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**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Galion, OH 44833

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Phone: 419-468-4380 [www.uccgalion.org](http://www.uccgalion.org)

Rev. Bill Meyer-----Minister

-----Office Secretary

Mary Ann Stone-----Financial Secretary

Stephanie Sikora-----Sr. & Bell Choir Director

Jennifer Arbaugh-----Organist

Jessica Hammond-----Organist

Martha See-----Kitchen Custodian



**First United Church of Christ**

248 Harding Way West  
Galion, OH 44833

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

Rev. Bill Meyer  
Minister

Volume 34 No. 3

March 2022



**SUNDAY SERVICES**

**Sunday School**

9:00 a.m.

**Worship Service**

10:00 a.m

*The VISITOR*



**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.



## Rediscovering Rogationtide in Galion

Dear congregation, dear beloved community,

About two years ago, in my last intentional interim pastorate -- as the Covid 19 pandemic was really setting in and disrupting the life of the church and disrupting and endangering our ordinary lives -- I discovered a new word.

Really.

The new word itself isn't particularly important, but I think the idea behind it may be -- especially for us at this moment today. Even though my new word pushes us past the season of Lent, this is really a Lenten meditation.

So I'll share the new word anyway.

The word is "Rogation." Huh! At first blush, this sounds something like one of those funky hair treatments for men. Or it might sound like something the Extension Office encourages you to do with your crops -- maybe like "crop rogation." The first idea is a bit of a head-scratcher, but the second one is a bit closer to the truth.

Rogation is a season on the traditional church calendar when people prayed for good crops and a good growing season. They prayed for protection from disease and disaster. And they often did church processions to neighbors' farms and gardens on the boundaries of the parish.

If folks here in Galion are willing, I'm hoping to revive this ancient custom. I'm hoping to do a Rogation procession -- probably several of us in cars going from farm to farm at the four compass points -- on Monday, May 23. Rogation Sunday is May 22. (I had earlier talked about doing it a week after Easter. But given vacation schedules etc., the actual day on May 23 will probably be better. I'm also reasonably certain that this German and English custom has been observed in Galion decades ago.)

In the old days, these processions often boiled down to visiting neighbors and being encouraging -- as well as providing practical help, like sharing extra seedling garden plants.

So why hadn't I heard about Rogation, Rogation Days, Rogation Sunday and Rogationtide before? I'm not sure. Maybe my education has just been neglected. In recent decades, Rogation has sort of morphed into Rural Life Sunday -- but with less emphasis on

### SUMMARY FOR VISITOR

CONSISTORY MEETING FEBRUARY 8, 2022

Still need to fill vacant Deacon's position. Please contact a Consistory Member or the church office if interested.

All hand towel and soap dispensers will be changed to automatic dispensers once current supplies are exhausted. There is no cost for the dispensers, just a commitment to purchase all supplies from the providing company.

The east entry will be updated with a glass enclosure and buzzer system for building entry.

The crack on the east wall is being monitored.

The dining room remodeling should begin in about 3 months.

Mission Committee report. Blanket Sunday will be March 6, 2022. Bucket and Personal Care Kits will be collected in March. Easter is April 17 and the proceeds from the Easter Flowers will go to United Church Homes. The sanctuary will be decorated with red geraniums on Sunday, May 22, 2022 as Pentecost is not until June 5th and geraniums could not be contracted for that Sunday. Fellowship and Outreach Meals are continuing.

Rev Meyer will be on vacation June 12, 19, and 26 and the weeks between.

Rev Meyer will be reviving an old ceremony from decades ago, Rogation, after Easter. More information coming in the future.

Sue Bloom was elected Deacon.

Dan Eichhorn was elected Trustee.

## Corona Compliance Team

The corona compliance team, appointed by consistory, is asking our worshippers to follow safe worshipping practices at all church services. As the reported incidents of Covid cases in the Galion area has subsided somewhat, we are pleased to present the following worship options.

- We will continue live streaming of all worship services via Facebook and U-tube. Contact the office if you need assistance in connecting.
- Masking is optional. Of course, we prefer you to be vaccinated if you aren't masking, but this is your decision.
- The balconies are always available for social distancing, and we would like to maintain some spacing on the main floor, too.
- We also have closed circuit TV capabilities in our dining hall. You may come with others who feel comfortable in the sanctuary while you participate the security of the dining hall with extreme distancing.
- The aisle and exit areas are the most dangerous places for covid transmission as this is where people are in close contact. Please allow time and space for those around you to seat and exit calmly and orderly.

As Christians, our concern is for the spiritual and physical health and well-being of our congregation and community. The evidence is overwhelming that the risk of serious effects or death from Covid decreases drastically with vaccine and booster shots. Please do those things that will protect you and people around you.

The positive news is that, with your cooperation, we plan to continue in sanctuary worship. We are also extremely appreciative that our video streaming team will continue to provide live video streaming via Facebook and U-tube.

