

*St. John's Evangelical Church  
211 E. Carrol Street  
Kenton, Ohio 43326  
(Non Profit Organization)*

**Do Not Delay  
Dated Material**

**March**



## **St. John's Evangelical Church Newsletter**

March 2019

211 E. Carrol Street  
Kenton, OH 43326  
Church Phone: 419-673-7278  
Pastor Randall cell: 724-290-3651

Rev. Dr. Randall J. Forester, Senior Pastor  
Website: [www.stjohnskenton.org](http://www.stjohnskenton.org)  
Email: [stjohnskenton@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnskenton@gmail.com)

### **Ash Wednesday Service—March 6 at 7:00 PM**

Lent is a season of fasting, but we want to make sure our fasting is true and right (see Isaiah 58). As such, our Ash Wednesday will have three occasions where we may come before the altar. First, we may come to receive the ashes for we are sinners, the sin is the penalty for death, and that sin led the Son of God to the Cross. It will be a time for somber reflection.

Then, we may come forward to partake of Holy Communion where we remember that the penalty for our sin has been paid, there is a remedy, and we are called to receive that gift.

Lastly, we may come to receive anointing. Ash Wednesday marks the start of a penitential time in the life of the Church, but we are going to fulfill Jesus' command in Matthew 6:16-18. We are not going to show the world a disfigure face. We are going forth under the anointing of God, showing forth the glow of His Holy Spirit, and allow the joy of the Lord to be our guide and fulfillment even while we commit to fast and pray.

Payne Chapel will join us once again this year with Rev. Vanessa R. Cummings sharing the message for the evening.



# ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH

211 East Carrol Street  
Kenton, OH 43326

REV. DR. RANDALL J. FORESTER, PASTOR &

Phone: 419-673-7278 (o)

Phone: 724-290-3651 (c)

MARCH 2019

## THE PASTOR'S PAGE

E-mail: PastorRandall@stjohnskenton.org

If you only had hours to live, how would you say goodbye to those closest to you? What message would you want to impart to your friends and family? What words would be upon your lips the last time you worshiped here at St. John's? What would be some of your last actions upon this earth?

In the case of Jesus, we have the answer to those questions in the Gospel of **John 13-17**. In chapter 13, Jesus gathers with His disciples for what will be forever known as the Last Supper. He knew these were His last hours on this earth, and He chooses to share a meal with His disciples. His last thoughts were of others to the very end.

No one cared to do a basic act of hospitality, so Jesus does it. During dinner, He rises from the table, takes off His outer garment and tied a towel around His waist. He looked like a servant and bowed before each disciple taking the posture of a servant. He then washed each disciple's feet. This was a humble task reserved for the lowest of the low. That is why no one else would do it. Our carnal nature teaches us to hold onto our pride at all costs. Jesus—in His final moments and on the cusp of performing His most monumental task—continues along the same path He trod on His earthly journey: He was consumed with serving others above having His own ego assuaged.



Before He would teach them their final lessons, Jesus demonstrated what love looks like. The footwashing was a small taste of what

Jesus would do on the cross. He was the last person in the room who would have been chosen to perform the task of washing everyone's feet. In the entire universe and throughout all of eternity, He is the last person who should be a sacrifice for sin. As **II Corinthians 5:21**, He knew no sin and yet became sin so we could become the righteousness of God.

Over and over and over again, Jesus teaches and demonstrates what love looks like. It's intimate, and it's gracious, and it's inviting. Jesus shares His final meal with all Twelve of the disciples who were in His inner circle. He not only knew that someone would betray Him, but He knew exactly who would betray Him, and Jesus shared a meal even with Him. Until the

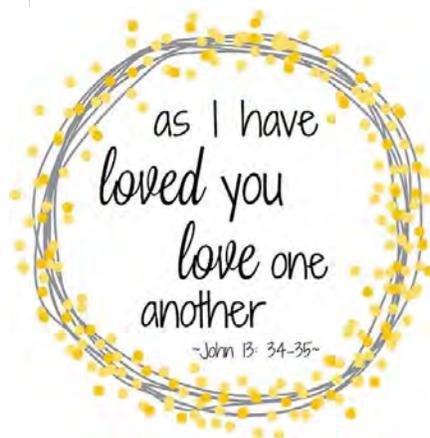


end, Jesus demonstrated graciousness toward the one who would betray Him. He does not register disappointment. Instead of pushing Judas away, He offers him a gift of service as He does for all others. No one deserves more from Jesus; no one deserves less. He

provides gifts and opportunities to all equally. When the time comes, Jesus even gives Judas the freedom to choose against Him when He tells him to do what he must do (**John 13:27**).

