

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

248 Harding Way W.
Galion, OH 44833

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Rev. Harvey: pastor@uccgalion.org

Phone: 419-468-4380 www.uccgalion.org

Rev. Darrin Harvey-----Minister
Adair Pittman-----Office Secretary
Mary Ann Stone-----Financial Secretary
John Sikora -----Sr. Choir Director
Stephanie Sikora-----Bell Choir Director
Jennifer Arbaugh-----Organist
Jessica Hammond-----Organist
Christine Coe-----Accompanist
Dale Miller -----Custodian
Martha See-----Kitchen Custodian
Rev. John Miller-----Pastor Emeritus
Larry Nigh-----Visitation Minister

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*Christ the Savior
Is Born!*

FIRST
UCC
OF GALION
*A place where everyone
grows in faith*

First United Church of
Christ

248 Harding Way West
Galion, OH 44833

CELEBRATE THE LOVE!
CELEBRATE THE JOY!

Rev. Darrin Harvey
Minister

Volume 30 No. 12

December 2018



*The
VISITOR*

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday School
9:00 a.m.

Worship Service
10:00 a.m.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday ~ Thursday

9:00 a.m. ~ 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. ~ 4:00 p.m.

Friday

9:00 a.m. ~ 12:00 p.m.

Dear Church,

There is perhaps no greater loved Christmas Carol than “Silent Night.” Every year it closes our Christmas Eve service while the sanctuary is bathed in light. It is a moving experience and it wouldn’t seem right if we had to do without it. It might surprise you that the melody of this carol was written in haste by Franz Gruber the night of Christmas Eve a few hours before it premiered in a humble church in Salzburg, Austria. The organ wasn’t working at the time and it had to be accompanied on guitar. Neither Gruber nor the lyricist, Father Joseph Mohr, ever thought that the song would be performed outside of their own church. When the organ builder came to repair the organ, he was so enamored with the simple song that he brought it with him. Soon traveling folk singers were performing it until it was heard by the King of Prussia.

This year marks the 200th year after Silent Night debuted and it will frame all of our worship services in December leading up to and through Christmas. We are still going to be using our artwork we have been using but our traditional themes during Advent of Peace, Joy, Love and Hope will be presented in a different order to correspond to the verses of the carol. Our focus will be on our need for the light of God to guide us to the Good News coming into the world.

The word “Advent” has synonyms such as “arrival,” “emergence,” “surfacing,” “dawn,” “origin,” “birth,” “rise,” “coming” and “approach.” It is interesting that the last month of the year focuses on something that is beginning rather than ending, but I think that is appropriate to the way God works. When we think things are ending, God has something more in mind. Or to borrow what I hope is a familiar phrase to you - “Never place a period where God has placed a comma.”

December is a huge comma in our lives; it’s ok to look back, but we are encouraged to look forward with hope. As Christians, we can do that with confidence because we have seen the way God has worked in history.



We ended November with a story of devastation. In the exile, everything was wiped out and the people were taken to a foreign land. At first, it was thought of as the end of things for the Israelites but it really was the beginning of setting the stage for Jesus Christ’s coming. It can be like that for us in modern days – an anticipation of something brand new in our lives if we are willing to allow God to draw near enough to us to make the difference God wants to make for us.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very blessed holiday this year. Do allow yourselves to appreciate the time you have to be with loved ones. I encourage you to pray for those who are less fortunate and to go out of your way to be charitable to those who have lost so much. Maybe find someone who doesn’t have close family members to share Christmas with and make them a part of your family celebrations in some way or contribute to our collections of food or gifts for needy children. In this way, we can demonstrate that the light of God can make a difference in the world. Let’s reflect that light this Christmas.

Blessings,

Pastor Darrin



HEARTFELT THANKS



Dear Members of United Church of Christ,



We want to thank you for the delicious Thanksgiving meal you so graciously delivered for Doris, Chuck & me.



We appreciate your kindness & love.



Sincerely,



Doris Burkhardt, Chuck & Tami Burkhardt





ALTAR FLOWERS

Please sign the "Flower Chart" on the bulletin board outside the church office. Let the office know what florist is to make the delivery.

RADIO BROADCASTS

The cost is \$70.00 per broadcast. Please sign the chart posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. Listen on **WBCO 107.5FM** on Sunday from 9:00am-10:00am.

PRAYER CHAIN

For prayer requests, please call the office at 468-4380.

