



February
2023

a publication of Fellowship Lutheran Church, Rev. Robin Wargowsky, Pastor
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pastor's page

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." – *Colossians 2:6*

Greetings Fellowship members and friends!

Thank you so much for the cards, calls, texts, and concern when I was down with COVID for the first half of last month. That was not exactly how I envisioned starting out the New Year! I am still very fatigued but doing much better. Pastor Monte Stevens masterfully covered the two worship services I missed. It's wonderful having him in the area now!

Thankfully we did not have to cancel our two youth going to Cincinnati for Youth Quake. Heather Tonn stepped in for me and took Charlotte and Mallory down for the weekend. They had a wonderful time and pictures from the weekend are at the end of the announcements. Our pumpkin patch youth funds were used to pay for the event.

Looking ahead to February, it's hard to believe that Lent is just around the corner and will begin on Wednesday, February 22. We will have an Ash Wednesday service that evening at 7:00 p.m. with communion and the imposition of ashes. The next five Wednesdays, we will bring back our soup suppers, followed by a short midweek worship service. Sign-up sheets for the soup suppers will be in the narthex and will be up soon. Our theme for Lent this year is "Signs of Lent." If you remember back to 2020, it was our theme that was cut short because of COVID. I hope you will be able to join us for these services!

Our worship team has decided to offer one Easter service this year. We are hoping to have an Easter breakfast prior to the worship service but we need volunteers to make this happen! If you are interested in helping coordinate this fellowship event, please let me or any council member know. We are also in need of volunteers for our education team.

See you in church!

Pastor Robin



ANNOUNCEMENTS

In-person Worship Masks are now optional. Please feel free to wear a mask if you are more comfortable with one on.

5:00 p.m. Worship & Praise Service Come join us for our 5:00 p.m. Worship & Praise Service on the 1st Sunday of each month.

The Smoky Row Food Pantry located at 7260 Smoky Row Rd., Columbus is in need of the following items for January, February, and March:

- Baby items (diapers - all sizes) and wipes
- Winter coats, hats and gloves (adult, child, and infant)
- Non-perishable food staples, such as beans, corn, rice, pasta
- Toiletries, such as shampoo/conditioner, soap, toilet paper, etc.
- Lightbulbs



Place donations in the containers located in the Narthex. Your generosity is gratefully appreciated by our neighbors in need. Thank you!

EFT for 2023 - If you would like to start using EFT, there are extra faith promise cards in the office.



Youth Sunday School News Come join us for Youth Sunday School on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.! This year, we are using Sparkhouse, *Activate Faith - All Kids* for the curriculum, and classes are taught by Pete and Lilly Cardimen.

Adult Sunday School Susan Wolfe is facilitating a discussion pertinent to the topic of the church and social justice.

Meals on Wheels

Saturday, February 18 Farel Saturday, March 18 Engen



Holy Communion Consecrated communion kits can be picked up at church on Sundays for those unable to attend in-person.



Worship Servers Needed! If you are able to help out at our 10:00 a.m. worship service, please let Pastor Robin know. Assisting ministers, lectors, counters, and greeters are needed. Not sure what these roles involve or never done it before? We will be happy to help you out!

One Rollator Still Available Two rollators have been donated to Fellowship from Scioto Ridge United Methodist Church and one is still available in the coat rack area. If you are in need of a rollator, please let Pastor Robin know and take one. Please return to the church when you no longer need the rollator.

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!

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!

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.



Pastoral Care Request If you have a pastoral care request (hospitalization, upcoming surgery, need for counseling, etc.), please call Pastor Robin at (937) 725-4930. If you would like a home visit by Pastor Robin, please let Pastor Robin know so it can be scheduled. It does not need to be a pastoral emergency...just an opportunity to get to know you better.

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)

December 4	37/3/29 views	January 1	14/17 views
December 11	30/14 views	January 8	28/27 views
December 18	41/4/37 views	January 15	22/21 views
December 24	48/33 views	January 22	27/10 views
		January 29	

Congratulations to Sarah Lude Burns and her husband, Matthew Burns, new parents to Robert William (Robby) Burns, born on January 12th! Robby weighed 9 lbs 1 oz and was 20 inches long. Proud grandparents are Pam and Bill Lude.



