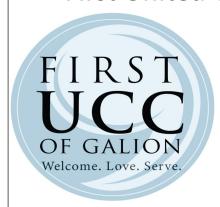
# THE VISITOR

#### 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"

**DECEMBER 2022** 

Volume 39 No. 12

December 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 9:00am-4:00pm
Friday 9:00am-12:00pm

419-468-4380 office@uccgalion.org

#### 'Don't be afraid' of God

Dear congregation, dear beloved community,

As we read and re-read the stories around the birth of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke this month, I'm struck by two things that hold back humans, but that God then pushes us past. So, just as Mary pondered all these things, let's also ponder what all this means for us.

First, the fulfillment of God's promises and the events around the coming of Jesus provoked fear, and the message from God was consistently: "Don't be afraid." Secondly, the limits of our human biology keep on reminding us that maybe we shouldn't be trusting in God's unlikely promises. But then God keeps on ignoring biological limits that we think restrain God's power.

So first things first. This was a fearful season for Mary and Joseph in Palestine.

Palestine suffered under an oppressive client king named Herod, so cruel that he murdered one of his wives and had two sons strangled so they couldn't challenge him. Herod maintained power by supporting Roman emperor Caesar Augustus. This first real Roman emperor had won a series of bloody civil wars by crushing all his opposition. Augustus effectively ended the old Roman Republic and set himself up as a permanent military dictator. He was worshipped as a living god. Augustus had his critics in the Senate murdered -- bringing all the others into line. But he maintained the shell of Senatorial rule for appearance sake.

In Luke 1, we meet Mary, a girl no more than 13 or 14 years old, while being visited by an angel named Gabriel, in her tiny village of Nazareth. This is about as far from imperial power as one could get. Gabriel tells Mary she will have a son who will fulfill all God's promises to Abraham and to the now Roman-occupied nation of Israel. Mary realizes this means that God "has brought down mighty kings from their thrones and lifted up the lowly." Wow!

This is fearful stuff, to say nothing of just being suddenly confronted – whoomp! -- with a most personal message by an angel who ordinarily stands in the presence of God. Months before, the same thing had happened to an elderly priest named Zechariah in the Temple. Zechariah was told he and his elderly wife Elizabeth would miraculously have a son named John, who would be the powerful, prophetic advance-man for Israel's long-promised Messiah.

In both cases, the angel told troubled parents-to-be, who were thrust into the fulfillment of God's promises, "Don't be afraid." Mary was told, "Don't be afraid." Zechariah was told, "Don't be afraid." After Jesus' birth, the angel told terrified shepherds, "Don't be afraid."

"Don't be afraid" of the future. "Don't be afraid" of what God wants to do in your life, and in the life of our congregation. "Don't be afraid" of the promises of God – any of them. "Don't be afraid" as we approach this Christmas 2022, and then Epiphany 2023, and beyond.

We are also confronted by the impossibility of all this Christmas "begetting." Zechariah and Elizabeth were too old to "beget." Mary was a virgin. The patriarch Abraham and matriarch Sarah waited until near the century mark for the birth of Isaac. Isaac's wife Rebecca couldn't have children -- nor could Jacob's wife Rachael -- until God miraculously intervened. The biology of all this makes no physical sense. And that is the point.

God is not limited by our age or biology, or our sense of limitations. The Good News for those who fear God – who follow God's Son, Jesus – is that your biology is not your destiny.

God is all too willing to confirm the promises by working with the biologically wrong folk. God is all too willing to do great things with those too poor, too poorly educated, too dark, too oppressed, too rural, too sick, too disadvantaged, too old, too young, too female, too socially insignificant.

I find Mary's response to the angel's announcement fascinating. In her song of praise – sometimes called the Magnificat because of its first word in Latin – she sounds like a Roman-era Rosa Parks upsetting the unjust way-of-things by refusing to move from her seat on the bus. "He has ... scattered the proud with all their plans. He has brought down mighty kings from their thrones ... He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away with empty hands." This kind of language could -- and still does, in some parts of the world -- get people killed.

And yet ... Mary seems to have no difficulties with the big social, economic, military and political implications of the coming of the Messiah. But she did ask the angel – as did Zechariah – about the biology: "I am a virgin. How, then, can this be?" I also think our biology scares us.

