

Highwater Congregational United Church of Christ



zoom
Video Communications



Virtual Sunday School



“Highwater Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, will be an active family of faith in North Central Licking County, dedicated to building awareness of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit through meaningful worship, diverse service, and genuine fellowship.” - Mission Statement

2020 Annual Report

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2020 Leadership

Minister: Pastor Scott Schieber

Church Administrator: Debbie Smetts

Church Custodian: Peggy Green

Moderator: Mae Pound

Care Ministry: Mary Jo Layman

Christian Education Ministry: Abby Shipley

Fellowship Ministry: Tracy Storts

Membership and Outreach Ministry: Amy Gartner

Missions Ministry: Mike Laughlin and Mark McKimmins

Music and Worship Ministry: Janine Shipley

Stewardship and Finance Ministry: Kathy Preston

Treasurer: Jack Schmidt

Trustees: Peggy Green, Phyllis Buxton, Andy Kalas, Bob Tucker, Jeff Preston

W.I.S.H.: Becky Campbell

Letter from Rev. Scott Schieber

“That’s right. Because I, your God, have a firm grip on you and I’m not letting go. I’m telling you, ‘Don’t panic. I’m right here to help you.’” -Isaiah 41:13 (*The Message*)

We started 2020 out with big goals, I promise you we did. We met, set a calendar for the year, and were off to a hot start with giving and attendance through February. We were just getting into Lent programming and planning for Easter. Then, this new Coronavirus arrived at our shores, then in our state, and we were told to hit the pause button on everything for “three weeks.” Well, it has been a loooooong three weeks!

Along the way, I began to extensively use phrases that we had never heard before but will forever be associated with 2020, phrases like “out of an abundance of caution,” “these unprecedented times,” “social distancing.” I began to hate using those phrases, they were just a reminder that we were stuck in a dilemma that we neither chose nor caused, but nonetheless, were stuck in, together.

Looking back on the year, it is easy to think that nothing was really accomplished. Normally, our annual reports detail new members, hog roasts, youth activities, vacation Bible school, and all the other special events that take place over the course of a year. This year, our annual report will detail how we functioned as the church of Jesus Christ in our community during the year when all our plans were scuttled. And in an especially important sense, that makes this annual report a very significant one. It is a historical document that will show how we did what we could during a year with unprecedented challenges where exercising an abundance of caution was absolutely required.

My first thoughts are to express my gratitude to Mae Pound, our moderator, to Peggy Green and Debbie Smetts, our staff, and to our church council and trustees for working together very well and very flexibly. Council regularly heard the complaints of congregants as the pandemic and our organizational response became very polarized and political. Still, even at times when we disagreed, we worked together as brothers and sisters in Christ. I never once doubted that anyone on all those Zoom conferences wanted anything but the best for our congregation. We spent hours and hours living in the tension of the need to be together for our own emotional and spiritual well-being, balanced with the risk of the physical damage of participating in anything that would spread COVID-19. I am happy to report that we had no COVID deaths as a congregation, and I do not believe that the virus was transmitted even once within our building.

And how can we ever thank or repay Mary Miller for her tremendous efforts to bring much needed music to our worship, whether in the sanctuary, Legg Center, parking lot, my backyard, or the Boondocks? Her business card should say, “Have guitar, will

travel to wherever spirits need brightened!” And that is exactly what she blessed us with, all year. Thank you, Mary!

In that spirit, council and our church were challenged to take our ministries, each of them, and “do what you can”. We spent much time naming the activities that we were unable to do. You will read from each ministry chair about what they did. And I applaud their efforts. A helpful phrase to me was, “you make the path by walking,” and that is what we did. Falling into familiar patterns was out the window in 2020. We all learned to use new technology. We all suffered the disappointment of planning things and having really, really low participation among church members who were either unwilling or unable to try new technology or simply too tired of spending hours a day in front of a screen to volunteer to spend any more time there.

As I write this report, it’s early in February. People are beginning to get vaccinated. Active COVID cases in our county are dropping daily. We are a long way from the end of this crisis, but unlike most of 2020, an end is in sight. It has been a long road. Surely, at some point or another, I have disappointed you. Most days I would drive home from the church feeling like I was failing the moment, and I know that almost everyone who still is in the work force has felt that emotion. I never got used to not having faces in front of me while attempting to preach. I never have gotten used to not seeing you and being able to shake your hand or give you a hug. Maybe we will never get back to the way things were. But, like you, I look forward to a new day.

No matter your role in our congregation, 2020 presented a lot of difficulty. It has been a test of faith for everyone! We haven’t been able to lean on each other like normal. If you’re like me, you learned that you were taking a lot of things for granted that you really missed. In the end, it was a time for us to trust in God and learn to use whatever we could to strengthen our trust in God’s goodness despite what we saw on the news.

