

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

248 Harding Way W.
Galion, OH 44833

Church E-mail: office@uccgalion.org

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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. 4

April 2021



The
VISITOR

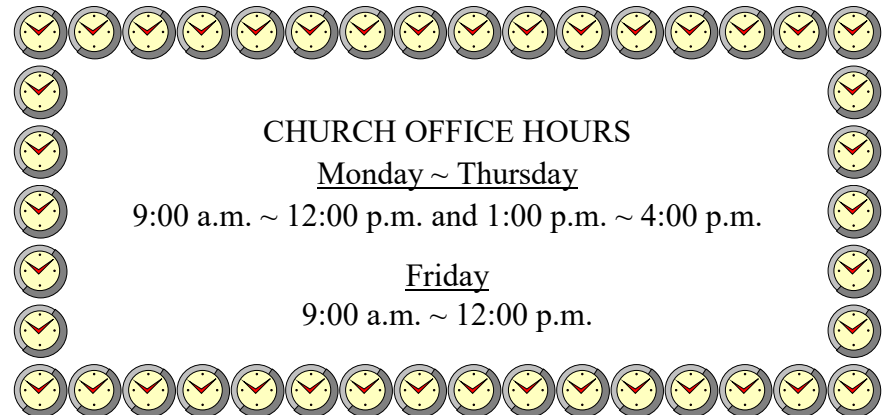
SUNDAY SERVICES

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,

A song by the Beatles goes like this -

“Blackbird singing in the dead of night
Take these broken wings and learn to fly.”

We have arrived at Easter. This is what we have been hoping for since the dark black night of Covid descended upon our nation. I said that we would celebrate Easter in 2020 when it lifted but we have been delayed until now.

So let's lift up the gates and enter in. Let's let the trumpet sound. Let's roll away the stone, let in the light of dawn to warm our cold souls and let the spirit of God breathe into us again!

We have been broken by sadness and discouragement. 2020 was the first year that over 1% of Americans died since 1947. Our wings are broken and need healing. We need to learn how to fly again. We need to learn how to engage with each other again, how to reach out, how to be gracious, compassionate and friendly again. We need to learn that it's ok to laugh once again. Let's allow ourselves to be opened by God, let go of our fear and let the joy of the Lord saturate our souls.

Let's learn from our mistakes and learn from what got us to this place. The old ways we practiced our faith have been judged as inadequate. We need more humility, more kindness, more boldness and more love. We need more time for each other, more time to work on our souls and more time to enjoy and appreciate our blessings.

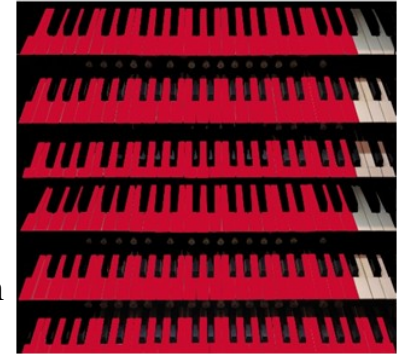
A new beginning, a new start and a new way of being represent this Easter more than most. Let's soar into the new day with God's wind beneath our wings. May God bless us and Happy Easter!

Pastor Darrin

Organ Repair Payoff

Exciting News!

Consistory voted, at its February meeting, to free up \$14,500 of its reserves to pay half of the loan principle. With the over \$87,500 that has been donated through April 1, 2021, the balance due on the loan is now down to \$10,750.



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 very 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.



April

The Grace of God

- Day 1 – 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
- Day 2 – Ephesians 2:8-10
- Day 3 – Romans 6:11-14
- Day 4 – 1 Corinthians 15:10
- Day 5 – Hebrews 4:14-16
- Day 6 – John 1:16-17
- Day 7 – Romans 3:22-24
- Day 8 – Titus 2:11-14
- Day 9 – Colossians 4:2-6
- Day 10 – Ephesians 2:4-7
- Day 11 – 2 Timothy 1:9-10
- Day 12 – Romans 6:1-4
- Day 13 – John 1:14
- Day 14 – Galatians 2:19-21
- Day 15 – Hebrews 12:14-15
- Day 16 – Romans 5:1-2
- Day 17 – Romans 12:3-8
- Day 18 – 2 Corinthians 6:1-2
- Day 19 – Galatians 5:4-6
- Day 20 – Romans 5:20-21
- Day 21 – Ephesians 1:3-6
- Day 22 – Titus 3:4-7
- Day 23 – Ephesians 4:7-8
- Day 24 – 2 Corinthians 8:7-9
- Day 25 – Hebrews 2:9-11
- Day 26 – 1 Peter 1:13-16
- Day 27 – Colossians 1:3-6
- Day 28 – Ephesians 1:7-10
- Day 29 – Acts 20:32
- Day 30 – 2 Peter 3:18



