



# The Pillars

## February 2018



Rev. Karen Burtner Graham

*The mission of the New Concord United Methodist Church is to make and develop disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

### *Pastor's Message*

This year Ash Wednesday is on Valentine's Day.

On a day when love is in the air, we'll gather in church to be reminded once again of our sinfulness and God's forgiveness, of our mortality and God's eternal love for us. The service may not be as appealing as a candlelit dinner or a box of chocolates or a bouquet of red roses, but its meaning is still important to us. For our own expressions of human love are, we believe, founded on God's love for us. We are able to love others in large part because God loves us. God's love, as demonstrated through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, is our example and model of love: it's self-giving, it's unconditional, it's lasting, it's unwavering. That is how our love is also to be – our love for God, our love for others. But of course we fail – and that is why we observe Ash Wednesday – it's a day to turn ourselves back to God's love, receive God's forgiveness, and renew our commitment to love and serve him. The sign of the cross on our foreheads will, therefore, be God's valentine to us.

Our scriptures that night are filled with “heart” imagery:

*“Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your **heart**, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your **hearts** and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love...” (Joel 2:12-13).*

*“Create in me a clean **heart**, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me...Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit...The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite **heart**, O God, you will not despise” (Psalm 51: 10, 12, 17).*

*“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is there your **heart** will be also” (Matthew 6:19-21).*

So I hope you'll make some room for worship this Valentine's Day. We'll gather at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. Come to church and give your own heart back to God.

Love,  
Pastor Karen





If you missed worship on January 7, and would like to pick up a “**Star Word**” for the year, please stop by the church office! A basket of words was available during our worship on Epiphany Sunday, and folks were encouraged to select one, at random, from the basket. The word is meant to be a guiding word for you during the year – you are to consider it, pray about it, and let its meaning work on you. What might God be telling you through this word? How might this word help you grow closer to God?

What a lovely and meaningful Christmas season we enjoyed here at NCUMC!

Thanks to all the church decorators who set up everything – and with their creative eyes and hands made our church look so beautiful from the first Sunday of Advent through Epiphany Sunday. Thanks to all our excellent musicians – those who play, those who direct, and those who sing! We are so blessed to have each one in our church. We're grateful Mary Ryan was able to be with us as our organist/pianist for most of the season, and especially grateful that Jane Bell, Tyler Driggs, and Paul Hudson were able to step in, with and without notice, when she was hospitalized several times in December and January. Christmas Eve worship requires a number of extra helpers – and so we thank all who served as greeters, and ushers, and candle lighters. Each service was well attended –and the Christmas spirit was truly felt and celebrated. Thank you!

*Thank  
you*

### *Our Church Family*

**Congratulations** to Steve Kokovich, who was named The Daily Jeffersonian's Person of the Year.

We extend our Christian **sympathy** to the family of **Jim Linkhorn**, who died December 12, 2017. A funeral service was held in our church on December 16<sup>th</sup>, on what would have been his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday.

We also extend **sympathy** to the family of **Tom Sawyer** who passed away on December 26, 2017.

### *Directory*

We have an updated directory nearly complete. If any of your contact information has changed in the last year, please let Corey know so that we can still reach you!

On that note, **Bonnie Thompson** has moved and asked that we share her new address:

406 N. 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cambridge, Ohio 43725  
Phone: 740-584-8955

### *Church Cancellation Policy*

We will be open during a Level 2 Snow Emergency. Please use your own good judgement regarding your ability to attend Sunday worship. Do not try to get here if it is difficult for you. We will be closed for any Level 3 Emergency. The church office will follow these same guidelines.

## *Mission Giving*

Our **Christmas Eve** offering totaled \$1800.00. This is divided evenly between two local mission programs: Feed My People in Cambridge and Christ's Table in Zanesville. Thank you for your Christmas generosity!