Adding my own emphasis: *“I, your God, had a firm grip on you and didn’t let go. I told you: ‘Don’t ever panic. I was right there to help you.’”* -Isaiah 41:13 (*The Message*, paraphrased)

Peace,

Pastor Scott

Letter from the Moderator

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.” Hebrews 11:1-3

Last year at my year-end report I talked about how Hebrews 11 summed up the year (to me), but this year it has been a verse from a hymn. And although it hasn't been a favorite, it just kept running thru my head....”trust and obey, for there's no other way...” and Holy Moses have we had to do exactly that.

It's impossible for me to sum up 2020 in one year-end report – all I know for sure is, the church council tried to do what that hymn said.....to trust – in God, science, medicine, our health departments, and each other. Our congregation joined in on the ‘obey’ part, as noted in the Salvation Army Meals program being fully committed to and fulfilled, and all the Angel Tags ... amazing. God used our feet, hands, hearts and minds to bring miracles for others we could never have imagined we'd accomplish. Our giving kept pace, and despite some handwringing, we ended up better than expected. We even put our worship services online, in the parking lot, and with restrictions, in the Legg Center. So many people jumped right in, so many gifts shared.

Reading this paragraph from my 2019 year-end report:---

“In previous years we have had our challenges, and in coming years we will have new ones. We have a building to maintain, continual property upkeep, the education of our members, and a good-size group of youth. In addition, our world is a hurting one, and our call from God, as well as our stated mission is to minister to this world – within the doors of Highwater, and without. Faithful members have provided memorial funds for some of these challenges, and it will require much prayer and wisdom to use them wisely.”

I can't say that in this year's report I would change a thing I wrote there! However, now there are challenges that are bigger, much bigger than those I talked about. Our country turned upside down – the suspicion, the ugliness, the fear. A virus that has knocked us on our can. Emotionally and physically we are worn out, yet as a church community we still stand.

Thank you for allowing me to be your Moderator. I hope that I was able to help navigate these rough waters, with highest thanks to the Highwater Church Council, for laying it all down, being honest and sincere. Every Zoom call was a different rodeo – technology glitches, a wicked storm blowing thru on one evening's meeting (yet the internet connection held up), sometimes tears were shed, and there were even some strong

words offered up on occasion. We knew the decisions would be wrong 50% of the time and right 50% of the time, but we did our best to love our people. Huge thanks to our congregation, for remaining steadfast and faithful. To Scott, our Pastor-of-All-Trades, for the willingness to jump in and try *almost anything* to keep our church alive. He has faithfully stood by his charge to lead us, and we have accomplished some mighty things. Which takes me back to the verse in that hymn I mentioned at the beginning of this....

Faithfully, Mae

Letter from the Treasurer

“Jesus said, “Take this and share it among yourselves.” Luke 22:17

Again in 2020 Stewardship’s Giving Records matched the Treasure’s Income Records due to better coding. On February 27, 2020 an audit of the 2019 treasurer’s and stewardship records was done by Mark McKimmins, Patricia Hoar and Larry Wright: *“Upon examination all records were found to be in good order. No discrepancies were found”*. Again in 2020 each month Highwater’s financial records (kept on HW’s laptop computer using Quicken) were reconciled/matched (to the penny) with Park National Bank’s monthly statement of our checking account, this matching is my personal reassurance that all our financials are correct.

At year’s end your weekly contributions to the General Fund totaled \$140,713, which was 8.6% BELOW the Stewardship Goal of \$153,990. Overall spending of \$140,696 was \$13,294. (8.6%) below budget, mostly due to lower energy bills, and that many ministries did not have the opportunity to spend due to Covid-19. The 2020 budget included modest long delayed salary increase for our Pastor. .

At the October 16, 2020 Highwater Council Meeting it was approved that due to Covid-19 we will use the 2020 Budget for the first 3 months of 2021. This will be reviewed at the March 2021 Council meeting. Thus keeping Stewardship Goal at \$2,965 each week for now.

In summary: Our church is in “okay” shape financially with a \$17,820 General Fund surplus and just over \$337,000 in restricted funds. Restricted funds relate to giving to designated projects such as: The Building Fund, The Memorial Endowment Fund, our six discretionary funds and others. We can all take pride in Highwater’s solid fiscal standing. QUESTIONS?

Respectfully,

Jack Schmidt



Kroger Rewards Program 2020

Your faithful support of the Kroger Community Rewards program for 2020 brought a total amount in rebates from Kroger of \$749.05 this amount was dispersed 10% to Missions Ministry, 10% to Memorial Endowment Fund, and 80% to Building Fund.

