



The Messenger June 2017



Pentecost Offering

The Pentecost Offering will be taken on Pentecost Sunday, June 4. This offering is one of four special offerings that is taken each year by the Presbyterian Church USA. This offering supports ministries for children, youth and young adults at risk. It seeks to invest in their future.

The Pentecost Offering was first received by congregations in 1998. Congregations keep 40 percent of the offering to support work on behalf of children at risk in their community. Our portion of the offering has traditionally been given to One Way Farm. The General Assembly invests its share of the 60 percent in the church through faith-focused ministries with youth and young adults and through programs that benefit children at risk in this country and around the world.

Please plan to support this important offering June 4.

A Pentecost Sequence

Come, Spirit who is our Light.
Shine among the shadows within.
Warm and transform our hearts.

Come, Spirit who makes a home in us.
Draw us to the treasures of Your dwelling.
Reveal to us the inner journey of love.

Come, Spirit, Comforter and Consoler.
Heal the wounded. Soothe the anxious.
Be consolation for all who grieve and ache.

Come, Spirit who energizes our being.
Keep us from the tangles of toil and travail.
Lead us to moments of prayer and play.

Come, Spirit, consuming Fire of Love.
Fill us with enthusiasm for Your vision.
May the desire for truth be vibrant in us.

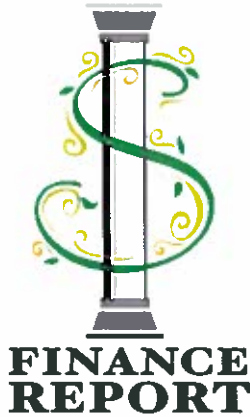
Come, Spirit, joy of our souls.
Dance amid life's hills and valleys,
Encircle us with the delights of Your dance.

Come, Spirit of wisdom and insight.
Draw us toward Your goodness and light.
Direct our growth and guide our ways.

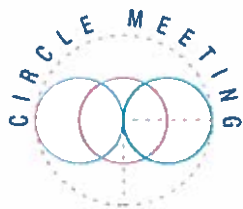
Come, Spirit, strength of wounded ones.
Be warmth in hearts of those grown cold.
Empower the powerless. Rekindle the weary.

Come, Spirit, source of our Peace.
Deepen in us the action of peacemakers.
Heal the divisions that ravage the earth.

Joyce Rupp



Newsletter Deadline
for July is
June 21st.



**Ruth Esther Circle
Picnic is**
Tuesday,
June 20
at 10:30 am.

Westwood Financial Report - 2017

April:	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
Current Funds	8,583.69	8,091.56	492.13
Per Capita	0.00	0.00	0.00
Benevolence	305.00	285.00	20.00
Total	8,888.69	8,376.56	512.13

Year-To-Date:

Current Funds	28,908.55	33,759.46	-4,850.91
Per Capita	785.00	0.00	785.00
Benevolence	385.00	325.00	40.00
Total	30,058.55	34,084.46	-4,025.91

Attendance for April:

2nd	--38
9th	--35
16th	--60
23rd	--35
30th	--40
Total	208

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



Pentecost Sunday will be celebrated with a dinner after church on June 4, 2017. The Spiritual Growth Committee will provide the meat and dessert. Please bring a side dish to share. All are welcome. Any questions, see Reva Johnson.

The Spiritual Growth Committee is sponsoring a trip to Barn 'n Bunk after church on June 25, 2017, for lunch/dinner. The cost is \$12.00 per person. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board. Please sign up if you will be able to go.



- 7 **Debbie Cook**
- 10 **Nancy Elliott**
- 18 **Amber Stitt**
- 23 **Ted Pinkerton**
- 21 **Stacy Gambrell**
- 24 **Bonnie Martin**



- 22 **Bob & Andrea Estridge**
- 26 **Don & Jean Wright**

“WESTWOOD TRANSFORMATION”

For the past two years, a “Transformation Committee,” appointed by the session has been meeting to reflect on where we are as a church. They have met locally and periodically with a task force of several other churches in our Presbytery who are facing the same kind of circumstances we are. Both our committee and the Presbytery group have now officially ended their work.

