

JANUARY 2026

January 1 New Year's Day
January 2 Deadline for First Group of Annual Reports (see new article)
January 4 Worship Service & Sunday School 9:30 am
January 7 Deadline for Second Group of Annual Reports (see new article)
January 11 Worship Service & Sunday School 9:30 am - Annual Congregational Meeting following worship service - The Board of Outreach will be meeting prior to worship service
January 17 Annual Plattsburg UCC Blood Drive 8:00-11:00 am
January 18 Worship Service & Sunday School 9:30 am
January 19 *Martin Luther King, Jr Day* - Deadline for February Call Newsletter
January 25 Worship Service & Sunday School 9:30 am
January 27 Call Collators 8:30 am

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!!!**

**FINANCIAL
NEWS**

For the month ending November 30th 2025:

November Income to expense ratio was 117.2% and the January through November income to expense was 88.6%. 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.

PLATTSBURG UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Church Call



Board of Outreach 2026 Fourth Quarter Mission

The Mission Focus for Jan - Feb - March SOUP KITCHEN

Items Needed:

Coffee - Coffee Creamer

Paper Products - Plastic Silverware

Or Monetary Donations

**Please purchase restaurant size items
such as products sold at
Gordon Foods**

**The Board of Outreach will be leaving 4 totes
in the hallway area for collections throughout the year.
Totes will be labeled as follows:**

**Soup Kitchen
Hats/Mittens/Socks
School Supplies
First Responders**

**So if you are shopping and find a sale on any of these items,
you can bring them in at any time.
Thank you!**

**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.**

Church Contributions: We understand that there still may be concerns about gatherings and attending worship service. If you are unable to attend worship service in person, you may mail your contributions to:

Plattsburg United Church of Christ - P O Box 699 - South Charleston OH 45368.
Your generosity is much needed and very much appreciated.

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to provide flowers for the church altar on a Sunday during 2026, a sign-up sheet has been posted in the front hallway for your convenience.

In past years, we have had live flowers on the altar nearly every Sunday.

You may wish to provide flowers in memory of loved ones, to commemorate a special anniversary or other important date, or just because.

When signing up, please add any such information so that it can be included in the Sunday worship bulletin.

Thank you.



Progress Club

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 11th after the worship service. During this meeting, the election of Church Officers will take place and the Budget Review Report for 2026 will be presented.

Please note: The end of year deadline for the Annual Board Reports and the Financial Reports are as follows: Deadline date for the following is January 2, 2026 Pastor's Report – Official Board Report – Moderator's Report – Deacons Report - Outreach Report – Progress Club Report and Trustee Report. Deadline date for the following is January 7, 2026 Memorial Fund Report – Endowment Fund Report – Benevolent Report – Financial Secretary Report - Financial Treasurer Report and the Nominating Committee Report and Ballot

You may send your report to the church email address or drop it off at the Church and leave it on the desk in the secretary's office. Thank you.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for individuals to volunteer to be Ushers or Greeters on Sunday mornings.

The church is also in need of volunteers to teach Sunday School classes and be with the little ones in the Nursery during worship service time. If you are interested, please contact Joanna Rittenhouse.

Thank you.

Pastor Faith is asking for volunteers to assist her with the worship service. A Worship Service Helper Sheet has been posted on the bulletin board. If anyone would like to volunteer, please sign the sheet . If you have any question regarding this, see Pastor Faith.

KIDS HOPE MENTORING PROGRAM

We are winding down the 2024-2025 School year and the 2025-2026 school year is not far away.

Entering a new year it's time to consider becoming a mentor for the **"Kids Hope USA Mentoring Program"**.

You would be mentoring a child just one hour each week.

Think about the impact that you could have on a small child and the wonderful feeling of knowing that you were helping this child as they learn and grow.

The rewards are **amazing!**

Please contact Jeanne Troxell or Mitzi Holloway if you are interested.

Thank you!



PLATTSBURG UCC 2026 ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE

The Annual Plattsburg UCC Blood Drive will be held on **Saturday, January 17**, from **8:00-11:00 am**.

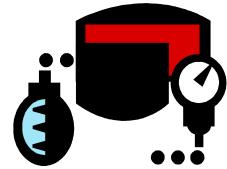
Please come, share a pint of your healthy blood with someone in need.

Blood donors must be at least 16 years old and in good health.

To schedule a donation appointment, contact Peggy Bellows or you can schedule on-line at www.donortime.com.

If you would like to provide donuts, cookies, or juice for the event, please let Peggy know.

Your donation is greatly appreciated.



Easy to Give – Plattsburg UCC Offering Now Available Online

You can now make an offering or tithe online! We have set up a "campaign" through Zeffy, which is an online platform that allows 100% of your gifts to go to the church! There are multiple options for how you can give – one-time, monthly and annual gifts of any amount.

This option allows you to use a credit card or electronic funds transfer from your bank account. Zeffy doesn't charge a fee to the church, which is why we chose this method. Please help keep them in business by providing a "tip" when you submit your offering.

To use this method, just scan the QR Code, or go to the link below.



