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**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

248 Harding Way W.  
Galion, OH 44833

Church E-mail: [office@uccgalion.org](mailto:office@uccgalion.org)  
Rev. Meyer: [pastor@uccgalion.org](mailto:pastor@uccgalion.org)  
Phone: 419-468-4380 [www.uccgalion.org](http://www.uccgalion.org)

Rev. Bill Meyer.....Minister  
Jeanine Girard ..... Office Secretary  
Mary Ann Stone.....Financial Secretary  
Stephanie Sikora.....Sr. & Bell Choir Director  
Jennifer Arbaugh ..... Organist  
Jessica Hammond ..... Organist  
Martha See ..... Kitchen Custodian

First UCC is 175 years old!  
Special Anniversary Services  
begin Sunday Sept. 18.

**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”*

**SEPT. 2022**

Volume 39 No. 9  
September 2022

Rev. Bill Meyer  
Intentional Interim  
Pastor



**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 INTERIM PASTOR'S NOTEBOOK:

## God's people are still listening

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The United Church of Christ has a slogan: "God is still speaking."

This seems to be a compellingly crisp affirmation of important pre-passion words of Jesus -- and an echo of the basic scriptural creed of Judaism, called the "Shema."

Just before Jesus' betrayal, he had this to say in John 16: 12 – 15 (NRSV):

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you."

We see exactly this sort of progressive revelation and progressive declaration by the Holy Spirit – the Spirit of truth – in the book of Acts. This continues today.

God was reshaping the nature and vision of the church. The book of Acts works much like throwing a rock into a farm pond: There is a circular wave. And then another. They get wider and wider until the whole pond is affected. God makes the circles wide.

# 7 Daily Prayers



## Pray for Love

God help me to love as you have commanded me to love.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7



## Pray for Peace

God surround me with your peace.

1 Peter 5:7



## Pray for Others

God I pray for others to receive you in their life.

1 Timothy 2: 1-5



## Pray for Forgiveness

God if there is anything I have done wrong, please forgive me.

1 John 1:19



## Pray for Guidance

God show me what you want me to do today.

Jeremiah 42:3



## Pray for Protection

God keep your hands of protection around me.

Deuteronomy 31:6



## Pray for Faith

God help me to believe you will meet all of my needs.

Mark 11:24



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

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## 18. The Good Samaritan

ACQUIT	INHERIT	ROAD
AROSE	INNKEEPER	ROBBERS
BEAT	LAWYER	SALVATION
CARE	MERCY	SIDE
CORRECTLY	NEIGHBOR	STRENGTH
DEAD	PARTAKE	STRIPPED
ENJOY	PITY	TEMPT
ETERNAL	POURING	TEST
EVERLASTING	READ	TRAVELED
HALF	REPROACH	WAGES

The early church was like that. It began as a small, local, all-Jewish band of Jesus' followers in Acts 1. By the end, it was an empire-wide, blended church of Jews and Gentiles, with a surging Gentile majority.

At every one of the ethnic and theological breakthrough moments in the book of Acts, the Holy Spirit was there. The Spirit of truth confirmed God's affirmation of the Samaritan believers. Same thing with the Ethiopian eunuch. The Spirit of truth was also clearly speaking to the church when Peter baptized Cornelius, the Roman centurion.

Finally, pure Gentiles are converted in Antioch.

Just as Elaine Page, executive director of Grace Community Center in Toledo, preached to us, God also speaks to us today -- as congregations and individuals.

While telling us her story of faith, Ms. Page said she was listening for and to God.

She urged us to be willing to also listen for and to the God who is still speaking.

Then on Aug. 21, we examined Jesus' words in John 8 during worship. In verses 31 and 32, we hear Jesus still speaking to us:

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

He went on to warn, in verses 43 through 46, against getting caught up in the echo chamber of lies that come from the devil, the father of lies, whose victims then become incapable of hearing words of truth from the still-speaking God. In verse 47, Jesus seems to echo one of the basic creeds of Judaism, the so-called "Shema," when he proclaims:

“Whoever is from God hears the words of God.”

The name “Shema” – literally “hear” -- is taken from the Hebrew first word of the creedal statement, which Jesus often quoted, found in Deuteronomy 6: 4-5 (NRSV):

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.”

