

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
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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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 33 No. 3

March 2021



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,

I'm pleased to announce that we will be returning to public worship on March 7th. There is a letter written by Doug Court, chairperson of our Covid response team, later in this newsletter detailing our guidelines and expectations moving forward. This has been an unusual, difficult and challenging year for us, as it has been for all individuals, families, businesses, churches and communities all over this country. It was a year ago when the mystery of this pandemic compelled us and many organizations to shut their doors without knowing what would happen out there in the world. I remember our large sanctuary with no one else but Doug Stone and myself in it for Sunday worship. Gradually, we began to upgrade our capabilities to include more music and a higher quality of production with our audio/video.

It's been quite the journey having to do an Easter morning service in an empty sanctuary and to prerecord a Christmas Eve service in advance. So much has happened in our church and in our family. This has been, without a doubt, the most challenging year of my ministry thus far. When our community wasn't affected and numbers were falling, we were able to open up with restrictions from June - October. Sadly, it began to affect our community and families around us and we have been closed to public worship since mid October. It's grieved me to have to watch as families were unable to meet to grieve together and support each other like they normally would when a family member died. It grieved me as well to hear over and over how someone we knew had someone sick or dying of COVID. It grieved me that it became an issue to divide our communities and has begun to divide our congregation.

I think months and years from now as we look back on this year, we will appreciate that we erred on the side of caution during a pandemic with so many of our members at risk. I want to emphasize that this doesn't mean that the pandemic is over, just that I wouldn't expect us to not have to close our doors to public worship again for a health crisis. Guidelines will still be in place during worship and we encourage people who are uncomfortable with meeting in person to continue to join us online. I really, really pray that our numbers will continue to go down and given enough time, we can slowly begin to return to having fellowship activities like we were used to having.

I appreciate people's patience with our leadership and staff and your support of our mission. We have changed and grown because of the challenges of this past year and we will be stronger because of them. Our online presence has been able to reach many people and we plan for this to become a permanent fixture of what we do from here on. We are thankful for those who have stepped up and done so much for our congregation. Please continue to pray for each other and for our church.

Blessings,
Pastor Darrin

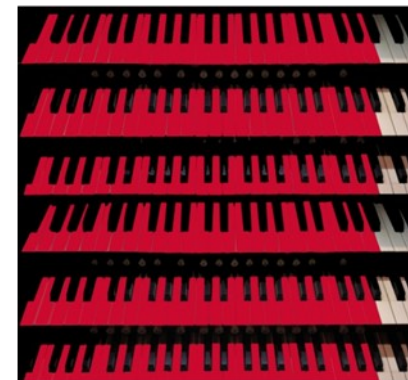
CONGRATULATIONS

We are pleased to announce our senior leadership for 2021: Bill Shifley, serving as Sr. Elder, our Sr. Deacon is Brian Treisch and our Sr. Trustee is Doug Court.

CONSISTORY MEETING FEBRUARY 9, 2021

- Tuesday Bible Study and Wednesday Evening prayer Services are still being held virtually.
- Ash Wednesday Service will be at 7 pm on February 17, virtually.
- 78 ballots were returned from the Annual Meeting, about the same number of votes as previous years.
- The Covid Team is considering a reopening of in person church services.
- Approved were Head Trustee: Doug Court, Head Elder: Bill Shifley, Head Deacon: Brian Treisch.
- The Presbyterians have purchased a church, Open Bible Church on Payne, and will no longer be using our facilities. They should be fully moved by the end of March.
- Someone needs to be contacted to shovel the sidewalks in the front and the back of the church when we get snow, as it is a legal responsibility and a citizen's duty.
- Since many have questioned why interest is still being paid on the Organ Fund, the Consistory passed a recommendation made by the Finance Committee to pay \$14,500.00 to reduce the Organ Fund loan balance of \$29,040.00. The congregation is encouraged to pay off the rest.
- The members of the Finance Committee, Mission Committee and Memorial Endowment Committee were approved.

Organ Repair Payoff Exciting News!



Consistory voted, at its February meeting, to free up \$29,500 of its reserves to pay half of the loan principle. With the over \$86,480, that has been donated through March 1, 2021, the balance due on the loan is now down to \$12,244.

Notice that the red keys in keyboard are rapidly filling in. We are high in the treble clef. When all keys in the keyboard 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.

