

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

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**First United Church of
Christ**

248 Harding Way West
Galion, OH 44833

**CELEBRATE THE LOVE!
CELEBRATE THE JOY!**

Rev. Darrin Harvey
Minister

Volume 32 No. 1

January 2020



**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,

Happy New Year! I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well. Not only is this a new year but it is also a new decade! 2020 always seemed like a far off experience, yet here we are. I have been fortunate to spend half of the last decade with you here in Galion and I'm blessed to be here to begin a new one.

2020 is a landmark year and I think it presents us with an opportunity to think big. This past year I have challenged us to think of church differently and one of those ways is to think of how we present ourselves to the community - What is our message and how do we get it out? How do we reach people who have never been to a church? How is our church different from others in this community? What makes us worth attending and investing in? What are we good at and what could we improve?

These are some of the "large view" issues we will deal with in our visioning retreat happening on Saturday, January 11th from 9am - 1pm. In this retreat we hope to come to a consensus on what our mission and vision are as a church that will influence what we do. In the past we have called this a "leadership" retreat but we felt that that was too exclusive for those who didn't think of themselves as "leaders." We want everyone who is interested in having a voice to come and share their ideas and gifts. This year we welcome Nicole Havelka, a church consultant, who will come and moderate our gathering that day.

In the early church God did amazing things with people who were coming together under a common cause - Acts 2:46-47 says - "Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved." This experience is possible if we allow ourselves to be led forward by the Holy Spirit into a new and exciting decade together.

We hope that you consider coming and putting our minds and spirits together in a day of sharing and growth. Lunch will be served as well, so we look forward to seeing as many as can come.

Blessings,

Pastor Darrin



Consistory Highlights

December 17, 2019

Guest speaker, David Long Higgins, our Heartland Conference Minister, will be at our church for the January 5th service.

Visioning Retreat will be held on January 11th from 9:00 - 1:00 pm.

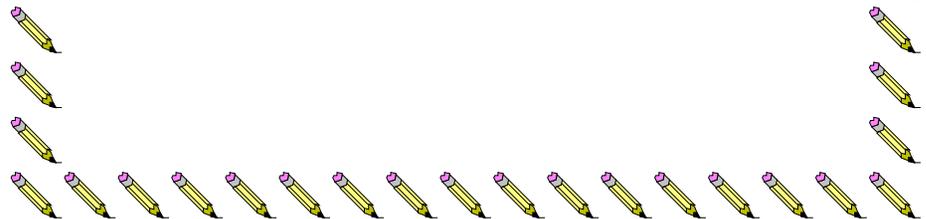
The 2020 budget was approved & will be voted by the congregation at the Annual Meeting January 26, 2020.

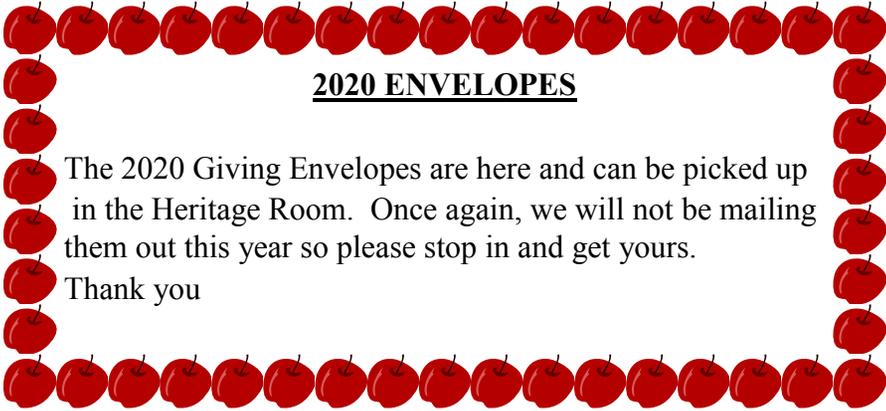
Contact the church to receive an absentee ballot to vote at the Annual Meeting.

Judy Eichhorn will become the new Elder.