<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/tithe-to-plattsburg-ucc>

Finding Faith

Reflections on Matthew 2

The busy Christmas season has come to an end... Now what? Perhaps we have replaced our "to-do" lists with resolutions, or maybe we are feeling a little empty. An often overlooked holiday in January is Epiphany. Epiphany marks when the wisemen finally arrive to worship the baby Jesus. Most likely not in the manger at that point in time, but a toddler or young boy. The wise men bring gifts that a toddler wouldn't much appreciate – gold, frankincense and myrrh. But perhaps these gifts weren't to edify the Christ Child... perhaps these gifts had more to do with the givers. These learned men gave the best, most prestigious gifts that could make the trip in their satchels.

A disturbing part of this story is King Herod's obsession with finding the baby Jesus and putting him to death. The image of a child being hunted is downright disturbing. The Magi see Herod's evil scheme and refuse to become complicit in the evil of this governmental leader. The wisemen manage to avoid becoming part of Herod's evil plan, but Herod still manages to bring havoc and destruction. Herod's obsession with finding Jesus also puts others at risk. Herod orders the execution of all boys under the age of two years old. This causes Joseph to take his family and flee to Egypt. Here I see a reversal of the plagues of Egypt.

We often talk about how topsy-turvy Christ's entrance into the world was, but almost all of Jesus' life is unconventional – not what we expect from God made flesh. We don't expect God to be a refugee, but he is. His family is uprooted due to political instability. He resides in a land not his own, among folks who do not speak the same language as him. Ultimately, Jesus lands in Nazareth, because that is where Joseph deems he can best protect his family.

Looking at the struggles and trials of Jesus' early life, it is no wonder that in his adult life he chooses to preach compassion for outsiders, hospitality to strangers, and that "whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me." Jesus had been all of those things, dependent upon the kindnesses of strangers.

When I think about Epiphany this year, I look to the wisemen who refused to be cowed by power, and who let their moral compass be more their guide. I pray we all follow their example. I also see the reflection of the Holy Family in the many families who face peril due to political violence. Let us look to see the face of Christ in children that are forced to grow up too soon, who are exposed to too much too early. Let us work to protect their innocence.



BOARD OF OUTREACH MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 30 2025

Those in attendance were: Megan Agle, Kim Flax, Kelly Manion, Jeanne Troxell and Breanna Wallen. The meeting began with silent prayer.

OLD BUSINESS:

The dates were set to sort, shop, wrap and deliver the goods received for the church's Adopt-A-Family Christmas trees.

The Outreach Board will sort and wrap the received goods after church on Sunday, December 21 at 3:00 PM. This will give the Congregation time to shop after the tags are placed on the trees during the week of December 1 2025. There unfortunately has been a delay in receiving families in need from the Northeastern and Miami View schools.

The Outreach board will meet on December 22 2025 at 3:00 PM to sort the cold goods and then meet with the Adopt-A-Families at 4:00 PM to distribute the goods collected from the Congregation.

Breanna and Joanna will do the shopping prior to the 3 PM meeting with the Adopt- A-Families.

Jeanne will reach out to Jeanne Anders at NEHS to verify the FFA fruit donation to the Adopt-A-Families. Megan will 'supply the muscle' to carry the boxes of goods to the Adopt-A-Families.

Kim and Jeanne will be reaching out to MV and NEES guidance counselors for families in need.

Kelly will be purchasing Christmas gifts for our shut-ins. The board agreed on a \$10-20.00 per item ceiling. Kelly will also reach out to Peggy Beedy regarding her current status if she would enjoy visitors from our board on a regular basis.

Kelly will purchase red totes for the tree collections of Adopt-A-Families goods.

Next Outreach Board mission: Soup Kitchen collection.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tentative Family Bowling Day: January 25 2026

Madison Bowling Alley

Breanna will reach out to management at Madison Bowling Lanes the week of December 1 2025 to check for availability at 11:00 AM January 25 2026.

Talks of a Family Game Day following church are in the works for March 2026!

The next Board of Outreach meeting was scheduled for January 11 2026 prior to church services

New beginnings can be both exciting and intimidating. They represent a chance to start fresh and make positive changes in our lives, but they also require us to let go of the familiar and step into the unknown. As Christians, we can find hope and strength in knowing that God is with us in all things, including the new beginnings we face.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Plattsburg United Church of Christ
715 S Urbana Lisbon Road
P O Box 699
South Charleston OH 45368

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL MAILED ON 12/23/2025
Church Phone 937-568-4102
Church E-Mail Plattsburgucc@gmail.com
Mitzi Holloway - Church Secretary
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday
9:00-11:00 am

DEVOTIONAL LIFE BOOKLETS

Devotional Life Booklets (The Upper Room) will be placed in a rack in the front hall for anyone who would like one. If you would like one delivered to your home or to someone in a Nursing Facility, please call the Church Office and let us know

DECEMBER 2025 WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

November 30	50
December 7	48
December 14 No Service Bad Weather	
December 18 Christmas on the Farm	207
December 21	48

MISSION FOCUS FOR JANUARY 2026

Board of Outreach

2026 First Quarter Mission (January-February-March)

SOUP KITCHEN

(See Newsletter article for more details)

FUTURE INFORMATION FOR THE CHURCH CALL NEEDS TO BE SENT TO THE CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS AT:
Plattsburgucc@gmail.com or you may leave a note in the secretary's mailbox
or call the church and leave a message