

****From Our Members****

Keep In Prayer

*Linda S Lewis P Rollie H Dan L
Pastor Wayne C Mike H (Val B's brother in law)
Jane & Bob S (Jean K's sister & brother)
Our shut-ins: Allen R Carol J Eloise H*

Worship

Worship shapes us into the people God is calling us to be, forming habits and language that teach us why we are in relationship with God, and how to be in relationship with God.

February Worship

February 1 – Micah 6:1-8, What Does the LORD Require?
February 8 – Matthew 5:13-16, You are the Light
February 15 – Matthew 17:1-9, Transfiguration
February 22 – John 11:1-44, Jesus Raises Lazarus

February Worship Sponsors

February 1 Brewers – In hopes of no shadow for the groundhog!
February 8 Holly Valko – In celebration of Gary's birthday
Chery Austin – In celebration of Judy Smith's birthday
February 15 Gary & Holly Valko – In celebration of Rick Horn's birthday
February 22 Betty Rhoad – Celebrating an anniversary

Lent Begins

The season of Lent is a season of reflection and preparation as we ready ourselves for the joy of Easter and the promise of resurrected life.

Ash Wednesday

You are invited to attend the Ash Wednesday service at St. John's UCC at 12:30pm

First Sunday of Lent is February 22. In worship we will be exploring readings from John's gospel, particularly from Holy Week.

Sunday School

The purpose of our Sunday school is to help children & youth better know God through the stories of the Bible and relationships with one another and the adults around them.

Sunday School meets every other Sunday after worship

This five-lesson session is on Jesus' Beginnings
February 1 – Jesus Was Twelve
February 8 – Sh! Listen

Winter Bowling Party (New Date!)

Everyone is welcome to join the kids and parents at Kennilee Lanes on February 8 after worship for bowling and pizza!

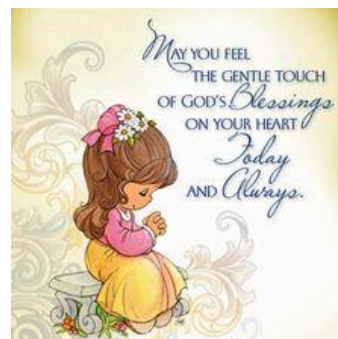
Thoughts and prayers for **Pastor Wayne** as he continues his course of treatments.

Condolences to **James Ghrist** on the passing of his mother, **Joan Ghrist**, January 22, 2026, at age 96. Joan was just a couple weeks shy of her 97th birthday on February 4.

Pastor Wayne Update

Thank you for your continued support and prayers as I face the challenge of cancer. I have finished the first phase of treatment. I will be having further scans and meetings with doctors and then likely begin the next phase in mid-February. This will likely consist of concurrent chemotherapy and radiation therapy for seven weeks. I cannot begin to express my gratitude for the overwhelming support I have received from my church family. I am truly blessed!

Peace,
Pastor Wayne



Financial Report **December 2025**

Current Income: \$14,998.17
Current Expenses: \$8,769.32
Current Balance: \$9,605.39

NFB Income: \$17,700.00
NFB Expenses: \$1,795.69
NFB Balance: \$72,189.91

Building Balance: \$1,889.80
Christian Ed Balance: \$4,176.70
Mission Balance: \$2,422.18
Memorial Balance: \$3,299.48
Total Spending: \$20,781.10
Total Income: \$42,005.06
American Funds Balance \$89,905.97(12/31/2025)

Thanks to the generosity of YOU, we carried over a surplus in 2026. As we continue to watch our spending and use the funds YOU give wisely, our outreach into the community and the world will continue to grow. Thank you for supporting the mission and ministry of our church as we “Come to know God, share God’s love, and serve God together.”

Here is how YOU can invest in the mission and ministry of our church.

- Write a check, put it in a church envelope, (or any envelope) and leave it in the offering basket on Sunday.
- Write a check, put it in a church envelope, (or any envelope) and mail it to the church.
- You can also use PayPal. It’s easy.
- You can also direct your bank to make the church a recurring bill through online banking. This is one of the best ways as it is free and the church receives the gift whether you remember to write the check or not!



Come and join with us,
To know God,
To share God’s love,
And to serve God together!

Ways to Connect with us Online

Check out our web page at <https://www.monroevilleucc.org/> to find

- Information about upcoming events
- The worship bulletin for each Sunday
- The Weekly Meditation (also available directly to your email Inbox)

Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Monroeville-UCC-107496705953838/> for

- Sunday Worship Live Stream
- Monday Morning Prayer
- A link to the Weekly Meditation
- Regular posts and updates

If there are other ways you would like to connect with us, contact Pastor Wayne.

****Mission and Ministries****

Through mission we share the gifts God has given us to help create a better world for all.

