

# 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"***

**OCTOBER 2022**

Volume 39 No. 10

October 2022

Rev. Bill Meyer

Intentional Interim Pastor



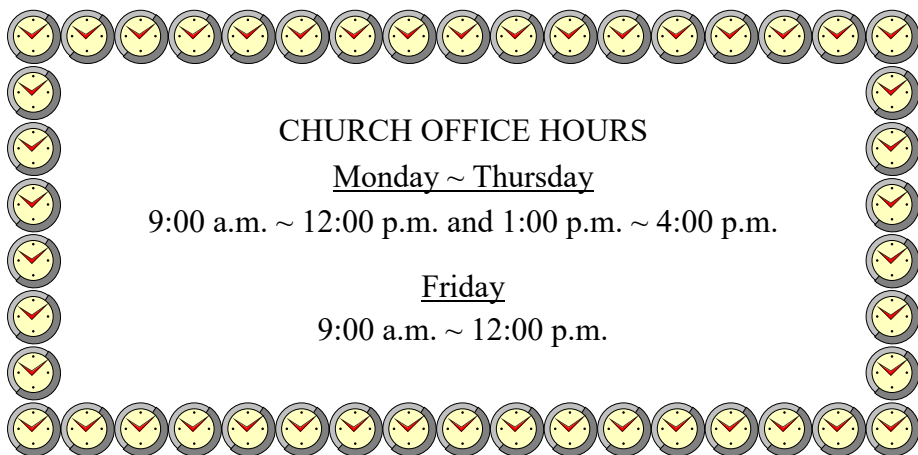
## **SUNDAY SERVICES**

### **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.

# Our every-member future

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

As we look forward to what God wants for us in our next 175 years, I have also been looking forward into the Lectionary for October. And I've been struck by a passage for Sunday, Oct. 23 -- Joel 2: 23-32. This was Peter's forward-looking preaching text on Pentecost in the book of Acts. Peter used this text to explain the positive future where Jesus -- crucified and resurrected -- was taking his followers.

This has also been a meaningful text for my personal walk with God -- where I had experienced destructive years of loss, based on my bad choices. But I believe this text also laid out a positive future for me -- where God leads -- as I learned to more obediently follow Jesus.

I also suspect this passage may also lay out a positive, productive future for First United Church of Christ of Galion. It has also recently had some lean years in attendance and impact.

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Notice the progression from painful scarcity to abundance and then vision-rich, every-member ministry -- which Peter preached about -- in Joel 2: 25-28 (NRSV):

I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer ... You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. ... Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions."

I have experienced some of this in my own life.

And I believe this is God's will for congregations willing to embrace vital, renewed, every-member ministry. God -- I believe this passage suggests -- wants to work with us to get past lean years of scarcity.

Jesus wants to work with us all, for new ministries of abundance and satisfaction.

This text concludes with every-member ministries, where every individual member of the church is somehow proclaiming and talking about the Good News of Jesus -- not just the pastor. In the New Testament text, where Peter quotes Joel in Acts 2: 17, the word "prophesy" can just as well be translated "preach" or proclaim.

In this vision-rich, spiritually expansive, future environment, all members of the church are involved in proclamation -- even if just by their actions. Then all members of the church -- female and male, young and old, poor and rich -- are dreaming God's dreams for us and for our communities.

All members of the church are embracing a new vision from God: For a new and productive future from Jesus Christ. For another 175 years of spiritual abundance, where ministry that really matters is happening here.

All of this future would seem to be within these texts -- Old Testament and New Testament. This could be all about us -- all of us, collectively and individually. So God's preferred intermediate future for us would seem to be about every member individually embracing serious discipleship, and serious vision, and serious ministry.

May this powerfully be so -- to the praise of our awesome God of the future. Amen.

Fraternally, Bill Meyer

# TO DO LIST

1. Spend time with Jesus  
Psalm 27:8.
2. Let Him prioritize my day  
Matthew 6:33.
3. Pray instead of worrying  
Philippians 4:6.
4. Be honest about my sins-  
James 4:10.
5. Think of others  
Philippians 2:3-4.
6. Wait patiently for God to act  
Psalm 27:14.
7. Be willing to do hard stuff  
Matthew 16:24.
8. Read God's Word  
Psalm 119:9-16.
9. Do what it says  
James 1:22
10. Let Christ lead me  
Matthew 11:29.





