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FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Galion, OH 44833

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..Minister ..Office Secretary . Financial Secretary & Bell Choir Director ...Organist .. Kitchen Custodian www.uccgalion.org Phone: 419-468-4380 Jessica Hammond Stephanie Sikora. Jennifer Arbaugh Mary Ann Stone-Jeanine Girard. Rev. Bill Meyer Martha See

First United Church of Christ



248 Harding Way West Galion, OH 44833 419-468-4380

"United in Christ's Joy we welcome, love and serve all"

> Rev. Bill Meyer Minister

Volume 35 No. 4 uccgalion.org www.facebook.com/GalionUCC/ April 2022



SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday School 9:00 a.m. **Worship Service** 10:00 a.m.



THE INTERIM PASTOR'S NOTEBOOK:

Renewal for Easter Believers

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ.

We are an Easter and resurrection people.

We believe that Jesus was crucified, died, and was buried. We believe that on the third day he rose again, ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. We believe in the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Therefore, I think, we also must believe in and lean into the renewal of the Body of Christ, which is the church.

One of daily and weekly Scripture passages that I bumped into during last year's season of Lent was John 12: 24 and the following verses. I think this passage may apply not only to my ministry but also to that of First United Church of Christ of Galion.

The New Revised Standard Version translates Jesus' words from John 12: 24 – which speak about his death and about how the hour had finally come for the Son of Man to be glorified – like this:

"Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

This is one of those key sayings of Jesus in the Gospel of John that he literally begins with the Greek words "Amen, amen." The King James Bible translates this as "Verily, verily, I say unto you ..." Jesus is punctuating this verse this way to get our attention. Jesus is signaling that what he is about to say here is very important. "Amen, amen, I tell you!" Earlier, in John 3: 3, 5, Jesus punctuates his conversation with Nicodemus the same way. Talking with Nicodemus, he twice uses "Amen, amen" in Greek. In both cases, this stresses to Nicodemus the necessity of being born again from above in order to actually see and enter the Kingdom of God. This involves real change.

So this <u>"Amen, amen"</u> also signals to us today that John 12: 24 is very important.

The context of this verse is also significant because for the first time outsiders – Greeks who are completely outside any possible definition of the Jewish covenant community – are now clamoring to see Jesus.

Jesus knows this is a decisive moment.

YOUR INPUT IS CRITICAL FOR OUR SUCCESS

Have you signed up for a cottage/search team small group meeting? There are spaces available. Sign up lists are in the hallway behind the sanctuary. You can also call the church office and Jeanine will put you on the list. Below is the list of questions that will begin the discussion for each of the meetings.

- Ice-breaker: Briefly share <u>one positive thing about any of the pastors</u> that you have had that was especially meaningful to you and drew you closer to God.
- Question 1: As we seek to discern and try to live into God's dreams for us, should the next pastor be more an agent-of-change or more of a chaplain?
- Question 2: As we consider differences of perspective in the church, how much pastoral courage and how much pastoral caution is this congregation willing to tolerate?
- Question 3: What should both sides of the pastoral-care/ congregational dance look like – from God's perspective, and from yours?
- Question 4: To what extent should the next pastor be expected to be accept blame for the sins and conflicts of church members and the congregation and then bear them away?
- Question 5: If secular culture-war questions come into the church, to what extent should louder voices be given an effective veto over church decisions and pastoral functioning?

The compiled responses will be used to help us define who we are and where we want to go as the body of Christ in the Galion area. This is your chance to be heard and to help us set the stage for the selection of a settled pastor to lead us forward.

| <u>Date</u> April 3 - Sunday | Time & Location #1 1:00 pm - The Gill House Brian Treisch | Time & Location #2 7:00 pm - First UCC Judy Eichhorn |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| April 4 - Monday | 1:00 pm - Bucyrus Sandy Kennedy | 7:00 pm - First UCC Shelly Kurtzman |
| April 10 - Sunday | 1:00 pm - The Gill House Brian Treisch | 7:00 pm - First UCC Judy Eichhorn |
| April 11 - Monday | 1:00 pm - First UCC Sandy Powell | 7:00 pm - The Court House Doug Court |



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



alyssajhoward.com

Decisive moments, changes

Not only will Jesus within days go to the cross, die and be resurrected. The Jewish covenant community of his followers will also be fundamentally changed, restructured and resurrected. This will challenge the basic sense of identity of his followers. Though the process will take years and decades, it will be neither smooth nor painless. (A thoughtful reading of the entire book of Acts confirms that this is so.)

