

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Rev. Darrin Harvey-----Minister
Adair Pittman-----Office Secretary
Mary Ann Stone-----Financial Secretary
Stephanie Sikora-----Sr. & 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 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 32 No. 2

February 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,

This is an exciting time to be a part of our church as I am pleased to announce that we have a new vision and mission statement for our community of faith! The Holy Spirit has been working on our hearts to develop core principles that will guide our church into the next decade. Work on this began as early as last summer in our combined Sunday School and continued in our Elders and Mission meetings this fall. A conscious effort was made to come to a consensus regarding our differing ideas at our visioning retreat which was held on January 11th. Modifications were made during our Consistory meeting on January 21st to be presented at our annual meeting on January 26th where the statements were approved with a congregational vote.

As it was described to us by Nicole Havelka, our moderator for the retreat, a vision statement expresses what we wish to see in our community and the mission statement expresses how we will go about achieving those things.

These are our new statements -

Vision Statement – “Galion First United Church of Christ envisions a community that is caring, sharing and belonging.”

Mission Statement – “United in the Joy of Christ, we welcome, love and serve all.”

All throughout January, I have been referring to these statements during the sermon in order to frame the message for the week and bring attention to this effort. I would like to thank Sandy Powell, our new Sr. Elder who has been instrumental in guiding us towards this change, Consistory and everyone who came to our visioning retreat on January 11th. Your voice has been heard and your contribution has been important.

The more difficult question we have now is “what is next?”. It’s one thing to have words but a more difficult thing to live out our mission. I’m delighted to report that we have already begun action steps towards living into our mission more fully. We have identified six needs to address in our church that Consistory has identified.

- 1) Redesign of the Hocker Lounge into a Chapel
- 2) Attendance
- 3) Giving
- 4) Generating leaders
- 5) Outreach to members
- 6) Ministry to young people.

I believe that we can look forward to not only a great year but a great few years in our church as we become more of what God wants us to be in Galion. I ask that you would pray for our leadership that the Spirit might continue to guide and inspire us to increase our reach with the Good News.

Blessings,

Pastor Darrin

Valentine's Day Word Search

C U U U V A L E N T I N E S J
F U A H U E Q J J X N Q R K P
U T P H R Q Z P S W E E T C Q
X J W I J A U H A A W M A R V
Q I F R D R C D E O C X J B L
Z M D O Z R C X L A C T G Z L
S H P Y U O H F L M R K A S C
S K E C N W O V F O W T X D H
Y I P H R G C P E H V V F Y U
G S U L D Q O M U N O E E N G
I S Q W U U L D L V M O Q J S
F E A L Q C A N D Y W J Z E J
T S X R F Y T V K N S J Z G B
A O W X G N E F C Z A Y O C H
A O J Z K Q H P D T C O R D F



- Gift
- Hugs
- Love
- Arrow
- Candy
- Cupid
- Heart
- Sweet
- Kisses
- Flowers
- Chocolate
- Valentine



HEARTFELT THANKS

Dear Church,

Thank you for the Christmas gift cards. I greatly appreciate it as they will go towards expenses for a spiritual retreat in the future. I look forward to what the new year brings.

Blessings,
Pastor Darrin



VectorStock

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

WOW! Did we get the groceries! Thank you to everyone that participated in our Reverse Advent Calendar. We collected a total of 732 food items that were donated to Community Action Center and also gave the two families that the church adopted for Christmas each a box of goodies. The congregation participation was fabulous and the Mission Committee appreciates everyone being so willing to help. A special thank you to Lynne Goldsmith who sorted and delivered all the goodies to Community Action Center.



