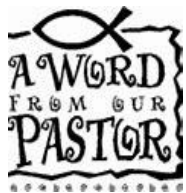


1675 Hopley Ave.  
Bucyrus, OH 44820

419-562-1776

[www.woodlawn-gmc.com](http://www.woodlawn-gmc.com)  
[woodlawnoffice1675@gmail.com](mailto:woodlawnoffice1675@gmail.com)



## January/February 2026 Newsletter

The Call to Follow Jesus

*"Then Jesus said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.'"*

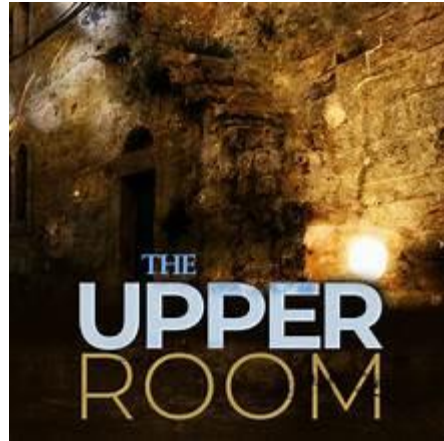
– Matthew 4:19 NIV

Every journey of discipleship begins with one simple but powerful invitation: Follow me. Jesus didn't start with programs or buildings. He started with people. He called ordinary men and women to walk with Him, to learn His ways, and to be transformed by His presence. Discipleship is not about adding another activity to our schedule; it's about reorienting our whole life around Jesus.

In the Global Methodist Church, we believe this calling defines who we are. We are not just churchgoers. We are followers of Christ who live out His mission in the world. Scripture reminds us that true discipleship flows from relationships: God transforms us as we walk with others who are seeking to obey Him.

As this New Year begins, ask yourself: where is Jesus inviting me to follow Him more closely? It might mean stepping out of comfort and into deeper obedience. It might mean investing in others the way someone once invested in you. Discipleship starts with following Jesus and it grows when we invite others to follow Him too.

Trusting in God,  
Pastor Sean McLeod



The **January/February** 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)**

The Women of Woodlawn met at the Lincoln Diner for their Christmas luncheon for a great time, food and fellowship.

Thanks to all that filled the shoe boxes for the Samaritan Purse Mission. I am sure there were many happy and grateful children receiving them.

The hats, mittens and scarves from the Christmas tree will be delivered to the Health Department for them to give to anyone in need. Thank-you to all that provided for this mission.

WOW will not meet in January of February. We will meet on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM at the Church.

Stay Warm.

Blessings to all,

WOW

- The mission offering for January** will be given to Samaritans Purse
- The mission offering for February** will be given to Blankets

### **3<sup>rd</sup>SundayBenefit**

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"**

## January Mission is Samaritan's Purse

The story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37) gives a clear picture of God's desire for us to help those in desperate need wherever we find them. After describing how the Samaritan rescued a hurting man whom others had passed by, Jesus told His hearers, "Go and do likewise." For over 50 years, Samaritan's Purse has done our utmost to follow Christ's command by going to the aid of the world's poor, sick, and suffering. We are an effective means of reaching hurting people in countries around the world with food, medicine, and other assistance in the Name of Jesus Christ. This, in turn, earns us a hearing for the Gospel, the Good News of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

As our teams work in crisis areas of the world, people often ask, "Why did you come?" The answer is always the same: "We have come to help you in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ." Our ministry is all about Jesus—first, last, and always. As the Apostle Paul said, "For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake" (2 Corinthians 4:5, NIV).

### Mission Statement

***Samaritan's Purse is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ. The organization serves the Church worldwide to promote the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.***



## February Mission is Blankets (CWS)

The CWS Blankets program is all about sharing love. Through this simple act of kindness, amazing things can happen.

We're grateful for your generosity, kindness and desire to share warmth, compassion and blankets with others.

Our Woodlawn Mission giving for the month of February will be CSW Blankets that are distributed by Church World Service (CWS). Sample blankets will be displayed in the Narthex during the month of February.

From CWS,

"From something as simple as a blanket, amazing things can happen...CWS Blankets is all about sharing love through a simple act of kindness. And we're so grateful for your kindness and desire to share love and compassion with others. Thank you for doing your part to blanket the world with love.

You can show God's Love and provide hope to your neighbors by making a donation. Each \$10 gift provides a blanket and enables someone to feel God's love in their lives.