2023 Cincinnati Quake Pictures



Thank you for your support of Fellowship in 2022 and thank you for your on-going support and your response to the 2022 stewardship campaign going into 2023. We had a successful conclusion to 2022 with our usual large increase in our giving during December. We were able to end 2022 with a total worship offering that was 14% greater than our budgeted amount. That is truly a remarkable achievement. I hope we continue to do as well in 2023. We enter 2023 well positioned with an initial \$13,800 of unrestricted funds to support our ongoing ministries this year. We had a number of unexpected, large expenditures in 2022 that we met and overcame. Among them was the damage due to a break-in; updating of our fire code compliance requirements and getting current on the maintenance of the exit lighting and batteries; water damage in the western-most classroom, and increased gas bills due to the infrastructure charges that Columbia Gas has been making to get their physical infrastructure up to date.

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 \$8,807 to our parent, the Southern Ohio Synod of the ELCA during our fiscal 2022
- Provided food, school supplies, personal hygiene items, winter clothing and *DIAPERS!* and more to the Smoky Row Food pantry
- Through the benevolence of Grace Lutheran Church of Pennsylvania, we have been able to distribute \$11,000 to local organizations such as Lutheran Social Services food pantries, Dublin Food Pantry, Family Mentor Foundation, Smoky Row Food pantry, First English Lutheran Church, Life Care Alliance, Habitat For Humanity, Oesterlen home, and Hopewood Outdoors (formerly Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Ohio – LOMO)
- Donated \$260 to Lutheran Social Services food pantries for the annual Souper Bowl drive. Too bad the Bengals didn't win the game, but their contributions were the vast majority of the fans here at Fellowship!
- Members of our congregation have contributed at least \$2,000 to local organizations' and Fellowship efforts through 8 Thrivent Action Grants and teams
- 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 develop programs such as Stewardship for All Seasons for local ELCA congregations. For food pantries in our locale and Family Mentor Foundation, our contributions have helped them deal with the increased demand for food and services in our area. Food pantry demand continues to grow, pandemic or not and the services food pantries and organizations like Family Mentor Foundation provide continue to evolve as the needs of the people of the area change. We have received many thank you letters from these organizations expressing their thanks and highlighting the work we have enabled them to do. Many of those letters are on our bulletin board for you to see and read. Please look at them to see the difference we've been able to make.

Now that I've discussed the impact that Fellowship has made, let's review our financial standing at the end of 2022.

	Bank Account	\$42,388.65
	Savings Account (MMA)	\$16,218.63
	Total Cash On-Hand	\$58,607.28
	Donor Restricted Funds Bala	\$43,036.91
	Current Liabilities	\$1,725.53
	Net Current Equity (Operating Funds)	\$13,844.84
	Mortgage Balance	\$258,221.80
		Year to Date
INCOME	Worship Offering	\$148,847.59
	Building Use Donations	\$18,820.00
	Miscellaneous Donations	\$1,510.02
	Interest Income	\$14.40
	Restricted Income	\$42,861.67
Total Income		\$212,053.68

Note, the Restricted Income line item is the sum of all of the special, restricted funds. Right now, we have approximately \$15,000 that are allocated to pay for the lighting capital improvements. So, not including our restricted income funds, we have \$13,844 available for our normal, operating expenditures heading into 2023.

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

EXPENSES	
ADMINISTRATION	\$93,851.67
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	\$2,125.41
WORSHIP	\$1,903.12
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE	\$749.50
EDUCATION & YOUTH	\$577.70
OUTREACH	\$10,057.06
PROPERTY AND SUPPORT	\$49,821.23
STEWARDSHIP EXPENSES	\$36.00
RESTRICTED FUND EXPENSES	\$11,220.14
RESTRICTED SUB-FUNDS	\$1,160.93
TOTAL Expenses	\$171,502.76

Our staff salaries and taxes are our largest single major expense line item. They pay for the direct ministry of our congregation including all that Pastor Robin does for us, as well as the music provided by Amy and the secretarial support of our office secretary. This year, we will be spreading the office secretary functions around a number of volunteers. Please help if you can!

In addition, we reduced the mortgage balance by \$10,349.66 to leave us with a balance of \$258,221.80. Our mortgage had a five year fixed rate term, and the sixth year (this year) it will be readjusted to whatever the current benchmark rate is plus the margin over that benchmark. I anticipate that our interest rate will increase a couple points and that will increase our monthly payment when it is adjusted. Pray for reduced inflation and reductions in the interest rates!

We had a challenge during the year with one of our checks getting mangled in the mail, potentially exposing our banking details to potential fraud. We took measures to insure that our financial accounts would be protected from such fraud in partnership with our bank. We have implemented their Positive Pay functionality that validates every incoming check against what check items we have issued. Checks written through the bank's Business Bill Pay are automatically recorded and checked. Any that we manually write are easily entered into the Positive Pay system to be used to validate those incoming checks. This has also encouraged your Treasurer to take more advantage of the Business Bill Pay checks rather than writing our own checks for vendors who have previously been paid by manual check. We still have a few manual checks, but most are now run through the Business Bill Pay.

