

# Highwater Congregational United Church of Christ



*“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*

## **2021 Annual Report**

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## *2021 Leadership*

**Minister:** Pastor Scott Schieber

**Church Administrator:** Debbie Smetts

**Church Custodian:** Peggy Green

**Moderator:** Jackie Parill

**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*

“I’m leaving you well and whole. That’s my parting gift to you. Peace. I don’t leave you the way you’re used to being left—feeling abandoned, bereft.” -John 14:26, *The Message*

The writing of this report coincides with my final days as pastor at Highwater Church. It has been my absolute joy and honor to serve this church for the past 10.5 years.

2021 continued our struggle as a church and society with the COVID-19 pandemic. Our church and its leadership continued to struggle to find some semblance of normal.

We began the year by committing to worshipping in-person in the Legg Center. We also began the painstaking process of upgrading all our audio/visuals so we could commit to livestreaming in higher quality. By summer, we had returned to worship in-person in the sanctuary. Our normal modes of worship, especially the offering, singing, and receiving communion, have not fully been restored. We continue, though, to be abundantly blessed by five talented pianists/organist and by the praise music of Mary Miller and Susie Hatch. Their gifts bring our worship to life!

Other areas of the church struggled to find its footing amidst the pandemic. While VBS was a hit in June, high COVID numbers during the school year hampered our Sunday School program. We were able to hold confirmation class and added five new members to the church in February 2022. Fellowship and Membership and Outreach were made very difficult by the pandemic. Missions pushed onward with providing meals on Sunday evenings at the Salvation Army and I once again led the summer lunch program in Utica. Answering the call to Feed the Sheep continues to guide our mission work. The Care ministry outdoes itself every year with outreach to members of the congregation in need and is so appreciated.

Whether representing active ministries during COVID or not, our council continued to work together to unsort our options during the pandemic. Once again, we went through the painful process of planning and then cancelling many activities enjoyed by the church and essential to our ministries. I thank all the members of council who freely give of their time and share a commitment not only to the church, but to the Gospel.

Lastly, I’ll thank our church administrators—Debbie Smetts, who retired in August after a wonderful career at Highwater, and Eydie Keim, who was hired to take on some administrative duties in November. Jackie Parrill is a wonderful moderator and seeks the best from the church on behalf of the congregation. Jack Schmidt and Kathy Preston again led us, in spite of the challenges posed by COVID, to a year in where giving outpaced spending. Our financial strength continues to grow thanks to responsible stewardship and the overwhelming generosity of our congregation.

It has been a pleasure to journey with you toward the kingdom of heaven over the past decade. They have been among the happiest times of my life! While we have faced many challenges over the past years, the strength of our relationships with God and one another have seen us through and will continue to do so in the future. I pray for nothing but peace, faith, and growth for my beloved Highwater Church!

Peace,

*Pastor Scott*

## *Letter from the Moderator*

The last two years have been difficult for our country, state, local communities, families, individuals, and Highwater, I want to share my deep sense of gratitude for all that you do for this church, and my pride in how the Council and congregation rallied together this past year to carry out our mission. 2021 had a different twist to it as our attention was mainly focused on keeping everyone safe--physically, emotionally, and mentally. Our congregation has done an excellent job of keeping our church going despite the challenges, and I thank you for that – particularly Pastor Scott, the Council, the trustees, the ministry chairs, and the musicians who continued to come in throughout this period. It hasn't been easy. During the year, the Council continued to meet monthly to conduct church business. The Pastoral Relations Committee meet several times to fulfill their role of support to Pastor Scott, develop sabbatical guidelines, and to initiate a fundraising campaign. Also, a special committee was established to begin the review and revision of the church's bylaws and constitution. Each of the ministry chairs has provided a report here outlining their ongoing efforts during this difficult period, so I won't restate their work here. I am hopeful that you will read their reports and enjoy a sense of accomplishment for all that we've been able to do together.