The Jewish covenant community that followed Jesus will first admit some non-Jews as full members. Then it will within a few decades have a non-Jewish majority. This loss of cultural control was a very difficult change for the early church.

Managing, theologically understanding and culturally consenting to these changes was one of the primary challenges for the earliest Christians. These are also key themes of the New Testament after the four Gospels themselves. This means the book of Acts and especially Paul's letters to the churches. Paul's letters emphasize the need of the early Christians to surrender their older understanding of what it meant to be a Christian to the Holy Spirit's new understanding.

But some of the earliest Christians fought Paul. They insisted that non-Jewish Christians must first become Jews before coming to Jesus. Paul insisted that was wrong.

He insisted they needed to accept change.

To be blunt, using Jesus' terms here, they had to be willing to let their old understanding and their old way of doing "church" die. That was really hard. This was core identity stuff. Lamentably, not all the early Christians were able to let the old understandings fall to the earth and be buried.

But those congregations that were able to keep up with the Holy Spirit continued to grow and multiply exponentially. They multiplied and expanded to the whole world.

Those that couldn't or wouldn't basically withered. They failed to reproduce and eventually vanished.

Embracing outsiders and a new outsider perspective is vital.

It is especially important if we are to continue to grow in our congregational ministry – to say nothing about growth in numbers.

To my eyes, one of the most interesting periods in the history of First United Church of Christ of Galion is the decade or so when the railroads first arrived. You called an outsider pastor. Pastor Max Stern served your great, great grandparents for the decade until early in the American Civil War. Stern was a new Christian. So he had a different perspective from most pas-

tors of his day. He was the grandson of the rabbi of Schweinfurt, Bavaria. Stern became a Christian after immigrating to the United States. He became a student of the great Reform Church theologian Phillip Schaff at the German Reform Church Seminary in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania.

Pastor Stern -- and your great, great, great grandparents at First Church - were willing to embrace change. They were willing to let older patterns die when they no longer fit new cultural and theological circumstances in a new land then experiencing a major technological and economic revolution.

The results in Galion were stunning -- and multiplicative.

Good fruit in Galion

The old died. The new bore much fruit.

Stern and your great, great, great grandparents essentially ran a miniseminary in Galion. Dozens of young pastors were trained at First Church. Then they were deployed all over central Ohio. They planted churches. They brought stability to other new congregations. They helped immigrants change their lives and faith commitments in ways that fit the rapid and disorienting changes of their developing new homeland.

Your ancestors in the faith were willing to let what wasn't really working well to do God's will die. And they were willing to let something new and alive be born to do the Work of Christ in their community.

In our context right now, we are getting ready to consider and plan for the next phase of ministry at First Church. We will have cottage meetings beginning within days to get your prayerful input. Please sign up for one of them. Please pray about how the Holy Spirit may be nudging you to dream about our future with the new settled pastor. What do you sense? What do you and the Spirit want to see in the future?

Will we be willing to let the grain of wheat fall to the ground, be buried and then see new life emerge?

Or will we insist that what is well-loved but withering must never be changed?

Our history as a congregation has signaled a willingness to change. We have seen openness to outsider perspectives result in great fruitfulness. This was the early experience of First Church. It was also the early experience of the very first church. It is clearly described in the book of Acts, and in the letters that follow.

All of this signals to me that First United Church of Christ may now be positioning itself to reclaim its historic role as a cutting-edge congregation, open to the outsider, exercising and influencing positive local, regional and



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



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



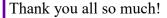
Thank you to all that helped make our Spaghetti dinner a success. We served over 70 meals. The next meal is April 21st at 5 pm. There is a sign up sheet outside the office for anyone interested in backing a peach cobbler. Even though the remodel of the dining hall has begun, we will continue with the carry out meals. We are looking forward to returning to sitting at tables and eating in community when the dust clears.

See you on the 21st.

Disaster and Personal Care Kits

There is still time to turn in donations and personal care kits before the buckets and kits go to the NWO Spring Meeting at the end of April. Please return them to the Heritage Room by April 6.

Our grand total for the Church World Service Blanket Campaign is 194 Blankets. What a wonderful outpouring of love.





United Church Homes

Enclosed is a sign up sheet to purchase Easter Flowers in memory of, honor of, ore to the Glory of God to decorate our sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Each flower costs \$15 with the proceeds from the donations to be sent to the United Church Homes to help cover expenses for residents who are in need. This is a great way add some Easter cheer to your house and to cheer up a resident who needs a boost at one of the homes.

maybe even national leadership.

