

# Larchwood United Church of Christ

February, 2017

## PASTOR'S PAGE

I feel like most of our lives are spent in a hurry. We are in a hurry to get to work, to school, home, to a meeting, to an appointment, even to a fun event. We seem to scurry around from one thing to the next until we are cranky and exhausted and then we wonder why we are cranky and exhausted! I have noticed and discovered about myself that I am not the robot that I believe myself to be. I CAN hurry around from one thing to the next and even make most of those events on time, while still finding time in between for walking the dog and watching some news. But the trade-off is clear: I am less healthy, I am less patient, I am less Kelly than when I have more reasonable expectations of myself. Life is always waiting to challenge us in some way or another, both simple and complicated, and our ability to respond well to those challenges depends on our abilities to be our best selves. If we are always running from place to place and responsibility to responsibility, then we cannot be our best. I am certain of this!

One of my favorite parts of my job is that I get to spend some significant time with elders and one observation is that time is slower. As we age we do not move or think as quickly and sharply as we used to. Some might see this as a disadvantage, but I know that it is a gift! When I move slower, I am more deliberate, the time I spend with someone is of higher quality and I notice that I am more patient and better able to respond to all the little annoyances of the day and even the bigger things that happen in the course of my day. Maybe I see the gift of slow because of this experience, I'm not completely sure, but I will tell you that I am so very grateful for it!

Somewhere along the way as the rest of the world has become faster and better and stronger, we humans are running ourselves as if we were a factory: expecting more output and running 24 hours. This is not the way the human body is supposed to operate!! And, we are hurting ourselves and hurting each other when we expect mechanical output from our very human selves with very human limitations. If you are someone who runs constantly from one thing to the next, expecting a pace only a robot can maintain, I hope that you will consider slowing your pace. Sadly, this does not happen easily or all at once. Sometimes what this means is that we have to turn down some opportunities. Sometimes what this means is that we have to stay home rather than running to the next place. Sometimes what this means is that we have to simplify our lives more than we are ready for.

As someone who struggles with this very thing, I suggest starting slowly and being intentional about making some quiet time for yourself, and protecting that time as if it were the same as taking medication. If you need a reminder that we humans need time away from work, away from running, away from chaos, I suggest reading Commandment #4 (it's the one about Sabbath). Most people think this commandment is about going to church, but it is really about honoring time. I hope that you will honor the time you have and try to find a balance that is healthy and honors both yourself and the people you have in your life. Try living a bit slower and see if you are better able to respond to the challenges that life throws in your direction.

Peace,  
Pastor Kelly

## FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES AND WORSHIP:

### Soup Cook Off

Thank you so much to all of our wonderful soup cook-off contestants! I lost track of how many tasty soups I sampled, although not the pea soup (sorry!). The hotdogs and sundaes were tasty as well! A special congratulation to Morgan Waytashek and her yummy, winning potato and ham soup. MMMMMMM! We raised a total of \$326.00, which buys the church a much needed, new vacuum cleaner. Woohoo to clean carpets and those who use the vacuum to clean the carpets! Thanks to all our generous soup cookers and voters!

### YOUTH NEWS:

Wednesday, February 1: Sr. High Youth Group, 7-8PM at church

Wednesday, February 8: Packing food at Kids Against Hunger, take 2:

Jr & Sr High Youth meet at church at 5:30PM, we will travel to Sioux Falls, pack food, and return to church for pick-up around 8:30PM.

Friday, February 17: Jr High Youth will have a lock-in at church. Come at 6PM and stay all night until 9AM Saturday morning!

