



## The Messenger March 2017



**The Friday Morning Bible Study** during Lent will focus on **John: The Gospel of Light and Life**, by Adam Hamilton. This six week course will begin on Friday, March 3, at 10:00 am and conclude on Friday, April 7. Participants will be invited to read through the gospel of John as we focus on:

- March 3: "The Word Made Flesh", (Chapter 1)
- March 10: "The Miraculous Signs of Jesus", (Chapters 2-5)
- March 17: "The 'I Am' Sayings of Jesus", Chapters 6-11)
- March 24: "The Farewell Discourse", (Chapters 12-17)
- March 31: "The Arrest, Trial, Crucifixion of the King",  
(Chapters 18-19)
- April 7: "Eternal Life", (Chapters 20-21)

The Gospel of John focuses intentionally on the identity and meaning of Jesus' life. As a participant you will be asked to imagine yourself in the scripture and the meaning of Christ's life for you. You will be encouraged to address the following questions as you read the passages of John:

- **What is said in this passage about Jesus?**
- **In this passage, how does Jesus bring life to me?**
- **What response do these verses require of me?**

Please join us on Friday mornings, beginning on March 3 at 10 am, as we study the book of John, looking at the major themes of Christ's life and ministry and what that means for each of us.

**Sunday Lenten Study**  
Beginning on March 5, the first Sunday in Lent, at 9:15 am, Mr. Steve Anglin will be leading a study, "Final Words from the Cross". It will be based on the book by the same title, written by Dr. Adam Hamilton, Senior Pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. The class, which will be held for six weeks will focus on Christ's last words as He hung for six hours on the cross. It will conclude on April 9, Palm Sunday. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway. A book for each participant will be ordered. You won't want to miss this!



**Lent begins with  
Ash Wednesday  
on March 1.**

We will have a lite soup supper  
at 6:00 pm followed  
by worship at 7:00 pm.

**“Meeting Jesus”  
(A 2017 Lenten Devotional)**

by

**Jodi Craiglow**

On the table by the bulletin board is a devotional booklet for Lent written by our own Jodi Craiglow. Jodi is at present adjunct professor and PhD student at Trinity International University, a ruling elder at First Presbyterian Church in Libertyville, Illinois, and a curriculum developer for the synod of Mid-America's Theocademy. May you be truly blessed as Jodi shares stories of those who met Jesus.



**Daylight Saving Time Begins  
on Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>.**

**Remember to set your clocks  
forward one hour.**



**13 Lela & Arvil Wilson  
23 Bonnie & Richard Martin**



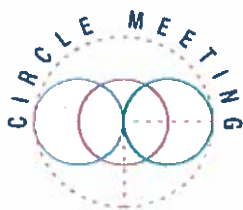
**11 Sara Pinkerton  
12 Bonita Gay  
15 Phyllis Anglin  
17 Dale Alvey  
18 Billy Riechers  
20 Paul Carlisle  
23 Stacey Smith  
24 Emmalee Brittain  
31 Bob Estridge**



**FINANCE  
REPORT**

**DEADLINE FOR  
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

**Newsletter Deadline**  
for April is  
March 15th.



**Ruth Esther Circle**  
meets Tuesday,  
March 21  
at 10 am.  
Your hostess is  
Loretta Otto and  
Marilyn Compton is  
study leader.

**Westwood Financial Report - 2017**

<b>January:</b>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Current Funds	8,622.86	7,792.40	830.46
Per Capita	170.00	0.00	170.00
Benevolence	20.00	0.00	20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,812.86</b>	<b>7,792.40</b>	<b>1,020.46</b>

<b>Year-To-Date:</b>			
Current Funds	8,622.86	7,792.40	830.46
Per Capita	170.00	0.00	170.00
Benevolence	20.00	0.00	20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,812.86</b>	<b>7,792.40</b>	<b>1,020.46</b>

**Attendance for January:**

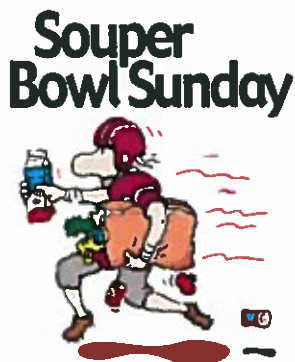
1st	--30
8th	--30
15th	--30
22nd	--30
29th	--41
<b>Total</b>	<b>161</b>

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



**“Those Old Shoes Take a Hike”**

A special thanks to everyone who donated their “gently used shoes to the Boy Scouts of America Dan Beard Council. You gave over 100 pairs to their “Soles 4 Souls” emphasis. These will be shared with needy people around the world. God bless each of you for your generosity.



