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CHRIST FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF

248 Harding Way W Galion, OH 44833

www.uccgalion.org Rev. Harvey: pastor@uccgalion.org Church E-mail: office@uccgalion.org Phone: 419-468-4380

Rev. Darrin HarveyMinister	ster
Adair PittmanOffice Secretary	etary
Mary Ann StoneFinancial Secretary	etary
John SikoraSr. Choir Director	ector
Stephanie SikoraBell Choir Director	ector
Jennifer ArbaughOrganist	anist
Jessica HammondOrganist	anist
Christine CoeAccompanist	anist
Dale MillerCustodian	dian
Martha SeeKitchen Custodian	odian
Rev. John MillerPastor Emeritus	ritus
Larry NighVisitation Minister	nister





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. 12

grows in faith

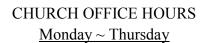
December 2019



SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday School 9:00 a.m. **Worship Service** 10:00 a.m.





9:00 a.m. $\sim 12:00$ p.m. and 1:00 p.m. $\sim 4:00$ p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m. ~ 12:00 p.m. Dear Church,

Advent begins for us this year on December 1st and, as always, it is a busy time of expectation and preparation. Our focus for the season this year will revolve around the



beloved carol "Joy to the World" as it is its 300th anniversary. The lyrics to the carol were composed by Isaac Watts taken from Psalm 98 and the music was composed by Lowell Mason inspired from George F. Handel. Of course, this hymn is known as a Christmas carol, but looking more closely at its lyrics, it really could be sung at any time of the year. As of the late 20th century, it is the most published Christmas carol in history. Each week we will focus on another verse of the carol in order to frame our advent wreath lighting and message.

The world right now is experiencing a lot of anger, pain and fear and we need to hear a message that joy and compassion still exist and that will win out. Two of the world's most respected religious leaders, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and His Holiness the Dalai Lama, have co-authored a book together entitled "The Book of Joy." They talk extensively about how we can discover joy in the face of adversity and suffering. Many often say that the goal in life is happiness, yet as Christians there is something more valuable than happiness and that is joy. Archbishop Tutu explains that happiness is usually dependent upon something exterior that happens to us, (did we get a job or mate that we wanted, etc.), while joy is something that comes from within that we can access at any point in our lives.

Yet sometimes attaining joy takes a lot of work. At our Community Thanksgiving service, a local resident, Doug Greene, was talking about the slow change he underwent through the course of five years of meditation.

After doing mindfulness meditation every day during this time, he finally realized a positive feedback loop of joy in his life and was changed by it. I often say that the goal of Christianity is change. Change is possible in our lives if we decide to work and invest in ourselves.

Right now, the trend on Facebook is to post 10-year pictures to show others how much you have changed during that time. A better question might be how much have we changed spiritually and how might we show how much we have changed spiritually?

The attainment of joy is an internal and external pursuit. Changing our thinking is one way to do this. Another way of achieving more joy in our lives is helping others. This year we have an ambitious project that everyone can participate in and that is our "Reverse Advent" project. We have boxes at the church with a list of food items that goes with it. The idea is that you take the box home and each day you place the designated item into it that will go to help a needy family this year. Just a little bit every day will really add up to something at the end of the month. You can find more information about this later in the newsletter.

I look forward to engaging in our conversations on joy every week with you on Sunday mornings. I hope that you had a very Happy Thanksgiving this past week and my prayer for each of you is a JOYOUS holiday season.

Blessings,

Pastor Darrin

THE LONGEST NIGHT

I used to be in a singing group in high school and during the Christmas season we would sing "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year." But for those who are grieving someone's passing, it is often the hardest time of the year. The service of "Blue Christmas" is held on the "shortest day of the year" - December 22nd. It is a worship service of prayer and reflection designed for those who are seeking hope and healing for any kind of struggle. We invite you, whether you have been experiencing sadness or not, to come on Sunday evening December 22nd at 7pm and to pray together, not only for our own pains and suffering, but for that of the world's as well.



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 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)



NOTE FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

If you would like to have your contribution credited for 2019, financial books will close on Monday,

December 31st at 11:00a.m.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will be **Sunday, January 26th** 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. 10th. Also, all Financial Reports are due into the church office by January 10, 2020.



First UCC Scholarship Recipients

The Scholarship Committee would like to thank the members of First UCC for their 2019 contributions to our church's Scholarship Fund. This year's First UCC Scholarship recipients include: Luke Eisnaugle, Ellie Hocker, Ethan Hocker & Lauren Rudolph. Each received a \$500 scholarship award sent to their respective colleges.

Thanks to everyone at First UCC for their contributions in 2019 that support this special mission.