This is really exciting news, because it means that by the end of this calendar year the balance **could be \$0.00**. Yes, if you continue your donation patterns, this note can be paid off before 2022. Understand that this will free the \$6000 a year trustees have been paying from the Sterrett Trust funds to cover interest and principle on the note. This money will then be used for other maintenance related costs.



1st:	Dan Brown	21st:	Amy Guinther
	Alana Burkhart		Talia Reid
5th:	Jacob Bickert	22nd:	Jennifer Arbaugh
6th:	Megan James		Brooklyn Black
	Ruth Ritchey		John T. Miller
7th:	Steve Reynolds	24th:	Gretchen Burdett
9th:	Catherine Conklin		Fritz Durtschi
	William Hiatt		James Reid
	Caleb Koschnick		Linda Swick
10th:	Thomas Bash	26th:	Brenda Neal
11th:	Katrina Harmon	27th:	Kerri Koschnick
	Kathy Ketterman	28th:	Judy Gibson
12th:	Karissa Rinehart	30th:	Keton Pfeifer
	Bill Shifley		Mary Ann Heitzman
13th:	Lauren Rudolph		
15th:	Rachel Burgess		
	Sheila Eichhorn		
16th:	Ayla McKibben		
	Lynae McKibben		
17th:	Caitlin Koschnick		
	Susan Ness		
18th:	Alan Mularski		
	Terry Snyder		
19th:	Deanna Durham		
	Karen Rudolph		



7th:	Dave & Gretchen Burdett
18th:	Thomas & Patricia Bash
	David & Cariel Christman
22nd:	Gary & Janet Reynolds
24th:	Mike & Dedra Collins
30th:	Doug & Catherine Conklin

"SOUPER" SCHOLARSHIP CARRY OUT
FUNDRAISER

Sunday, March 14th, from 11:00 am - 12:00 noon

West Entrance of our church

Featured Soups: cheeseburger, chili, broccoli cheese, pasta e fagioli, split pea and sausage, tomato and lasagna.

Drive up and select your soup from the comfort of your car and support our Students' Scholarship Fund.

DOM'S TURKEY CHILI

1 lb. ground turkey

1– 28oz. can of diced tomatoes with green chilies

1-15.5 oz can of low sodium kidney beans

1 –1.25 oz packet of chili seasoning mix

1/2 onion diced

1 TSP garlic minced

Salt & pepper to taste

Brown turkey with salt, pepper, onion & garlic, drain off excess liquid.
Stir in remaining ingredients and bring to simmer.

You can substitute ground chuck for the ground turkey or add an extra can of light kidney beans, if you prefer a thicker chili.

Submitted by,

Dominic Pittman



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

Soups, crackers, pastas & peanut butter are needed. There are containers at both entrances to the sanctuary.



HOSPITALIZATIONS

Jen Lugo; Jim Nigh & Fritz Durtschi

Corona Compliance Team Announces March 7th Restart of In Sanctuary Worship!

The Corona Compliance Team, appointed by Consistory, has been meeting regularly and has devised procedures to use in opening our doors for in person worship. In addition, the Heartland Conference has provided guidelines for the reopening of church services. These guidelines include the use of a Covid19 Event Risk Assessment tool developed by Georgia Tech University. This tool currently puts us at a very low risk rate. The team, therefore, recommends we open our doors to congregational worship beginning the first week in March. The streaming team will continue to live stream the services via Facebook and YouTube. The Corona Team continues to strongly recommend that any person with safety or medical concerns continue to worship remotely. We would ask that those who attend in person please adhere to the following guidelines:

If at all possible, get one of the Covid19 vaccines.

If you have a headache, fever, or unusual sense of smell, please worship remotely and do not attend in person.

Follow proper face covering procedures. In other words, wear a mask covering both the mouth and nose while in the church. (One time use masks are available at the deacon benches.)

Be seated in the allotted pews, allowing for adequate distancing.

Please keep your groupings to immediate family members or your predefined “bubble.”

All three outside doors will be open for use. Please do not gather and socialize while entering and exiting the sanctuary. Open air socializing in the parking lot areas at your risk.

Hand sanitizers will be at the sanctuary entrances and in each pew. Bulletins and offering plates will be at the entrances for you to pick up and use. Please pick up or drop off yourself, as our deacons will not be handling these items.

