

APRIL 2016

NEWSLETTER

FIRST UCC

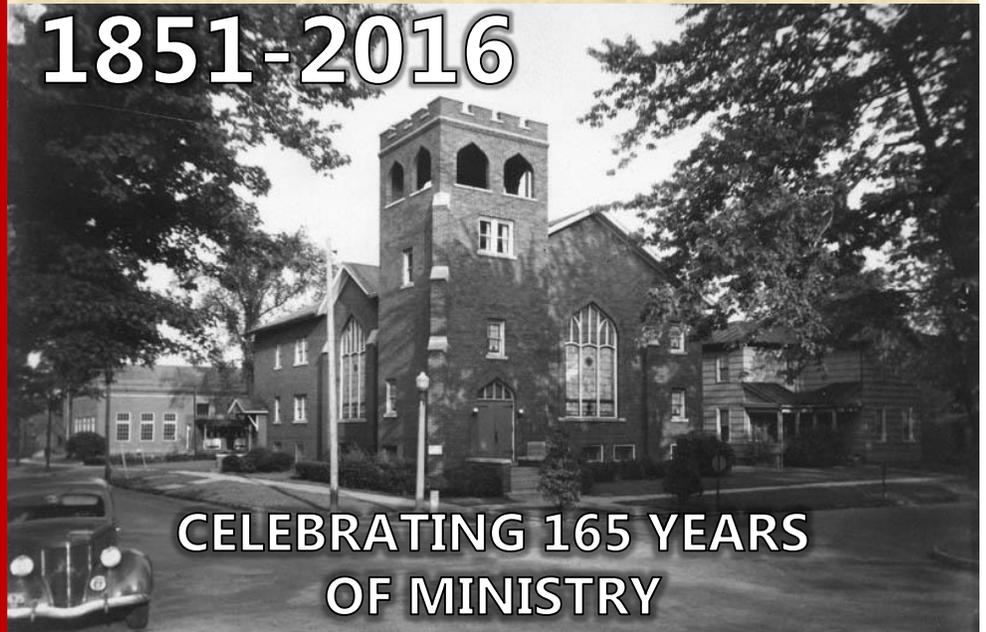
SHELBY, OHIO



23 Church Street
Shelby, Ohio

Sunday Worship
10:00 AM

1851-2016



CELEBRATING 165 YEARS
OF MINISTRY

Reflections from the Rev.

“Springing Into Spring” by Rev. James Robinson

Planting the garden, mowing the lawn, picnics, cookouts, taking the kids to the park; these are just a few of my favorite spring time activities. Attending worship, if you listen closely during the moments when we share our joy and concerns, every now and then you will hear someone say, “Hey Pastor... I have a JOY...Thank God Spring is coming!” Well... your Pastor can second that! Thank God spring is here! A time when we can think of birth, growth and “re-creation.” Did you know that spring is a time of re-creation? The flowers burst up from their winter slumber, the trees wake up from their cold sleep, the sun warms the earth. It is hard to describe what God is doing in creation this time of year, without thinking of the words of one of my favorite spring hymns, “Morning Has Broken”:

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning! Born of the one light Eden saw play.

Praise with elation, praise every morning, God's recreation of the new day!

The song reminds us that God the Creator didn't stop creating in the book of Genesis. The God of creation is not only a still speaking God, but a God who is still creating! Every morning when we wake up, fresh air fills our lungs, the beat of our heart continues, and the world keeps turning! It is hard to be ungrateful when we think just how much of a blessing this life is! Thinking of this recreation and rebirth, we have decided to try something different this year for Earth Day. On Sunday April 24th, (the 1st Sunday after Earth Day), we will be planting a tree on church property in memory of Rosella Wood. This will be a service of thanksgiving and praise, focused on our gratitude to God for all of creation (Earth, Universe, and Human Life).

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My prayer this month, oh God is that you will help us to love and appreciate your Creation. Help us to realize that creation has not ceased, but continues to take place every day: in our world, in the heavens, and in our hearts. To the God who created, and continues to create be all the glory, honor, and praise, now and forever... AMEN!

*"Morning has broken, like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken, like the first bird. Praise for
the singing! Praise for
the morning! Praise
for them springing,
fresh from the Word!"*

Praise be to
the re-creating God!

+Pastor James



Who's in the Pews

"The Great Gift of Easter"

by Stephanie Morris - Music Director

With Easter still fresh in our minds, I'd like to talk about HOPE. The great gift of Easter is HOPE - Christian HOPE which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake... this according to Basil Hume.

