

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

248 Harding Way W.
Galion, OH 44833

Church E-mail: office@uccgalion.org

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 166
GALION, OH 44833

**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 31 No. 2

February 2019



*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.

Hello Church,

It appears we have a theme building in our congregation that the Holy Spirit has placed in our hearts. During the month of January, our confirmands have been thinking about the ways that they are being CALLED by God. They started with a short quiz that gave them a glimpse into themselves and their qualities that God has given them. From there, their assignment will be to explain what they believe their spiritual gifts are and how they would like to use them to serve God's world. In response to this, one of the confirmation mentors felt CALLED to share this quiz in an upcoming Genesis Friends event.

Our message on the final Sunday of January, (that was postponed by a snow day), will be about listening and responding to God's call which highlights the story of the call of the first disciples. You may not think that you are CALLED to anything in particular but in many ways, you probably have already responded to that persistent voice that compels you to do something. Already, one of our confirmands felt CALLED to share a testimony and is going to speak at Genesis Friends in February. Already, one of our Elders feels CALLED to plan for the year ahead of us in our next meeting.

Like most in my profession, I felt CALLED to be doing what I am doing – preaching and teaching about the Good News. But seldom is a call to serve a one time only event. It evolves and moves based on the movement of the Spirit and the needs of the time. It often focuses itself in a particular area. One of the things I feel we are CALLED to do as a congregation here in Galion is serve the poor. I think we are well equipped to help so I think God has sent people to us. This has challenged us and it has made us grow spiritually, as most true callings in our lives do.

Discerning our calls can be a confusing process, but other times it simply means following our hearts and passions. If you are at all wondering what God wants you to do, it might be simply asking the question – “What do I feel passionately about?” One of the things I personally feel passionate about is what is going on with immigration at our southern border. I know many do not like when politics are mentioned from a representative of the church.

Yet at the same time, social action and religion have a long history of partnership that stretches back a century in this country from the Social Gospel movement, the Civil Rights movement to the Evangelical movement. Right or wrong, I feel CALLED to speak and to act.

My interest in these issues began three years ago when I visited our mission partners in El Salvador. I saw the living conditions, the violence, the poverty and learned the tragic history of that small country that the United States helped cause during the 1980's. I learned that neighboring Guatemala and Nicaragua are also in very similar circumstances where gang violence is literally strangling the life out of people. I learned and saw a lot more on this issue last year when I spent time in Arizona with the Green Valley Samaritans. There I was asked a provocative question – “What would make parents send their children a thousand miles through Mexico to reach the United States by themselves?” (There was a wave of thousands of unaccompanied minors that came from Central America in 2014 and some still today). This is what thousands of families felt they have had no choice but to accept in order to survive.

Clearly, we have had a humanitarian crisis going on south of our borders for quite some time that most of us have been ignorant of and, I believe, a crisis of conscience and compassion north of it. I'm not sure how long the latter has been happening in our country, but it has come to the surface recently. I think the lies and fear mongering surrounding immigration are wrong. I think that a border wall that would extend the entirety of the southern border is a bad idea and would be a bad symbol for the country where Lady Liberty welcomes those “yearning to breathe free” into our largest city. I think separating minors from their families to try and deter people from crossing is cruel. I think the government shutdown over the debate about the wall is harmful for our country and immature leadership.

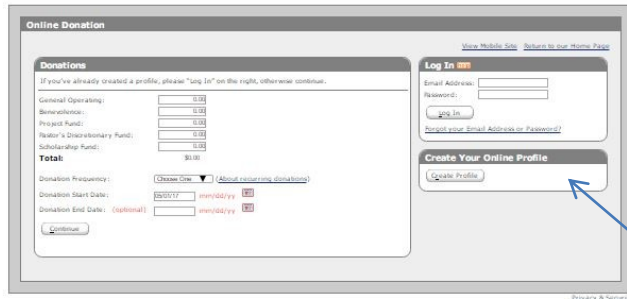
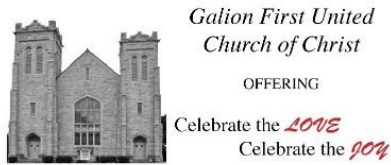
The Bible is clear about how we should treat immigrants. There are at least 50 passages where God commands kindness to foreigners or where God shows grace to foreigners. Technically, we are not a “Christian” nation and our civic laws do not all match our biblical ones, nor should they. But in my opinion the question is not if we are a Christian nation but what we as Christian people need to stand for. As it says in Micah, “God has shown us what is good – to act justly, to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God.” This is the passage that I asked our confirmation students to meditate on in asking themselves what they feel their calling is. What would be the just and kind thing to do at the border?