In **John 13:34-35**, Jesus launches into

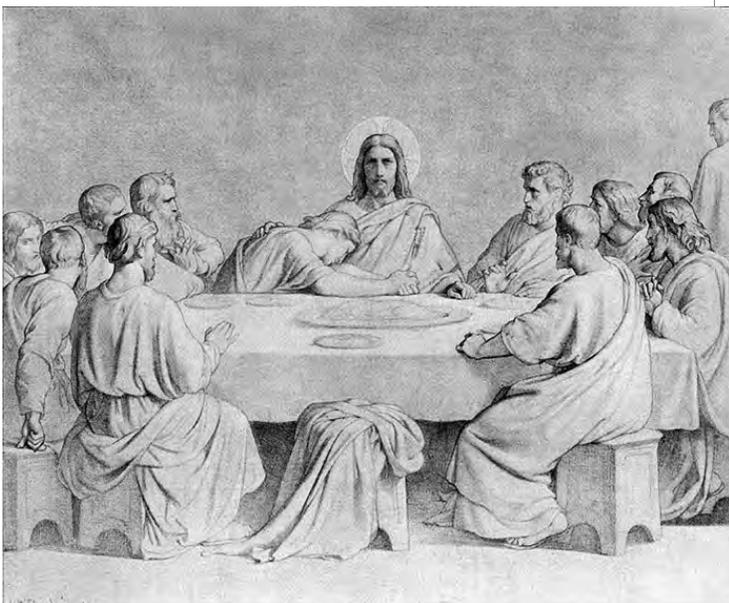
His last words by saying what His life is all about and what His true disciples' lives are to be all about: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."



He then shares what is known as the Farewell Discourse and encompasses **John 14-17**. We get to listen in to Jesus' last teaching to His disciples. These are words meant for them, but they are also words meant for us. He concludes His teaching with a prayer that includes the entirety of chapter 17. Amazing, isn't it? Jesus last moments with His most beloved friends, and He spends them in prayer. He prays for Himself to demonstrate the glory of the Father to the world. He then prays that His disciples would remain faithful through all the struggles, trials, and tribulations of faith knowing that they would literally follow in His footsteps and die for their faith as their Master did. He concludes His prayer by praying for us and every believer who receives the Gospel.

Being Jesus' last words, we should lean in and listen intently. This is our Savior sharing from the deepest recesses of His heart. This is no accident. He goes to His betrayal, trial, and the cross with His eyes wide open. He knows what is coming and how and why, and He still goes forward. He goes in faith and with conviction. He refuses to back down. He does not allow shame, lies, or loneliness to deter Him. He goes knowing what is necessary and beneficial. He knows He will gain nothing but what He had before (**John 17:5**). He comes out even while we gain everything. His whole life points toward living for others—willing to sacrifice all so others may benefit. He becomes poor so others may be enriched.

He knew His teaching would be hard to receive. It goes against the grain. In fact, it goes against every fiber of our



Last Supper (sketch) by Hippolyte Flandrin

**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL  
CHURCH:  
MAKING AND MATURING  
DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST**

sinful, fallen nature. Even though Jesus imparts a final set of lessons to His followers and to us, He is not preparing us for a final exam. Where we may fail or forget or ignore His lessons, Jesus promises a tutor to help us recall His teachings, follow them correctly, and live faithfully (**John 16:13-15**).

Jesus may have needed to go away, but He would never leave us alone. The Holy Spirit comes to bring about all that the Father ordained and to fulfill the New Covenant inaugurated by Jesus Christ. When the Holy Spirit is with us, the power of Christ is with us, The Holy Spirit brings the Father's will to fruition. We experience the fullness of God's power when the Spirit dwells within us.