This first line could just as well be translated to hear God, not just about God:

“Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD alone.

God is still speaking to us -- urging us to hear, and to listen. So let us still hear the still-speaking words of Jesus in John 8: 31-32, as he echoes the “Shema”:

“If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” -- Amen.

Fraternally, Bill Meyer



## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION TIME

*“Our church’s college tuition scholarship application forms will be available beginning Sunday, September 2nd at the Deacon’s benches. You may also email the church office, [office@uccgalion.org](mailto:office@uccgalion.org), and request an electronic application. Our secretary, Jeanine Girard, will forward one to the applicant. Our scholarship tuition support is for current college students taking classes spring semester of 2023. Deadline for applications is Sunday, October 30, 2022.”*  
*Submitted by Sandy Powell.*



## RECENT HOSPITALIZATIONS

Please pray for a smooth recovery for Lynne Shifley as she convalesces from a broken leg that occurred during a recent fall.

Prayers appreciated for Carol Walter’s smooth recovery as she convalesces from recent hip surgery.

## With Heartfelt Sympathy

Condolences to Kent and Nancy Green. Ken’s father Ralph Green passed away Sat. Aug. 20. He was the grandfather of Brett & Jill Green and the great grandfather of Evelyn & Henry. For more information: [www.snyderfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/](http://www.snyderfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/)

Tim W. McDaniel, Sr. of Galion, passed way Sunday, August 7, 2022 due to injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident. More info can be found at [snyderfuneralhomes.com](http://snyderfuneralhomes.com).

Wanda Nixon passed away Friday, July 29. <https://www.masfh.com/obituary/Wanda-Nixon>.

Mrs. Dorothy Rhinehart passed away Tuesday, July 5. More information: [www.companionfunerals.com/obituaries/Dorothy-Rhinehart](http://www.companionfunerals.com/obituaries/Dorothy-Rhinehart)

*Do you have a milestone you would like to share with the congregation? Please send it to [office@uccgalion.org](mailto:office@uccgalion.org) or call the Church Office.*



### We apologize for the following errors in the August Visitor:

Ryan & Deseree Neal's anniversary is July 18 (not Aug. 18).  
Pam & Daniel Hayes' anniversary was omitted. It was Aug. 14.  
Chuck & Maureen Neal's anniversary was omitted. It was Aug. 10.



We apologize that we will not be listing the monthly birthdays & anniversary dates in the Visitor. The data base is inaccurate, in need of updating and verification. Too many wrong dates and missed milestones have occurred each month.

To avoid misunderstandings and until that data base is to our satisfaction for accuracy, we will not be publishing the list of those milestones. In the interim, we will gladly accept your individual submissions on a case-by-case basis.

If you have a birthday, anniversary (your own, someone in your family, etc) you would like to have shared in an upcoming Visitor, please email the info ([office@uccgalion.org](mailto:office@uccgalion.org)) or drop a note to the office. Thank you. Jeanine Girard, Church Secretary.

**SEPTEMBER**  
Canned Meats  
Soups  
Crackers  
Noodles



Please feel free to vary from the above list. Cookies, Kool-Aid, chips, paper products, detergents, cleaning supplies, toothpaste, toothbrushes, diapers, baby products, shampoos, conditioners, sanitary supplies, and deodorant are always helpful. Thank you for your support!

## Finance Committee Report

At the August Consistory meeting, the Finance Committee's recommendation that the 2022 Budge be changed to reflect the increased expenses incurred earlier this year was approved.

At the time of this writing (Aug. 24, 2022), our 2022 giving to date is \$81,742 as compared to \$93, 287 at this same time last year. Projecting our current giving to the end of the year, we will reach approximately 91% of our budget.

Soon, the Finance Committee will begin the process of composing a budget for the 2023 church year. We will be taking a hard look at the new realities confronting us as a Congregation and how our Committee can help us sustain our continuing advance into the future. Our thanks go to all of you for your support. Respectfully submitted by: Alan Mularski, Finance Committee Chairperson.

