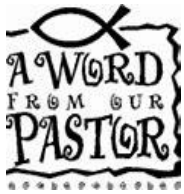


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November/December 2025 Newsletter

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."

– Isaiah 9:2 NIV

As we move into the Advent season, we are reminded that waiting is a part of the story of faith. Advent is the season of anticipation—a holy pause between promise and fulfillment. For centuries, God's people waited for the coming of the Messiah, holding on to hope that the light would break through the darkness. Isaiah's words remind us that the light has indeed come, and His name is Jesus.

In a world that moves so fast we often miss the scenery, waiting is not something we do easily or enjoy. Yet Advent calls us to slow down and listen—to wait with expectation for what God will do. It's not an empty waiting, but a hopeful one. Each candle we light, each carol we sing, reminds us that God keeps His promises. The same God who came to us in Bethlehem still comes to us today—into our homes, our churches, and the quiet corners of our hearts.

So, as we prepare for Christmas, may we not rush past the waiting. Instead, let's use this season to renew our hope in Christ. Whatever darkness we face, His light still shines. The Savior we long for has come—and He will come again. May this Advent be a time of holy expectation, deep peace, and renewed joy as we wait for the Hope of Jesus. Amen!

Trusting in God,
Pastor Sean



The **November/December** issues of **The Upper Room** devotionals are available to you on the wall rack in the outer Narthex.



If you would like to give **altar flowers** to celebrate a special occasion or in memory of a loved one, please get in touch with the church office. **Thank you.**

The Women of Woodlawn (WOW)

As I'm writing this article the sun is shining on the beautiful colorful trees. Fall is such a pretty time of the year and a busy time.

A group of six of us toured the Bible Walk in October. It was very inspiring and impressive to us. We also enjoyed lunch in Mansfield.

It's time for the Samaritans Christmas shoe boxes. They are on the table in the Narthex and they are due back to the church on November 16th. Pat Trout brought some extra items to help fill the boxes, if you want help yourself. You can also fill them online. Phyllis Crall has created the Woodlawn site if you want to use it. There are instruction sheets on the table with the boxes.

There will be a hat, mitten, glove and scarf tree to fill for those in need. Last year we delivered them to BORN.

There are new thank-you notes on the bulletin board from the missions that our church sends the love offerings.

Wow will meet November 19th at 9:30AM at the church. We will make plans for our December Meeting. All ladies are welcome to attend.

Blessing to all,
WOW

- The mission offering for November** will be given to **Salvation Army**
- The mission offering for December** will be given to **Flat Rock**
- The mission offering for Christmas Eve** is to be determined

3rd Sunday Benefit

Just a reminder that **Woodlawn GMC** will continue to support **Jericho House** in mission every **3rd Sunday** but without a **meal**.

Also the Sponsor sheet is on the table in the Narthex for September 2025 to August 2026. Thank you

We appreciate your donations on each 3rd Sunday.

**Blessings for all of Woodlawn and the folks at Jericho.
Phyllis Crall and "The Kitchen Gang"**

November Mission is Salvation Army

The Salvation Army Mission Statement

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the Universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

The Salvation Army offers a helping hand for those who need a little nudge. Helping in a practical way is how we believe we do the most good.

- **Meals:** To-Go Meals provided Tuesday-Thursday for breakfast and lunches.
- **Utility Assistance:** During a long, cold winter, your heat bill swells and you receive a notice from your energy provider that all utilities will be disconnected unless you can pay the overdue balance. Or, maybe a job loss forced you to choose between paying rent or paying your electric bill. We can help.
- **Clothing Closet:** We help provide clothing, shoes and household goods to families and individuals in need. We accept donations of gently used clothing, shoes, and other items which can be placed in our donation bins on the property.
- **Feeding Ministry:** We feed people, including the most vulnerable of our communities — underserved children, the elderly, people looking to better their lives at our addiction recovery facilities, and families in need food. Salvation Army food pantries provide groceries for families and individuals in need. Food offered at no-charge to the clients.

Assistance Hours:

Tuesday-Thursday 9 am- 2 pm

Call (419) 562-0071 to schedule an appointment

December Mission is Flat Rock

The mission of Flat Rock Homes is to provide outstanding services which transform lives of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and persons with critical needs through a dedication to caring and excellence that demonstrates Christian values.

The vision of Flat Rock Homes is to be a model organization which creates caring communities of excellence that support life-long services to persons with developmental disabilities, their families and persons with critical needs while maintaining a sound financial position.

These values which guide Flat Rock Homes mission to this day are an expression of the vision and intent of our Christian founders.