If you or another family member or friends are not already participating in this rebate program, you can register on line by going to the ***Community Rewards Registration Step-by-Step Guide***. ***All you need is an e-mail address and your Kroger Plus Card***



It is another option.

It is safe.

It can be set up through your bank as a part of your bill payment plan.

Access is available anytime, anywhere with mobile devices.

It can be automatic or manually controlled at your convenience.

No stamps. No trips to the mailbox.

Just think about it....

Thank you, Highwater Church Family, for your continued generous support in any way you should choose.

2020 Year End Financial Report as of 12-31-20
YEAR END FUND BALANCES

Acct #	Account Description	Year End 2018	Year End 2019	Year End 2020
101	General Fund-Surplus	\$22,030	\$17,800	\$17,820
105	Building Fund, PNB Ck. Acct.	\$9,550	\$14,099	\$9,417
107	Building Fund Window Project	\$0	\$0	\$0
108	Building Fund Elevator Project	\$0	\$0	\$0
109	Building Fund 100 Renewal	\$3,630	\$2,781	\$0
104	Total of Building Funds	\$13,150	\$16,880	\$9,417
115	Memorial Endow, Ck. Acct	\$5,812	\$58,187	\$967
116	MEF, VG Star Fund	\$54,462	\$66,556	\$111,007
117	MEF VG Total Stock Index	\$62,965	\$82,361	\$126,388
118	MEF VG Target Ret 45 & 65	\$0	\$0	\$52,245
118	MEF VG Fed MM	\$0	\$0	\$1,001
114	Total of Memorial Endow.	\$123,239	\$207,104	\$291,608
120	Legg Rental Income	\$25	\$115	\$0
125	Utica Food Pantry Support	\$18	\$476	-\$75
130	Misc. Income	0	0	0
133	Misc. PNB Ck. Acct. Interest	0	\$18	\$6
141	Pastoral Discretionary	\$1,385	\$896	\$732
142	Council Discretionary	\$10,741	\$4,464	\$11,615
143	Missions Discretionary	\$2,724	\$2,344	\$1,949
144	Youth Discretionary	\$3,132	\$3,412	\$3,286
147	Heritage Discretionary	\$0	\$0	\$7,534
148	VG Value Seminary Discretion	\$3293	\$4,142	\$4,237
150	UCC Mission Support Fund	\$1,329	\$1,001	\$ 300
160	Hog Roast	\$140	\$0	\$0
165	Kroger Rebates	0	\$231	\$0
170	Special Projects	\$4,456	\$3,386	\$3,782
181	Finn Fest	0	\$233	\$0
182	Special Events LL Food Pack	\$266	\$0	\$0
190	Family Memorials	\$5,900	\$11,966	\$2,737
	Total All HW Funds, 12-31-20:	\$ 192,046	\$274,352	\$354,948

DETAILS OF INCOME RECEIVED

Acct #	Account Description	Income
101	General Fund-Giving	\$140,712.83
105	Building Fund	\$2,445.10
115	Memorial Endowment	\$52,080.00
120	Legg Rentals	\$3,015.00
125	Support for Utica Food Pantry	\$657.00
131	Misc. Petty Cash (interest income)	\$36.04
135	Misc. Inc.	\$0.00
141	Pastoral Discretionary	\$2,424.16
142	Council Discretionary	\$8,646.37
143	Missions Discretionary	\$605.00
147	Heritage Discretionary	\$10,000.00
151	UCC One Great Hour of Sharing	\$0.00
152	UCC Strengthen the Church	\$0.00
153	UCC Neighbors in Need	\$0.00
154	UCC Christmas Fund	\$324.00
160	Hog Roast	\$0.00
165	Kroger Rebates	\$749.05
172	Special Project Maint.	\$800.00
181	Special Event Finn Fest	\$30.81
173	Special Project Salvation Army Meals	\$3689.00
174	Special Project Food Pantry Network	\$1471.75
182	Special Event Food Pack	\$0.00
190	Family Memorials	\$150.00
Total*	As shown on Treasurer's Books	\$227,836.11

* This number is \$20,263.75 more than shown received by Stewardship Report dated 12-31-20. This is due to checking account interest and inner fund transfers Actual income for 2020 as reported by Stewardship: **\$207,572.36**. *Detailed explanation available on request.*