Online Giving is Here!

Manage your giving online

Galion First United Church of Christ is excited to announce that you can now manage your giving online! Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Simply follow these easy steps:

- 1) Visit the church website at www.uccgalion.org
- 2) Scroll down and click on the **Giving** button in the important links section of the home page. You should then see:



The screenshot shows the 'Online Donation' page. On the left, there is a 'Donations' section with input fields for 'General Operating', 'Benevolence', 'Project Fund', 'Pastor's Discretionary Fund', and 'Scholarship Fund'. Below these is a 'Total' field and a 'Continue' button. On the right, there is a 'Log In' section with 'Email Address' and 'Password' fields, a 'Log In' button, and a link to 'Forgot your Email Address/Password?'. Below the login section is a 'Create Your Online Profile' section with a 'Create Profile' button. A blue arrow points to the 'Create Profile' button.

- 3) Click on the **Create Profile** button, then
- 4) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.

As you are reading this, I am volunteering at the Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries in Los Fresnos, Texas near our southern border. They are mission partners that are helped by “Our Church’s Wider Mission” offering and a Disciples of Christ organization. It’s a five-acre campus that does a wide variety of ministries to help immigrants on both sides of the border. I don’t go there as a church representative on the church’s budget, but as a Christian person on my own time, seeking to practice justice and kindness to who Jesus would call our neighbors. I feel CALLED to do this.

This fall, one of our confirmands expressed that she felt CALLED to take a trip somewhere to help others. So later this month, we are taking a group of people from our church to Wooster, Ohio to practice justice and kindness at the North Street Mission. This mission was started a few years ago and now is a seven day a week mission center that serves the community with meals, health care, addiction programs and other services. We will be staying overnight on Sunday, February 17th into Monday, February 18th. (This is President’s Day Weekend so the kids are out of school). If you would like to join us, please let me know soon.

What are your passions? What issues in our world get your attention? What bothers you about the state of our society? I would argue that this is what you are being CALLED to. It doesn’t have to be the same as mine. I don’t expect it to be, as we are not meant to share the same ones. What we are meant to do is to act upon our callings. In this new year, let’s listen to our hearts and respond to the urge of the Spirit no matter the challenges that it poses.

I hope this message is clear, that we are all CALLED to do what we can – all of us, to the least of these that Christ identifies with.

Blessings,

Pastor Darrin



FEBRUARY

Week of February 3

Sun. Gen. 14:(1-7) 8-24
 Heb. 8:1-13
 John 4:43-54

Mon. Gen. 15:1-11,17-21
 Heb. 9:1-14
 John 5:1-18

Tue. Gen. 16:1-14
 Heb. 9:15-28
 John 5:19-29

Wed. Gen. 16:15-17:14
 Heb. 10:1-10
 John 5:30-47

Thu. Gen. 17:15-27
 Heb. 10:11-25
 John 6:1-15

Fri. Gen. 18:1-16
 Heb. 10:26-39
 John 6:16-27

Sat. Gen. 18:16-33
 Gal. 5:13-25
 Mark 8:22-30

Week of February 10

Sun. Gen. 24:50-67
 2 Tim. 2:14-21
 Mark 10:13-22

Mon. Gen. 25:19-34
 Heb. 13:1-16
 John 7:37-52

Tue. Gen. 26:1-6,12-33
 Heb. 13:17-25
 John 7:53-8:11

Wed. Gen. 27:1-29
 Rom. 12:1-8
 John 8:12-20

Thu. Gen. 27:30-45
 Rom. 12:9-21
 John 8:21-32

Fri. Gen. 27:46-28:4, 10-22
 Rom. 13:1-14
 John 8:33-47

Sat. Gen. 29:1-20
 Rom. 14:1-23
 John 8:47-59

Week of February 17

Sun. Gen. 29:20-35
 1 Tim. 3:14-4-10
 Mark 10:23-31

Mon. Gen. 30:1-24
 1 John 1:1-10
 John 9:1-17

Tue. Gen. 31:1-24
 1 John 2:1-11
 John 9:18-41

Wed. Gen. 31:25-5
 1 John 2:12-17
 John 10:1-18

Thu. Gen. 32:3-21
 1 John 2:18-29
 John 10:31-42

Fri. Gen. 32:22-33:17
 1 John 3:1-10
 John 10:31-42

Sat. Gen. 35:1-20
 1 John 3:11-18
 John 11:1-16

Week of February 24

Sun. Prov. 1:20-33
 2 Cor. 5:11-21
 Mark 10:35-45

Mon. Prov. 3:11-20
 1 John 3:18-4:6
 John 11:17-29

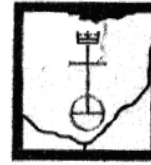
Tue. Prov. 4:1-27
 1 John 4:7-21
 John 11:30-44

