

Volume 42, Issue 2

Fellowship Family News

February
2022

a publication of Fellowship Lutheran Church, Rev. Robin Wargowsky, Pastor
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"But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior."
Isaiah 43:1-3

Dear Fellowship Members and Friends,

I just finished a book by Barbara Brown Taylor in which she was asked, "What is saving your life now?" I thought that was such an interesting, thought-provoking question that I would talk about it in my newsletter article for this month and encourage you to reflect on the question also.

We are beginning the third year of the coronavirus pandemic with new case numbers still sky-high in Ohio. There is much that is depressing in the world from the economy and never-ending price increases, the threat of war in Ukraine, the political polarization in our country, to losing family members and friends to this pandemic. So I have to dig deep to answer Taylor's question. What is saving my life now?

For me, the comfort of my routine, worship preparation during the week, leading worship at two services on Sundays and interacting with all of you brings me hope for the future. I've also been more intentional about "keeping the Sabbath holy" which for me means I set aside time on Friday or Saturday to spend time with God and to intentionally rest.

Keeping up relationships with family and friends (and our dog Sammi) is saving my life now. My family's support and encouragement on the rough days helps bring clarity to whatever is troubling me. And there is nothing like a dog's kisses to remind you of the unconditional love of God!

And hope for the future without a pandemic looming overhead is saving my life now. I hope and trust that God is with us and will see us through these difficult times as God did with the Israelites. I often turn to scripture like the verses above from Isaiah or to the psalms for encouragement.

So what is saving your life now? What is it that gives you hope? I would love to hear your answers to these questions!

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit, you may abound in hope." (Romans 15:13)

See you in church!

Pastor Robin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In-person Worship With the number of COVID cases high, we are asking that you continue to wear a mask for in-person worship, even if you are fully vaccinated/boostered.

Holy Communion Consecrated communion kits can be picked up in the church office on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays between 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon for those unable to attend in-person.

Donation Opportunities

Smoky Row Food Pantry Needs for January, February, and March

- Non-perishable food staples, such as beans, corn, rice, pasta
- Baby items (Diapers 2-3-4, Wipes)
- Toiletries, such as shampoo/conditioner, soap, toilet paper, etc.
- Winter coats, hats, gloves
- Lightbulbs

Please place your donations in the tubs located in the Narthex during church service hours, or during published office hours - Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, between 9:00 am and 12:00 pm. Thank you!

Meals on Wheels

Friday, February 18	Biemel	Friday, March 18	Engen
Saturday, February 19	Wolfe	Saturday, March 19	Cardimen

Worship Servers Needed! If you are able to help out at our 10:00 a.m. Worship service, please let either Tracy Farel or Pastor Robin know. Lectors, counters, and greeters are needed.

Due to High Number of Coronavirus Cases in Franklin County, Sunday School is on Hold for the Time Being. We will reevaluate this decision at the end of the month. Thank you for your understanding! We are sending out each week's material digitally.

Kroger Plus Fundraising Information: If you would like to register your Kroger card for the Community Rewards Program, please contact Pastor Robin or the church office. Thank you so much for participating in this fundraiser!

Give to Fellowship with Your Smartphone with Vanco Mobile - If you would like to give to Fellowship with your smartphone, please download Vanco's new smartphone app, **Vanco Mobile**. Vanco Mobile will enable anyone to donate at anytime to Fellowship. It makes it easy to give instantaneously for a regular gift, a recurring gift, or a special occasion gift.

Do You Order From Amazon? If so, then try Amazon Smile to support Fellowship Lutheran Church! First, go to Amazon Smile and choose Fellowship Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH as your charity. Then, shop as usual and Fellowship will receive a percentage of your purchase. It's that easy!

Thrivent Members - For those of you with choice dollars. don't forget that Fellowship can be a recipient of those dollars. Thank you to all who have donated this way in the past!

Staying Connected Program for the Elderly - Did you know that Ohio has a program for the elderly to "stay connected?" You get to pick the hour to receive the phone call. For more information, here is the link: <https://aging.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/aging/care-and-living/get-help/staying-connected/>

Attendance Information (In-person & virtual)

12/1 (midweek)	4/43 views	1/2	19/4/22 views
12/5	34/6/21 views	1/9	25/4/17 views
12/12	19/10/34 views	1/16	27/4/20 views
12/19	36/5/44 views	1/23	17/6/26 views
12/24	39/28/32 views		
12/26	12/18 views		

Thank you for your support of Fellowship in 2021. Thanks to your support and some very generous year end offerings, we exceeded our projected worship offering and total income by 10%! During our budget process for 2021, we estimated a year end deficit of approximately \$7,000. However, due to the strong income, we have finished the year with about \$10,000 in our operating fund, considering the outstanding bills for repair of the damage due to the break-in of the church.