Name: _____

ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH

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

- | | | |
|------------|---------------|--------------|
| Ash | Holy Week | Palm Branch |
| Wednesday | Holy Thursday | Forty Days |
| Sacrifice | Good Friday | Jesus |
| Almsgiving | Holy Saturday | Passover |
| Prayer | Easter | Foot Washing |
| Fasting | Palm Sunday | Resurrection |
| Lent | Purple | Love |





Birthdays

1st	Alan Forry	23rd	Angela Brocwell
3rd	Danielle Court		Tony Deppen
	Addison Roesch	24th	Sandra Kennedy
4th	John Miller	28th	Alexus Burkhart
	Elin Swartzbaugh		Rachel McKibben
6th	Evan Swartzbaugh	29th	Nancy Green
7th	Erin Bickert		Brian Treisch
	Gary Reynolds		
8th	Derek Burkhart		
	Tim McDaniel		
11th	Barbara Perkins		
12th	Jason Brown		
	Matt Harmon		
	Gavin Kindell		
	Gary Neal		
13th	Alaina Durtschi		
	Adair Pittman		
14th	Shawn Kurtzman		
	Ruth Volk		
15th	Zoe Kalb		
18th	Denny Elmore		
22nd	Jordan Cole		



Anniversaries

1st	Dennis & Carla Russell
9th	Robert Reid & Karen Meyers
16th	Jeffery & Shelly Kurtzman
21st	Denny & Marilyn Elmore
29th	Nick & Kaylee Wise



FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH MEAL

Thank you to everyone that participated in the March Fellowship & Outreach Meal. We served 65 meals. This month our meal will be on Thursday, April 15th at 5:00 p.m. We are asking for cookies to serve as dessert. There is a signup sheet outside the office door or you may call Adair and let her know you can donate.

We have been providing meals for the past three years and we have three teams that work hard on the third Thursday of the month to provide a hot, healthy meal to our members in the church and community. We are looking for someone that would like to head up one of our Meal Teams. If you would like to help your church four times a year to organize and purchase groceries for this very important mission, please let the office know. This is not a huge commitment and we really do have a lot of fun working together. It is very rewarding.

EASTER FLOWERS & UNITED CHURCH HOMES

Weren't they just beautiful? Thank you to all that donated a lily, tulip or hyacinth to decorate our sanctuary for Easter service. Enclosed in this month's Visitor is a list of all who donated a flower in memory or honor of someone special. The proceeds from the beautiful flowers will go to our Church Homes.

DISASTER RESPONSE KITS

During April we will be filling buckets with cleaning supplies and bags with personal care necessities for Church World Service. Flooding devastates too many communities each year. We are being asked to expand our Bucket List to include many more cleaning and essential supplies to fill a 5 gallon bucket. Some of the new items include: laundry soap, clothespins & clothesline, heavy work gloves and insect repellent to name a few. Since we are in the middle of Covid and many of you are only shopping for necessities, we are asking for monetary donations to fill these buckets & the Mission Committee will purchase the supplies. It is estimated to cost \$75 to fill a bucket with all the items on the list. If you would like to & are able to fill a bucket yourself, please donate \$75. If you would like to help fill a bucket, but are unable to provide the \$75, any amount of money will help us to fill these larger buckets. We need to have our buckets & personal care kits completed by April 30th. The plastic bags with the personal care list will be at the Deacon's benches along with an envelope to help fill the buckets on April 11th. Thank you to all that can help us with this mission.