Wed. Prov. 6:1-19
 1 John 5:1-12
 John 11:45-54

Thu. Prov. 7:1-27
 1 John 5:13-21
 John 11:55-12:8

Fri. Prov. 8:1-21
 Philemon 1-25
 John 12:9-19

Sat. Prov. 8:22-36
 2 Tim. 1:1-14
 John 12:20-26



Northwest Ohio Association
Ohio Conference-United Church of Christ

Daniel L. Busch, Association Minister
416 Wentz Street
Tiffin, OH 44883
Phone 419-447-8323
Fax 419-447-6727

dibusch@nwoa.org
office@nwoa.org
joan@nwoa.org
deb@nwoa.org
Web page www.nwoa.org

Northwest Ohio Association
Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ

January 2019

Dear Church Governing Board of General Synod Delegates,

The 32nd General Synod of the United Church of Christ will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 21-25, 2019. Doug Court, Anna Court & Ellie Hocker members from your congregation was elected a delegate at a recent Annual Meeting of NWOA to serve as part of the Ohio Conference delegation.

Each delegate's registration fee has been paid from Conference funds and a stipend of \$250 (hopefully) is being given to each delegate by the Ohio Conference and National UCC. Delegates are responsible for transportation (average \$400), housing (\$450 shared or \$900 single), and meals (\$200). This means that delegates need to find support for approximately \$800-\$900 depending on Conference/National stipend. In the past, delegates have been generously sponsored by their local congregations. Some funds are available based on emergency need from NWOA by contacting the Association Minister.

I am writing you to financially support your pastor/member delegate. It is not often that local churches have a delegate from their church to be part of the Ohio Conference delegation. *(There are only 675 delegates out of 943,521 UCC members at the Synod meetings. Ohio Conference is allotted 65 delegates. Delegates serve two General Synods. Each delegate represents 1,397 members from the 38 conferences.)* It is an honor and a responsibility to be selected as a delegate to General Synod which speaks to congregations and members through votes that are taken at the meeting. To be selected a delegate is a unique experience to be part of the United Church of Christ family as it gathers nationally for worship, sharing faith stories, decision-making, mission, and fellowship.

I encourage your church to prayerfully and generously underwrite all or most of the expenses that the delegate from your church will incur. Your support would be an expression of appreciation of the faith journey made with you in covenant with the entire United Church of Christ. Also, there would be an understanding that a report will be given to your members about what the delegate experienced at General Synod.

If you have any question why it is important to support your delegate to General Synod, please call me.

Sincerely,

Rev. Daniel L. Busch,
Association Minister

"Sustaining and Creating Healthy Churches in Community"

Mrs. Betty Rettig
Moderator
12103 County Rd. L
Napoleon, OH 43545

Pastor Tom Kagy
Vice Moderator
31 N. Marion St.
Bloomville, OH 44818

Pastor Jay Scott
Secretary
PO Box 121
Upper Sandusky, OH 43351

Mr. Larry Clausing
Treasurer
192 St. Francis Ave., V. 16
Tiffin, OH 44883

Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 3rd: Douglas Conklin | 22nd: Marlene McDaniels |
| Scott Keller | Annie Stone |
| 4th: Doris Burkhart | 23rd: Frank Isaacs |
| 8th: Thomas Keplinger | Doug Stone |
| 9th: Dan Eichhorn | Maggie Sulser |
| Ryan Neal | 24th: Ellie McKibben |
| 10th: Alycia Palmer | Kerry Weithman |
| Donald Harvey | 25th: Twila Hiatt |
| 13th: Travis Koschnick | Brock Ritzhaupt |
| 14th: Carole Schreck | Robin Zier |
| Angela Young | 26th: Zaine Furr |
| 15th: Sue Kindell | 27th: Matt McClarren |
| Eugene Toy | 28th: Mary Jeffers |
| 16th: Megan Brown | 29th: Matt Furr |
| Marcheta Gibson | Cheryl Ketterman |
| Kerry Riggs | |
| 18th: Blaine Winegarden | |
| Jodi Merry | |
| 19th: Todd Rudolph | 11th: Bucky & Carol Walter |
| 20th: Chad Burdett | 25th: Tony & Anna Durtschi |
| Dan Hayes | 27th: Todd & Amy Guinther |
| Jill Lusk | |
| Chuck Swick | |
| 21st: Carla Russell | |

Anniversaries

Organ Repair Payoff



The Sterrett Fund will contribute \$48,000. We need to fill the keys to get the rest. \$51,450 has been donated through January 31, 2019. The balance due on the loan is now \$70,550.

