

November 2017

NEWSLETTER



**23 Church St
Shelby, Ohio 44875**

Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

Reflections from the Rev.

How is it possible that November is already here? Once again the church calendar will be getting very busy with the season of Advent coming up. At our last church council meeting, Fred Cooke brought something up that I have been thinking about: First UCC has been blessed with so many new faces over the last year or so, and although I am fortunate enough to know most of our regular attenders pretty well, the hour long service each week doesn't really give other congregants the chance to get to know each other on a personal basis. So we have decided to put our "name tag board" back up in the resource center very soon. We will have name tags for members and regular attenders to wear so we can all learn each others' names. This will be nice for our visitors to know who we are as well. It may sound a little silly, but I believe that people will feel even more welcome in our welcoming church when they can get to know us on a first name basis. Now when your passing the peace you don't have to say, "Hey you... good morning." You can call that person by name! What a wonderful problem to have and a great solution for it!

For those who are able to attend church weekly, do you look forward to your hour of weekly fellowship at First UCC? I know two little boys who wait all week long with anticipation to be at church. On Monday morning, "Daddy, is it Sunday yet?" On Wednesday morning, "Mommy is it Sunday yet?" I pray that God would help us to get that excited about coming to church and being with our church family. I pray that God will bring folks into these pews that are not only longing for him, but longing for community. Let us be that community. Let us put forth our best effort to gather in God's house on Sunday and bring others with us. Has it been awhile since you have been here? Have you been hitting and missing with your attendance? That's okay, we would love for you to come back. Hope to see you Sunday.

Blessings,
Rev. James R. Robinson

Devotional

Water Walking

by Lynn Reimer

Several years ago I wrote on my bathroom mirror a quote by Neale Donald Walsch “Life begins at the end of your comfort zone.” You would think that I would have led an exciting life pushing the limits of my own comfort zone; but truth be told, that even though I read that quote at least twice a day and encourage others to embrace it, I have been lax at stepping out of my own comfort zone!

Fast forward to September 2017. When I needed to find a book for our 6-week adult Sunday school class, I went to the Bookery (Parables) to see what was available. The first title I reached for was *If You Want to Walk on Water You Have to Get Out of the Boat* by John Ortberg. As I explored other titles, my hand kept going back to Ortberg’s book. This was just what I, and hopefully others, needed to get out of our own self-imposed comfort zones.

The story of Peter walking on water can be found in Matthew 14:22-32. When Jesus invited Peter to get out of his comfort zone, Peter got out of the boat and started walking on water toward Jesus. When the wind started to pick up, Peter became afraid, lost his focus on Jesus and started to sink.

We, also, need to get out of our boats to explore the gifts that God has called us to use, but sometimes we seek to do this on our own, forgetting that Jesus is there to guide us, support us and keep us from sinking.

How do we get out of our own boat or comfort zones? Baby steps, baby steps. Ask yourself: What are my gifts, talents and strengths or what do I enjoy doing? While assessing yourself, pray for God’s guidance and seek other helpful opinions. As you persist, in time, how you are to use your unopened gifts from God will be made known to you.

What about failure? Are you starting to sink? John Ortberg comments on this: “Failure is not an event, but rather a judgment about an event. Failure is not something that happens to us or a label we attach to things. It is a way we think about outcomes.” Remember, as Peter started to sink (fail), Jesus reached out his hand and caught him and said, “You of little faith, why did you doubt.”

Get out of Your Boat. Water walking is part of discovering and obeying our calling....the water is where Jesus is!

November Happenings

Choir Practices: Wednesday 11/1 and 11/15 7:00pm

Choir Practices for November will be held on Wednesday 11/1 and 11/15 at 7:00pm at First Presbyterian Church. All are welcome to come practice and sing with the choir. When coming to practice please come in the side door of the Education Wing at First Presbyterian.

Election Night Supper: Tuesday November 7th 4:30-6:30pm

Get out and vote on election day! When you are done voting be sure to come for our Election Night Swiss Steak Supper at First UCC. The Election Night Supper is one of our biggest fundraiser events. The dinner is by donation. The meal consists of Swiss Steak, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans, Cole Slaw, Dinner Rolls and a variety of pies for dessert. If you would like to volunteer to help with the dinner or donate pies, there is a sign up sheet in the church Resource Center.

2nd Annual LOVE Group Bazaar: Saturday November 11th 10:00am-4:00pm

The LOVE Group will have their second annual church bazaar on Saturday November 11th from 10:00am-4:00pm. They are still looking for vendors. If you have questions about the bazaar or would like to be a vendor, please contact Faye Steele at (419)-347-2040

Honoring Our Veterans: Saturday November 11th 11:00am-1:00pm

Advanced Auto Parts and the Fundraiser Committee have joined forces to honor our Veterans. On Saturday November 11th the Committee will be grilling hot dogs at Advance Auto's Shelby location. Veterans will receive a free hot do and a bottle of water. Non-veterans will be able to purchase hot dogs if they wish to do so. Advanced Auto is purchasing all of the food and drinks for this event. Thank you veterans for all that you do. This is a small way that we can say thank you!

Phyllis Gate's 90th Birthday Celebration Open House: Sunday November 12th 1:00-4:00pm

All are invited to join us on Sunday November 12th from 1:00-4:00pm for an open house in the church fellowship hall in honor of Phyllis Gates 90th birthday. There will be cakes, light snacks and beverages provided by the family and church. Phyllis will also be with us for church that Sunday morning. We will be honoring her birthday in a special way during the worship service. Happy birthday Phyllis!