FOOD PANTRY

Cereal, canned vegetables, pancake mix, pancake syrup, paper products, cleaning supplies and personal care products are needed. There are containers at both entrances to the sanctuary.

CARING CORNER

We continue to have cards to sign in the Caring Corner. If you know of any member, friend or relative who could benefit from visits or cards, please let the office know! Also, please continue to fill the pull tab jar. Little things mean a lot so save those tabs for the Ronald McDonald House!

VISITATION MINISTRY

The Visitation Ministry ministers to our shut-in members who are physically unable to attend church. If you are interested in making visits, or if you need a visit, please contact the church office. (419-468-4380) or Larry Nigh (419) 569-2900.

Consistory Highlights

November 13, 2018

Community Thanksgiving Service November 18, 2018.

Peace Camp will replace VBS in July.

April 27, 2019 First Church will host the Spring Gathering of the Association. Lots and lots of help will be needed.

Diamond Dinner, May 4, 2019.

A new phone system is being investigated.

November 26 Pound exercise Class is beginning at 6:30 AM. Monday & Wednesday.

December 1, 2018 First Church will serve Turkey Noodle

First UCC Scholarship Recipients

The Scholarship Committee would like to thank the members of First UCC for their 2018 contributions to our church's Scholarship Fund. This year's First UCC Scholarship recipients include: **Dani Court, Luke Eisnaugle, Ethan Hocker, Reanne Neal & Lauren Rudolph**. Each received a \$500 scholarship award sent to their respective colleges.

Thanks to everyone at First UCC for their contributions in 2018 that support this special mission.