## **From the Finance Committee:**

This newsletter marks the end of the third quarter of 2022, and frankly, we are in a more somber financial state than the finance committee was expecting. Our general giving is lower than the last three years (\$96,700 average for the last three years down to \$86,700 this year), and our current fund reflects the decrease.

We have already tapped the reserve funds, with consistory approval, to help “keep the lights on.” The finance committee will find a way to pay our bills through fund transfers, reallocation of resources, and expending reserves, but these solutions are only temporary. The budget for 2023 must and will show the realities of our current financial status.

On Sunday, in her historical presentation, Sandy Powell read the following from Rev. Burghalter’s article in a 1901 Visitor.

“Church loyalty, a proper pride, love of Christ and the spirit of genuine devotion to the best interests of yourself and your children should ... prompt you to lay money on the altar of the Lord liberally ... It’s your church and your children’s church after you.”

We do thank you for your support and ask that, as you handle your time and finances, you continue to remember that we as a church can only succeed as we support each other and support our church both spiritually and with our gifts.



## **From the Scholarship Committee:**

“Our church’s college tuition scholarship application forms are currently available 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.



Dear Friends,

Three years of COVID have not lessened the needs of the residents of Fairhaven Community. However, our Volunteer Service Group is unable to hold a fundraiser within the community itself, therefore we are using an internet auction in its place. With the assistance of Castle Auction in Bucyrus, we will hold our online auction in November. We still need items donated for the auction just like we did in the past for Harvest Fest.

In the past we have had donations of baskets of chocolates, cookbooks with cooking utensils, various OSU items, Bed, Bath & Beyond items, Pampered Chef items, and many more. You are not limited to basket items only. There have also been pictures, Kroger gift cards (either alone or incorporated in a basket), purses, etc. You are only limited by your imagination and your willingness to donate. We are sorry that, despite how lovely crocheted blankets are, there doesn't seem to be much of a market for them anymore.

Each donation needs a complete description of the items involved and value of the basket. The items will need to be delivered to St. John's UCC, 120 South Lane St., Bucyrus, between 9am and 1pm the week of October 24 - 28. The dates of the online auction will be November 7 - 20. To see the items, go to Castle Auction website ([castleauctionappraisal.com](http://castleauctionappraisal.com)) beginning November 7, and click on the link for Fairhaven to register and bid. Pickup of the auctioned items will be November 21 & 22 at St. John's between 9am and 1pm. Call 419-562-8271 if stated time not convenient.

PLEASE once again open your hearts and your wallets to make it possible for the Volunteer Service Group to assist the residents at Fairhaven. Every dollar collected through this auction will be spent on the residents of Fairhaven.

You can reply with your donation commitment to: Jean Pratt, VSG Treasurer, 3193 Kiess Road, Bucyrus, OH 44820 or call 419-562-3953 and leave a message. Please respond by October 15, 2022.

Thank you,  
Jean Pratt  
Volunteer Service Group Treasurer

## **Volunteer Service Group Newsletter** September 19, 2022

### **VSG Business:**

Discussion was held concerning the Gift Shop. The vendor license will be kept active with regular reporting of zero sales so it will be available at such time when a new gift shop can be opened. Will be looking into having a few items such as snacks and health items periodically available from a cart. These items will be offered for a donation so sales tax will not be involved. More to be discussed at next meeting.

It was agreed to offer a scholarship of \$500.00 again this year. It will be awarded at the end of March 2023.

The Tree of Love has been held every year in honor of those residents lost throughout year. However, due to loss of space to have tree with remodeling taking place at Fairhaven Community, it was tabled at this time.

It was announced that the Doll Room has been cleaned and, except for a few dolls which will be offered in the online auction, the dolls will be stored in a room at the old parsonage at Fairhaven.

The drop-off of the online auctions items will be the week of October 24<sup>th</sup> at St. John's UCC, 120 South Lane St., Bucyrus, Ohio with pickup of the baskets following the auction on November 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at St. John's UCC. Since our VSG meeting is scheduled for November 21<sup>st</sup>, we will hold the meeting at St. John's to assist with the pickup of items.

Barb Nigh and Jean Pratt will check with Castle's as to when they will want to take pictures for online auction. Will be setting up a meeting with a volunteer from each county so that publicity can be determined for online auction.

### **Staff:**

A report was read from Alyssa concerning a great donation for the courtyard that was received.

Pastor Darla was pleased to announce that she has trained as a facilitator for Opening Minds Through Art. She is also working on how to make the chapel more accessible to the residents since a change of residents' rooms was switched to a different floor due to remodel. Becky announced that she is very pleased with the work done by the VSG and also excited about the OMA.