Todd Rudolph will become the new Trustee.

Barb Koschnick & Mary Ann Stone will become the new Deacons.





2020 ENVELOPES

The 2020 Giving Envelopes are here and can be picked up in the Heritage Room. Once again, we will not be mailing them out this year so please stop in and get yours.

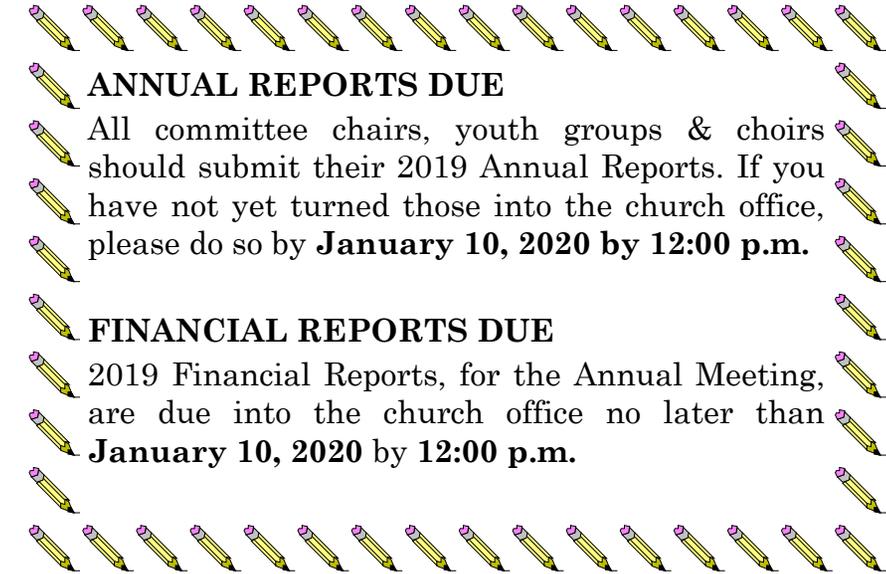
Thank you



HEARTFELT THANKS

Carol and I would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards, calls and visits during my recent health problems. We greatly appreciate this church family.

Thank you,
Dale Miller



ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

All committee chairs, youth groups & choirs should submit their 2019 Annual Reports. If you have not yet turned those into the church office, please do so by **January 10, 2020 by 12:00 p.m.**

FINANCIAL REPORTS DUE

2019 Financial Reports, for the Annual Meeting, are due into the church office no later than **January 10, 2020 by 12:00 p.m.**

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. Last month we served 24 people outside the church.



HOSPITALIZATIONS

Barb Treisch; Alan Mularski

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.



CHURCH CALENDAR

- As the office and spiritual council are putting together the 2020 church calendar, we encourage you to mark your calendars now.
- Better yet, mark OUR calendar now. If you or your group is planning an event, meal, program, wedding, special service or meeting, please share the date on the church central calendar.
- It's easy to schedule. Just contact the church office. Events on the calendar will have priority on the use of our beautiful facilities, and scheduling events ahead makes everything flow smoother for members, staff and guests. It's nice when everyone knows what we are doing as a church.



Organ Repair Payoff

The Sterrett Fund will contribute \$48,000. We need to fill the keys to get the rest. \$69,700 has been donated through December 31, 2019.

The balance due on the loan is now \$49,815.

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.



The season of blessings is upon us so let us all take a moment & give God the glory for our many blessings. The Lord has always been hard at work shaping these students into God-fearing children of the Lord. Our family has doubled since our last newsletter as our remaining students begin their final stages of their program, leading the path for the newest members. The Jericho House has added 3 new females that are learning to live life on life's terms. As for the Taylor House we added 3 new males as well that chose to be on the road to recovery with our Lord Jesus Christ. We would like to ask for some prayers for all our students but especially our new ones Jessica, Khadeeja, Tiffany, Anthony, Sam & Seth that they will be blessed with the power of the Lord. The Alpha Recovery Program is excited to see the new students grow & the senior students move on & spread this beautiful message of the love of God & the wonderful things that come with sobriety. We are grateful to have the support of our community that enables us to provide a loving hand up for these students. God works amazing miracles in these houses that we are beyond blessed to witness.