The colored in keyboard on the right 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:

**Dan Ritchey
Rev. Reuben Elliker
Richard & Gertrude Shifley
Bing & Jean Bogan
Anna Mae Morris
Marcia Burkhart
Dale & Carol Miller
Doris Burkhart
Emery & Marjorie Shaffer**

Send a hug around the world for Valentine's Day!

Remember those you love with a gift to the Blanket Program. A donation of \$5.00 will purchase one blanket. Please fill in the form below and return it, along with payment, to the church office or place it in the offering plate.

**Donation deadline is February 24th
Please use one form for each order.**

I would like to give _____ blanket (s) at \$5 each:

In Honor Of _____
OR

In Loving Memory Of _____
OR

To The Glory of God _____

Given By _____



BLANKET SUNDAY– HAVE A HEART!

On February 24th First Church will celebrate Blanket Sunday! Each year in the month of Valentine’s Day, we are called to share our love with a gift of a blanket in honor or memory of loved ones or to the Glory of God! Each \$5.00 you contribute will purchase a blanket through Church World Service. These blankets have been a source of shelter or warmth for hurricane and flood victims in the United States, as well as to victims of natural and manmade disasters around the world. Some of the blankets have even assisted Crawford County residents. Look for the insert in this month’s Visitor or the pink insert in the weekly bulletins to make your donation.

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST UPDATE

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 12 people outside the church. The breakfast is from **8am-9:30am**.



THANK YOU

The Mission Committee would like to thank you for your generosity. We sent \$450.00 to One Great Hour of Sharing campaign. Thanks so much for helping others in need.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please sign the “Flower Chart” on the bulletin board outside the church office.

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

PRAYER CHAIN

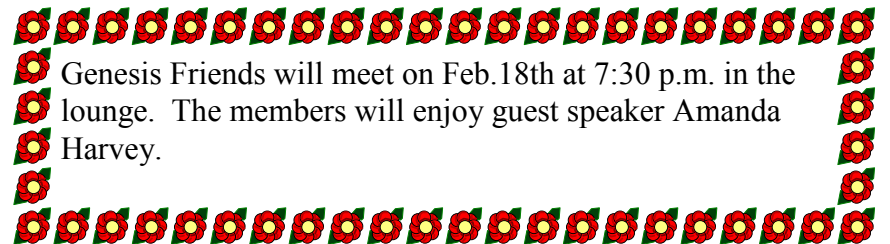
For prayer requests please call the office at 468-4380.

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!

FOOD PANTRY

Canned meats, boxed potatoes, Jell-0, pudding, paper products, cleaning supplies and personal care products are needed. There are containers at both entrances to the sanctuary.



Genesis Friends will meet on Feb.18th at 7:30 p.m. in the lounge. The members will enjoy guest speaker Amanda Harvey.



2019

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|--|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 8:00am WIC | 2 |
| 3 Super Bowl Sunday 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 1:30pm Magnolia Terrace 5:00pm Super Bowl Party | 4 7:00pm 12-Step | 5 8:00am WIC | 6 6:30am Pound Exercise 8:00am WIC 11:00am Tai Chi 6:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Pound Exercise 7:30pm Sr. Choir | 7 4:00pm Head Start 7:00pm Finance 7:00pm 12-Step | 8 | 9 1:00pm Lugo bday party |
| 10 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service | 11 7:00pm 12-Step | 12 8:30am Head Start 7:00pm Consistory | 13 6:30am Pound Exercise 8:00am WIC 11:00am Tai Chi 6:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Pound Exercise 7:30pm Sr. Choir | 14 7:00pm 12-Step | 15 8:00am WIC | 16 |
| 17 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Soup & Bake Sale 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Soup & Bake Sale 2:00pm Mill Creek Worship | 18 7:00pm 12-Step 7:30pm Genesis Friends | 19 | 20 6:30am Pound Exercise 8:00am WIC 11:00am Tai Chi 6:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Pound Exercise 7:30pm Sr. Choir | 21 7:00pm 12-Step | 22 8:00am WIC 8:30am Head Start | 23 |
| 24 Blanket Sunday 8:00am Community Breakfast 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service | 25 7:00pm 12-Step | 26 7:00pm Elders | 27 6:30am Pound Exercise 8:00am WIC 11:00am Tai Chi 6:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Pound Exercise 7:30pm Sr. Choir | 28 7:00pm 12-Step | | |

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 27, 2019**

Greg Russell called the meeting to order. The purpose of the annual meeting is to approve the budget and elect new Consistory Members.