**Club JAM resumes on Wednesday, February 1 after school.**

### CHOIR:

We will practice at 7:30 on Feb 1 and 7pm on Feb 15, and sing Cornerstone during the worship service Feb 20.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

- 2-2 Harlan Maurer
- 2-3 Norma Maurer
- 2-4 Cole Koch
- 2-5 Jerry Maurer
- 2-7 Bard Brown
- 2-7 John Sanderson
- 2-9 Michelle Sanderson
- 2-11 Carla Manning
- 2-12 Luella Vosburg
- 2-14 April Steen
- 2-14 Jeremie Mullinix
- 2-16 Joanne Flier
- 2-18 Mike Burgers
- 2-23 Isaac Koch
- 2-24 Nicholas Kellenberger
- 2-24 Joel Midden
- 2-25 Kaitlynn Hess
- 2-25 Avery Moser
- 2-27 Evan Taggart

## **SERVING IN WORSHIP:**

### **Greeters:**

Sunday, February 5: Rob & Andi  
Eiesland  
Sunday, February 12: Rob & Andi  
Eiesland  
Sunday, February 19: Rob & Andi  
Eiesland  
Saturday, February 26: Rob & Andi  
Eiesland

### **Fellowship Hosts:**

Sunday, February 5: Fellowship  
Committee  
Sunday, February 12: Norma Maurer,  
Barb & Jerry Maurer  
Sunday, February 19: Lorenzen Family  
& 6<sup>th</sup> Grade class  
Saturday, February 26:  
Darcy Grotewold

### **February Candle Lighters:**

Kortni Burgers & Kyler Kerkvliet

### **February Reader:**

**February Ushers:** Chris & Janelle  
Viereck & Leonard Grotewold

Thank you for serving your church.

## **FEBRUARY LECTIONARY:**

### **Sunday, February 5:**

Old Testament: Isaiah 58:1-12  
Psalm: Psalm 112:1-10  
Epistle: I Corinthians 2:1-16  
Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

### **Sunday, February 12:**

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
Psalm: Psalm 119:1-8  
Epistle: I Corinthians 3:1-9  
Gospel: Matthew 5:21-37

### **Sunday, February 19:**

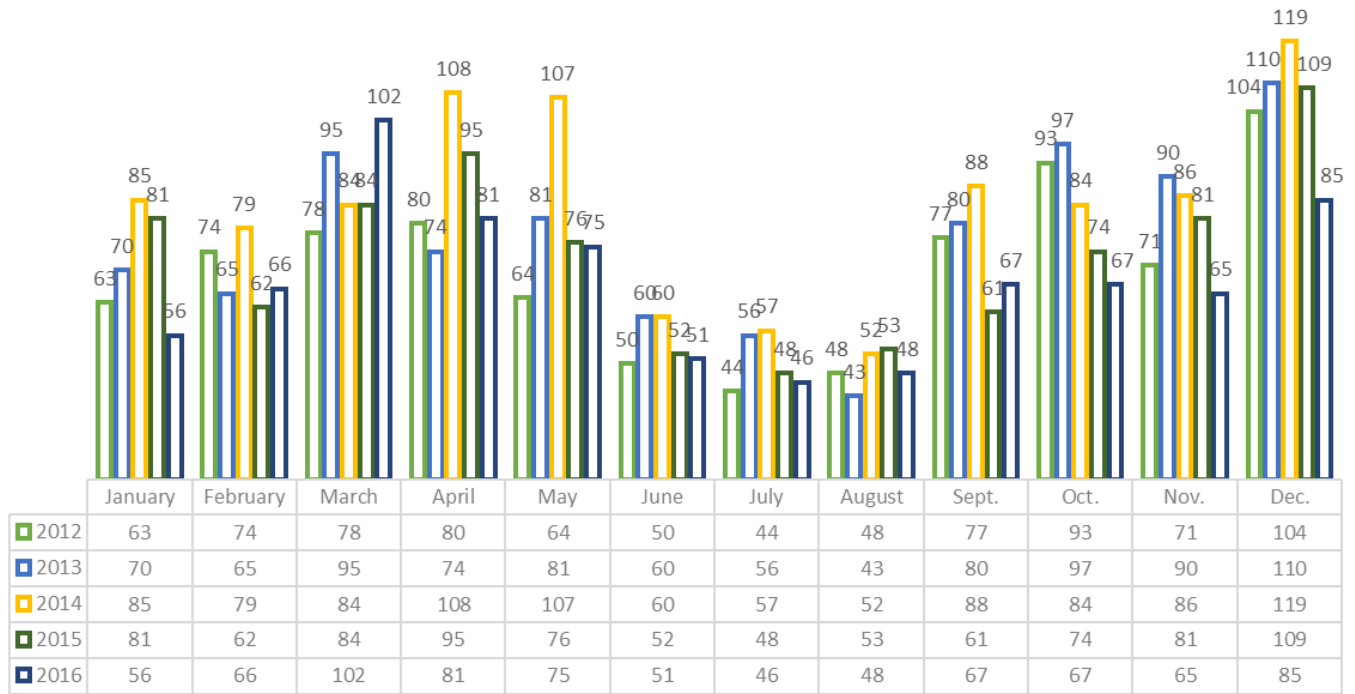
Old Testament: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18  
Psalm: Psalm 119:33-40  
Epistle: I Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23  
Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48

