

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

248 Harding Way W.  
Galion, OH 44833

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Rev. Steven Court-----Transition 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  
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. Steven Court  
Minister

Volume 33 No. 12

December 2021



**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.

The four weeks of Advent leading up to Christmas are an invitation - an invitation to see the world, and our place in it, with new and renewed vision. To see the world through the lenses of hope, peace, joy and love.

In some ways, this special time is an invitation to get into the Christmas spirit, watch movies and sing songs we love, count down the days to the grand celebration and let the holiday transform everything around us. It is a time when our homes and our church family work extra hard to be at our best.

In some ways, this is also a time of increased awareness that our home and our church family is not the perfect family we imagine it should be. Even when we do our best, we realize that we fall short of the family or community we celebrate. The stories we read in the Bible are wonderful but they seem a little too good to be true.

And yet, here it is. God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

These coming weeks, I invite you to “come home for Christmas” - physically, if able, and especially spiritually. Join with us in remembering what matters most. As we read the “Good News of Great Joy” the angels proclaim, we recognize that God has become personally involved in our messy and sin filled lives through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The Gospel of Luke reminds us time and time again that God offers the chance for less than perfect people to become more than ever thought or imagined.

Eugene H. Peterson conveys this well in *The Message* when he writes in his introduction to Luke:

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*Most of us, most of the time, feel left out -- misfits. We don't belong. Others seem to be so confident, so sure of themselves, "insiders" who know the ropes, old hands in a club from which we are excluded.*

*One of the ways we have of responding to this is to form our own club, or join one that will have us. Here is at least one place where we are "in" and the others "out."*

*The clubs range from informal to formal in gatherings that are variously political, social, cultural, and economic. But the one thing they have in common is the principle of exclusion. Identity or worth is achieved by excluding all but the chosen. The terrible price we pay for keeping all those other people out so that we can savor the sweetness of being insiders is a reduction of reality, a shrinkage of life.*

*Nowhere is this price more terrible than when it is paid in the cause of religion. But religion has a long history of doing just that, of reducing the huge mysteries of God to the respectability of club rules, of shrinking the vast human community to a "membership." But with God there are no outsiders.*

*Luke is a most vigorous champion of the outsider. An outsider himself, the only Gentile in an all-Jewish cast of New Testament writers; he shows how Jesus includes those who typically were treated as outsiders by the religious establishment of the day: women, common laborers (shepherders), the racially different (Samaritans), the poor. He will not countenance religion as a club. As Luke tells the story, all of us who have found ourselves on the outside looking in on life with no hope of gaining entrance (and who of us hasn't felt it?) now find the doors wide open, found and welcomed by God in Jesus.*

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In Luke, we read- When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

Come home for Christmas - physically, if able, and through your thoughts and prayers, if at a distance. Let us welcome one another with open arms as we worship together.

Pastor Steve

### **NOVEMBER 9, 2021 -CONSISTORY MEETING**

- December 10, 2021 at 6:30PM come and help decorate the tree in the sanctuary. Bring an ornament of yours to add to the tree. Cookies and hot chocolate will be provided.
- New Consistory Members are needed to fill spots of those leaving: one Elder, one Trustee and two Deacons.



### **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.

### **CORRECTION TO LAST MONTH'S SOUP RECIPE**

The Easy Sausage Chowder recipe which appeared in the October 2021 Visitor had an omission. The missing ingredient is 4 cups diced potatoes.

My apologies for the slip-up.

Betty Angell

### **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 2021, financial books will close on Friday, **December 31st at 11:00a.m.**

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

The Annual Meeting will be **Sunday, January 23rd** 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. 9th.** Also, all **Financial Reports are due into the church office by January 9, 2022**

### **GENESIS FRIENDS**

Our Christmas party will be **Thursday, December 9th**, with our spouses, in touring the **Herlihy Christmas House** in Mansfield. They feature their personal collection of more than 25 themed Christmas trees, hundreds of Santas, villages, Disney, trains, etc., some of the collections dating back 50+ years. Afterwards, we will be going out for supper at Steve's Dakota Grill or the Olive Garden in Mansfield. (Everyone pays for their own meal). We will decide that night which restaurant we will eat at. We will meet at the back (north door) of the church for car pooling at **6:00pm and leave at 6:15pm.** If you are interested in going, please contact Lisa Eichhorn at 419-569-1709, so we won't leave without you. There is a \$1 donation that will go to Toy Time and A Special Wish of North Central Ohio. This will be our meeting for December. Hope to see you and celebrate Christmas on the 9th.



