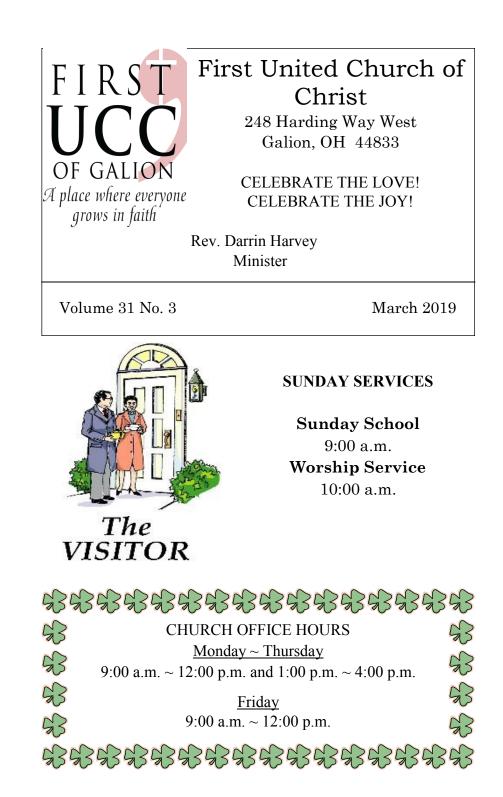
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED DATED MATERIAL

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 HarveyMinister	
Adair PittmanOffice Secretary	
Mary Ann StoneFinancial Secretary	
John SikoraSr. Choir Director	
Stephanie SikoraBell Choir Director	
Jennifer ArbaughYouth Choir DirectorOrganist	
Jessica HammondOrganist	
Christine CoeAccompanist	
Dale MillerCustodian	
Martha SeeKitchen Custodian	
Rev. John MillerPastor Emeritus	
Larry NighVisitation Minister	





We apologize for the late date of this newsletter but with Ash Wednesday and the Dixieland service happening, we at the office have been behind the curve in getting things done. There are several things going on in our community

of faith that I want to talk about.

In December, I mentioned from the pulpit in a sermon that we ought to consider becoming an Open and Affirming congregation. As I explained, this is something that has been growing in my heart. We would be the first in our community to make a public statement that all people are welcome and safe here and that God loves all people the way they were created. At our latest Elders meeting we had a lengthy conversation about moving in this direction and I explained that I want to make sure that I follow through on proposals that I have made.

The recent vote by the United Methodist Church has brought this issue again to the forefront of the news. It's been since 1985 when the General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed a resolution calling on churches to consider becoming Open and Affirming. If you recall, it was in 2005 when the UCC passed a resolution in support of Marriage Equality. This unfortunately caused controversy in our congregation and many families decided to leave after this happened.

My goals for this calendar year are to have conversations about the possibility of adopting the Open and Affirming (OnA) designation. I'm not interested in forcing a vote immediately but only would like to facilitate education and communication in open dialogue. There is a plan in place to begin with a core team of people who would then begin one on one conversations with people in our congregation to talk about the issues involved, what the OnA designation means and why we feel it is important.

I encourage you to come to me with your thoughts and questions and we can sit down and talk. I have resources available that talk about biblical interpretation and the OnA process, should anyone want it.

In another matter, many of you are aware that our church was asked last year to host the annual meeting of the association. The meeting always happens on the last Saturday of April which means that it is the Saturday following Easter on April 27th. The March meeting of consistory will almost entirely be in discussion of this.

I saw dozens of children who were unaccompanied and had been recently released from a detention center. I heard many heartbreaking stories including one woman who was raped, gave birth while traveling through Mexico and was waiting under a bridge at the US border for three weeks before the ACLU got involved and sponsored her case for asylum. She and her beautiful baby girl are awaiting their court hearing in the United States, living safely at a shelter run by nuns.

The SW Good Samaritans are still run by its founder, Rev. Feliberto Pereira, who is himself a refugee from Cuba, arrested in the 1960s for being a Christian. He was held for almost three years before the United States was able to rescue him and others from horrendous circumstances. He is in his upper 80's, but you would never know it meeting and talking to him. (He helped me lift a 100-pound bag of rice into a van). In addition to being the head of this mission, he also pastors a church. I also spent a lot of time with Jimmy Mohler, a longtime volunteer from Missouri who was able to answer a lot of my questions and show me around. When I had time, I worked in their warehouse making personal care kits which we dropped off to missions. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this effort.