While we hope this never happens, if you are diagnosed with Covid19 the week following worshipping in person, contact the office immediately so we may begin contact tracing.

The positive news is that, with your cooperation, we are opening our doors for in sanctuary worship on March 7, and we plan to stay open as long as our risk assessment is low. We are also extremely appreciative of the new mission our video streaming team has provided and will continue to provide. This team has indeed made lemonade from lemons.

Please direct comments and suggestions to members of the Corona Compliance Team: Douglas Court, Darrin Harvey, Brad Hocker, Doug Stone, and Brian Treisch.



MARCH 14, 2021



MARCH 20, 2021

HEARTFELT THANKS

To my UCC Family,

I would like to thank you for supporting me through my undergraduate career. It is bittersweet to be in my last semester, but I look forward to continuing my education in graduate school and my career in social services. Thank you for the emotional and financial support, and thank you to the Scholarship Committee for awarding me with a scholarship for this Spring Semester.

I hope everyone is staying as safe and healthy as possible. Thank you all again!

Warmly,
Lauren Rudolph

Dear Church friends,

Thank you for the thoughts, prayers and cards while we were not feeling well. We are doing much better and really enjoy the Upper Room that we receive in the mail.

We love you all!

Bucky & Carol Walter

Dear UCC Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much for my Scholarship! It goes a really long way to help me further my education at Otterbein. I really appreciate support from my church family!

Ellie Hocker

1 of 1

March

The Peace of God

Day 1 – 1 Peter 3:9-11

Day 2 – Proverbs 16:7

Day 3 – Isaiah 26:3

Day 4 – 1 Peter 5:6-7

Day 5 – Romans 12:18

Day 6 – John 16:33

Day 7 – Romans 15:13

Day 8 – Hebrews 12:14

Day 9 – Psalm 4:8

Day 10 – Isaiah 12:2

Day 11 – 1 Corinthians 14:33

Day 12 – Philippians 4:4-7

Day 13 – Colossians 3:15

Day 14 – Galatians 5:22-23

Day 15 – Romans 8:6

Day 16 – Philippians 4:8-9

Day 17 – Psalm 119:165

Day 18 – Isaiah 54:10

Day 19 – Romans 5:1

Day 20 – James 3:17-18

Day 21 – Romans 14:17

Day 22 – Isaiah 32:17

Day 23 – Matthew 6:31-33

Day 24 – Psalm 29:10-11

Day 25 – Isaiah 41:10

Day 26 – 1 Thessalonians 5:23

Day 27 – Isaiah 53:5

Day 28 – Proverbs 3:21-24

Day 29 – Isaiah 9:6

Day 30 – Matthew 5:9

Day 31 – 2 Thessalonians 3:16

alyssajhoward.com



BLANKETS

Thank you to everyone who generously donated to the Church World Service Blanket program. With your help we donated \$1200.00. These blankets will help people all over the world who may have a need for shelter or warmth. Thank you for your support.



FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH MEAL

Our next Fellowship and Outreach Meal will be on Thursday, March 18th at 5:00 p.m. This will be a CARRY-OUT only meal. We are asking for 9x13 cakes from our bakers this month. If you are able to make a cake, please call the office and let Adair know.

EASTER FLOWERS

Enclosed with this month's Visitor is the sign up sheet for Easter flowers. The cost of each flower is once again \$12.00 and any proceeds over the purchase price will go to United Church Homes. If you don't care to purchase a flower but would like to donate to UC Homes, please place your gift in an envelope and put it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Our sanctuary will look beautiful and we will be supporting United Church Homes.



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our 13th annual "Souper Bowl of Caring." We donated 110 cans of soups to our local food pantries and over \$400.00.

GIVING ENVELOPES

Please remember when sending in your envelopes to put your name or your giving number on the front.



EASTER LILIES AND TULIPS

Flowers are available at the cost of \$12.00 each. Please fill in the order form below and return it, along with payment, to the church office or place it in the offering plate.

Florist deadline for orders is March 19th.

Please use one form per order.

I would like to order: ____ Lily(s)

____ Tulip(s) ____ Hyacinths(s)

☐ In Honor Of _____

OR

☐ In Loving Memory Of _____

OR

☐ To The Glory of God

Given By _____

☐ I will leave my flower for church use.