HOPE, according to Webster's dictionary is the feeling that what is wanted can be had or that events will turn out well. We have plenty of hymns that speak of HOPE: "Blessed Assurance"; "Count Your Many Blessings"; "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"; "I'll Fly Away"... just to name a few. A more recent country/pop song by Mark Sanders and Tia Sillers, "I Hope you Dance", is also about HOPE. The song, recorded by Lee Ann Womack, is a ballad in which the narrator, a mother, expresses her hopes for her children. As you read or listen to the lyrics you cannot help but think of your children or grandchildren and your HOPES for them. Lee Ann is quoted as saying, "If my children understand the meaning of these lyrics when they're grown, I'll have done my job as their mother."

To me, songwriters have a gift of putting down in words what we often have trouble

expressing. This song has spoken to me from the first time I heard it. I HOPE it speaks to you also.

"I Hope you Dance"

*I HOPE you never lose your sense of wonder
You get your fill to eat but always keep the hunger
May you never take one single breath for granted
God forbid love ever leave you empty handed
I HOPE you still feel small when you stand
beside the ocean
Whenever one door closes I HOPE one more opens
Promise me that you'll give faith a fighting chance
And when you get that choice to sit it out or dance
I HOPE you dance...
I HOPE you dance...*

*I HOPE you never fear those mountains
in the distance
Never settle for the path of least resistance
Livin' might mean takin' chances
but they're worth takin'
Lovin' might be a mistake but it's work makin'
Don't let some hell bent heart leave you bitter
When you come close to sellin' out consider
Give the heavens above more
than just a passing glance
And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance
I HOPE you dance...
I HOPE you dance...
Time is a wheel in constant motion
always rolling us along
Tell me who wants to look back on their years and
wonder where those years have gone
I HOPE you dance...
I HOPE you dance...
(Sanders & Sillers)*

Where there's HOPE, there's wonder...
Where there's wonder, there's faith... Where there's
faith, there's chance... Where there's chance, there's
love... Where there's love, there's music...

What would we be without HOPE?

NOTHING.

What does it take to HOPE?

EVERYTHING.

Stephanie





COMING IN APRIL



Sunday April 3rd New Member Sunday

Sunday Morning April 3rd at the 10:00am worship service, we will welcome new members into our congregation. After the service there will be a reception in the fellowship hall. Come join us as we welcome in the new members!

Church Directory Photos

On Sunday April 3rd we will begin signing up for photo sessions to compile our new church directory (The last directory was done in 2008). Photos will be taken at the church on Tuesday May 17th from 2:00- 8:30pm. If you have any questions, or would like to set up a time for a photo session please call Sandy Stoodt at 419.631.9605

Sunday April 10th Holy Humor Sunday & Change the Church Offering

Come to church ready to laugh on Sunday April 10th as we will celebrate Holy Humor Sunday. We at the First United Church of Christ, along with many other congregations around the world, recognize the important, but often overlooked, sacred gifts of laughter and joy! Laughter is a gift that allows us to keep our hearts light, even at the most difficult of times. At a funeral, a funny story about a loved one can often bring comfort to those grieving. During a worship service, the gospel can often be more effectively shared with humor and joy. And even in the midst of the observing the crucifixion of Jesus, we know that life will have the last laugh over death. So come to church ready to laugh on Holy Humor Sunday! Also, don't forget to bring your loose change to church for the Change the Church Offering. Help support our church youth and their mission project.

Beginning Sunday April 10th Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School will resume Sunday April 10th at 9:00am. We will be doing a study of Martin Copenhavers book, "To Begin at the Beginning." You can choose to get your own copy, or Pastor James can order you one. If you would like him to order yours then please see him by April 3rd. Cost of the books is roughly \$20.00.

Sunday April 17th Family Movie Night

Join us in the fellowship hall for family movie night on Sunday April 17th at 5:00pm. We will be ordering pizza, and there will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary for desserts.

Monday April 18th Church Council

There will be a church council meeting Monday April 18th at 6:30pm in the parlor. Don't forget!

Sunday April 24th Earth Sunday Tree Memorial

On Sunday April 24th at the 10:00am service, we will honor Earth Day and the life of Rosella Wood by planting a tree in her memory on church property.

Sunday April 24th Crop Walk

The Crop Walk will be held on Sunday April 24th at 1:00pm and First United Methodist Church. Please see Lynn Cooke to get sponsorship sheets, or to find a person to sponsor. The Crop Walk helps fight hunger.