It was important that we returned to the church as circumstances allowed. Community worship feeds us with the energy of other believers. Worship is contagious and the benefits flow into the community at large. We are better together. According to Acts 2:42-47, the worship gathering is a primary way God inspires and excites spiritual growth in us. Our soul wilts and grays, when we stay away from the worship gathering. We experience more profound and genuine fellowship when we come to the worship gathering. Praising God with others gives us color, life, and strength. Zoom, Facebook and YouTube are great tools and they've helped us get through this time and stay connected; but there's no substitute for worshiping and working together in person. 2021 marked the start of the transition back to physically being together again. In March, the Council began taking our first significant step toward returning to our new normal way of working, worshiping, and serving, as we returned to in-person meetings. We proceeded with great caution to ensure that our return was as safe and successful as possible for all of us. We reopened the sanctuary for services in May and have continued to live-stream the 10:30 am service to provide viewing opportunities for those who wish to remain at a distance. So, 2021 was a step toward balance. We will continue to work our way back to normal over time, carefully, as conditions evolve. Although we have not yet resumed many of our regular fellowship activities like the Hog Roast and the Chili Cook Off, it has been good to see more faces in the halls of Highwater again and at meeting tables (safely distanced), and to feel our energy filling our church again. We have not yet returned to "normal," but we are progressing.

This past year will also be remembered for a number of staffing and leadership transitions we experienced. In September, Debbie retired from the church after 13 years as the Church's administrative assistant. Thank you, Debbie. She provided wonderful service to our church, and her farewell service she conducted on September 19<sup>th</sup> was a delightful testament of her love and dedication to Highwater. Another special thank you goes to Jack Schmidt, as Treasurer. Throughout the years, he has kept us informed of our current financial situation, served on committees, and has been an important part of our leadership team. The end of 2021 marked the end of Jack's ten-year tenure as Treasurer. His service to Highwater has been remarkable, and we extend our sincere appreciation for all his work on the church's behalf. In addition, Jack has served and continues to serve as a mentor to me and for that I am extremely thankful.

In December, Pastor Scott informed the congregation of his intention to leave Highwater. His ten years among us have been very significant in our congregation, and we sincerely thank him for his dedication to Highwater. I'm guessing that the past two years have been challenging for any leader of any organization. I cannot imagine all the challenges and decisions that Scott skillfully navigated to lead our congregation into a new world of worship, prayer, and religious practices. Facing change head-on, even when absolutely necessary, is never easy. People rebel; they want what is comfortable. Things can get messy. It is really hard to lead people into the future when

the people all want to go back. But through it all, Pastor Scott remained resilient in maintaining our core purpose and integrity in the face of these dramatic circumstances. Thank you, Pastor Scott, for your commitment and commendable service to Highwater these past ten years.

It has been an honor to serve Highwater UCC as its Church Moderator during this challenging and unusual year, and I thank you for the opportunity to be part of the Church Council team so that I could witness what I already knew—Highwater has always been filled with dedicated and extraordinary people. Our wonderful, little church continues to show great promise and the path forward shows glimmers of light and opportunity. Bright spots continue to appear on the horizon. Plans for being together more fully for fellowship and worship are developing. In moving ahead as leaders in this time of rebuilding and continued uncertainty, it is important to have solid relationships for support. As Council, we realize we don't have the perfect answers. We're not experts. We need partners, mentors, and friends in this process. Fortunately, those partners, mentors, and friends are our congregation. I look forward to working with you all in 2022.

Jackie Parill

## **Letter from the Treasurer**

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

On February 24, 2021 an audit of the 2020 treasurer's and stewardship records was done by Susan Steele, Patricia Hoar and Jennifer Snyder: *"Upon examination all records were found to be in good order. No discrepancies were found"*. Again in 2021 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 \$133,845.26 which was 12.75% BELOW the 2021 Stewardship Goal of \$153,400. Overall spending of \$133,141 was \$20,849 (13.5%) below budget, mostly due to lower energy bills, staffing changes and that many ministries did not have the opportunity to spend due to Covid-19.

At the November 14, 2021 Highwater Congregational Meetings we approved the 2022 Budget as detailed below.