☐ I will deliver my flower to a shut-in.

(Name of shut-in)

A Prayer for Lenten Grace

Loving God,
During the sacred season of Lent, bring me closer to you.
Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and
solitude, so that I may re-discover the grace of a
prayer-full life.
Help me to fast from those things that threaten the
well-being of body and soul and remind me of the
grace of simplicity.
Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need and, in
so doing, re-discover the grace of gratitude and
generosity.
May this season be a grace-filled time to
rekindle my love for and faith in you.
Amen.



BLANKET DONATIONS 2021

Blankets Are Given In Loving Memory Of:

Herb & Carole Brown by Philip & Sundie Brown
Mary Conklin by Bruce & Betty Angell
Jane Cole by the Cole family
Sharon Cole by the Cole family
Betty Durtschi by the Fritz Durtschi family
Carol Flick by Bruce & Betty Angell
Gene & Mary Goldsmith by the Goldsmith family
Byrdell & Ginny Goldsmith by the Goldsmith family
Grandma & Grandpa Goldsmith by the Goldsmith family
Jeff Goldsmith by the Goldsmith family
Larry Goldsmith by Lynne Goldsmith
Delnore & Pete Goldsmith by the Goldsmith family
Charlie & Mary Grant by the Goldsmith family
John F. Heitzman by Jim & Nancy Reid
Joyce Hollingsworth by Philip and Sundie Brown
Roger Keller by Sandy Keller
Arpad & Teresa Kiss by Mission Committee
Stan & Anna Mae Morris by Philip & Sundie Brown
Kyle Morrissey by Philip & Sundie Brown
Charles, Ruth & Linda Neal & Donald Hayes by Dan & Pam Hayes,
Chuck & Maureen Neal & family & Gary & Brenda Neal & family
Pat Preston by Don & Rhonda Harvey
Forest Knight by Todd Knight
Cloyd & Mildred Rhinehart by Dorothy Rhinehart
Don Rhinehart by Dorothy Rhinehart
Susan Ritzhaupt by Dorothy Rhinehart
Paul & Lucille Schoen by the Goldsmith family
Our son, Randy by Gary & Martha See
Our parents, Billy & Maxine See by Gary & Martha See
Emery Shaffer by Marjorie Shaffer

In Memory continued:

*Mindy Sheriff by the Fritz Durtschi family
Our parents, Richard & Gertrude Shifley by Gary & Martha See
Loved Ones by Ruth Swick
Ruth Thew by the Cole family
Barb Thompson by Bruce & Betty Angell
Chet & Alice Zimmerman by their family
Harold & Thelma Zimmerman by their family*

Blankets Are Given In Honor Of:

*My grandchildren: Brayden, Isaac, Trevor, Brooklyn, Emma, Leah,
Henry, Brick & Kit by Christine Coe
Our grandchildren: Elly, Joanna, Levi, Doran & Jemma by Dan and
Lisa Eichhorn
My 7 great-grandchildren by Ruth Essex
Our children & grandchildren by Ken & Evelyn Feik
Chuck & Maureen Neal & family & Gary & Brenda Neal & family by
Dan & Pam Hayes
Douglas & Amanda Harvey by Don & Rhonda Harvey
Dom Pittman by Mom & Todd
Parker, Katy, Heidi, Gary, Alex, Jason & Angie by Gary & Martha See
Charlotte Ann Smith by Bradley & Cindy Smith
Loren, Annie, Kate, Cassidy & Linnea Stone; Leslie, Michael, Evan &
Elin Swartzbaugh by Douglas & Mary Ann Stone
Janice Welch by Don & Rhonda Harvey*

Blankets Are Given To The Glory Of God By:

*Dan & Marcia Brown
Christine Coe
The Court Family
Keith & Judy Eichhorn
Genesis Friends
Wendy & Darrin Harvey
Jim & Ellie Heiser
John & Marcy Miller
Carol Moran
Alan & Jerri Mularski
John & Stephanie Sikora
Chuck & Linda Swick
William & Wanda Swick*

Blanket Sunday is a yearly Mission's campaign to purchase blankets, through Church World Service, to give shelter and warmth to disaster victims. We thank each one of you for your generous and "warming" donation.

Blanket donations are listed in alphabetical order by the last name of the person the donation is given for. If a name is not specified, the donation is listed by the donor's last name.