



## The Messenger May 2018



**The National Day of Prayer Breakfast**  
at the Courtyard by Marriott, we  
Riverfront Plaza, Hamilton Thursday,  
May 3, 2018 at 7:15 am. Guest speaker  
will be Vanessa Cannon, owner of True  
West and volunteer for Young Life in  
Hamilton. Cost per person is \$20.

### **Ladies' Spring Banquet**

Tuesday, May 8, 6:30 pm

Please have your reservation in by  
April 29 to Reva or Marlene. Cost  
is \$10.00. Entertainment will be  
**Hamilton High's Rhapsody in  
Blue Show Choir.** You will not  
want to miss this.



### **Pentecost Celebration**

**Sunday, May 20 is Pentecost.**

Following worship, we will have  
a carry-in dinner. Meat (ham),  
dessert and drinks will be  
provided. Please bring a dish to  
share as we celebrate the  
"Birthday of the Church".



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

## Memorial Service

On Sunday, May 27, 2018, as a part of the worship service, we will have a candle-lighting ceremony. We will light candles as a memorial for those whom we have lost. If you would like to remember a loved-one during this service, please fill out the form below and drop it by the church office or give it to Reva Johnson or Rev. Godfrey.

## Memorial Service Request



On Sunday, May 27, 2018, I would like a candle lit in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(Please turn into church office, put in offering plate or give to Reva Johnson or Rev. Godfrey.)



5 Sandra Warren  
8 Richard Martin  
9 Marion Flynn  
Mike McGuire  
19 Cindy Anglin  
21 Andrea Estridge  
25 Donna Wright  
26 Jean Wright



4 Norman & Carol Godfrey  
23 Jim & Judy Simensen

## Thoughts to Ponder

“Life is like an onion: You peel it off one layer at a time, and sometimes you weep.”

*Carl Sandburg*

“There is nothing harder than the softness of indifference.”

*Juan Motallvo*

“The strength of a country is the strength of its religious convictions.”

*Calvin Coolidge*

“To have grown wise and kind is real success.”

*Anonymous*



## Pentecost offering

### Pentecost – Special Offering

May 20, 2018

### **“Celebrating the Gifts of Women” Sunday, May 13, 2018**

Each year in the Presbyterian Church USA, a special day is set aside to celebrate the gifts that women have brought to the church: Internationally, Nationally, and Locally. For the past two years the Spiritual Growth and Outreach Committee has sponsored a special Sunday for this purpose. This year, as we did last year, the special day will be Mother's Day, May 13. The women of the church will lead us in worship that day. There will be testimonies from Ruth (of Old Testament fame), Elizabeth (John the Baptist's mother), and Alma (mother of the Prodigal son). You won't want to miss this special service. Why not invite a friend to celebrate the gifts women have shared in God's ministry throughout the centuries. (By the way, there will be a special gift for each woman who attends that day.)

Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the arrival of the Holy Spirit as a bringer of new life with an Offering that nurtures the faith of children, youth, and young adults. As one of four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. 40% stays with this congregation to develop and support programs for young people in our own church and community. 25% supports Young Adult Volunteers (YAV), serving in communities around the world, and growing as leaders through transformative Christian service. 25% supports Ministries with Youth to help guide our youth by uniting them in Christ and lifting them up as leaders and messengers of God's word. 10% is devoted to children at-risk to improve education and provide safe havens. Please give generously, in this, our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of building lives of faith, of building the church of the future.

**IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE,  
IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.**

**DEADLINE FOR  
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

**Newsletter Deadline  
for June is  
May 16th.**



**Ruth Esther Circle**  
will meet Wednesday,  
May 2nd at 10:00 am.  
Andrea Estridge is  
hostess. This will be a  
planning meeting.



# FROM THE PASTOR

## “ A Spring Blessing”

As the battle between Winter and Spring continues, many of us are ready for the conflict to cease. It has been a long, disruptive winter in our lives and we are ready for color, light and warm breezes. Some of us can't wait to get outdoors, work in our yards and once again enjoy the beauty of nature.

I don't know about you, but it gives me great comfort to know that, indeed, Spring will overcome and nature will give us just what we need to lift our spirits. Recently I discovered a book written by two of my favorite devotional writers: Joyce Rupp and Macrina Wiederkehr. The title is, *The Circle of Life: The Heart's Journey Through the Seasons*. As we move into Spring I want to share with you their “Spring Blessing”.

