

# Highwater Congregational United Church of Christ



The Spirit is truly in this place.....

*“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*

## 2019 Annual Report



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## **2019 Leadership**

**Minister:** Pastor Scott Schieber

**Church Administrator:** Debbie Smetts

**Church Custodian:** Peggy Green

**Moderator:** Mae Pound

**Care Ministry:** Mary Jo Layman

**Christian Education Ministry:** Allyson Patton & Lisa McKimmins

**Fellowship Ministry:** Janet Goodman

**Hog Roast:** Rev. Scott Schieber

**Membership and Outreach Ministry:** Amy Gartner

**Missions Ministry:** Melanie Shipley

**Music and Worship Ministry:** Cathy Bero & Debbie Smetts

**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**

### **James 3:17=18, *The Message***

*Real wisdom, God's wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterized by getting along with others. It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced. You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor.*

2019 was a memorable year in the life of our congregation. It was a year of blessing and increase, as our numbers and our ministries increased as well. It continues to be a joy and privilege to serve our congregation and community as the Pastor at Highwater UCC!

The year certainly began with a number of losses in our congregation, losses of long-time members who were deeply invested in our church. As always, the church came together to support the grieving with unconditional love and support. Our annual Hog Roast was a particularly memorable event this year, as the memory of these cherished people was especially strong during the evening, through items donated and bid upon.

We enjoyed a solid year financially as we regained our footing after a year of costly projects around the church. Your generosity as a congregation continues to amaze me! Additionally, we received a number of gifts given in memorium. In the spring, it was announced that Bruce and Carolyn Claggett had provided for the church in their trust, and that and other gifts will bless our congregation and its ministries for generations.

Our narthex was given a much-needed face lift through the work of members of the Membership and Outreach ministry. We also continue to modernize our worship with the addition of some technical enhancements. We strive to blend our heritage as a congregation with traditional worship patterns with today's technology. I note the importance of striking a balance between tradition and using modern tools to convey a message, which requires patience from everyone!

The lay leadership of our church was headed by the steady leadership of Mae Pound, who worked very hard in leading council through some tricky situations. We received excellent leadership in our various ministries and by our trustees. As we move into 2020, we have a number of new leaders in our ministries, and there's a lot in the works. Without the Spirit of God working through our pews and moving people into new roles, we can't accomplish anything for the kingdom of God. My appreciation for everyone who rolls up their sleeves to move the congregation forward can't be overstated. We continue in the work of worshipping, educating, evangelizing, and serving our community—together. I can't wait to see what the coming years have in store for our congregation!

Peace,

*Pastor Scott*

## *Letter from the Moderator*

*“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup> 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*

In faith we ask members to put a hand up, and volunteer to chair or become members of various ministries and committees, to lead with integrity, faith and love – and countless times our faithful members have shown that our conviction was well-placed.

Our past year has included a slam-bang hog roast, a new look for the Narthex, and growth in the form of a new group called the CREW. A rental agreement was formulated to guide us in the use of our property, a donation policy was created – and for everything I’ve named, I have left out something equally important.

All the things I just mentioned involved change – some significant, some less so, but it required us to meet the challenge head on, with faith and conviction that we will work it through. Ideas were brought to council, discussed, and if agreed it met our mission, given the green light. Each of our ministries is tasked with furthering the gospel, both within and without and despite some bumps in the road I think they are succeeding.

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.

Thank you for allowing me to be your Moderator. Thank you to all of you for everything you do – you are all “the evidence of things hoped for” I am convinced God will work through us as we remain faithful in our own day-to-day - in our giving of talents, time and funds as we work to meet our mission: “...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.”

*Mae Pound*

## **Letter from the Treasurer**

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

Again this year Stewardship’s Giving Records matched the Treasure’s Income Records due to better coding of your giving. On March 12, 2019 an audit of the 2018 treasurer’s and stewardship records was done by Lindsey Hoskinson, Terri Andrews and Bill Goodman. They “found all records in order”, with two suggestions to improve the depositing of each week’s giving. Again in 2019 each month Highwater’s financial records (kept on my home 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 \$140,795, which was 10% BELOW the requested amount of \$156,000. Overall spending of \$143,031 was \$12,494 (8%) below budget, mostly due to lower energy bills, lower building maintenance and an open staff position for 4 months. The 2020 budget includes modest long delayed salary increase for our Pastor. .