**In summary:** Our church is in "okay" shape financially with a \$17,920 General Fund Balance (up \$100 over 2020) and just over \$436,200 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*

*After 10+ years as your Church Treasurer, I am "retiring" and intrusting our fiancés to Pat Hoar who will do a super job for Highwater. Blessed to be of service.*

*Jack Schmidt*

**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.**



**2021 Year End Financial Report as of 12-31-21**  
**YEAR END FUND BALANCES**

<b>Acct #</b>	<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Year End 2019</b>	<b>Year End 2020</b>	<b>Year End 2021</b>
101	General Fund-Surplus	\$17,800	\$17,820	\$17,920
105	Building Fund, PNB Ck. Acct.	\$14,099	\$9,417	\$11,290
104	<b>Total of Building Funds</b>	<b>\$16,880</b>	<b>\$9,417</b>	<b>\$11,290</b>
115	Memorial Endow, Ck. Acct	\$58,187	\$967	\$1,377
116	MEF, VG Star Fund	\$66,556	\$111,007	\$121,723
117	MEF VG Total Stock Index	\$82,361	\$126,388	\$158,885
118	MEF VG Target Ret 45 & 65	\$0	\$52,245	\$108,838
118	MEF VG Fed MM	\$0	\$1,001	\$1
<b>114</b>	<b>Total of Memorial Endow.</b>	<b>\$207,104</b>	<b>\$291,608</b>	<b>\$390,823</b>
120	Legg Rental Income	\$115	\$0	\$400
125	Utica Food Pantry Support	\$476	-\$75	\$0
133	Misc. PNB Ck. Acct. Interest	\$18	\$6	\$0
141	Pastoral Discretionary	\$896	\$732	\$1,753
142	Council Discretionary	\$4,464	\$11,615	\$8,134
143	Missions Discretionary	\$2,344	\$1,949	\$1,759
144	Youth Discretionary	\$3,412	\$3,286	\$3,286
147	Heritage Discretionary	\$0	\$7,534	\$7,808
148	VG Value Seminary Discretion	\$4,142	\$4,237	\$5,560
150	UCC Mission Support Fund	\$1,001	\$ 300	\$301
160	Hog Roast	\$0	\$0	\$0
165	Kroger Rebates	\$231	\$0	\$0
172	Special Projects, Maintenance	\$3,386	\$3,782	\$1,638
173	Spec. Projects, Salvation Army	\$0	\$0	\$1,368
174	Spec. Projects, Food Pantry Net	\$0	\$0	\$250
179	Spec. Projects, Sabbat/Youth Ld			\$4,000
181	Finn Fest	\$233	\$0	\$25
190	Family Memorials	\$11,966	\$2,737	\$1,507
	<b>Total All HW Funds, 12-31-20:</b>	<b>\$274,352</b>	<b>\$354,948</b>	<b>\$457,822</b>

**Year End Financial Report as of 12-31-21**  
**DETAILS OF INCOME RECEIVED**

<b>Acct #</b>	<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Income</b>
101	General Fund-Giving	\$133,845.26
105	Building Fund	\$2,271.93
115	Memorial Endowment	\$50,410.00
120	Legg Rentals	\$2,135.15
125	Support for Utica Food Pantry	-\$75.00
131	Misc. Petty Cash (interest income)	7.50
135	Misc. Inc.	\$0.00
141	Pastoral Discretionary	\$2,276.50
142	Council Discretionary	\$5,008.47
143	Missions Discretionary	\$60.00
147	Heritage Discretionary	\$5,340.00
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	\$301.00
160	Hog Roast	\$0.00
165	Kroger Rebates	\$516.93
172	Special Project Maint.	\$1,000.00
173	Special Project Salvation Army Meals	\$4,000.00
174	Special Project Food Pantry Network	\$2,275.00
177	Special Project Cleaning Kits	\$1,962.84
179	Special Pro. Sabbatical/Youth Leader	\$6,475.00
181	Special Event Finn Fest	\$25.00
182	Special Event Food Pack	\$0.00
190	Family Memorials	\$830.00
<b>Total*</b>	As shown on Treasurer's Books	<b>\$218,148.65</b>

\*This number is \$12,085.97 more than shown received by Stewardship Report dated 12-31-20. This is due to checking account interest and inner fund transfer

Actual income for 2020 as reported by Stewardship: **\$206,062.68**. Detailed explanation available on request.

