

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"***

NOVEMBER 2022

Volume 39 No. 11

November 2022

Rev. Bill Meyer

Intentional Interim Pastor



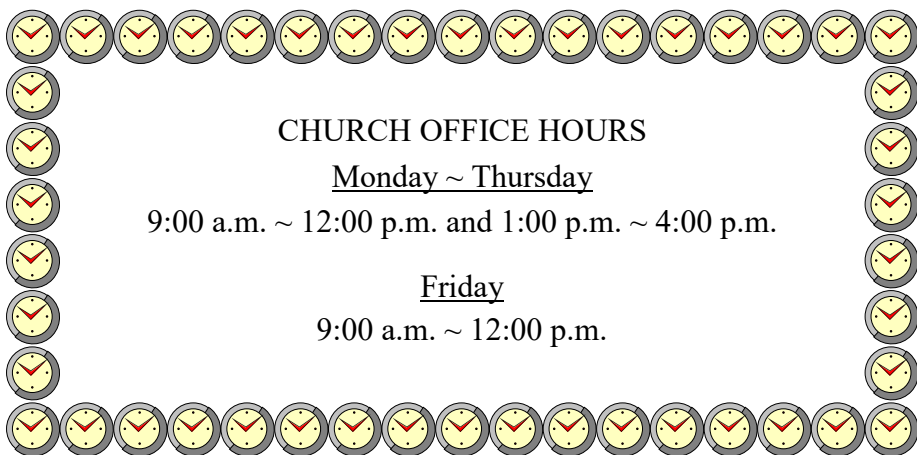
SUNDAY SERVICES

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.

Rethinking 'Righteousness'

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

One of the key words in the New Testament -- and one of the key words in Protestant theology -- is the Greek word often translated in many English Bibles as "righteousness." It is also sometimes translated as "justification" or even as "justice." For those who take Jesus seriously, and interacting with Scripture seriously, this should also be a personal key word -- and a key focal point of our Christianity.

When Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount seems to be identifying one of the singular most important things in Christianity, he makes two tight, parallel statements -- seemingly using different words to say one big thing -- in Matthew 6: 33 (NRSV):

"But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness ..."

In this Hebrew speech pattern, Jesus seems to be using the word translated "righteousness" to explain exactly what he means by the phrase "kingdom of God."

This Greek word "dikaiosyne" gets used in many other key passages in the New Testament. I would urge all of you, whenever you see the word "righteousness" or "justification" or "justice" to pause and give that passage some careful and godly consideration. It will either be the Greek word "dikaiosyne," or its root "dikaios."

Jesus also says, in the Beatitudes in Matthew 5: 6, 10:

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness, for they will be filled ..."

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for
righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

In recent years, Biblical scholars have looked at use of key Greek New Testament words in secular literature. They wanted to find out what ordinary Greek speakers would have understood these words to mean. With “dikaiosyne” (or “righteousness” here), the primary meaning would have been something like: “To put back into right relationships.”

Of course, in the church, we understand this to mean right relationships with God, with other people, with society, even with ourselves in a mental health sense, with God’s creation etc. So if Jesus is really saying this is the main thing, then “putting back into right relationships” should be our goal. And we should also be seeking -- by God’s grace through faith -- God’s help from Jesus Christ to be “put back into right relationships.”

If we are looking for one-word translations, we might want to consider “fairness” in our relationships with and judgments of others. “Reconciliation” could also be a good one-word translation of the outcome in seeking to be “put back into right relationships.”

One of the members of First United Church of Christ in Galion has also suggested to me that “uprightness” would be a good one-word translation. I like that too.

So, let’s be alert to this key New Testament word whenever we see it. Let’s rethink our understanding of “righteousness” and seek to live into “righteousness” every day. And, as Jesus pushed back against the temptations of the devil in Matthew 4: 4:

“One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

In all of our lives, may this be so: “putting back into right relationships.” Amen.

Fraternally, Bill Meyer



THANKSGIVING DINNER/BACK BAY MISSION

HOORAY! This year we can all enjoy a Thanksgiving Dinner in our Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 13th after the service. The meal will be the usual turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberry salad, vegetable, and dessert.

This has always been a favorite meal for our church family, and we are happy to continue this in house again. While this is not designed as a fundraiser, we will have the donation pot available, and all proceeds will go to the Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi.