The week after I returned, our church sent 9 of us to North Street Mission in Wooster, Ohio that is run out of Trinity UCC there. We stayed overnight on Sunday and then on Monday we helped serve breakfast to people of the community. In the afternoon we helped put the primer coat on a Habitat for Humanity house in nearby Bellville. It was a very good time together and we learned a lot. For those of you on Facebook, you might have seen our pictures. We are planning another mission trip this summer in Cincinnati to Camp Washington, which is another mission run by a fellow UCC church. Stay tuned for more information about that, especially if you would like to go.

May your March be blessed my friends and during this Lent may God grow closer to you, as you grow closer to God.

Blessings,

Pastor Darrin

Organ Repair Payoff

The Sterrett Fund will contribute \$48,000.We need to fill the keys to get the rest. \$52,060 has been donated through February 28, 2019. The balance due on the loan is now \$69,750.



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. Ruben Elliker Richard & Gertrude Shifley Bing & Jean Bogan Anna Mae Morris Marcia Burkhart Dale & Carol Miller Doris Burkhart Emery & Marjorie Shaffer Every consistory member is going to be involved but we also need many more people that can help with lunch, the collection of disaster buckets and even taking pictures. We will have signups beginning this month. This is a big honor and responsibility for us, and we need an "all-hands on deck" approach.

Many of you asked about my trip to Texas last month. As it was not an official sabbatical, I didn't prepare a lengthy presentation like I did last year. I did, however, want to say that my time was interesting and very informative. For those of you that don't know, I spent five days in the Rio Grande valley of Texas volunteering and working with an organization called the Southwest Good Samaritans. This organization is supported through Our Church's Wider Mission offering and is under the umbrella of our sister denomination, the Disciples of Christ. The Rio Grande Valley is WAY down there in Texas, so it takes a long time to get there.

The organization's emphasis is to support refugees on both sides of the border with basic needs. They have a VERY large campus with the potential to house over a hundred people. Currently due to staff limitations, they house 25 people who are awaiting their court date in the United States for asylum due to credible threats to their lives in their countries of origin. Most of these people have been in one of the detention facilities in the area before being released. As I expected, most were from Central America who hiked over a thousand miles through Mexico. To my surprise, there were also people housed there that are from Asia, Africa and Cuba who made their way to South America on a plane flight and hiked many months from there in order to apply for asylum here.

The organization also partners with Catholic Charity missions and a United Methodist Mission in Brownsville collecting supplies for the refugees and dropping them off once a week. They help detainees in securing legal representation, make trips across the border to help those waiting at legal ports of entry and help with bus tickets for those with family members willing to sponsor them in the United States while they await their court hearings. This organization operates very differently from the Green Valley Samaritans whom I visited last year. The GV Samaritans emphasis is helping migrants crossing in the desert and setting out water so that people don't die from dehydration, which thousands have. I also learned on this trip that the Mexican states that are across the border from the Rio Grande Valley are heavily corrupt from cartel influence and not safe, so I did not visit Mexico as I did last year while in Arizona. (see last page)



7th:	Dave & Gretchen Burdett	
18th:	Thomas & Patricia Bash	
	David & Cariel Christman	
22nd:	Gary & Janet Reynolds	
24th:	Mike & Dedra Collins	
26th:	Don & Betty Tucker	
30th	Doug & Catherine Conklin	

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Doug & Catherine Conklin

Joys &

Concerns

6th: Megan James **Ruth Ritchey** Steve Reynolds 7th: 9th: **Catherine Conklin** William Hiatt Caleb Koschnick **Emery Shaffer** Thomas Bash 10th 11th: Katrina Harmon Kathy Ketterman 12th: Karissa Rinehart **Bill Shifley** Lauren Rudolph 13th: **Rachel Burgess** 15th: Sheila Eichhorn 16th: Ayla McKibben Lynae McKibben Caitlin Koschnick 17th:

Susan Ness

18th:

19th

Alan Mularski

Terry Snyder

Deanna Durham

Karen Rudolph

Dan Brown

Alana Burkhart

Jacob Bickert

Amy Guinther 21st: Talia Reid 22nd: Jennifer Arbaugh Brooklyn Black John T. Miller Gretchen Burdett 24th: Fritz Durtschi James Reid Linda Swick **Bill Zimmerman** Brenda Neal 26th[•] Kerri Koschnick 27th: 28th: Judy Gibson Keton Pfeifer 30th: Mary Ann Heitzman

3 ******* ***************** ************* 米 * 米 **HOSPITALIZATIONS** None to report 米 米 BIRTH Congratulations to Chuck & Emily Musselman on the birth of their daughter, Cooper Rae. Cooper was born March 3rd weighing 5lb. 6oz. Proud grandparents are Keith & Judy 🔆 Eichhorn. 💥 DEATH 1st UCC extends sympathy to the family of Florence Lauthers. Florence passed away March 3, 2019. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.



