

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
Stephanie Sikora-----Sr. & Bell Choir Director
Jennifer Arbaugh-----Organist
Jessica Hammond-----Organist
Martha See-----Kitchen Custodian
Rev. John Miller-----Pastor Emeritus
Larry Nigh-----Visitation Minister

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*Christ the Savior
Is Born!*



First United Church of Christ

248 Harding Way West
Galion, OH 44833

*“United in Christ’s Joy we
welcome, love and serve all”*

Rev. Darrin Harvey
Minister

Volume 32 No. 12

December 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.

December 2020 -

Happy Holidays Church! As I write this we are coming up on a Thanksgiving holiday that will be very different for many of us. Our public health officials have asked us to abide by guidelines that will keep us apart in many cases. This will be difficult for many, but for me what is more difficult, is seeing the dramatic rise of this disease that ravages our country. We were warned several months ago that this could be a difficult winter, but I couldn't imagine how much it would affect our community here in Galion. It has stricken a local nursing home, quarantined many students in our schools, claimed a member of our church family and touched a member of my own family. I urge you to be safe both for your own sake and for the sake of others you might come into contact with this holiday season. That might mean changing plans and having a lot of phone and video calls this year. Missing the family gathering this year is better than missing out on the rest of them forever.

We have learned many things this year. We have learned that what we do affects others significantly. We have learned that connections and community can happen in many different ways. We have learned that the power of the Holy Spirit is keeping us together and that power is greater than the power of any virus. Romans 8 says that "nothing can separate us from the love of God" and then it lists off things like angels, powers, rulers, life, death etc. We need to add "a pandemic" to that list. God is helping us in many ways and will pull us through this. In the meantime, we want you to know that if there is anything you need at all, do not hesitate to contact me or the office and let us know. We are here to listen to you, pray for you and help in anyway we can during this difficult time. I also ask that if you know someone who is alone or hurting in any way to reach out to them and check in on them to let them know you care.

If there ever is a time for hope, peace, joy (at least a little) and love it is now. May God bless you and keep you and may God's face shine on you and give you peace now and forever more. God is with us.

Pastor Darrin



CONSISTORY MEETING NOVEMBER 17, 2020

- All services will be virtual for the foreseeable future, even Christmas Eve. (If it becomes possible, with a Covid rate change, Christmas Eve Service will be held in the sanctuary.)
- Bible Study and Prayer Services are still being held virtually on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
- Darrin will serve on the Cabinet for the Association.
- The Community Thanksgiving Service will not be held this year.
- No plans are being made to carol this year.
- The Annual Meeting scheduled for January 24, 2021 could be held virtually. The Constitution has a provision for distant balloting.
- LED lights are being installed in the elevator vestibule.
- Organ Fund: \$35,012.
- The Budget will be presented at the December Consistory Meeting to be sent out in the January Visitor.
- The Youth group does not need a fund raiser, so no Spaghetti Dinner is being planned. If an organization would like a fund raiser, they are welcome to organize a drive thru meal.



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 2020, financial books will close on Thursday,
December 31st at 11:00a.m.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will be **Sunday, January 24th** 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. 8th.** Also, all **Financial Reports are due into the church office by January 8, 2021.**

GENESIS FRIENDS

Genesis Friends will not meet in December.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

At **7pm** we will have our traditional candlelight service featuring all of our musical ensembles and your favorite Christmas carols. This service will be virtual. Please join us on Facebook or YouTube.



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		
14th	Jan Reynolds		
	Chris Ruth		
	Todd Knight		
15th	Rebecca Mularski		
17th	John Cole		



Anniversaries

7th:	Ryon & Erin Bickert
8th:	Alan & Jerri Mularski
10th:	Jim & Nancy Reid
	Bill & Lynne Shifley
16th:	Zach & Caitlyn Gledhill
17th:	Travis & Kerri Koschnick
27th:	John & Linda Gulick
29th:	John & Marcy Miller



HOSPITALIZATIONS

Brian Treisch; Dale Miller & Don Harvey

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.