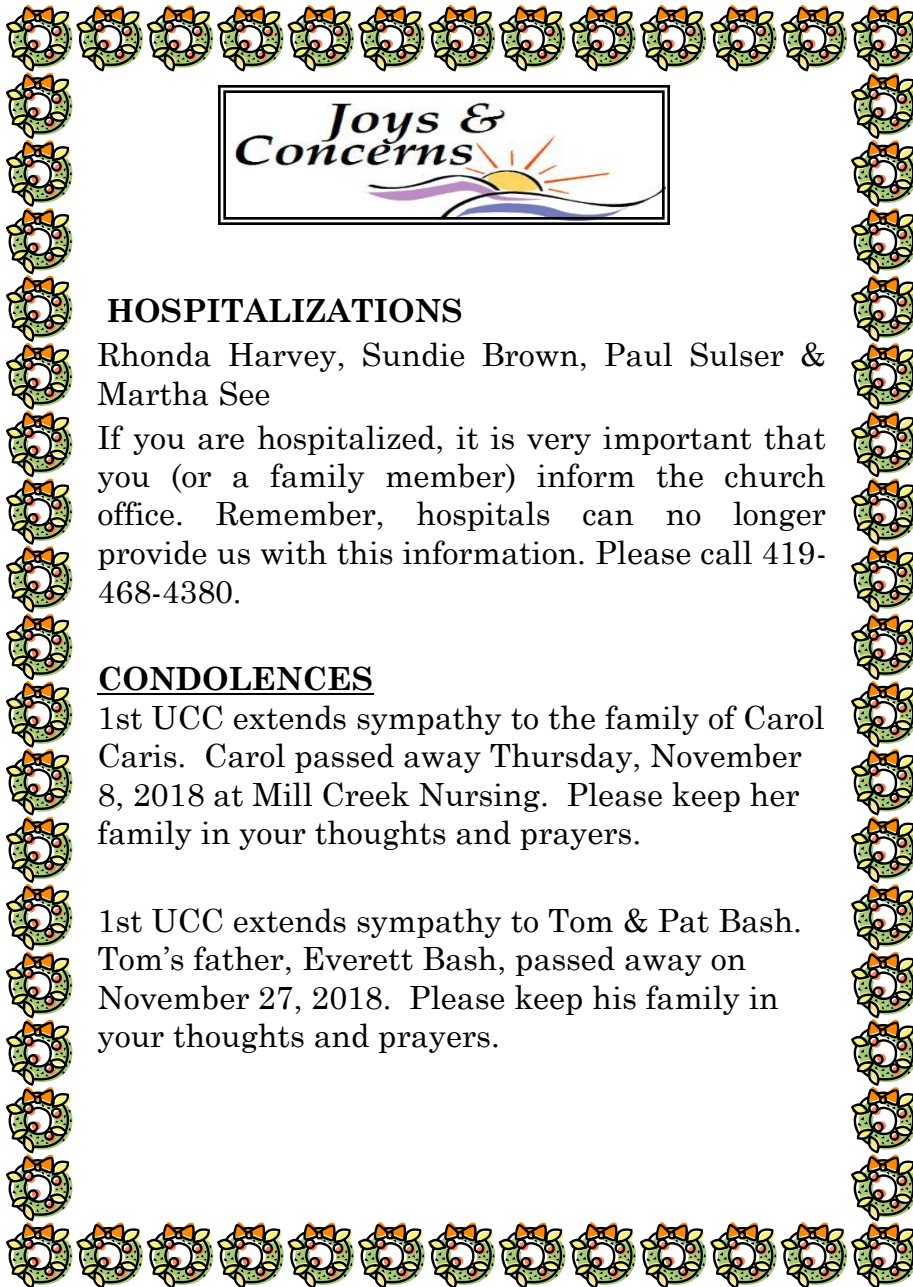
Birthdays

2nd	Beth Cotsmire	19th	Katy Repp
	Mary Janet Court	20th	Evelyn Feik
	Becky Harmon		Paige Kruger
4th	Lynda Eidt		Hannah Weithman
5th	Betty Angell		Mariah Weithman
	Ryon Bickert	21st	Alexander Kalb
	Kim Burkhart	22nd	Judy Eichhorn
6th	Margery Miller		Weston Guinther
	Bill Swick	25th	Florence Lauthers
7th	Jessica Brocwell		Gary Repp
	Lisa Eichhorn	27th	Lauren Mularski
	Carol Miller		Doug Schreck
10th	Ruth Essex		Deb Zellner
	Anderson Roesch	28th	Douglas Harvey
	Anthony Russell		Mark Olsen
	Mike Swick		Dorothy Rhinehart
11th	Ben McKibben	29th	Sue Bloom
	Kelly Spore		Chris Burkhart
12th	Todd Lusk		Erica Eidt
	Larry Ness		Evan Riggs
13th	Bruce Angell	30th	Jerry Volk
	Mindy Lamontagne	31st	Parker Repp
	Mary Zimmerman		
14th	Jan Reynolds		
	Chris Ruth		
15th	Rebecca Mularski		
17th	John Cole		



Anniversaries

2nd:	Charles & Nikki Keller
7th:	Ryon & Erin Bickert
8th:	Alan & Jerri Mularski
10th:	Jim & Nancy Reid
	Bill & Lynne Shifley
17th:	Travis & Kerri Koschnick
27th:	John & Linda Gulick
28th:	Wilbur & Veda Shifley
29th:	John & Marcy Miller



HOSPITALIZATIONS

Rhonda Harvey, Sundie Brown, Paul Sulser & Martha See

If you are hospitalized, it is very important that you (or a family member) inform the church office. Remember, hospitals can no longer provide us with this information. Please call 419-468-4380.

CONDOLENCES

1st UCC extends sympathy to the family of Carol Caris. Carol passed away Thursday, November 8, 2018 at Mill Creek Nursing. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

1st UCC extends sympathy to Tom & Pat Bash. Tom's father, Everett Bash, passed away on November 27, 2018. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA



Poinsettias are available for \$8.00 each.

Please fill out the order form below and return it, along with payment, to the church office or place it in the offering plate. Poinsettias may be taken after the 9:00p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Deadline to order is December 9th.

The florist cannot take orders after that.

One slip for each order. Thank you!

I would like to order: # _____ (RED) # _____ (PINK)

_____ (WHITE)

IN HONOR OF: _____

OR

IN LOVING MEMORY OF: _____

OR

TO THE GLORY OF GOD _____

GIVEN BY: _____

☐ I plan to take my poinsettia home.

☐

☐ I plan to leave my poinsettia for a shut-in.

(Name of shut in)

MISSIONS Report

CROSSROAD

On Sunday, December 9th we will be collecting an offering for Crossroad. On that Sunday, Kyle Zanker from Crossroad will be a guest speaker and all loose offering that day will go to Crossroad. Crossroad is located in Fort Wayne, Indiana and has been serving children and troubled families for over 130 years. The United Church of Christ has been an important part of this community for many years. Won't you help?



FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH MEAL

Have you been to a Fellowship & Outreach Meal yet? Our crowd is growing and the food is delicious. Our next meal will be on Thursday, December 20th in the Fellowship Hall. We are looking for individuals that would like to bake Christmas cookies. Please call the office or sign up on the slip outside the office door. Providing the dessert is a BIG help to our cooks. This meal is from 5-6:00 p.m. All church and community members are welcome.



BACK BAY MISSION

Thank you to all the Mission Committee, Flock Sunday School class, cooks, youth and everyone that attended our Thanksgiving dinner. We could not have done this without the many hands that helped. We sent approximately \$485.00 to our Back Bay Mission in Mississippi, but the real purpose of this meal is fellowship with our church family.

MISSION CHRISTMAS TREE

This year our "Mission Tree," located in the elevator lobby, will once again be collecting taxable items to give to our friends in the community in need. We thought it might be nice to include a \$10 gift card to a grocery, pharmacy or gas station to help with unexpected necessities. If you would like to give a gift card, make sure it is for no more than \$10 and place it in the gift box under the tree. The box will be placed in the office each Sunday after service. Some of the items are listed below:

Toilet paper	Feminine products
Paper towels	Toothbrushes & toothpaste
Shower Gels	Laundry Soap
Bar Soap	Shampoo/Conditioner
Deodorant	Hand Soap
Shaving Cream	Kleenex
Hand Sanitizer	Razors
Band aids	\$10.00 Gift Card

Feel free to tuck this list in your pocket or purse as you are shopping for the holiday and pick up an item or two for our tree.

We will be passing our items out after the first of the new year.

Thank you & Merry Christmas!!



Organ Repair Payoff

The Sterrett Fund will contribute \$48,000. We need to fill the keys to get the rest. \$46,200 has been donated through November 30, 2018. The balance due on the loan is now \$76,250.



The colored in keyboard above represents the progress in paying for our organ repair. Every \$500 fills a key, and when all keyboards from bass to treble are filled we will be “paid off.” Contributions of all sizes are appreciated. If your contribution is in honor or memory of someone, indicate that.

Additional keys have been dedicated in memory/honor of:

Frank and Jo Isaacs
Chalmer & Jane Miller and
Lloyd & Lucille Harris
Dan Ritchey
Rev. Reuben Elliker
Richard & Gertrude Shifley
Bing & Jean Bogan

ADVENT CANDLELIGHT DINNER

Join us after worship on Sunday, December 9th as we celebrate Christmas with the Advent Candlelight Dinner.

After the dinner some very talented members of our church will entertain us with a talent show. Mark your calendar now to celebrate the Christmas season with our church family.

Proceeds from the meal will go to the Project Fund.

GENESIS FRIENDS

Genesis Friends - Christmas Dinner & White Sock Surprise Gift Exchange will be on Monday, December 17 at 6:30 pm at the Bistro. Please let Nancy Green know, if you plan on attending.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

At 9pm we will have our traditional candlelight service featuring all of our musical ensembles and your favorite Christmas carols.




COMMUNITY BREAKFAST UPDATE

Thank you for your generous contributions to the Community Breakfast! Remember the breakfast is the last Sunday of every month **8:00am-9:30am**. If you are donating breakfast items, please make sure that your items are at the church no later than the Friday before the breakfast. There is a sign up sheet for donated items on the office window. This month we are serving scrambled eggs, sausage gravy & biscuits. Last month we served 25 people outside the church.



2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 11:00am Messiah Rehearsal 1:00pm Soup on the Square "Come Home to Galion"
2 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 1:30pm Magnolia Worship 3:00pm The Messiah	3 7:00pm 12-Step	4 8:00am WIC	5 8:00am WIC 11:00am Tai Chi 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Sr. Choir	6 6:00pm Finance @ Mary Ann Stone's house 7:00pm 12-Step	7 8:00am WIC	8
9 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Advent Dinner	10 7:00pm 12-Step	11 7:00pm Consistory	12 8:00am WIC 11:00am Tai Chi 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Sr. Choir	13 4:00pm Head Start 7:00pm 12-Step	14	15
16 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 2:00pm Mill Creek Worship	17 6:30pm Genesis Friends 7:00pm 12-Step	18 8:30am Head Start	19 8:00am WIC 11:00am Tai Chi 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Sr. Choir	20 5:00pm Outreach Meal 7:00pm 12-Step	21 8:00am WIC	22
23 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	24 OFFICE CLOSED 9:00pm Candlelight Service	25  <i>Christ the Savior is Born!</i>	26 8:00am WIC 11:00am Tai Chi	27 7:00pm 12-Step	28 8:00am WIC	29 1:00pm Riggs Dining room
30 8:00am Comm. Breakfast 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	31 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00pm 12-Step					