The Mission committee has been trying to meet to plan for the year, but due to illness and weather we are still working on it. Keep the Mission of the church in prayer as we continue with our Blessing Box and the Non-Food Bank.

Non-Food Bank

"To ease the burden of poverty by providing basic household necessities and offer a word of hope to those in need."

Due to poor weather, in January the Non-Food Bank served 108 households.

Years ago, that would have seemed like a lot!

Our next date is February 18, 9am to noon.

February marks the 19th anniversary for the Non-Food Bank!

LGBTQ+ Family & Ally Support Group

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 3, 6:30pm.

All are welcome as we work to create a just and accepting community for all!

Coffee & Fellowship

February 12 at 8:30am

Lyn Marie's Coffee on Main

Come and join us for a time of fellowship as we get together!



From Pastor Wayne

I have heard people say that February, despite being only 28 days, is the "longest month of the year." The reason is that by February people are fed up with winter, tired of the cold and snow, longing for more daylight and dreaming of spring.

Personally, I embrace February. I find the ups and downs of March much more tiring. February still holds the promise of winter and enough snow to do some skiing (yes, even with my treatments I have gotten out to ski a few times!). Plus, I like the Valentine colored M&Ms.

Whether you dread February or embrace it, the month is here to stay. And in the life of the church, we start in the season of Epiphany and end in the season of Lent. Our faith journey moves from discovering who the Christ-child is to what the grown-up Jesus asks of us.

Each season of the church year, and each month on the calendar, offers us opportunity to explore and grow along our faith journey. Whether February leaves you shut in due to snow and cold, or gives opportunity to get outside and enjoy some fresh air, take time to be with God and feel God's Spirit moving in and around you. And even though spring may seem far off, may God's love and peace blossom in each of us.



Monroeville Congregational Community United Church of Christ
Council minutes of meeting on January 12th, 2026

Members Present:

Wayne Chasney – Pastor
Brandon Stewart – President
Scott Horn – Vice President
Melissa Zehnder – Treasurer
Kail Tinker – Secretary
Becky Sparks
Scott Mercer

Pastor Wayne opened with prayer; members repeated the mission statement:

*Come and join us to know God,
Share God's love,
And serve God together!*

December council minutes reviewed by members
Addendums: bill for Blake's \$9450 (vs \$9350); acceptance of treasure's report seconded by Scott H (vs. MSZ); motion to accept with addendums by Scott M, seconded by Ben; motion carried

Pastor Report:

- Correspondence – Insurance Renewal, MT Business listed as payee (copier) removed; opportunity for savings results in deductible doubled – declined. Includes building, embezzlement, misconduct. Premium is \$7564/year
- Thank you Ruth Garwood – cleaned bathrooms while CLI was off over the holidays.
- Historian update – Sue Ann Miller volunteered; WC to discuss with Joyce.
- Giving statements – letter, distribute 1/18/26
- Annual Reports – available 1/25/26 for meeting 2/1/26
- Rise of the None – online course – topic is people who do not attend church.
- Treatment update – last chemo in this series; next steps – scan then 7 weeks chemo & radiation

Financial report:

- Current \$10,650 – move portion of current to American fund? Or increase annual contribution to OCWM (\$500)? Motion made by Scott M to increase annual donation to OCWM by \$500; seconded by Brandon S

- Annual Audit to be scheduled (Brandon Sparks and Scott M); payment for mileage to remain unchanged; motion made to accept financial report by Becky S.; seconded by Scott M; motion carried.

Christian Ed:

- Sunday School starting new cycle
- Bowling end of January

Mission Committee: meeting 1/25/26; red wagon donations go to local mission.

NFB: no report

Building:

- Bathroom updates – Quote emailed to council members – HOLD on project
- West window – no update; Scott H to follow up
- Letter from Village – church and parsonage water service line lead testing; results-unknown; if positive, possible grant to replace line.

Business:

- 2/1/26 Annual Meeting, spaghetti dinner, and cake auction
- Nominations for Council – Scott M and Gil King; Mission – Penny; CE – Emily; motion made by MSZ to present nominations to congregation; seconded by Brandon; motion carried
- Thank you to Ben R for his contributions to council.
- Communion – 2/1/26 Becky

Other:

- Concern for Medical Insurance coverage and current expenses for WC treatment; coverage is good per WC; currently no need
- Should pew be cutout? Concern that short pew in front of church would decrease seating and “look less inviting”. Occasional high attendance for service. We are handicap accessible (back row), originally removed to make room for elevator traffic.
- David Long-Higgins this Sunday 1/18/26.

Next meeting: February 9th, 7pm

Motion to adjourn by MSZ; seconded by Becky S; motion carried