## 2021 Budget Report and 2022 Budget

Acct. #	Description	2021 \$ Budget	2021 Spent	2022 Budget
1100	Pastor	\$69,850	\$69,944	\$69,850
1200	Administrative Assistant	\$15,000	\$10,530	\$3,900
1300	Custodian	\$12,200	\$12,294	\$12,200
1500	Associate Pastor/Musicians	\$0	\$0	\$9,1000
1600	Misc. Staff	\$3,500	\$470	\$0
<b>1000</b>	<b>Total Staff Expenses:</b>	<b>\$100,550</b>	<b>\$93,239</b>	<b>\$95,050</b>
2110	Insurance Property and liability	\$5,500	\$6,970	\$8,000
2120	Property Taxes	\$1,100	\$1,074	\$1,100
2130	Building Maintenance	\$7,500	\$4,687	\$7,000
2140	Grounds Maintenance (lawn & snow)	\$3,000	\$1,900	\$3,000
2150	Maintenance Supplies	\$500	\$36	\$500
<b>2100</b>	<b>Total: Physical Plant Expenses</b>	<b>\$17,600</b>	<b>\$14,667</b>	<b>\$19,600</b>
2210	Electric Power	\$7,000	\$4,121	\$5,000
2220	Propane Gas	\$9,000	\$4,249	\$8,350
2230	Waste Hauling, free service Shackelford	\$0	0	0
2240	Telephone & High-Speed Internet	\$1,500	\$1,935	\$2,200
<b>2200</b>	<b>Total Utilities &amp; Services:</b>	<b>\$17,500</b>	<b>\$10,305</b>	<b>\$15,550</b>
2302	Office Supplies	\$2,000	\$1,757	\$1,500
2304	Copier Lease & Supplies	\$1,750	\$1,801	\$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	\$1,200
<b>2300</b>	<b>Total Office &amp; Admin Supplies</b>	<b>\$9,150</b>	<b>\$8,358</b>	<b>\$7,450</b>
<b>3100</b>	<b>Care Ministry</b>	<b>\$200</b>	<b>\$73</b>	<b>\$150</b>
3225	Christian Ed Materials	\$1,500	\$1,424	\$1,300
3230	Summer Church Camp	\$0	0	0
3240	Youth Activities	\$500	\$59	\$100
<b>3200</b>	<b>Total: Christian Education Ministry</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$1,483</b>	<b>\$1,400</b>

Acct. #	Description	2021 \$ Budget	2021 Spent	2022 Budget
<b>3300</b>	<b>Fellowship Ministry:</b>	<b>\$400</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$300</b>
<b>3400</b>	<b>Membership &amp; Outreach:</b>	<b>\$750</b>	<b>\$43</b>	<b>\$500</b>
3510	Support for Collocation of Care	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
3520	Support for Others(Life Line Food Pack)	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
3530	Others	n/a	n/a	\$2,000
<b>3500</b>	<b>Total Mission Ministry:</b>	<b>\$3,500</b>	<b>\$3,500</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
3610	Choir Music	\$150	0	\$0
3620	Piano & Organ Maintenance	\$500	\$180	\$400
3630	Supply Pastors & Guest Musicians	\$600	\$700	\$800
3640	Misc. Music & Worship	\$850	\$539	\$500
<b>3600</b>	<b>Total Music and Worship Ministry:</b>	<b>\$2,100</b>	<b>\$ 1,419</b>	<b>\$1,700</b>
	<b>Total Operating Expenses:</b>	<b>\$53,440</b>	<b>\$39,848</b>	<b>\$48,650</b>
	<b>Total Staff Expenses:</b>	<b>\$100,550</b>	<b>\$93,239</b>	<b>\$95,050</b>
	<b>GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$153,990</b>	<b>\$133,141</b>	<b>\$143,700</b>
		<i>2021 Budget</i>	<i>2021 Spent</i>	<i>2022 Budget</i>