In March, we will begin our journey through this last teaching of Jesus as we take our journey into Lent and Easter. We will continue with these words through the Easter season until Pentecost, which is appropriate. After Jesus' death and before His ascension, the disciples prayed and contemplated Jesus last words. They ran His words through the minds and thought how they were to employ them in their lives.

May we spend this season to do likewise, Let us soak in His words. Let us asks ourselves what they mean and how we should employ. Then, let us wait for the Holy Spirit to fall upon us and do His work. When He does, let us move forward in faith to fulfill the teaching of our Savior Jesus Christ.

With the love of Christ and in His service,

*Pastor Randall*

## Preaching Series

Throughout March, Lent, and the Easter season, we will listening to Jesus' words in the **Gospel of John** that He spoke to His disciples in the Upper Room. This passage of scripture is known as the *Farewell Discourse* and conveys Jesus' intimate words to His beloved followers and His expectations for them then and now..

03 March

Scripture: **Revelation 21:1-6**  
**John 13:31-38**

Sermon: **Do You Really Really Know?**

06 March

Ash Wednesday

Scripture: **John 13:21-30**

Meditation: *One of You Will Betray Me*  
Imposition of Ashes

Scripture: **John 13:1-20**

Meditation: *A Free Gift*  
Holy Communion

Scripture: **Exodus 3:1-12**

Meditation: *Take Off Your Shoes:  
A Journey Into Service*  
Anointing

10 March

Scripture: **I Peter 2:2-5**  
**John 14:1-14**

Sermon: **Now I See**

17 March

Scripture: **I John 4:13-21**  
**John 14:15-**

Sermon: **At Home with Us**

24 March

Scripture: **Revelation 21:10,**  
**22-27**

**John 14:25-31**

Sermon: **The Shy Member  
of the Trinity**

31 March

Scripture: **I John 4:7-12**  
**John 15:1-11**

Sermon: **Love Abounds**

07 April

Scripture: **James 2:18-26**  
**John 15:12-17**

Sermon: **God's Friend**

14 April

Palm Sunday

Scripture: **Isaiah 50:4-9**  
**John 12:12-19**

Sermon: **Eyes Wide Open, Pt. 1**

21 April

Easter Sunday

Sunrise: 7 AM—sponsored by Hardin County Ministerial Association at Jerry Cross Park next to the church at the corner of Carrol and Wayne Streets.

St. John's Easter Services will be at the usual times.

Scripture: **I Corinthians 15:19-26**  
**John 20:1-18**

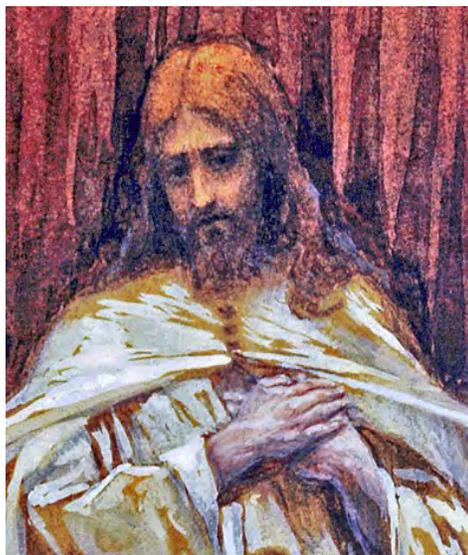
Sermon: **Eyes Wide Open, Pt. 2**

28 April

Spring Day  
of Service  
one worship service

Scripture:  
**Ezekiel 22:11-14**  
**John 15:18-16:4a**

Sermon:  
**The Dividing Line**



Concluding speech to the disciples (detail) by James Tissot



## Passion Play Rehearsals

Rehearsals begin this Sunday, February 24 from 1:00-3:00 pm and will meet each week at this time. Dress rehearsal will be Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. A sign-up sheet is in the back on the credenza. If you have questions, we invite you to contact Julie Strous (419-673-1587), Miranda Strous (567-674-1256), Kendra Dilts (419-674-1336) or the church office (419-673-7278).