Biology and age are staring all of us in the face, in various ways. All of us are a year older than we were last year. And that has real implications. Nevertheless this Christmas, be assured that God and God's promises are not limited by your biology – as real as your biology is. After all, God's ultimate promise is eternal life for all who will want it.

Eternal life, through Jesus the promised Christ, is the ultimate denial of biology. So remember that one of the Advent messages of Good News through Christ this year is that God is not limited by your biology, by my biology or by the biology of this congregation. Christ has come. Christ is come. Christ is yet to come. It's not about biology. It's about Christ -- who alone is our destiny. Also, "Don't be afraid." Thanks be to God, for sending us the promised Christ this year! Amen. Fraternally, Bill Meyer

#### **Scholarships**

Fall is a busy time for our Scholarship Committee. We were able to collect \$581 for our Scholarship Applicants. This year's applicants included Abigail Brocwell, attending Marion Technical College and Anna Court, attending Ohio Wesleyan University. Each will be receiving \$600.

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to be able to support these two church members as they work to complete their college degrees. Thank you to all of the church members who helped our committee realize this goal for 2022.

-The First UCC Scholarship Committee



Finally, I have some exciting news from the world of finance. In July of 1996 Ken Sterrett created a charitable trust naming First United Church of Christ as a beneficiary. The income of this trust was designated for the purposes of maintaining and improving the Church premises. This trust has provided annual payments totaling over

\$660,000. This money has been budgeted and used by the trustees for much of our maintenance and projects including assisting with the elevator, organ, pavilion, and dining room projects.

The exciting news is that while the charitable trust expires this year, our portion of the principal will be turned over to the Church in or about February 2023. The Finance Committee and Consistory have tasked the Memorial Endowment Committee with creating a clean transition that would in effect keep the Sterrett Endowment in tact and operating similar to the last 27 years. After consulting with our financial advisor and the attorney for the Sterrett Trust, the Memorial Endowment Committee recommends a modification of our Constitution placing the responsibility of managing this Sterrett Endowment with the Committee with the intent to continue annual payments to the Capital Fund. Constitutional language will be sent to you in January, via the visitor, requesting your action at the annual meeting in January.

Also coming to you after Christmas will be a separate mailing including a proposed 2023 budget and a survey to help us better anticipate our income for the fiscal year. Creating an accurate and workable budget without knowledge of our income line is becoming more difficult. Please help us by returning the survey when you receive it.

Douglas Court (Finance Chair)



This was accidently omitted from page 16 (Nov. Consistory Report)

TRUSTEE'S REPORT Doug Court led discussion as to having the custodial position be one of our own, someone we hire, and not someone who changes often from an outside organization. It would be less than 10 hours a week. The Personnel Committee will ask to decide whom to hire with the assistance of the Trustees.



| 2  | Beth Cotsmire  |
|----|--|
|    | Mary Court   |
|    | Becky Harmon   |
| 4  | Lynda Eidt   |
| 5  | Betty Angell   |
| 6  | Margery Miller   |
|    | Bill Swick   |
| 7  | Jessica Hammons<br>Lisa Eichhorn                               |
| 10 | Ruth Essex<br>Anderson Roesch<br>Mike Swick<br>Anthony Russell |
| 11 | Kelly Spore  |
| 12 | Larry Ness   |
| 13 | Bruce Angell<br>Mindy Lamontagne                               |

Melissa Motter

Jan Reynolds

Chris Ruth Todd Knight Jeanine Girard

14

| 15             | Rebecca Mularski  |
|----------------|---|
| 16<br>17<br>19 | Yolanda Kocher<br>John Cole<br>Katy Repp                            |
| 20             | Evelyn Feik   |
| 21             | Emma Altman   |
| 22             | Judy Eichhorn   |
| 25             | Gary Repp   |
| 27             | Debbie Hildebrand<br>Doug Schreck<br>Ethan Ruth<br>Stephanie Sikora |
| 28             | Evan Riggs<br>Erica Eidt  |
| 31             | Parker Repp   |
| -              | 11 30   |



| 8  | Alan & Jerri Mularski    |
|----|--------------------------|
| 10 | Jim & Nancy Reid         |
|    | Bill & Lynne Shifley     |
| 16 | Zach & Caitlyn Gledhill  |
| 17 | Travis & Kerri Koschnick |
|    |                          |



December 1 – Begin Reverse Advent Calendar (see insert)

December 3 – Come Home to Galion on the Square 1:00 p.m.