1st:

5th:





Week of March 3rd: Sun. Prov. 9:1-12 2 Cor. 9:6b-15 Mark 10:46-52 Mon. Prov. 10:1-12 2 Tim. 1:15-2:13 John 12:27-36a Tue. Prov. 15:16-33 2 Tim. 2:14-26 John 12:36b-50 Wed. Prov. 17:1-20 2 Tim. 3:1-17 John 13:1-20 Thu. Prov. 21:30-22:6 2 Tim. 4:1-8 John 13:21-30 Fri. Prov. 23:19-21, 29-24:2 2 Tim. 4:9-22 John 13:31-38 Prov. 25:15-28 Sat. Phil. 1:1-11 John 18:1-14

Weels	of March 10th:
Sun.	
	Heb. 2:10-18
	John 12:44-50
Mon.	Gen. 37:1-11
	1 Cor. 1:1-19
	Mark 1:1-13
Tue.	Gen. 37:12-24
	1 Cor. 1:20-31
	Mark 1:14-28
Wed.	Gen. 37:25-36
	1 Cor. 2:1-13
	Mark 1:29-45
Thu.	Gen. 39:1-23
	1 Cor. 2:14-3:15
	Mark 2:1-12
Fri.	Gen. 40:1-23
	1 Cor. 3:16-23
	Mark 2:13-22
Sat.	Gen. 41:1-13
Sau.	1 Cor. 4:1-7
	Mark 2:23-3:6
	WIATK 2.20-0.0

Week	of March 17th:	Week of March 24th:		
Sun.	Gen. 41:14-45 Rom. 6:3-14 John 5:19-24	Sun.	Gen. 44:1-17 Rom. 8:1-10 John 5:25-29	
Mon.	Gen. 41:46-57 1 Cor. 4:8-20(21) Mark 3:7-19a	Mon.	Gen. 44:18-34 1 Cor. 7:25-31 Mark 5:21-43	
Tue.	Gen. 42:1-17 1 Cor. 5:1-8 Mark 3:19b-35	Tue.	Gen. 45:1-15 1 Cor. 7:32-40	
Wed.	Gen. 42:18-28 1 Cor. 5:9-6:11 Mark 4:1-20	Wed.	Mark 6:1-13 Gen. 45:16-28 1 Cor. 8:1-13	
Thu.	Gen. 42:29-38 1 Cor. 6:12-20 Mark 4:21-34	Thu.	28-34	
Fri.	Gen. 43:1-15 1 Cor. 7:1-9 Mark 4:35-41	Fri.	1 Cor. 9:1-15 Mark 6:30-46 Gen. 47:1-26 1 Cor. 9:16-27	
Sat.	Gen. 43:16-34 1 Cor. 7:10-24 Mark 5:1-20	Sat.	Mark 6:47-56	

. 44:1-17 n. 8:1-10 n 5:25-29 a. 44:18-34 or. 7:25-31 rk 5:21-43 45:1-15 or. 7:32-40 ck 6:1-13 . 45:16-28 or. 8:1-13 ck 6:13-29 . 46:1-7, 34 or. 9:1-15 k 6:30-46 . 47:1-26 or. 9:16-27 k 6:47-56 47:27-48:7 or. 10:1-13 k 7:1-23

HEARTFELT THANKS

The Scholarship Committee would like to extend a big "Thank You" for everyone's participation in the February 17th "Soups & Sweets Fundraiser." Together we raised \$712.

First UCC Scholarship Committee

Dear 1st UCC,

Thank you so much for the lovely cross. It was a joy to serve as a deacon & help to welcome our members every Sunday. I hope that other members will take the chance in the next few years.

- 🖊 Thanks again,
- Megan Brown

Dear Ladies of the Church,

My heart is overwhelmed with gratitude for each of you incredible church volunteers. Your help with planning cooking & serving a wonderful meal for my father's (David Eichhorn) funeral reception was so generous. Words cannot express how much I appreciated this beautiful outpouring of love from the church community. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. May God continue to bless you & your families. With deepest thanks,

The Eichhorn family

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous gift of health kits, hospital socks, razors and men's briefs we received on Feb. 3rd. You can be assured your gift will "refresh others."

Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries Los Fresnos, Texas



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

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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

Soups, crackers, pastas & peanut butter are needed. There are containers at both entrances to the sanctuary.