## Epworth United Methodist Church Sundays at 6:00 PM

### Date & Message:

March 10	Who is Jesus? Matthew 16:13-16
March 17	What Matters Most? Mark 12:28-34
March 24	Am I Accepted? John 8:1-11
March 31	Where is God? John 1:1-5, 14
April 1	What Brings Fulfillment? John 31:1-5, 17



## Community Palm Sunday Service – St. John’s

The Hardin County Ministerial Association will be sponsoring its annual ecumenical Palm Sunday worship service at St. John’s Evangelical Church on Sunday, April 14 at 6:30 PM. The Kenton High School Chorale will also be performing that evening.

## The Passion of Christ



St. John’s Evangelical Church will present its annual portrayal of “The Passion of Christ.” This event will take place Thursday and Friday evening, **April 18 & 19 at 8:00 p.m.**

The Pasion of Christ Play is a portrayal of the last week of Christ’s life on Earth. It brings to light the emotions of betrayal and abandonment that Christ experienced, as well as, the agony and suffering that Christ endured at the time of His death.

If anyone is interested in being a part of this reenactment, there are a few spots open. If you would like to participate in any capacity, please sign up in the back of the sanctuary. You may also contact Kendra Dilts, Miranda Strous, or Julie Strous.

**Rehearsals:** Sundays from 1-3 PM in Sanctuary



## Easter Sunday Worship Schedule

- 7:00 AM – Community Sunrise Service –  
Jerry Cross Park
- 8:30 AM – Contemporary Worship Service
- 9:30 AM – Breakfast (Youth fundraiser)  
Fellowship Hall  
Menu: Biscuits & gravy, Scrambled eggs,  
Hashbrowns, French Toast Sticks, sausage
- 10:30 AM – Traditional Worship Service



## VBS—Save the Date

VBS will be June 10-13 from 6-8 PM for children preschool (potty-trained) through grade 5. Please prayerfully consider how you can help or volunteer. Watch the bulletin and newsletter for more information.

The second most read Christian book to the Bible is coming to our local theaters soon. Paul Bunyan wrote "The Pilgrim's Progress" while spending 12 years in prison for preaching illegally. It is a powerful allegory of man's quest for salvation that is widely considered to be one of the greatest works of religious literature of all time. The originality of the work is partly due to the fact that Bunyan never had great fiction writers to copy. The only source of Bunyan's inspiration was the Bible.

Now this masterpiece has been made into an animated movie for families to experience. **St. John's will host a pod cast featuring the famous Christian writer Sheila Walsh on March 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 PM in the fellowship hall.**

The creators of this incredible film and in:ciite Events have partnered to bring your church or small group an opportunity to walk through the story, explore the film, and experience this incredible story with sneak peeks into the film. Join host, Shelia Walsh and a line-up of special guests as we take 1.5 hours and dive deep into the message of the movie.



## **Breakfast with the Bunny & Easter Egg Hunt**

(for children up to grade 5)



***Saturday, April 13 – 9:30 AM***

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**Free Community Event ~  
Breakfast – Craft Stations  
Photo station w/ Bunny– Egg Hunt**

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211 E. Carrol Street  
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419-673-7278



Please sign up at the church,  
call 419-673-7278 or email  
[stjohnskenton@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnskenton@gmail.com) if you plan  
to attend.

**Reservations are helpful but not  
required.**



March 2019

March the month of the lion and the lamb. Please God be it so. This month we look at the real life of a Saint whose festival has become a bacchanalian street party so very far from the life of the Christian for whom it is named. St. Patrick is surrounded by legends and half-truths, no he did not drive the snakes from Ireland. In fact St. Patrick was not Irish but a Scot. Read on and find out about a slave who became a true Christian.

Dates and details in Patrick's life are not known with certainty. He was most likely born between 372 and 390, possibly near present day Glasgow, Scotland. His parents, Calporniun and Conchessa, were leaders of the Christian community in the still unidentified village of Bannavem Taburniae. Patrick did not take the Christianity of his parents seriously and enjoyed having fun with his friends. One day, when he was sixteen, he was amusing himself near the sea when Irish pirates captured him. They sold Patrick as a slave to an Irish chieftain named Milchu. His job? To care for the chief's sheep.