70 V			104	IZ + D
	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
	0 421	Bill Swick	25th	Gary Repp
	7th	Jessica Brocwell	27th	Lauren Mularski
	/ C 11	Lisa Eichhorn		Doug Schreck
		Carol Miller		Deb Zellner
	10th	Ruth Essex	28th	Douglas Harvey
	10111	Anderson Roesch		Mark Olsen
		Anthony Russell		Dorothy Rhinehart
		Mike Swick	29th	Sue Bloom
	11th	Ben McKibben		Chris Burkhart
	11111			Evan Riggs
	104	Kelly Spore	30th	Jerry Volk
	12th	Todd Lusk	31st	Parker Repp
	104	Larry Ness		- w
	13th	Bruce Angell		
		Mindy Lamontagne		
		Mary Zimmerman		
	14th	Jan Reynolds		
		Chris Ruth		
	15th	Rebecca Mularski		
	17th	John Cole		

		Anniversaries
Katy Repp		
Evelyn Feik	7th:	Ryon & Erin Bickert
Paige Kruger	7 th.	Alam & Jami Malamaki

7th: Ryon & Erin Bickert
8th: Alan & Jerri Mularski
10th: Jim & Nancy Reid
Bill & Lynne Shifley
17th: Travis & Kerri Koschnick
27th: John & Linda Gulick

John & Marcy Miller

29th:



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.

<u>Deadline to order is December 8th.</u> <u>The florist cannot take orders after that.</u>

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)					



FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH MEAL

Thank you to Brad Hocker & his team for this month's Fellowship & Outreach Meal. Our Christmas Fellowship & Outreach Meal will be on Thursday, December 19th @ 5:00 p.m. See you there!

BACK BAY MISSION

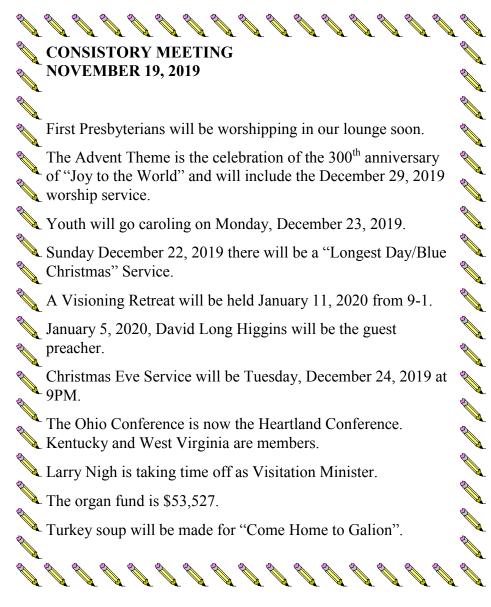
Thank you to the Mission Committee, Flock Sunday School class, youth & to Doug Court, chief cook, & team of helpers and everyone that attended our Thanksgiving dinner. We could not have done this without the many hands that helped. We sent approximately \$550.00 to our Back Bay Mission in Mississippi, but the real purpose of this meal is fellowship with our church family.

COME HOME TO GALION

Don't forget to stop at our table on the square during the Come Home to Galion celebration on December 7th for a bowl of turkey noodle soup & hot beverage. We can always use extra help at our table. See you there!

MISSION CHRISTMAS TREE

This year we are having a Reverse Advent Calendar for our Mission Tree. If you didn't pick up a box with a list of grocery items to add each day to fill the box, there are still a few boxes left. Please return the filled box to the church by Christmas Eve so we can share them with others less fortunate than we are. If you have any questions, please contact a Mission Committee member or the office. Merry Christmas!!



A NOTE FROM THE KITCHEN

Please pick up any dish that was left from a funeral dinner if you have brought one in.

Thank you,
The Kitchen Custodian

Organ Repair Payoff

The Sterrett Fund will contribute \$48,000. We need to fill the keys to get the rest. \$67,070 has been donated through November 30, 2019. The balance due on the loan is now \$52,700.



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:

Veda Shifley
Wilbur Shifley
Doris Burkhart
Rev. Ruben Elliker
Richard & Gertrude Shifley
Marcia Burkhart
Dale & Carol Miller
Jerry Winters
William L. & Cecile Swick



ADVENT CANDLELIGHT DINNER

Join us after worship on Sunday, December 8th 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 at the Bistro & Ornament Gift Exchange (\$5.00) will be on Monday, December 16th at 6:30 pm at the Bistro. Please let Nancy Green know, if you plan on attending by December 9th.



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 & fruit. Last month we served 14 people outside the church.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	2 5:30pm Drivers Ed 7:00pm COP Meeting 7:00pm Messiah Practice	3 8:00am WIC 5:30pm Drivers Ed	4 5:30pm Drivers Ed 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Sr. Choir	5 5:30pm Drivers Ed 7:00pm 12-Step	6 8:00am WIC 1:00pm WIC (DR)	7 1:00pm Soup on the Square "Come Home to Galion"
8 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Advent Dinner	9 5:30pm Drivers Ed 7:00pm Messiah Practice	10 8:00am Head Start 5:30pm Drivers Ed	11 8:00am WIC 5:30pm Drivers Ed 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Sr. Choir	12 4:00pm Head Start 5:30pm Drivers Ed 6:00pm Finance 7:00pm 12-Step	13	14 11:00am Messiah Rehearsal
15 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 3:00pm The Messiah	16 6:30pm Genesis Friends	17 7:00pm Consistory	18 8:00am WIC 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Sr. Choir	19 5:00pm Outreach Meal 7:00pm 12-Step	20 8:00am WIC	21
9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 7:00pm The Longest Night	23 7:00pm Youth Caroling	24 OFFICE CLOSED 9:00pm Candlelight Service	Christ the Savior is Born!	26 7:00pm 12-Step	27 8:00am WIC	28
29 8:00am Comm. Breakfast 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	30	31 OFFICE CLOSED				