FEBRUARY

Week of February 2

Sun. Isa. 57:1-13
Heb. 12:1-6
John 7:37-46
Mon. Isa. 57:14-21
Gal. 6:11-18
Mark 9:30-41
Tue. Isa. 58:1-12
2 Tim. 1:1-14
Mark 9:42-50
Wed. Isa. 59:1-21
2 Tim. 1:15-2:13
Mark 10:1-16
Thu. Isa. 60:1-22
2 Tim. 2:14-26
Mark 10:17-31
Fri. Isa. 61:1-9
2 Tim. 3:1-17
Mark 10:32-45
Sat. Isa. 61:10-62:5
2 Tim. 4:1-8
Mark 10:46-52

Week of February 9

Sun. Dan. 7:9-10,13-14
2 Cor. 3:1-9
John 12:27-36a
Mon. Deut. 6:1-15
Heb. 1:1-14
John 1:1-18
Tue. Deut. 6:16-25
Heb. 2:1-10
John 1:19-28
Wed. Jonah 3:1-4:11
Heb. 12:1-14
Luke 18:9-14
Thu. Deut. 7:6-11
Titus 1:1-16
John 1:29-34
Fri. Deut. 7:12-16
Titus 2:1-15
John 1:35-42
Sat. Deut. 7:17-26
Titus 3:1-15
John 1:43-51

Week of February 16

Sun. Jer. 9:23-24
1 Cor. 1:18-31
Mark 2:18-22
Mon. Deut. 8:1-20
Heb. 2:11-18
John 2:1-12
Tue. Deut. 9:(1-3) 4-12
Heb. 3:1-11
John 2:13-22
Wed. Deut. 9:13-21
Heb. 3:12-19
John 2:23-3:15
Thu. Deut. 9:23-10:5
Heb. 4:1-10
John 3:16-21
Fri. Deut. 10:12-22
Heb. 4:11-16
John 3:22-36
Sat. Deut. 11:18-28
Heb. 5:1-10
John 4:1-26

Week of February 23

Sun. Jer. 1:1-10
1 Cor. 3:11-23
Mark 3:31-4:9
Mon. Jer. 1:11-19
Rom. 1:1-15
John 4:27-42
Tue. Jer. 2:1-13, 29-32
Rom. 1:16-25
John 4:43-54
Wed. Jer. 3:6-18
Rom. 1:(26-27)
28:2-11
John 5:1-18
Thu. Jer. 4:9-10,19-28
Rom. 2:12-24
John 5:19-29
Fri. Jer. 5:1-9
Rom. 2:25-3:18
John 5:30-47
Sat. Jer. 5:20-31
Rom. 3:19-31
John 7:1-13

**Fairhaven Community
Volunteer Service Group Newsletter
January 2, 2020**



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



The meeting was called to order by President Barb Nigh.

Devotions were given by Bucyrus St. Johns.

Roll Call: Volunteers – 17, Staff – 1

Minutes of previous meeting were read and stood approved as corrected.

Communications were read thanking the group for the money given for the Wishlist items and to Pastoral Care.

Treasury - \$1,052.62

Gift Shop - \$3,096.48

Bingo Cup - \$13.55

VSG Business:

Barb thanked all for coming in on this different day to undecorate the trees and to change the decorations on the residents' doors.

She announced the same four as last year will serve on the committee to determine the Scholarship recipient.

The Harvest Fest committee still needs someone to be co-chair. Barb Nigh and Jean Pratt volunteered to fill these positions.

The booklets for the new year were distributed. Changes were noted and made as needed.

It was decided to purchase a new Christmas tree for the Tree of Love tree and to determine at a later date if the one on the Sun Porch also needs to be replaced or not.

Staff:

Becky King shared that she was very pleased with the youth presenting music through the holidays. The residents really enjoy it and she would love to see more of this throughout 2020. If anyone is so inclined, please contact her to set it up.

She then closed the meeting with "The Way" and prayer.

The next meeting will be February 17th at 10:30 am. Devotions will be given by Upper Trinity with a potluck following the meeting. Those furnishing cookies for the residents following bingo are: Jean Meck, Dgmar Rinderknecht and Mary Louise Diebler.

