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FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Galion, OH 44833

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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-----Youth Choir Director--Organist
Jessica Hammond----------Organist
Christine Coe----------Accompanist
Dale Miller ----------Custodian
Martha See----------Kitchen Custodian
Rev. John Miller----------Pastor Emeritus
Larry Nigh----------Visitation Minister

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 29 No. 4 April 2017

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,

Welcome to the month of Easter. If there were a time to "Celebrate the Love" and "Celebrate the Joy," as is our motto, this is the time. If there were ever a time to invite someone to come aboard for this journey, this is the time.

We worship a God that is alive and active in the world, not just a historical figure that lived long ago and taught wisdom to pass on. Encountering Christ is a transformative experience that is made present in all of our gatherings. What could be more exciting?

We have a lot going for us as a faith community. We have responded to the call of God in reaching out to the community in many ways that are just beginning to bear fruit. We have begun a capital campaign to renovate the organ, started a new contemporary worship service, built a pavilion, renovated our kitchen, restarted our VBS and youth choir, engaged more young people in our programs, officially taken in new members, began a new Bible study, expanded our pastoral care and communication coverage, started volunteering with the school lunch program and installed screens in our sanctuary and hallways. With all of this going on, who wouldn't want to be a part of it?

This is all the work of God - believe it! God working through our hands and feet to transform the world. It is your skills, your resources, your ideas, your work, your prayers and your dedication that are being used to make this possible. These are exciting times here at First Church and I'm excited to be your pastor for this chapter as it is being written.

God has shaped us into a community of caring and compassion, a place that respects and honors all despite differences, a place that is safe and comfortable for people, a place that is generous, looking to serve the needy and, certainly not least, a place of great music. This year, the week after Easter is not a time to stay home.

This is the day that we dedicate our new instrument to the Glory of God with a special musical worship service at 10am. Our guest organist is Luke Tegtmeier from the Muller Organ Company and we will feature all of our choirs and many of our own special musicians who join him that day. It has been fascinating to watch the process here at the church and I can't wait to hear it again very soon. Thank you once again for your support of this project!

The one whom we are named after, Jesus Christ, has a unique way of looking at the world. In John chapter 11, he refers to death as "falling asleep." In the eyes of the world, death is the ultimate form of despair and sadness. Yet, for Jesus, death was not a permanent condition. It is only temporary like falling asleep – routine, ordinary and something easily overcome. If to God something so terrible like death is minor, cannot God overcome our ordinary organizational "aches and pains" like budget shortfalls and aging membership rolls? The answer is, of course, God can. We have nothing but good, even great things to look forward to under God's leadership.

Praise to the Living One!
Pastor Darrin

PASSION PLAY

Looking for a night out or something to do this Easter season? The North Central Ohio Passion Play is being held this Easter season at the Nazarene Church located at 2164 State Route 4 in Bucyrus, Ohio. The play is being help on April 11th, 13th, 14th and 15th at 7:00 p.m. Call for tickets at 419-562-0256. Admission is free and an offering will be taken. This show is usually sold out and a ticket is required to be admitted. Our own Matthew Eichhorn, son of Dan & Lisa Eichhorn, is playing the lead role of Jesus. If you have any questions, call our office or see Lisa Eichhorn.

Consistory Highlights

March 14, 2017

Easter Sunrise Service 8AM followed by breakfast sponsored by the youth in the dining room.

Community Lenten Service at First Church on April 9, at 7PM

Maundy Thursday Service, April 13 @ 7PM

March 26, New Member Sunday

April 23, 2017-Organ Dedication with organist from Muller Organ performing.

Association Meeting, New Brunswick, April 29

A weekly e-newsletter is being experimented with

Diamond Dinner, May 6

Sunday School times are being revisited.

The sign by the Rite Aid entrance will get new paint.

Heavier rails will be installed/straightened at the pavilion.

New tables will be purchased for the dining room with older ones being placed in the pavilion.