**Next meeting will be held at Fairhaven on October 17<sup>th</sup>.** A potluck will be available following the meeting or members may bring a sack lunch if they prefer.

# Neighbors in Need

In 2022, the Neighbors in Need “BEHOLD!” offering focuses on economic justice.



As you may recall, one-third of the offering supports [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM). Two-thirds are used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

Enclosed in this newsletter is the form you can use to donate to this month’s mission by purchasing a candle to be lit on **All Saint’s Day Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>.**

On that day we will honor and celebrate our loved ones that are no longer with us. Please complete the enclosed form and return it in the offering plate or to the office by Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you would just like to donate, please use the enclosed envelope. Thank you for your support.



## OCTOBER

**Boxed meals, boxed potatoes,  
canned fruits, jello.**

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!



## Community Outreach Meal

Sixty people were served breakfast for supper at the September Fellowship and Outreach Meal. Thank you to Mary Ann's crew for the delicious meal. The next meal will be on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. We need our bakers to provide apple cake. The signup sheet is outside the office or give Jeanine a call to put your name on the list.



## 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

It has been a pleasure to learn more about the history of this congregation. Our celebration will conclude on Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> with a catered meal in our newly remodeled dining hall. You have until September 30<sup>th</sup> to get your ticket so we can give the caterer a count. If you would like a ticket, call the office and let Jeanine know. See you all at the dinner!



## Holy Joe's Coffee/Cafe'



Stop into the church during the month of October and pick up your Tim Horton's coffee cup. Place it by your coffee pot or in your cup holder of your car and when you have a cup, buy a soldier a cup of coffee.

We will collect the cash filled cups on Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup> and use your donations to send coffee overseas. We will play our veteran video and honor our servicemen and women on that day, too.

If you have someone to add to our veteran's video, drop their picture and information off at the office and we will gladly add them to our display. We will also serve hot coffee before church in the hallway.

## **Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ Fall Gathering**

As your representative to the fall gathering, I was excited to be part of an in person gathering. The energy was real. The music, interruptions, walking from place to place, bumping into friends, and seeing the panic on speaker's faces just can't be felt on a zoom screen.

Rev. Joanna D'Agostino's opening worship could have been about Galion First. Lakewood Congregational has a beautiful old church with rooms galore and a maintenance budget to match. What it is lacking are people. Located in prime real estate they are exploring what she calls a ministry of physical space. Does this not sound like us? A ministry of physical space here in Galion?

The disaster relief team reported on our challenge of gathering 2022 buckets, kits, and care packages in the calendar year. We have already reached 1300, and in an exciting announcement the Disciples of Christ relief team is joining forces with us in this program. We are the only conference with a permanent location, Tempel Hills, available 24/7 to drop off donations.

A report on S.A.R.A. gave us the exciting news that over \$107,000 has been donated for relief efforts in the Ukraine. S.A.R.A. has been in the Ukraine for over 35 years. See Doug for the video explaining where they are and what they do.

Outdoor Ministries reported that the new swimming pool has opened, over 300 campers attended this year (near pre covid days), accessible restrooms are being installed in the lodge as the last project in the Hills Are Alive campaign, and more to be announced.

Information was presented by United Church Homes, Back Bay Mission, recipients of Heartland's Make a Difference Grant, an outstanding workshop on inclusion (we're talking mental, emotional, and physical here), and more. There is just too much to cover in one short report.

And, of course, we did the mundane, as we passed a budget, discussed programming plans and office alignments, elected officers, and opened the floor for questions and input. The gathering was concluded with the moving installation of Rev. David Long-Higgins as the Heartland Conference Minister. He was elected during the covid meetings and installation was on hold until we met in person. -Douglas Court reporting



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday Oct. 6. Finance Committee meets 7:00pm.

Sunday Oct. 9. 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner. Following the Service.

Tuesday Oct. 11. Consistory meets 7:00pm.

Thursday Oct. 20. Community Meal to serve. 5:00pm.

Monday Oct. 17. Genesis Friends. 6:00pm.

Monday Oct. 31. Mission Committee meets. 7:00pm.

### Join Us...

The Scholarship Committee's Annual Fall Luncheon

Sunday, October 23rd, after morning's service.

Church Dining Room (Carry Out will also be available.) Join us  
for pulled pork sandwiches, coleslaw,  
beans & dessert.