DEATHS

1st UCC extends sympathy to the family of Bob Cerar. Bob passed away November 12, 2020. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

1st UCC extends sympathy to the family of Mary Louise Zimmerman. Mary Louise passed away November 20, 2020. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA



Poinsettias are available for \$9.00 each.

Please fill out the order form below and return it, along with payment, to the church office. Poinsettias may be picked up during normal business hours after Dec. 24th.

Deadline to order is December 10th.

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.

☐



FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH MEAL

Thank you to everyone that cooked, baked and participated in the November Fellowship and Outreach meal. Our turkey dinner was delicious and we had over 80 of our members get a meal as well as feeding over 50 members of the community. All profit from this meal will be sent to the Back Bay Mission. A big "Thank you" to Doug Court for taking on the head chef role. Our next meal will be on Thursday, December 17th at 5:00 p.m. Bakers, when you are baking those Christmas cookies, please save a dozen or two for our meal. Call the office and let Adair know if you can donate. Merry Christmas everyone!

COME HOME TO GALION

The weather is cooling and soup season is upon us. There is no Come Home to Galion festivities, but we still have turkey noodle soup to fix. On Sunday, December 6th we will be selling (for a donation) quart containers of turkey noodle soup (after church at 11:00 a.m.) If you would like a container, simply drive up to the west elevator door and someone will be there to help you. As we usually do this time of year, all proceeds will be given to Crossroad in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The office will be closed December 24th, December 25th, December 31st & January 1st.



MISSION CHRISTMAS TREE

Back by popular demand is our Reverse Advent Calendar. A list of items needed to complete a box of staples is included in this Visitor. If you would like to pick up a box to put your grocery items in, they can be found in the Heritage Room. Please return the filled box or bag of items 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 the Mission Committee or the office. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

HOLY JOE'S COFFEE

We will be purchasing \$500 worth of coffee for our troops with the donations in our coffee cups. Thank you to everyone that filled the cups with cash.

FLOWER & RADIO SIGN-UP SHEETS

The 2021 flower and radio sign up sheets are displayed across from the office. Stop in the church during normal business hours and sign up to secure your date. If you cannot come in, please feel free to call Adair and she will save a Sunday for you. Thank you for your support of our church.

Organ Repair Payoff



The Sterrett Fund will contribute \$48,000. We need to fill the keys to get the rest. Over \$81,000 has been donated through Dec. 1, 2020. The balance due on the loan is now \$33,444.

The colored in keyboard above 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.



FIND

JOY

IN THE JOURNEY

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

**Fairhaven Community
Volunteer Service Group Newsletter
November 16, 2020**

Due to pandemic, the meeting was held at Emmanuel UCC (Mud Church) 13989 Township Rd 127, Upper Sandusky, OH

President Barb Nigh called the meeting to order.

Devotions were given by Bucyrus St. John's UCC

Roll Call: Volunteers – 11, Staff – 1

Minutes from October 19th were read and stood approved as read.

Treasury - \$3,564.64

Gift Shop - \$2,104.04

Bingo Cup - \$11.00

VSG Business:

By-Laws have been located. Last revised 2013. They state that President Term is 2 years and then Vice President should advance to position. 2 year term is not mandatory. Also states that first \$1,000 received from special events goes to Life Enrichment Fund. These things can be changed but consensus to table until such time as more members are able to attend meeting.

Officer election results – all officers agreed to serve another year.

Scholarship – It was agreed that due to the pandemic and limited funds, the scholarship this year would be \$500 instead of \$1,000.

The audit committee is Becky Blocksom and Arlene Main.

They will make arrangements to look at books.

Christmas tree decorating at Fairhaven will be done by staff as 3 staff have tested positive for covid and no visitation is allowed.

Tree of Love dedication will be done by Pastor Becky by Zoom. All who donated will be contacted to “attend” after Pastor Becky sets the date and time for the dedication. As of this date, \$379 has been received.