HOSPITALIZATIONS

Fritz Durtschi; 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.

HEARTFELT THANKS

I would like to thank all of the church members who sent me get well wishes during my recent hospital stay. Also, my birthday wishes were very much appreciated. I am at home trying to get better and stronger each day. Again, thank you.

Blessings,
Don Harvey

Thank you for the birthday cards for my 88TH birthday! I was shocked to receive over 60 cards. It was such a nice surprise and I enjoyed my day.

Thank you for thinking of me,
Fritz Durtschi



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 107.5 FM on Sunday from 9:00am-10:00am.

PRAYER CHAIN

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

FOOD PANTRY

Macaroni & Cheese, noodles, cake mix, frosting, 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!

CONSISTORY MEETING
MARCH 9, 2021

- Bible Study will continue through May.
- Communion will be on the first Sunday of the month.
- Organ Fund balance \$12,224.
- The Covid Team will continue to give updates.
- The web site has been updated.

SOUPER SCHOLARSHIP THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who supported our “Souper Scholarship Sale” on Sunday. Due to the generosity of our congregation, we raised **\$896**. Each year becomes a record breaker for this scholarship fund raising effort.

Simply Amazing!

First UCC Scholarship Committee

GENESIS FRIENDS

Genesis Friends will meet April 19th @ 7 p.m. in the dining room. Join Maggie Sulser for crafts. Looking forward to seeing you!

HEALTH KIT

(Place in Gallon Ziplock Bag)

1 BAR SOAP

1 WASH CLOTH

1 HAND TOWEL

1 DISPOSABLE RAZOR

1 SMALL CAN SHAVING CREAM

6 BAND AIDS

1 TOOTH BRUSH

1 SMALL TUBE OF TOOTHPASTE

1 COMB

1 DEODORANT

1 NAIL FILE

PERSONAL NOTE

Please return your filled Ziplock bags to the Heritage Room by April 30th. Thank you!

Report from the Finance Committee

As we end the first quarter, our year-to-date envelope and online giving is \$35,221.73. As our budgeted giving amount for 2021 is \$140,000, we are exactly where we should be at 25% of annual giving.

What a difference a year makes. Last year at this time our building was closed due to Covid restrictions. Giving was down as we adjusted to worshipping virtually. As previously reported, our members continued to faithfully give throughout the challenges of 2020 and the first quarter of this year.

We are blessed to be able to worship in person on a limited basis. The church continues to reach people beyond our walls through online worship. As restrictions ease, we are hopeful we can expand our missions and outreach over what was possible last year.

The finance committee continues to monitor giving and expenses on a monthly basis. We strive to find ways to reduce expenses to better support the programs of the church. As approved at the annual meeting in January, the 2021 budget includes the use of \$20,000 in reserve funds. As the year progresses, if giving keeps pace with budget, it becomes possible to imagine that we may be able to use less than the amount budgeted from reserves.

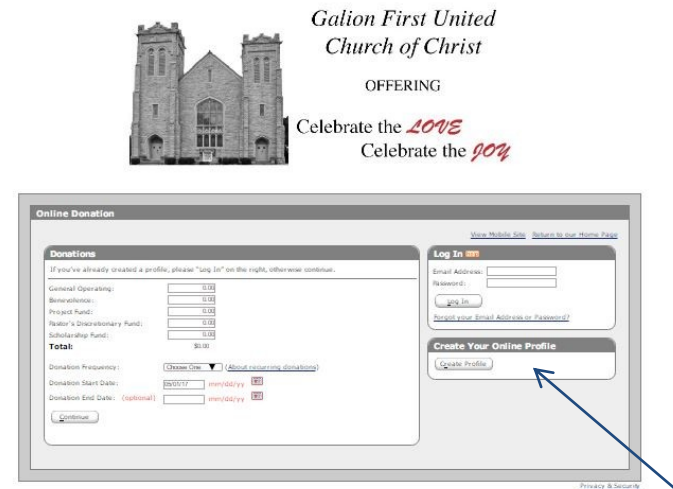
If you are unable to join us for worship in person, we would like to remind everyone that online giving is available, and instructions are provided on another page.

Thank you for your continued support 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.