



## The Messenger January 2019



**Annual Congregational Meeting**  
is called for  
**Sunday, January 13.**



**Bible Study**  
will meet again beginning Friday,  
January 18 at 10:00 am.



Dear Westwood Family,  
Thank you for your generous gift at Christmas. Carol and I thank God for you and the opportunity to share in the ministry that God has for each of us. May you have a wonderful New Year.  
In His Love,  
Norman

## Financial Assistance

### **A New Policy for Emergency Financial Assistance**

In order to deal responsibly with the requests we receive for financial assistance, the Session has found it necessary to develop a process by which this may be done.

When a request is made, the first step will be to direct the person to known social service programs in the community. If they have done this and have not found help, they will fill out our "Emergency Funds Request Form". Our funds will provide assistance for basic essential needs which include monies toward rent or utilities. The funds allotted will go directly to the landlord or utility company.

Any assistance will take a minimum of seven days to be approved and the maximum assistance will be \$100.

If you desire to see our policy and the request form, copies are available in the church office.

**Respect the Deadline!**



**Newsletter Deadline**  
for February is  
January 16th.



**Ruth Esther Circle**  
meets Wednesday,  
January 9th  
at 10:00 am.



16 **Jim Simensen**  
24 **Blake Hollenbaugh**  
25 **Ruth Mollett**

**Happy New Year!**

The deacons wish to thank you for your support for our Christmas families. Without your support this project would not be successful. The eight families were delighted when they came to pick up their gift cards, gifts and all the items you provided throughout the year. We will begin collecting more items in February. Please do not forget the Serve City Barrel under the coat rack in the hallway. All non-perishable items will be appreciated.



**Deacons – January 9 – 1 pm**  
**Administration – January 20– after worship**  
**Spiritual Gr/Outreach – January 21 – 6 pm**  
**Session – January 21 – 7 pm**

**Westwood Financial Report - 2018**

<b>November:</b>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Current Funds	6,296.50	6,457.50	-161.00
Per Capita	0.00	0.00	0.00
Benevolence	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,296.50</b>	<b>6,457.50</b>	<b>-161.00</b>
<b>Year-To-Date:</b>			
Current Funds	77,093.37	82,059.30	-4,965.93
Per Capita	600.00	1,092.92	-492.92
Benevolence	532.00	1,291.00	-759.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>78,225.37</b>	<b>84,443.22</b>	<b>-6,056.85</b>

**Attendance for November:**

4th --35  
11th --39  
18th --48  
28th --33  
Total 155

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



**FINANCE  
REPORT**



## FROM THE PASTOR

### “Kindness and Compassion”

*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”*  
Ephesians 4:32

Recently I finished reading a book by Marc Parent titled, *Believing It All: What My Children Taught Me About Trout Fishing, Jelly Toast and Life*.

The book is about a father who is caring for his two young boys, Casey and Owen, ages five and two. He is a stay-at-home dad by choice. He shares that he has learned a lot from his boys, maybe more than they have learned from him.

In one chapter, “The Rabbit,” he recounts his utter amazement at the cruelty of his usually kind and caring boys. It seems as they are out feeding the animals on their farm, the boys are great when it comes to feeding the dog, the chickens and the goat; but as soon as they head toward the rabbit's cage, they pick up a stick with the intent to do bodily harm.

This type of negative behavior is not something they have witnessed in their parents or in others they have met. No matter how much dad tries to reason with them, they still have a desire to pick on the rabbit, even after they finally put down the stick. Why can't they be kind, always? He summarizes his thoughts:

*It's taken the constant lesson of their example for me to finally understand that the road to kindness is a journey that takes a lifetime, and that as we strive to get there, we carry our sticks along the entire distance. If two young children, unblemished by life's hardships, well fed, well cared for stimulated, loved, cuddled, mentored, on a perfect morning in the perfect setting can fall so easily to the draw of cruelty, how much easier is it for autonomous, competitive, self-obsessed, self-serving, overworked, stressed-out adults—especially when we no longer have the parent on our shoulder to tell us when we're slipping. Until this morning, I would have never imagined that the one thing keeping us on the perimeter of paradise could be something so plain and simple as a stick.*

*If it were something they had meant to teach me, the boys would be smiling this morning because I finally just got it—simple kindness as a means to no other end than itself is not something that springs up and flourishes on its own. Compassion is cultivated. Empathy needs watching over. It's not enough to simply plant the seeds. Their fruits are not native to the soul. Left to itself, the untended heart grows cold.*

*The fact is that it's just too easy to be cruel, it's a jacket that fits too well, a silk hat we slip on and then forget we're wearing it. The boys will have to learn to appreciate the benefits that come from being kind. What I have to remember for myself is that anything that's been learned has to be recalled, anything recalled must be studied, and anything studied must be drilled. So above all, kindness is a drill—one that never ends because no matter how well we think we have it down, somewhere deep inside, each one of us carries a stick. (pp. 128-129)*

I don't know about you but I want to keep my stick under control. The Apostle Paul reminds us that as God's person we are to be kind and filled with compassion. Though this is not easy, we have a model from God in Christ Jesus.

There is far too much unkindness in our world. May we as we begin this New Year commit ourselves to kindness and compassion. May we ask God to help us recall, study and drill so that we will make these virtues a natural part of our lives.