As noted above, we had a number of unexpected expenses pop-up this year. We managed to deal with those while maintaining the quality of our outreach and our ministries and maintaining our fiscal affairs appropriately. Thank you to all who dealt with those issues.

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
Pianist	Amy Wargowsky
Sub. Pianist/Organist	David Fleisher, Ruth Albert
Choir/Band Director	George Biemel
Custodian	Kenneth Hunt

Executive Committee

President	George Biemel
Vice-President	Mike Rankin
Secretary	Sonya Thelin Pastor Robin

At-large Council Members

Angela Kidd
Bill Lude
Susan Wolfe

Team Coordinators

Congregational Life	Vacant
Education & Youth	Vacant
Outreach	Pete Cardimen
Property	John Votino
Stewardship	Vacant (Council)
Worship	Karen Harris

Thank you for your leadership!!!

Worship Servers Schedule for February 2023

	February 5	February 12	February 19
Asst. Minister			
Lay Reader			
Counter	Jim Jaeger	Bill Farel	Jim Jaeger
Greeter	Bill Lude		
Altar Guild	Dianna Roll & Angela Kidd	Dianna Roll & Angela Kidd	Dianna Roll & Angela Kidd

	February 22 Ash Wednesday	February 26
Asst. Minister		
Lay Reader		
Counter	--	Bill Lude
Greeter		Bill Lude
Altar Guild	Dianna Roll & Angela Kidd	Dianna Roll & Angela Kidd

Worship Servers Needed!

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



February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 10:00 am - Worship 11:30-4:00 pm - CJMC	30 7:00 pm - NA	31	1	2 8:00 pm - CJMC	3	4 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 10:00 am - 3:00 pm - Council Retreat
5 9:00 am - Sunday Sch. 10:00 am -Worship 11:30-4:00 pm - CJMC 5:00 pm - Worship	6 7:00 pm - NA	7	8	9 11:00 am - SICC Pastors Meeting 8:00 pm - CJMC	10	11 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 9:00 am - 4:00 pm - Fellowship Hall reserved for shower
12 <i>Souper Bowl Sun.</i> 9:00 am - Sunday Sch. 10:00 am -Worship 11:00 am - Executive 11:30-4:00 pm - CJMC	13 7:00 pm - NA	14 7:00 p.m. - Worship Team (zoom)	15	16 8:00 pm - CJMC	17	18 6:00 am - CJMC Pray
19 9:00 am - Sunday Sch. 10:00 am -Worship 11:30-4:00 pm - CJMC	20 7:00 pm - NA	21 7:00 pm - Council	22 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 7:00 pm - Worship	23 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 8:00 pm - CJMC	24 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	25 6:00 am - CJMC Pray
26 9:00 am - Sunday Sch. 10:00 am -Worship 11:30-4:00 pm - CJMC	27 7:00 pm - NA	28 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 7:00 pm - Outreach (zoom)	1 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 6:15 pm - Soup Supper 7:00 pm - Worship	2 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 8:00 pm - CJMC	3 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	4 6:00 am - CJMC Pray

FOR OUR MEMBERS:

Fritzi Bear	Frank & Leena LeMay
Major N Crispin	Pete & Sonja Meighen
Byron Engen	Joshua Mott
Barb Fisher	Martha Sampson
Margery Gress	Carolyn Shaw
Cheryl Hamilton	Sonya Thelin
Zach Jaeger	Ray & Carol Ward
Lillian Kachic	Pr. Robin Wargowsky

February Birthdays

Zach Jaeger	2/09
Eliana Anderson	2/10
Erling Lee	2/11
Caitlyn Votino	2/11
Kathleen Wolkan	2/18
Lillian Cardimen	2/22
Paul Wargowsky	2/22
Leena LeMay	2/28

FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Joan Albert, Ruth Albert's mother
Lillian Bellini, Karen Harris' friend
Diane Bowman, Karen Harris' friend
Rosemary Craig, Cindy Frey's mother
Rikki-lynn Cromlish, Mal Tonn's teammate
Denny Frey, Pat Frey's father
Marc Hamilton, Cheryl Hamilton's son
Dave Hershberger, Sonya Thelin's brother-in-law
Kristi Mason, Mike Rankin's cousin
Jack Renner, Pastor Robin's uncle
Charlotte Schall, Pastor Robin's mother



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:

Sabrina LeMay, Frank & Leena LeMay's daughter-in-law
James Mitchell, Karen Harris' uncle

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.

February 2023 Newsletter