.80	-4,804.93
Per Capita	600.00	1,092.92	-492.92
Benevolence	532.00	1,291.00	-759.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,928.87</b>	<b>77,985.72</b>	<b>-6,056.85</b>

**Attendance for October:**

7th	--29
14th	--30
21st	--27
28th	--32
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>

*More detailed financial reports  
are available upon request  
from Steve Anglin  
or the church office.*

**Ladies' Christmas Banquet**  
Tuesday, December 18  
6:30 pm  
Cost \$10  
Bring a box of cereal for  
children of needy families



**FINANCE  
REPORT**



# FROM THE PASTOR

## “Tidings of Great Joy”

**Luke 2:10** But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for I am bringing you tidings of great joy for all people”.

The above passage from the gospel of Luke is spoken as God's angel appears to the shepherds in the field. They knew something wonderful was happening but were in awe. They were told not to be afraid because God was bringing a message of joy for all people. That message was coming in the form of a baby born in a stable in Bethlehem. The happenings of that night must have been staggering to their limited imaginations. Yet, when the angel left they said to one another, “Let's go see”.

This same kind of awe comes when a child is born to us. It is overwhelming to experience the little life that God entrusts to us. It is a gift, as one theologian has said, “Of God's Extravagant Grace”. For me, the joy of our children's birth has been deeply enriched by the birth of their children and now a great grandchild. Truly the announcement of the birth and impending births of our grandchildren and great grandchildren have been filled with “Tidings of Great Joy”. At the announcement of their births, we could not wait to “go see” what God had created. In the seeing, holding and watching, our lives have been changed and enriched.

When Jesus was born, God was saying, “I love you and am sending My Son to you that you might love Him, know Me and find life”. It is awesome when we really become aware of God's care and trust for us. You see, God believed that if we received Jesus then we would be born and live a life worthy of that trust.

May we in this Advent season be so touched by “Tidings of Great Joy”, that we will, with excitement and anticipation, like the shepherds, say, “Let's go see”.

**Prayer:** Help us, O Lord, in this Advent Season to experience anew the awe that comes from Your “Tidings of Great Joy”. As we “come and see”, fill us with Your love and fullness of life. In Christ's precious name we pray. Amen.

In Christ,

*Norman*



**Deacons – December 5 – 1 pm**

**Administration – December 16– after worship**

**Spiritual Gr/Outreach – December 17 – 6 pm**

**Session – December 17 – 7 pm**

**SERVING  
THIS  
MONTH**



**Ushers:** Loretta Otto  
Karen Conrad

**Worship Leader:**

2 Steve Anglin  
9 Doug Gambrell  
16 Andrea Estridge  
23 Reva Johnson  
30 Marlene Sloneker

**Sunday School:**

2 Sandra Warren  
9 Andrea Estridge  
16 Reva Johnson  
23 Marlene Sloneker  
30 Andrea Estridge

**Coffee Hour:**

2 Marlene Sloneker  
9 Reva Johnson  
16 Marilyn Compton  
23 Spiritual Growth – BD cake  
30 Deacons

**Kitchen Duty:**

Marilyn Compton

**Communion Preparation:**

Marlene Sloneker, Reva Johnson

**Communion Servers:**

Steve Anglin, Reva Johnson  
Bob Estridge, Dale Alvey



**Prayer Concerns**

**Hospice:** Frank Dougherty (at home)

**Cancer/Radiation Treatment:**

Miriam Kridner (Helen's sister) liver  
Nancy Price (Marlene's neighbor) – lung  
Jeanette Capocéfalo (Estridges)  
Mimi Hayes (Godfreys) - lung

**Miscellaneous concerns:**

Summer Estridge – health  
Jeanette Skidmore (Reva's sister) health  
Catherine (Treva's mom) declining health  
Cheryl Long (Bob) – eyes  
Howard Wise (Godfreys) shingles  
Phyllis Anglin – eyes  
Pam Long – pacemaker  
Marilyn Compton – health  
Bill Kraft – health  
Family of Mae Shane (Loretta's sister)  
Family of Ellen Lowery (Loretta)

**Shut-Ins:** Dick Flynn  
Ruth Mollett

**In Nursing Home/Assisted Living:**

The Waterford: Helen Belcher 1460 Corydale Dr,  
Rm#212, Fairfield, OH 45014

**National & International Concerns:**

Our country, Natural disasters, violence, unity  
Our armed forces worldwide  
Missionaries across the world  
Peace in our world

**Local Concerns:**

Our church  
Cities of Hamilton & Fairfield  
Serve City / Haven House / Community Meal Center  
Churches in community

**Congregational Prayer:**

As we continue to pray for our sister churches in the  
Miami Presbytery, we are remembering Presbyterian  
Church of Wilmington, Wilmington OH and their  
pastor Rev. Deborah Linville.