There are two types of CWS Blankets:

**Heavyweight:** These woolen blankets are water-resistant and flame-retardant. They are extremely durable. Warm and great for frigid temperatures or other extreme weather conditions.

**Lightweight:** Appropriate for warmer climates, these fleece blankets are water repellant, durable, warm and soft. These blankets keep families covered without adding bulk.

Ways to give:

Place your cash gift in the "Narthex Mission Basket" during February

Mark "Blankets" on your regular giving envelope

Use the CWS Blanket Envelopes available in the February Narthex display.

*"And don't forget to do good and share with those in need."*



## Thank you Notes

### **Crawford County Public Health Help Me grow**

We wanted to thank you for your kind donations to Help Me Grow.

This money can be used to buy diapers and wipes for the families we serve.

From the bottom of our Hearts Thank-you.

Love, Help Me Grow Staff.

Merry Christmas



### **Alpha Recovery 12-Step Program**

We thank you for being an ongoing supporter of our ministry.

People like you are the reason we can continuously support those who are hurt and spread Jesus Love to them.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year





### January Birthdays

- 4 Pam Holtshouse
- 18 Sandy Young
- 18 Mark Gerger
- 20 Sandy Michener
- 21 Laurie Reynolds
- 28 Karen Scott



### January Anniversaries

### February Birthdays

- 16 Nancy Motter
- 18 Chardonay Moser

### February Anniversaries

- If there are any Birthday's or Anniversaries that need to be added to our Birthday/Anniversary calendar, please let me know and I will add them.

# ***MINUTES***

## ***Church & Finance Counsel Committee***

### ***December 2, 2025***

The Church & Finance Council Committee met together on Tuesday, December 2, 2025 with the following members present: Pastor Sean, Dave Teets, Karen Scott, Laurie Reynolds, Barb Spaid, Tom Holtshouse, Phyllis Crall, Carla Gerhart and Keith Blair

**Pastor Sean started the meeting with prayer.**

Dave Teets led the meeting

**Reading of the Minutes:** Minutes was on secretary desk and did not get passed out. Dave Teets gave an overview of the minutes. No motion was made to accept.

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

**Pastor Sean:** Pastor reported that he spoke with A-1 and we do get minimal updates which is an hour a month included in our contract. We are going to make that work and the Pastor has updated some of the photos on the website. Pastor wanted to remind everyone that the online discipleship practicum program through the river network will be available in January. It's a very good program and Pastor highly recommends it. We started our new worship planning and it seems to be going good.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Benefit Meal:** Continue with donations and sponsorship.

**Hospitality:** Nothing until warmer weather.

**Music:** Music is good through August 2026.

**SPR:** Love offering envelopes went out.

**Trustees:** Some light bulbs need changed. Pastor remembered he had gotten a light bulb changer kit. Dave was giving an update of which light bulbs he has here at the Church in the upstairs closet.

**WOW:** WOW is meeting in December, but not in January or February 2026. The mission's for 2026 are the same as the 2025. All of our missions send thank you notes and Karen puts them on the board. They are all very grateful.

**Worship:** It was decided that the candelabra will be used only for special occasions.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** Christmas Eve offering will be for a special family. Barb Spaid motioned to accept the special family for Christmas Eve Offering and Phyllis Crall second the motion. All in Favor said I. Phyllis Crall motioned that All of the offerings on Christmas Eve will go to the special family and Karen Scott second the motion. All in Favor said I.

Barb Spaid ended the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully submitted: Alice Donaldson

### **Financial News as of December 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 December.

As of December 31, 2025 our checking account balance was \$27,569.99. \$1,250.00 of that amount includes contributions received to date for the purchase of a new computer for the office in January.

We have been trying to save enough monthly to be able to pay all of our 2026 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 more than \$6,000. As of this date we have saved \$4,000 in our Memorial Savings Account towards this expense. We also have CD interest of \$2,096.80 payable in the first week on 2026 “earmarked” for this purpose.

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 and monthly additions to our Capital Improvement Account our current total Savings & Memorial Funds is \$102,569.96

Patchworks... Since the beginning of our agreement Patchworks has paid a total of \$7,700 to help with utility and maintenance costs...\$4,200 of which has been paid in 2025. As 12/31/25 they are current on their payments for 2025.