Organ Repair Payoff



The Sterrett Fund will contribute \$48,000. We need to fill the keys to get the rest. \$70,290 has been donated through January 31, 2020. The balance due on the loan is now \$48,960.

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.



ASHES TO GO

Please visit Pastor Darrin on Ash Wednesday, February 26th from 4pm-6pm. You may drive your vehicle up to the west entrance and Pastor Darrin will come to you and bless you with ashes.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Please join us for Ash Wednesday Worship Wednesday, February 26th at 7pm in the Sanctuary.

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 23rd
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!

It is the season to show your love. The mission for the month of February is Church World Service Blanket campaign. Each \$5.00 contribution will purchase a blanket to be used as a source of shelter or warmth for hurricane & flood victims, as well as folk affected by other man made or natural disasters in the United States & around the world. You can donate in memory, honor or to the Glory of God. Look for the insert in this month's Visitor & weekly bulletins to make your donation. A complete list of donors will appear in the next newsletter. Last year we donated 268 blankets! Let's see if we can top that this year! Thank you to all the faithful donors to this mission.

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, ham & fruit. Last month we served 14 people outside the church. The breakfast is from **8am-9:30am**.



THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone that made the January One Great Hour of Sharing campaign a success. Because of your generosity we were able to send \$454.00 to the campaign. Thank you for being so committed to 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

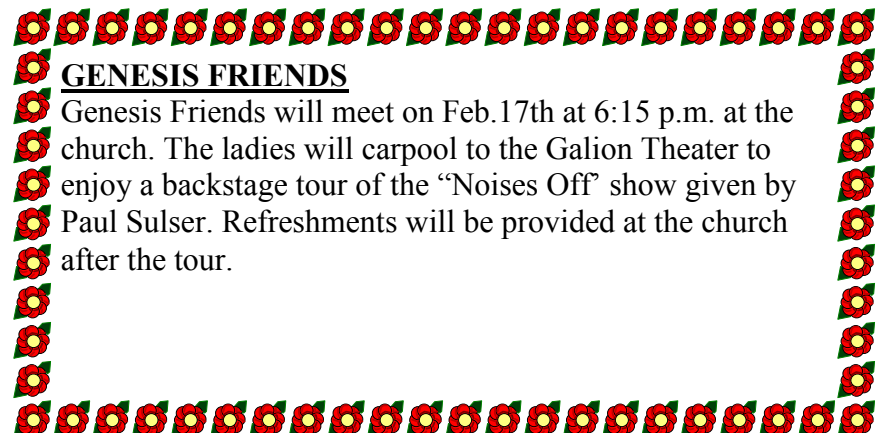
For prayer requests please call the office at 468-4380.

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-O, pudding, paper products, cleaning supplies and personal care products are needed. There are containers at both entrances to the sanctuary.



GENESIS FRIENDS

Genesis Friends will meet on Feb.17th at 6:15 p.m. at the church. The ladies will carpool to the Galion Theater to enjoy a backstage tour of the "Noises Off" show given by Paul Sulser. Refreshments will be provided at the church after the tour.



2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 2:00pm Russell (DR)
2 <i>Souper Bowl Sunday</i> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 5:00pm Super Bowl Party	3 5:30 p,m Drivers Ed 7:00pm COP Meeting	4 8:00am WIC 5:30pm Drivers Ed	5 5:30pm Drivers Ed 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Sr. Choir	6 5:30pm Drivers Ed 7:00pm 12-Step	7 8:00am WIC	8 3:00pm Lugo bday party
9 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	10 5:30pm Drivers Ed	11 8:00am Head Start 5:30pm Drivers Ed	12 8:00am WIC 5:30pm Drivers Ed 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Sr. Choir	13 4:00pm Head Start 5:30pm Drivers Ed 7:00pm 12-Step 7:00pm Finance	14 8:00am Head Start	15
16 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Soup & Bake Sale 10:00am Worship Service 11:30am Soup & Bake Sale	17 6:15pm Genesis Friends	18 7:00pm Consistory	19 8:00am WIC 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Sr. Choir	20 5:00pm Outreach Meal 7:00pm 12-Step	21 8:00am WIC	22
23 8:00am Community Breakfast 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service	24	25 7:00pm Elders	26 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 8:00am WIC 4:00pm Ashes to Go 7:00pm Ash Wed. Worship	27 7:00pm 12-Step	28 8:00am WIC	29