2020 Budget Report and 2021 Budget

Acct. #	Description	2020 \$ Budget	2020 Spent	2021 Budget
1100	Pastor	\$69,850	\$69,814	\$69,850
1200	Administrative Assistant	\$15,000	\$15,108	\$15,000
1300	Custodian	\$12,200	\$12,221	\$12,200
1500	Associate Pastor	\$0	\$0	\$0
1600	Misc. Staff	\$3,500	\$1,650	\$3,500
1000	Total Staff Expenses:	\$100,550	\$98,793	\$100,550
2110	Insurance Property and liability	\$5,500	\$5,777	\$5,500
2120	Property Taxes	\$1,100	\$963	\$1,100
2130	Building Maintenance	\$7,500	\$7,778	\$7,500
2140	Grounds Maintenance	\$3,000	\$2,250	\$3,000
2150	Maintenance Supplies	\$500	\$1,086	\$500
2100	Total: Physical Plant Expenses	\$17,600	\$17,845	\$17,600
2210	Electric Power	\$7,000	\$3,900	\$7,000
2220	Propane Gas	\$9,000	\$5,229	\$9,000
2230	Waste Hauling, free service Shackelford	\$0	0	0
2240	Telephone & High Speed Internet	\$1,500	\$1,665	\$1,500
2200	Total Utilities & Services:	\$17,500	\$10,794	\$17,500
2302	Office Supplies	\$2,000	\$1,685	\$2,000
2304	Copier Lease & Supplies	\$1,750	\$1,740	\$1,750
2310	Sr. Pastor Expenses	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
2315	Assoc. Pastor Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0
2350	UCC Assoc. (COSEA)	\$2,400	\$1,800	\$2,400
2300	Total Office & Admin Supplies	\$9,150	\$8,225	\$9,150
3100	Care Ministry	\$200	\$82	\$200
3225	Christian Ed Materials	\$1,500	\$191	\$1,500
3230	Summer Church Camp	\$0	0	0
3240	Youth Activities	\$500	\$135	\$500
3200	Total: Christian Education Ministry	\$2,000	\$ 326	\$2,000
3300	Fellowship Ministry:	\$400	\$0	\$400
3400	Membership & Outreach:	\$750	\$91	\$750

2020 Budget Report and 2021 Budget

Acct. #	Description	2020 \$ Budget	2020 Spent	2021 Budget
3510	Support for Collocation of Care	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
3520	Support for Others(Life Line Food Pack)	\$2,000	\$2,288	\$2,000
3500	Total Mission Ministry:	\$3,500	\$3,788	\$3,500
3610	Choir Music	\$150	0	\$150
3620	Piano & Organ Maintenance	\$500	\$325	\$500
3630	Supply Pastors & Guest Musicians	\$600	\$0	\$600
3640	Misc. Music & Worship	\$850	\$427	\$850
3600	Total Music and Worship Ministry:	\$2,100	\$ 752	\$2,100
	Total Operating Expenses:	\$53,440	\$41,903	\$53,440
	Total Staff Expenses:	\$100,550	\$98,793	\$100,550
	GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$153,990	\$140,696	\$153,990
		<i>2020 Budget</i>	<i>2020 Spent</i>	<i>2021 Budget</i>

Past History: Budget, Actual Spending & Giving

Year	Budget	Actual Spending	Actual Giving
2009	\$116,337	\$109,527	\$119,573
2010	\$117,340	\$115,715	\$123,890
2011	\$117,300	\$127,403	\$133,455
2012	\$141,400	\$127,331	\$138,370
2013	\$149,700	\$143,299	\$142,868
2014	\$155,500	\$148,860	\$139,383
2015	\$145,500	\$142,292	\$145,873
2016	\$150,300	\$143,123	\$145,738
2017	\$151,575	\$137,325	\$147,044
2018	\$154,550	\$146,637	\$140,012
2019	\$155,825	\$143,031	\$140,795
2020	\$153,990	\$140,582	\$140,713

Highwater Memorial Endowment Fund ***Annual Report to the Congregation, 2020***

The mission of the Memorial Endowment Fund is to provide a vehicle for Highwater members and friends to donate monies or other assets to our church that will fund future capital improvements, major repairs to the church's physical plant or the establishment of a major new program. Neither the donated amount nor the earnings are intended for the on-going operating expenses of Highwater.

On September 25, 2001, Highwater Church Council approved the establishment of the Highwater Memorial Endowment Fund (HMEF). The Advisory Council was created to publicize the fund, oversee its investments and advise the Stewardship and Finance Ministry and Church Council on all matters relating to the HMEF. Current members of the Advisory Council: Melanie Shipley, Brad Patton, Paula Olson, Mark McKimmins and Jack Schmidt

As of 12-31-20 the fund has investments totaling **\$291,607.95** as detailed below:

Vanguard Fed. MM Fund:	\$1,001.16
Vanguard STAR Fund:	\$111,006.66
Vanguard Total Stock Mkt. Index Fund:	\$126,387.61
Vanguard Target Ret 45 & 65	\$52,245.27
Park National HW Ck. Acct.	\$967.25

A total of \$46,975 in new giving from individuals, and \$105 from the Kroger Rebates were added to the Endowment in 2020.