So I hope I can be forgiving for having frequently asked the question: "Then -- if great, great, great grandma and great, great, great grandpa got this ministry stuff right, with way, way fewer resources -- what is holding us back now?"

As Jesus declared at the decisive moment in his ministry,

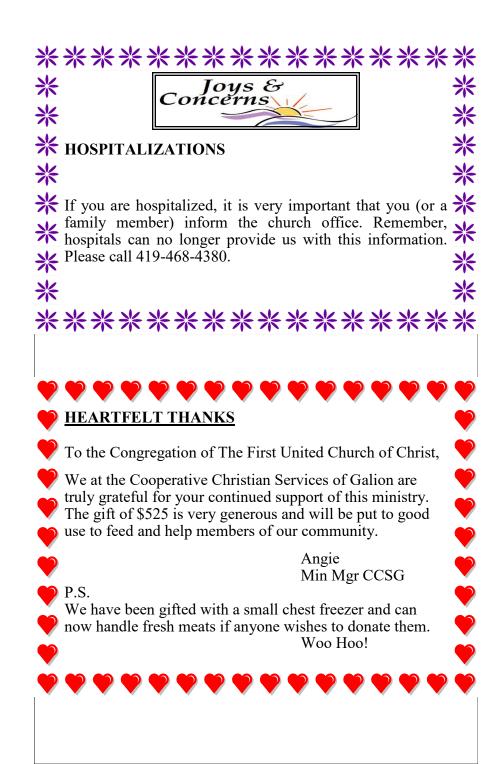
"Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

Fraternally, Bill Meyer

CONSISTORY MEETING SUMMARY

MARCH 8, 2022

- Cottage Meetings will be held to discuss where we head as a church searching for a new minister. Relationships to our congregation as well as our community will be discussed.
- Bill Shifley was appointed and approved for a 3-year term as Deacon.
- Souper Bowl Sunday netted 127 cans and \$500; the money being matched by the Mission Committee. \$500 was donated to each of the two food pantries.
- Discussion was held as to what we can do to help the Ukraine refugees. The Mission Committee will present recommendations.
- Jeanine Girard has been placed by Spherion as our new church secretary.
- A Personnel Committee consisting of: Brian Treisch, Sandy Powell, Sandy Kennedy, Karen Eberle, and Dan Brown has been formed and approved.
- United In Harmony will perform an acapella concert, outside, weather permitting, on Pentecost, Sunday, June 5, 2022.
- Rev. Meyer will be on vacation July 2 and 31, and August 7, 2022, and the two weeks between. Tom Jeffers will Minister one Sunday.





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!

GENESIS FRIENDS

Genesis Friends will meet April 18th @ 7 p.m. in the lounge. Scott Tinnermeir will talk about everyday miracles and about the background of the online streaming of the movie, The Chosen!!! Scott is a third grade teacher at Colonel Crawford schools and taught in Bucyrus for many years. His wife Julie is an instructor at the Y, and their son is in high school Scott is a talented actor and has been in several shows at the Galion Community Theatre.

Following his talk we will pack the Exam CARE Packages for our college students.

FROM THE ELDERS

Elders met in March to support the work toward the pastoral search process. The Search Meetings (also referred to as Cottage Meetings) will begin on Sunday, April 3rd and continue on selected Sunday and Monday time slots through April 11th as shown in the chart below. Rev. Meyer will facilitate the 1-hour meetings with specific discussion points leading us toward discernment. Each Elder and Transition Team member will host a Cottage/Search Meeting on the following dates:

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|--|--|---|
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Elders also are updating the Visitation/Call list for use by church members who are not able to attend church services or events.

FROM THE TRUSTEES

Construction on the remodel of the dining/fellowship hall has begun. The old ceiling has been removed and contracts are in place for it's replacement with new lighting. While the ceiling is down the updated heating and air conditioners will be installed. We know there will be some inconveniences as the room will not be usable during this phase. Please bear with us. When this phase is completed we will have use again, until the walls and flooring are addressed in phase 2 and phase 3.

There has been more than one complaint about random dispensing of paper towels in our restrooms. New pull down dispensers have arrived and will be installed this spring. These are the "restaurant type" dispensers which roll out and cut off one paper towel at a time.