The request for the General Fund giving in this coming year is \$2,965 per week or \$153,990 on an annual basis, which is \$1,535 less than last year.

***Since many banks now offer “online bill payment”, please consider using this handy service to support Highwater and make the Stewardship Ministry’s task much easier.***

**In summary:** Our church is in “okay” shape financially with a \$17,800 General Fund surplus and just over \$256,500 in restricted funds. Restricted funds relate to giving to designated projects such as: The Building Fund, The Memorial Endowment Fund, the 100 Year Renewal Fund, and others. We can all take pride in Highwater’s solid fiscal standing. Special Note: In the last 14 months our church has made capital improvements totaling over \$20,000 Thanks again for your generosity. QUESTIONS?

Respectfully,

*Jack Schmidt*



### **Kroger Rewards Program 2019**

Your faithful support of the Kroger Community Rewards program for 2019 brought a total amount in rebates from Kroger of \$926.80 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***

**2019 Year End Financial Report as of 12-31-19**  
**YEAR END FUND BALANCES**

<b>Acct #</b>	<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Year End 2017</b>	<b>Year End 2018</b>	<b>Year End 2019</b>
101	General Fund-Surplus	<b>\$30,066</b>	<b>\$22,030</b>	<b>\$17,800</b>
105	Building Fund, PNB Ck. Acct.	\$43,293	\$9,550	\$14,099
107	Building Fund Window Project	\$6,970	0	0
108	Building Fund Elevator Project	\$6,719	0	0
109	Building Fund 100 Renewal	0	\$3,630	\$2,781
104	<b>Total of Building Funds</b>	<b>\$56,982</b>	<b>\$13,150</b>	<b>\$16,880</b>
115	Memorial Endow, Ck. Acct	\$3,857	\$5,812	\$58,187
116	MEF, VG Star Fund	\$57,533	\$54,462	\$66,556
117	MEF VG Total Stock Index	\$66,398	\$62,965	\$82,361
<b>114</b>	<b>Total of Memorial Endow.</b>	<b>\$127,788</b>	<b>\$123,239</b>	<b>\$207,104</b>
120	Legg Rental Income	\$25	\$25	\$115
125	Utica Food Pantry Support	\$18	\$476	\$360
130	Misc. Income	0	0	0
133	Misc. PNB Ck. Acct. Interest	0	0	\$18
141	Pastoral Discretionary	\$1,751	\$1,385	\$896
142	Council Discretionary	\$7,526	\$10,741	\$4,464
143	Missions Discretionary	\$1,789	\$2,724	\$2,344
144	Youth Discretionary	\$3,174	\$3,132	\$3,412
147	VG Value Seminary Discretion.	\$5,515	\$3,293	\$4,142
150	UCC Mission Support Fund	\$566	\$1,329	\$1,001
160	Hog Roast	\$285	\$140	0
165	Kroger Rebates	0	0	\$231
170	Special Projects	0	\$4,456	\$3,386
181	Finn Fest	0	0	\$233
182	Special Events LL Food Pack		\$266	0
190	Family Memorials	0	\$5,900	\$11,966
	<b>Total All HW Funds, 12-31-19:</b>	<b>\$235,235</b>	<b>\$192,046</b>	<b>\$274,352</b>