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GENESIS FRIENDS

Genesis Friends will meet on Mar. 18th at 7:30 p.m. in the lounge. The ladies will be joined by Julie Duryea & Stacie Kingseed speaking about their mission trip to India.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 8:00am WIC	2
3 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Holy Joe's Potluck 1:30pm Magnolia Terrace	4 7:00pm 12-Step	5 8:00am WIC 6:30pm Pound Exercise 7:00pm Elders	6 8:00am WIC 11:00am Tai Chi 4:00pm Ashes to Go 7:00pm Ash Wed. Worship	7 4:00pm Head Start 7:00pm 12-Step	8	9 Daylight savings time
10 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	11 7:00pm 12-Step	12	13 8:00am WIC 11:00am Tai Chi 6:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Pound Exercise 7:30pm Sr. Choir	14 7:00pm Finance 7:00pm 12-Step	15 8:00am WIC	16
17 Patricky 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 2:00pm Mill Creek Worship	18 7:00pm 12-Step 7:30pm Genesis Friends	19 8:30am Head Start 7:00pm Consistory	20 8:00am WIC 11:00am Tai Chi 6:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Pound Exercise 7:30pm Sr. Choir	21 5:00pm Outreach Meal 7:00pm 12-Step	22 8:00am WIC	23
24 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	25 7:00pm 12-Step	26 7:00pm Elders	27 8:00am WIC 11:00am Tai Chi 6:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Pound Exercise 7:30pm Sr. Choir	28 7:00pm 12–Step	29 8:00am WIC	30
31 8:00am Community Breakfast 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service						

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 248 Harding Way West Galion, Ohio 44833 419-468-4380



2019 COMMITTEE & STAFF REFERENCE BOOK

2019 CONSISTORY MEMBERS

SENIOR ELDER	SENIOR DEACON	SENIOR TRUSTEE
Nancy Green (20)	Angie Brocwell (21)	Kevin Cotsmire (21)

ELDERS

Nancy Green (20) Sandy Powell (21) Bill Shifley (22) Brad Hocker (23) DEACONS

Todd Rudolph (20) Rose Crago-Roach (20) Carole Schreck (21) Miriam Shifley (22) Brian Treisch (22)

TRUSTEES

Alan Forry (20) Larry Ness (22) Doug Court (23)

* (Secretary)

*Barb Koschnick

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STAFF

Minister Office Secretary Financial Secretary Sr. Choir Director Bell Choir Director Organists

Custodian

Kitchen Custodian

Visitation Minister

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Darrin Harvey

Adair Pittman

Mary Ann Stone

John Sikora

Stephanie Sikora

Jessica Hammond & Jennifer Arbaugh

Dale Miller

Martha See

Larry Nigh

Rev. John Miller

CONSISTORY MEETING FEBRUARY 12, 2019

A mini mission trip will be held February 17 & 18, 2019. A group of 15 will leave after church on Sunday to go to a Wooster UCC Church, spend the night and return Monday evening.

March 3, 2019 a Dixie Land Band will participate in the worship service and Holy Joe's Potluck will follow.

April 7, 2019 first Sunday in April, NO COMMUNION. Communion will be on Easter Sunday.

Schedule for Lent:

Wednesday, March 6, 2019 Ash Wednesday.

Thursday, April 18, 2019 Maundy Thursday (combined eat and worship in the dining room).

Sunday, April21, 2019

8AM Sonrise Service (Dining Room)

8:30AM Breakfast

10:00AM Easter Worship in the sanctuary with communion

Sunday May 19, 2019 Confirmation

The NWO Association Meeting will be held **Saturday**, **April 27**, **2019 at First UCC from 8AM-4PM**. All areas of the church will be used. Many volunteers will be needed for help in numerous areas. Breakfast and lunch will be served. Brad Hocker is in charge of the lunch. He will be asking for volunteers to help with food, serving and cleanup. Sign up sheets will be posted for all needed areas of help, as well as personal calls being made. Please be willing to give of your time for this huge event for our church.

The doors to the sanctuary will remain closed during the service as long as the weather is cooler.

The new phone system should be up and running within the week.

The bell will now be rung each Sunday prior to the start of worship.

The floor in the dining room will be stripped, waxed and polished before Easter. The process will take two days. The carpets will be cleaned, if not replaced before the NWO meeting.

A cleanup day will be held in the spring. A list of items that needs to be done, both indoors and outdoors, will be compiled. If anyone has any suggestions, please contact Kevin Cotsmire.

Three delegates, Ellie Hocker, Anna Court and Doug Court, will attend the General Synod in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Friday June 21, 2019 to Tuesday, June 25, 2019. Donations to help fund the trip are being accepted.

<u>CONSISTORY MEETINGS</u> will now be held on the <u>THIRD</u> <u>TUESDAY</u> of the month!!!



