

MARCH 2016

NEWSLETTER

First UCC Shelby, Ohio



Rev. James Robinson

**23 Church St
Shelby, Ohio 44875**

**Sunday School
9:00 AM**

**Sunday Worship
10:00 AM**



Reflections from the Rev.

“A lesson from Aiden.” by Rev James Robinson

As we enter the season it is easy to look at the calendar and see just how busy it is here at First Church.... Sundays are busy with Sunday school, morning worship, and evening classes for new members that will join the church in April. Looking at the calendar again... busy... busy...busy... work-school-kids music practice- kids athletic practice- PTA meetings- doctor's appointments etc. etc. We are constantly investing our time, energy, and commitment into “things” and “activities. It's not a bad thing! However, when “things” begin to become our focus, rather than the people around us... that can become problematic.

Just a few weeks ago our oldest son Aiden helped teach me a valuable lesson. I took my laptop home from the office to work on something. While I was sitting at the dining room table, typing away, Aiden came up to me and said, “Look what I got daddy, a T-Rex,” as he proudly held it up for me to see. My response of course was, “Oh, that's nice buddy,” without even looking at him.

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A few minutes later he came back, “Daddy... please come play with me.” My heart melted... I had to put the work away and go play with my boy....

In sharing this story, I cannot help but reflect on our reading from a few Sunday’s ago. Jesus tells us in the gospel of Matthew 6:21, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” What do you treasure?? What is precious for you?? For some people it may be money... but let’s look at it another way... What is the most valuable and limited asset that you possess? How about your time? Our time is highly valuable because it is a limited asset. It seems to me that our schedules can sometimes hinder us... they make us invest our time in things... when what we should really be doing is investing our time in people...

The most valuable thing you can give to the Lord- to your spouse- to your children- to your friends- to your loved ones IS NOT money (yes money is nice) but it is a piece of your limited time on this earth. Take time to be with the ones you love- slow down- be willing to compromise that schedule whenever possible to spend just one more minute of playtime with your child... to call your grandma once a week... or to volunteer at the local food pantry. In this Lenten season... a season of prayer-meditation-giving- and self-reflection I would like to invite you to prayerfully consider the following; “What do I treasure?” “Is there any time I am wasting that I could be spending with those I love or for service to others?” Jesus help us to prioritize.



Help us to utilize our time wisely. Help us, to show your love- and to experience the love of self and others, through the investment of our time... In your name we pray... Amen

+Pastor James Robinson

Who’s in the Pews

“Messages” by Phil Pearson

I don’t know about you, but sometimes I feel overwhelmed by messages. Sometimes they are on my answering machine, sometimes in my email. I can only be thankful that I don’t do texting, because my frustration would only increase.

We seem to be bombarded by messages everywhere. People want us to pay attention to what they have to say. Sometimes messages are embedded or outright stated in sermons, conversations with friends, on billboards, on TV advertisements, and so on. People are constantly vying for our time. Some of those messages are ones we need to hear; sometimes they are pure dribble.

One of the biggest messages we all send is how we live our lives. We have all been influenced from our early lives by those around us. My father always grew far too many vegetables in his garden than our family could possibly eat. The lesson here was that we frequently went with him as he delivered the excess to those in the community who could benefit. I know he purposely grew too many so that he would have that excess to share. My mother always taught us not to hate or even use the word and not to see skin color as an excuse for derision.

My junior choir director at church and her husband, the organist, were constantly making big pictures for little eyes to see. My choir director would get up early every morning to bake bread and take it to others. She would go sing to residents at the nursing homes every week. She would constantly ask me to sing solos in church (Can you imagine my high soprano voice singing to 800 people in a church filled with musicians and professors?) She was encouraging me to use my talents. I think she saw far more in me than I did. She and her

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husband were constantly taking me to concerts and would always take me backstage to meet the performers. Her husband later became my organ professor at Otterbein. I could not have asked to have a better role model of a Christian who constantly made me aware that when I played for church, I was not a performer or a bystander during the times in the service when the music was not being used. He said, “You should always be an active Christian participant in all parts of the service.” He gave generously of his time and his considerable talent, but he was always a Christian man in all that he did.

