

## 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-----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 31 No. 12

December 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.

Dear Church,

Advent begins for us this year on December 1<sup>st</sup> 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 300<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.*



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



## Anniversaries

7th:	Ryon & Erin Bickert
8th:	Alan & Jerri Mularski
10th:	Jim & Nancy Reid
	Bill & Lynne Shifley
17th:	Travis & Kerri Koschnick
27th:	John & Linda Gulick
29th:	John & Marcy Miller





### HOSPITALIZATIONS

Dale Miller, Miriam Shifley & Dodie Swick

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.

### BAPTISM

Anniston Marie Roesch was baptized Sunday, November 17, 2019.

Born: September 9, 2019

7lbs 13 oz, 21 inches

Parents: Andy and Rachel Roesch

Siblings: Anderson and Addison

Grandparents: Gary and Brenda Neal, Bob and Terri Roesch

### HEARTFELT THANKS

Dear Church Family,

I want to thank you for your friendship & support. Your kindness has reminded me how lucky I am to have you in my life. My recovery will be much quicker because of it. Thank you, friends,

Sue Bloom

### 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 8th.**

**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



## 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!!

## CONSISTORY MEETING NOVEMBER 19, 2019

First Presbyterians will be worshipping in our lounge soon.

The Advent Theme is the celebration of the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of "Joy to the World" and will include the December 29, 2019 worship service.

Youth will go caroling on Monday, December 23, 2019.

Sunday December 22, 2019 there will be a "Longest Day/Blue Christmas" Service.

A Visioning Retreat will be held January 11, 2020 from 9-1.

January 5, 2020, David Long Higgins will be the guest preacher.

Christmas Eve Service will be Tuesday, December 24, 2019 at 9PM.

The Ohio Conference is now the Heartland Conference. Kentucky and West Virginia are members.

Larry Nigh is taking time off as Visitation Minister.

The organ fund is \$53,527.

Turkey soup will be made for "Come Home to Galion".

## 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.



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



# 2019

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 <b>6:00pm Finance</b> 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 <b>7:00pm Consistory</b>	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
22 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 7:00pm The Longest Night	23 7:00pm Youth Caroling	24 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 9:00pm Candlelight Service	25 	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 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>				



**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 25<sup>th</sup>.

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. 10<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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!

With love and thanks,  
Pam Hayes



## 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 1	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 11	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