BLANKETS

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you for your generous donation to the Church World Service Blanket program. Thanks to all, of you we are able to provide 268 blankets to people in need of shelter or warmth around the world. Thank you so much for your support!

HOLY JOE'S

Thank you to all who attended the Holy Joe's potluck. The food was delicious and the fellowship the best! We will be purchasing coffee to be shipped to our troops with the \$535 donated

be shipped to our troops with the \$535 donated.



FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH MEAL

Our next Fellowship and Outreach Meal will be on Thursday, March 21^{st} at 5:00. We are looking for cake bakers that would like to bake a 9" x 13" cake. The recipe for a "green" cake is on the window outside the office along with the sign up sheet. See you on the 21^{st} !

EASTER FLOWERS

Enclosed with this month's Visitor is the sign up sheet for Easter flowers. The amount of money above the cost of the flowers will go to United Church Homes. If you don't care to purchase a flower but would like to donate to UC Homes, please place your gift in an envelope and put it in the offering plate or leave it in the church office. Thank you for your support of the United Church Homes.

BUCKETS & PERSONAL CARE KITS

We will be filling Buckets and Personal Care Kits during the month of April. Watch the deacon's bench on March 31st to pick up a bucket or bag to fill. Both buckets and kits need to be returned to the church no later than April 21st so they can be turned in at the association Spring Conference on April 27th. Thank you.



EASTER LILIES AND TULIPS

Flowers are available at the cost of \$12.00 each. Please fill in the order form below and return it, along with payment, to the church office or place it in the offering plate.

Florist deadline for orders is April 14th. Please use one form per order.

I would like to order: Lily(s)		
	Tulip(s)Hyacinths(s)	
	In Honor Of	
	OR	
	In Loving Memory Of	
	OR	
	To The Glory of God	
Give	en By	
	I will leave my flower for church use.	
	I will deliver my flower to a shut-in.	

(Name of shut-in)

Becky Blocksom thanked everyone for coming, despite the weather, and left an activity calendar for all who were interested. Becky King spoke on OMA (Opening Minds through Art) being on the four (4) Thursdays in March and the 1st Thursday in April. She also announced she will be preaching at Wyandot Co. Home on March 14th. She then closed the meeting with prayer and led the group in "The Way."

The next meeting will March 18th. A bake sale will be held. Devotions will be by Marion First with a sack luncheon following the meeting. Those who signed up for pies for the residents following bingo in March are: Jean Meck, Mary Louise Diebler (2), Barb Nigh and Rhonda Harvey.

CONGRATULATIONS

We are pleased to announce our senior leadership for 2019. Serving as Sr. Elder is Nancy Green, our Sr. Deacon is Angie Brocwell and our Sr. Trustee is Kevin Cotsmire.



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 scrambled eggs, sausage & fruit. Last month we served 14 people outside the church. We are so happy we can help our neighbors in need! **REMINDER**, the breakfast is from **8am-9:30am**.

Fairhaven Community Volunteer Service Group Newsletter February 18, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Barb Nigh. Devotions were given by Upper Sandusky Trinity. Roll Call: Volunteers – 15, Staff – 4 Minutes of last meeting stood approved as read. Treasury - 4,617.34Gift Shop - 3,738.92Bingo Cup - 15.00

VSG Business:

The Auditing Committee consisting of Ruth Adams and Becky Blocksom will set a time to audit the books and report at next meeting. The Scholarship Committee reported they have four (4) applicants to process.

The Wish List Committee went over the list that had been passed out in December. The group discussed and approved purchasing the first three items on the list, these being: \$1,000 for Resident Specialized Programs, \$1,000 for Activities, and \$1,000 toward Wand Thermometers. In the near future \$1,000 will go toward the scholarship. It was agreed to possibly look toward purchasing some blinds for the first floor sun porch after the bake sale if funds allow. Corrections to the 2019 booklet were announced. (Changes are: Diane Ahlefeld's phone number on page 19 to 419-610-4799, adding phone number for Nancy Van Scoder on page 20 of 419-208-2961, flipping the activities for April and May, correcting the Dec. meeting date to the 16th) Discussion was held on canceling the January meeting in the future and instead, on the Undecorate Day (whenever it is scheduled), to also put up new decorations on residents' doors. **Staff:**

Lori announced that 82% of employees participated in the giving campaign and raised over \$15,000. On the 20th they will be recognized by the home office. They have added Nursing Supervisors to handle various shifts. On 26th the Heidelberg students will be at Fairhaven to meet with residents and discuss Health Care and its effects on the population. Social Workers Month begins on the 1st.





MARCH 20, 2019