December

Week of Dec. 2	Week of Dec. 9	Week of Dec. 16	Week of Dec. 23	Week of Dec. 30
Sun. Amos 1:1-5, 13-2:8 1 Thess. 5:1-11 Luke 21:5-19 Mon. Amos 2:6-16 2 Peter 1:1-11 Matt. 21:1-11 Tue. Amos 3:1-11 2 Peter 1:12-21 Matt. 21:12-22 Wed. Amos 3:12-4:5 2 Peter 3:1-10 Matt. 21:23-32 Thu. Amos 4:6-13 2 Peter 3:11-18 Matt. 21:33-46 Fri. Amos 5:1-17 Jude 1-16 Matt. 22:1-14 Sat. Amos 5:18-27 Jude 17-25 Matt. 22:15-22	Sun. Amos 6:1-14 2 Thess. 1:5-12 Luke 1:57-68 Mon. Amos 7:1-9 Rev. 1:1-8 Matt. 22:23-33 Tue. Amos 7:10-17 Rev. 1:9-16 Matt. 22:34-46 Wed. Amos 8:1-14 Rev. 1:17-2:7 Matt. 23:1-12 Thu. Amos 9:1-10 Rev. 2:8-17 Matt. 23:13-26 Fri. Hag. 1:1-15 Rev. 2:18-29 Matt. 23:27-39 Sat. Hag. 2:1-9 Rev. 3:1-6 Matt. 24:1-14	Sun. Amos 9:11-15 2 Thess. 2:1-3; 13-17 John 5:30-47 Mon. Zech. 1:7-17 Rev. 3:7-13 Matt. 24:15-31 Tue. Zech. 2:1-13 Rev. 3:14-22 Matt. 24:32-44 Wed. Zech. 3:1-10 Rev. 4:1-8 Matt. 24:45-51 Thu. Zech. 4:1-14 Rev. 4:9-5:5 Matt. 25:1-13 Fri. Zech. 7:8-8:8 Rev. 5:6-14 Matt. 25:14-30 Sat. Zech. 8:9-17 Rev. 6:1-17 Matt. 25:31-46	Week of Dec. 18 Sun. Gen. 3:8-15 Rev. 12:1-10 John 3:16-21 Mon. Isa. 59:15b-21 Phil. 2:5-11 Tue. Micah 4:1-5; 5:2-4 I John 4:7-16 John 3:31-36 Wed. 2 Sam. 7:1-17 Titus 2:11-3:8a Luke 1:39-48a (48b-56) Thu. 2 Sam. 7:18-29 Gal. 3:1-14 Luke 1:57-66 Fri. Jer. 31:10-14 Gal. 3:15-22 Luke 1:67-80 or Matt. 1:1-17 Sat. Isa. 60:1-6 Gal. 3:23-4:7 Matt. 1:18-25	Week of Dec. 25 Sun. Micah 4:1-5; 5:2-4 1 John 4:7-16 John 3:31-36 Mon. Prov. 8:22-30 1 John 5:1-12 John 13:20-35 Tue. Isa. 49:13-23 Isa. 54:1-13 Matt. 18:1-14 Wed. 2 Sam. 23:13-17b 2 John 1-13 John 2:1-11 Thu. 1 Kings 17:17-24 3 John 1-15 John 4:46-54 Fri. 1 Kings 3:5-14 James 4:13-17; 5:7-11 John 5:1-15 Sat. Isa. 62:1-5, 10-12 Rev. 19:11-16 Matt. 1:18-25

**Fairhaven Community
Volunteer Service Group Newsletter
November 19, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by President Barb Nigh.

Devotions were given by Tiffin Trinity.

Roll Call: Volunteers – 23, Staff – 6

Minutes stood approved as read.

Treasury - \$4,075.86

Gift Shop - \$3,552.98

Bingo Cup - \$16.00

Old Business:

Tree of Love forms are due in today. Want to thank St. John's UCC Bucyrus for furnishing paper, envelopes and postage to mail out 70 letters containing the Tree of Love forms.