Shelby Community Thanksgiving Worship Service: Sunday November 12th 6:00pm

The Shelby Community Thanksgiving worship service will be Sunday November 12th at 6:00pm at First Lutheran Church.

Thanksgiving Dinner Bags: Items due Sunday November 12th

This Thanksgiving we will be adopting 10 local families and providing them with all of the items they need to make a Thanksgiving Dinner. If you would like to donate items to help with this project, there is a sign-up sheet in the Resource center. The church youth will assemble the dinner bags on Sunday October 12th during Sunday school. Pastor James will be delivering the bags the week before Thanksgiving. He is looking for up to 2 volunteers to help deliver the bags. Each bag contains the following items: Green Beans, French Fried Onions, Cream of Mushroom Soup, Corn, Cream Style Corn, Jiffy Muffin Mix, (All of those items are for making Green Bean Casserole and Corn Casserole). Instant Mashed Potatoes, Turkey Gravy, Stuffing, Brown and Serve Rolls, Pumpkin Pie and a \$20 Cornell's Gift Card. If you have any questions please contact Lynn Cooke or the church office at (419)-347-7777

Thanksgiving Worship and Lunch: Sunday November 19th 10:00am

Please join us for COMBINED worship on Sunday November 19th at 10:00am at First Presbyterian Church across the alley. First Presbyterian IS handicap accessible via chairlifts. After worship you are invited to join us for lunch in the fellowship hall of First UCC. Lunch will be catered by Ben Lash from "The Vault." Lunch tickets are \$10.00. If you would like to purchase a ticket, please see Lynn Cooke or Allison Fordyce.

Church Council Meeting: Monday November 20th 6:30pm

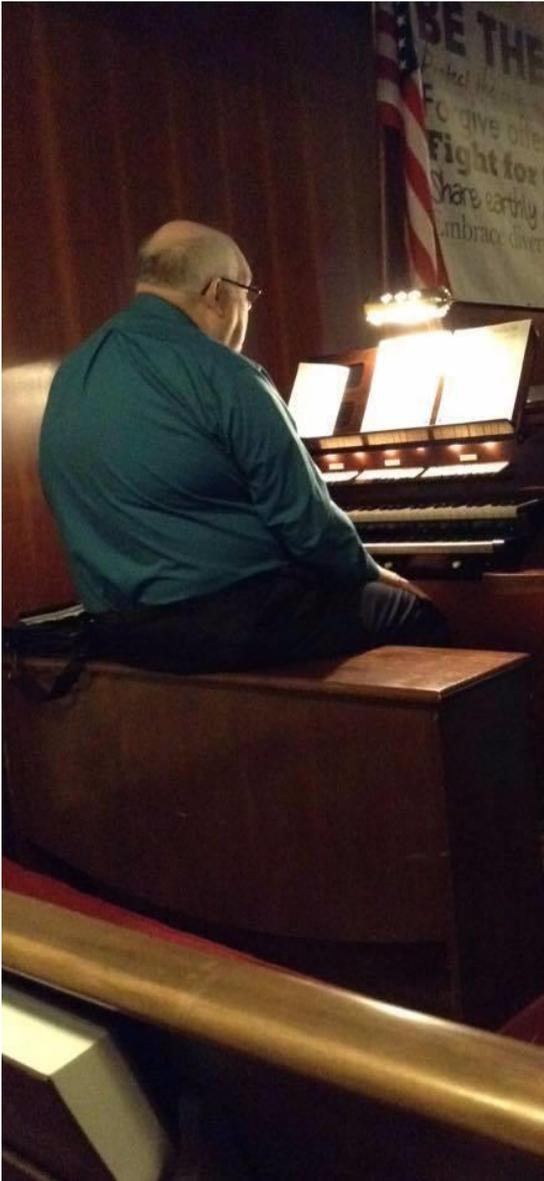
Our next church Council Meeting will be on Monday November 20th at 6:30pm in the church parlor.

September Giving	\$5,069.96
Change the Church	\$48.00
September Bills Paid	\$5,865.34
Current General Fund Balance	\$2,462.60

Financial Report September 2017

Earmarked in General Fund

Youth Mission Project	\$1,143.50
Sanctuary Carpet	\$310.00
Available Balance (less earmarked)	-\$169.22



Coming in December

Christmas Caroling after Worship: Date to be Announced

Advent #4 Service: Sunday December 24th 11:15am- First Presbyterian

Christmas Eve Candles, Carols and Communion: Sunday December 24th 7:00pm- First UCC



Pastor James' Schedule

<u>Monday:</u>	10:00- 4:00 (UCC OFFICE)
<u>Tuesday:</u>	10:00- 4:00 (UCC OFFICE)
<u>Wednesday:</u>	9:00- 5:00pm (VISITATION)
<u>Thursday:</u>	10:00- 4:00 (PRESBYTERIAN OFFICE)
<u>Friday:</u>	10:00-4:00 (PRESBYTERIAN OFFICE)
<u>Saturday:</u>	Family Day- emergency calls only please
<u>Sunday:</u>	8-11 (UCC) 11-1 (PRESBYTERIAN)

If you are here to see Pastor James during regularly scheduled hours and he is not here he might be at a meeting or out on a hospital/home call. Please feel free to call him on his cell phone.

Pastor James Robinson Contact Information:

Cell Phone: (419)-989-2099

Home Phone: (567)-844-0445

Email: pastorjamesrobinson@gmail.com



First United Church of Christ



First Presbyterian Church