Vacation Bible School-second full week in July-Peace Camp Theme. Geared for ages 8-12 with older youth as helpers.

Camp Registration is now available for Pilgrim Hills.

Submitted by,

Barb Koschnick

Consistory Secretary

Galion First United Church of Christ

OFFERING

Celebrate the *LOVE*
Celebrate the *JOY*

Electronic Giving: Demo Available 4/23/17 After the Holy Joe Potluck

Support the work of our church through Electronic Giving. Have your weekly or monthly contribution debited from your checking or savings account and transferred directly into the church account safely and electronically, or use your debit or credit card to make contributions — you'll never have to remember your checkbook again!

We would love for you to get started!
Roll out is scheduled for May 1.
Voluntary demonstrations are the last week of April.

APRIL

Week of April 2:

Sun.: Ex. 3:16-4:12
Rom. 12:1-21
John 8:46-59

Mon.: Ex. 4:1-20
(21-26)27-31
1 Cor. 14:1-19
Mark 9:30-41

Tue.: Ex. 5:1-6:1
1 Cor. 14:20-33a, 39-40
Mark 9:42-50

Wed.: Ex. 7:8-24
2 Cor. 2:14-3:6
Mark 10:1-16

Thu.: Ex. 7:25-8:19
2 Cor. 3:7-18
Mark 10:17-31

Fri.: Ex. 9:13-35
2 Cor. 4:1-12
Mark 10:32-45

Sat.: Ex. 10:21-11:8
2 Cor. 4:13-18
Mark 10:46-52

Week of April 9:

Sun.: Zech 9:9-12
1 Tim. 6:12-16
Luke 19:41-48

Mon.: Lam. 1:1-2, 6-12
2 Cor. 1:1-7
Mark 11:12-25

Tue.: Lam. 1:17-22
2 Cor. 1:8-22
Mark 11:27-33

Wed.: Lam. 2:1-9
2 Cor. 1:23-2:11
Mark 12:1-11

Thu.: Lam. 2:10-18
1 Cor. 10:14-17; 11:27-32
Mark 14:12-25

Fri.: Lam. 3:1-9, 19-33
1 Peter 1:10-20
John 13:36-38

Sat.: Lam. 3:37-58
Heb. 4:1-16
Rom. 8:1-11

Week of April 16:

Sun. Ex. 12:1-14
Isa. 51:9-11
Luke 24:13-35

Mon. Jonah 2:1-10
Acts 2:14, 22-32
John 14:1-14

Tue. Isa. 30:18-26
Acts 2:36-41(42-47)
John 14:15-31

Wed. Micah 7:7-15
Acts 3:1-10
John 15:1-11

Thurs. Ezek. 37:1-14
Acts 3:11-26
John 15:12-27

Fri. Dan. 12:1-4,13
Acts 4:1-12
John 16:1-15

Sat. Isa. 25:1-9
Acts 4:13-21(22-31)
John 16:16-33

Week of April 23:

Sun. Ex. 14:5-22
1John 1:1-7
John 14:1-7

Mon. Ex. 14:21-31
1 Peter 1:1-12
John 14(1-7)8-17

Tue. Ex. 15:1-21
1 Peter 1:13-25
John 14:18-31

Wed. Ex. 15:22-16:10
1 Peter 2:1-10
John 15:1-11

Thu. Ex. 16:10-22
1 Peter 2:11-3:12
John 15:12-27

Fri. Ex. 16:23-36
1 Peter 3:13-4:6
John 16:1-15

Sat. Ex. 17:1-16
1 Peter 4:7-19
John 16:16-33

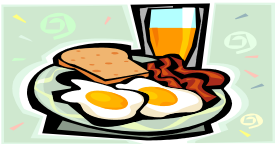
Birthdays

1st	Alan Forry
3rd	Danielle Court
	Addison Roesch
4th	John Miller
	Elin Swartzbaugh
6th	Evan Swartzbaugh
7th	Erin Bickert
	Gary Reynolds
8th	Derek Burkhart
	Tim McDaniel
11th	Barbara Perkins
12th	Jason Brown
	Matt Harmon
	Gavin Kindell
	Gary Neal
13th	Alaina Durtschi
	Adair Pittman
14th	Shawn Kurtzman
	Ruth Volk
15th	Zoe Kalb
17th	Eric Pittman
18th	Denny Elmore
22nd	Jordan Cole
23rd	Angela Brocwell
	Tony Deppen
24th	Sandra Kennedy
28th	Alexus Burkhart
	Jeffrey McClarren
	Rachel McKibben
29th	Nancy Green
	Brian Treisch

Anniversaries

1st	Dennis & Carla Russell
5th	Bill & Mary Zimmerman
8th	Larry & Debra Zellner
9th	Robert Reid & Karen Meyers
16th	Jeffery & Shelly Kurtzman
	Mike & Marilyn Lucas
21st	Denny & Marilyn Elmore

NEWS & Notes



COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Thank you for your generous contributions to the Community Breakfast!!! Remember the breakfast is the last Sunday of every month! 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 pancakes, sausage & fruit. Last month we served 23 people outside the church. We are so happy we can help our neighbors in need!

DIAMOND DINNER

This special dinner for our "Young at Heart" members, age 75 or over, will be held on May 6th. Watch your mailbox and upcoming bulletins for more information. Mark your calendar!!

SATURDAY NIGHT ALIVE

Saturday, Apr. 8th – Following our worship service at 5pm, we will have pizza and watch the movie "Risen." It is about a Roman soldier who is sent to investigate the empty tomb of Jesus. This is an excellent opportunity to invite your friends and family for fun and fellowship.

News from Rev. Darrin!

Sundays in March

April 2nd – Worship ; Isaiah 58: 6-12
April 9th – Palm Sunday Celebration; Matthew 21: 1-9
April 13th—Maundy Thursday Service 7pm with Communion
April 16th – Easter Sunday; 8am – Sonrise in Fellowship Hall followed by breakfast, 10am worship in sanctuary with Communion
April 23rd – Dedication of Organ with Musical Worship Service!
April 30th – Acts 6: 1-7

Ministry at Magnolia

April 2nd – Worship @ 1:30pm
April 11th and 25th – Bible Study at 10am

Thursday Night Bible Study has returned under the leadership of Barb Nigh. It is being held at 7pm in our lounge. Barb does an excellent and well detailed job of teaching. We look to see you there!

Holy Week

Sunday, Apr. 9th 7pm – Community Lenten Service in our Sanctuary.
Thursday, Apr. 13th 5pm – Youth Seder Meal; 7pm – Worship in Sanctuary.
Friday, Apr. 14th – 7pm Good Friday Community Worship at Galion Theater
Sunday, Apr. 16th – 8am Sonrise Service; 8:30am – Breakfast; 10am – Worship the Risen Christ!

MISSIONS Report

HOLY JOE'S CAFÉ AND POTLUCK

On Sunday, April 23rd we will be celebrating "Holy Joe's Coffee Café" before church in the west vestibule and after church with a potluck dinner in the dining room. We have a new video display of all our past, present and current service men and women that will be on display that day. A fresh batch of coffee is coming, the tables are set and your friends are coming with their favorite potluck recipe, so plan to stay for lunch and fellowship on April 23rd. A donation will be collected that day to purchase coffee for our troops overseas. Won't you join us, too?

BUCKETS & PERSONAL CARE KITS

April is the month when we fill the buckets and bags with disaster relief items to send to the Association Meeting on April 29th in New Bremen, Ohio. Take one of the bright red buckets at either deacon's bench; fill it with the cleaning supplies listed on the enclosed paper. We also have gallon bags with items needed for personal care for anyone displaced by a flood or other natural disaster. Buckets and bags need to be returned to the church no later than Sunday, April 23rd so they can be made ready for the trip to the Association Meeting. If you don't want to shop, members of the Mission Committee will gladly do the shopping for you. Just drop your donation in the Sunday morning offering plate. Thanks for helping with this mission project.