## *Birthdays*

2nd	Beth Cotsmire	Paige Kruger
	Mary Janet Court	Hannah Weithman
	Becky Harmon	Mariah Weithman
4th	Lynda Eidt	21st Alexander Kalb
5th	Betty Angell	22nd Judy Eichhorn
	Ryon Bickert	Weston Guinther
	Kim Burkhart	25th Gary Repp
6th	Margery Miller	27th Lauren Mularski
	Bill Swick	Doug Schreck
7th	Jessica Brocwell	Deb Hildebrand
	Lisa Eichhorn	28th Douglas Harvey
	Carol Miller	Mark Olsen
10th	Ruth Essex	Dorothy Rhinehart
	Anderson Roesch	29th Sue Bloom
	Anthony Russell	Chris Burkhart
	Mike Swick	Evan Riggs
11th	Ben McKibben	30th Jerry Volk
	Kelly Spore	31st Parker Repp
12th	Todd Lusk	
	Larry Ness	
13th	Bruce Angell	
	Mindy Lamontagne	
14th	Jan Reynolds	
	Chris Ruth	
	Todd Knight	
15th	Rebecca Mularski	
17th	John Cole	
19th	Katy Repp	
20th	Evelyn Feik	

## *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



**HOSPITALIZATIONS**

None to report

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.

**BIRTH**

Charlie Rae Wise was born October 28, 2021( at 29 weeks). She is the daughter of Kaylee & Nick Wise & granddaughter of Carla & Dennis Russell. Congratulations!



**HEARTFELT THANKS**

Dear Friends,  
Thank you for the cards & prayers during my stay at the hospital, I'm doing fine. We also remember the delicious turkey dinner.

Blessings,  
Ken & Evelyn Feik



**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!**

**THE 1st UCC STAFF**



**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 12th.**  
**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

I plan to leave my poinsettia for a shut-in

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of shut in)



## COME HOME TO GALION

Weather permitting, don't forget to stop at our table on the square during the Come Home to Galion celebration on Saturday, December 4th from 1p.m.– 4p.m. We will be serving our famous turkey noodle soup and hot chocolate. We need workers to staff for an hour or two. If you are interested, please let the office know.

## MESSIAH

Once again, the Community Chorus will be performing Handel's Messiah on Sunday, December 5th at 3:00 P.M. This performance is free and open to the public.

## POINSETTIAS

Enclosed in this Visitor is the order form to order poinsettias to decorate the church during the holiday season. The cost is \$9.00 each this year and the deadline to order a flower is December 12th.



## FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH MEAL

Thank you to everyone who helped with this month's Fellowship & Outreach Meal. For our December meal, we are looking for bakers to make cupcakes. Please let the office know if you can help. Mark your calendar for December 16th at 5:00 p.m. See you then!

## “PREPARING THE WAY”

In following our theme this year of “Come Home” we will be decorating our big tree in the sanctuary on Friday, December 10th at 6:30 p.m. If you have a special ornament that means something to your family and would like to see it decorate our tree at church, bring it and share a little of your “home” with us during the holiday season. It is our goal to have something special on our tree from each family. We will have hot chocolate, Christmas cookies and the carols will be playing. Join us on the 10th as we come together to celebrate our “Coming Home.”

## MISSION CHRISTMAS TREE

We will once again be having a Reverse Advent Calendar for the Mission Tree. There is a list of items included in this month's Visitor. If you would like a box to put your items in we will have some in the Heritage Room. Please return the filled box/bag to the church by Christmas Eve so we can share them with others less fortunate. If you have any questions, please call the office or any Mission Committee member. Merry Christmas!

## HOLY JOE'S COFFEE

We will be purchasing \$650 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 2022 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.

## HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The office will be closed December 24th & December 31st. Merry Christmas!

## SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

Second Harvest Food Bank is looking for volunteers for the next mobile food pantry on December 29th. The food drive is located at the school's bus garage across from the Galion Middle School. There are 2 shifts available from 2:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. for set-up, registration and traffic control duties, or 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. for loading and distribution, stocking, re-stocking and clean-up.. Adair has been working the food bank for over a year and Todd Knight joined her last month. If you are interested, please contact Adair and let her know. The experience warms your heart knowing you are helping others in need.