- **Respect:** Treat everyone in our diverse community, including those we serve, their families and colleagues, with dignity.
- **Compassion:** Provide a culture of caring, treating those we serve, and family members with sensitivity and empathy.
- **Integrity:** Adhere to the highest standards of professionalism, ethics and personal responsibility, worthy of trust.
- **Achievement:** Inspire hope and nurture the fullest potential of the whole person, respecting physical, emotional and spiritual needs.
- **Teamwork:** Value the contributions of all, blending the skills of individual staff members in unsurpassed collaboration.
- **Excellence:** Deliver the best outcomes and highest quality service through the dedicated effort of every team member.
- **Innovation:** Infuse and energize the organization, enhancing the lives of those we serve, through the creative ideas and unique talents of each team member.
- **Stewardship:** Sustain and reinvest in our mission and extended communities by wisely managing our human, natural and material resources.
- **Community:** Engage in collaboration with community members and organizations for service provision and advocacy.



November Birthdays

- 12 Phyllis Crall
- 26 Dave Teets
- 26 Becky Reffey



November Anniversaries

December Birthdays

- 11 Nancy Fauser
- 15 Dick Rockwell
- 19 Nancy Stover

December Anniversaries

- 4 Ted & Beth Heinlen
- 31 Ken & Karen Scott

MINUTES

Church & Finance Counsel Committee

August 5, 2025

The Church & Finance Council Committee met together on Tuesday, October 7, 2025 with the following members present: Pastor Sean, Dave Teets, Marlene Malone, Karen Scott, Carla Gerhart and Laurie Reynolds.

Dave Teets started the meeting with prayer.

Dave Teets led the meeting

Reading of the Minutes: Everyone was given a copy of the minutes and they were read silently. A motion by Karen Scott was made to accept the minutes and Laurie Reynolds second the motion. All in favor said I.

The Treasurer's report: Financial Reports will follow with the most recent updates.

Pastor Sean: Went to a training session that was a church planting session, revitalizing the congregations. It was really good stuff and we are doing some of it. We started a bible study at our house with non-members of the church, making disciples. The new office hours are going good, bible study here is doing well. The worship committee already knows this, I bought a worship planner called the seedbed worship planner to start at advent and go throughout the year. It has the call to worship, hymn suggestions and scriptures for the next church year. It was developed for GMC. Pastor Heather has been reinstated and has an offer for a part-time appointment. Things are going good in the office.

3rd Sunday Benefit Meal: Continue with donations and sponsorship.

Hospitality: Dave said the potluck was very good. There will be nothing until after January.

Music: Set for next year. Jenny is joining the church on Sunday.

SPR: Nothing.

Trustees: Concrete Leveling did all the concrete work, the patio, sidewalks, and driveway. Leaf Filler replaced ineffective gutter guards and re-enforced gutters to keep debris out. Quote on boilers \$1400 already signed by Linda Efaw and sent in.

WOW: WOW voted to pay \$150 for Septembers 3rd Sunday. October 15th they are going to the Bible walk anyone is welcome to come.

Worship: Everything is set through the Holidays

Old Business: None.

New Business: Around a year ago Pastor tried to refresh the website and could not the website we use is WordPress and is not user friendly. Pastor went to set up a new page, went to publish and found out he couldn't do it A-1 has to do it. Pastor found a new website based out of Cleveland for \$20 called Digital Church. It is basically what we have now with a few extras. Dave stated that they pay A-1 to do the work we need. His question was who is going to do it. No one here wants to do it. Pastor will call A-1 to see what is covered. Dave told the Pastor that A-1 will stay up with the market. Dave said that the services are going good, sermons are good and live stream is working well. The next Church and Finance meeting will be Tuesday December 2nd.

Pastor Sean ended the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully submitted: Alice Donaldson

Financial News as of October 31, 2025

All bills are paid and current. This includes all medical, pension & disability income costs billed to us by the Global Methodist Church through the end of October.

As of October 31, 2025 our checking account balance was \$24,389.78.

We are trying to save enough monthly to be able to pay all of our 2025 Allegheny West Conference Connectional Giving and our Global Methodist Church expensing in March 2026 to take advantage of the 5% Full Payment discount on the Allegheny West Conference portion of these expenses. We estimate the total expense to be about \$6,000. As of this date we have saved \$3,200 towards this expense.

As detailed in the August Newsletter, our parsonage had some concrete patio, driveway and sidewalk problems that needed to be repaired to prevent other damage to the parsonage. These were corrected in August at a cost of \$5,700 which came from our Parsonage Fund in our Savings Account. In addition, in mid-September we replaced our current ineffective gutter guards on the parsonage with new Leaf Filter Gutter guards and rehung gutters that were not allowing the roof water runoff to drain to the appropriate downspouts. The cost of which was \$5,627.00, which also came from the Parsonage Fund in our Savings Account. Both actions were recommended by our Trustees and pre-approved by our Administrative Council. Our current Parsonage Fund Balance is \$7,964.64 plus additional \$50,000 CD reserve.