There are no dramatic conclusions, yet we still are facing a loss of membership, through death, as well as people moving away. Along with these losses our income is dramatically decreasing. This means that in the next few months as we think about 2018, should things continue on the same track, we will need to face some major changes.

The session has agreed that we do want to continue to be a church; but there is no consensus on what form our church will take, especially if we cannot continue as we are. Needless to say, among the session members and the congregation in general, many are confused, grieving over our losses and even having “anticipatory grief” as we contemplate the present and future.

We know from our “transformation” meetings that there are no magic answers to what we are facing. Out of our committees meetings we developed a revised Mission Statement for Westwood, which was approved by the church at our last congregational meeting. It states:

Westwood Presbyterian Church is a fellowship of believers existing to share the Good News of Jesus Christ by ministering to our members, friends, community and the world.

We hope that all of us will take this to heart and let it be a guide for our present and future. Along with the Mission Statement, we confirmed our desire to continue the ministry being done both among our members and in the community. For a small church we have been quite active in our care. Though our numbers

have diminished, we still are picking up the mantle—though sometimes it feels with less energy, a slower pace and a few more limps than in the past. Our care for our facility and grounds, one another and our community are continuing.

It is important in this time of transition that we do not listen to those who like Job's wife, asked him in his turmoil why he didn't “just give up and die?” Certainly that is always an option. However, as we see with Job, God let him know that He was still in charge and the He still had plans for his life. Job's job then was to take God's hand and trust Him. Sure, he had no idea what that future life would look like, but he was assured there would be one and that it would be good. (Can't you just hear the words of the Psalmist reminding us, “Surely His goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives...”)

It is my belief that God still has plans for us as His church. It is not time to fold up our tent and move on. We do grieve, but “we do not grieve as those without hope.” If we will believe that God is in charge and that He still has a plan for our life; and if we will take His hand and let Him guide us; we will be led to where He wants us to be.

Will you be able, in the midst of your concern and grief, to believe this? I do. Pray that we will be able to see the vision God sets before us.

Note: Soon the session will be planning a church retreat to address our future and the form it will take. Your participation and in-put is critical to our future and what God has in mind for us. We hope you will plan to attend.

In Christ,

Norman

A Special
THANK YOU

We want to express a special thank you to our church's "Transformation Committee", that has worked for the past two years. Their work has now concluded. A short report of their findings will be presented at a congregational meeting (retreat) that will be planned by the Session, (date to be announced). Members of the Committee were Doug Platt, Treva Boardman, Bill Mountsire, Dick Flynn, Doug Gambrell, Catherine Gibson, Marlene Sloneker. Thank you again for your faithful participation.



CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Emily Bohne and Bradley Shane (new visitors to the church), who were recently engaged to be married. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.



"The Gifts of Women"

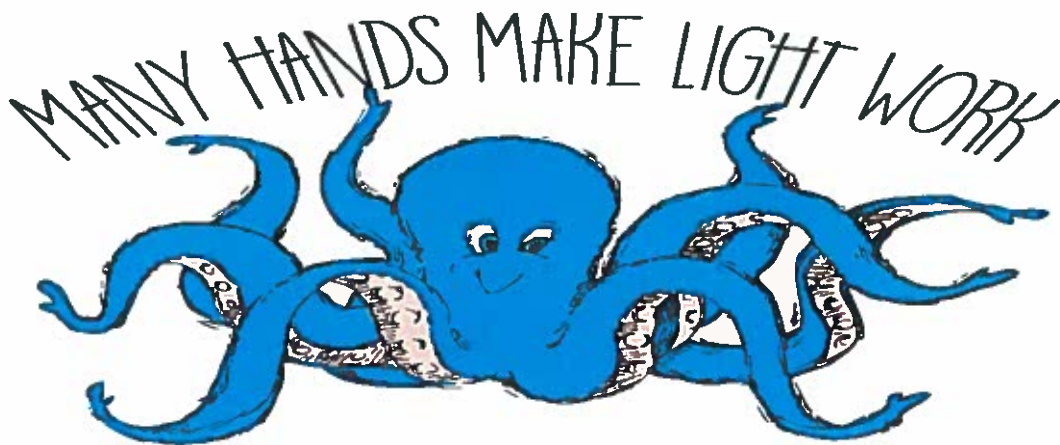
On Sunday, May 14, "Mother's Day", during worship we celebrated "The Gifts of Women". We shared our thankfulness for all that the women of our church provide toward our achieving a successful ministry and positive witness in the world for our Lord Jesus Christ. Truly we would be a much less effective church were it not for the time, talent and gifts that you so freely share.