Thank you to our Coffee Hour hosts and hostesses. Special thanks to the November volunteers:  
Betty & Doug Gambrell, Carol & Norman Godfrey, Spiritual Growth Com., Dale Alvey & Dianne Hurst.

Thank you to the following who were Ushers for the month of November:  
Loretta Otto and Karen Conrad.

Thank you to the following Sunday School volunteers for the month of November: Sandra Warren, Andrea Estridge, Reva Johnson, Marlene Sloneker.

Thank you to all of our Kitchen Clean-up people. Special thanks to Andrea Estridge for the month of November.

Thank you to Andrea Estridge for preparing communion for November.  
Thank you to the following volunteers for serving communion:  
Steve Anglin, Marlene Sloneker, Cindy Anglin, Loretta Otto

Thank you to the following volunteers who worked at the Community Meal Center on **Friday, November 16th**: Bob Estridge, Loretta Otto, Marlene Sloneker, Traci Stevenson.  
Donations: Bob & Andrea Estridge, Loretta Otto, Marlene Sloneker, Traci Stevison, and Sandra Warren.

Special thanks to Estil and Bonita Gay for their inspirational messages on the church sign.

Thank you to all who helped with the Thanksgiving Dinner on November 18<sup>th</sup> which was organized by the Spiritual Growth Committee.



Westwood's own Turkette  
and donations to Serve City!  
Thanks to all!



### She Was Right After All!

Small children were putting on a Christmas program. The entertainment proceeded without a hitch until near the end of the event. Each child held a large card with a letter printed on it. The letters were turned away from the audience. One by one each child turned the card he or she was holding to reveal a letter. First was the child with the "C", then the one with the "H", and so on down the line. When it was time for a little girl to hold up the "M", it was upside down. The "M" appeared to be a "W". Quiet giggles rippled through the audience. Nevertheless, the kids continued one by one to reveal the rest of the cards. When the last card was shown, the cards were meant to spell out: CHRISTMASLOVE

Instead, they spelled:

CHRISTWASLOVE

What first seemed to be a mistake wasn't one after all.



### A Christmas Prayer for You

May today there be peace within.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you...

May you be content knowing you are a child of God...

Let His presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

It is there for each and every one of us.

We will again be taking orders for **poinsettias** this season to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. Order forms will be available soon. Orders will need to be turned in by Sunday, December 9th. The cost will be \$7.50 for a 6 ½ inch pot. Any question, see or call Reva.



**PER CAPITA**

### Per Capita Request

Each year The Presbytery of the Miami Valley publishes "Expected Payments" for each active member of each church. For the year, 2019, they are requesting a total of \$48.20 (\$36 for "Presbytery Connectional Report", \$8.95 for "General Assembly", and \$3.95 for Synod). This request adds \$2,169 to our 2019 budget. In years past, the Session has voted to give what fits our budget. The Session also invites members, who are able, to pay all or a portion for yourself. If you have questions, please talk to Rev. Godfrey or a member of the Session.



# WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN

## December 2018



440 WESTWOOD CHURCH 11776 602

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b> 9:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Communion	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 11:00 AM Ruth Esther Circle Potluck 1:00 PM Deacons	<b>6</b> 10:00 AM CHOIR	<b>7</b> 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM AA	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Congregational Meeting.	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Newsletter Deadline for January	<b>13</b> 10:00 AM CHOIR	<b>14</b> 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM AA Annual Committee Reports Due	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Gifts due under tree 	<b>17</b> 6:00 PM Sp Gr/Outreach 7:00 PM Session	<b>18</b> 6:30 PM Ladies' Christmas Banquet	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 10:00 AM CHOIR	<b>21</b> 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 3:00 PM Community Meal Center 7:00 PM AA	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Christmas Joy Offering	<b>24</b> 7:00 pm 	<b>25</b> Office Closed 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10:00 AM CHOIR	<b>28</b> 7:00 PM AA No Bible Study	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 10:45 AM Worship	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve Office Closed 					

**Westwood Presbyterian Church  
1068 Stahlheber Road  
Hamilton, OH 45013**

**Address Service Requested**

<Label>

Reach, teach, care and share



  
DECEMBER

**2018**