### Genesis Friends

Monday, Oct. 17 please meet at the Church at 6:00pm. We will  
carpool to our destination, the Hayden-Helfrich Annex at  
331 E. Railroad Street, Galion. Then back to the Church for our  
meeting, devotions, and refreshments.

### 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 starting

October 24th-November 28th.

Dress rehearsal is Sat., Dec. 3rd from 10:00am-1:00pm and the per-  
formance 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



- 3 Barbara Koschnick
- 4 Rachael Worthington
- 5 Chuck Neal, Katelynn Eagleston
- 11 Matthew Burgess
- 12 Stone Musselman, Eric Neal, Kendra Spore
- 14 Nancy Reid
- 16 Karyn Chirstman
- 17 Janet Snyder
- 19 Kenneth Feik
- 20 Tracie Opperman, Judy Garverick
- 21 Terry Shifley
- 24 Brayden Black
- 25 Jim Heiser, Dorothy Wiggins
- 27 Pat Winters
- 28 Marcia Brown
- 29 Justin Cole, Mary Shifley
- 30 Sandy Powell
- 31 Paige Rudolph

*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.*



- 3 Philip & Sundie Brown
- 9 Dan & Lisa Eichhorn
- 10 Jason & Angie Moore
- 11 Gary & Martha See
- 15 Loren & Annie Stone
- 16 Terry & LeeAnne Shifley
- 17 Todd & Karen Rudolph
- 20 Dan & Twila Hiatt
- 25 Cody & Jennifer Gledhill

### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

Continued prayers requested for healing, strength, peace, and comfort for Carol Walter and Lynne Shifley as they convalesce from recent falls.

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

### *With Heartfelt* **Sympathy**

We are very saddened to report that Leonard Ness passed away on Friday Sept. 2, 2022.

Please visit [bringmanclark.com/obituaries](http://bringmanclark.com/obituaries) for more information.

### **Note of thanks to UCC Galion:**

Thank you so much for the \$500 donation for the benevolent fund. Your donation is greatly appreciated!

Jean Pratt, Volunteer Services Group,  
Treasurer (for Fairhaven)



# October

## Moments of Worship

**Day 1:** Daniel 2:20  
**Day 2:** John 4:24  
**Day 3:** Psalm 22:27  
**Day 4:** Psalm 29:2  
**Day 5:** Psalm 66:4  
**Day 6:** Psalm 95:6  
**Day 7:** Psalm 96:9  
**Day 8:** Psalm 99:5  
**Day 9:** Psalm 138:2  
**Day 10:** Jeremiah 7:2  
**Day 11:** Psalm 34:3  
**Day 12:** Psalm 69:30  
**Day 13:** Luke 1:46  
**Day 14:** Psalm 22:22  
**Day 15:** Psalm 27:6  
**Day 16:** Psalm 33:2  
**Day 17:** Psalm 34:1  
**Day 18:** Psalm 35:8  
**Day 19:** Psalm 40:3  
**Day 20:** Psalm 42:5  
**Day 21:** Psalm 44:8

**Day 22:** Psalm 47:6  
**Day 23:** Acts 16:25  
**Day 24:** Romans 15:11  
**Day 25:** Ephesians 1:6  
**Day 26:** Hebrew 2:12  
**Day 27:** Hebrews 13:15  
**Day 28:** 1 Peter 2:9  
**Day 29:** Psalm 68:4  
**Day 30:** Psalm 69:34  
**Day 31:** Psalm 71:8

Happy moments,  
*Praise God.*

Difficult moments,  
*Seek God.*

Quiet moments,  
*Worship God.*

Painful moments,  
*Trust God.*

Every moment,  
*Thank God.*

W	O	R	K	M	A	N	S	H	I	P	E	M	A	C
D	E	T	A	N	I	T	S	E	D	E	R	P	D	D
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Y	R	R	A	C	D	E	I	F	I	T	C	N	A	S

#### 47. God's Purpose for Me

ADVANCE  
ANYONE  
BELLY  
CAME  
CARRY  
COMPLETION  
CONFIDENT  
CREATED  
DIRECTED

EXPECTED  
FOREKNOW  
FORMED  
FORTH  
FULFILL  
GLORIFIED  
HEARKEN  
JUSTIFIED  
MIGHT

ORDAINED  
PLEASURE  
PREDESTINATE  
PREVAIL  
SANCTIFIED  
SEARCH  
STEPS  
TOWARD  
WORKMANSHIP

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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- 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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