The HMEF Advisory Council is also charged with oversight of the Seminary Scholarship Fund that was established in 2008 with the remainder of the "Seekers Monies" to be invested and dispersed (at Church Council's direction) to aid seminary students from our congregation. These monies are invested in the Vanguard Value Index Fund and currently total \$4,142.14

We hope you will prayerfully consider making the Highwater Memorial Endowment Fund part of your estate plans and support it as is appropriate for you and your family.

Respectfully,

Jack Schmidt



Volunteers are needed for the Treasurer and Stewardship positions on council at the end of 2021.

Jack Schmidt, Treasurer and Kathy Preston, Stewardship Chair have both served this church family with dedication and care for a number of years and would like to pass their knowledge on to someone new.

Is that someone you?

You will not be left alone. Jack and Kathy will be there to teach and support you until you are comfortable in your knowledge. If this is something you are being called to do, please let Pastor Scott, Jack or Kathy know.

It is possible to begin learning/shadowing before the end of the year.

Hog Roast 2020 ?

By: Debbie Smetts, Office Administrator/Newsletter Editor

“Fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely, and dwell on the fine, good things in others. Think about all you can praise God for and be glad about.” Philippians 4:8

Yes, this too was put aside in 2020 due to COVID-19. But I could not just delete the Hog Roast.....

As a person who continued to be within the church walls, I got to see that even though our doors were closed, our church was open and reaching out in so many ways with so much involvement by so many hands and so much love! Kind of a year long Hog Roast!

As an example, we continued to plan, execute and serve a meal to those in need through the Salvation Army the first Sunday of every month. This outreach was done together with love being the important ingredient every month.

I saw this church come together; talents and abilities were developed and used, more thought went into presenting and getting the message out. I was able to see a loving, caring pastor work through the frustration of not being able to tend to his flock in the

personal manner we are all accustomed to. He was up to every challenge and always willing to take extra steps to keep us safe, but together.

Technology was learned, Worship services, Sunday School, music and an amazing Christmas program were adapted to our needs. A new website was designed and is functioning, Facebook and YouTube have become a new standard in our outreach. And, of course, let's not forget ZOOM!

In the midst of many concerns and some differences on the safety and well-being of our members, we all were of the same mind as to wanting the best for each other.

Our building was maintained, and our lights remained on because of your gracious giving. We may not have been able to be together, but in some ways we grew closer. I, as a staff member of this church was on the receiving end of a loving church family and am grateful for that love.

Were we able to share the Good News of Jesus with more people because of this pandemic, did it open more doors to those who could not get out their own doors?

It has been said that disaster is what brings people together and to God; there is no mask that will hide you from God and there is never any distance between you and God. How lovely and pure is that?

I hope we can continue to look upon the good, the pure and the lovely, always praising God for the gift of living and sharing the love of Jesus.

Care Ministry

By: Mary Jo Layman, Chairperson

"God is our protection and our strength. He always helps in time of trouble." Psalm 46:1

The CARE Ministry provides support to church members in their time of need. In a "normal" year, we organize volunteers on a monthly basis to be available to fix meals, make visits, send cards, and help in any way we can. Because of COVID-19, we have only been able to make meal deliveries and send cards. During 2020, there were 29 meals and 132 cards sent. Members have been wonderful to fix food ahead and keep our church freezer stocked. Looking forward, so much, to resuming our visits!

Our church is very blessed to always have our family of faith be willing to reach out to others. If you know of a family in need, please let Pastor Scott or Mary Jo Layman know.

Christian Education Ministry

By: Abby Shipley, Chairperson

"Train up a child in the way they should go; even when they are old, they will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

Wow what a first year as Christian Education chair! I can't thank my committee enough for their tireless efforts to educate our children and bring them closer to Jesus. The first month of the year began much like others. We held our Sunday School classes during the 10:30 service. Classes were split up by age, preschool-kindergarten, taught by Janine Shipley and Scott Schieber; 1st-3rd grade by Kathy Preston and Abby Shipley; and 3rd-4th grade Stacey Atherton and Ashley Shipley. Curriculum was developed by each teacher utilizing the Kids Sunday School website (www.kidssundayschool.com). Attendance varied but we did have a core group of children who faithfully attended each Sunday. We also collected a children's offering each week to go towards the Finn Fest fundraising efforts.

Quickly into the new year however we had to change course as the Pandemic shut down all activities. Scott jumped into keep the kids engaged for the first few weeks of what we thought would be a short time period and offered evening chats via Facebook Live for the kids to participate in. All of the kids really enjoyed a chance to see Scott, hear a short message and even get some visits from Gabby the Angel (thanks to Will, Cate and Beth Schieber for their efforts in this as well).

