

PLATTSBURG UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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 SOUTH CHARLESTON, OH 45368

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED  
 DATED MATERIAL MAILED ON 12/27/2017  
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 Mitzi Holloway, Secretary  
 Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9:00-11:00am

## **JANUARY 2018 WORSHIP HELPER LIST**

DATE	ACOLYTES	GREETERS	NURSERY	ALTAR FLOWERS
Jan 7	TBA	TBA	Barb Judy & Janet Finchum	OPEN
Jan 14	TBA	TBA	Adam & Amy Zimmerman	OPEN
Jan 21	TBA	TBA	Jill Flax & Ryan Flax	OPEN
Jan 28	TBA	TBA	Sue Anania & Beth Brightman	Richard & Peggy Flax

**DEVOTIONAL LIFE BOOKLETS** Devotional Life Booklets (The Upper Room) will be placed in a rack in the front hall for anyone who wishes them. If you would like one delivered to your home or to someone in a Nursing Home please call the Church Office and let us know. (937-568-4102)



**MISSION FOCUS FOR JANUARY  
 CELL PHONE COLLECTION**



### DECEMBER WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

DEC 3	60
DEC 10	81 Children's Program
DEC 17	71
DEC 24	83
DEC 24	142 Cantata & Candlelight Serv

FUTURE INFORMATION FOR THE CHURCH CALL NEEDS TO BE SENT TO THE CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS AT: [plattsburgucc@woh.rr.com](mailto:plattsburgucc@woh.rr.com).  
 If this is not possible, you can leave a note in the secretary's box or a message on the Church answering machine. Thank you.

# PLATTSBURG UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



## JANUARY 2018

Jan 1 New Year's Day  
Jan 3 Choir Practice 7:30pm  
Jan 7 Worship & Sunday School 9:30am Fellowship following  
Jan 8 **DEADLINE** for Annual Reports  
Jan 10 Choir Practice 7:30pm  
Jan 13 Blood Drive 7:30-11:30am  
Jan 14 Worship & Sunday School 9:30am Fellowship following  
Jan 15 *Martin Luther King, Jr, Day* - **DEADLINE** for the Annual Financial Reports  
Jan 17 Choir Practice 7:30pm  
Jan 21 Worship & Sunday School 9:30am - **ANNUAL MEETING** after worship serv  
Jan 22 **FEBRUARY Call Deadline**  
Jan 24 Choir Practice 7:30pm  
Jan 28 Worship & Sunday School 9:30am – Fellowship following  
Jan 31 Call Collators 1:00pm - Choir Practice 7:30pm

## PARSONAGE RENTAL

The Board of Trustees have decided to offer the parsonage for rent. While the rental cannot be a long-term arrangement due to the current search for a new pastor, we are prepared to work with prospective renters regarding this issue.

If you have interest or know of someone who might be interested, please contact Sam Roberts or Ed Kranz .

## Blood Drive - January 13

Plattsburg UCC will host their annual blood drive on **Saturday, January 13** from **7:30-11:30 a.m.** Donors must be in good health, at least 16 years old, and weigh over 100 pounds.

The need for blood is high during the winter months so we want to encourage all eligible donors to participate. You may pre-schedule at [donortime.com](http://donortime.com), by contacting Richard Flax, or by signing up on the schedule posted on the bulletin board. Be a hero and give the gift of life!

## FINANCIAL NEWS.....

For the month ending **November 30, 2017**: The income was **174%** of the expenses, due mostly because of \$3138 income from the Noodle Dinner and Auction and the Year -To-Date Income has been **120%** of expenses. (Of course, the major reason for being so far under budget for spending is that we have not had any of the costs of benefits associated with a full-time pastor.) This congregation supports all the missions of the church: financial, with donations to benefit all the many special projects, and with their time and talents. We appreciate all the wonderful support provided.

A detailed report of the Church expenses, by month, is always posted on the church bulletin board outside of the pastor's office.

Your generous and regular financial support makes it possible for our church to do great things for our members, our neighbors, our community and our world. Thank you for all YOU do as we walk together loving and serving our Lord and Savior.

**REMINDER: PLEASE cash any expense-reimbursement checks from the church in a timely manner. Checks that have not been cashed for two or three months make record keeping more difficult. Thank you.**

## Official Board Minutes

December 12, 2017

**Present:** Jay Flax-moderator, Mary Fannin-treasurer, Bob Fannin-deacon, Peggy Bellows-trustee, Jeanne Troxell-outreach, Marcia Flax-Christian education

Moderator Jay Flax called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m. In the absence of the clerk, Marcia Flax was designated to take minutes.

Minutes of the October 16 meeting were read and approved. Mary Fannin submitted the treasurer's report. She noted that giving has been lower than expected. Also expenses for the year are under budget. Mary mentioned that the parsonage is currently empty so we are not collecting any rent at this time.