Saturday April 30th NWOA Annual Meeting

The 53rd Annual Meeting of the North West Ohio Association of the United Church of Christ will be held on Saturday April 30th, 2016 at Calvary United Church of Christ in Crestline, Ohio. If you would like to attend on behalf of our church, please see Pastor James. Our very own Allison Fordyce will be installed as a member of the North West Ohio Association Stewardship and Caring Team at this meeting!

Looking Ahead

Sunday May 1st Guest Speaker

On Sunday May 1st we will have a guest preacher. Rev. Pam Easterday from Tiffin, Ohio will be with us. Rev. Easterday is a friend of Pastor James', and an ordained minister with the United Church of Christ. Please try to be here for this service.

Carpet Project starting soon!

It is with great joy that we announce that enough funds have been collected to replace the aging carpet in the church sanctuary. Soon we will be getting the project underway, and one of these Sundays you will walk into the sanctuary to a pleasant surprise: **new carpet!!!**

Don't Forget!

Fitness Club

You can still be a part of the 1st UCC fitness club!!! Fitness club is a weekly challenge against yourself, to help you set healthy fitness goals. Want more information?? See Allison Fordyce, or stop by the fitness club table! (Table is located on the second floor between the educational wing and food pantry.)

February 2016 Financial

Total Income- \$5,401.62
Total Paid Out- \$5,703.79
Kitchen Fund- \$404.00
Sanctuary Carpet- \$5,310.00
Youth Mission Fund- \$215.20

BE THE CHURCH

God is still speaking.
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Protect the environment. Care for the poor.
Embrace diversity. **Reject racism.** Forgive often.
Love God. **Fight for the powerless.**
Share earthly and spiritual resources. Enjoy this life.

Contact Information

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shelbyucc.blogspot.com

Like us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/FirstChurchShelby

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Lead Pastor
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pastorjamesrrobinson@gmail.com

April Birthdays

Faye Steele	1 st
Kash Cooke	1 st
Betty Stroup	2 nd
Lieu Nguyen	2 nd
Lynn Cooke	4 th
Darlene King	4 th
Lyn Nguyen	4 th
Robert Stroup	5 th
Sandra Laser	8 th
Dyonna Ball	9 th
Jodi Uffman	10 th
Cynthia Metzger	13 th
Charlie Cooke	15 th
Eleanor Lillo	21 st
Hayley Hall	22 nd
Grady Schroeder	23 rd
Jacob Beckner	30 th

April Anniversaries

Dan and Stephanie Morris	April 15, 1968
George and Debbie Tschanen	April 15, 1989
Rich and Angie Eichinger	April 16, 2005
Kevin and Jill Karl	April 28, 1998



"God created *our skin*
tones with *beautiful*
variety, but *all of our*
souls are the *same color.*"

Dave Willis.org

Pastor James' Calendar

April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31 Office 11:00am-4:00pm	1 Office and Visitation 10:00am-4:00pm	2 Family Day Emergency Calls Only Please
3 9:00am- Noon	4 Sermon Prep at Home Calls Welcome	5 Office 11:00am-4:00pm	6 Office 11:00am-4:00pm	7 Office 11:00am-4:00pm	8 Office and Visitation 10:00am-4:00pm	9 Family Day Emergency Calls Only Please
10 9:00am- Noon	11 Sermon Prep at Home Calls Welcome	12 Office 11:00am-4:00pm EIM- 9AM (Meeting)	13 Office 11:00am-4:00pm	14 Office 11:00am-4:00pm	15 Office and Visitation 10:00am-4:00pm	16 Family Day Emergency Calls Only Please
17 9:00am-Noon	18 Sermon Prep at Home Calls Welcome	19 Office 11:00am-4:00pm SMA Noon (meeting)	20 Office 11:00am-4:00pm	21 Office 11:00am-4:00pm	22 Office and Visitation 10:00am-4:00pm	23 Family Day Emergency Calls Only Please
24 9:00am-Noon	25 Out of Office VACATION	26 Out of Office VACATION	27 Out of Office VACATION	28 Out of Office VACATION	29 Out of Office VACATION	30 Family Day Emergency Calls Only Please

Contact Information for Pastor James

Cell: (419)-989-2099

Home: (567)-844-0445

Email: pastorjamesrobinson@gmail.com

68 Walnut Street Shelby, Ohio 44875

PLEASE NOTE: If the schedule says I am in the office, and you stop by the church and I am not there, then I am out and about on church business. PLEASE do not hesitate to call me when this happens.