Thank you, especially to all that participated in the service on "Mother's Day". We were particularly appreciative of the Spiritual Growth Committee for organizing and implementing the service. We are also thankful for Donna Wright who provided musical accompaniment on the flute. Using your gift truly added to our worship experience.

Finally, we want to thank Mrs. Marion Flynn for preparing and providing such a heartfelt and inspirational message on "The Westwood Wonders". She spoke of many of our women and their contributions to our church ministry. A copy of her message is available on the table by the bulletin board in the hallway, if you would like to read it.

Thank you again, "Women of Westwood" for your commitment to God and the church. Your contributions are invaluable.

"GOD'S LOVE IS AT THE HEART OF EVERY KINDNESS!"



Thank you to our Coffee Hour hosts and hostesses. Special thanks to the
May volunteers:
Cathy Sutton, Andrea, Summer & Bob Estridge, Reva Johnson, Dale Alvey & Daine Hurst.

Thank you to the following who were Ushers for the month of May:
Mose Anglin, Loretta Otto.

Thank you to the following Sunday School volunteers for the month of May:
Catherine Gibson, Marlene Sloneker, Sandra Warren and Andrea Estridge.

Thank you to all of our Kitchen Clean-up people. Special thanks to Marion Flynn
for the month of May.

Thank you to Bob Estridge and Doug Platt for preparing communion for May and to Steve
Anglin, Carol Godfrey and Loretta Otto for serving communion.

Thank you to the following volunteers for mowing:
Dale Alvey, Don, Bob Estridge, Estil Gay.

Thank you to the following volunteers who worked at the
Community Meal Center on Friday, May 19th: Bob Estridge, Loretta Otto,
Marlene Sloneker, Traci Stevison, Jackie Tilton.
Donations: Helen Belcher, Andrea Estridge, Bonita Gay, Carol Godfrey, Loretta Otto,
Marlene Sloneker, Traci Stevison, Cathy Sutton, Jackie Tilton, Sandra Warren.

Prayer Concerns

Hospital:

Brenda Burress – Drake

Shut-Ins:

Ruth Mollett

Cancer/Radiation Treatment:

Bob Wadleigh (Marlene's cousin)

Debbie Baker - ovarian

Miscellaneous concerns:

Summer Estridge - health

Tucker Gambrell - spina bifida

Clarence Bohne (Emily Bohne's father) – A-Fib

Hughie Clemons (Vernon Clemons)

Jean Wright – healing

Day Family (Mary L. Day)

Family of Brent Edmonds

Ina Fields – health

Bonnie McMillan – health

Family of Jocelyn Gesell (Marlene)

Family of Karen Woods



In Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

The Knolls: Ellen Lowery

Maple Knolls: Mae Shane (Loretta)

National & International Concerns:

Our country, Natural disasters, violence

Our armed forces worldwide

Persecuted Christians

Missionaries across the world

Peace in our world

Local Concerns:

Our church

Cities of Hamilton & Fairfield

Serve City/One Way Farm

Haven House

Churches in community

Community Meal Center

Congregational Prayer:

We are continuing a series of prayers for

our sister churches in the Miami

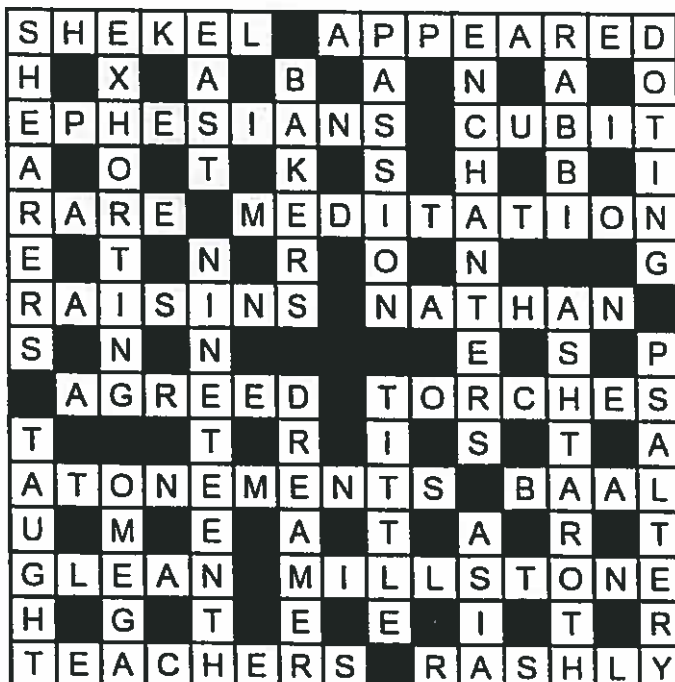
Presbytery. This month we are

remembering the Sugarcreek

Presbyterian Church in Kettering, OH

and their pastor Rev. Brad Dardaganian.

BIBLE CROSSWORD SOLUTION



Across: 1 Shekel, 4 Appeared, 10 Ephesians, 11 Cubit, 12 Rare, 13 Meditation, 15 Raisins, 16 Nathan, 19 Agreed, 21 Torches, 23 Atonements, 25 Baal, 27 Glean, 28 Millstone, 29 Teachers, 30 Rashly.

Down: 1 Shearers, 2 Exhorting, 3 East, 5 Passion, 6 Enchanters, 7 Rabbi, 8 Doting, 9 Bakers, 14 Nineteenth, 17 Ashtaroth, 18 Psaltery, 20 Dreamer, 21 Tittle, 22 Taught, 24 Omega, 26 Asia.



SERVING THIS MONTH



The Deacons appreciate all your contributions to our Christmas Project, One Way Farm & Serve City. Christmas shopping list for June is cereal, pancake mix and syrup. One Way Farm needs sugar free Kool-Aid. Serve City accepts all non-perishable items. Christmas items can be placed on the table in the Fellowship Hall. One Way Farm & Serve City items can be placed in boxes under the coat rack.



Deacons – no meeting in June

Administration – June 18 – after worship

Spiritual Growth/Outreach – June 19 – 6 pm

Session – June 19 – 7 pm

Ushers: Bob Estridge, Ted Pinkerton

Worship Leaders:

- 4 Bob Long
- 11 Bob Estridge
- 18 Doug Gambrell
- 25 Bill Mountsier

Sunday School:

- 4 Catherine Gibson
- 11 Marlene Sloneker
- 18 Sandra Warren
- 25 Andrea Estridge

Coffee Hour:

- 4 Pentecost
- 11 Jean, Donna & Don Wright
- 18 Marlene Sloneker
- 25 Barn 'N Bunk

Kitchen Duty: Reva Johnson

Communion Preparation:

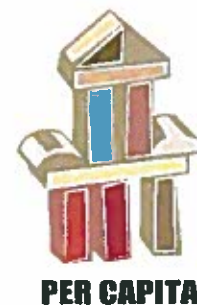
Bob Estridge & Reva Johnson

Communion Servers:

Bob Long, Steve Anglin
Andrea Estridge, Cindy Anglin

Per Capita for 2017

Several of you have asked about the amount of Per Capita that is paid for 2017. The total is \$35 per member. The General Assembly, the Synod of the Covenant, and The Presbytery of the Miami Valley will each receive a portion. If you would like to pay your portion for 2017, just make a check to the church and mark it Per Capita. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk with any member of the Session.