Once again we participated in **Anna's Christmas Angels** ministry. Twenty children's names were selected by our congregation and gifts were purchased, wrapped, and brought to the church for pick-up. How good it is to know that these children and youth enjoyed a happier Christmas by our sharing in this ministry!

Our next project will be **Heart Baskets** in February. We will provide food bags for 20 area families, and we will provide \$10 Riesbeck's gift cards to each resident of Evergreen Village. We will start collecting monetary donations for the gift cards on January 28<sup>th</sup>, and the suggested shopping list will be available on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Individuals/families/classes may sign up to shop for a family starting February 4<sup>th</sup>. Delivery will occur on Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, and drivers are needed. Please contact Les Bennett if you're willing to drive.

## *Giving Statements*

**Year-end giving statements** will be available by the IRS deadline of January 31, 2018. We had to replace the hard-drive on the computer used by the Treasurer and the Financial Secretary the second week of January, and so things were on hold until that was fixed. Fortunately all data was backed up, and it was just a matter of getting a new hard-drive/computer tower ordered and delivered.

## *Sound System Update*

Piece by piece, our new sound/projector system is being installed! We're currently using the new microphones, learning how to use the new computers, and anticipate the introduction of new screens. Thanks again to the church family who donated the funds for this project! All the work is being done by AVC Communications, Inc.

## *Youth Ministry*

After the holiday hiatus, it's time to get back together! Confirmation classes resumed January 28<sup>th</sup>, and will continue through the winter/spring. Our goal is still to celebrate Confirmation Sunday in May or June. We will meet again on February 11<sup>th</sup> and February 25<sup>th</sup>. Our classes are held at the church, with a new time change for 2018 - we'll meet from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Did you find this month's creative mistake? I mentioned in our last newsletter that I would add something "ridiculous" just to see if folks notice it! - PK

## *Addiction Coalition of New Concord*

Since forming in 2016, this coalition has met regularly and has sponsored several awareness/educational events. Here are some new opportunities:

### **Mental Health First Aid**

February 17, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at College Drive Presbyterian

A person you know could be experiencing a mental health or substance use problem. Learn an action plan to help. You are more likely to encounter someone in an emotional or mental crisis than someone having a heart attack. Learn how to help a friend, family member, coworker or neighbor in need. Get trained in Mental Health First Aid.

To register on line: [mercy@perrybhc.org](mailto:mercy@perrybhc.org)

Questions? Call Mercy at 740-342-1991

### **Family and Friends Support Group**

Mondays, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at College Drive Presbyterian Church

Do you have loved ones in your life addicted to drugs? Do you need support and knowledge on how to relate to this person? This group is open to anyone in the community, and persons can come on any Monday. The group is sponsored and led by Muskingum Behavioral Health. Group topics include: What is addiction? Am I Co-Dependent? How Can I Help? When Do I Stop Helping?

## *Another Learning/Leadership Development Opportunity!*

Town and Rural Resource Program (TARRP) of East and West Ohio Conference is offering an event on Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at Christ UMC in Cambridge, Ohio. Two important areas of concern will be presented: Safety & Security in Your Church and The Difficulties of Opiate and Heroin Addiction. The event is open to both clergy and laity. Cost is \$18 for the day, which includes continental breakfast, lunch, snacks and handouts. Registration forms are available in the church office. Deadline is February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Pastor Karen plans on attending. If 3 or more from the same church attend, the cost is \$15/person. So - are there at least 2 others of you who would like to go? Contact the church office!

## *Building Committee Update*

We are currently waiting for weather conditions to improve so that the soil samples can be taken. Tim Linn of Material Triumph Testing in Zanesville is coordinating the testing for us. The actual work will be done under the direct supervision of Raj Goyle, geotechnical engineer of Goyle Engineering in Marietta. The cost of drilling the 2 borings on opposite sides of the proposed elevator and fellowship hall project is \$6,000. No other plans can be suggested until we know the viability of the project given the results of this testing. Your continued patience is appreciated.