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

Year	Budget	Actual Spending	Actual Giving
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
2021	\$153,990	\$133,141	\$134,845

## **Highwater Memorial Endowment Fund** **Annual Report to the Congregation, 2021**

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 12-31-21 the fund has investments totaling **\$390,824.28** as detailed below:

Vanguard Fed. MM Fund:	\$1.19
Vanguard STAR Fund:	\$121,722.80
Vanguard Total Stock Mkt. Index	\$158,884.69
Vanguard Target Ret 45 & 65	\$108,838.35
Park National HW Ck. Acct.	\$1,377.25

*2021 Growth of these funds were \$53,866.33 or 18.5%*

A total of \$45,350 in new giving from individuals, and \$60 from the Kroger Rebates were added to the Endowment in 2021.

The HMEF Advisory Council is also charged with oversight of the Seminary Scholarship Fund 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 \$5,359.64

***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*

### **Care Ministry**

*Mary Jo Layman, Ministry Chair*

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

The CARE Ministry provides support to church members in their time of need. During a "normal" year, we organize volunteers on a monthly basis to be available to fix and deliver meals, make visits, send cards, and help in any way we can. Because this is the second year of COVID-19, we have only been able to deliver meals and send cards. During 2021, there were 59 meals delivered and 128 cards and e-mails sent. Members have been wonderful to fix food ahead and keep our church freezer stocked.

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 the pastor or me know.

## **Christian Education Ministry**

Abby Shipley, Ministry Chair

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

2021 started out much like 2020 with no in person Sunday school or activities. As always though, our team of great volunteers adapted and made the best of it! We held monthly Sunday school classes via Zoom that were split up by age, preschool-kindergarten, taught by Janine Shipley and Scott Schieber; 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade by Kathy Preston and Abby Shipley; and 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade Stacey Atherton and Ashley Shipley. We also worked together for a special Easter surprise and “Egged” each child’s house by dropping off a bag of stuff eggs! The kids loved the surprise and the feeling of connection to church despite not being there.

In March, the Christian Education committee prepared and delivered approximately 200 meals to the Salvation Army. We even were able to get a few of the older kids involved and they really enjoyed being able to contribute.

In the summer we were all so incredibly excited to be able to host Vacation Bible School the last week of June! The them was the Olympics and kids had a great week learning about Jesus, making crafts and playing games. I think everyone could agree that their favorite part was water games on the last day! A blast was had by all! (Please see attached supplemental details on VBS).

In the Fall we were finally able to pick back up with in person Sunday School. We reduced the classes down to two groups, preK-2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up due to attendance. Many Sundays we ended up combining down to one larger group as attendance was up and down throughout the fall. The church invested in Sunday School curriculum which made teaching easier and more consistent. We utilized Spark House Digital for these lessons and also ordered the print materials to utilize. Pastor Scott helped to identify the lessons to focus on for each week and the Teachers were able to utilize the handouts to teach off of. Thanks to Janine Shipley, Stacey Atherton, Ashley Shipley, Marshall Goodman, Kathy Preston and Allyson Patton for helping teach.

Website for lessons: [children.sparkhousedigital.org](http://children.sparkhousedigital.org) click on spark classroom

User: [schieber@columbus.rr.com](mailto:schieber@columbus.rr.com)

Pass: Highwater1

Janine Shipley also spearheaded a wonderful Christmas Program in partnership with the Music & Worship Committee and I think I can speak for all when I say how nice it was to have a full Sanctuary that Sunday. The kids did such a great job!

Overall, it was another year full of curve balls, but our committee rose to the challenge to make a great program for our kiddos.