Fairhaven Community Volunteer Service Group Newsletter November 18, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Barb Nigh. Barb reminded all that collection for the Bakeless Bake Sale was taking place at the registration table, a card was going around for Miriam Shifley, and decorating at Fairhaven and the Tree of Love dedication will take place next week on November 25th.

Devotions were given by St. John's Bucyrus.

Roll Call: Volunteers – 21 with 1 guest, Staff – 0

Minutes of the previous meeting stood approved as read.

Treasury - \$5,660.65

Gift Shop - \$3,500.10

Bingo Cup - \$18.50

VSG Business:

Flyers for the Christmas Open House announced the event to take place on Tuesday, Dec. 10th at Fairhaven from 1 to 4.

There will be an OMA Art Show from 2 to 3, a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, food and more. All were encouraged to take a flyer back to their church.

The Wish List as distributed at the prior meeting was discussed. It was agreed to spend from the Treasury \$1,000 for the Resident Specialized Program (for Opening Minds through Art, Music and Memory and Aromatherapy), \$1,000 for arts, crafts, and party supplies, as well as entertainers for activities, \$1,000 toward new curtains for the assisted living neighborhood, and \$1,000 toward blinds for the first floor sunporch.

Thus far \$390 has been received for a memorial for Phyllis Diederich. It was agreed to add whatever is collected at today's Bakeless Bake Sale to this amount and determine what to apply it to at the next meeting.

The Gift Shop is donating \$1,000 to the Residents' Needs Funds which covers extras the residents need such as haircuts, etc.



Officers for the upcoming year are as follows: President –
Barb Nigh, Vice President – Arlene Main, Secretary – Rhonda
Harvey, Assistant Secretary – Lydia Guthrie, Co-Treasurers –
Jean Pratt and Mary Louise Diebler, and Gift Shop Treasurer –
Beverly Wheeler.

The winner of the quarter of beef at the Harvest Fest Raffle was Madeline Webster. Madeline works for Health Services and Hospice of Wyandot County as a STNA and has been with them for 28 years.

Since no staff was present at this meeting, Barb closed the meeting with prayer and led the group in "The Way."

The next meeting will be December 16th with Christmas stockings for the residents to be stuffed at 10am, prior to the meeting.

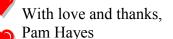
Upper Emmanuel will have devotions and installation of the officers will take place. Pizza will be available for the members.

Those furnishing pies for the residents following bingo are:
Donna Randell, Mary Louise Diebler, Bernice Durer, Dorothy
Eckert, and Jean Pratt.



HEARTFELT THANKS

I would like to thank all of you for your prayers, phone calls & cards after my knee replacement surgery. It's so wonderful having the love & support of our great congregation!





UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 2nd: COP Meeting @ 7pm

Dec. 7th: Come Home to Galion @ 1pm

Dec. 8th: Last day to order poinsettias

Dec. 8th: Advent Dinner @ 11:30am

Dec. 12th: Finance Meeting @ 6:00pm

Dec. 15th: Messiah @ 3pm

Dec. 16th: Genesis Friends @ 6:30pm

Dec. 19th: Fellowship & Outreach Meal 5-6pm

Dec 22nd: "The Longest Night" Worship @ 7pm

Dec. 23rd: Youth Caroling @ 7pm

Dec. 24th: Christmas Eve Worship @ 9pm

Dec 24-25th: OFFICE CLOSED

Dec. 29th: Community Breakfast 8-9:30am

Dec. 31st: Financial Books close @ 11am

Dec. 31st & Jan. 1st: OFFICE CLOSED



December l John 1:1-5

December 2 Isaiah 9:2-7

December 3 Isaiah 11:1-10

December 4 Jeremiah 33:14-16

December 5 Luke 1:5-10

December 6 Luke 1:11-17

December 7 Luke 1:18-25

December 8 Luke 1:26-38

December 9 Matthew 1:18-21

December 10 Matthew 1:22-26

December Il Luke 1:39-45

December 12 Luke 1:46-56

December 13 Luke 2:1-5

December 14 Luke 2:6-7

December 15 Luke 2:8-12

December 16 Luke 2:13-14

December 17 Luke 2:15-18

December 18 Luke 2:19-20

December 19 Micah 5:2-5

December 20 Matthew 2:1-2

December 21 Matthew 2:3-6

December 22 Matthew 2:7-8

December 23 Matthew 2:9-12

December 24 John 1:14