Alpha Recovery 12-Step Program

TACKLE



HUNGER

We do not know who or where yet, but we do know that on Sunday, February 2nd, our church will be participating with other churches in this country in the “Souper Bowl of Caring.” On that Sunday, bring your cans of soup and/or money for our soup pots that will be in the sanctuary to support our local food pantries. The Mission Committee will match all monies donated and send the soup and money to Community Action & Co-operative Services of Galion. Cheer on your favorite team and help us fill our pots with soup and cash that day. Sounds like a win, win for our local food banks!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

We will be collecting for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) during the month of January. We sometimes think that “imagination” means something escapist or illusory. Yet, imagination is not something unreal or fake. No, it is **essential** to God's hope for creation. Hear how the Apostle Paul put it: **“Now to him who by the power of work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine.”** (Ephesians 3:20-21). And God imagines a world where all are safe, all are loved, all are fed. You see, when we use our imaginations in the way that God does, we can begin to envision-and work for!- a world where no child goes unfed, un-housed, or unloved; where no one ever fears abuse or violence; where clean water is not a dream but a reality for all; where small farmers do their work with dignity and are paid a fair wage for their labors; where agricultural practices enrich and renew the land rather than deplete it; where survivors of natural disasters have the resources they need now and for years to come; where vulnerable immigrants are welcomed in Christ's name. Through your gifts to OGHS what we can imagine becomes even more a reality for more and more people. Please give generously!



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

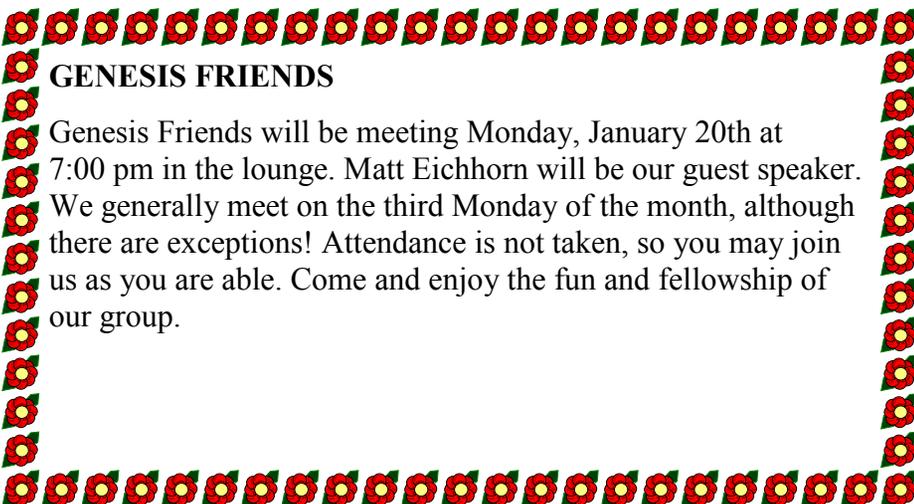
For prayer requests, please call the office at 468-4380.

FOOD PANTRY

Spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, canned fruits and dried beans 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!



GENESIS FRIENDS

Genesis Friends will be meeting Monday, January 20th at 7:00 pm in the lounge. Matt Eichhorn will be our guest speaker. We generally meet on the third Monday of the month, although there are exceptions! Attendance is not taken, so you may join us as you are able. Come and enjoy the fun and fellowship of our group.

BRR! The weather might make one think of hot soup for a cold winter's day so here is a soup recipe you might like to try.