## **Highwater Vacation Bible School 2021 Recap**

- Held June 28-30 from 9-12
- 35 kids in attendance split into 4 groups
  - 2 PreK & K
  - 1 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>
  - 1 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>
- Set up sessions that the classes rotated thru
  - Each session 20 minutes long
  - Wednesday had 1 hour for water day
  - Sessions: Lesson (Scott), Craft (Ashley Shipley), Games (Janine Shipley), Snack/Parachute (Kathy), Music (Suzie Hatch & Mary Miller)
- Suggestions for future years:
  - Split pre-K and K group up
    - separate kids who have completed K from those that haven’t if possible
    - no more than 6 kids in a group for this age group
  - Need activity/waiting area for kids as they arrive
    - Most days sent them to the Sanctuary where Mary/Suzie started songs
  - Pre-K/K group should not have lesson last – difficult to keep their attention

## **Fellowship Ministry**

*Tracy Storts, Ministry Chair*

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

The only activity that Fellowship was part of for 2021 was the December Salvation Army meal. We served around 200 meals.

## **Membership and Outreach Ministry**

*Amy Gartner, Ministry Chair*

*"...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*

2021 was filled with challenges as we navigated another year through the COVID pandemic in the Church and our Membership and Outreach Ministry (ministry chair, Amy Gartner)..

Projects and outreach completed in 2021 were as follows:

- Served three monthly meals at the Salvation Army (approx. 200 people served at each meal)
- Three online game nights offered to keep our membership connected while we were doing online services
- Handed out two welcome to Highwater bags to those who visited, no new members this year
- The Highwater Facebook page is active with 430 followers. It also reaches, on average, over 3,000 people per month.
- The Highwater Instagram page has 80 followers. We are building that media outlet slowly.
- The Highwater YouTube Channel post videos weekly

## **Missions Ministry**

*Mark McKimmins and Mike Laughlin, Ministry Chairs*

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

The challenges of 2020 spilled into 2021 while needs continued. 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 for children through a program initiative of the Salvation Army.
- Tuesday morning volunteers from Highwater helped pack lunches at the Salvation Army during the Summer lunch program.
- 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 and filled all the angel tree tags for the Salvation Army.
- Once again, 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 picked a month or two to provide 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. Money was raised for the Church World Services disaster bucket project. Giving exceeded our goal which is always a great problem. The famous singer/songwriter duo Mary and Susie performed their original version of a "Hole in the Bucket" which helped raise the funds needed to complete the project. You may ask why we do so much with groups such as the Salvation Army and Coalition of Care, the reason is that they do a great job of identifying and vetting those in need and making sure resources are not wasted and get into hands that need them.  
Highwater continues to be an inspiration for helping those in need even when it is difficult. God Bless all of you.

## **Music and Worship Ministry**

*Janine Shipley, Ministry Chair*

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

In January, we gathered again for indoor worship services, although they were limited to the Legg Center. One service was offered at 10:30am. Social Distancing and face masks were required to attend. To limit hand to hand contact, an offering plate was available at the door as well as individual pre-filled juice wafer cups for communion. During the year, Reverend Scott Schieber also offered communion using grapes and bread.

Reverend Scott Schieber continued to stream services to Facebook and YouTube for members and friends to watch who could not attend in person. The church worked with Doug Posey (Ministry Sound Company) to improve the video and audio of the streaming.

In March, council approved our recommendation to add a Praise Team Leader to our staff. The stipend was set at \$100 per week, with no PTO or sick time. The position was paid out of The Heritage Fund, Council Discretionary Fund, and the Tim Shipley Memorial Fund. Mary Miller accepted the position

At the April council meeting, a policy was approved to follow state mandates concerning the wearing of masks, social distancing and other covid protocol during the Worship Services. In addition to the 10:30am worship service in the Legg center, a service was offered at 8:30am in the Sanctuary, April 18<sup>th</sup> through Memorial Day. Summer services began June 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am in the sanctuary.

Our ministry worked with the Trustees, Reverend Schieber and Doug Posey to bring hybrid streaming into the Sanctuary for our summer services. In May, council approved a \$3,574 to upgrade our streaming technology in the Sanctuary. The proposal included a mounted wall video camera, equipment, installation costs and training for our Technology Team members. The equipment was installed so that it could be controlled in the room above the sanctuary. Copywrite licensures for our music were also obtained for streaming purposes.