With this deduction from the parsonage savings account fund our current total Savings & Memorial Funds has been reduced to \$100,958.12

Patchworks... Since the beginning of our agreement Patchworks has paid a total of \$7,000 to help with utility and maintenance costs...\$3,500 of which has been paid in 2025. As 10/31/25 they are current on their payments for 2025.

Year to Date...For This Report as of 10/31/25

- Year to Date Regular & Online Offerings of **\$106,155.00** were **nearly the same as this time last year of \$105,888.70.**
- We have paid \$928.61 to Christ Covenant Church in Galion for half of their parsonage utilities. These payments stop in June.
- Total funds in the Richard & Thelma Hawkins' Scholarship Fund remain at \$8,047.94
- The current balance of the Capital Improvements & Replacement Fund (including a \$25,000 CD with Edward Jones) stands at \$35,164.84. This fund was established to reduce the need for future borrowing for major expenses for such things as: eventually boiler and air-conditioner replacements, replacement of the deteriorating brick light columns at the end of the driveway, eventually roof replacements and the like. We have a growing need for some exterior painting.
- Year to date we have received \$1,235.00 in Memorial contributions.
- Our Undesignated Memorial Fund now stands at a **negative** \$6,398.53 because of the money needed for disaffiliation payments. This is an improvement from a negative \$10,523.98 balance this time last year.
- As shown above, our Total Memorial & Various Designated Savings & CD Account Funds Balance stands at \$100,958.12.

- **Total Mission & Evangelism Support Year to Date was \$7,080.28 and includes:** \$3,267.00 to Alpha 12 Step Recovery-Jericho House Project. 3rd Sunday Alpha fund raising dinners were suspended during Covid and again in January 2022. However, the Administrative Council voted to approve the contribution of the continuing \$150 per month sponsorship payments to Alpha....these sponsorship payments are included in the total payments to Alpha 12 Step.
Other Mission Support Offerings included:
 - 285 Back Pack Program (April Mission Offerings)
 - 400 Blanket Mission (February Offering thru Church World Services)
 - 680 Born (will Incl. \$300 from General Offerings & Sept Mission Offering)
 - TBD Flat Rock Homes (December Mission Offering)
 - 0 Hawkins' Scholarship Fund (Stopped being a Mission Offering in January 2023)
 - 250 Help Me Grow (October Mission Offering)
 - 380 Life Wise (March Mission Offering)
 - TBD Life Wise (Christmas Eve Offering)
 - 375 Reffey Family Missionaries (August Mission Offering)
 - 175 Mid-West Mission-Disaster Relief (June Mission Offering)
 - TBD Salvation Army (November Mission Offering)
 - 515 Samaritan's Purse (January & July Mission Offering)

- 203 Upper Room Publications
- 235 Voice of Hope (formerly known as Bethel House-May Mission Offering)

Total Income for all of 2025 year to date was \$128,514.17 vs. \$137,292.52 this time last year. This reduction was due to the loss of parsonage rental income and health insurance reimbursements from Christ Covenant Church both of which stopped in June.

Thank-you for your continuing financial support of our Church. If you are unable to attend “in-person” services please continue mailing your offerings directly to the Church at 1675 Hopley Ave. Bucyrus, OH 44820.

On behalf of our Treasurer, Carla Gerhart, Finance Committee and Administrative Council, I **Thank you** for your faithfulness and ask that you continue to prayerfully look at your support level of our Church.




Tom Holtshouse
Finance Chairperson



NOVEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2 Worship @ 10 AM Holy Communion  All Saints Day	3	4	5 Trustee Meeting @ 6:30pm	6	7	8
9 Worship @ 10 AM	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Worship @ 10 AM	17	18	19 WOW meeting @ 9:30am @ the Church	20	21	22
23 Worship @ 10 AM ----- 30 Worship @ 10 AM 	24	25	26	27 	28	29

DECEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2 Church & Finance meeting @ 6:30pm	3	4	5	6
7 Worship @ 10 AM Holy Communion  2ND SUNDAY <i>of Advent</i>	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Worship @ 10 AM  Third Sunday of Advent	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Worship @ 10 AM  Fourth Sunday of Advent	22	23	24 	25 	26	27
28 Worship @ 10 AM	29	30	31  New Year's Eve HAPPY NEW YEAR'S EVE			