Sunday school remained on pause thru the rest of the school year and into summer however we still did a few activities. In March, the Christian Education committee prepared and delivered approximately 200 meals to the Salvation Army. After much discussion it was decided that a Vacation Bible School was not feasible however thank you again to Scott, Beth, Cate and Will, we were able to offer a "virtual VBS". Packets were sent to children in the church to do an activity and watch a lesson online thru the week.

As we continued into Fall and realized that in person Sunday School would still not be feasible, we shifted to an online format. Classes were held each month from August-November. Again, the classes were broken up with team teachers as noted above. Teachers have utilized the Kids Sunday School website and Pinterest to create a lesson each month for the kids either to view on Youtube, receive in the mail, or participate in a Zoom lesson as a class. A survey was sent out later in the Fall to get parents feedback on how this had been working and it was overwhelmingly positive.

For the Christmas Holiday we wanted to do something really special for the kids. We created an advent box for each child that was filled with 25 envelopes. Each envelope contained a bible verse and daily activity and a small toy or piece of candy as a treat. The kids could open one envelope per day until they reached Christmas day. Again, the

feedback was very positive and it was fun to see pictures of the kids opening their envelopes each day and really getting into the fun. This replaced our monthly lesson for December and in total we delivered 33 boxes.

We were also able to partner with music and worship to get creative on the Christmas Pageant. Children and their families volunteered for each scene that was recorded individually and then combined together with the help of Adrienne Anderson and Scott. The program was a hit, not only was it fun to record but it was really neat to see the finished product.

Despite the challenges of the year, I am very proud of the efforts our group made to continue to reach and interact with the kids of Highwater. I would like to thank everyone who lent a hand in making this happen, the entire Schieber Family, Ashley and Janine Shipley, Stacey Atherton, Kathy Preston and Adrienne Anderson. I would also especially like to thank the kids of Highwater and their parents for being flexible and embracing new ideas along the way. Looking forward to new activities in 2021!

Fellowship Ministry

By Tracy Storts

“They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” Acts 2:42

The Fellowship Ministry hosted a chili cook off in January. The money that was raised went to the Salvation Army meal fund. In February the Fellowship Ministry hosted a hot chocolate bar between services. In October the Fellowship Ministry provided the BINGO prizes for virtual BINGO. Then in November the Fellowship Ministry prepped and served the November meal at the Salvation Army.

Membership and Outreach Ministry

By: Amy Gartner

“...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me...” Matthew 25:35

2020 was a crazy yet amazing year for Membership and Outreach. The Ministry consisted of Amy Gartner (chair), Tracy Storts, Abby Shipley, Janine Shipley, Terri Neal, Angie Alexander, Laura Tucker, Lisa McKimmons and Becky Wright.

Projects and outreach completed in 2020 were as follows:

Vinyl welcome signs were placed on the front doors alerting visitors of our hours of operation, contact information and social media formats. This is a fantastic addition even though COVID has closed our doors for many months. Several ministry members volunteered during the summer lunch program and we worked with the Missions ministry to serve a couple different Sunday dinners (each meal served over 150 people). Because COVID closed our doors for many months the Membership and Outreach Ministry has done monthly bingo/family fun nights via zoom. We consistently had 10 or more people participate. This also generated interest from non-members who may be interested in attending in person worship services when it is safe to open our doors again.

We were able to pass out a little over 10 welcome bags to those who were able to visit Highwater.

The Highwater Facebook page is active with 456 followers. It also reaches, on average, over 2,000 people per month.

The Highwater Instagram page has 33 followers. We are building that media outlet slowly.

The Highwater YouTube Channel posted 79 videos in 2020 with a total of over 500 views.

Through 2020 we continued to do what we could to safely reach out to new people in our community.

Missions Ministry

By: Mark McKimmins and Mike Laughlin

Romans 12:13: "Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."

While 2020 was a challenge the need for missions support was needed more than ever.