Your generosity has enabled us to advance our mission of sharing God’s love and grace through our words and actions in the following ways:

- Donated \$9,960.61 to our parent, the Southern Ohio Synod of the ELCA.
- Provided food, school supplies, personal hygiene items, winter clothing and more to the Smoky Row Food pantry
- Through our Pumpkin Patch proceeds, we contributed just over \$3,750 spread evenly over the 3 Neighborhood organizations: Smoky Row Food Pantry, Family Mentor Foundation, Lutheran Social Services Columbus area Food Pantries, and 2 other charities: Heifer International, and Lutheran Outdoor Ministries that we funded in 2021
- Immediate assistance to families and individuals in need through our Good Samaritan Fund

These contributions have made a significant impact for these organizations and the people they serve. For example, through contributions like ours, the Southern Ohio Synod has been able to offer grants to local congregations to enable them to improve their virtual presence during the pandemic, as well as fund the Stewardship For All Seasons efforts on generosity, and supporting the congregations of the synod in many other ways. For the local food pantries and Family Mentor Foundation, our contributions have helped them deal with the increased demand for food and services due to the pandemic and the challenges of housing and food security right here in the Sawmill Road/I-270 area. We have received thank you letters from these organizations expressing their thanks and highlighting the work we have enabled them to do.

Now that I’ve discussed the impact that Fellowship has made, let’s review our financial standing at the end of 2021.

Net Current Equity	\$10,521.11
Total Net Equity	\$2,249,104.09

Bank Account	\$54,489.62
Savings Account (MMA)	\$16,229.40
Mortgage Balance	\$268,571.46

	Year to Date
INCOME	
Worship Offering	\$138,900.38
Building Use Donations	\$16,585.00
Miscellaneous Donations	\$3,170.54
Interest Income	\$10.35
Restricted Income	\$54,467.27
Total Income	\$213,133.54

Note, the Restricted Income line item is the sum of all of the special, restricted funds. Right now, we have approximately \$32,000 that are allocated to pay for the roof repairs once that is all concluded. So, although there is a lot of money in our bank accounts, we only have about \$10,000 that is available for our regular budgeted expenses.

On the expense side, we had the following expenses by area:

Salaries and Administrative Expenses	\$95,976.02			
Worship	\$1,335.74			
Congregational Life	\$634.88			
Education	\$165.75			
Outreach	\$9,960.61			
Property and Support	\$46,293.37			
Total Operating Expenses	\$154,366.37			
Restricted Fund Expenses	\$14,967.27			

In addition, we reduced the mortgage balance by \$9,169.47 to leave us with a balance of \$268,571.46

We used at least 6 Thrivent Grants during the year of \$1,499 to help us support the Smoky Row Food Pantry and Choices, replace the basketball hoop, buy a streaming camera and purchase box lunches for our outdoor service.

On a technical note, we have now been using Power Church's accounting system for the past year. It has simplified tax reporting, check writing, budgeting, reporting and balancing the books. It provides us with a true double-entry accounting system that follows the accounting practices appropriate for churches. It provides an auditable trail of transactions that our manual system did not readily provide.

We have also increased the automation of paying our bills. We have increased the automatic transfers for bills for federal, state and local taxes, payroll, and recurring payments. Hopefully, the implementation of Power Church Accounting improves our accounting practices.

It has been a challenging year, but your generosity has left us in pretty good condition going into 2022. We have tried to be generous with our mission and careful about our other expenses. I hope you will continue to support Fellowship's mission and increase your dedication to what we do here at Fellowship on Sawmill Road.

I am happy to answer any questions you might have about our financial status.