December 4 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Handel's Messiah 3:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary

December  $11 - 3^{rd}$  Sunday of Advent

Advent Dinner in the dining room following service Finish dressing our Christmas Tree 1:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

December 18 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 19 —Genesis Friends Christmas Party

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service 9:00 p.m.

Return your filled box from the Reverse Advent Calendar

December 25 – Christmas Service in the Sanctuary 10:00 a.m.

December 26 – Office Closed for Christmas

December 30 – Last day for 2022 Donations 11:30 a.m.

January 1 – New Year's Day Service in the Sanctuary 10:00 a.m.

January 2 – Office Closed for New Year's Day

January 8 – Celebrating Epiphany

#### Other December Church Events ...

Tuesday Dec. 6. Special Session of Church Consistory. 7:00pm. (Dining Hall).

Thursday Dec. 8. Finance Committee 7:00pm.

Tuesday Dec. 13. December Church Consistory Meeting. 7:00pm. Thursday Dec. 15. December Community Meal served. 5:00pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend and/or participate.

## Discernment Team Final Report to the Congregation

The Discernment team met with Consistory at their regular November meeting to present recommendations for the future of the First United Church of Christ Galion. After some discussion, the Consistory gave unanimous approval and asked that the congregation be informed as soon as possible. On Sunday November 20<sup>th</sup>, Doug Stone presented a summation of the Discernment Teams' work to the congregation. The following is an adaptation of that presentation.

"Good morning! The Discernment team has completed our work and we now share some exciting recommendations for the future of the First United Church of Christ. Consistory approved our recommendations and today we share those with all of you for prayerful review. You should have a copy of our report in your bulletin today. Copies will be in the office and can be mailed or emailed upon request and a copy will accompany the December Visitor.

Pay particular attention to the words of todays' Unison Prayer. It speaks to becoming active partners and joyously doing the work of Christ in our community and beyond. This is about building anew, not just restoring what was but rather what might be possible with God and with our cooperation and commitment.

Let me be very clear that the new Vision Statement of First United Church of Christ, the Core Values of First United Church of Christ, What Kind of Pastor for First United Church of Christ and the Congregational Profile Questions for the Search Committee are all the work of Tom Jeffers, Paul Sulser, Brian Treisch, Sandy Kennedy, Sandy Goldsmith Keller and myself. Over the last 5 months we invested hours in conversation, debate, homework, reading and prayer. Bill kept us on point, on schedule and ever guided by the holy spirit.

Our new Vision is 'Sharing Our Lives and Blessings to Nurture and Grow With Our Community'. This new vision reflects an external mission focus which should also be the primary focus of the pastor we call. The Core Values explain who we are uniquely today as well as who we are to become or aspire to become. The Kind of Pastor explains that thinking big about our church requires a full time pastor, changes which may be painful, decisions which may be difficult and most importantly — COMMITMENT from all of us.

I believe the Discernment Team has prepared the soon-to-be started search committee for a very successful search process. We have answered three questions critical to selecting our next pastor....

### Who Are We? Who is our Neighbor? Who are we called to become?

To candidates for settled pastor, the answers will make clear our unique calling from God and if they can help us achieve that calling. It will also provide guidance to the search committee as they review candidates.

Paul writes in Romans Chapter 12 verse 2 that we must be changed in how we think, to have our minds renewed so that we can begin to understand God's will for our lives. And so it is with this new Vision that we build anew with God and do the work of Christ here.

So you have our recommendations in front of you to study. Tomorrow night, the discernment team and consistory meet with Dan Busch to learn about next steps.

DISCUSS

ACT

Thank you."
Submitted by
Doug Stone





- Day 1: 2 Corinthians 9:15
- Day 2: Isaiah 7:14
- Day 3: Isaiah 11:1
- Day 4: John 1:14
- Day 5: Luke 2:11
- Day 6: Luke 2:14
- Day 7: Matthew 1:21
- Day 8: Romans 6:23
- Day 9: Luke 2:6-7
- Day 10: Galatians 4:4-5
- Day 11: Matthew 1:18-25
- Day 12: 1 Timothy 1:15-17
- Day 13: Matthew 1:18-25
- Day 14: Titus 3:3-7
- Day 15: Isaiah 9:6-7
- Day 16: Luke 2:8-12