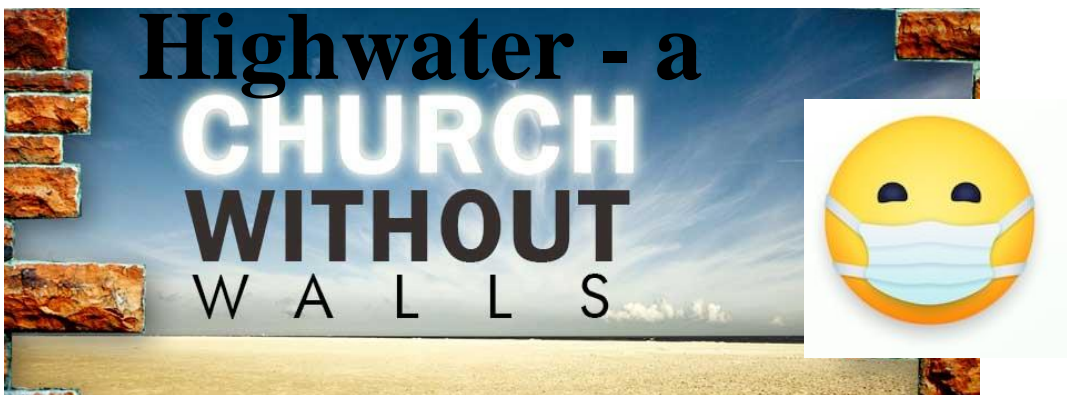
Our goal was to continue support those in need locally, regionally, and internationally.

- The Utica Food Pantry continued to receive monthly support of money and non perishables.
- The summer lunch program in Utica was once again provided along with support from the Salvation Army.
- Tuesday mornings volunteers from Highwater helped pack lunches at the Salvation Army
- While the food pack for Haiti had to be cancelled the money that was budgeted was forwarded to Lifeline of Ohio and designated as food for Haiti.

- Highwater supported 43 angel tree tags for the Salvation Army an increase from years past. Good News
- As last year, Highwater provided meals the first Sunday of each month to the Salvation Army. The meals provided fed anywhere from 100 to 200 hungry mouths. The cost was anywhere from \$300 to \$500 per meal. Much of the money supporting this mission was provided by individual donations. To spread the monthly effort each Highwater Ministry picks a month or two to cook meals. This is a huge effort but with many hands involved it is a blessing and not a burden.
- At different times during the year cash donations were made to the Salvation Army, Coalition of Care and the Licking County Food Pantry.

You may ask why we do so much with groups such as the Salvation Army and the reason is that they do a great job of identifying those in need and making sure resources are not wasted and get into hands that need them.

We all look forward to the day where we can be face to face to Love, Laugh, and Pray



We continued to minister to those around us in so many ways....



Salvation Army Dinners





**2020 LIVE Worship Services From
the Highwater Parking Lot
- with Music!!!**

Thank You everyone that contributed to
setting up sound and learning all that
extra technology to getting it to our ears!



**Advent and
Christmas
New
Memories,
and maybe
new ideas
that need to
be continued
going
forward!**



Music and Worship Ministry

By: Janine Shipley

“Sing to Him, sing praise to Him; tell of all His wonderful acts.” - Psalm 105:2

2020 was a particularly challenging year in the life of our church. In February, our choir had begun rehearsal practice in anticipation of Easter and Confirmation services. By the middle of March, Covid had closed our doors. We thought it would be for two weeks. Little did we suspect that March 15 would be the last time in 2020 that our congregation would fill our sanctuary.

Our Church Council made the decision that Highwater would not meet in the church when Licking County was in Level red or purple. We were able to hold one service in the Legg Center in the Fall. During the summer and when weather permitted, we would gather for services in the church parking lot. We also broadcasted through a radio station for those who wanted to remain in their cars.

We want to thank our pastor, Reverend Scott Schieber. He had taken a class on how to create a virtual presence on the internet with a small budget. He was ahead of the game compared to other churches our size. He had already been providing online services on You-Tube. After our church closed, he expanded worship services to Facebook live.

We would like to thank Bob and Laura Tucker for their help with the sound system in the parking lot and in the Legg Center. Thanks to the Schieber's; Beth, Will and Cate, for assisting Scott with recording the services. Our Lay Readers came every Sunday to read the scripture for us. Gabby, our church puppet also came back to visit us throughout the year. We would like to thank Will Schieber for bringing Gabby to life and to Cate Schieber for her giggles while recording.

In facemasks and foggy glasses, our musicians carried on the tradition of preludes, offertories and postludes. Thanks go to our pianists: Cathy Bero, Judy Grace, Patsy Farmer, Laura Laughlin, Sue Steele and Janine Shipley. Patsy also served as our organist. And of course, thanks to our harpist, Christine Ramsey for sharing her soothing, lyrical music which was often written by herself. We do not want to forget Adrienne Anderson for playing her trumpet. Thanks again to all of you.

Many thanks to Debbie Smetts, Susie Hatch, and the Grace family for providing vocal music throughout the year. A special thanks to Mary Miller, who was there faithfully with her guitar and voice almost every Sunday. God sent you to our church near the end of 2019 and we will be forever grateful for you and your music.