Todd Engen, Treasurer
tcengen@att.net

614-226-4965

Church Staff

Pastor	Rev. Robin Wargowsky
Treasurer	Todd Engen
Financial Secretary	Tracy Farel
Office Secretary	Tracy Farel
Pianist	Amy Wargowsky
Sub. Pianist/Organist	David Fleisher, Ruth Albert
Choir/Band Director	George Biemel
Custodian	Kenneth Hunt

Executive Committee

President	Kathryn Tucker
Vice-President	George Biemel
Secretary	Sonya Thelin Pastor Robin

Congregational Life

Director	Cindy Frey
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Education & Youth

Director	Dianna Roll
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Outreach

Director	Carol Jaeger
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Stewardship & Support

Director	John Votino
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Worship

Director	Karen Harris
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Thank you for your leadership!!!

Worship Servers Schedule for February 2022

Date	February 6	February 13
Lay Reader		
Counter	Kathryn Tucker	
Greeter	Kathryn Tucker	Kathryn Tucker
Altar Guild	Kathy & Tracy Farel	Kathy & Tracy Farel

Date	February 20	February 27
Lay Reader		
Counter		
Greeter		
Altar Guild	Kathy & Tracy Farel	Kathy & Tracy Farel

Worship Servers Needed!

We have not yet returned to our full schedule of worship servers due to COVID. If you can fill any of our openings for readers, counters or greeters or help out in future months, please call or email Tracy or Pastor Robin. Thanks!



February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 10:00 am - Worship 11:30-3:00 - CJMC 5:00 pm - Worship	31	1	2	3 8:00 pm - CJMC	4 11 pm-1:30 am CJMC	5
6 10:00 am - Worship 11:30-2:30 - CJMC 5:00 pm - Worship	7	8 7:00 pm - Worship Team (zoom)	9	10 8:00 pm - CJMC	11	12
13 10:00 am - Worship 11:00 am - Executive 11:30-3:00 - CJMC 5:00 pm - Worship	14	15	16	17 11:00 am - Pastor's Mtg @ FLC 8:00 pm - CJMC	18	19 10 am - 2 pm - Council Retreat
20 10:00 am - Worship 11:30-3:00 - CJMC 5:00 pm - Worship	21	22	23	24 8:00 pm - CJMC	25	26
27 10:00 am - Worship 11:30-3:00 - CJMC 5:00 pm - Worship	28	1	2	3 8:00 pm - CJMC	4	5

FOR OUR MEMBERS:

Fritzi Bear	Sonja Meighen
Sam & Maxine Brunner	Joshua Mott
Major N Crispin	Stacy Niedecker
Barb Fisher	Dianna Roll
Margery Gress	Martha Sampson
Cheryl Hamilton	Votino family
Zach Jaeger	Ray & Carol Ward
Lillian Kachic	Bill Zahn
Frank & Leena LeMay	

February Birthdays

Haley Defibaugh	2/08
Zach Jaeger	2/09
Eliana Anderson	2/10
Celine Votino	2/10
Erling Lee	2/11
Caitlyn Votino	2/11
Kathleen Wolkan	2/18
Brittany Hairston	2/21
Lillian Cardimen	2/22
James Votino	2/22
Paul Wargowsky	2/22
Leena LeMay	2/28

FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Joan Albert, Ruth Albert's mother
Rosemary Craig, Cindy Frey's mother
Lynn Hainline, Karen Harris' cousin
Marc Hamilton, Cheryl Hamilton's son
Dorothy Hardesty, Pastor Robin's brother-in-law's mother
McKenna Harris, Karen Harris' granddaughter
Megan Harris, Karen Harris' daughter
Jo Anne Harvey, Donavon Johnson's friend
Pat Henceforth, Rev. Ron Bott's friend
Chris Johnson, Bruce Johnson's sister-in-law
Donna Lobuzzetta, wife of Bill Lude's friend
Orin McMonigle, Karen Harris' friend
John & Charlotte Schall, Pastor Robin's parents
Hayden Valesky, Votino's great nephew



Happy Birthday to those celebrating birthdays this month! This list reflects the information we have in our computer at this time. We welcome your corrections and additions!

DEATHS:

Aaron Alexander, Cindy Frey's high school friend
Shirley Bash, Jim Jaeger's friend
Nancy Farel, Bill & Kathy Farel's sister-in-law
Margaret & Alan Karjalinen, Leena LeMay's sister-in-law & nephew
Dave Sullenberger, Jim Jaeger's scouting friend

February Anniversaries



Fellowship Lutheran Church
7350 Sawmill Road
Columbus, OH 43235

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Our Purpose: To share God's love and grace through our words and actions.

Our Vision: To be a diverse, thriving community of faith where all are welcome to celebrate God's love and grace.

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