Easter Word Search

| APOSTLES | |
|-----------------|--|
| CROWN | |
| LAMB | |
| PRAYER | |
| RESURRECTI | |
| SON | |

CHURCH FAITH MARY REDEMPTION RISEN SUNDAY

CROSS JESUS MIRACLE REJOICE SAVIOR TOMB





BLANKET DONATIONS

2022

Blankets Are Given In Loving Memory of:

Marjorie Beck by Dale & Carole Miller

Herb & Carole Brown by Philip & Sundie Brown

Grant Michael Brocwell by Dave & Angie Brocwell

Susan Reid Cohn by Jim & Nancy Reid

Allen & Mary Conklin by Doug & Cathy Conklin

Allen & Mary Conklin by Trudy DeWitt

Mary Conklin by Bruce & Betty Angell

Bill & Marjorie Court by the Court family

Mary Court by the Court family

Shannon Court by the Court family

Fritz & Betty M. Durtschi by the Durtschi family

Lowell & Mabel Eichhorn by Dan & Lisa Eichhorn

Fred Essex by Ruth Essex

Carol Flick by Bruce & Betty Angell

Ericka Nicole Gill by Kerri Scott

Larry Goldsmith by Lynne Goldsmith

The Goldsmith Family by Sandy Keller & Lynne Goldsmith

Our Loved Ones Who Have Passed by Jim & Ellie Heiser

John Heitzman by Mary Ann & our children

Howard Hocker by Brad & Stacey Hocker

Chuck Hollingsworth by Philip & Sundie Brown

Joyce Hollingsworth by Philip & Sundie Brown

Willa Isaacs by Her Family

Roger Keller by Sandy Keller

Arpad & Teresa Kiss by 1st U.C.C. Mission Committee

Elmo & Genevie Koschnick by Jack & Barb Koschnick

Rosemary K. McDaniel by Tim McDaniel

Stan & Anna Mae Morris by Philip & Sundie Brown

Kyle Morrissey by Philip & Sundie Brown

Herbert Mounts by Tim McDaniel

Our Parents, Siblings & Grandparents by the Neals & Hayes' Families

Cloyd & Mildred Rhinehart by Dorothy Rhinehart

Don Rhinehart by Dorothy Rhinehart

Cloyd, Mildred & Don Rinehart by Jo & Dave Bosh

Susan Ritzhaupt by Dorothy Rhinehart

Finance Committee Report for the April "Visitor"

As part of our continuing commitment to excellence in Church financial stewardship and overall transparency, the Finance Committee is reporting our first quarter summary.

For the period ending March 31, 2022, our envelope and online giving has totaled \$28,866.29. This translates to 88% of our projected yearly budget on a monthly basis. In comparison, our giving for the previous year was running at \$35.221.73 as of the same date.

It is understandable that our total giving has lessened in comparison to last year. A fall-off in Church attendance (primarily due to bad weather) has contributed to this situation. Hopefully, we will see an improvement in attendance as Spring arrives. Our Committee persists in seeking to trim expenses to help with this shortfall.

The Finance Committee congratulates our congregation for continuing your steadfast support of our Church.

Submitted by, Alan Mularski (Committee Chairperson)



SOUPER SCHOLARSHIP THANK YOU!

The Scholarship Committee would like to thank everyone for our successful Soup and Salad fundraiser. We were able to raise \$918 for our annual mission to provide tuition support for our First UCC college students. We appreciate the generosity of our congregation this year.

From Betty's Kitchen

This recipe comes from a book called Dump Soups. Robin Zeir passed it along to me because she knew that I sometimes made soup that I brought over to Eileen Mountz.



CREAMY TUSCAN BEAN AND CHICKEN SOUP

2 cans (10 3/4 oz each) of celery soup

2 cups water

1 can (14 1/2 oz) undrained diced tomatoes (Mine contained peppers and onion because that's what I had.)

1 can (14 1/2 oz) white kidney beans (cannellini) rinsed and drained

2 cups shredded or diced cooked chicken (I used leftover rotisserie chicken which works)

1/4 cup bacon bits

3 oz fresh baby spinach leaves (about 3 cups)

Heat the soup, water, tomatoes, beans, chicken, and bacon bits in a large sauce pan over medium high heat to a boil. Stir in the spinach and cook for about 5 minutes or until the spinach is wilted. Makes about 2 quarts.