*Blessed are you spring, bright season of life awakening. You gladden our hearts with opening buds and returning leaves as you put on your robes of splendor.*

*Blessed are you, spring. In you is a life no death can destroy. As you exchange places with winter, you harbor no unforgiving spirit for broken tree limbs and frozen buds.*

*Blessed are you, spring. You open the closed buds of our despair as you journey with us to flowering places.*

*Blessed are you, spring. You invite us to sing songs to the frozen regions within and to bless the lessons of winter as we become your partner in a new dance.*

*Blessed are you, spring. Like Jesus, standing before the tomb of Lazarus, you call to us: “Remove winter's stone, come out, there is like her you have not yet tasted.”*

*Blessed are you, spring, free gift of the earth. Without cost we gaze upon your glory. You are a gospel of good news for the poor and rich alike.*

*Blessed are you spring. Your renewing rain showers and cathartic storms nurture the potential that sleeps in Earth's heart and in our own earthen hearts.*

*Blessed are you spring, season of resurrection, sacrament of promise. Like Jesus you rise up out of the darkness, leaving around you a wake of new life.*

*Blessed are you spring, miracle child of the four seasons. With your wand of many colors you work magic in the corners of our darkness.*

*Blessed are you, spring, season of hope and renewal. Wordless poem about all within us that can never die. Each year you amaze us with the miracle of returning life.*

May the light of Christ Jesus, God's Son, lift you up as the world comes to life all around us. Amen.

In Christ,

*Norman*



SERVING  
THIS  
MONTH



The battle between Winter and Spring has been daunting, but it looks like Spring is finally going to win as we see the greening of our grass and trees and plants popping through the ground. We have so much for which we are thankful. We are especially thankful for those of you who are continuing throughout the year faithfully making donations for the Christmas project and One Way Farm. Also, many items (canned goods, books and clothing) have been donated for Serve City.

For May we are collecting for the Christmas families: Jello, Pudding, Peanut Butter and Jelly. For One Way Farm we will be needing canned pears and peaches.

The deacons are actively visiting the sick, sending cards, making calls and welcoming visitors. Pray for them as they continue to guide us in this ministry.

Just a head's up: **WE WILL BE HAVING OUR ANNUAL CHILI SUPPER IN OCTOBER!** We will need all the help that you can muster to pull this off. Please get your volunteer shoes on!

**Ushers: Andrea Estridge  
Summer Estridge**

**Worship Leader:**

**6 Doug Gambrell  
13 Women's Sunday  
20 Bob Long  
27 Andrea Estridge**

**Sunday School:**

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

**Coffee Hour:**

**6 Reva Johnson  
13 Andrea, Summer & Bob Estridge  
20 Pentecost  
27 Cathy Sutton**

**Kitchen Duty:**

**Marlene Sloneker**

**Communion Preparation:**

**Andrea Estridge**

**Communion Servers:**

**Marlene Sloneker, Carol Godfrey,  
Loretta Otto**

**"Thank You"**

My Dear Westwood Family,  
Thank you for all your support as I have dealt with several health issues recently. Your calls, cards, prayers, and flowers have meant so much. They cheered me more than you can imagine. I am moving in the right direction now and ask for your continued prayers. I am blessed to have your friendship and care.

God Bless,  
Carol Godfrey



## **Prayer Concerns**

**Hospital:** Barbara Henele (Helen) - cancer

### **Cancer/Radiation Treatment:**

Miriam Kridner (Helen's sister) liver

Diane Leeds (Reva)

Lorrie Brown (Godfreys) - radiation

### **Miscellaneous concerns:**

Summer Estridge - health

Dick Flynn – health

Jesus Pacheco (8 yr old)

Bonnie MacMillan - health

Helen Belcher – health

Carol Godfrey – health

Jesus Perez – dialysis

Reva's sister

### **In Nursing Home/Assisted Living:**

The Knolls: Ellen Lowery

Maple Knolls: Mae Shane (Loretta)

### **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/One Way Farm

Haven House

Churches in community

Community Meal Center

### **Congregational Prayer:**

As we continue to pray for our sister churches in the Miami Presbytery, this month we are remembering Bellbrook Presbyterian Church in Bellbrook, OH and their pastor Rev. Diane Ziegler.