HEARTFELT THANKS

Dear Church Members,
Thank you for the use of the Fellowship Hall for our wonderful Birthday Celebration! Your cards, good wishes, gifts and hugs are greatly appreciated. We thank everyone who helped in any way. We are fortunate to be a part of this loving, joyful First United Church of Christ.

We love you all,
Dan and Ruth Ritchey

P.S. We give a special thanks to our four adult children and spouses who made this party possible.

Dear First UCC,
Thank you so much for all of your care, concerns and prayers for us at the time of Jack's passing. Your thoughtfulness was very much appreciated.

Sincerely,
The Family of Jack Winters

Thank you to everyone that made the Unbirthday Party a huge success. Thanks to the twelve volunteers that sponsored a table and provided dessert. Thanks to the Project Fund Raising Committee for the delicious food and the congregation for the big attendance. A great time was had by all and our Project Fund is $454.50 bigger today. Thank you again to all!

The Mission Committee

Joys & Concerns

HOSPITALIZATIONS

Jen Lugo & Charlotte Bedson

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

First UCC extends sympathy to the family of LaVaun Riblet. LaVaun passed away on March 8, 2017. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

First UCC extends sympathy to the family of Jack Winters. Jack passed away March 8, 2017. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

First UCC extends sympathy to the family of Marsena Brooks. Marsena passed away on March 14, 2017. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

BIRTH

First UCC extends best wishes to John & Stephanie Sikora on the birth of their granddaughter, Lily Eloise Cline. Lily was born on March 24, 2017 at 2:20 a.m. She weighed 7 lbs. 15 oz. and has a full head of brown hair. Congratulations to new parents, Allison & Eric Cline.

Ministry Opportunities

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 107.5 FM on Sunday from 9:00am-10:00am.

PRAYER CHAIN

For prayer requests please call Nancy Green at 419-468-3296 or the office at 468-4380.

FOOD PANTRY

Macaroni & Cheese, noodles, cake mix, frosting, 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!

BIRTH

Congratulations to Cody & Jennifer Gledhill on the birth of their son, Cooper Allan Gledhill born March 15, 2017. Grandparents are Kevin & Beth Cotsmire & Ken Gledhill, & great-grandparents Rev. John & Marcy Miller.

April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 5:00pm Sat. Night Alive
2 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 1:30pm Magnolia Terrace Worship	3	4 9:00am WIC	5 8:00am WIC 11:00am Tai Chi 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Sr. Choir	6 **7:00pm Finance**	7 8:00am WIC	8 5:00pm Sat. Night Alive
9 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 7:00pm Community Lenten Service @ UCC	10	11 8:30am Head Start 10:00am Bible Study **7:00pm Consistory**	12 8:00am WIC 11:00am Tai Chi 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Sr. Choir	13 ***7pm Maundy Thurs. Service***	14 7pm Community Worship Galion Theatre	15 5:00pm Sat. Night Alive
16 8:00 Sonrise Service 8:30am Youth Breakfast 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	17 7:30pm Genesis Friends	18	19 8:00am WIC 11:00am Tai Chi 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Sr. Choir	20 4:30pm Head Start	21 8:00am WIC	22 5:00pm Sat. Night Alive
23 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11am Holy Joe's Potluck 30 8am Community Bfkst 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	24 **7:00pm Elders**	25 10:00am Bible Study	26 8:00am WIC 11:00am Tai Chi 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Sr. Choir	27	28 8:00am WIC	29 8:30am NWOA Annual Meeting @ St. Paul UCC New, Bremen 5:00pm Sat. Night Alive

Fairhaven Community
Volunteer Service Group
March 20, 2017

The March meeting was opened by President Jan Young
February minutes were read and approved.
Treasury Balance - $3,778.72
Gift Shop - $3,318.15
Bingo Cup - $20.00

Old Business:

The Scholarship Fund is set.
New Business:
Janet McDaniel asked the group to save bags for the gift shop and the June Carnival.