# December

## The Birth of King Jesus

Day 1 – John 1:1-5  
Day 2 – Isaiah 9:6-7  
Day 3 – Isaiah 11:1-2  
Day 4 – Jeremiah 33:14-16  
Day 5 – Luke 1:26-31  
Day 6 – Luke 1:31-33  
Day 7 – Luke 1:34-38  
Day 8 – Matthew 1:18-21  
Day 9 – Matthew 1:22-25  
Day 10 – Luke 1:39-45  
Day 11 – Luke 1:46-56  
Day 12 – Micah 5:2-4  
Day 13 – Luke 2:1-7  
Day 14 – Luke 2:8-12  
Day 15 – Luke 2:13-14  
Day 16 – Luke 2:15-18  
Day 17 – Luke 2:19-20  
Day 18 – Matthew 2:1-2  
Day 19 – Matthew 2:3-6

Day 20 – Matthew 2:7-10  
Day 21 – Matthew 2:11-12  
Day 22 – Matthew 2:13-14, 19-23  
Day 23 – John 1:14  
Day 24 – John 18:36-37  
Day 25 – John 3:16  
Day 26 – Romans 6:23  
Day 27 – Galatians 4:4-5  
Day 28 – 1 John 5:11  
Day 29 – 1 Timothy 1:15-17  
Day 30 – Revelation 3:20-21  
Day 31 – Titus 3:3-7



## NEW CHRISTMAS TRADITION

Beginning December 1st,  
Read one chapter of  
The Book of Luke in the Bible  
each evening.

There are 24 chapters.  
On Christmas Eve you will have read  
an entire account of Jesus's Life  
and wake up Christmas Morning  
Knowing WHO and WHY  
We Celebrate!!



### CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

At 9pm we will have our traditional candlelight service featuring all of our musical ensembles and your favorite Christmas carols. Please join us in person or on Facebook or YouTube.

**Fairhaven Community  
Volunteer Service Group Newsletter  
November 15, 2021**

Due to pandemic, the meeting was held at Emmanuel UCC (Mud Church) 13898 Township Rd. 127, Upper Sandusky, OH. Vice President Arlene Main called the meeting to order. Devotions were given by Bucyrus St. John's. Roll Call: Volunteers – 12, Staff – 2. Minutes were approved as read.

A Thank You was received from Kara Orions for the catheter bag covers made by several of the volunteers. Becky also expressed a Thank You to Dorothy for the Halloween cards she made plus a Thank You to Brenda for the activity supplies furnished.

Treasury - \$1,047.14  
Gift Shop - \$1,106.04  
Bingo Cup - \$21.

**VSG Business:**

On Monday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> Volunteers will be allowed inside Fairhaven to do the decorations of two trees (the one at reception and the one in the chapel). Following the decorating, the dedication of the Tree of Love will take place at which time a list of all those who donated and for whom will be read. The dedication will be broadcast over the Fairhaven channel to the rooms of all residents. Also, a short video will be on Facebook. Those who donated to the Tree of Love will be notified of the Facebook video. All volunteers who enter the building will need to wear a mask. The cleaning of the Gift Shop will be done by the Fairhaven staff, after which the Gift Shop volunteers will go through supplies with the hope to open again after the first of the year. The Donation Request letter was reviewed and a few changes were suggested. Toward the end of the month of November, the revised letter will be sent out to the standard newsletter mailing list with the request that the churches send the letter out with their monthly newsletter in December and also announce to their congregations.

It was announced that all officers agreed to serve another year in their current capacity. Installation of officers for 2022 will take place at December meeting. At the December meeting, the stuffing of the stockings for the residents will take place. Arlene will make the stockings and Dorothy will purchase the supplies for "stuffing."

It was determined about 105 stockings are needed. Will meet at 10 to do the stockings and hold the meeting after.

Those volunteers who wish to do so will plan on meeting at Fairhaven on January 3<sup>rd</sup> to undecorate the trees unless otherwise informed by Jean Smith.

There will be no meeting in January.

The activity booklet for 2022 will be set up as done for the prior year. Will continue with listing the volunteers at end of book in alphabetical order with church affiliation listed.

**Staff:**

Jean Smith reported that 97% for the residents are vaccinated and 30% plus of the staff are also; therefore, masks are still required. They did booster shots last Friday for all who qualified and were interested and will do another in December. N95 masks are needed to protect others.

Jess Moss received the scholarship from the Volunteer Service Group and is working on going from LPN to RN.

Also, Upper Sandusky does a Festival of Trees and Fairhaven is involved. United Church Homes manages The Villa at Shariden in Carey which are rental units of age 55 and older. These were described as very nice units. She also shared that 63% of employees participated in the giving campaign this year. A new development is that United Church Homes will do a major renovation or construct a new building for Fairhaven. As of last Wednesday a pause has been done on admissions. They are now at 106 and expect through natural attrition will be down to 99 occupants as of the first of the year. Fairhaven will become a 99 bed facility due to the fact that because of government regulations, more support is received from the government for a facility of less than 100 beds. Face to face visitation is allowed but must call and make a reservation to do so. Jean Smith also stated that they could use physical help on putting up the outside decorations and also donation of more lights. If anyone would be so inclined and capable, please contact Fairhaven.