**“Souper Bowl Sunday”**

Thank you to the “Spiritual Growth and Outreach Committee” for sponsoring the soup luncheon following worship on February 5. The soups made by Marlene, Reva and Andrea were delicious. Thank you also for those who provided desserts and corn bread. The decorations were great. Also, because of your generosity, 163 cans of soup were delivered to One Way Farm. What a wonderful time of fellowship we all had.

**A Sermon Series for Lent 2017  
"Exploring The Apostle's Creed"**

*What Christians Believe and Why*

A few weeks back, during a sermon, I encouraged each of you to think about what you really believe about God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, our Calling as the Church. How are you coming at putting that into words?

To take it further, as a way of thinking about what we believe, during Lent 2017, I am inviting you to explore along with me "The Apostle's Creed". The first half of our Presbyterian Church's constitution is our Book of Confessions. These confessions contain the salient "Doctrines of the Church". Since its creation in the fourth century, the Apostle's Creed, (included in our *Book of Confessions*), has been widely used, not only by the Presbyterian Church USA, but throughout the centuries by numerous denominations and religious groups to express their basic beliefs.

"Creed", according to *Merriam Webster Dictionary On Line, 2016*, means, "a statement of the basic beliefs of a religion; an idea or set of beliefs that guides the actions of a person or group". The Apostle's Creed states:

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried,  
He descended to the Dead.  
On the third day He rose again;  
He ascended into heaven,  
is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of the saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

The schedule of the messages will be as follows:

March 5, "I Believe"  
March 12, "I Believe in God the Father Almighty"  
March 19, "I Believe in Jesus Christ, His Only Son, Our Lord"  
March 26, "I Believe in the Holy Spirit"  
April 2, "I Believe in the Church and the Communion of Saints"  
April 9, "I Believe in the Forgiveness of Sins" (Palm Sunday)  
April 16, "I Believe in the Resurrection...and Life Everlasting"  
(Easter/The Resurrection of Our Lord)

Let's pray for one another as we think more in depth about what we truly believe as God's people. May this inspire us to a renewed commitment to the ministry we are called to provide. Amen.

*Norman*



### LENT BEGINS

Wow! We just finished Advent, Christmas and Epiphany and now we are rushed into the next major cycle of the church year—Lent. It will begin on March first with our annual Ash Wednesday soup supper at 6 pm, followed by worship at 7.

The “Meaning of Lent” is described as follows by Revs. Marion Soards, Thomas Dozeman and Kendall McCabe:

The clue to the meaning of Lent can be found by looking at the two days that bracket it, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On Ash Wednesday, it is customary in many congregations for persons to have ashes placed upon their heads while they are being told, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”. In other words, we are confronted by the fact of our mortality in a vivid physical encounter. On Good Friday, we witness the death of another human being, and we are told that in His death, we all have died. Lent certainly is intended to end at the cross, but it begins with the human condition that we all share, and it takes on the character of a pilgrimage...

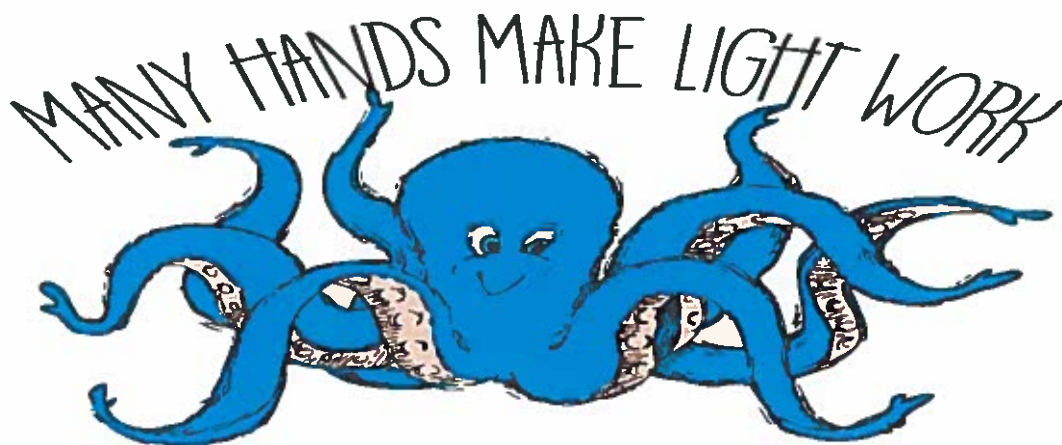
The lessons through Lent provide an opportunity to examine ourselves in relation to the mystery of the cross as a sign of the new covenant and to examine ourselves in terms of the covenant we made with God through our Baptism or which we expect to make if we are preparing for baptism or confirmation. As we did not celebrate Advent pretending Christmas had not happened, so we do not celebrate Lent as though we know nothing about Easter. Lent is a time of “festive fasting” in the words of Adrian Nocent: “...Indeed the whole Lenten fast is festive because it is leading up to the victory and return of the Spouse.”