**Year End Financial Report as of 12-31-19**  
**DETAILS OF INCOME RECEIVED**

<b>Acct #</b>	<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Income</b>
101	General Fund-Giving	\$140,795.12
105	Building Fund	\$2,892.00
115	Memorial Endowment	\$50,600.00
120	Legg Rentals	\$1,125.00
125	Support for Utica Food Pantry	\$3,472.25
131	Misc. Petty Cash (interest income)	35.58
135	Misc. Inc.	\$0.00
141	Pastoral Discretionary	\$1,203.00
142	Council Discretionary	\$1,641.00
143	Missions Discretionary	\$0.00
144	Youth Discretionary	\$966.00
151	UCC One Great Hour of Sharing	\$25.00
152	UCC Strengthen the Church	\$84.00
153	UCC Neighbors in Need	\$31.00
154	UCC Christmas Fund	\$1,001.00
160	Hog Roast	\$19,055.50
165	Kroger Rebates	\$926.80
172	Special Project Maint.	\$500.00
181	Special Event Finn Fest	\$233.12
182	Special Event Food Pack	\$769.00
190	Family Memorials	\$9,247.00
<b>Total*</b>	As shown on Treasurer's Books	<b>\$234,602.37</b>

\* This number is \$35.58 more than shown received by Stewardship Report dated 12-31-19: due to checking account interest earned. Actual income for 2019 as reported by Stewardship: **\$234,566.79**

## 2019 Budget Report and 2020 Budget

Acct. #	Description	2019 \$ Budget	2019 Spent	2020 Budget
1100	Pastor	\$63,500	\$63,490	\$69,850
1200	Administrative Assistant	\$14,525	\$14,339	\$15,000
1300	Custodian	\$11,900	\$11,788	\$12,200
1500	Associate Pastor	\$12,200	\$8,425	
1600	Misc. Staff	0	0	\$3,500
<b>1000</b>	<b>Total Staff Expenses:</b>	<b>\$102,125</b>	<b>\$98,042</b>	<b>\$100,550</b>
2110	Insurance Property and liability	\$5,500	\$5,094	\$5,500
2120	Property Taxes	\$1,100	\$969	\$1,100
2130	Building Maintenance	\$7,500	\$5,237	\$7,500
2140	Grounds Maintenance	\$3,000	\$2,893	\$3,000
2150	Maintenance Supplies	\$500	\$404	\$500
<b>2100</b>	<b>Total: Physical Plant Expenses</b>	<b>\$17,600</b>	<b>\$14,597</b>	<b>\$17,600</b>
2210	Electric Power	\$7,000	\$5,664	\$7,000
2220	Propane Gas	\$9,000	\$6,514	\$9,000
2230	Waste Hauling, free service Shackelford	\$0	0	0
2240	Telephone & High Speed Internet	\$1,500	\$1,498	\$1,740
<b>2200</b>	<b>Total Utilities &amp; Services:</b>	<b>\$17,500</b>	<b>\$13,676</b>	<b>\$17,740</b>
2302	Office Supplies	\$1,700	\$2,029	\$2,000
2304	Copier Lease & Supplies	\$2,100	\$1,701	\$1,750
2310	Sr. Pastor Expenses	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$3,000
2315	Assoc. Pastor Expenses	\$1,200	\$800	\$0
2350	UCC Assoc. (COSEA)	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$2,400
<b>2300</b>	<b>Total Office &amp; Admin Supplies</b>	<b>\$9,800</b>	<b>\$9,330</b>	<b>\$9,150</b>
<b>3100</b>	<b>Care Ministry</b>	<b>\$200</b>	<b>\$55</b>	<b>\$200</b>
3225	Christian Ed Materials	\$1,500	\$979	\$1,500
3230	Summer Church Camp	\$400	0	0
3240	Youth Activities	\$500	\$242	\$500
<b>3200</b>	<b>Total: Christian Education Ministry</b>	<b>\$2,400</b>	<b>\$1,222</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>3300</b>	<b>Fellowship Ministry:</b>	<b>\$400</b>	<b>\$415</b>	<b>\$400</b>
<b>3400</b>	<b>Membership &amp; Outreach:</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$789</b>	<b>\$750</b>
		<b>2019 Budget</b>	<b>2019 Spent</b>	<b>2020 Budget</b>