We ended the year with a virtual Christmas Eve service that included many people. Pastor Scott and Adrienne Anderson provided us with the FlipGrid Application where we could submit music and virtual Christmas Card Greetings to each other. Our children presented an online Christmas pageant and sang songs. We also had vocals, a trumpet-

piano duet, a violin-piano duet, stories, harp solos, and much more. Thanks to all who contributed and to those who watched.

Gifts were given in December to Reverend Scott Schieber, Peggy Green (custodian), Debbie Smetts (Administrative Assistant), Mary Miller and our pianists for their faithful help this past year.

Stewardship and Finance Ministry

By: Kathy Preston

'On the first day of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned. Don't wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once' - 1 Corinthians 16:2

The Stewardship and Finance Ministry at Highwater serves to encourage members to return a portion of their time, talents and treasure to the Lord.

Our budget called for the General Fund to raise \$153,400. The overall giving of time, treasure and talent in 2020 was \$140,863.00. In March, COVID 19 caused us to halt in person worship services for much of the year. We were able to participate in worship services online each week. We thank Highwater Congregational United Church of Christ for continuing to give generously during these unprecedented times in our Church.

We were unable to have the Hog Roast in 2020 due to COVID 19. Each year the Hog Roast generates funds for the Memorial Endowment, Missions and the building fund.

The need for help in our community during 2020 greatly increased. Highwater members and friends donated \$3689.00 to go towards purchasing food for the monthly Salvation Army dinners along with \$1371.75 to the local food pantry.

At this time we must mention the stewardship that continues even after our loved ones move on to their heavenly home. There are not enough words to fully express our heartfelt thanks for the love and support extended to the Highwater Church Family through our Memorial Gifts. The imprint of their lives will remain alive in the building, in the music, and in the hearts and Spirit of this church family always.

Thank You

Trustees

By: Peggy Green

“His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.” – Matthew 25:21

From the Trustee standpoint COVID-19 closed the doors and thus kept maintenance at a minimum. The following are the projects/tasks that were completed in 2020:

- Repaired slate roof.
- Sidewalks were sealed.

Thank you to all the parts that keep Highwater Congregational United Church of Christ a living body of Christ.

WISH

By: Debbie Smetts

“She did what she could.” – Mark 14:8

W.I.S.H. stands for “Women in Service to Highwater.” We are an active group of women who enjoy fellowship, serving our church, the local community and beyond. All women of Highwater are welcome to join us in our ministry.

Normally this group would have hosted and served meals, gathered in fellowship bi-monthly and enjoyed our yearly Mystery Trip, but COVID-19 happened and for the safety of all concerned, we were not able to be our personal hands-on selves in 2020.

What were still able to do was award our scholarships of \$500 each to our graduating Seniors, Bekah Kalas and Will Schieber and serve a meal at the Salvation Army. We hope to gather again some time in 2021

W.I.S.H. officers for 2020 were: President - Becky Campbell; Vice President – Janet Goodman; Secretary – Mary Jo Layman; Treasurer – Phyllis Buxton.

A Big thank you to our Membership and Outreach Ministry for.....

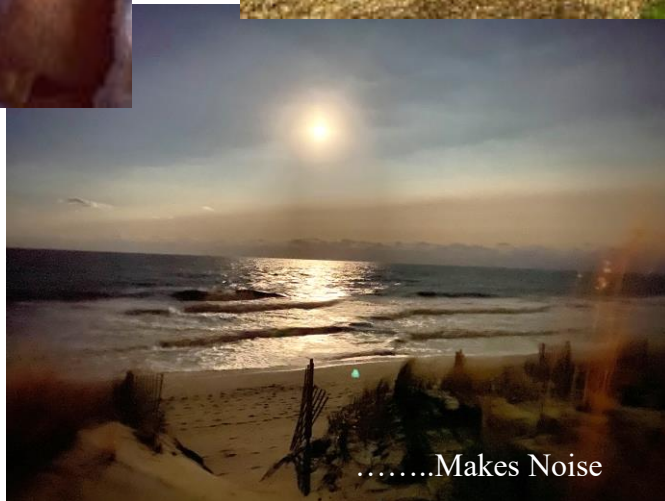


Secret Sender Program which allows us to maintain our social distance and visit through prayer and little notes and gifts. The secret senders will be revealed at Easter 2021!



I SPY! Something that.....

Highwater was invited to participate in a virtual I SPY! What you needed to find was posted on Facebook. All you needed to do was take a picture of something corresponding to that post and post it in the comments. There were monthly drawings and fun prizes! I have shared some of my favorites on this page. Please check them all out on Facebook.



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Join us
From your table at
home.....



To this table at the
Salvation Army

...2019, 2020, 2021.....

The table at Highwater extends beyond our doors
and welcome's everyone!