

October 2016

NEWSLETTER



23 Church St
Shelby, Ohio 44875

Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

Reflections from the Rev

My friends, fall is in full swing at the Robinson household! I can always tell when fall is coming because Katie buys absolutely everything she can find that is in the scent or flavor of pumpkin spice. Pumpkin spice coffee creamer, cake donuts, taffy, Cheerios, and even air freshener are must haves in our home during the month of October. Give me a nice cup of cold or hot apple cider and I am good to go until Thanksgiving! As I walked down Church Street earlier this evening and saw the big beautiful stain glass lit up by the street lights, people devouring their pumpkin spice ice cream at Paul's, and heard the children laughing joyously as they putt-putted across the street, I was reminded that in just a few short months this scene will drastically change. There will be snow on the roof of the church, Paul's will be closed, the putt-putt place will be done for the season, fewer folks will be going past our building every day, and the only action that will be taking place on Church Street will be at the First United Church of Christ. All that being said, we must remember how important it is to keep "our light" shining brightly for all to see.

Jesus tells his followers in Matthew chapter 5, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill that cannot be hidden." My friends, if we are the light then we must not allow ourselves to remain unseen or hidden from our community. As we continue to grow as a church family, and more and more folks become a part of our family of faith, we must remember that this is how we get the word out to others about our church. It's not by just physically existing at 23 Church St, it is by taking that light out into the world. It's by getting the word out to others that there is a church is Shelby where all people are welcome!

In our family we have a fall tradition. Every fall we get a picture of Aiden and Daddy walking down the sidewalk behind our home. This year there was an addition to that photo, our sweet Carson. So this year Daddy, Aiden, and Carson took a picture walking down the sidewalk and out into our neighborhood. Doesn't that paint a wonderful picture of what our church should be doing with that light? Members new and old, joining hands and going out into the world and living their lives for the whole world to see. Sharing Christ with others, in word, in action and in deed. So this fall, let us keep the traffic flowing on Church Street by reaching out to others, leaving the light on at all times, and walking hand in hand with our brothers and sisters new and old. Let us fill Christ's Church for God's glory!

With Hope for the Future,

+Pastor James

The Rev. James R. Robinson



Cathedrals and Convenience Stores

Last night, I stood in a cathedral with towering ceilings covered with painted white-winged angels. There were ornate wooden carvings at every turn. The way the late summer light filtered through the stained glass at just the right angle to illuminate the nativity scene could stop your heart for a moment. The altar is made of onyx and marble. The statues are brass and gold. The organ can blow your hair back, or at least you are sure it would when you close your eyes and imagine standing in front of its impossibly tall pipes.

When all the organ stops are pulled and its pedals fall like a row of finger-flicked dominoes under the flurry of the organist's deft, dancing feet, it makes you forget whatever was worrying you when you walked through the giant oak doors that evening.

But that's not where I went to church last night. Church was being held at the convenience store down the road. It was pouring rain when I left the cathedral. The frantic windshield wipers on my Hyundai struggled to ward off the onslaught.

When I pulled up outside, I noticed a young man in his early 20s with an unruly beard and torn heavily-soiled jeans sitting under a partial awning, turning his gaunt body at intervals so he would never be fully exposed to the relentless rain.

As I was getting out of my car, a man in his 30s wearing a baseball cap and Carhartt jacket walked right up to him and asked - with the ease of someone asking a loved one how their day had gone - if he could use a refill for the empty coffee cup he could see held close against the young man's sunken chest.

The young man looked surprised at first and stood there for several silent seconds before deciding to follow this stranger into the store to take him up on his offer. I followed them both inside and looked on from an inconspicuous corner as the disheveled, disoriented young man tried to keep his shaking hand steady enough to refill his small Styrofoam coffee cup. I wondered if the other man could see in that trembling hand what I saw. I wondered if being a substance abuse counselor had made me cynical.

He tried his best to not let the shaking spill the coffee in his hand as he walked toward the counter. The man in the Carhartt jacket, who had watched patiently from a far enough distance to not add self-consciousness and shame to the young man's obvious struggle to refill his cup, intercepted him before he reached the counter. He gently took the side-splashing cup of coffee from his hand and directed his attention away from the counter and back to the whole of the convenience store. He made a broad, sweeping motion to encompass all the aisles and said, "Get whatever you want." The young man again stood in stunned silence before making his way to the perpetually rotating rollers of the hot dog and taquito case where he loaded up a single hot dog with all the free fixings. He deliberated for a long while as he made his way up and down the many rows before selecting one snack-sized bag of Doritos to go along with his small coffee refill and \$1.29 hot dog.