Alone in the fields with the sheep, Patrick remembered the Christianity of his parents, and he accepted it as his own. He later wrote,

*"I was sixteen years old and knew not the true God; but in that strange land the Lord opened my unbelieving eyes, and although late I called my sins to mind, and was converted with my whole heart to the Lord my God, who regarded my estate, had pity on my youth and ignorance, and consoled me as a father consoles his children...The love of God increased more and more in me with faith and the fear of His name. The Spirit urged me to such a degree that I poured forth as many as a hundred prayers in one day. And even during the night, in the forests and on the mountains where I kept my flock, the rain, and snow, and suffering which I endured, excited me to seek after God..."*

Six years later, Patrick managed to escape and returned to his family. In a dream, he saw Irish children pleading with him to bring the Gospel to them. "O holy youth, come back to Erin, and walk once more amongst us." His heart longed to return to his former captors and share with them the gospel of Jesus Christ. He trained for the ministry and returned to Ireland where, despite fierce opposition, he spread the story of Jesus among the pagan tribes in the Irish language he had learned while a slave. During his 29 years as a missionary, St. Patrick baptized over 120,000 Irishmen, and established over 300 churches. His glorification of God even gave rise to the legend that he drove the snakes out of Ireland. Many versions of the tale exist, including his standing atop a cliff using a wooden staff to drive the snakes into the sea. But St. Patrick's ministry was nonetheless effective as he transformed a nation of idol worshippers by baptizing the masses and their leaders in the name of God. St. Patrick died on March 17th, 461 in Ireland.

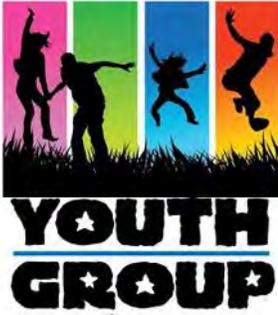
Credit due to Christianity.com



And we thought St. Valentine's Day was far from the recognition due a martyr. St. Patrick, the slave turned missionary is even more maligned by our current celebration of what once a festival honoring his ministry. Let us celebrate St. Patrick with the reverence he deserves for his service to the Lord.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Jerry Pfister, Historian

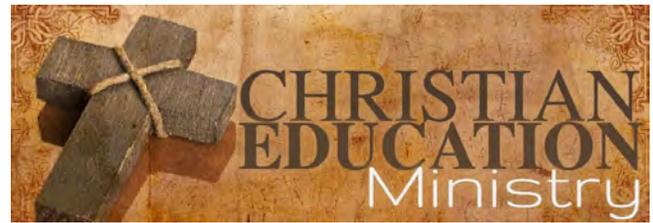


The weather wasn't on our side this last month but we are so glad to be back in our routine and I was sooo happy to hear that Spring will be coming soon!

**Wednesday Nights** have actually surprised me on so many Youth digging deeper into their hearts and writing in their journals. The study is based around Lectio divina and they have been doing an awesome job with it. I pray that each and everyone one of them continue their readings at home and dig deeper into His word.

A lot goes into Wednesday Nights running smoothly and I just want to say that I really appreciate each and every person that helps or has stepped up in anyway. Your work doesn't go unnoticed and we love you all!

**Hardin County Collective** met on February 3<sup>rd</sup> for a Super Bowl Party. All the youth had a great time and it was an awesome turn out. Winter Retreat was February 15-18<sup>th</sup> and so far we have a total of 32 youth attending with 11 youth from St. John's. Myself and Heather Erwin will be attending the camp with them. We believe this is a great opportunity for our Youth, this retreat offers some amazing new prospects. Our guest speaker is Bruce Boguski from the Winner's Edge, Motivational Technologies. Our Worship leader is Tesia Mallory, a nationally known worship leader and musician from United Theological Seminary. We will have small group discussions, large and small group games and interest groups, along with some free time. We cannot express in words how excited we are for this retreat for our Youth.



### Children's Ministry Job Opening

If anyone is interested in applying for the Christian Ministry position, a copy of the job description can be obtained from the church office or contact Kristina Van Buskirk, Personnel Chair, with any questions.

### Nursery Volunteers Needed

The church is currently looking for some volunteers who would be willing to sit in the nursery during the 8:30 & 10:30 services. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the church office.