You and I have had many role models in our lives. We have had great teachers, preachers, family members, friends, and mentors. What messages did they send? I hope your lives have been as richly blessed as mine has been, and that people will see Jesus when they see us and the way we live your lives. Not all messages contribute to the overload. Jesus is the best role model of them all.



Phil



“Souper- Bowl” Sunday

A special thanks to all those who brought in cans of soup, and gave cash to help feed hungry people. Thanks to your generosity, our church youth collected 202 cans of soup, and \$122.00 for Shelby F.I.S.H. food pantry. We are proud of our kids and their desire to help others!

Carpet Fund Complete!!

Thanks to everyone who has given money to purchase new carpet for the sanctuary! Thanks to a large donation given by the Cooke Family, in memory of Ed and Agnes Cooke, we now have enough money to begin the project! \$5,310.00 has been given to replace the aged red carpeting in our sanctuary.

A Note of Thanks

Stephanie Morris- Director of Music for 1st UCC, would like to thank the church for the Christmas gift that she received. Steph says, “I appreciate the gift as well as the opportunity to serve the congregation through the musical ministry.”

Thank you too Steph for all that you do!

Kitchen Fund

Thanks to all who have given to the Kitchen Fund. We have a long way to go before we have the funds needed to remodel and update the church kitchen, but we have to start somewhere! If you would like to give toward the kitchen fund please put your gift in an offering envelope, and clearly mark it, “kitchen fund.”

Hymnals

A special thanks to all who have donated money towards the cost of the new “Celebration Hymnals” that we purchased last year. We have less than \$200.00 to go before we have all the hymnals paid for. If you would like to dedicate a hymnal, envelopes are available on the welcome center in the back of the sanctuary. They are \$13.95 each.

New Small Group- Fitness Club

Fitness Club is a weekly challenge against yourself. You set your own goal on Sunday for the week, and do your best to fulfill (or exceed) that goal. If you do so, the following Sunday you can put your name in the Goal Jar. At the end of the month, a club member's name will be selected from the goal jar to receive a small reward. So... the more times you meet your fitness goal during the month, the better your chances at winning! Fitness Club will be accepting an optional \$2 donation each month from its members. Half of the donation money will go towards the purchase of gifts for at least one Angel Tree tag for the 2016 Christmas Season. The other half of the donated will be used to purchase the small reward for the club's monthly reward recipient.



1st UCC Food Pantry and Shelby F.I.S.H.

We recently decided to start a food pantry here at the church as a way to minister to families in our congregation that may need some assistance. The pantry is located in the small room (that was previously empty), on the second floor between the educational wing and sanctuary. Since implementing the project, we have been able to help 9 families, in just 2 months! Please continue to bring non-perishable food items to the church for both our pantry and the Shelby F.I.S.H food pantry.... It might seem like something small... but to many people it makes a BIG difference. Jesus asked, "Do you Love Me?... Then feed My sheep!"

Online Sermons

The weekly sermon is now being uploaded on our Facebook page! Find us and like us – search for First United Church of Christ – Shelby, Ohio.

Change the Church

The church youth continue to support their mission projects for 2016 through the change the church offering. Bring your loose change to church on the second Sunday of each month. The kids really enjoy actively participating in the service through collecting this offering, and actively participating in missions through donating this money to good causes!



Stewardship and Caring

The First United Church of Christ is proud to report that our very own Allison Fordyce has been nominated to the Stewardship and Caring Committee for the North West Ohio Association of the United Church of Christ! Allison will be formally installed to her position at the NWOA annual meeting and Calvary United Church of Christ in Crestline, Ohio on Saturday April 30th.

WAY TO GO ALLISON!!!



COMING IN MARCH

Lent Lunches @ 1st UMC

Every Wednesday during Lent, a FREE soup and sandwich lunch is being offered at First United Methodist Church on South Gamble Street at Noon in their fellowship hall. Various Shelby churches take turns sponsoring this event- by preparing the lunch and offering a brief Lenten devotional/song. Please attend if you can and support our local churches!