Dear Westwood Family & Pastor Norman,

Thank you for all of your food donations to CMC & your gift of \$100.00 to me! I am blessed by being friends and serving our Lord with you. You all are always so welcoming & kind to me. God bless you in all you do!

Peace & Love...in God's service.

Lauren

Dear Church Family,

Words fail me now. Thank you doesn't seem to say enough to you for your cards, phone calls, visits and prayers. I'm so humbled by your love, and really appreciate your concern.

Thank you again.

In Christian love,

Helen B.

### **Per Capita for 2018**

Several of you have asked about the amount of Per Capita that is paid for 2018. 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 2018, 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.



### Westwood Financial Report - 2018

March:	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Current Funds	6,011.50	7,222.22	-1,210.72
Per Capita	70.00	0.00	70.00
Benevolence	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,081.50</b>	<b>7,222.22</b>	<b>-1,140.72</b>

### Year-To-Date:

Current Funds	18,741.04	23,774.01	-5,032.97
Per Capita	480.00	0.00	480.00
Benevolence	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,221.04</b>	<b>23,774.01</b>	<b>-4,552.97</b>

### Attendance for March:

4th	--34
11th	--33
18th	--36
25th	--35
<b>Total</b>	<b>138</b>

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



### ANSWERS in Bold print for What does the Bible say?

- 1) After Jesus rose from the dead how many days did the people see him?.....(C) **40**.... Acts 1:3
- 2) What was He doing during this time?.....(B) **Talking about the things of the Kingdom**.....Acts 1:3
- 3) He commanded them not to..... (A) **depart**....Acts 1:4
- 4) But ye shall receive.....when the Holy Ghost is come upon you (B) **Power**.....Acts 1:5
- (5) He was taken up and a.....received Him.....(A) **Cloud**...Acts 1:9
- (6) Ye men of.....why stand ye gazing up... (C) **Galilee**.....Acts 1:11
- (7) Then they returned to.....(C) **Jerusalem** .....Acts 1:12
- (8) These all continued with.....in prayer..(C) **one accord**...Acts 1:14
- (9) And.....stood up.....(A) **Peter**...Acts 1:15
- (10) For it is written in the book of.....(C) **Psalms**.....Acts 1:20
- (11) And when the day of.....was fully come.....(B) **Pentecost**.....Acts 2:1
- (12) **And there were**.....at Jerusalem Jews.....(C) **dwelling**....Acts 2:5



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

Loretta Otto, Marilyn Compton and Ruth Esther Circle.

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

Bob Estridge and Cathy Sutton

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

Thank you to all of our Kitchen Clean-up people. Special thanks to Cathy Sutton and  
Marilyn Compton for the month of April.

Thank you to Reva Johnson for preparing communion for April.  
Thank you to the following for serving communion: Marlene Sloneker, Bonnie Santel,  
Carol Godfrey

Thank you to the following volunteers who worked at the Community Meal Center on  
Friday, April 20th: Bob Estridge, Loretta Otto, Jacki Tilton.

Donations: Helen Belcher, Andrea Estridge, Bonita Gay, Loretta Otto, Jacki Tilton.

Special thanks to Estil and Bonita Gay for continuing to post new  
messages on the church sign.





# WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN

## May 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 10:45 AM WORSHIP Deacons after worship	7 10:45 AM WORSHIP Gifts of Women Sunday Mother's Day	8 6:30 PM Ladies Spring Banquet	9 10:00 AM Ruth Esther Circle	10 10:00 AM CHOIR	11 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM AA	12 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM AA
13 10:45 AM WORSHIP Admin. Com. after Pentecost Celebration & Offering	14 6:00 PM SPIRITUAL GROWTH 7:00 PM SESSION	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 10:00 AM CHOIR	17 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 3:00 PM Community Meal Center 7:00 PM AA	18 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM AA	19 Armed Forces Day
20 10:45 AM WORSHIP Memorial Service	21 28 Memorial Day (Observed)	22 29	23 30	24 31 10:00 AM CHOIR	25 10:00 AM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM AA	26

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

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**2018**