Please direct comments and suggestions to members of the corona compliance team: Douglas Court, Brad Hocker, Rev. Bill Meyer, Doug Stone, and Brian Treisch.

prayer and less emphasis on practical help for neighbors. On the church calendar, both fall right before Ascension Day (Thursday, May 26, this year) and Ascension Sunday (May 29, this year).

In England and in Protestant Germany and in some parts of the American South, Rogation is still practiced. Catholics generally discontinued Rogation in the 1960s.

I discovered this word in a daily Bible-verse devotional book from the Moravian Church in Germany. The book is called the "Losungen." I was interested in the Losungen since Protestant martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer was guided every day by the daily Bible-verse watchword selected by the Moravian Church. This church had deeply influenced his mother, Paula. And the entry for May 17, 2020, in the Losungen referred to that day as "Rogation." Beside this new word, the Losungen says "Pray!" So I had to run to the dictionary and Internet to figure out what "Rogation" meant.

Indulge me, if I use this new word a bit in this article.

Of course, the word "Rogation" is unimportant and is certainly not a Bible word. However, the idea of prayer and holy neighborliness is very, very important. These are important Biblical principles. And I'll use almost any excuse to promote prayer and holy neighborliness. We always need prayer and holy neighborliness, but we especially need them in this season.

Prayer really does change things. We need to be seriously praying at this moment.

And our prayers do make a difference with God, according to the two Scripture passages that I read in church on Rogation Sunday in 2020. Both of these were referenced in the Losungen for Rogation Sunday, 2020, as part of the larger German-church lectionary for use in German churches. (These passages were Exodus 32: 7-14 and Luke 11: 1-13)

One of the reasons I believe that these two Scripture passages are important for us today is that Reformed Protestant theology tends to lift up the sovereignty of God so much -- often with the idea of predestination -- that the real impact of our prayers tends to be de-emphasized.

Therefore our personal commitment to prayer also tends to get neglected in practice.

In other words, if a Christian believes that God has worked out absolutely all the tiny details far in advance and won't change his mind, then why pray?

John Calvin and the other Swiss and Scots reformers tended to answer that prayer doesn't so much change God's mind as it benefits us spiritually. This theological idea that God's mind can't be changed is



called “immutability.” The upside is it emphasizes God’s sovereignty. The downside is it de-emphasizes prayer. But in my view, “immutability” – which also is not a Bible word -- doesn’t line up very well with Jesus’ teaching about prayer in Luke 11, when he instructs the Disciples and us about how to pray.

In the story in Luke 11 about borrowing bread from a friend at midnight, Jesus seems to be suggesting that our requests in prayer can indeed influence God’s actions. In verse 8, Jesus informs us,

“I tell you, even if he will not get up and give you the bread because he is your friend, yet he will get up and give you everything you need because you are not ashamed to keep on asking.”

Jesus’ point is not so much that we have to wear God down as it is that we need to upgrade our commitment to serious prayer. ... Prayer really does change things.

After all, Jesus continues in verse 9,

“Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”

Doors now closed get opened with prayer.

Also in the Exodus 32 passage, we find that Moses’ pleas to God really had an impact.

“So the LORD changed his mind and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.”

This is especially encouraging to me because the context of the story is that the people had screwed up in a very big way and been unfaithful to God while Moses was up on Mount Sinai.

As one whose personal history is about screwing up early and often, I’m really encouraged by the way that seriously talking it over with God seriously influenced God’s response. Both the King James Version and the older Revised Standard Version translate verse 14 as: “And the LORD repented ...”

Today, in 2022, serious prayer is still in order. This is true today and everyday, including on Monday, May 23, whether we call it Rogation Day or something else.

If you care to do so, let’s join on Monday, May 23, to pray for relief from disaster and protection from disease this year. (More details later.)

Let’s also be praying for God’s blessings upon the current growing season. All that we have and need comes from God.

Here in Galion, by extension, let’s also be praying for God to sustain employment and productive modern economic activity for all of God’s people. Then, let’s put legs on our prayers wherever we can by practically



# 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







*Birthdays*

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

*Anniversaries*

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

supporting and visiting other people – even if it sometimes has to be done remotely, with appropriate social distancing at the door, or by email.

As we continue to expand this Christian holy neighborliness, we can also keep helping our isolated or vulnerable neighbor get food or other necessities. Of course we can also help reduce the isolation of the vulnerable neighbor through phone calls, cards, letters, Facebook, text messages, emails etc.

Brothers and sisters, if you wish to join this ancient Rogation custom on Monday, May 23, we can be prayerfully remembering that the LORD truly is our shepherd.

Jesus really wants to shepherd us through every situation: To lead us – and our cattle, and our neighbors -- to green pasture. To lead us through the dark valley of deadly perils. To quench our thirsts, and to water our souls. And to keep us safely in his house all the days of our lives.

At all times of the year, and as we enter this Lenten season, let's prayerfully upgrade our commitment to seriously staying in touch with our Good Shepherd -- and with our neighbors too. Amen.