The recipe says this can be served with a drizzle of olive oil and a sprinkle of parmesan cheese, but I have never tried that

Betty Angel

Joel & Ethel Sames by Jack & Barb Koschnick

Emory Shaffer by Lynne Goldsmith

Mindy M. Sheriff by the Durtschi family

Miriam Shifley by Genesis Friends

James E. Smith by Gary & Brenda Neal & Family

Nick & Stephanie Supron by Doug & Cathy Conklin

Ellis Swick by Ruth Swick

Barb Thompson by Bruce & Betty Angell

Richard Wiggins by Dorothy Wiggins

Chet & Alice Zimmerman by their family

Harold & Thelma Zimmerman by their family

Blankets Are Given In Honor of by:

Our grandchildren by Dan & Lisa Eichhorn

Our Children, Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren by Jim & Ellie Heiser Brayden, Isaac, Trevor, Brooklyn, Emma, Leah, Henry, Brick, & Kit by Christine Coe

Daughters by Alan & Jerri Mularski

Adair Pittman by Bruce & Betty Angell

Dorothy Rinehart by Jo & Dave Bosh

Andrew Sikora by John & Stephanie Sikora

Loren, Annie, Kate, Kassidy & Linnea Stone by Doug & Mary Ann Stone Leslie, Michael, Evan & Elin Swartzbaugh by Doug & Mary Ann Stone The People of Ukraine by Marcia & Dan Brown

Blankets Are Given To The Glory of God by:

Bruce & Betty Angell

Lyle Angene

Sue Bloom

Beth & Kevin Cotsmire

Kenneth & Evelyn Feik

Marlene McDaniels & family

Rev. Bill Meyer

Marcy Miller

Jean Pratt

Bill & Lynne Shifley

Maggie, Jim & Paul Sulser

Bill & Wanda Swick

Chuck & Linda Swick

Anonymous

Fairhaven Community Volunteer Service Group Newsletter March 21, 2022

Due to the pandemic, this meeting was held at Emmanuel UCC (Mud Church) 13898 Township Rd. 127, Upper Sandusky, OH.

President Barb Nigh called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. A letter was received from Gloria Hurwitz thanking the group for the Christmas stockings provided for the residents.

Treasury Balance - \$2,537.76 Gift Shop Balance - \$1,106.44 Bingo Cup - \$21.00

VSC Business:

An additional \$250 was received for the Harvest Festival Donations. taking the total received to about \$1000. All donations are appreciated, however, it needs to be noted that this leaves the donations over \$2999 less than the prior year which severely limits what the VSG can do toward Fairhaven's annual "Wish List." Barb stated that new fund raising ideas are needed.

The only two suggestions presented were "zoom grandparents" and "online auction." These will be discussed further at a later meeting. Barb also shared that Fairhaven does not want large groups of 20 or more in the building at one time. It was suggested that we have groups of three or four persons at one time working on various projects. Project suggestion are as follows: 1 – doll room needs to be cleaned and the dolls put in original boxes, 2 – door decorations, 3 – help with crafts in memory unit, 4 – help with bingo and refreshments, and 5 – help with the gift shop. Marcy Miller, Marlene McDaniels, and Rhonda Harvey volunteered to do the door decorations.

Staff:

Alyssa Crous reported for Jean Smith. She stated that Fairhaven is watching the county color of COVID-19 to determine when volunteers will again be permitted in the facility. Volunteers need to sanitize their hands and wear surgical masks. One person with COVID-19 is considered an outbreak. When the county shows low numbers, we will be able to meet at Fairhaven. There is a new guide for volunteers and employees which will be sent to all members before our next meeting.

Fairhaven is doing a staff give away raffle for excess furnishings such as TVs, refrigerators, and small items.

Karen, the director of nursing for 37 years, is retiring. A replacement has been hired. The new chaplain is Rev. Darla Mezz.

Also, the residents are anxious for the gift shop to open. No date has been set vet.

The next meeting will be April 18th with Marion First having devotions with a sack lunch following the meeting. The meeting will continue to be held at Emmanuel UCC unless notified differently.

🐧 Introducing our secretary, Jeanine Girard.

Hello!

I'm Jeanine. Originally from Wisconsin, I've lived in both North and South Dakota. In fact, I think I am the only person to move TWICE to North Dakota! I'm retired from TJ Maxx managing stores in various states. Since then, I have settled in Ohio. (Dayton, Columbus and now Mount Gilead.)

I am a long term American Red Cross volunteer and may be found at their office in Mount Gilead, or sometimes remotely. My main role has been working on the recruiting and screening of potential Red Cross volunteers. Other volunteering is with the non-profit Gilead Gym in Mount Gilead. It was formerly known as the Morrow County Community Center, and prior to that they were a part of the Y here in Galion. There, I am at the Front Desk checking members in/out, giving tours to potential members.

If you are on FB you may have seen my page "What's Happening in Morrow County." Going on almost 6 years now, I wanted to make a page that lists various Community events & shares information from local non-profit organizations and local assistance that is available.

I have 2 cats, Gram and Bellie. I am a h Elite Wrestling). Looking forward to meeting everyone! I have 2 cats, Gram and Bellie. I am a huge fan of AEW (All