Child Protection Policy

Each Presbyterian Church (USA) is required to have in place a "Sexual Misconduct Policy" and a "Child Protection Policy" (Book of Order, G.0106). On May 15, 2006, Westwood approved a "Sexual Misconduct Policy". This is to be reviewed annually by the Session. At a meeting of the Session on April 17, 2017, a "Child Protection Policy" was approved. A copy of the policy in its entirety is printed here for your information. If you have any questions or concerns, please address them to the pastor or a member of the Session.

WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SAFE CONDUCT POLICY April 17, 2017 Revised

Westwood Presbyterian Church is committed to the safety, welfare, and protection of all children, youth, or the developmentally disabled while in the church or while participating in any church related activity. It is the policy of Westwood Presbyterian Church to deal immediately and fairly with any alleged instance of sexual misconduct. Westwood is determined to be a safe place spiritually, physically, and emotionally for all.

It is the position of our congregation that sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, and child abuse will not be tolerated and that the church, staff, and its members shall be held accountable.

The consequence of such alleged sexual misconduct by any person shall be investigated according to the rules in the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The process, findings and any disciplinary action shall be in accordance with the Book of Order, policies of Presbytery of the Miami Valley, and the laws of the State of Ohio. Any civil or criminal actions shall be the responsibility of the alleged victim(s).

In any such matters alleging child sexual abuse, the matter shall be reported to the proper civil authorities as soon as possible as required by law.

We are dedicated to a policy of open communication and education for the benefit of the children, parents, "vulnerable adults" and guardians we serve. If any problem is seen it should be brought to the attention of the pastor (Book of Order D-10.0401 c).

Guidelines for Care of Children

If possible, two adults should be present at all times during any program, event or ministry involving children. If only one adult is present, the doors to the nursery or fellowship hall must be kept open at all times. Children are to be released to a parent, guardian or previously selected designee. Children must remain in the building at all times. It is up to the parent/guardian/designee to take them outside. Physical, verbal or emotional abuse is prohibited. Physical or emotional neglect is prohibited.



Women do not appear to have a high opinion of men. This is unfair. Oh, sure, men in the past have displayed certain unfortunate behavior patterns that tended to produce unhappy relationships, world wars, etc. But today's man is different. Today's man knows that he's supposed to be a sensitive and caring relationship partner, and he's making radical life-style changes such as sometimes remembering to remove the used tissue wads from his pockets before depositing his pants on the floor to be picked up by the Laundry Fairy.

FATHER'S DAY, JUNE 18, 2017

“DON'T TAKE DAD FOR GRANTED”

A family talked their mother into getting a hamster on the condition that they take care of it. Two months later, when it was obvious that Mom was caring for Danny, the hamster, all by herself, she made some phone calls and found him a new home. She broke the news to the children, who took it quite well except for a few comments. One child said, “He's been around a long time. We'll miss him.” Mom agreed saying, “Yes, but he's too much work for one person, and since I'm that one person, I say he goes.” Another child offered, “Well, maybe if he wouldn't eat so much and wouldn't be so messy, we could keep him.” But mom was firm. “It's time to take Danny to his new home now,” mom insisted. “Go and get his cage.” Then, with one voice in tearful outrage, the children shouted, “Danny? We thought you said Daddy!”

Scripture is full of blessings and praise for good fathers. The writer of Proverbs states: “The righteous walk in integrity—happy are the children who follow them!” The ancient authors in their inspired wisdom (and plain and common sense) seemed to know that having strong, loving parents helps make strong, loving children. It's a connection that can truly make our homes and our world a better place. But how often do we take that line—that fatherly legacy for granted? Like the children in the story above, we sometimes have the capacity to get more emotional over a pet.