A picture of Phyllis Diederich, as part of her memorial, will be hung in gift shop once it is open again. \$505 has been received with the designation of something being purchased for the chapel at Fairhaven as a memorial for Ruth Adams. Pastor Becky will decide on the item and let the group know what has been selected.

It was decided to hold the next VSG meeting December 14th at 10:30 at Emmanuel UCC church. The purpose of the meeting will be to fill stockings for residents for Christmas. There will be no business meeting as do not expect many to attend. It was agreed by those present to cancel the January meeting.

Whether or not the February meeting will be held will be decided as we get closer to that date.

Thank you cards for those who donated to Harvest Fest were prepared by the group. A total of \$2,460 has been received at this time.

Booklets for 2021 will be done by the February meeting date and will just duplicate the monthly assignments from 2020.

These can be changed as needed once regular meetings commence in 2021. Also, it was agreed to list the volunteers alphabetically instead of by church affiliation for easier lookup. Church affiliation will be listed with each member's information along with email address, if known.

Staff:

Alissa Clouse shared that fund raising is going well. Employee giving this year is at 85% participation, a 10% increase from the prior year. The special project is for a gazebo for the front yard at Fairhaven. Also, there are 2 new funds, the Covid Relief Fund for United Church Homes and Employee Emergency Fund. She has applied to Elks for \$2,000 toward the gazebo and is working on year end appeal.

The meeting was closed with “The Way” and prayer.

Report from the Finance Committee

As we get close to the end of the year, we continue to monitor weekly giving vs. budget. We will be meeting virtually in December.

The year over year giving comparison is:

2019 \$119,000

2020 \$115,123

A decision regarding the use of budgeted reserve funds will be made at our December meeting. We are projecting we will end the year at approximately 92% of the budgeted giving amount. We will also finalize the 2021 budget in December for presentation to the congregation in January.

Despite giving being down, we feel very blessed to be in the position we are going into the end of the year. Our members continued to faithfully give during the upheaval in the world this year. In addition, careful planning in past years has allowed us to better weather this storm. To our congregation, thank you again for your financial support.

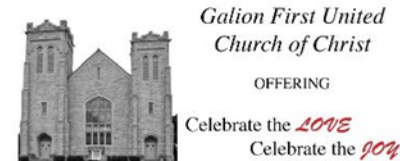
While we are not worshiping in person, offering envelopes can be mailed and the church office is staffed daily. As a reminder, on line giving is available and instructions are provided on another page.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of the missions and programs of First UCC.

Stacey Hocker, Finance Committee Chair

Instructions to access on line giving:

- 1.) Visit the church website at www.uccgalion.org
- 2.) Click on the **Giving** button in the important links section at the bottom of the home page. You should then see:



- 3.) Click on the **Create Profile** button, then
 - 4.) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.
-

MERRY CHRISTMAS



BLESSINGS,
THE UCC STAFF

Christmas Symbolism



Star represents the bright star that shone the night Jesus was born. *"Where is the new born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and have come to worship him." Matthew 2:2*



Candy cane represents the shepherd's staff. Christ is also called the Good Shepherd. *And there were in the same country, shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. Luke 2:8*



Gifts represent the gold, frankincense and myrrh. *...And when they opened they had opened their treasures, they presented him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 2:11*



Evergreen tree represents the eternal life. *For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16*



Christmas carollers represent the multitude of angels that sang on the night Jesus was born. *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest..." Luke 2:13-14*



Christmas candles and lights represent the light that Jesus has brought to the world. *To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. Luke 1:79*



Holly Berries represent the blood that Christ shed for us. *For this is my blood of the new testament which is shed for many remission of sins. Matthew 26:28*



Nativity scene represents the scene in the manger where Jesus was born. *And she brought for her firstborn son, and wrapped him swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the inn. Luke 2:7*



Christmas wreath represents the crown of thorns that Jesus wore when he was crucified. *The soldiers made a crown of long, sharp thorns and put it on his head... John 19:2*



Christmas Bells represent the call of mankind to worship the Lord. *For the Son of man came to seek, and to save that which was lost. Luke 19:10*

Prepared by Allison Hall