**Year to Date...For This Report as of 12/31/25**

- Year to Date Regular & Online Offerings of **\$132,671.00** were **\$3,357.30** or **1.0% more than this same time last year of \$131,313.70.**
- 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 \$35,939.84. 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.
- In 2025 we received \$1,235.00 in Memorial contributions.
- Our Undesignated Memorial Fund now stands at a **negative** \$6,382.04 because of the \$34,412.00 needed for the disaffiliation payment to the UMC in May 2023. This is an improvement from a negative \$9,693.46 balance this time last year.
- As shown above, our Total Memorial & Various Designated Savings & CD Account Funds Balance stands at \$102,569.98

**Editorial Note:** On December 2, 2025 our Administrative Council approved a Trustee recommendation to accept an estimate of \$6,000 from Mark Bishop of Bishop Painting to power wash the underside of carport (that has developed some mold issues) along with the laminated arches and the inside and outside gable ends of the carport and to repaint same as soon as weather and Mark's schedule permits in 2026. This expense will be taken from the (working) Capital Improvement & Replacement Fund which (excluding CD fund) we hope will be approximately \$12,000 by June 1, 2026.

- **Total Mission & Evangelism Support Year to Date was \$7,080.28 and includes:** \$3,982.00 to Alpha 12 Step Recovery-Jericho House Project. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Alpha Fund. 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)
  - 255 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)
  - 2,695 Designated Family In Need Christmas Eve Offering
  - 375 Reffey Family Missionaries (August Mission Offering)
  - 175 Mid-West Mission-Disaster Relief (June Mission Offering)
  - 460 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 Christmas Love Offers for Pastor & Staff was \$1,620.00

**Total Income for all of 2025 year to date was \$164,060.17 vs. \$173,402.14 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 2025.**

## 2026 Budget

On December 2, 2025 the Administrative Council approved a 2026 Budget for \$154,685 Income and \$153,356.20 Expense using the following assumptions.

- Total income from offerings, interest, Patchworks and dance studio will remain approximately the same.
- Pastor and secretary pay levels remain the same.
- Medical expenses do not go up more than 10%. **However, we just received notice that our annual health, disability, life insurance will increase to \$25,280.76 (which is a \$3,327.60 or 15.2% increase which is \$1,133 more than we budgeted for).**
- Property & casualty insurance (\$6,909 in 2025) for the church and parsonage does not go up more than 7%. Note: Ohio Mutual has paid to seal our driveways and parking lot for the last several years in consideration of its occasional use by their employees and being a good neighbor.
- Utility expenses for the church and parsonage do not have significant increases. Tried to make some allowances but the parsonage was somewhat of a “guesstimate” because we have not had anyone in the parsonage for quite some time.
- Maintenance expenses for the church and parsonage do not exceed \$9,000 (about the same as last year exclusive of the concrete & gutter guard work on the parsonage). The biggest “wild card” here is our church boiler maintenance which sometimes varies greatly from year to year. This year’s annual boiler maintenance paid in December was \$2,220.00.
- Lawn mowing labor and snow removal that do not exceed \$3,120. This expense includes a lump sum payment for the season for lawn mowing of \$2,000 (which is about half of the true fair market rate for the services we are receiving). Currently our sidewalk, driveway & parking lot snow removal expense is approximately \$140 per snowfall.
- Expenses for Connectional Giving to Allegheny Annual Conference & General GMC do not exceed \$5,560 (vs \$5,762 in 2025) including the 5% full payment discount.

Unbudgeted items: New computer which is being covered by “directed contributions” for this expense and painting carport beams, gables and ceiling roof (which is coming out of savings).

Bottom Line: Our 2026 Budget is very tight and assumes that we continue to be Blessed By the Lord.

**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.


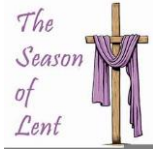
Tom Holtshouse  
Finance Chairperson



# JANUARY 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 	2	3
4 Worship @ 10 AM  <b>Holy Communion</b>	5	6	7	8	9	10
11  Worship @ 10 AM	12	13	14	15	16	17
18  Worship @ 10 AM	19	20	21	22	23	24
25  Worship @ 10 AM	26	27	28	29	30	31

## February 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1  Worship @ 10 AM <b>Holy Communion</b>	2  	3	4	5	6	7
8  Worship @ 10 AM	9	10	11	12	13	14
15  Worship @ 10 AM	16	17	18  	19	20	21
22  Worship @ 10 AM	23	24	25	26	27	28