During Old Business, there was a brief discussion and overview of the Chicken Noodle Dinner and Auction. Mary Fannin reported that the net profit was approximately \$2900. Also, as old business the group was reminded of caroling on Sunday, December 17 at 2 p.m.

The following Board Reports were shared:

**Deacons** – Bob Fannin stated that the balance of the Deacon's Fund is \$1762. The Deacons are working with Melanie Wilt to develop a new brochure. Communion was held December 3. The back door is being locked at 9:45 on Sunday mornings. The Board of Deacons is working on a plan for pastoral care and emergency coverage. This group will meet again on January 23 at 7:30 p.m.

**Trustees** – Peggy Bellows reported that the Trustees have prepared a proposed budget for 2018. It will be made available to the congregation on December 17 and voted on in January. The parsonage is in good shape and available for rent. The rent is \$750/month.

**Outreach** – Jeanne Troxell submitted the October Outreach Board minutes. She highlighted the following: benevolence for the second quarter was \$1602.38, the Trick or Treat night was successful, the Christmas Brunch was well attended, Plattsburg will serve IHN meals the second week of September, 2018, the church has adopted 4 families for Christmas. The Outreach Board will meet again on January 21.

**Christian Education-** Marcia Flax reported that fourth quarter birthdays were celebrated on November 5 with a special tribute to Pete the Pig. The Christmas program was held on December 10. Sunday School classes and nursery have been going well. The children seem happy and enjoy coming. Adults have been willing to teach most Sundays. Marcia is currently scheduling teachers for January-April, 2018. Needed items were purchased for classrooms and nursery. The next birthday celebration will be held in February. The Board of Christian Education will meet in late January.

**The Search Committee** reported that there has been little progress in recent months. The Nominating Committee presented a proposed ballot for approval.

During a period of New Business, the following dates were set:

The **Annual Meeting** will be held **Sunday, January 21** (snow date January 28).

**Annual Reports** are due to the church office by **January 8**.

**Annual Financial Reports** are due to the church office by **January 15**.

The moderator will appoint an audit committee to audit the financial records by February 8.

The next meeting of the Official Board will be held on Thursday, February 8 at 7:30 p.m.

## 5 Spiritual New Year's Resolutions

The best resolutions are elastic—they cannot be broken with a single act. If you swear never to touch red meat, one burger ruins the resolution. If, on the other hand, you pledge to eat healthier food, each day you have a chance to fulfill the resolution anew. Below are five elastic spiritual resolutions that can carry you throughout the year.

### **Engage with people more than pixels.**

Looking at a phone is quick and undemanding. Texting is easier than talking—it gives you intimacy without danger. This year, resolve to spend more time looking into someone's eyes when you communicate with them. Replace an extended exchange on text with a meeting for coffee. Make a promise of presence.

### **Take your soul seriously.**

It is easy to pretend that what we watch and how we speak have no effects on us. But the constant pounding of hatreds and dehumanization that marks so much of our media have consequences for our character. Part of who you are is the sum of the influences you choose: what you watch, who you associate with, how you speak about others both publicly and privately. Life is a continuous journey of soul shaping, and this year, resolve to keep your deep journey in mind. Turn away from something seductive but corrosive—Twitter rants full of bile, or people who continually insult those around them, or depictions of violence that take savage delight in suffering. You only get one soul; don't squander it in things unworthy of its majesty.

### **Increase your kindness.**

If you wish to feel kind, do something good. The great secret of moral growth is that it often begins from the outside. Rather than your joy leading you to smile, your smile can lead you to joy. Behave generously even when you do not feel like it and the habit will grow as will your innate quality of kindness. The act can be small or large; it can be a charitable contribution or a gentle word or help with a heavy bag on an airplane. Do it.

### **Choose someone to forgive.**

All of us have legitimate grievances in our lives. Some people are very hard to forgive but you need not begin with the toughest cases. Small acts of grace will grow. Forgive the guy who cut you off in the street; after all, you have cut people off as well, on purpose or inadvertently. Forgive the person who made an unkind remark about you. Choose a place to begin. The more you forgive, the less the world can injure you; forgiveness is a soft shield for your soul.

### **In forgiving, include yourself.**

Fight against perfectionism. Leave a dropped stitch in the knitting of your life. There will always be more possibilities to get something wrong than to get it right. Allow yourself the latitude of mistakes, without self-punishing. God is supposed to be perfect, not human beings. Have expectations of yourself, but don't enforce them with a hammer.

The New Year is coming. You have not wasted a single day of the future. So here is your chance to live purposefully. Will you achieve this every day? Of course not (see #5 above). The key resolution is not to triumph or to always succeed. Resolutions of the spirit come down to one thing: in this New Year, grow.

Taken from TIME Magazine - Rabbi David Wolpe December 20, 2016

***“HAPPY NEW YEAR”***