The traditional color in the West for Lent has been purple, recognizing that we are decorating for the King who is on His way to mount the throne of the cross.

My hope is that we will take this time to focus on your journey with Christ as we live in the meantime awaiting Christ's return. As an aid, why not take advantage of the two Bible studies (“Final Words from the Cross,” and “John the Gospel of Light and Life”), offered during Lent to stimulate your minds and hearts. (See description on page one.)

#### Prayer for Lent

All-seeing God, You know our motives as well as our deeds: nothing we think or do is a secret to You. May our piety grow out of love for You, our generosity out of genuine care for others, our prayers out of deep thankfulness for the treasures You entrust to our stewardship. Guide our time of fasting and self-examination toward the deepening of our faith and the effectiveness of our service, in Christ's name. Amen.



Thank you to our Coffee Hour hosts and hostesses. Special thanks to the February volunteers:

Catherine Gibson, Cindy & Steve Anglin, Doug Platt and Session

Thank you to the following who were Ushers for the month of February:

Reva Johnson, Doug Gambrell, Betty Gambrell

Thank you to the following Sunday School volunteers for the month of February:

Andrea Estridge, Reva Johnson, Marlene Sloneker, Sandra Warren

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

Thank you to Reva Johnson for preparing communion for February and to Steve Anglin, Bob Estridge, Loretta Otto and Marion Flynn for serving communion.

Thank you to the following volunteers who worked at the Community Meal Center on Friday, February 17th: Bob Estridge, Loretta Otto, Marlene Sloneker, Traci Stevison.

Donations: Helen Belcher, Andrea & Bob Estridge, Loretta Otto, Marlene Sloneker, Traci Stevison, Sandra Warren.

A special thank you to Mrs. Catherine Gibson for the lovely arrangements of flowers she prepares for worship. Thank you Catherine for sharing your special gift with us.

## Prayer Concerns

### Hospital:

Brenda Burress – Drake  
Mike Day

### Shut-Ins:

Ruth Mollett

### Cancer/Radiation Treatment:

Bob Wadleigh (Marlene's cousin)  
Doug Platt  
Kasey Hacker (Doug Platt) – stomach/IN  
Charles (Martha H) - stage 4  
Randy Hollenbaugh - stomach

### Miscellaneous concerns:

Don Pottenger – dialysis  
Summer Estridge – health  
Phyllis West (Doug Platt) – brain tumor  
Tucker Gambrell – spina bifida  
Lark Anspach – incarceration  
Rick Keltner (Martha's nephew) - TIAS  
Don Wright – health issues, oxygen  
Catherine – safety  
George Mainous – healing  
Zack Morningstar (Vivian) Hodgkin's  
lymphoma; mass around heart  
Family of Martha Humphrey

### Congratulations:

To Helen Belcher on birth of 10th great grandbaby, Simon Smallwood, born February 17th. Parents are Tim and Sarah Smallwood.