### Friday With Friends

Friday With Friends is a wonderful group of widows, widowers, and single seniors who meet twice a month for a special time of food, fellowship, and fun. We meet the first and third Fridays of every month. Please join us if you are a widow, widower, or single senior adult. This is not exclusive to St. John's, so pass the word along to someone that you know who could be blessed by this special group. For more information, contact Ethel Koch at 419-674-6344.

### Forthcoming outings will be as follows:

If out of town, meet at St. John's at 11 am to car-pool.

March 1: Plaza Inn—Mt. Victory

March 15: Mr. Cheezy's—Dunkirk

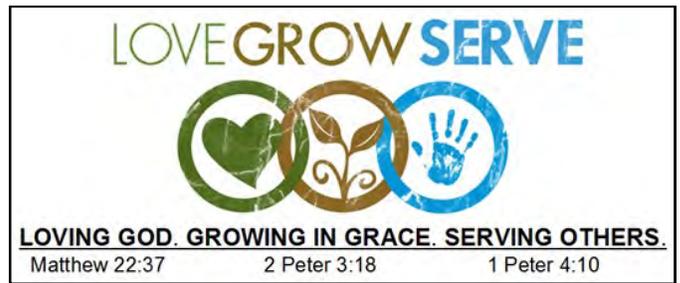


### Mission Trip Interest

Anyone interested in going on an overseas mission trip in 2020, possibly to Guatemala please call/text Heather at 567-674-0020 or email at artzkit-ty@yahoo.com.

## Adult Education and Life Groups

We are in need of someone to help coordinate Adult Education or lead a short-term life group in the fall. The goal would be to offer more adult education opportunities and short-term life group, for example book studies. Please see Pastor Randall for more information.



## Spring Serve—Clean up Day

A Serve/Clean up day is being planned for Sunday, April 28. We will once again have a combined worship service at 8:30 AM then work on Community Service Projects following the service. More information to come at a later time.

## Mission of the Month— Angels for the Elderly

Angels For The Elderly is a non profit organization helping the Elderly have food. They do food boxes for the needy elderly every month.

Mary Roby has been doing this ministry for about 4 years. She started doing this with Deanna Wages with Helping Hands. She does not get help through the state or any organization. all is with donations and fundraisers.



## Birthday Blessings (over 80 yrs. Young)

Happy Birthday!! Please contact the church office if a name was omitted from the list. Thank you so much.

March 4: Walter Baughman  
23035 Rye Ave.  
Punta Gorda, FL 33980

March 9: Nancy Rickenbacher  
20551 SR 67 E  
Kenton, OH 43326

March 10: Marilyn Klingler  
102 Clover Lane Drive  
Kenton, OH 43326

March 17: Paul Pemberton  
8168 C.R. 150  
Kenton, OH 43326

March 17: Phyllis Glock  
16761 C.R. 90  
Kenton, OH 43326



### Church Staff:

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Randall J. Forester  
Youth Ministry: Michele Sherman  
Financial Secretary: Kay Rush  
Church Secretary: Kathy Forester  
Custodian: Harry Long  
Chancel Choir Director: David Beazley  
Contemporary Worship Leader: Kendra Dilts  
Organists: Randall S. Rogers, Teresa Broseke and Linda Zeigler  
Children's Choirs Director: Hope Cauley  
Bell Choir Director: Jane Baker  
Technical Support: Richard Katterjohn  
Historian: Gerald Pfister

St. John's Evangelical Church  
Church Council Agenda  
Thursday  
January 10, 2019  
7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER - Carol Wilcox President  
OPENING PRAYER - Pastor Randall  
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT - Pastor Randall  
OFFICER'S REPORT

Secretary's Report - Kristi Weaver

December 13, 2018 Minutes presented, Motioned and seconded to approve minutes

REPORTS

1) Finance - Kristi Weaver

- 2018 reports – There will be a change to the ones sent out. Envelopes within \$10,000 from last year. Most items within budget for the year.
- All the tax reports done for the year and the giving statements are in the mail.
- 2019 Budget – Russ Cahill reviewed the budget sent to everyone for review prior to the meeting. Actually spent about \$26k less than approved for 2018. 2019 budget based on the actuals from 2018 and information provided by people about what needs budgeted in 2019. Youth money to spend is broken out on a separate page. 2018 actual numbers may change based on the changes that Kay has made between accounts; however, this will not change the budget. Motion to present the 2019 budget presented to the congregation in the annual meeting was made and seconded, council vote. Motion carried.

