

MARCH  
2026



# PLATTSBURG UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## The Church Call

March 1 Second Sunday in Lent -  
Worship Service & Sunday School  
9:30 am - Lent Sunday School 8:30  
am - Family Bowling Day 11:00 am  
(See Newsletter article for details)  
March 6 **World Day of Prayer**  
March 7 Don't forget to turn your  
clocks FORWARD one Hour -  
**Daylight Savings Time Begins**  
March 8 Third Sunday in Lent -  
Worship Service & Sunday School  
9:30 am - Lent Sunday School 8:30  
am - Fellowship Hour after worship  
service (See Newsletter article for  
details)  
March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent -  
Worship Service/Special UCC  
Offering "One Great Hour of  
Sharing"/Sunday School 9:30 am -  
Lent Sunday School 8:30 am  
March 16 **April Call Deadline**  
March 17 **St. Patrick's Day**  
March 22 Fifth Sunday in Lent -  
Worship Service & Sunday School  
9:30 am - Lent Sunday School 8:30  
am  
March 24 Call Collators 8:30 am  
March 29 Sixth Sunday in Lent -  
**Palm Sunday** - Worship Service -  
Child Led & Sunday School 9:30  
am - Lent Sunday School Class at  
8:30 am

### FINANCIAL NEWS .....

**For the month ending January  
31<sup>st</sup> 2026:**

January Income was 110.2%  
income to expense ratio.

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.



### Board of Outreach 2026 First 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.

## Finding Faith

### 2026 Lent and Holy Week Series: Tested, Opened, Naked

Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. (Matthew 24:42 NRSVue)

The liturgical calendar calls us to remember expectation. While our memories of the days preceding Christmas may include anticipating gifts and festival gathering around meals and decorated trees, that is not the memory Advent amplifies. While Epiphany greets us at the dawn of a new year, memories of midnight toast and kisses does not frame that season. Lent may evoke shudders as we consider how difficult it may have been to forgo that favorite practice, menu item, or other thing in order to share in the sacrificial activity of Christ. Yet, if that struggle fails to generate empathy for the suffering of our neighbor on our block and across the world, the sacrifice was empty. A sunrise service on Easter Sunday morning may transport our imagination to the empty tomb, but that shocking moment led to uncertainty, discovery, and an empowered movement that launched on the Day of Pentecost and continues today.

The future of the church faces threats. While some have the reasonable fear of closing church doors, the more urgent and salient problem is the church that has lost its way, its voice, its witness, and its commitment to embodying good news in the world as Christ's agents in the world.

The call to remember expectation is a call to hope, to agency, and to activation in a world in need of conduits and co-creators of good news. In the anchoring text for the liturgical year, Jesus cautioned and encouraged their followers to "keep awake." The command encompasses attentiveness, alertness, and readiness. The context of the passage emphasizes the anticipated return of Christ, the Chosen One. Could the Body of Christ reclaim its mantle and mandate to embody God's love and liberating power in the world? Could that be the return we expect...to the movement to follow the way of Jesus in spirit and in truth...not to give us an escape to heaven but to realize the kingdom on earth through our collective, Spirit-led salvific acts in the name of Jesus? Are we prepared and willing to be that church?

That is the question we will ponder in Year A even as we heed the call to "Stay Awake."

### 2026 Lent and Holy Week Series: Tested, Opened, Naked

"Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves." – Genesis 3:7

"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil." — Matthew 4:1

Lent reserves time for reflection, remembrance, and repentance. The lectionary reading from Genesis 3 revisits one of the origin stories. Following the magnificent and transcendent creative acts of the Holy One in Genesis 1 and the earthy creative acts of God who Companions in Genesis 2, the text explores the origins of human brokenness in relationship with the divine, the humane, and the remainder of the created order. That story cautions that there are competing forces at work in the Creator's world that rely upon deception, manipulation, and human arrogance. That story reveals how denial, conflict avoidance, and projection compound the brokenness. That story invites us to examine the realities of being tested, the challenges that arise from opened understanding, and the response to recognizing our own nakedness (vulnerability and transparency) before God and one another.