### In Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

The Woodlands: George Michaels  
The Knolls: Ellen Lowery  
Maple Knolls: Mae Shane (Loretta)  
Bradford Place: Phyllis Anglin

### 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

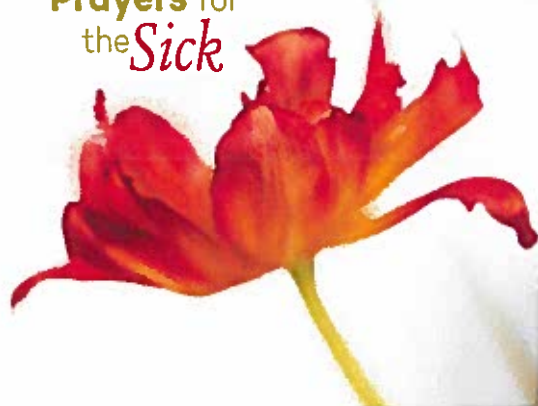
**Thank You Westwood Ladies** for all that you have done for our family. Your kindness means the world to me.

Barb Mainous & family

### Congregational Prayer:

We are continuing a series of prayers for our sister churches in the Maimi Presbytery. This month we are remembering the First Presbyterian Church in Middletown, OH and their pastor Rev. Michael Isaacs.

Prayers for  
the *Sick*



Choose LIFE

Deuteronomy 30:19



## Deacon's Corner

This month for the Christmas project and One Way Farm. We are collecting cleaning products for the Christmas project and canned Chef Boyardee Pasta for the month of February. As always, we accept non-perishable items for Serve City. Please place your items in the baskets in the hall. The Deacons thank you for your generous contributions.



**Deacons – March 1 – 1 pm**

**Administration – March 19 – after worship**

**Spiritual Growth/Outreach – March 20 – 6 pm**

**Session – March 20 – 7 pm**

### 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.

**SERVING THIS MONTH**



**Ushers: Dale Alvey, Marlene Sloneker, Bob Estridge**

#### Worship Leaders:

- 1 Bill Mountsier (Ash Wednesday)**
- 5 Steve Anglin**
- 12 Bob Long**
- 19 Bob Estridge**
- 26 Dick Flynn**

#### Sunday School:

- 5 Andrea Estridge**
- 12 Reva Johnson**
- 19 Marlene Sloneker**
- 26 Sandra Warren**

#### Coffee Hour:

- 5 Bonita & Estil Gay**
- 12 Cathy Sutton**
- 19 Jeanne & Mike Riechers**
- 26 Donut Day**

**Kitchen Duty: Loretta**

#### Communion Preparation:

**Bob Estridge & Doug Platt**

#### Communion Servers:

**Steve Anglin, Bob Estridge, Marlene Sloneker, Marion Flynn**



**PER CAPITA**



# March 2017

## WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 9:15 AM Lenten Study 10:45 AM Worship 1st Sunday in Lent Communion	6	7	1 10:30 AM Morning Prayer Group 1:00 PM Descans 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service	2 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM Sorority	3 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Meeting World Day of Prayer	4 9:30 AM Choir
12 10:45 AM Worship 2nd Sunday in Lent Daylight Saving Time begins	13	14	8 10:30 AM Morning Prayer Group Newsletter Deadline	9 7:00 PM Choir	10 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Meeting	11 9:30 AM Choir
19 9:15 AM Lenten Study 10:45 AM Worship 3rd Sunday in Lent Administration Committee worship	20 6:00 PM Sp Gr/Outreach 7:00 PM Session	21 10:00 AM Ruth Esther Circle	15 10:30 AM Morning Prayer Group	16 7:00 PM Choir	17 10:00 AM Bible Study 3:00 PM Community Meal Center 7:00 PM AA Meeting	18 9:30 AM Choir
26 9:15 AM Lenten Study 10:45 AM Worship 4th Sunday in Lent	27	28	29 10:30 AM Morning Prayer Group	30 7:00 PM Choir	24 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Meeting	25 9:30 AM Choir

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

<Label>

# CALL ON HIS NAME



**SUPREME**  
**SPLENDID**  
**CONSIDERATE**

**COMPLETE**  
**BLESSED**  
**KNOWING**  
**EXPERT**  
**MERCIFUL**  
**DIVINE**  
**SACRED**  
**FAULTLESS**  
**CLEAN**  
**SPOTLESS**

**PASSIONATE**  
**UNEQUALLED**  
**REVERED**  
**COURAGEOUS**  
**JESUS**  
**DECEITLESS**  
**IMMACULATE**  
**SUPERB**  
**INCOMPARABLE**

**SPOTLESS**  
**HALLOWED**  
**GOD**  
**ABSOLUTE**  
**CRUCIFIED**  
**LITERAL**

**IMI**



**MARCH 2017**