We have a new group of volunteers called the Technology Team. Their job is to stream the 10:30am Worship Service and run the power point presentation. Our ministry would like to thank Jennifer & Dave Snyder, Josh & Daniel Bero, Pat Hoar, Ann Pummell, Beth & Cate Schieber and Virgil Hatch. If you would like to participate, contact any of these volunteers and they will be happy to teach you.

In July, our ministry provided the Salvation Army in Newark.

In September, it was decided to streamline the church bulletin. In addition, a weekly update replaced the monthly church newsletter. We also resumed two worship services at 8:30am and 10:30 am, both in the sanctuary.

After surveying other churches and finding most paid their musicians a stipend, council accepted our recommendation to pay musicians \$50 per worship service beginning in 2022. The Praise Team Leader was also approved, for 2022, at \$75 per worship service, and eliminated the requirement to work with the youth.

In December, special music was provided during Advent and a skit entitled “The Holy Family is Here” was performed by the youth including Kathy Preston and Marshall Goodman as Mary and Joseph. Christmas Eve Services at 5pm and 11pm returned to Highwater after not having any in 2020. Gifts were given to Reverend Scott Schieber, Eydie Keim (Administrative Assistant), Peggy Green (Custodian), and musicians Patsy Farmer, Cathy Bero, Judy Grace, Laura Laughlin, Susie Hatch, Sue Steele and Janine Shipley in appreciation for sharing their talents with Highwater Congregational Church.

Members of the Worship and Music Ministry for 2021 were Cathy Bero, Deb Smetts, Sue Steele, Patsy Farmer, Adrienne Anderson, Amy Gartner, Laura Laughlin, Mary Miller and Janine Shipley.

## **Stewardship and Finance Ministry**

*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 the time, talents and treasure to the Lord.

Our budget called for the general Funds to raise \$153,990 in 2021. The overall giving towards this goal was \$134, 845.26. We thank the members and friends of Highwater Congregational United Church of Christ for continuing to support Highwater once again during these unprecedented times.

In person worship resumed on the first Sunday in January 2021 and we continued to meet in person for the remainder of the year. Our attendance numbers each week were at the most half (approximately 30) of what they were prior to March 2020 We had 70 people in attendance at our Easter Service and 110 people at our Christmas Pageant.

Council voted once again to not have the Hog Roast in 2021 due to COVID. Each year the Hog Roast generates funds for the Memorial Endowment, Missions, and the Building Fund.

The great need for help in our community continued in 2021. Highwater members and friends donated \$4000.00 to go towards purchasing food for the monthly Salvation Army dinners along with \$2,275.00 to the Food Pantry Network.

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 the church family always.

## **Trustees**

*Bob Tucker, Chair*

*“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*

- Power washed the main building
- Re-sealed the concrete entry pad and drains
- Sealed the cracks in the parking lot
- Installed water and temperature sensors for the insurance company to receive a discount
- Installed the Knox Box so the Granville Vol. F. D. would have a key to the building
- Replaced breaker for mission freezer and installed alarm for power outages
- Trimmed trees along Dutch Lane
- Passed all M.A.S.I. water tests for the state
- Continue to battle with raccoons



## **W.I.S.H.**

*Becky Campbell*

Women in service at Highwater, all women of high water are welcome to join. Wish meets every other month on the second Monday of the month. In 2021 we met at Elaine Smith's house for a lovely tea in early spring. We only met a few times this year due to covid 19. We ended the year at Kathy Preston's house for a lovely Christmas party.

On normal years we pick a few charities and make a small donation to help that organization. We also sponsor a high school graduate with a scholarship to help further their education. Throughout the year we will host several dinners for local clubs and organizations. With each plate we serve, \$2 of this money goes back to the church.

President: Becky Campbell

Vice president: Janet Goodman

Treasure: Phyllis Buxton

Secretary: Mary Jo layman



*The table at Highwater extends  
beyond our doors and welcomes  
everyone!*

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