

****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.

Lenten Worship Focus is on the stories of Holy Week in the gospel of John. Starting with the raising of Lazarus (Feb. 22), Jesus makes his final journey into Jerusalem and to the cross. What do we make of the familiar encounters we find on the way, encounters we usually brush over briefly if at all? Let us look more closely at this important stage of the gospel and what it may have to teach us today.

March Worship

March 1 – Laying Down and Taking Up, John 13:1-17
March 8 – Two Types of Power, John 18:12-27
March 15 – Trial Before Pilate, John 18:28-40
March 22 – Condemned, John 19:1-6a
March 29 – Palm Sunday, John 12:12-27
Passion Sunday, John 19:16-22

March Worship Sponsors

March 1 – Open
March 8 – Open
March 15 – Open
March 22 – Gary & Holly Valko, in celebration of Scott Mercer's birthday
March 29 – Rick & Cindy Horn, in celebration of their granddaughter's birthday

Easter Sunday, April 5

We will have ONLY ONE worship service on Easter, at 9:00am as we celebrate the resurrection! After worship, Christian Ed is hosting a light breakfast with coffee cake, donuts, fruit, juice and coffee. Everyone is invited!

Easter Flowers

Please sign up at church to sponsor an Easter flower in honor or memory of a loved one.

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
March 1 – "An Awesome Day" with Ms. Jess
March 15 – "A Wild Test" with Ms. Ruth
March 29 – TBA with Emily

Palm Sunday Palm Parade

On Palm Sunday, March 29, the children are invited to parade the palms into the sanctuary during the opening hymn and pass them out to the congregation. We would love to have all our children take part in this fun ritual of the church!

Easter Sunday

Everyone is welcome to join us for breakfast after worship on April 5. After breakfast, the Sunday school will decorate bags and enjoy our annual Easter egg hunt! We expect a visit from the Easter Bunny for pictures, too!

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

Joan Ghrist's funeral and burial was February 4, 2026, in Gallipolis.

Condolences to **Heath Cleary** and family on the passing of his father, Donald Cleary, February 5, 2026.

Sympathy is extended to **Sherri Wade** and family on the passing of **John Wade** on February 11, 2026. Services were held at the Foundation Church in Norwalk and burial was at North Fairfield cemetery.

Financial Report

January 2026

Current Income: \$5596.73
Current Expenses: \$8610.89
Current Balance: \$6591.23

NFB Income: \$2750.00
NFB Expenses: \$8610.89
NFB Balance: \$72,582.81

Building Balance: \$1979.80
Christian Ed Balance: \$4176.70
Mission Balance: \$2462.18
Memorial Balance: \$3299.48
Total Spending: \$12,271.52
Total Income: \$8476.73
American Funds Balance \$89,905.97(12/31/2025)

Looking ahead, our furnace boilers that provide heat for the church have had a rough winter. We have lost heat and had a malfunction that caused the loss of a huge amount of water. As a result, Council is looking into replacing the current system which is more than 40 years old. While the upfront cost will be significant, the new system will be more efficient and hopefully more reliable. Thankfully, we do have reserve funds to make this project possible, though extra donations are always welcome! Council will keep the congregation posted as the project moves forward.

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 Spaghetti Dinner & Cake Auction raised \$1118! This money will go into our Mission Fund and the Mission Committee will meet quarterly to give to organizations in need. This replaces our former "Monthly Mission Focus." If you know of an organization or a need, please let us know. We will continue to promote the special offerings of the UCC, One Great Hour of Sharing in March, Neighbors in Need in the fall, and the Christmas Fund in December.

In February we sent \$500 to CLI Inc. to support their work of making Kennilee Lanes fully accessible. We also provided a special meal for a member serving time in prison.

Non-Food Bank

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

The Non-Food Bank served 155 households in the month of February!

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

We do not need bar soap at this time, but always welcome toothpaste if you want to donate.

LGBTQ+ Family & Ally Support Group

Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 3, 6:30pm. All are welcome as we work to create a just and accepting community for all!

Coffee & Fellowship

March 12 at 8:30am

Lyn Marie's Coffee on Main

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



For over 75 years, the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (OGHS) has been helping Christians bring God's hope and healing to hurting people both in the US and around the world. OGHS's mission is to support domestic and international development, fight poverty and its consequences, bring aid and relief to communities torn by war or ravaged by national disaster, provide advocacy and resettlement assistance for refugees and displaced persons, and combat injustice in its many forms. OGHS provides funding and hands-on assistance in collaboration with local and international partners.

Each year, OGHS is gathered by several denominations and Church World Service (CWS) under a single theme developed by the ecumenical OGHS Committee. In addition to posters, brochures, and interactive media, the Committee commissions a Planning and Resource Guide that contains a variety of resources and activities for pastors and church leaders to use as they promote and receive the offering.

In the United Church of Christ, the Global H.O.P.E. team oversees the distribution of the offering. You can learn more about this team at www.ucc.org/global-hope. Thank you for supporting One Great Hour of Sharing for over 75 years. You continue to embody a love offering to the world.

Pastor Wayne Update

My continued thanks for all the support, prayers, cards, texts and love I have received! I truly feel blessed. After some delay, I have begun my seven weeks of radiation and chemotherapy which should wrap up on or around April 13. Radiation takes place every weekday in the afternoon and chemo will be once every three weeks (three treatments in total). Treatments will again weaken my immune system and so I will be cautious. Growing fatigue is expected over the weeks and while I hope to keep working and leading worship, plans are in place if it becomes too much. Big thanks to Brandon Stewart in that regard! Keep me in your prayers and reach out any time. I look forward to getting back to full strength and continuing our ministry together!

Peace,

Pastor Wayne

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

From Pastor Wayne

On Ash Wednesday, Wendy asked if I was coming to her Ash Wednesday service. I said no, I didn't think I needed to be reminded of my mortality this year.

We often think of Lent as a somber season. Maybe it's the weather this time of year in Ohio, what I often refer to as the season of yuck. Or maybe because the season focuses on sin and repentance. Whatever the reason, Lent is not considered one of the more joyful times of the year.

Maybe this is the cancer talking, but this year I'm focusing on the positive. Lent is a time to prepare for the joy of Easter morning. It's a season of expectation as we await the fullness of God's glory revealed in new life. There's enough in our world to depress us. Let's remember that we are forgiven, that we are loved, and that we are a part of God's plan for the fruition of creation. Instead of tearing down ourselves, what can I do (we do) to build up God's beloved community so that come Easter Sunday we can all experience the joy of the empty tomb.

And remember, very soon the season of yuck will give way to the season of "why-is-it-so-hot-already?"! Gotta love Ohio weather.

