

MAY 2016

NEWSLETTER

FIRST UCC

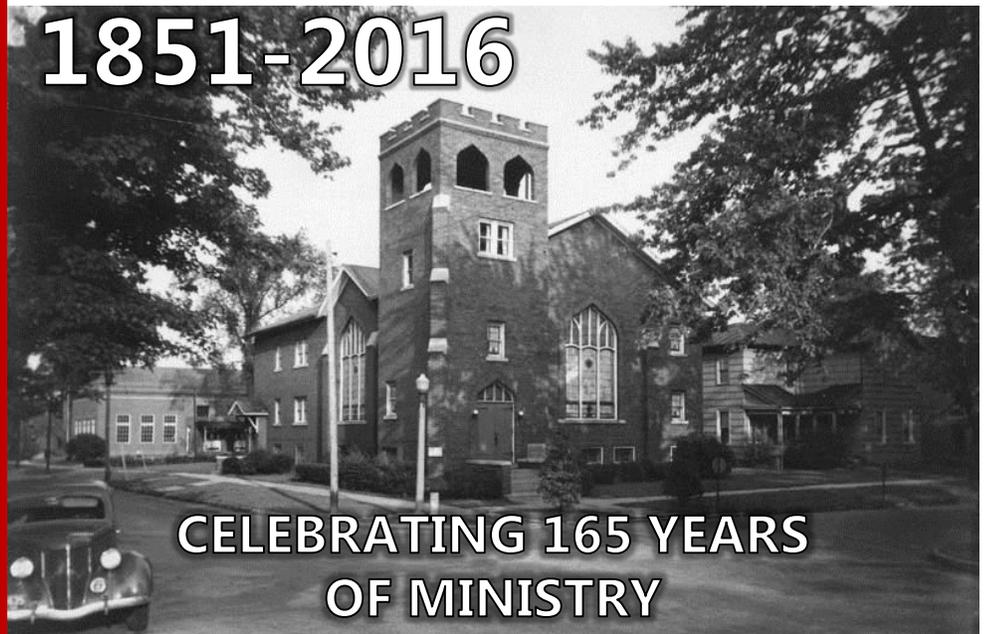
SHELBY, OHIO



23 Church Street
Shelby, Ohio

Sunday Worship
10:00 AM

1851-2016



CELEBRATING 165 YEARS
OF MINISTRY

Reflections from the Rev.

"An Extravagant Welcome."

We talk about giving an "extravagant welcome" in the United Church of Christ all of the time... but what does it actually mean?? The Webster's Dictionary says that Extravagant means to "lack restraint in the using of money or spending of resources." Just a few weeks ago something very profound happened. It was one of those moments that you feel God reaching out and says, "You are doing something right!" While working on sermon prep one afternoon, a lady came into the office to get some information about our church. This is what she had to say. "I am from ____ church. We have heard that you are the friendly church in town. We have heard that you do a great job reaching out to first time visitors and guests. We hear that people feel welcome and that you get many visitors that come back frequently. Our church would like to know just how you do it." What a wonderful comment to receive. I can tell you that I have never been more proud to be your pastor, than when she said, "We have heard you are the friendly church in Shelby."

With this compliment comes a great deal of responsibility. If we are going to be known as the friendly church, we must continue making folks welcome when they come to worship. It takes more than just the minister and greeters shaking hands, and striking up conversation to get this to happen. If you see someone new or a regular for that matter in worship, and there is time to talk with them before worship, strike up some conversation! A friendly conversation can make someone feel more relaxed, and at home in our worship space. Don't forget that we also have visitor packs in the back for first time visitors with information about our church. If they are new and don't have a visitor packet, grab them one. We are also having new coffee mugs made to fill with candy to give to first time visitors. Talk to them,

...continued from previous page

see if they need anything, and let them know how glad you are to see them at church.

About a month ago I preached a sermon on Jesus' parable entitled "The Prodigal Father" from Luke 15, (most of the time the story is referred to as the prodigal son). We talked about what being a prodigal meant. Prodigal, according to Webster's dictionary, means being "recklessly extravagant." Although the Son was recklessly extravagant in his outlandish and immediate spending of his inheritance, was not the Father also recklessly extravagant in the way that he welcomed back his wayward son? To quote Luke's Gospel the father said, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." Thank God that the prodigal father was "recklessly extravagant" in the way that he welcomed back the prodigal son. Aren't you thankful that the love of God for us, is just as recklessly extravagant as the love the father had for his son in Luke's gospel? God's love is a "no matter what" kind of love... A love far more reckless and extravagant than anything we could say or do.