New Member Classes- 3/6/16-3/27/16 7:30pm

We have had at least 7 to 9 individuals who have expressed interest in joining the church. Every Sunday in March at 7:30pm, we will have classes for them to attend to learn more about our church, the UCC, and active church membership. We tried to schedule these so that it worked around everyone's schedule-

- Sunday 3/6/16-** 7:30pm (Pastor James and Katie's House) - *All about the UCC*
- Sunday 3/13/16-** 7:30pm (Location TBA) - *1st UCC Shelby today and its history-*
- Sunday 3/20/16-** 7:30pm (Location TBA) - *Baptism and Church Membership*
- Sunday 3/27/16-** 7:30pm (Location TBA) - *Wrapping things up*

Lenten Lunch and Devotional 3/9/16 Noon

On Wednesday March 9th at Noon- The First United Church of Christ will host the FREE Lenten Lunch and devotional at the First United Methodist Church on North Gamble Street. If you would like to help donate to or prepare the lunch please see Mary Kay Steele. Pastor James will be singing and giving a brief devotional.

Community Good Friday Service- 3/25/16 1:00pm

The First United Church of Christ will be hosting the Shelby Ministerial Association's Annual Good Friday Service. It will begin at Noon at Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church. Congregants will then participate in a Cross Walk- carrying the cross from St. Mary's to First UCC for a service here at 1:00pm. Rev. Daniel Orr of St. Mark's Episcopal Church will be giving the homily.

Looking Forward April 2016

Celebration of New Members Service- 4/3/16- 10:00am

"Earth Sunday" 4/24/16- 10:00am- Planting a tree in memory of Rosella Wood.





Palm Sunday- 3/20/16- 10:00am

We will be kicking off Holy week by celebrating Palm Sunday on Sunday March 20th at the 10:00am worship service.

Maundy Thursday Fellowship Dinner 3/24/16 7:00pm

The Elders of the First United Church of Christ, (Martha Grimwood, Jill Karl, Sandy Stoodt, and Mary Kay Steele), will be hosting a Maundy Thursday Fellowship meal in our fellowship hall on Thursday March 24th at 7:00pm. The worship event will include singing, scriptural readings, a traditional Jewish Seder meal, and a special communion meal! 2 meals in one night!!!! Don't miss this fun evening. An evening to celebrate the Jewish Passover, and the Last Supper of our Lord.

Good Friday Worship Service- 3/25/16 7:00pm

Please join us on Good Friday March 25th at 7:00pm as we continue to celebrate Holy Week, with a brief worship service recapping the events of Good Friday. We will meet in the sanctuary, and the service will be about 30 minutes long.

Easter Sunday Breakfast- 3/27/16 9:00am

On Easter Sunday March 27th, we will be preparing breakfast for ourselves and our friends from Livingstone Community Church. Breakfast will start at 9:00am and include a visit from the Easter bunny, as well as an Easter egg hunt for the kids! Come have fun, eat, and fellowship! If you would like to help prepare breakfast please see Allison Fordyce, or Jill Karl!

Easter Resurrection Celebration Worship- 3/27/16 10:00am

Please join us Easter Sunday March 27th at 10:00am for a worship service Celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior!



Financial Report- January 2016

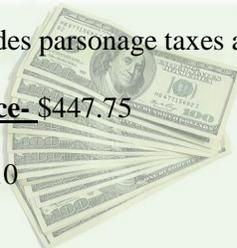
Total income - \$10,061.10(offerings, endowment interest, etc.)

Total paid out- \$8,954.80(includes parsonage taxes and organ repair)

General Fund Available Balance- \$447.75

Kitchen Fund- \$394.00

Youth Mission Projects- \$177.10



Birthdays

Kevin Karl	1
Thai Nguyen	2
JoAnna Johnson	17
Abra Dunn	17
Dorothy Hill	20
Paul Stoodt	20
Evelyn Clark	24
Harry Keplinger	27
Maurice Bloom	27

Anniversaries

Mark and Molly Hoover
March 17, 1990

Contact Information

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Like us on Facebook!