In addition to the in house meals, we will be delivering meals to our house bound members. If you care or assist with someone who could use a meal delivered, please contact the church office at 419-468-4380 and leave your name and number of meals needed with Jeanine.

If you would be willing to help deliver meals, please contact the office or Mary Ann Stone. –Doug Court

Thank You...

*The Scholarship Committee
would like to thank everyone
who supported our luncheon
fundraiser held on October 23rd in the church dining room.*

We raised over \$480 for this year's First UCC Scholarship applicants. Our committee always appreciates the generosity of the congregation toward our church members pursuing their college degrees. -Sandy Powell



Report from the Finance Committee



The finance committee continues to watch our annual giving patterns carefully. We meet monthly and at this time we are working on drafting the 2023 budget.

Sadly our envelope giving is significantly lower than anticipated at the end of the 3rd quarter. The following numbers show the facts:

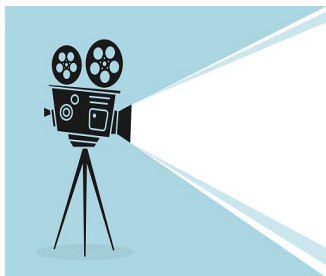
2022	\$101,400
2021	\$115,100
3 yr average	\$111,700

With the help of our reserve funds, we are fortunate that we have been able to meet our obligations during this difficult year. However, we are projecting we will end the year at approximately 87% of our budgeted giving amount.

The finance committee is trying to find a way to accurately estimate the projected income for the 2023 year and will be asking your input and assistance.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of the missions and programs of First UCC.

Doug Court, Finance Committee Chair



Wednesday Nov. 16.

First UCC Goes to the Movies:
“Shadowland” will be shown at 3:00pm.
in our newly renovated Dining Hall!

Everyone is invited to attend!



Auctioned items will be available for pick-up on November 21-22 at St. John's UCC, 120 S. Lane Street, Bucyrus 9:00 – 1:00 pm. Church phone for information 419-562-8271

BLESSINGS ALWAYS

Association Minister Message Rev. Daniel L. Busch

NARCISSISTIC. “God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.” (Luke 18:11). The effects of Covid pandemic have certainly changed society. So many retreat from reaching out to others for fear of unhealthy situations. It was just reported that academic national test scores of high school students are the lowest in 30 years due to inconsistent school attendance/preparation.

Socialization of younger children has been affected by isolation and worries that being together might be unsanitary. Community building and relationships building for this generation into the future will not experience maturing interactions with one another. Inconsistent interaction with others is developing a *NARCISSISTIC* mentality that seeks personal privileges and gratification.

Jesus’ familiar parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector is about assumptions held by religious persons in Jesus’ time that are “*turned upside-down.*” Pharisees had honored places in the religious and social communities because of their understandings and interpretations of religious laws. They were the experts, the keepers of the Jewish laws, often consulted in settling disputes within the faith community.

The Pharisee in Jesus’ parable, though, was very *NARCISSISTIC*: vain, arrogant, self-admiring, and conceited. He prayed aloud how righteous he was, thanking God that he was not like the “sinful” people that he named. The Pharisee loved himself so much that he had no compassion or care for those he held in contempt. His *NARCISSISTIC* prayer to God was intended to inform God how righteous he was.

Continued on next page

BLESSINGS ALWAYS (Con't)

The tax collector was despised by his fellow Jewish countrypersons, for he took money from them in taxes and turned tax money over to the Roman conquerors. The tax collectors earned their wages by charging Jews an extra amount that they could keep, often exorbitant amounts. The Romans did not trust tax collectors because they were not Roman and caused hatred toward the Romans for their excessive collected taxes. It was the tax collector who prayed, "standing far off," humbly asking for mercy, recognizing that he was a sinner. Jesus declared he was the one who was justified, forgiven, and right with God. Jesus concludes, *"...for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."* (18:14). NARCISSISTIC ways are conquered by humility and mercy. **BLESSINGS ALWAYS.**

Congratulations!

Brian Treisch was inducted into the Galion Alumni Association's Hall of Fame Saturday, October 15th.

He was nominated by members of the Galion High School Alumni Marching Band for his years of work with their group and the many other civic and volunteer affiliations.