May You Have A Blessed New Year.

In Christ,  
Norman

**SERVING  
THIS  
MONTH**



**Ushers: Bob Estridge  
Karen Conrad**

**Worship Leader:**

6 Steve Anglin  
13 Bob Long  
20 Steve Anglin  
27 Reva Johnson

**Sunday School:**

6 Andrea Estridge  
13 Reva Johnson  
20 Marlene Sloneker  
27 Sandra Warren

**Coffee Hour:**

6 Marion Flynn  
13 Session  
20 Bonnie Santel & Lela Wilson  
27 Ruth Esther Circle

**Kitchen Duty:**

Loretta Otto

**Communion Preparation:**

Marlene Sloneker, Reva Johnson

**Communion Servers:**

Steve Anglin, Reva Johnson  
Cindy Anglin



**Prayer Concerns**

**Cancer/Radiation Treatment:**

Nancy Price (Marlene's neighbor) – lung  
Jeanette Capocéfalo (Estridges)  
Christy Lenoir (Godfreys) – breast  
Frank Dougherty – hospice  
Mable Smith (Paul's sister)

**Miscellaneous concerns:**

Summer Estridge – health  
Jeanette Skidmore (Reva's sister) health  
Catherine (Treva's mom) declining health  
Cheryl Long (Bob) – eyes  
Bill Kraft – health  
Pastor Godfrey – heart cath Monday, Jan. 7  
Loretta Otto – cold  
Catherine Gibson - fall

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

**In Nursing Home/Assisted Living:**

The Waterford: Helen Belcher

**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 St. Luke Presbyterian Church of Middletown, OH and their pastor Rev. Richard Sedgwick.





Thank you to our Coffee Hour hosts and hostesses. Special thanks to the December volunteers:  
Marlene Sloneker, Reva Johnson, Marilyn Compton, Spiritual Growth, Deacons

Thank you to the following who were Ushers for the month of December:  
Karen Conrad and Bob Estridge.

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

Thank you to all of our Kitchen Clean-up people. Special thanks to Marilyn Compton for the month of December.

Thank you to Marlene Sloneker and Reva Johnson for preparing communion for December.  
Thank you to the following volunteers for serving communion:  
Steve Anglin, Reva Johnson, Bob Estridge, Dale Alvey.

Thank you to the following volunteers who worked at the Community Meal Center on **Friday, December 21st**: Bob Estridge, Loretta Otto, Marlene Sloneker, Sandra Warren, Marlene's family – Traci Stevison (daughter & Jay), Teri Milders (daughter-in-law), Kristi Craft (niece), Sandy Sloneker (niece), Marianne Locker (niece).

Donations: Bob & Andrea Estridge, Marlene's family, Dale Alvey, Bonita Gay, Reva Johnson, Loretta Otto, Judy Simensen, Sandra Warren.

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



#### **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.

**ANGEL SECURITY**

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



For he will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways;

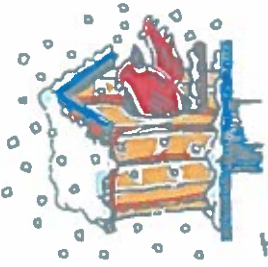
- PSALM 91:11 NIV

# Puzzle!

Love is a fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23. Identify another fruit that can make Valentine's Day — and every day — special. First, write a word that fits each clue below. Then unscramble the letters from the bold, vertical column to find another fruit of the Spirit. Write it on the blanks below.

<b>LEAVE</b>						
<b>CHAPEAU</b>						
<b>TRANQUILITY</b>						
<b>BECOME MATURE</b>						
<b>RESPOND</b>						
<b>SPHERE</b>						
<b>OLD TESTAMENT QUEEN</b>						
<b>DISCOVER</b>						
<b>CONFIDENCE</b>						
<b>ALWAYS</b>						

Answer: depart, hat, peace, grow, answer, ball, Esther, find, trust, ever, gentleness



January

WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN

January 2019



January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p><b>HAPPY NEW YEAR</b></p>	<p><b>1</b> New Year's Day Office Closed</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b> 10:00 AM CHOIR</p>	<p><b>4</b> 7:00 PM AA</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>
<p><b>6</b> 10:45 AM Worship Communion</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b> 10:00 AM Ruth Esther Circle 1:00 PM Deacons</p>	<p><b>10</b> 10:00 AM CHOIR</p>	<p><b>11</b> 7:00 PM AA</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>
<p><b>13</b> 10:45 AM Worship Annual Congregational Meeting</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>16</b> Newsletter Deadline for February</p>	<p><b>17</b> 10:00 AM CHOIR</p>	<p><b>18</b> 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 3:00 PM Community Meal Center 7:00 PM AA</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>
<p><b>20</b> 10:45 AM Worship Administration</p>	<p><b>21</b> 6:00 PM Sp Gr/Outreach 7:00 PM Session Martin Luther King, Jr.</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b> 10:00 AM CHOIR</p>	<p><b>25</b> 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM AA</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>
<p><b>27</b> 10:45 AM Worship</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b> 10:00 AM CHOIR</p>		

Westwood Presbyterian Church  
1068 Stahlheber Road  
Hamilton, OH 45013  
Address Service Requested

<Label>

Reach, teach, care and share



2019