- · Day 17: Luke 2:13-14
- Day 18: Luke 2:15-16
- Day 19: Luke 2:17-18
- Day 20: Luke 2:19-20
- Day 21: Micah 5:2
- Day 22: Zechariah 9:9
- Day 23: Isaiah 40:1-11
- Day 24: Isaiah 9:6
- Day 25: Luke 1:46-47
- Day 26: John 3:16
- Day 27: Matthew 4:16
- Day 28: James 1:17
  Day 29: 1 John 4:7
- Day 29. 1 John 4./
- Day 30: 1 John 5:11
- Day 31: Luke 1:78

## The four traditional advent themes

- · The Candle of HOPE
- The Candle of PEACE
- · The Candle of LOVE
- The Candle of JOY
- A fifth candle is sometimes lit in the middle to celebrate the birth of Jesus



Please pray for the families as they have each recently lost a loved one:

Lisa & Dan Eichhorn (her father)

Judy & Dennis Garverick (her brother)

Susan & Larry Ness (his sister)

Maggie & Jim Sulser (her father)

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

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

#### A Note of Thanks...

Thanks for the delicious Thanksgiving Dinner. The food was just delicious, and the delivery was really quick.

We really appreciated it!

Evelyn & Kenneth Feik





Will be on Monday Dec. 19 at Lisa Eichhorn's house 4039 Monnett New Winchester Road, Bucyrus. Starts at 6:00pm. (weather permitting). Come for an evening of fellowship and fun.

Instead of a gift exchange, please bring bathroom items such as shampoo & conditioner, soap, bath wash, lotion, Kleenex, and any other personal hygiene items you would like to donate. We will donate them to the residents of Fairhaven in Upper Sandusky.

—Lisa Eichhorn

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

#### **Reverse Advent Calendar**

Enclosed in this month's visitor is our popular Reverse Advent Calendar. This is a wonderful way to fill a pantry with food staples and all items are donated to the Community Action Center. As prices have increased this year, if you are unable to fill a box yourself, grab a friend and share in the project! There are boxes to hold your shopping items in the Heritage Room or you may bring them in the shopping bags. We will be collecting until Christmas. Thank you for your support and Merry Christmas!

#### **Advent Dinner**

We will celebrate Jesus' birth with the annual Advent Dinner on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> following service. After lunch we will put the final touches on our Christmas



tree in the sanctuary. This will be followed by the showing of the movie "Joyeux Noel" in the Dining Hall. Plan to stay and enjoy the Christmas season with your First Church Family and Friends.



#### **DECEMBER REQUESTS:**

Cereal

**Canned Vegetables** 

Pancake Mix & Syrup

Please feel free to vary from the above list. Cookies, Kool-Aid, chips, paper products, detergents, cleaning supplies, toothpaste, toothbrushes, diapers, baby products, personal hygiene items are always needed.

Thank you for your support!

#### Fellowship & Outreach Meal

Thank you to Sandy Kennedy and her crew that served an early Thanksgiving dinner at the November meal. The December Fellowship & Outreach Meal will be held on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.



If you could help us with baking a dessert for the December meal, we are looking for cupcakes. The sign up sheet is outside the office.

Thank you to everyone that has supported this mission in any way during this past year. It takes lots of hands and money to keep this ball rolling and you have all stepped up to help!

#### **Christmas Poinsettias**

Enclosed in this month's Visitor is the slip to purchase a Poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. Please note that the deadline for the florist is December 11, 2022.



#### **2022 Year End Donations**

The last day for calendar year 2022 offering donations will be on December 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. Thank you for being so generous in 2022 and Happy New Year!



Our friends here love their coffee and change does add up. We will be donating over \$700 in coffee to the Cafe' tents of our service people. Thank you for drinking and donating!



VSG Business:

Volunteers wishing to help will meet at Fairhaven on Monday, November  $28^{th}$  at 10am to decorate for Christmas. They will decorate a tree in the Memory Unit, Dining Room Shelves on the  $2^{nd}$  floor, the tree by the piano on the  $2^{nd}$  floor, and the Tree of Love in the Chapel on the  $2^{nd}$  floor. Following the decorating, lunch will be provided by Becky Blocksom. At 1pm the dedication of the Tree of Love will take place.

Concerning the Christmas stockings for the residents, 88 are needed this year and we have 25 left from last year. Arlene will make the needed stockings and the Marion church will assemble the treats to fill the stockings. We will meet at 10 am on our next meeting date, December 19<sup>th</sup>, and stuff the stockings prior to our meeting.