Brian is the most recent member of the Hall of Fame from our own Galion First United Church of Christ. Previous members include: Miriam Sayre, Dr. Steve Meyers, Dan Ritchey, Bernard Elliker, Arthur Poister, Mary Court and Chip Durtschi.

Congratulations to Brian for this special recognition!

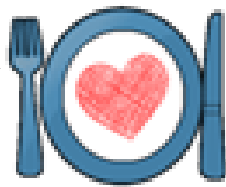
Baptism

We celebrated the Baptism of Clara Grace Groves
on Sunday October 23.

Parents: Ellie Hocker & Steven Groves
Grandparents: Bradley & Stacey Hocker
Paternal Great Grandmother: Paula Hocker
Maternal Great Grandmother: Jackie Hill

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEAL

The November Fellowship and Outreach Meal will be held on Thursday, Nov. 17 at 5:00pm. This will be a carry out. Join us for a nice hot meal and a night out of the kitchen.



HOLY JOE'S COFFEE CAFÉ

It is time to return those cups & coins to be transformed into coffee for our

military service people.

Please bring your filled cup to the church with you on Sunday, Nov. 6. We will be serving coffee and cookies in the west hallway before the service and displaying our video of past and present service people from our church.

THANK YOU...

"I would like to thank everyone that helped me celebrate my birthday this year. I appreciate all the support.

God bless. Jim Heiser"

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Enclosed in this newsletter is the list of donors that helped to light our sanctuary on Sunday, Oct. 30 (All Saints' Day).

We will be sending over \$700 in support of this mission!



NOVEMBER STAPLES

**Noodles, Rice,
Peanut Butter, & Jelly**

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

November

Daily Gratitude

Day 1: Psalm 50:14

Day 2: Colossians 4:2

Day 3: Ezra 3:11

Day 4: Psalm 140:13

Day 5: 2 Corinthians 4:15

Day 6: 2 Samuel 22:50

Day 7: 2 Corinthians 9:15

Day 8: Psalm 26:6-7

Day 9: Daniel 6:10

Day 10: Psalm 136:2

Day 11: Psalm 95:2

Day 12: Matthew 26:27

Day 13: 1 Timothy 4:4

Day 14: Romans 14:6

Day 15: Psalm 69:30

Day 16: Ephesians 1:16

Day 17: 1 Chronicles 16:8

Day 18: Colossians 1:3

Day 19: Jonah 2:9

Day 20: Psalm 18:49

Day 21: 1 Corinthians 15:57

Day 22: Romans 16:4

Day 23: Psalm 100:4

Day 24: 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Day 25: Psalm 35:18

Day 26: 2 Corinthians 2:14

Day 27: Revelation 7:12

Day 28: Psalm 30:4

Day 29: 1 Chronicles 16:34

Day 30: Psalm 116:17

Fall for Jesus



He never leaves





UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday Nov. 3. Finance Committee 7:00pm.

Sunday Nov. 6. Holy Joe's Sunday.

(Please bring your collection cups).

Tuesday Nov. 8. Consistory Meeting 7:00pm.

Friday Nov. 11. Veterans Day.

Sunday Nov. 13. Church Thanksgiving Dinner.

(Everyone is invited following the day's Service.)

Wednesday Nov. 16. First UCC Goes to the Movies:

"Shadowland" will be shown at 3:00pm.

in our newly renovated Dining Hall!

Thursday Nov. 17. Community Dinner 5:00pm.

Sunday Nov. 20. Genesis Friends 6:00pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend/participate.

GENESIS FRIENDS

On Sunday, November 20, 2022, for our meeting we will meet in the Fellowship Hall (our remodeled Dining Hall!) at 6:00pm.

We will play Crazy Bridge or Euchre.

Please bring your favorite soups & appetizers. Maggie Sulser

SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, Dec. 4th at 3:00pm.

The Annual Galion Community Chorus performance of Handel's "Messiah" right here in the Sanctuary!

COME SING WITH US!

The Galion Community Chorus will begin rehearsals for our annual production of Handel's "Messiah" soon. Rehearsals will be held on Monday evenings from 7:00-8:30pm until November 28th.