The man in the cap helped him place the items on the counter and asked if he wanted anything else. The young man shook his head no. The benevolent stranger then asked him what his preferred brand of smokes was and the young man paused before pointing a now steadier finger at a pack of Marlboro Reds. The man in the cap and Carhartt asked the attendant behind the counter to add it on with the rest, including two tall cans of Budweiser, one of which he gave to his young friend.

After I made my purchase and returned to my car, I saw them standing together under the half-awning in the still-pouring rain, each smoking a cigarette. They weren't exchanging words. They both looked out at the street lights, which were obscured through the sheets of rain into an ethereal line of indistinct, glowing orbs.

As I backed out of my parking spot I could see, for the first time, what looked like the beginnings of a smile on the young man's face. It was more beautiful than anything I'd seen in the cathedral earlier that night.

Witnessing this, I thought, inspires more reverence than gold or marble ever could. Tonight's worship service was in the convenience store, not in the cathedral. God's hand wasn't manifest through the intricate carvings or the awe-inspiring murals. God's hand reached out to steady the tremor in another's hand before paying to refill his empty coffee cup.

John Bonner
UCC Clergy Writer
Salt Lake City, Utah



A Prayer for the Upcoming Election

Gracious God,

we are blessed to live in a democracy
where each citizen has the opportunity and the responsibility
to participate in our decision-making processes.

**Our faith belongs in the voting booth
as well as in the sanctuary!**

Justice-Seeking God,

we know that our policymakers impact our lives:
they have power to ensure that all your children
are equally part of this society;
they can require that taxes are just
and that our nation's income goes to benefit the many;
they can help to make all jobs
good jobs that pay living wages;
they can send us to war or foster peace.

**Our faith belongs in the voting booth
as well as in the sanctuary!**

Community-Building God

we know that questions of public policy are also matters of faith,
for they help us to give substance to the Beloved Community
which you have called us to shape.

You desire each of us
to live a life of wholeness;
to have the opportunities to fulfill our potential
and become the persons you have created us to be;
to live secure in the knowledge
that if we fall on hard times, a strong, public safety net
will be there to support us.

**Our faith belongs in the voting booth
as well as in the sanctuary!**

But Holy One,

This election season has gone on too long!

We are turned off by a circus which obscures critical issues,
reduces complicated choices to sound bites and
encourages personal attacks.

We want this election season to be over!

Help us to find a way to cut through the confusion and the spin.

Give us patience to consider and make wise choices
that will lead ever closer to your vision of the Beloved Community.

**Our faith belongs in the voting booth
as well as in the sanctuary!**

Written by:

Edith Rasell, Ph.D

Minister for Economic Justice

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



Coming In October

Tuesday- 10/4/16- Confirmation Class Begins

Tuesday October 4th at 6:30pm, confirmation classes will begin here at the church. Isaac and Haylie Brooks are our confirmands for this year. Classes will run October 2016- May of 2017, with confirmation Sunday being on Pentecost, which is July 4th 2017. Fred Cooke will be the congregational sponsor for Isaac, and Allison Fordyce for Haylie.

Confirmation Schedule for October 2016

Tuesday 10/4- 6:30pm-8:00pm
Tuesday 10/11- 6:30pm-8:00pm
Tuesday 10/18- 6:30pm-8:00pm
Tuesday 10/25- 6:30pm-8:00pm

Wednesday-10/5/16 & 10/19/16- Choir Practice

Interested in singing with the Choir? Join us every other Wednesday at the First Presbyterian Church from 7:00 to 8:00pm for practice!

Sunday- 10/16/16- Guest Preacher- Rev. Dan Busch

On Sunday October 16, 2016 Rev. Dan Busch the Association minister for the North West Ohio Association of the United Church of Christ will be preaching at the 10:00am worship service. Rev. Dan is an exceptional speaker. Please try to attend.

Sunday-10/16/17-Fall Fun Day

Sunday October 16, 2016 at 4:00pm will be fall fun day at Fred and Lynn Cooke's farm. There will be a sign up sheet on the welcome table for those who can bring food and drink items. If you haven't had the chance to attend, then you are missing out! The Cooke's always make it a fun time for us!!!

