



The Pillars

March 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

We are in the season of Lent. A season of repentance and forgiveness. A season of discipline. A season of prayer. A season of sacrifice and service. A season of companionship as we journey with each other to the cross of Christ. As your pastor, I hope you are already involved in personal and corporate ways to enhance your experience of Lent. We do what we can here at the church to provide opportunities, but it's always up to you to respond.

In worship I am preaching a sermon series on The Hills of Lent. We've already stopped on Mt. Moriah and Mt. Sinai. Now in March we will journey to Mt. Zion, the Mount of Olives with Jesus in prayer, and then ultimately to Mt. Calvary where we will once again reflect on Jesus' crucifixion. It's a full month of worship.

I will miss one Sunday in March. Rev. Craig Redecker will preach in my stead. I will be taking part in a pilgrimage of another sort - as I travel with a group to the Holy Land March 5-15. I've never been there - and am looking forward to the experience. Rev. Anne Weirich of College Drive Presbyterian Church is the primary organizer/leader of the pilgrimage. And so as you spend the 4th Sunday of Lent, March 11th, here in New Concord, pray for me and I will pray for you. I will be in Bethlehem that day, worshiping at Baraka Presbyterian Church.

A Lenten Bible Study, "Embracing the Uncertain" is also underway. Two sessions are offered: Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. You are still welcome to join in. Here are the lessons for March:

March 6: The Crowd and the Uncertainty of Worry (Luke 12:1-34)

March 13: Lazarus and the Uncertainty of Mortality (John 11:1-44)

March 20: Zacchaeus and the Uncertainty of Surrender (Luke 19:1-10)

March 27: Jesus and the Uncertainty of Obedience (Matthew 26:36-46)

During Holy Week, we will observe Maundy Thursday on March 29. Plans are still being formulated for either a service around tables in Fellowship Hall or a more traditional service in our sanctuary. More details will be provided.

And of course we provide copies of the Upper Room Daily Devotional for you to use.

Worship, Bible Study, Prayer, Devotions - these are all ways for you to enhance your Lenten journey with Jesus to the cross. I urge you to avail yourself of these or other spiritual practices. I believe Easter is all the more meaningful to us if we have paid attention during Lent, and made time for those things that draw us closer to God.

With you on the journey,
Pastor Karen Graham

This and That

Church Council Highlights:

Church Council met February 19, 2018, with our new Council Chairperson, Gail Requardt, presiding. Other new members were also welcomed: Annual Conference Lay Member Laurie Tucker, Lay Leaders Ron Lauck and Diane Johnson; Missions Chairperson Claretta Baker, and At-Large members Kristen Bennett, Jessica Pyle, Glenn Baker, and Nancy Moffitt. Several items were presented requiring Council's vote: the adoption of the 2018 budget (passed); and a request from the Chaplain's Office at Muskingum University to provide a scholarship for the spring break mission trip to Pittsburgh. This request was approved, and so \$275 will be sent to the University for this purpose, along with a request that one or more students share with our congregation about this experience. Ministry reports were shared by the various chairpersons present at the meeting - and each was asked to reflect how their area of ministry fulfills our church's mission "to make and develop disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" and/or how it helps us live out our vision to "be a church where people are inspired to develop a Christian foundation for faithful living, to demonstrate compassion, to serve others, and to share God's love with everyone". The Treasurer reported that January 2018 General Fund income was \$21,430.61 and expenses were \$20,115.79, giving us a positive balance of \$1,314.82 at the end of the month. We also ended 2017 with a General Fund positive balance of \$1,579.36. All reports were received with appreciation.

Retirement Celebration:

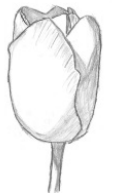
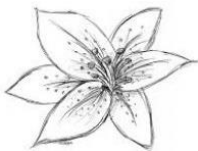
Tears flowed, and hearts were filled with gratitude and love as we honored **Mary Ryan** on Sunday, February 4 for her 42 years of service as our Church Organist. A retirement celebration was held in the church parlor following the second service - during which Mary provided us once again with lovely and God-filled music for our spirits. There was a steady stream of folks from the church and community who came to greet Mary and Dale and to offer them words of blessing and gratitude. The church presented Mary with a retirement gift in deep appreciation for her faithful service on our church staff. If you missed the celebration, please feel free to send a card to their home address: 64646 Haught Rd., Cambridge, OH 43725. God bless and keep you, Mary!

Confirmation Class:

Seven youth with Pastor Karen and Kris Headley have been meeting regularly. We just finished the youth study book of the Apostles' Creed, and will now move into sessions on the Bible, United Methodist History and Structure, United Methodist Beliefs, Worship and Sacraments, and Christian Discipleship. Please keep these young people in your prayers: Owen Headley, Hannah DeMattio, Carlie Ellsworth, Billy Erbach, Olivia Ault, Emma Briggs, and Mykenzey Erbach. Confirmation Sunday will be celebrated on June 3rd.

Easter Flowers:

We are currently taking orders for Easter Flowers. This year we have white tulips and white lilies available. They are \$12 each. If you need to make an order, feel free to call Corey in the church office. Orders are due by March 18th.



The Sound/Audio Equipment update is complete!

With gratitude once again for the financial donation, we are pleased to have new screens, computers, software, and microphones in the sanctuary. AVC Communications in Cambridge has been very helpful throughout the installation process. If you haven't been in church lately - come check it out!