Dress rehearsal is Sat., Dec. 3rd from 10:00am-1:00pm and the performance is Sunday, Dec. 4th at 3:00pm. We are honored to host this annual event, and encourage any singer to participate.

Rehearsals are held here in the sanctuary.

Questions? Contact Tom Jeffers. 419-563-4979



November 1 Ruth Swick

2 Ken Green Nicholas Motter

7 John Court

9 Evan Collins Megan Zier
Marilyn Lucas

14 Adam Eichhorn

16 Pat Bash

17 Jack Koschnick

18 Jim Cole Henry Altman

19 Gary See

22 Elisabeth Hatfield Michael Swartzbaugh

26 Shelly Kurtzman Tom Cahill

28 Alexander Moore Tyson Russell

29 Tony Durtschi Eileen Mountz
Mark Shock



Please join us for our special Church Thanksgiving Dinner...

Sunday Nov. 13, beginning shortly after the worship service.

Enjoy some great fellowship & come and see our newly remodeled dining room! Everyone is welcome to join us!

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



November 18 Donald & Linda Woodmansee
26 Keith & Judy Eichhorn
James & Maggie Sulser

We apologize: Gary & Martha See's Anniversary was listed incorrectly. The correct date is Oct. 12.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Continued prayers requested for healing, strength, peace, and comfort for Jack Koschnick, Carol Walter and Lynne Shifley as they convalesce.

Please notify Rev. Meyer or the Church Office if you are aware of any pastoral care needs.



Miriam Shifley	7/16/55 — 1/1/22
Wendy Fetherolf	11/29/61 — 1/14/22
Carol Miller	12/7/32 — 6/1/22
Dorothy Rhinehart	12/28/23 — 7/5/22
Wanda Nixon	5/12/67 — 7/29/22
Tim McDaniel	9/13/64 — 8/8/22
Leonard Ness	8/10/36 — 9/2/22

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

Votive Candles are Given in Loving memory of:

Bill Bogan by Bill & Lynne Shifley

Bing & Jean Bogan by Bill & Lynne Shifley

Loving parents Mary and Allen Conklin by Trudy DeWitt

Fritz & Betty Durtschi by the Durtschi Family

Kaylee Jane Eichhorn by Keith & Judy Eichhorn

LaVern and Nelda Eichhorn by Keith & Judy Eichhorn

Lowell & Mabel Eichhorn by Dan & Lisa Eichhorn

Loving grandmother Inez Eichhorn by Trudy DeWitt

Germaine Girard by Jeanine Girard

Our loved ones by Sandy Keller & Lynne Goldsmith

Marion Elizabeth Haas by Rev. Bill and Kim Meyer

Fred W. and Theresa L. Heitzman by Jim & Nancy Reid

John Heitzman by Mary Ann Heitzman

Wilson Hill by Brad & Stacey Hocker

Howard Hocker by Brad & Stacey Hocker

All the Saints of First Church by Marcy Miller

Robert Meyer by Rev. Bill and Kim Meyer

Given in Loving memory of: (Continued)

*Our Parents, Siblings & Grandparents by
The Neal & Hayes families*

*Mildred & Floyd Rhinehart and Don & Dorothy Rhinehart
by Jo & David Bosh*

*Emery Shaffer by Marjorie Shaffer and Mike Shaffer
Mindy Sheriff by the Durtschi Family*

Richard, Gertrude & Miriam Shifley by Bill & Lynne Shifley

*Andrew J. Sikora by John & Stephanie Sikora
Our loved ones by Douglas and Mary Ann Stone*

*John and Helen Stuit by Keith & Judy Eichhorn
Ellis Swick by Ruth Swick*



Votive Candles are Given in Honor of:

The 175th Anniversary Committee by Bruce & Betty Angell

*The Dining Room Renovation Committee by Bruce
& Betty Angell*

*The Sound and Video Crew at Galion 1st UCC
by Jim and Ellie Heiser*

*Our grandchildren: Elly, Joanna, Levi, Doran,
Jemma & Cooper by Dan & Lisa Eichhorn*

Votive Candles are Given to the Glory of God:

by Doug Court & Family

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

248 Harding Way W.

Galion, OH 44833

Church E-mail: office@uccgalion.org

Rev. Meyer: pastor@uccgalion.org

Phone: 419-468-4380 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



Celebrating 175 years!!

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