* HOSPITALIZATIONS *

* 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 Jake Koepke. Jake passed away January 12, 2020. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers. *

* 1st UCC extends sympathy to the family of Mary Conklin. Mary passed away January 18, 2020. Please keep her 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 from 9:30am-11:30am on **February 16th.** 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 21, 2020

The Vision Statement and Mission Statement with an addition were approved by the Consistory and will be presented to the Congregation at the annual meeting, January 26, 2020, to be approved.

VISION STATEMENT: “Galion First UCC envisions a community that is caring, sharing and belonging.”

MISSION STATEMENT: “United in the Joy of Christ, we welcome, love and serve all.”

Pastor Darrin will be on a Spiritual Retreat February 3-7, 2020. February 23, 2020 will be Dixieland Worship.

On Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020 the Presbyterians have been asked to join us for worship.

Discussion and plans will continue on developing the lounge into a chapel. Brad Hocker will head the project.

The sink upstairs is being checked for proper drainage.

The organ fund balance is \$49,800.

Holy Joe’s Café will be held in March.

The Reverse Advent Calendar was a huge success.

Six Topics for an Action Plan are:

1. Chapel Design
2. Membership/Worship outreach
3. Analyzing giving trends
4. Attendance
5. Sustaining Leadership
6. Youth Ministry



**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2020**

2019 Financial Report reviewed by Stacey Hocker:

Giving down, primarily due to deaths.

All of the reserve funds were used last year, which cannot be done very year.

Reusable income sources were 24% of our income.

Both expenses and income were down on the 2020 proposed budget partly attributed to a \$7000 proposed savings on natural gas and a \$2000 proposed savings on building insurance.

Endowment Funds reviewed by Doug Court:

Two new Endowment Fund committee members are Sandy Powell and Keith Eichhorn.

Endowment Fund grew in 2019 due to a strong Stock Market.

Vision Retreat review given by Pastor Harvey.

Proposed new Vision Statement: "Galion First UCC envisions a community that is caring, sharing and belonging."

Proposed new Mission Statement: "United in the Joy of Christ, we welcome, love and serve all."

Elder Nancy Green announced the nominees for Consistory.

Elder: Judy Eichhorn; Trustee: Todd Rudolph; Deacons: Barb Koschnick and Mary Ann Stone.

Outgoing Consistory Members were thanked by Pastor Harvey and presented a gift.

Elder: Nancy Green, Trustee: Alan Forry, Deacons: Rose Crago-Roach and Todd Rudolph.

Brian Treisch announced that action groups would be formed by the Consistory next month to carry out the Vision and Mission Statements. Pastor Harvey announced six areas would be addressed.

Voting results:

Budget: 69 YES, 1 NO, 1 ABSTENTION

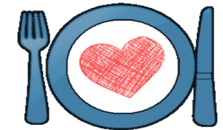
Consistory members elected

Elder: Judy Eichhorn

Trustee: Todd Rudolph

Deacons: Barb Koschnick and Mary Ann Stone.

5 ballots contained comments



FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH MEAL

Mark your calendar for our next Fellowship & Outreach Meal on Thursday, February 20th from 5-6 p.m. This month we are looking for cherry dump cake dessert from our bakers. The recipe & sign-up sheet are posted outside the office. We really appreciate all of our bakers as this is such a big help. See you all on the 20th!