### **Sunday, February 26:**

Old Testament: Exodus 24:12-18  
Psalm: Psalm 2  
Epistle: II Peter 1:16-21  
Gospel: Matthew 17: 1-9

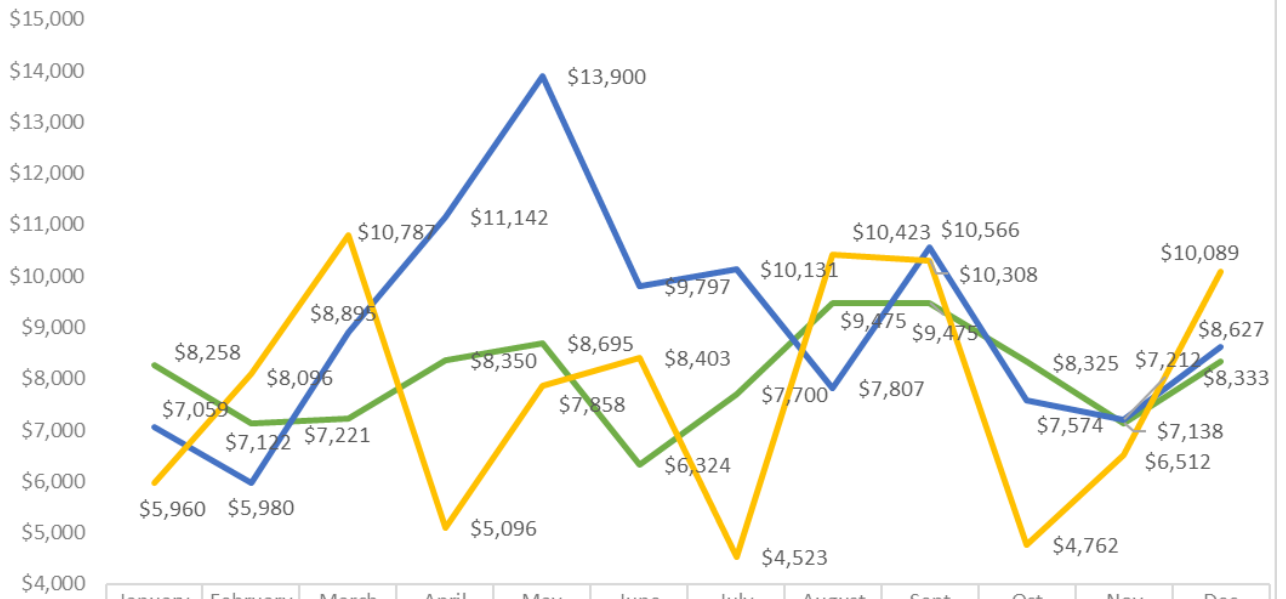
## Larchwood UCC 5 Year Attendance Trend