Tree decorating and Tree of Love dedication will be held Monday, Nov. 26th at 10am.

New Business:

Next month before the regular VSG meeting on Dec. 17, Dorothy Eckert will have the Christmas stockings to be given to the residents at Christmas. She will also furnish the treats to be put in the stockings. Anybody wishing to help should come to the meeting early, at 10am, to help.

The Gift Shop is willing to purchase some new card tables as the old ones are quite worn. They are available at Big Lots for \$25 each. Rhonda moved to purchase 5 tables, 2nd by Miriam.

Motion carried.

Also, Marcy requested the wish list for 2019 be drawn up so the money earned thus far this year can be spent on the residents.

Staff:

Alissa Clouse announced that the employee giving ended Nov. 16th with participation at over 80%. A new option of dentistry for the residents is available with a mobile unit that will come to Fairhaven. The Halloween Parade was celebrated as was Breast Cancer Awareness Day. The Rotary is holding a Pancake Breakfast on Dec. 1st. A Holiday Open House will be held Dec. 13th from 1 to 4. And this Thanksgiving she wishes to give thanks to the volunteers.

Kara Orians thanked the Gift Shop for the donation of cider and donuts for the Halloween party. The Christmas trees will be put up this week to be ready to be decorated Nov. 26th. She will start collecting Christmas gifts for the residents after

Thanksgiving and thanked the VSG for the money to buy the gifts. And thanks to Dorothy for furnishing the Christmas stockings for the residents.

Karen, from the nursing staff, thanked the volunteers for what they do. Fairhaven is starting nursing training classes for Nursing Assistants here at the facility and they will be able to be tested here on site. The staff will be ringing the bell for United Way, and the employee Christmas dinner will be held on the 6th and 7th. A Nurses Skills Fair was held. Flu shots are being offered free. A Certified Nurse Practitioner is available 5 days a week. The annual survey is taking place soon and she expects to do well, as in the past.

Becky Blocksom thanked the volunteers for all they do. She also thanked Sandy Preston, the Friendship Ambassador, for the bookmarks and crocheting she has done. She also acknowledged all the residents do to "give back" and welcome the new residents.

Becky King stated the Pink Out Day was Oct. 22nd and all were encouraged to wear pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Day. Nov. 4th the memorial service was held for all residents who have passed since the last memorial service. OMA (Opening Minds through Art) will hold the Art Show Dec. 13th at the open house. All residents are involved. Two services will be held Christmas Eve.

Becky then led in the reciting of "The Way" and closed with prayer.

The next meeting will be Dec. 17th. Upper Emmanuel will have devotions. Installation of officers will take place and the booklet for 2019 needs to be confirmed. Pizza will be offered following the meeting. Becky Blocksom will order the pizza. Pies will be furnished for the residents following bingo. Those who signed up to bring pies are: Mary Louise Diebler, Joan Dunn, Donna Randell, Carol Moran and Jean Pratt.

NOTE FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

If you would like to have your contribution credited for 2018, financial books will close on Monday,
December 31st at 11:00a.m.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will be **Sunday, January 20th** after the 10:00 a.m. worship service. All our members are welcome to attend.

ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE

All committee chairs, circle, youth group & choirs, please note that your **Annual Reports are due into the church office by Jan. 3rd**. Also, all **Financial Reports are due into the church office by January 11, 2019**.



News from Pastor Darrin!

Ministry at Magnolia & Mill Creek

Worship – Sunday, December 2nd @ 1:30pm @ Magnolia Terrace

Worship—Sunday, December 16th @ 2:00pm @ Mill Creek

Holiday Worship Schedule

Monday, Dec. 24th at 9pm - Traditional Candlelight Worship

**MERRY CHRISTMAS &
HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY
2019**



**BLESSINGS,
THE UCC STAFF
2019**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 6th: Finance Meeting @ 6pm

Dec. 9th: Advent Dinner

Dec. 9th: FINAL DAY to order poinsettias

Dec. 11th: Consistory @ 7pm

Dec. 16th: Mill Creek @ 2pm

Dec. 17th: Genesis Friends @ Bistro @ 6:30pm

Dec. 20th: Fellowship & Outreach Meal 5-6pm

Dec. 24th: Candlelight Service @ 9pm

Dec. 24th & 25th: OFFICE CLOSED

Dec. 30th: Community Breakfast 8am-9:30am

Dec 31st & Jan 1st: OFFICE CLOSED