Fraternally, Bill Meyer

**John's Holy Tearers**

Thanks to all of you who supported this mission project of my father. For almost 20 years a group of seniors met monthly at Trinity Baptist Church in Marion tearing old bed sheets into strips which were then sewn and rolled into bandages. They were boxed and mailed to a mission hospital in Haiti.

Due to Covid and the advancing age of most of the workers the project has been wrapped up. Your congregation was most generous over the years in supplying them with sheets. (The pillowcases were used by another group to make dresses for little girls.)

This project literally gave my dad's life a purpose after my mom died. I thank you for your support.

Marilyn Stepro



**OUTREACH MISSIONS**



## **BLANKET SUNDAY– HAVE A HEART!**

What great support for our Church World Service Blanket Program! Your donations will be used to purchase blankets that will provide shelter and warmth to displaced individuals around the world. A list of donors will appear in the April visitor. Thank you to all!

## **Disaster and Personal Care Kits**

Our March mission is to fill buckets with cleaning supplies and bags with personal care necessities for Church World Service. Flooding devastates many communities each year, and our filled buckets and personal items can make a sad situation a little brighter. The gallon bag with the list of personal items needed can be found at the deacons' benches. The items needed to fill a bucket has expanded and we are asking for donations so we can purchase the items needed for the buckets. A donation of \$75 will fill a bucket with all the cleaning items needed, and the Mission Committee will do the shopping. Look for the envelope in your pew with the brightly colored label on to place your donation in. All donations are welcomed and will help fill those buckets. We need all donations turned in by March 30th so we can pack, shop, and get ready to ship the completed kits in April. If you have any questions, please contact the office.



## **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**

Thank you to everyone that supported our Souper Bowl of Caring. We collected 127 assorted cans of soup that were donated to our local food pantries. We also collected approximately \$500 which the Mission Committee will match for Cooperative Christian Services and the Community Action Center. We sure tackled hunger and scored a WIN for our local food pantries!

## **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 Circle**

We are meeting in the church lounge on March 21 @ 7 pm. We are excited to have Barb Nigh as our guest speaker. All women are welcome to come.



**FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH MEAL**

Mark your calendar for the March 17th Fellowship and Outreach Meal. Wear your green and stop up for a nice hot meal on St. Patrick's Day. In keeping with the St. Patty's theme, we are looking for a GREEN dessert. If you are one of our faithful bakers and have a favorite dessert, please sign the sheet outside the office. Sandy and her crew had a delicious meal in February, and we appreciate all their hard work. See you on the 17th at 5:00 p.m.



**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.

**HEARTFELT THANKS**

Dear Choirs

Thank you for the lovely planter you sent for the loss of my dad. We've so appreciated the love and support you've shown since dad came to stay with us 2 1/2 years ago. Yes. We make music together, but, oh, so much more—a friendship bond.

Love, Stephanie and John

**2022 CONSISTORY MEMBERS**

**ELDERS**

- Sandra Powell (22)
- Judy Eichhorn (23)
- Shelly Kurtzman (24)
- Brian Treisch (25)

**DEACONS**

- Mary Ann Stone (22)
- \*Barb Koschnick (22)
- Maggie Sulser (23)
- Sandy Kennedy (23)
- Sue Bloom (24)
- Bill Shifley (24)
- \*Secretary

**TRUSTEES**

- Doug Court (22)
- Todd Rudolph (23)
- Todd Knight (24)
- Dan Eichhorn (25)



St. Paul United Methodist Church  
746 Cherry St.  
Galion, Ohio 44833

**WEEKLY GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP  
Spring Session**

**March 14, 2022 thru June 6, 2022  
Mondays from 6:30 to 8:30 PM**

For more information and registration please call:  
Mary at 740-396-2522  
St. Paul Church office at 419-468-4557



## 9. Believe When You Pray

### Mark 11:20-25 NIV

In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!"

"Have faith in God," Jesus answered. "I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

### Mark 11:20-25 NLT

The next morning as they passed by the fig tree he had cursed, the disciples noticed it had withered from the roots up. Peter remembered what Jesus had said to the tree on the previous day and exclaimed, "Look, Rabbi! The fig tree you cursed has withered and died!"

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "Have faith in God. I tell you the truth, you can say to this mountain, 'May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and it will happen. But you must really believe it will happen and have no doubt in your heart. I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you've received it, it will be yours. But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too



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## 9. Believe When You Pray

AGAINST	FORGIVE	RECEIVED
ALONG	GRUDGE	REMEMBERED
ANYONE	HAPPEN	ROOTS
CURSED	HOLD	SEA
DIED	MORNING	TELL
DISCIPLES	MOUNTAIN	THROW
DOUBT	NOTICED	TREE
FAITH	PASSED	WHATEVER
FIG	PREVIOUS	WITHERED
FIRST	RABBI	YOURS