■ 2012   
 ■ 2013   
 ■ 2014   
 ■ 2015   
 ■ 2016



## Larchwood UCC Expenses vs. Giving-Monthly

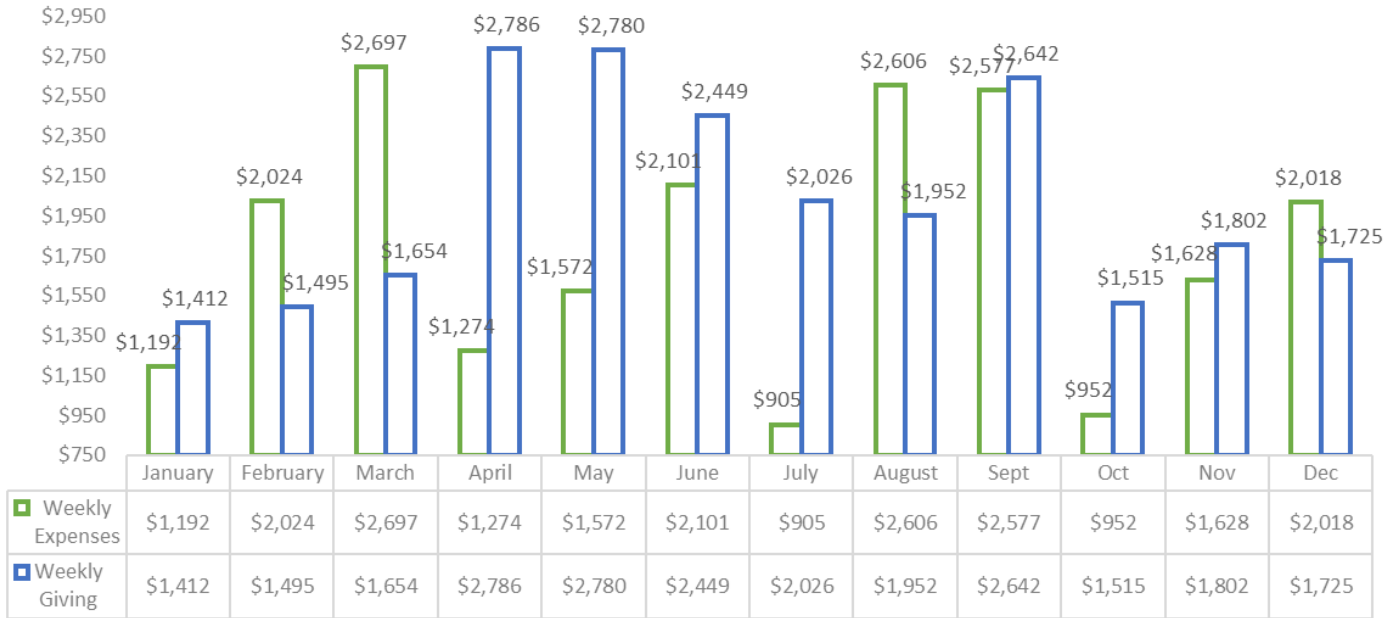
— Budgeted Giving   
 — Monthly Giving   
 — Monthly Expenses



	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Budgeted Giving	\$8,258	\$7,122	\$7,221	\$8,350	\$8,695	\$6,324	\$7,700	\$9,475	\$9,475	\$8,325	\$7,138	\$8,333
Monthly Giving	\$7,059	\$5,980	\$8,895	\$11,142	\$13,900	\$9,797	\$10,131	\$7,807	\$10,566	\$7,574	\$7,212	\$8,627
Monthly Expenses	\$5,960	\$8,096	\$10,787	\$5,096	\$7,858	\$8,403	\$4,523	\$10,423	\$10,308	\$4,762	\$6,512	\$10,089

# Larchwood UCC Expenses vs. Giving-Weekly Average

■ Weekly Expenses ■ Weekly Giving



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <b>Club JAM</b> <b>Sr. High Youth Group, 7-8PM</b> <b>7:30 choir</b>	2	3	4
5 <b>Worship 9:30</b> <b>Communion</b> <b>Sunday school 10:30</b>	6 <b>Church Council Meeting 6:30PM</b>	7	8 <b>Club JAM</b> <b>Jr &amp; Sr High Youth 5:30-8:30PM</b> <b>Packing meals at Kids Against Hunger</b>	9	10	11
12 <b>Worship 9:30</b> <b>Sunday school 10:30</b>	13	14	15 <b>Club JAM</b> <b>7pm Choir</b>	16	17	18
19 <b>Worship 9:30</b> <b>Sunday school 10:30</b> <b>NO Confirmation</b>	20	21	22 <b>Club JAM</b>	23	24	25
26 <b>Worship 9:30</b> <b>Sunday school 10:30</b>	27	28	<b>February</b>			