CHEESEBURGER SOUP

From the kitchen of Betty Angell



- 1 to 1 and 1/2 lb. hamburger
- 3/4 cup diced onion
- 3/4 cup diced celery
- 3/4 cup diced carrot
- 1 tsp. dried basil
- 1 tsp. dried parsley
- 4 tablespoons butter, divided
- 3 cans (14.5 oz. each) chicken broth
- 4 cups peeled, diced potatoes
- 1/4 cup flour
- 8 oz. Velveeta cheese, cubed
- 1 and 1/2 cups milk
- 3/4 tsp. salt and 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1/4 cup sour cream

In a large pot brown meat, drain and set aside. In the same pot, melt 1 T. butter and saute carrot, celery and onion until tender. Add broth, potatoes, meat, basil and parsley. Bring to a boil. Cover and simmer til potatoes are tender. Meanwhile, in a small skillet melt rest of butter (3 T.), add flour and cook 3-5 minutes. Add to soup and bring to a boil. Cook 2 minutes. Reduce heat to low. Add cheese and stir until blended. Add milk, salt and pepper. Add in sour cream and cook til blended. Can continue to cook on low as needed, stirring occasionally.

If this soup sounds tempting but you would prefer not to cook, it will be for sale at the Scholarship Bake Sale coming up on February 16th. This soup has been sold at the bake sale for the past several years.



Birthdays

1st	Jacob Biederman	19th	Bradley Kalb
	Mike Collins		James Sulser
	Jackson Reid	22nd	Tom Cole
3rd	Sandra Christman	24th	Claudia Motter
5th	Nikki Furr		Hailey Young
6th	Kevin Cotsmire	26th	Kristin Reed
	Samuel Keller	29th	Nathaniel Ruth
	Keith Spore	30th	RaDenna Burkhart
7th	Lynne Goldsmith		Pam Hayes
8th	Sharon Cole		Darcy Keppler
11th	Lydia Feik		Ava Riggs
13th	Cody Gledhill	31st	Madisson Koschnick
	Jessica Hammond		Greg Russell
	Sarah McGrady		
14th	Mike McGrady		
	Marcy Miller		
17th	Kassidy Stone		

Anniversaries

12th Dan & RaDenna Burkhart
 18th James & Ruth Anne Deppen



The Hills are Alive!
 THE TEMPLED HILLS CAMPAIGN

December 5, 2019

The Rev. Darrin Harvey
 First United Church of Christ
 248 Harding Way West
 Galion, Ohio 44833

Dear Pastor Harvey and Members of First UCC,

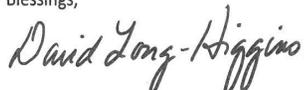
Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,500 to *The Hills are Alive!*, the Templed Hills Campaign. We are very grateful for this expression of your congregation's commitment to the stewardship of this sacred space.

Your donation is an investment in our shared future at Templed Hills, helping to ensure that this unique place of faith formation and renewal continues to build congregations, strengthen shared ministry, and change the lives of both children and adults in the Heartland Conference and beyond.

Combining your gift with others will bring us closer to our goal for Templed Hills to model exemplary care for Creation, to provide accessible and appealing accommodations, and to advance the work of the wider church by tithing our campaign to the UCC's Shaping Our Future endowment.

Thank you again for your partnership in securing a sustainable future for Templed Hills and the Outdoor Ministry that gives it life.

Blessings,



Rev. David Long-Higgins
 Transitional Conference Minister



Cathy Green
 Campaign Chairperson

www.loveourhills.org

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 CLOSED	2 7:00pm 12-Step	3 8:00am WIC	4
5 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	6 7:00pm Mission Meeting	7 8:00 WIC	8 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Sr. Choir	9 4:00pm Head Start 7:00pm 12-Step	10	11 9:00am Vision Retreat
12 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	13	14	15 8:00am WIC 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Sr. Choir	16 5:00pm Outreach Meal 7:00pm 12-Step 7:00 pm Finance	17 8:00am WIC	18
19 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	20 7:00pm Genesis Friends	21 8:00am Head Start 7:00pm Consistory	22 8:00am WIC 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Sr. Choir	23 7:00pm 12-Step	24 8:00am WIC	25
26 8:00am Community brkfst 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11:30am Congregational Meeting-Youth Spaghetti Dinner	27	28 7:00pm Elders	29 8:00am WIC 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Sr. Choir	30 7:00pm 12-Step	31	