## 2019 Budget Report and 2020 Budget

Acct. #	Description	2019 \$ Budget	2019 Spent	2020 Budget
3510	Support for Collocation of Care	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
3520	Support for Others(Life Line Food Pack)	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
<b>3500</b>	<b>Total Mission Ministry:</b>	<b>\$3,500</b>	<b>\$3,500</b>	<b>\$3,500</b>
3610	Choir Music	\$150	0	\$150
3620	Piano & Organ Maintenance	\$500	\$180	\$500
3630	Supply Pastors & Guest Musicians	\$300	\$250	\$600
3640	Misc. Music & Worship	\$850	\$975	\$850
<b>3600</b>	<b>Total Music and Worship Ministry:</b>	<b>\$1,800</b>	<b>\$1,405</b>	<b>\$2,100</b>
	<b>Total Operating Expenses:</b>	<b>\$53,700</b>	<b>\$44,989</b>	<b>\$53,440</b>
	<b>Total Staff Expenses:</b>	<b>\$102,125</b>	<b>\$98,042</b>	<b>\$100,550</b>
	<b>GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$155,825</b>	<b>\$143,031</b>	<b>\$153,990</b>
		<i>2019 Budget</i>	<i>2019 Spent</i>	<i>2020 Budget</i>

### Past History: Budget, Actual Spending & Giving

Year	Budget	Actual Spending	Giving
2007	\$127,258	\$127,869	\$106,796
2008	\$129,491	\$125,287	\$121,627
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

# ***Highwater Memorial Endowment Fund*** ***Annual Report to the Congregation, 2019***

The mission of this 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 our church.

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 12-31-19 the fund has investments totaling **\$207,103.85** as detailed below:

Vanguard STAR Fund:	\$66,555.95
Vanguard Total Stock Mkt. Index Fund:	\$82,360.65
Park National HW Ck. Acct. @ 0.01%	\$58,187.25

A total of \$50,600 in new giving from individuals, \$1,700 from the Hog Roast net profit and \$75 from the Kroger Rebates was added to the Endowment in 2019

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*

## **Hog Roast 2019**

*By: Debbie Smetts*

*"Surely God is my help; the Lord is the one who sustains me." Psalm 54:4*

The 2019 Annual Hog Roast was held April 6<sup>th</sup>. The roast brought in \$17,060 after expenses. The dollars that were raised help provide the means for renovations, improvements and future growth within the church as well as 10% being contributed to our Memorial Endowment Fund and 10% to our Mission Outreach Fund.

Thank you Amy Gartner for chairing this event.

The pork was smoked to perfection again this year. We thank everyone who participated in the pork prep and hope to see this continue.

I would also like to acknowledge the many others who help set-up and tear down the Legg Center, anyone who helped in the kitchen and/or manned the dessert tables, operated and set up the sound equipment and visual projection, put together and organized the Live Auction, Basket Bonanza and the Silent Auction. And to all those who contribute the items to be auctioned off and all who purchase the items, thank you for your continued support in this community outreach.

## **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. It organizes volunteers on a monthly basis to be available to help. During 2019, our ministry delivered 30 meals and sent 70 cards. We are very blessed in always having our family of faith be willing to help others. If you know of a need in the congregation, please let Pastor Scott or Mary Jo Layman know.

## **Fellowship Ministry**

*By Janet Goodman*

*"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 brings together the members, guests and visitors of Highwater UCC. The ministry is a great opportunity to get involved in the church. It is a great way to spend time together and to get to know one another and.....there is almost always food involved!

The ministry helped with the annual Chili Cook-off in January to raise money for the Youth fund. We helped WISH with the Easter Brunch and coordinated three "Grill Sundays". Thanks to "Grill Master" Bob Tucker and all that helped in any way to make these events successful whether it be set up, potluck dishes, or clean up. All is very much appreciated.

The ministry also hosted potlucks for the evening of the Christmas pageant. Game Nites were hosted by our Ministry and was enjoyed by many.

## **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*

2019 was a year of change for the Membership and Outreach Ministry. This was the first year as Ministry Chair for Amy Gartner. The Ministry consisted of: Terri Neal, Angie Alexander, Laura Tucker, Tracy Storts, Becky Wright and Abby Shipley (Janine Shipley too).