### Recap of the Consistory meeting Tues. Aug. 9, 2022 at 7:00 PM

**Elders' report.** Brian Treisch gave a Discernment Team update.  
**Building news.** The towels are different in the restrooms. The East entryway and holes in the driveway are still being addressed.  
**The Mission Committee** will meet Monday Aug. 29. \$385 for Veterans of the Cross. \$338 Grace Church. The Ice Cream Social was a success netting approximately \$800 for the Dining Room project.  
**Financial Report** and the payment of bills discussed. The budget is the same as the one approved by the congregation in January, but some modifications were made to the budget in June.  
**Outreach.** Recent Ice Cream Social was a success with attendance down from LY, perhaps since it was held inside this year due to weather. The Corn Roast was held on Wed. Aug. 18. Will have report on that next month.  
Discussion of the **175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Church.** Over the course of 4 Sundays (Sept. 18 – Oct. 9) will be special services commemorating this milestone. Copies of the Consistory minutes are available on request.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 7:00 PM.  
Barb Koschnick, Committee Secretary.



**Fairhaven Community  
Volunteer Service Group  
Newsletter**  
August 15, 2022



**UNITED  
CHURCH  
HOMES®**  
the **FAIRHAVEN**  
community

President Barb Nigh called the meeting to order.

Devotions were given by First UCC Galion.

Roll Call: Volunteers – 12, Staff – 2

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Treasury Balance - \$2,728.26

Gift Shop - \$1,116.04

Bingo Cup - \$22.00

**VSG Business:**

The Spirit Award, which the VSG had received, was on display. It was decided to pass it monthly to the various churches, starting with St. John's UCC, Bucyrus.

Arlene gave an update on the packing and recording of the various dolls from the doll room at Fairhaven. It is a time consuming process.

Barb reported that she and Jean had packed up everything from the Gift Shop and either disposed of items, donated items for bingo prizes, sorted items to be assembled into "baskets" for the online auction, and moved the remaining items to the storage room assigned to the VSG. Barb suggested to the group that all the Styrofoam Plates and Cup in storage, that had been used in the past for the Harvest Festival, should be offered to the various churches for a donation as it is unsure when a function such as the Harvest Festival will be held again. The group seemed agreeable with this suggestion.

The final copy of the Online Auction Letter was distributed to all present. Marcy reported that she had called all the churches that had donated to the Harvest Festival in the past to tell them about the upcoming online auction. She explained that a letter will be sent by September 1<sup>st</sup> explaining how the auction will work and suggested donation items. She gave Jean the addressed envelopes for the churches to whom she spoke. Jean will send out the same letter by email to her normal monthly mailing.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Monday Aug. 29 Mission Committee 7:00pm  
Thursday Sept. 8 Finance Committee 7:00pm  
Tuesday Sept. 13 Consistory Meeting 7:00pm  
Thursday Sept. 15 Community Meal 5:00-6:00pm  
Friday Sept. 16 Galion Uptown 5:00-8:00pm  
(Final one of 2022)  
Sunday Sept. 19 Genesis Friends 1:00pm  
(see below)

Everyone is welcome to attend and/or participate!

**Genesis Friends is starting up again!**

A potluck for Genesis Friends & Spouses!! Potluck will be held at Lisa & Dan Eichhorn's house (4039 Monnett New Winchester, Bucyrus) Sunday Sept. 18 at 1:00pm. Drink/table service will be provided.



**ATTENTION SINGERS and  
RINGERS!**

It's time to make a joyful noise once again!  
Choirs will begin on Wed. Sept. 7.

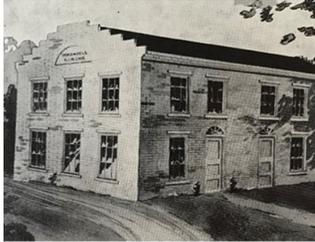
Bell Choir - 6:30pm. Senior Choir 7:30pm

EVERYONE is welcome to join!

(Bell players, please let me know if you're coming so I may plan the music accordingly.)  
See you soon! Blessings,  
Stephanie.



# Looking Back



Die FriedensKirche

Celebrate our 175 years.