January

Week of : January 5th

Sun: Eccles. 3:3-9,
14-17
Or Deut. 33:1-5
1 John 2:12-17
John 6:41-47
Mon: Gen. 12:1-7
Heb. 11:1-12
John 6:35-42,
48-51
Tues: Gen. 28:10-22
Heb. 11:13-22
John 10:7-17
Wed: Ex. 3:1-5
Heb. 11:23-31
John 14:6-14
Thurs: Josh. 1:1-9
Heb. 11:32-12:2
John 15:1-16
Fri: Isa. 66:18-23
Rom. 15:7-13
Sat: Isa. 52: 7-10
Rev. 21:22-27
Matt. 12:14-21

Week of : January 12th

Sun: Isa. 52:3-6
Rev. 2:1-7
John 2:1-11
Mon: Isa. 52:3-6
Rev. 2:1-7
John 2:1-11
Tues: Isa. 59:15b-21
Rev 2:8-17
John 4:46-54
Wed: Isa. 63:1-5
Rev. 2:18-29
John 5:1-15
Thurs: Isa. 65:1-9
Rev. 3:1-6
John 6:1-14
Fri: Isa. 65:13-16
Rev. 3:7-13
John 6:15-27
Sat: Isa. 66:1-2, 22-23
Rev. 3:14-22
John 9:1-12,
35-38

Week of : January 19th

Sun: Isa. 40:1-11
Heb. 1:1-12
John 1:1-7,
19-20,29-34
Mon: Isa. 40:12-24
Eph. 1:1-14
Mark 1:1-13
Tues: Isa. 40:25-31
Eph. 1:15-23
Mark 1:14-28
Wed: Isa. 41:1-16
Eph. 2:1-10
Mark 1:29-45
Thurs: Isa. 41:17-29
Eph. 2:11-22
Mark 2:1-12
Fri: Isa. 42:(1-9),
10-17
Eph. 3:1-13
Mark 2:13-22
Sat: Isa. (42:18-25)
43:1-13
Eph. 3:14-21
Mark 2:23-3:6

Week of : January 26th

Sun: Isa. 43:14-44:5
Heb. 6:17-7:10
John 4:27-42
Mon: Isa. 44:6-8,
21-23
Eph. 4:1-16
Mark 3:7-19a
Tues: Isa. 44:9-20
Eph. 4:17-32
Mark 3:19b-35
Wed: Isa. 44:24-45:7
Eph. 5:1-14
Mark 4:1-20
Thurs: Isa. 45:5-17
Eph. 5:15-33
Mark 4:21-34
Fri: Isa. 45:18-25
Eph. 6:1-9
Mark 4:35-41
Sat: Isa. 46:1-13
Eph. 6:10-24
Mark 5:1-20

**Fairhaven Community
Volunteer Service Group Newsletter
December 16, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by President Barb Nigh.
Devotions were given by Upper Sandusky Emmanuel.
Roll Call: Volunteers – 19 with 1 guest, Staff – 3
Minutes of previous meeting stood approved as corrected.
Treasury - \$2,417.65
Gift Shop - \$2,656.85
Bingo Cup - \$20.00

VSG Business:

Money given for the Phyllis Diederich memorial along with the money received for the Bakeless Bake Sale from the prior month total \$575.00 It was discussed and agreed to purchase a Tribute Bench to be placed at the main entrance for a total of \$1000.00 with the excess coming from the treasury. The bench is to be engraved on the back with “In Loving Memory of Phyllis Diederich Dedicated Fairhaven Volunteer Service Group Member” if space allows.

The program booklet for 2020 was discussed. Changes were noted and the new booklet will be printed (hopefully correctly) and available at the next meeting.

A Harvest Fest Committee is being set up with the members, as of this time, as follows: Marcy Miller, Dagmar Rinderknecht, Kathryn Adams, Donna Dorsch, Lydia Guthrie, Arlene Main, and Becky Blocksom. The decision of who will be the chairperson will be determined at a later date as Marcy is stepping down from that position.