2) Christian Education - Amy Long

- Nothing to report

3) Youth Ministry—Michele Sherman

- Report provided to review prior to meeting.
- Winter Jam is January 19<sup>th</sup> – 12 youth attending

4) Women's Ministry - Kay Rush

- Meeting at the end of the month.

5) Worship, Arts & Music - Nancy Rickenbacher

- Discussing using artificial poinsettias in the future. Nursing homes don't take them anymore. Also are looking at electrifying the candles up front. Everyone is okay with WAM looking into these changes.
- Need to have WAM meeting to discuss Lent.

6) Personnel Committee - Kristina VanBuskirk

- All reviews are done.
- It is in Harry's job description to open and lock the church on Sunday's. Need to check with AV and Kendra as to who is unlocking the church in the mornings.
- Amy Long's Resignation – Motion made and seconded to accept, council vote motion carried.
- May have two people interested in the children's ministry position.

7) Pastoral Relations - Carol Wilcox

- Next February 10, 2018

8) Trustees - Greg Martin Jim Bidwell Greg Liedel

Greg Martin—Audio Visual & Other

- Discussion of the caulking around the glass on the doors inside.
- Bench with the crack – don't know how to fix
- Quotes for ceiling – preliminary \$20,000 needs to be a ballot vote at the congregational meeting.
- Quote to clean the awnings. Russ has access to a heated power washer if needed.
- Question if they are going to tar sealed on the new parking lot – will do that when they do the striping.

Greg Liedel—Bus & Other

- Bus – going to look at taking off the UCC decal when it is warmer out
- Always looking for volunteers to ride and drive.
- Tires are looking okay. Will measure the tread depth.
- Baptismal – Should be fixed this month.

Jim Bidwell—Farm

- Farm – Meeting January 14<sup>th</sup> with Watkins and Farm Committee.

9) Missions, Evangelism - Heather Erwin/ Mark Sherman

- Met last week. Setting up 2019 dates and activities.
- Spring Clean up – April 28th
- Considering to end VBS with pool party
- Maybe ending Wednesday nights this year with an event – parking lot party or something.
- Fall Clean up – October 27<sup>th</sup>
- Thinking about finding interest in Mission Trip.

10) Pastor’s Report - Pastor Randall

- Report distributed for review prior to the meeting.
- Really appreciates the support with funerals over the holidays.
- Will be asked to host Palm Sunday Service again by the ministerium, will discuss with WAM
- Looking at community Son Rise Service.
- Asking trustees how we can get caller id on the phones at the church.
- Discussion about the Board of Christian Education. Do we want it to be a committee? Potentially 4 people. Discussion of people that could be on committee: Hope Cauley, Ranae Sherman, Tricia Wilcox, Pam Bramble. Carol will discuss with them.

OLD BUSINESS

- Covered in reports above

NEW BUSINESS:

- Sold the lot from 2014 Annual Meeting approval for \$5,000. Add to the January 2019 annual meeting agenda
- Annual Meeting January 27, 2019 – Get reports in ASAP. Asked Russ to present the budget. Need 51 members for annual meeting.
- Discussion of having cake and punch and a “card shower” at the Annual meeting for Amy Long.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter read from Hope

Next Meeting: February 14, 2019 7:00 PM

LORD’S PRAYER

ADJOURNMENT—Motion made and seconded for adjournment

<b><u>Summary of Finances for January 2019</u></b>	
<b><u>Income:</u></b>	
Envelopes	\$16,431.00
Loose offering and faith time	<u>\$ 250.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$16,681.00</b>
<b><u>Expenses:</u></b>	
Staff Expense	\$ 11,561.00
Administration Expense	\$ 59.00
Utilities & Maintenance	\$ 3,965.00
(Electric \$1526 Gas \$1382)	
WAM	\$ 0.00
Christian Ed	\$ 0.00
Video	\$ 0.00
Evangelism	\$ 0.00
Youth	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 15,585.00</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>\$1,096.00</b>