Finance Committee Chairperson Stacey Hocker reviewed the 2018 Financial Report. Special points were:

\$25,000 was given to Our Church's Wider Mission.

There was increased envelope giving in 2018 for which Stacey thanked everyone.

The organ repair balance is now under \$73,000.

The Community Breakfast and Fellowship Meal Fund retains a healthy balance.

The elevator repair was covered by insurance.

Stacey Hocker presented the 2019 Budget.

Points of interest:

There is an increase in staff pay, the first in two years.

An increase in operational expenses is due to a pending new phone system and security system.

A \$20,000 use of reserve funds is included in the 2019 budget even though only \$5000 was used last year. The inclusion is because it is not clear what might be needed during the first part of the year.

Stacey thanked the congregation for responding favorably last year to the request for an increase in giving of \$4 per week.

Stacey noted the cancelation of church on January 20, due to inclement weather, affects the budget and asked everyone to please keep that in mind with future giving.

If anyone would like to see the full six column budget, since just a minimal condensed version is printed out, Doug Court would be happy to review it with you. Just give him a call.

Nominations for consistory were presented by the nominating committee and from the floor.

New Consistory Members are: Elder: Brad Hocker, Trustee: Doug Court, Deacons: Miriam Shifley and Brian Treisch.

The budget passed with 53 YES votes 0 NO votes, and 1 ABSTENTION. 7 ballots contained comments.

HEARTFELT THANKS

Thank you to everyone for signing my birthday card in honor of my 95th birthday on 12/28/18. It was much appreciated.

Dorothy Rhinehart

Dear Church family,

Thank you so much for the gift card & delightful dinner evening with fellow staff. We thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship & delicious meal. Thank you so much for everything.

Mary Ann & Douglas Stone

Dear 1st UCC,

It's so nice to be remembered with carolers & hear the beautiful Christmas music & to see some I haven't seen for awhile. It's deeply appreciated. Thank you to everyone that came.

God Bless you all,

Mary Conklin

To the Congregation of First United Church of Christ,

I would like to thank you for the consideration to be made a Deacon for 2019-2021. I know that I have been seen sparingly during the last year, & that probably had a lot to do with the decision, & you're right to have that concern. I look forward to future opportunities to help 1st UCC.

Mark Shock

Dear 1st UCC,

Thank you for the gift card and Christmas staff dinner. It is nice to spend time with co-workers outside of work & enjoy each other's company. Thank you for all you do for our family.

Todd, Adair & Dom



HOSPITALIZATIONS

Carol Walter
If you are hospitalized, it is 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 David Eichhorn. David passed away January 10, 2019. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.



SCHOLARSHIP SOUPS & SWEETS

The Scholarship Fund Committee will be having a fundraiser called “**Soups and Sweets for Scholarships.**” It will be held before and after the worship service on **February 17th.** Look for the committee table in the west vestibule of the sanctuary. We will be selling many of our popular soups and baked goods from prior years, plus several new recipes that will be sure to please the palate! Our goal is to raise \$2500 this year to support our First UCC college students.



**CONSISTORY MEETING
JANUARY 8, 2019**

A new phone system has been ordered and will be shipped directly to the church.

Instructions for use of the new phone system will be given to all who need to learn.

A new kitchen door should be installed.

Kyle Solomon has requested use of the church to teach Ballroom Dancing.

A one day mission trip is planned for February 18, 2019. The group will leave after church on February 17, 2019 and go to Trinity UCC, a full time mission outreach center in Wooster, Ohio. It is hoped a generational group will participate. The group will participate in a people to people ministry on Monday afternoon.

Over 200 people attended the Christmas Eve service.

Darrin thanked everyone who went caroling and helped deliver poinsettias.

A Super Bowl Watch Party will be held at 5pm on February 3, 2019. Bring your favorite food to share. Alan Forry’s famous chili will be served.