Staff:

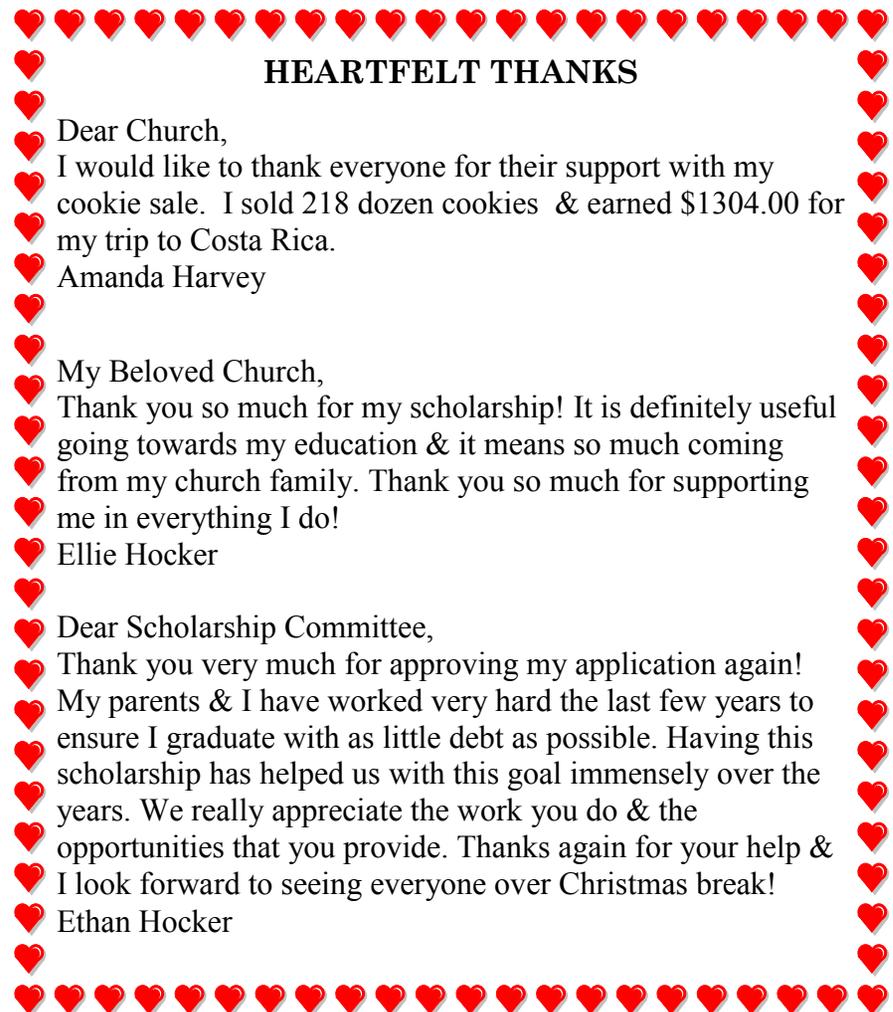
Alissa Clouse announced that the Employee Giving Campaign was a success with \$15,613 raised. Also Pastoral Care was acknowledged for all that is done.

Becky Blocksom thanked all for all their work and wished all a Merry Christmas.

Pastor Becky King shared information on the art projects being done. She then installed the officers for the new year after which she led the group in “The Way” and closed the meeting with prayer.

Following the closing it was decided to donate \$100.00 to Pastoral Care in honor of Pastor Becky King.

The next meeting will be held on January 2nd instead of the standard third Monday due to so frequently having to cancel in January due to bad weather. On the 2nd the group will do the “un-decorating ” of the trees that were put up on November 25th along with the various door decorations. This will be followed by a sack lunch and meeting with Bucyrus doing devotions. There will be no bingo on this day. Alternate meeting date will be the 6th if problem with weather.