## *Worship Schedule*

**February 4:** Holy Communion (served I the pews  
Scriptures: Psalm 111: 1; Corinthians 8:1-13  
Sermon: Puffed Up or Built Up?

On this Sunday we'll contrast the hype around the Super Bowl with Paul's strong caution: "Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up". We can get full of ourselves pretty easily -and much in our society encourages that - but our faith helps us keep things in perspective. For fun, we'll sing some Super Songs of Praise: Amazing Grace, Wonderful Words of Life, and Awesome God!

**February 11:** Transfiguration Sunday/Scouting Ministries Sunday  
Sermon: Glory, Hallelujah

All children, youth, and adults involved in Scouting are invited to attend and take part. We'll have a time in our worship to recognize and celebrate the ministry of Scouting. After worship, you are invited to go downstairs to see the new Boy Scout room (where the old choir room used to be) - and appreciate all the fine work done by Joel and Collin Linnabary and scouts of Troop 510.

Our worship will also focus on the Transfiguration of Jesus. This is the gospel story every year on the last Sunday of the Epiphany season, the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, when the season of Lent begins. We'll hear the account of the Transfiguration as found in Mark 9:2-9.

**February 14:** Ash Wednesday

Worship at 7 p.m. See Pastor's message for her reflection on this service.

During the Sundays in Lent, Pastor Karen will preach a sermon series called, "**The Hills of Lent**". Each week we'll visit a biblical mountain, and explore together the lessons of faith each one represents.

**February 18:** Mount Moriah

Scriptures: Genesis 22:1-18; Romans 4:1-3, 18-25

What can we learn from this disturbing, powerful story of Abraham and Isaac?  
God pushes Abraham to the limit of all limits -and still, Abraham holds fast. Our consideration of Mount Moriah also calls to mind Mount Calvary -where the lamb in the bush becomes the Lamb of God on the cross.

**February 25:** Mount Sinai

Scriptures: Exodus 19:1-9, 16-20, 20:1-22; Matthew 5:17-20

We'll explore this familiar story of the Ten Commandments, and the giving of the Law to God's people through God's encounter with Moses on Mount Sinai. In addition to the continued relevance of the commandments, of course, what else can we glean from this experience?

The series will continue in March, as we visit these Hills of Lent:

March 4: Mount Carmel: I Kings 18:1-2, 17-30, 36-40, 45

March 18: Mount of Olives: Luke 21:37-38; 22:39-46

March 25: Mount Calvary: John 19:13-30

# February 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1</b> Isaiah 40:21-31 7:30: Aldersgate	<b>2</b> 1 Cor. 9:16-23	<b>3</b> Mark 1:29-39 Parsonage Inspection
<b>4</b> Psalm 102:12-28 Trustee on call: Adam Cook	<b>5</b> Isaiah 43:18-25 7: Boy Scouts - FH	<b>6</b> 2 Cor. 1:18-22	<b>7</b> Psalm 50:1-6 5: Children's Choir 6: Hand Bells 7: Yoga	<b>8</b> 2 Kings 2:1-12 9:30 : MOPS 7:30: Aldersgate	<b>9</b> 2 Cor. 4:3-6	<b>10</b> Mark 9:2-9
<b>11</b> Psalm 110:1-4 Scout Sunday 3:30 Confirmation Class Trustee on call: Danny Ingold	<b>12</b> Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 7: Boy Scouts - FH	<b>13</b> 2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10	<b>14</b> Psalm 51:1-17 5: Children's Choir 6: Hand Bells 7: Ash Wednesday Service 7: Yoga	<b>15</b> Genesis 22:1-18 7:30: Aldersgate	<b>16</b> Rom. 4:1-3, 18-25	<b>17</b> Mark 1:9-15
<b>18</b> Psalm 121 1: Eagle Scout Court of Honor Heart Basket Delivery Trustee on call: Bonnie Thompson	<b>19</b> Exo. 19:1-8, 16-20 7: Church Council 7: Boy Scouts - FH	<b>20</b> 1 Peter 2:18-22 7: Trustees	<b>21</b> Psalm 124 5: Children's Choir 6: Hand Bells 7: Yoga	<b>22</b> Exodus 20:1-22 9:30: MOPS 7:30: Aldersgate	<b>23</b> Rom. 4:13-17	<b>24</b> Matt. 5:17-20
<b>25</b> Psalm 25:1-10 3:30 Confirmation Class Trustee on call: Brian Bennett	<b>26</b> 1 Kings 18:1-2, 17-30 7: Boy Sc outs - FH	<b>27</b> Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-19 1:30: UMW 7: 4-H RM 106	<b>28</b> Psalm 131 5: Children's Choir 6: Hand Bells 7: Yoga	<b>29</b> 1 Kings 18:36-45	<b>30</b> Mark 8:31-38	