Monday-10/17/16 Church Council

Ever wonder what goes on at the church council meetings? Well join us! Church council will meet Monday October 17th at 6:30pm in the church parlor, (second floor of the education wing behind the chapel). All members are welcome to attend and bring questions or concerns.

Sunday-10/23/16- Rev. Robert Lahr Visiting

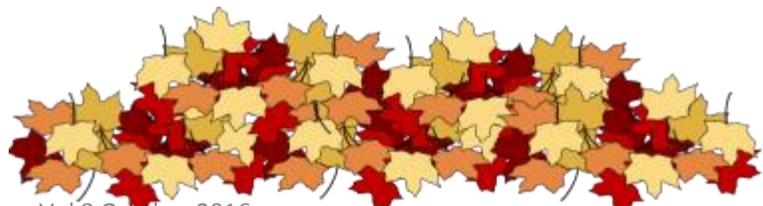
On Sunday October 23 Rev. Robert Lahr will be attending worship. Rev. Lahr served here at First Church from 1962-1968. We will be having coffee hour following worship. Please bring a favorite dessert or appetizer to share. We will provide the coffee!

Sunday-10/30/16- Rev. Patti Welch Retiring

Rev. Patti Welch-Gates, pastor of Stuben Congregational United Church of Christ will be giving her last sermon Sunday October 30th at Stuben Church. Our church has been invited to attend a farewell potluck that will follow Stuben's 10:00am worship service. Guests are invited to bring a dish to share, and table service. Rev. Patti and her husband Garland are associate members of First UCC Shelby, and close friends and mentors to Pastor James.

New Member Sessions

Once again we have worship attenders who are interested in becoming members of the church. Look for new member sessions to begin in the next couple of months. Anyone interested in joining our family? See Pastor James with questions!



Looking Ahead to November

Advent Sunday School Class

Starting sometime in November, the Adult Sunday school class will be offering a four to five week series of classes, using Advent related curriculum. There were about 15 in the class offered during Lent, and we are hoping to get at least that many, or maybe more for the Advent series. All are invited to be a part of this group that meets on Sunday mornings at 9:00am.

Tuesday- 11/8/16- Election Night Supper

First Church will host our annual Election Night Supper on Tuesday November 8, 2016. It takes a lot of volunteers to make this annual fundraiser a success, so if you can pitch in and help out, it would be much appreciated.

Saturday- 11/12/16- Church Bazaar

The L.O.V.E group is bringing back the bazaar. On Saturday November 11, 2016 First Church will make its first attempt to bring back an annual church bazaar. It will run from 10:00am to 5:00pm. More details to come... Please see Faye Steele if you have any questions.

Prayer Concerns

Peggy Knapp, Darlene King, Alice King, Sandy Laser, Dori Mckinney, Denise Richardson, Lee Robinson, Gloria Ebinger, safety for church youth involved in school athletics, Confirmands.

October Birthdays

Molly Hoover	10
Dick Cumberworth	12
Dan Morris	12
Andy Ball III	12
Shelli Laser	13
Vince Rehberg	13
Cliff King	15
Will Fordyce	18
Melvyn Hawk	19
Jennifer Rehberg	24
Katie Steele	30
Anne Knapp	31

October Anniversaries

Tom & Liz Watkins
9/3/1993
Andy & Mary Ball
9/3/2003
Mike & Deb Grimwood
9/7/1995
Maurice & Shirley Bloom
9/31/1942

August Financial

General Fund	
Balance:	\$6,114.70
Deposits:	\$6,935.49
Expenses:	\$6,430.17
Earmarked:	\$3,707.36
Bills to Pay:	\$0.00
Available Balance:	\$4,505.70 ☺
Certificate Account:	\$20,000.00 +
Memorial Fund:	\$12,339.00
Trustees:	\$14,500.00
Kitchen Fund:	\$760.05
Youth Missions:	\$677.47

Pastor James Office Hours for October

Sunday: 9:00AM - Noon
Monday: On Call
Tuesday - Thursday: 8:00AM - Noon
Friday: 8:00AM - 2:00PM (office/ visitation)
Saturday: Family Day (Emergency Calls Only)

Pastor James' Contact Information:

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First United Church of Christ

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