**HEARTFELT THANKS**

Dear Church,
I would like to thank everyone for their support with my cookie sale. I sold 218 dozen cookies & earned \$1304.00 for my trip to Costa Rica.
Amanda Harvey

My Beloved Church,
Thank you so much for my scholarship! It is definitely useful going towards my education & it means so much coming from my church family. Thank you so much for supporting me in everything I do!
Ellie Hocker

Dear Scholarship Committee,
Thank you very much for approving my application again!
My parents & I have worked very hard the last few years to ensure I graduate with as little debt as possible. Having this scholarship has helped us with this goal immensely over the years. We really appreciate the work you do & the opportunities that you provide. Thanks again for your help & I look forward to seeing everyone over Christmas break!
Ethan Hocker

First United Church of Christ Budget 2020					
line #	2020	2019	line #	2020	2019
Expense Statement					
Personnel					
1	Minister	\$58,150	\$57,000	37	Building
3	Pension	\$9,100	\$8,900	38	Utilities
4	Additional staff/Sabbatical	\$0	\$9,000	39	Scheduled Contracts
5	Sr. Choir/Bell Dir	\$8,620	\$8,450	40	Building Maintenance
6	Organists	\$6,940	\$6,800	41	Building & Liability In
7	Kitchen Custodian	\$1,225	\$1,200	42	Debt Reduction
8	Church Secretary	\$16,750	\$16,425	43	
9	Financial Secretary	\$8,100	\$7,950	44	
10	Custodian	\$13,260	\$13,000	45	Benevolences
11	Substitute Personnel	\$1,500	\$1,500	46	OCWM
12	Social Security Taxes	\$9,455	\$9,270	47	CUE
13	Worker's Compensation	\$632	\$620	48	Missions
14		\$133,732	\$140,115	49	Special offerings
15				50	Weekday Religious Ed
16	Operations			51	Radio Broadcasts
17	Travel Expenses	\$2,000	\$2,000	52	
18	Office Expenses & Postage	\$5,300	\$5,300	53	
19	Office Equipment	\$13,100	\$10,500	54	Total Expenses
20	Continuing Ed & Books	\$1,100	\$1,100	55	
21	Music	\$850	\$850	56	
22	Worship	\$500	\$500	57	Income Statement
23	Flowers	\$500	\$500	58	Beginning Balance
24	Dinners	\$700	\$700	59	Envelope Regular
25	Education/workshops	\$1,200	\$600	60	Envelope Special
26	Youth Fellowships	\$2,500	\$2,500	61	Interest & dividends
27	Advertising	\$500	\$500	62	Building Use
28	Receptions	\$300	\$300	63	Refunds/reimbursemen
29	Gifts	\$800	\$800	64	Miscellaneous
30	VBS	\$800	\$800	65	Trustee Money Market
31	Programming	\$500	\$500	66	Sterrett Trust
32	Miscellaneous Expenses	\$500	\$500	67	Hessenauer Trust
33		\$31,150	\$27,950	68	Kiss Trust (dividends)
34				69	Reserve Funds
35				70	Broadcast Reserves
36				71	Gifts
37				72	
38				73	Total Income
39				74	
40				75	Ending Balance
41					
42					

January 26, 2020 Congregational Meeting after Worship

Departing Consistory Members:

Nancy Green (Elder) Alan Forry (Trustee)
Todd Rudolph & Rose Crago-Roach (Deacons)

Returning Consistory Members:

Elders: Sandy Powell, Bill Shifley & Brad Hocker
Trustees: Kevin Cotsmire, Larry Ness & Doug Court
Deacons: Angie Brocwell & Carole Schreck

2020 Consistory Nominees:



Judy Eichhorn
Elder



Todd Rudolph
Trustee



Barb Koschnick
Deacon



Mary Ann Stone
Deacon

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting will be held **January 26, 2020** following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. We will be voting on our 2020 budget and Officers so please plan to attend. If you would like an absentee ballot, please contact the office. A spaghetti dinner fundraiser for the youth will be served afterward.