Thank you for being a church that is not afraid to offer visitors and first time guests a "recklessly extravagant welcome." Thank you for being "the friendly church in Shelby.

With Gratitude for God's Recklessly Extravagant Love,
+Pastor James

We are People of Extravagant Welcome
Jesus didn't turn people away,
neither do we.



Who's in the Pews?

"What does the Bible teach us about Luck and being Lucky?"

Luck has two somewhat contradictory meanings. The original term is related to destiny as pre-determined by a deity or force- what we might call providence. Eastern religions in particular believe that luck can be somewhat controlled by superstitious actions. Religious rites are preformed, (like rubbing the stomach of a Buddha statue, or

lighting incense), to induce supernatural powers to change fortunes. Today, luck more often refers to an event that is out of the control of those involved and has significant repercussions whether good or bad. This type of luck is related to something called the chaos theory. This theory points out that most situations are affected by so many elements, that the outcome is usually random and un-predictable.

The Bible rejects the second type of luck, and is cautious with the first. God cannot be manipulated to endow God fortune through superstitious practices. And God's omniscience precludes the existence of any truly random event. The Bible does us the word "chance" on occasion, but not as a completely unforeseen event; it generally indicates that the people involved had no way of knowing something would occur, but it doesn't follow that God didn't know. The idea of luck brings up a difficult theological discussion: Does God ordain everything that happens to us, or does God let nature and human choice play out to their inevitable end? The answer is confusing... its BOTH. We do often bear the repercussions of choices- ours and others- without the apparent interference of God. In other cases God acts in a way we call "miracles." How, when, and why God acts is usually hidden from us. But the question remains... did God cause it to happen... or allow it to happen?? The answer... BOTH, God is in control, orchestrating natural consequences and miracles in a way that bring glory to God, and salvation to us.

All that being said, should a Christian own a lucky charm or engage in superstitious actions such as wearing the same socks to every baseball game? If the charms, such as rabbits foot, a horse shoe, or an elephant with an upraised trunk, are non-religious and used in a way that represents a culture and not in a way that causes another to stumble, or attempts to gather actual fortune, it's probably all right. Rituals can be used to calm nerves or mentally prepare for an event. However, we should recognize that nothing is truly random, and God cannot be manipulated by four-leafed clovers or dirty socks. Time would be better spent by following God, preparing for that game, and not risking anything too dear in poker.

Blessings <3

Sister Shari Johnson

**The word "luck" does not appear in the Bible except for in the paraphrased version, The Message, which uses it as slang to mean "Blessing."*

COMING IN MAY



Sunday, May 1st Guest Preacher

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.

Sunday, May 8th Mother's Day Celebration

On Sunday May 8th, during the 10:00am worship service we will be honoring all mothers. If you will be here in attendance with us and your mother has passed away, and you would like to bring a photo in to place on the altar during the service you are more than welcome to do so. We will have some gifts for Mothers in attendance, and a presentation will be given called, "Women of the Faith."

Thursday, May 12th Mother Daughter Banquet

The Mother Daughter Banquet will be held on Thursday May 12th at 6:00pm. Dinner will be catered by Ed Pickens, and entertainment will be provided by our very own Steph Morris and her dulcimer group! See Allison Fordyce or Lynn Cooke for details!

Monday, May 16th Church Council 6:30pm

Church Council will meet Monday May 16th in the parlor at 6:30pm.

Tuesday, May 17th Church Directory Photos 2:00pm-8:30pm

On Sunday April 3rd we began signing up for photo sessions to compile our new church directory (The last directory was done in 2008). Photos will be taken here 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 @ 419-631-9605



Thank You!

Earth Day

On Sunday April 24th at the 10:00am service we honored Earth Day and the life of Rosella Wood by planting a tree in her memory on church property. A special thanks to our church trustees, (Specifically Steve and Shelli Laser), for ordering the tree, digging the hole, and making this event happen. If you would like to donate money towards the cost of the tree, please send your check to the church with "tree" in the memo line.