Staff Report:

Lori Marsh reported the Wish List is being worked on.
Becky Blocksom thanked the group for being supportive of Fairhaven and Kara for the activities.
There are four high school volunteers from local high schools working at Fairhaven.
United Way is now allowing Fairhaven to put VSG information on their website. Joan from the Northwest Ohio Assoc. also will allow us to put information on their website.
Sandy Preston will be distributing mail on Thursdays.
The Saturday Personal Shoppers are working out well.
Tickets for the Dinner and Dash are still available at $8.50 for April 19th. This supports a local athletic department. Becky King is leading a Share and Care Bible Study. They are currently studying the Lord's Prayer. This group came up with the Giving Tree, with new "needs" tags being added every two months. This is their way of giving back to the community. Also, another group is Abundant Life and Community. They have asked if youth from other churches would want to participate in Chapel Services on Sundays. The quilt for the chapel is now finished and will be here by March 28th. The cost was approximately $500.00. Becky King led the group in "The Way" and closed the meeting with prayer. Baseline St. John's has devotions for the April Meeting. The Volunteer Recognition Day luncheon is April 24th after the regular meeting. No pie list was passed around for the April meeting.

FINANCE UPDATE

As we end the first quarter of 2017, envelope giving is down over last year. Through the end of March, here are the year over year comparisons:

2016: $36,540

2017: $30,088

We will continue to monitor and make adjustments if needed, as a decrease in giving affects our ability to stay within budget. It is still early in the year and we are hopeful the numbers will improve. Donations to the organ fund continue to be received and this project is underway and will be completed in April. The finance committee is pleased to report that we will be offering on line giving options beginning May 1st. A demonstration for anyone who is interested will be held in late April. As always, thank you for your support of First UCC.

GENESIS FRIENDS

On Monday, April 17 at 7:30 pm in the lounge, Genesis Friends will have Ed & Dee Speece presenting a program on "The History of Seccaium Park." We will also be packing our boxes for our college students & military members. All are welcome to join us!

Organ Repair in Progress

The Muller Company has returned the pipes and inner-workings of our organ, with the expectation it will be re-installed in time for the great Alleluias at Easter.

Organ Repair
Payoff
Sterrett Fund $48,000
over four years.
We need to fill the keys
to get the rest.
$12,080 contributed to date.

The colored in keyboard above is to represent 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. We will honor those people on our wall.

54th ANNUAL MEETING - APRIL 29, 2017

ST. PAUL UCC - NEW BREMEN

"There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God."

Psalm 46:4

St. Paul United Church of Christ, New Bremen, Ohio will host NWOA's 54th Annual Meeting. The theme is MAKE GLAD. The Rev. Dr. Mary Schaller Blaufuss, Team Leader and Executive for Volunteer Ministries UCC, will be our keynote speaker. A special moment of the meeting will be the re-signing of our partnership agreement with the El Sinodo Luterano Salvadoreño (Lutheran Church of El Salvador) for another five years. Bishop Rev. Dr. Medardo E. Gomez and his wife, Rev. Albelina Gomez, representing the El Salvador Synod, will be present at our meeting to sign the covenant with us. The offering for the Annual Meeting is for the reconstruction project of the Resurrection Church building (the main church of the synod). Special offering for this purpose from our churches and members will also be received at the Annual Meeting.

Buckets will be collected and a number of forums are being planned.
Join us on Saturday, April 29, 2017 in New Bremen.

Please contact Rev. Darrin, if you would like to attend.

Easter Blessings from the UCC Staff