Becky shared tips to help keep oneself calm during the current times. The meeting was closed with "The Way".

The next regular meeting will be held December 20<sup>th</sup> at 10am for stocking stuffing. Devotions will be by Upper Emmanuel. Pizza will be furnished for lunch. The meeting will be held at Upper Emmanuel unless informed differently.



Dear Friends of Fairhaven,

As you are all aware, the Fairhaven Volunteer Service Group has always held several fund raisers throughout the year, the main one being the Harvest Fest. Due to the pandemic we were unable to hold this fundraiser in 2020, or any of the others, and instead just requested donations to be able to continue the work we do with Fairhaven.

In 2019 when we held the Harvest Fest we collected a total of \$4,620.33 from that one event with which we were able to donate \$4,000.00 to resident's specialized programs, art and craft supplies and new curtain and blinds. And due to knowing our funds for 2020 were going to be limited due to also not being able to hold bake sales or any other fund raisers at Fairhaven, we reduced our Scholarship Fund the following spring from \$1,000.00 to \$500.00.

From donations, which was the only fund raising we did in 2020, we were able to collect \$3,460.00 with which we managed to donate \$3,500.00 for retractable awning and patio umbrellas for Reflection Ridge. Now, once again due to our limited ability to have "normal" fund raisers, only gave \$500.00 this year to the Scholarship Fund. We thought the pandemic was easing and we were lining up alternative fund raisers for 2021. However, nothing has let up and due to not being able to be in the Fairhaven premises, our fund raising ability for 2021 has been zero. However, the needs of the residents have not dissipated.

I believe most of us are in a much better position than the residents at Fairhaven as they try to contend with the restrictions forced on them by the covid pandemic. Although the restrictions and regulations change, the pandemic continues to restrict many activities and the needs of the residents continue to grow.

**Therefore, we are once again asking you to look deep into your heart and equally deep into your pocketbook and give what you can, plus maybe just a little bit more, so our group can continue to support the Fairhaven residents. Everything we collect will be passed on by the Volunteer Service Group to help the residents of Fairhaven.**

Any funds you can contribute can be made **payable to Fairhaven Volunteer Service Group** and mailed to the treasurer:

Jean Pratt  
3193 Kiess Road  
Bucyrus, OH 44820.

Thank you all. We really appreciate all you can do to help us in our calling to assist the residents of Fairhaven. And may God Bless.

**Hebrews 13: 16 And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are sacrifices that please God.**

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**PAT'S CHOCOLATE CARAMEL BARS**

Bottom:

- 1 pkg. German chocolate cake mix
- 3/4 cup melted butter
- 1/3 cup evaporated milk
- 1 cup chopped nuts

Combine by hand and pat 1/2 mixture into greased and floured 9x13" pan. Bake 8 min. at 350 degrees. Melt together 1 pkg. Kraft caramels and 1/2 cup evaporated milk in double boiler. Pour over baked mixture and cover with 1 6oz pkg. chocolate chips. Top with remaining cake mixture by crumbling with fingers. Bake 18 min. at 350 degrees.

Submitted by,  
Martha See

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## TRANSITION TEAM REPORT

The month of November had a shaky beginning here at First UCC. Following two years of worship disruption caused by a covid pandemic, we were without a settled pastor. The hand of God, however, was preparing a path. The Rev. Steven Court was available and has agreed to act as our transition pastor through the Thanksgiving – Advent – Christmas seasons. His stated theme is to call us back into congregational worship emphasizing who we are and where we've come from as a local denomination and the church universal.

Our Northwest Ohio Association minister, Rev. Dan Busch, has been of great assistance in locating candidates for an interim minister to guide us through the process of identifying who we are, what we envision becoming and who we choose to lead us. We are excited that Rev. William Meyer has agreed to serve as our interim pastor beginning in January 2022 to help us in this quest.

Rev. Meyer has an extensive history and success as an interim pastor. The transition team cautions you that this is not a time of rest and relaxation for our congregation. Rev. Meyer is very eloquent and soft spoken. He is also very demanding and will expect our elected

leadership and all individual members to pray daily, participate whole heartedly and love one another in community as we journey together. We welcome Bill Meyer and extend an open and loving invitation to him as he enters into covenant with First Church. You will all receive a copy of this covenant and will be able to “sign onto” it yourselves as we begin our 18 month journey in January.

We thank Rev. Steven Court and Rev. Dan Busch for their leadership, and we welcome Rev. Meyer as our spiritual leader.

Sandy Kennedy, Judy Eichhorn, Doug Court

## THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO WORK BEHIND THE SCENES!