During Lent, communities and individuals may adopt a fast, spiritual practice, ministry outreach, or faith formation study. Some may observe the season without breaks or follow the model of the early church and celebrate the Resurrection every Sunday despite the season. Whether your worship lays aside the "alleluia" or proclaims "hallelujah anyhow," Lenten worship calls us to explore the liberating, redeeming, and sacrificial acts of Christ and to fortify ourselves to pick up our cross at the given time for the salvation, reconciliation, and restoration of the world that Jesus loves and exhorts us to do the same.

### Need More?

I endeavor to do the best I can in reaching out to folks in the congregation who are in need of additional pastoral care. Despite my best efforts, I do not always know who would like a call or visit, so please do not hesitate to reach out and request one on behalf of yourself or someone else. The fastest way to reach me is via text at 419-901-2433. Also, if you have any religious questions, or wrestlings, please do not hesitate to ask. If you are interested in taking the next step in your faith journey, please let me know. This could be making the decision to be baptized, or to become an official member of Plattsburg UCC.

### Looking Ahead...

**Lent Sunday School Class** at 8:30am from February 22 - March 29.

What the Women Saw: Bible and Video Study

Do women matter to the kingdom of God?

Jesus was surrounded by both men and women during his ministry on earth. He saw, valued, and cared for women, and he still does today. Each one of us has a significant role.

Through this six-session study, you will discover who Jesus is through the unique perspective of women in the Bible. As you study the lives of Mary, Martha, Mary Magdalene and others, you will learn from their faith and failures and be reminded that Jesus cared for and valued the women he was surrounded by. He equipped them, listened to them, walked with them, healed them, and empowered them. And he does the same for you now.

**Palm Sunday** Worship on March 29 at 9:30am - Child Led

**Maundy Thursday** Service on April 2 at 6pm

**Easter Sunday** on April 5 at 9:30am.

## 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.

### Please mark your calendar with the following dates:

On Sunday, **March 8<sup>th</sup>** and Sunday, **April 12<sup>th</sup>**, **Fellowship Hour** will be held after worship service sponsored by the Progress Club. Light refreshments will be served in the Fireside Room.

Join us on Sunday, **March 29<sup>th</sup>** for our **Palm Sunday Worship Service** as we remember and celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem for the Passover festival. Worship Service begins at 9:30 am. This year's service will be child led. We hope that you can come and be a part of this very special service

On **Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**,

join us in worship as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

This is the celebration of God's promise fulfilled and the victory of life over death.

Worship Service begins at 9:30 am. Following the service the Board of Outreach will be sponsoring an **Easter Egg Hunt** for the kids.



On Sunday, **March 1<sup>st</sup>**, The Board of Outreach will be sponsoring a "**Family Bowling Day**" right after worship service.

The bowling event will be held at **11:00 am** at **Madison Bowling Lanes**, 690 N. Main St., London, Ohio.

We will be bowling for 2 hours. The Board of Outreach will be paying for the bowling and for pizza and drinks for children (12 and under).

Parents are welcome to pay and join in the bowling fun too. **RSVP to Jeanne Troxell** by Saturday, **February, 28<sup>th</sup>**

## 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>

### One Great Hour of Sharing

On Sunday, **March 15<sup>th</sup> 2026**, the UCC "**One Great Hour of Sharing**" offering will be taken. When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you are sharing your love offering to the world – through disaster relief, economic development, or essentials like food, water and shelter. Your love is shared in practical, life sustaining, and transformative ways. No matter how difficult the circumstance, your giving ensures God's love is present and lives are changed.

**Share your love offering to the world.  
Give to One Great Hour of Sharing.**

**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

### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Don't forget to turn your clocks **FORWARD** One Hour on Saturday, **March 7<sup>th</sup>**.



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 2/24/2026  
Church Phone 937-568-4102  
Church E-Mail [Plattsburgucc@gmail.com](mailto: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

### FEBRUARY 2026 WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

January 25	No Service due to ice and snow	
February 1		46
February 8		46
February 15		40
February 28	Ash Wednesday	23
February 22		30

### MISSION FOCUS FOR MARCH 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](mailto:Plattsburgucc@gmail.com) or you may leave a note in the secretary's mailbox  
or call the church and leave a message