Officers for 2023 will be: President – Barb Nigh, Vice President – Brenda Koehler, Co-Treasurers – Jean Pratt and Arlene Main, Secretary – Rhonda Harvey, Assistant Secretary – Laurabel Bollenbacher. Installation of the officers will take place at the December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The booklets were reviewed for the upcoming year. Hopefully, all corrections have been noted. Volunteers will be listed by church and also a second listing alphabetically. There will be no regular meeting in January, just the meeting on January 2<sup>nd</sup> to undecorate the trees and change door decorations as needed.

The auction was completed on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. Total amount collected is a little more than \$1,300.00, with exact amount reported at the next meeting.

Starting the first Tuesday in January (January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023), from 1pm to 3pm, a gift cart will be made available at Fairhaven on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The cart will contain munchies, limited health care items, knick-knacks, and cards. These items will be available for a donation. This will be a trial run to see if there is any interest by the residents.

Staff: Demolition of portions of the Fairhaven building are slated to start in early December.

The next meeting will be December 19<sup>th</sup> with Devotions by Upper Emmanuel.



## NOVEMBER 21, 2022 SPECIAL SESSION CONSISTORY MEETING

First United Church of Christ held a special Consistory meeting on Monday, November 21, 2022 with the following Consistory and Discernment Committee members present: Judy Eichhorn, Doug Stone, Todd Knight, Mary Ann Stone, Sandy Keller, Sandy Powell, Sue Bloom, Dan Eichhorn, Barb Koschnick, Tom Jeffers, Sandy Kennedy, and Brian Treisch. Rev. Dan Busch from Northwest Ohio Association Heartland Conference met with the group to explain the Search and Call Process.

Rev. Dan Busch, the Association Minister of the Northwest Ohio Association Heartland Conference UCC, led the group in prayer, and then asked why we were there? To share ideas on how to look into the future, stating the search process is tough. He expressed his opinion that we need someone with experience to minister our church. He stated he used to get 16-18 profiles a week of ministers looking for a job. Now he's lucky to get 5. A pastor is not hired, but called.

He made recommendations for a Search Committee, which should consist of 5-9 people that can get along. They will reach a consensus, not a majority. A person on the committee wants to be on the committee, agrees to be there, and is a calling. The Consistory approves the Search Committee. Three documents will be needed: The Blurb, a 250-word introduction to the UCC job opportunity, a one page PDF file description and a profile which states salary is negotiable and should not be on line. Members of the Search Committee need to be discreet and confidential. The Consistory can call an interim, but only the congregation can call a minister. (Continued next page)

#### SPECIAL CONSISTORY MEETING (Con't.)

Brian Treisch moved to make a Search Committee of 7 members. Mary Ann Stone seconded the motion. Rev. Busch said he would send all profiles that want Galion and would promote Galion.

The Consistory and Discernment Committee members will meet, Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 7 PM in the church Dining Hall has to select and approve a Search Committee.

Barb Koschnick, Secretary



#### **NOVEMBER 15, 2022 REGULAR MONTHLY CONSISTORY MEETING**

Consistory met for its regular meeting Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the Lounge with the following in attendance: Elders: Sandy Powell, Shelly Kurtzman, Judy Eichhorn, Brian Treisch; Trustees: Doug Court; Deacons: Sandy Kennedy, Barb Koschnick, Sue Bloom, Bill Shifley, Mary Ann Stone; Rev. Meyer; Members of the Discernment Committee: Doug Stone, Sandy Keller, Judy Eichhorn, Tom Jeffers, Sandy Kennedy, Brian Treisch.

Rev. Meyer called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM with devotions, beginning with Hebrew verse 19 referring to a difficult moment in the church when people were backing away, and prayer.

A motion to accept the agenda with the addition of Revolving Line of Credit under item nine by Doug Court was made by Brian Treisch seconded by Sue Bloom. MC Judy Eichhorn moved to accept the minutes as printed with a second by Brian Treisch. MC

#### DISCERNMENT REPORT

Doug Stone reviewed the Discernment Team Recommendations sharing the results of the process for the future of the church. The Recommendation answers who are we, who are our neighbors and who are we called to become?