The Ministry worked hard to create a welcoming and comfortable space in the Narthex. The Narthex, library and Scott's office were painted. The Narthex was furnished with two love seats, two arm chairs, three round top tables with four stools each as well as a rectangular table with four stools and a pallet information wall. We are still seeking vinyl for the front doors to welcome people and provide important information about service times and contact information. A large screen TV is now in the narthex and current events, activities and photos are able to be viewed. A YouTube account has been set up and we are able to view Pastor Scott's sermons at home if you are unable to be in attendance on Sunday morning.

Welcome bags have been put together and are being distributed to visitors.

We held two greeter training classes with a total of 12 people attending.

Six new members were welcomed into our church in May.

We hope to reach out within our congregation to build relationships and follow up with our visitors in 2020 adding to our membership growth. We hope to see combined efforts on the part of all our ministries to achieve this growth in outreach and relationships.

## **Missions Ministry**

*By: Rev. Scott Schieber and Melanie Shipley*

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

The Highwater Missions Ministry continued to grow in breadth and depth in 2019. Here's a recap:

-We maintained our monthly support of the Utica Food Pantry by taking a monthly offering of money and non-perishable food items.

-We continued to organize and lead the summer lunch program in Utica, working in conjunction with the Salvation Army in Newark. We worked with four other congregations in Utica to train and staff the Miller Park lunch site. We staffed three weeks ourselves and filled in when other groups needed some help. More children were served this year in Utica than ever before. More Salvation Army lunches were served in Miller Park this summer than anywhere else in Licking County. This is a successful venture for all involved, but we do hope for the day that the need subsides.

-Each Tuesday morning, volunteers from Highwater gathered and worked in preparing hundreds of lunches which were sent out to various sites throughout Licking County.

- Highwater, along with other local churches joined together again in sponsoring a Global Food Packing Initiative partnered with Lifeline of Ohio based in Westerville. Because of our combined efforts Lifeline Christian Missions' ABC, All Because of Christ, food program will send 14,256 meals to families and school children in Haiti.

-We provided Christmas gifts by adopting 38 Licking County children and fulfilling their Christmas wish list—this was the most children we have ever provided gifts for, which was fitting as the Salvation Army served more children and families than ever this Christmas. We also assisted in distributing the gifts.

-In September, the Salvation Army asked if we could help our community by serving a meal in their kitchen on the first Sunday in August, September, November and December. We met that need, providing 100 servings of food each of those months. WISH and CREW took months and Cindy Campbell did a great job of organizing the effort. In 2020, we will increase our effort to every month, with different ministries taking each month.

Several years ago, we decided as a ministry to concentrate our efforts on feeding God's children. That continues to be our outreach for the foreseeable future, and we are grateful for the opportunity to add to this ministry with the serving of the meal at the Salvation Army. All who have participated in this ministry have found it to be very rewarding. Our ministry is reliant on the participation of all the members of our church, and we thank everyone who has helped out by cooking, making sandwiches, helping at the park, packing vitamin meals, or adopting children at Christmas. Mike Laughlin and Mark McKimmins have agreed to co-chair missions in 2020, and we look forward to a great year!

## **Music and Worship Ministry**

*By: Debbie Smetts, Co-Chair*

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

We want to begin by thanking everyone for their participation and support during 2019. Numerous talented individuals shared their musical gifts with us including the Children’s Choirs, the Adult Choir, Chimes Choir led by Cathy Bero. We enjoyed special music from Christine Ramsey on harp and Mary Miller and Susie Hatch on guitar/vocals.

The Easter and Christmas Music and Worship was once again an uplifting experience and included all the above with the addition of the sound of Adrienne Anderson and Janine Shipley on trumpets.

A vote in May resulted in maintaining two services; 8:30a and 10:30a with Sunday School during the 10:30a service. The 8:30a service will have live music/pianists on two Sundays a month.

Summer schedule from June – August will be one service at 9:30a and Sunday School will be on recess.