Crop Walk

The Crop Walk was held on Sunday April 24th at 1:00pm at First United Methodist Church. A special thanks to Fred and Lynn Cooke for getting folks signed up to walk and doing such a wonderful job promoting the Crop walk in our church. A big thank you also goes out to those who either walked or sponsored someone else to walk.

May Birthdays

<u>Warren Rehberg</u>	<u>2nd</u>
<u>Mary Ball</u>	<u>8th</u>
<u>Shari Dunn</u>	<u>11th</u>
<u>KC Cooke</u>	<u>16th</u>
<u>Aiden Robinson</u>	<u>19th</u>
<u>Allison Naugle</u>	<u>21st</u>
<u>Fred Cooke</u>	<u>22nd</u>
<u>Logan Karl</u>	<u>29th</u>

May Anniversaries

<u>Jeff & Pam Steele</u>	<u>May 16, 1992</u>
<u>Don & Janice Cooke</u>	<u>May 28, 1982</u>

March 2016 Financial

Total Income-	\$5,174.88
Total Paid Out-	\$4325.65
Difference	+849.23
Trustees Fund-	\$14,300.00
Kitchen Fund-	\$509.00
Sanctuary Carpet-	\$5,310.00
Youth Mission Fund-	\$392.00

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.)

Contact Information

First United Church of Christ
23 Church St. Shelby, Ohio 44875
firstunitedchurchofchrist@yahoo.com

shelbyucc.blogspot.com

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

Rev. James R. Robinson
Lead Pastor
Office - 419.347.7777
Cell - 419.989.2099
pastorjamesrrobinson@gmail.com



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!!!

Pastor James' Schedule

As of May 1st Pastor James will be changing his office hours. You can check out Pastor James' schedule on the attached calendar page.

Food Pantry

Please don't forget to pick up a few items the next time you are our grocery shopping for the F.I.S.H. food pantry, and our in church food pantry. Right now F.I.S.H. needs jars of peanut butter, pork and beans, green beans, corn, and peas. Our in church pantry needs boxed foods: potatoes, rice, pastas, canned pastas, toilet paper, paper towels, body wash, shampoo, and hand soap. Let's be the church by helping others!

165 Years of Ministry

In June we will celebrate the 165th birthday of our church. In doing so, we are looking for any old photos or documents members might have of the church, members, ministers, or events that have taken place here over the last 165 years. Please let Pastor James, Allison, or Lynn know what you have, so we can make copies for our records here at the church.

New Church Website

Our Media Coordinator Bob Ruck has been working overtime! Bob is in the process of making the church a website. Feel free to check out his progress at www.firstuccshelby.org. The website will let people know all about our church and the different ministries we are involved in. Eventually, we will even have the capability of creating email addresses with our churches URL for church volunteers and employees, (For example pastorJames@firstuccshelby.org or allison@firstuccshelby.org). A big thank you to Bob for all the time and effort he has been putting into this! And to Savannah too, for us keeping him busy!





Pastor James' Calendar

May 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
OUT OF TOWN VACATION	ON CALL	Office: 8:00am- NOON	Office: 8:00am- NOON	Office: 8:00am- NOON	Office/ Visitation: 8:00am- 2:00pm	Family Day Emergency Calls Only
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Office: 9:00am- NOON	ON CALL	Office: 8:00am- NOON	Office: 8:00am- 9:00am EIM- 10 am Upper Sandusky	Office: 8:00am- NOON	Office/ Visitation: 8:00am- 2:00pm	Family Day Emergency Calls Only
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Office: 9:00am- NOON	ON CALL 6:30pm Church Council	Office: 8:00am- NOON 11am SMA Meeting	Office: 8:00am- NOON	Office: 8:00am- NOON W& P meeting Tiffin 2:00pm	Office/ Visitation: 8:00am- 2:00pm	Family Day Emergency Calls Only
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Office: 9:00am- NOON	ON CALL	Office: 8:00am- NOON	Office: 8:00am- NOON	Office: 8:00am- NOON	Office/ Visitation: 8:00am- 2:00pm	Family Day Emergency Calls Only
29	30	31				
Office: 9:00am- NOON	ON CALL	Office: 8:00am- NOON				

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.