There are 5 core values of the type of Pastor we are looking for. A motion was made by Doug Court to adopt the Discernment Team Recommendations of November 12, 2022, and to recommend them to the congregation at the annual meeting to be held in January. Judy Eichhorn seconded the motion. MC "Money and skin in the game is what is being asked."

#### DEACON'S REPORT

Sandy Kennedy will assist Jeanine in ordering candles for Christmas Eve. Ushers for the Messiah would be helpful to assist the music students. Brian Treisch said he would assist.

#### MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mary Ann Stone reported that Holy Joe's resulted in \$720 of coffee being ordered. NIN netted \$840 plus change. The proceeds from the Thanksgiving Dinner were \$400-\$500 and will go to Crossroad. The money received at the Come Home to Galion soup event will go to Back Bay. Help is needed to set up for the Turkey Soup Booth. Checking with other churches, it was found that all do only drive through for meals. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month meals are offered in Galion on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings.

It was decided to move our Friendship and Outreach Meal to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, drive through only, beginning the first of the year. A family will be adopted for Christmas. The Mission Committee events in January will be One Great Hour of Sharing and Souper Bowl of Caring, and in February, Blankets. Mary Ann Stone is planning an Advent Dinner on December 11 after church.

#### **ELDER'S REPORT**

Sandy Powell shared Dec. 4, will be communion with traditional trays and elders handling. Sunday, Dec. 25 will be communion with disposable elements. Deacons will be sure everyone picks up the elements. There was a suggestion made at the Elder's Meeting to move Christmas Eve Service to 7:30 PM, but it was decided to keep at 9 PM to not have more change.

#### FINANCE REPORT AND PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mary Ann Stone noted nothing stands out in the report. Barb Koschnick moved to pay the bills and accept the financial report. Doug Court seconded the motion. MC

Doug Court presented the 2023 Budget. He noted no search committee dollars or moving expenses were budgeted. There was no increase in the budget for music or other staff, which is usually a cost of living increase of 3%. If an increase for cost of living is desired, Consistory can add such increases in December. A Cost of Living increase was discussed for music and custodian.

The Personnel Committee desired to have a cost of living decision go to the Finance Committee who in turn deferred the process to Consistory. The budget will be voted on in December. A percent increase in salaries for music will be discussed in December. It was noted the increase in the cost of living is much higher than 3%. Brian Treisch moved to ask the Finance Committee to look at a 3% increase for music. Sue Bloom seconded the motion. MC

MC The Finance Committee made a suggestion to send a copy of the proposed budget to all church members independently in a form that is large enough to read. It was suggested a best practice would be to talk to each member to see what their commitment is to the church financially, similar to a Stewardship Campaign with no names. MC

The Finance Committee made a suggestion to send a copy of the proposed budget to all church members independently in a form that is large enough to read. It was suggested a best practice would be to talk to each member to see what their commitment is to the church financially, similar to a Stewardship Campaign with no names.

Article X was referenced as it pertains to the Sterrett Fund. A proposal was discussed to modify Article X. Because the Finance Committee needs proper wording to change Article X, a meeting will be scheduled with a trust attorney and financial advisor. Doug Court moved to propose Constitutional Amendment language to the Consistory at the December meeting. Bill Shifley seconded the motion. MC

Brian Treisch moved the Consistory of First United Church of Christ authorizes the two year renewal of our line of credit with GBL Bank, and also authorizes Daniel Eichhorn as trustee and J Douglas Court, a finance committee member, to act as signees. Mary Ann Stone seconded the motion. MC

Mary Ann Stone suggested setting a date for the Annual Meeting. Mary Ann Stone moved the annual meeting be held on Sunday, January 22, 2023. Brian Treisch seconded the motion MC

#### PASTOR'S REPORT

The Discernment process is finished. The role of the Pastor shifts to set the stage for the next pastor.

#### OTHER ITEMS

The Nominating Committee reported Sandy Keller for Deacon and Doug Stone for Elder. Nominees for another Deacon and a Trustee are still needed.

The next meeting will be Tuesday December 13, 2023 at the church.

Brian Treisch moved to adjourn with Barb Koschnick seconding the motion. MC The meeting was adjourned with the praying of "The Lord's Prayer." —Barb Koschnick

# **FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Rev. Bill Meyer ...... Minister

 Jennifer Arbaugh......Organist
Jessica Hammond......Organist
Martha See.......Kitchen Custodian



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