Annual Report 2017 Highlights:

Every January each local church is required to submit an annual report to the Conference Office. The full report is available in the church office if you want to see it. Here are some highlights:

Total professing members at close of 2017: 518

Average Attendance at all weekly worship services: 143

Amount paid to Conference for all apportioned causes: \$32,016 (100%)

Amount paid to District for all apportioned causes: \$3,797 (100%)

Amount paid for General Advance Specials: \$5,746

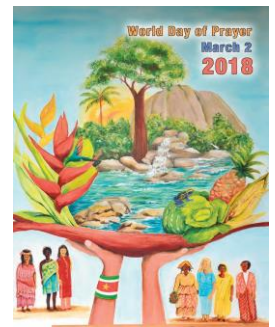
UMCOR Sunday: \$3,133

Amount given to non-United Methodist benevolent and charitable causes: \$9,449

Market value of church owned land, buildings, and equipment: \$4,611,000

Up Coming Events:

The **World Day of Prayer** service will be held at our church on **Friday, March 2**. Our local United Methodist Women's group is organizing and leading the service. Each year a different country's World Day of Prayer committee prepares the resources. This year it is Suriname (located in the northeastern part of South America), and the theme is "All God's Creation is Very Good". The New Concord community service will begin at 1 p.m., with a time of refreshment and fellowship following worship. Everyone is welcome to attend.



On March 3, 2018 Pastor Karen Graham and Lay Leader Ron Lauck will be attending a workshop in Cambridge sponsored by TARRP (Town and Rural Resource Program) of the East and West Annual Conferences. Two topics will be addressed: 1) Safety & Security in Your Church and 2) The Difficulties of Opiate and Heroin Addiction.

The Traveling Christian Country Choir has been preparing for their Easter Cantata *The Last Living Word* by Ruth Schram. There will be two performances during Holy Week: Palm Sunday, March 25th at 4 p.m. at Adamsville United Methodist Church and Good Friday, March 30th at 7 p.m. at Brown Chapel.



St. Patrick's Breastplate

Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me King of my heart;
Christ within me, Christ below me, Christ above me never to part.
Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me shield in
the strife;
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising light of my life.

March 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 1 Kings 18:1-2, 17-24 7:30: Aldersgate	2 1 Kings 18:25-30 1: World Day of Prayer	3 1 Kings 18:36-42 12: Private Party - FH
4 Psalm 134 Trustee on call: Torie Briggs	5 2 Chron. 29:1-11, 16-19 7: Boy Scouts - FH	6 Hebrews 9:23-28 10: Bible Study 6:30 Bible Study 6:30 Country Choir 6:30 Cub Scout Parents' Meeting	7 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 5: Children's Choir 6: Hand Bells 7: Yoga	8 Numbers 21:4-9 9:30 : MOPS 7:30: Aldersgate	9 Eph. 2:1-10	10 John 3:14-21
11 Psalm 51:1-12 5: Blue & Gold Banquet Trustee on call: Greg Gerlach	12 Isaiah 60:15-22 7: Boy Scouts - FH	13 Hebrews 3:1-6 10: Bible Study 6:30 Bible Study 6:30 Country Choir 6:30 Lions' Club 7: 4-H - Rm 106	14 Psalm 130 5: Children's Choir 6: Hand Bells 7: Yoga	15 Exodus 30:1-10 7:30: Aldersgate	16 Hebrews 4:1-13	17 Luke 21:37-38; 22:39-46
18 Psalm 119:9-16 Trustee on call: Tammi DeMatio	19 Jerem. 31:31-34 7: Church Council 7: Boy Scouts - FH	20 Hebrews 5:5-10 10: Bible Study 6:30 Bible Study 6:30 Country Choir 7: Trustees	21 Psalm 133 5: Children's Choir 6: Hand Bells 7: Yoga	22 Isaiah 50:4-9 9:30: MOPS 7:30: Aldersgate	23 Mark 11:1-11	24 John 19:13-30
25 Psalm 31:9-16 Trustee on call: Collin Linnabary 4: The Living Last Word	26 Isaiah 42:1-9 7: Boy Scouts - FH	27 1 Cor. 1:18-31 10: Bible Study 1:30: UMW 6:30 Bible Study 6:30 Lions' Club	28 Psalm 70 5: Children's Choir 6: Hand Bells 7: Yoga 7:30: Aldersgate	29 John 13:1-17, 31b-35 7: Worship	30 Mark 15:16-37 7: The Living Last Word Cantata at Brown Chapel	31 Mark 15:42-47

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

March 1: Chris White
March 2: Katie Gotschall
March 5: Billie Dickson
March 6: Jacob DeMattio
Joan Magill
Dean Marling
March 12: Dale Ryan
March 13: Clyta Young
March 14: Ella Binkiewicz
Dick Dalrymple
March 15: Mary Garner
March 16: Mykenzey Erbach
March 17: Mike Bennett
Kristi Marling
Ted Riggle
March 18: Jarod Brill
March 19: Richard Carter
Collin Linnabary
Rena Miller
Troy Slack
March 23: Oma Haney
March 24: Donna Rush
March 26: Corey Elliott
March 28: Trey Bennett
Darrel Cubbison
Laurie Tucker
March 29: Joan Hoon
March 30: Jessica Richards



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March 4: Wayne & Barbara Caudill
March 9: Glenn & Claretta Baker
March 22: Chris & Rhonda Forrestal

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 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 any hyperlinks and you get it in full color!



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.

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
March 19th

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

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Rev. Karen's email - revkncumc@frontier.com

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www.facebook.com/NCUMC20



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