I know that I appreciated by father while he was alive, and I tried to show it. But now that he'd gone, I find myself making more of those connections between the lessons he taught me and the person I've become and am still becoming. I look at his service in World War II and reflect on how he and lots of others dads put the safety of the world before their own.

This Father's Day, June 18th, let's cherish anew our dads and all those father figures in our lives who loved us and taught us, and shaped us and our world.

(*This article was written by Rev. Suzan Zink, former pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Fairfield, Ohio. Susan died of cancer ten years ago. This is an example of how our words can speak to others even after our death. Please thank God for Suzan and pray for her family.)

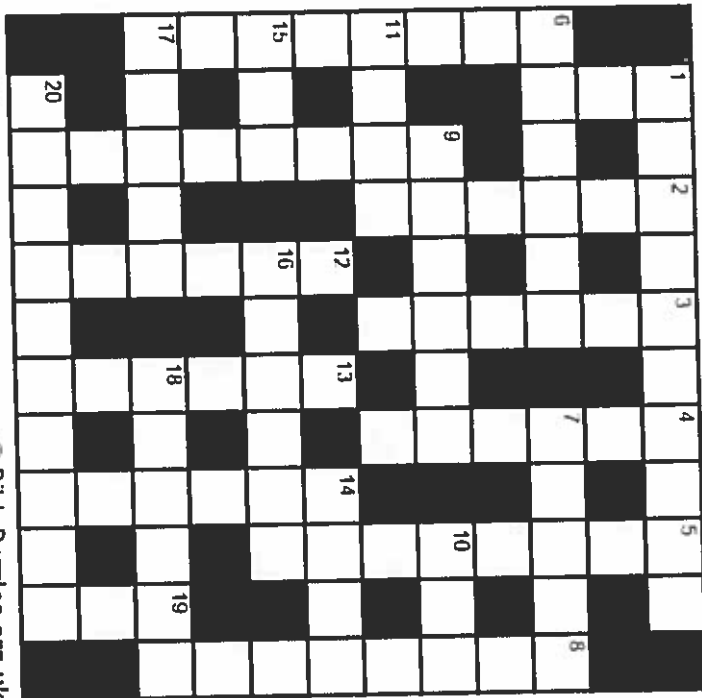
Bible Crossword 2

Across

- 1 Remorse (10)
- 6 Consecrate (6)
- 7 Break a Commandment (5)
- 9 Make a hole (6)
- 10 Pot (3)
- 11 What Ai became (4)
- 14 This initially watered the earth (4)
- 15 Samuel's mentor (3)
- 16 Small river (6)
- 17 Mount that Moses climbed (5)
- 18 Prophet in David's time (6)
- 20 Biblical garden (10)

Down

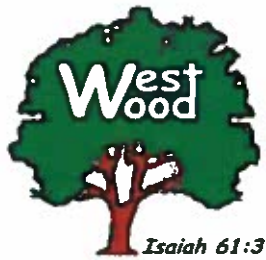
- 1 Take flight (3)
- 2 One of the twelve (6)
- 3 All living things (6)
- 4 Response (6)
- 5 Guardians of Eden (8)
- 6 The father of Levi (8)
- 8 Grow (8)
- 9 Forbearance (8)
- 12 Second longest book (6)
- 13 Statue metal (6)
- 14 Sister of Lazarus and Mary (6)
- 19 Wood splitter (3)



by Philologus

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

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CALL ON HIS NAME



June 2017

WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 10:45 AM Worship Communion Day of Pentecost	5	6	7	8	9 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Meeting	10 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Meeting
11 10:45 AM Worship	12	13	14	15	16 10:00 AM Bible Study 3:00 PM Community Meal Center 7:00 PM AA Meeting	17
18 10:45 AM Worship Administration Com after worship Father's Day	19 6:00 PM Spiritual Growth/Outreach 7:00 PM Session	20 10:30 AM Ruth Esther Circle	21 Newsletter Deadline	22	23 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Meeting	24
25 10:45 AM Worship	26	27	28	29	30 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Meeting	