# ★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

February 2: Larry Miller  
 February 3: Matthew Bennett  
 February 4: Trent Alten  
           Casey Miller  
 February 6: Diane Wills  
 February 7: Erin Garrison-Goolsby  
           Brendyn Haynes  
           Jimmy Ritchey  
 February 10: Joe Garner  
 February 14: Carolyn Blackwood  
           James Kornokovich  
 February 17: Cole Bennett  
           William Creasy  
 February 19: Grant Slack  
 February 20: Sue Kokovich  
           Stephen White  
 February 21: Dorothy Wells  
           Joseph Green



© wondercliparts.com

February 7: Bill & Phyllis Fisher  
 February 22: Steve & Jennie White

There are still dates available  
 for the Mission Candle!



We light the Mission Candle  
 in Memory or Honor of  
 someone we love. Stop in  
 the church office to sign-up  
 and leave your \$10  
 donation.

We are still mailing a lot of Pillars! If  
 you would like to receive it by email,  
 please email the church office  
[ncumcoffice@frontier.com](mailto:ncumcoffice@frontier.com) or call Corey  
 at 740-826-4617.

Benefits to receiving it by email: you get  
 it before the beginning of the month,  
 you will be helping us save postage and  
 paper, you have access to all the  
 hyperlinks & you get it in full color!



## 2017 Financial Statistics Summary

General Fund	
Revenue	\$248,913
Expenses	\$247,334
Net Income	\$1,579
Restricted Accounts	
Credits	\$9,182
Debits	\$2,910
Total	\$97,093
Endowment Funds	
Net Earnings	\$7,429
Withdrawals	\$60,341
Appreciation	\$58,282
Total	\$356,616
Good Samaritan Fund	
51 people aided	\$3,343

Sunday Services

8:30 Contemporary Worship Service  
9:30 Sunday School  
10:30 Traditional Worship Service

Office Hours

Monday-Friday  
9:00 - 3:00

Office Staff

Rev. Karen Burtner Graham, Pastor  
Mrs. Corey Elliott, Secretary  
Mrs. Chris White, Treasurer

\*Please have articles in by  
February 19<sup>th</sup>

For the next issue of *The Pillars*

Karen's Office Hours

Monday- Thursday 10:00 - 2:00  
Monday - Thursday afternoon/evenings  
visiting, office appointments as  
needed, meetings  
Fridays - Day off  
Saturday - Working at home, available by  
appointment

Contact US

Phone - 740-826-4617

Fax - 740-826-2131

Email - [ncumcoffice@frontier.com](mailto:ncumcoffice@frontier.com)

Rev. Karen's email - [revkncumc@frontier.com](mailto:revkncumc@frontier.com)

[www.newconcordumc.org](http://www.newconcordumc.org)

[www.facebook.com/NCUMC20](https://www.facebook.com/NCUMC20)



**February Pillars**  
Do you read me? If not, please call the church  
office and have your name removed from the  
mailing list.  
Thank you for helping us conserve resources!

New Concord United Methodist Church  
20 East High Street  
New Concord, Ohio 43762  
740-826-4617