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Our Promise to You...

We promise to always seek to affirm the person that you are with loving hearts and open minds.

We promise to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ with you in loving and being loved by God and Neighbor.

We promise to love you for the person you are and that God created you to be, by living out the United Church of Christ's promise that, "No Matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome at the First United Church of Christ of Shelby, Ohio!"

"If the Bible becomes an object of worship, then we replace the living Christ with dead letters. And without the living Christ, it is possible to wind up with a faith that denigrates the poor, the unorthodox, the outsider, women, sexual minorities, and hungry children. You know, all the people Jesus loved to be around."

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Pastor James' Scedule March 2016

March 2016						April 2016 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>9:00am Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 Morning Worship</p> <p>7:30pm- New Member Classes</p> 	<p>1</p> <p>Office 11:00am- 3:00pm</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>Office 11:00am- 3:00pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Office 11:00am- 3:00pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Office: 10:00am- Noon</p> <p>Visitation: Noon-4:00pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Family Day- Emergency Calls Only</p>	
<p>6</p> <p>9:00- Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 Morning Worship</p> <p>7:30pm- New Member Classes</p>	<p>7</p> <p>SERMON PREP DAY</p> <p>10:00-2:00</p> <p>CALL/ BY APPOINTMENT</p>	<p>8</p> <p>MEETING- EXCELLENCE IN MINISTRY- UPPER SANDUSKY, OHIO- 9:00am- 2:00pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Office 11:00am- 3:00pm</p> <p>Preaching- Lenten Lunch @ 1st UMC Shelby- NOON</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Office 11:00am- 3:00pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Office: 10:00am- Noon</p> <p>Visitation: Noon-4:00pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Family Day- Emergency Calls Only</p>
<p>13</p> <p>9:00- Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 Morning Worship</p> <p>7:30pm- New Member Classes</p>	<p>14</p> <p>SERMON PREP DAY</p> <p>10:00-2:00</p> <p>CALL/ BY APPOINTMENT</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Office 11:00am- 3:00pm</p> <p>MEETING- SHELBY MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION- SHELBY HOSPITAL- NOON</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Office 11:00am- 3:00pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>MEETING SHELBY CHRISTIAN OUTREACH- Shelby Hospital- NOON</p> <p>MEETING- WITNESS & PROCLAMATION TEAM- TIFFIN, OHIO- 2:00</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Office: 10:00am- Noon</p> <p>Visitation: Noon-4:00pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Family Day- Emergency Calls Only</p>
<p>20</p> <p>9:00am Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 Morning Worship</p> <p>7:30pm- New Member Classes</p>	<p>21</p> <p>SERMON PREP DAY</p> <p>10:00-2:00</p> <p>CALL/ BY APPOINTMENT</p> <p>MEETING- Church Council 6:30pm</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Office 11:00am- 3:00pm</p> <p>MEETING- Mansfield Court House- 1:15pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Office 11:00am- 3:00pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Office 11:00am- 3:00pm</p> <p>Maundy Thursday Fellowship Dinner 7:00pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Office: 10:00am- Noon</p> <p>Community Good Fr. 1pm</p> <p>Communion- shut-ins 2pm</p> <p>Good Friday Service 7pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Family Day- Emergency Calls Only</p>
<p>27</p> <p>9:15- Easter Breakfast w/ Livingstone Church</p> <p>10:00am- Easter Morning Worship</p> <p>7:30pm- New Member Classes</p>	<p>28</p> <p>SERMON PREP DAY</p> <p>10:00-2:00</p> <p>CALL/ BY APPOINTMENT</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Office 11:00am- 3:00pm</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Office 11:00am- 3:00pm</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Office 11:00am- 3:00pm</p>	<p>Pastor James Contact Info Cell-</p> <p>Cell-(419)-989-2099</p> <p>Home- (567)-844-0445</p> <p>pastorjamesrobinson@gmail.com</p>	

More Calendars with US Holidays: Apr 2016, May 2016, PDF Calendar