- Sept. 18 ..... **Creating a Safe Haven**  
*(Reception following the service)*
- Sept. 25 ..... **A Time of Change**
- Oct. 2 ..... **Era of Prosperity**
- Oct. 9 ..... **Looking Forward**  
*(Meal following the service  
Tickets in the Heritage Room or Office)*

# To Look Forward

## Our 175<sup>th</sup> Celebration Continues

When the German immigrants came to our area they brought with them a Church, “Die FriedensKirche” (The Church of Peace). We are celebrating this with a four Sunday series. September 18, Rev. Dan Busch will be with us recognizing the significance this church had in the growth of the Reformed tradition in Northwest Ohio. A reception will follow the service.

The following three Sundays will emphasize how First Church has developed through significant periods of our history. The culmination, on October 9, will include special music, ordained ministers our congregation has produced, and, of course, a luncheon.

The luncheon tickets will cost only \$5 and be available in the Heritage Room and Office. Please mark your calendar and join us to help celebrate the life and times of First Church.

### Staff:

Jean Smith spoke on Fairhaven’s planning for the future. Pastor Darla read a message from Alissa on how pleased she was to have the VSG receive the Spirit Award and has emailed pictures of the event.

The meeting was closed with “The Way” and prayer.

The next meeting will be September 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am **and will be held at Fairhaven.** The plan as of now is to meet in the room off the dining room. Devotions will be by Marion First. A sack lunch will be held following the meeting. Arlene, Mary Louise, and Jean will furnish pies for bingo which will be held at 1 and will assist with the bingo as needed. (submitted by Jean Pratt)

### Dear residents and families: RE: Fairhaven Updates

As a member of The Fairhaven Community, I want to share an update to the next phase of the modifications coming to the community.

As you know, United Church Homes is investing in necessary upgrades to the campus. Upgrades which ensure we deliver the same quality and compassionate care to residents in a more modern and efficient environment. In order to do this successfully, we must clear the South side of the building as it becomes a safety risk the longer it remains vacant.

Beginning mid-October, we will begin Phase 1, which will consist of the demolition of the resident rooms in the South side of the property including the entrance way, the Alcoves building, auditorium and several office spaces due to the age and condition of the building. United Church Homes has obtained required approval from the Ohio Department of Health and met all regulatory requirements from the municipality to conduct the demolition.

Before we break ground, we will be hosting a Ground Blessing on campus on October 5<sup>th</sup> to pray over the land, the workers and the future of The Fairhaven Community. Stay tuned for more details.

Thank you for your continued patience throughout this process. If you have any questions, please reach out to me directly.

Jean A. Smith,  
LNHA Administrator  
419.294.4973    [jesmith@uchinc.org](mailto:jesmith@uchinc.org)



Thank You to the huskers, firemen, cooks, servers, and laborers who the the Annual Corn Roast a success.



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH



### Fellowship and Outreach Meal

For the August Fellowship and Outreach Meal, Sandy and her crew served 70 ham and cheese sandwiches. Thank you to the Sandy's crew and to the brownie bakers. The next meal will be on Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. We need a dump cake for our dessert this month. The signup sheet is outside the office looking for our bakers to sign up. Thank you to all that support this mission.

### Weekend Backpack Program

School is starting and so is the Friday Backpack Program with the Community Action Center. Each Friday during the school year a sack of snacks and food supplies is delivered to each of the school buildings for children in our community that might not get anything to eat over the weekend. First United Church of Christ has been doing this mission for over 9 years! Thank you to our past and present volunteers that faithfully have taken this mission on for the children in this community.

### Stuff the Cabinet

Our August mission was to stuff the cupboards with supplies to help get the kiddos off to a good healthy start to the 2022-2023 school year. Your donations of taxable items were taken to Community Action Center, and we will be purchasing items from the Dollar General with the funds collected. Thank you to our faithful members that helped to "fill the cupboards" of our local families.

### Third Friday

The last Third Friday on the Square will be on September 16th from 5 p.m. till 8 p.m. Our popcorn machine will be there, and we will be looking for our friends to stop in for a snack. Thank you to everyone that helped man our table, stopped for a snack or supported us with a donation. A shout out to Alan Mularski for taking charge of this event and setting up the equipment coordinating this event. It has been a great summer and we hope to see you all again next year!