Monday Noon Bible Study continues to meet September through May and is well attended. Special Studies and Worship Services were offered during Lent, Advent and other times of the year and we thank all who were involved in making this available at Highwater.

A very special worship service and picnic was held at the Goodman’s barn at the end of May with special music from Mary Miller and friend. Thank you Bill, Janet and Martial Goodman for all the effort you put into making this such a loving and memorable experience. The Spirit was present in this space and felt by all. Wouldn’t it be great to have this be an annual event? We’ll see what unfolds for 2020.

We celebrated Baptisms and six young people were confirmed and became members of our Highwater family in 2019.

A big Thank You to the active participants of our congregation and staff who enhance and support our worship at Highwater, the many volunteers who read and share prayer and scripture, the Acolytes who carry the Light and those who keep the basic functions of the service inviting and comfortable.

We want to especially thank all those people who volunteer their time week in and week out and during all our Special Services and Programs throughout the year. The time spent during their week practicing and preparing before they sit down to play for us on Sunday is appreciated more than words can express. Thank You: Cathy Bero, Judy Grace, Patsy Farmer, Laura Laughlin, Sue Steele and Janine Shipley. A special thank you to Janine Shipley and Adrienne Anderson for the sound of trumpets just at the right times! Christine Ramsey has filled our sanctuary and our souls with the sweet and comforting sound of her

harp and we look forward to hearing from everyone again in 2020. If you have a gift or an idea for something special you would like to share please reach out to our Co-Chairs; Janine Shipley or Christine Ramsey.



## **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 \$155,825. The overall giving of time, treasure and talent in 2019 was \$140,795.00. We thank Highwater Congregational United Church of Christ for its generosity in your weekly contributions.

The Hog Roast continues to generate funds for the future work here at the church, with \$17,060 (net) contributed from the Hog Roast in 2019. 10% of Hog Roasts continue to be put into the Highwater Memorial Endowment Fund, 10% into our Missions Fund, leaving 80% to be put into the Building Fund.

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*

The Trustees really appreciated all of the help from the Highwater Family of Faith again this year. The following are the projects/tasks that were completed in 2019:

- Carpets were cleaned.
- Filled in ruts in the field from overflow parking previous winter.
- Miscellaneous interior and exterior maintenance done, including storage room clean up with a special thanks to our scout troop, and interior lighting.
- Exterminators sprayed for bees and wasps twice.
- Updated elevator project completed.
- New gas water tank installed.
- New pressure tank in basement.
- New LED lights in the parking lot.
- Parking lot cracks sealed.
- Changed locks on doors as recommended through security research with sheriff's office.
- New Mailbox (and one for the neighbor)
- New Handicap Signs Installed

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

# WISH

By: *Mary Jo Layman, Secretary*

*"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 together and serving our church, the local community and beyond. All women of Highwater are welcome to join us in our ministry. Meetings are held the second Monday of every other month beginning at 6:30 p.m.

W.I.S.H. had a number of projects, purchases and events in 2018:

- Sponsored Women's Spring Retreat
- Sponsored Mystery Trip
- Set aside \$2,500.00 for Scholarship Fund  
\$500 Scholarships awarded to:
  - Audrey Holt
  - Tralie Storts
- Sponsored basket bonanza at Hog Roast
- Co-hosted summer cookout luncheons
- Dinners served
  - Licking County Township Trustees
  - Licking County Homemakers Club
  - Licking County Agrarian Club
  - Licking County Republican Women
  - Homer Alumni Banquet
  - Park National Bank
- Donated \$1.00 per plate from dinners served into the Church General Fund
- Donation to Maci's Mended Heart
- 2 Angel Tree Tags
- Kitchen Floor stripped and resealed
- Served bereavement luncheons
- Donation to Vertical 196
- Donation to The Crew
- Purchased new chairs for the Library

W.I.S.H. officers for 2019 were: President - Becky Campbell; Vice President – Janet Goodman; Secretary – Mary Jo Layman; Treasurer – Phyllis Buxton.

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The table at Highwater welcome's everyone!