

October 2017

NEWSLETTER



23 Church St
Shelby, Ohio 44875

Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

Reflections from the Rev.

“Feed My Sheep”

Reflection for World Communion/Bread for the World Sunday

Scripture: John 21:15-21

In the 21st chapter of the book of St. John we read about a very unsuccessful night of fishing for the disciples. Peter and some of the others were out on the water all night long and caught nothing. Jesus comes on the scene and as usual, a miracle happens; these professional fishermen have the best catch of their lives! When the disciples get to shore, Jesus has a fire going and is preparing fish for them to eat. Jesus then asks Peter the following question three times: “Peter, do you love me?” Each time Peter responds, “Yes Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus’ response to these three replies is “Feed my sheep. Tend my lambs. Feed my sheep.” I believe that this command is still true for us today. The church must put itself in Peter’s shoes and allow Jesus to ask the same question of us. And if our response is yes then we must feed Christ’s sheep and tend Christ’s lambs. We must feed them with the spiritual food that flows from the pulpit to the pews on Sunday morning AND also feed those who are hungry with actual food. Friends, at this very moment over 795 million of the world’s 7.3 billion people are going hungry. While there are many of us who have more than enough food there are friends and neighbors out there who are struggling with hunger.

On Sunday October 1st 2017 our church will join with thousands of other churches worldwide in celebrating World Communion Sunday. Worship will be at 10:00am at the First United Church of Christ. After worship we will meet in Fellowship Hall at First Presbyterian Church for a brief luncheon presentation entitled, “Lunch in the World’s 7 Poorest Countries.” If you are able, please try to attend both worship and the luncheon. There will be a few baskets at the luncheon for money donations. All donations will go to “Bread for the World.” An organization that works to feed and support legislation to help get food to hungry people. Please join us as our two churches come together to remember our Lord in communion and remember the 795 million people around the world struggling with hunger.

A Prayer:

Almighty God, thank you for feeding us with physical and spiritual food. May Your example lead us to do the same for others. Amen

In the Name of the God Who Feeds Us Well,

Rev. James R. Robinson

UCC poised to offer long-term assistance in Puerto Rico

September 26, 2017

Written by Connie Larkman

The United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries and other relief agencies are poised to assist the people of Puerto Rico, in an effort to stem the unfolding humanitarian crisis in the U.S. commonwealth following the massive devastation left behind by Hurricane Maria five days ago.

The Category 5 hurricane, which has left more than \$20 billion in damages, wiped out most of the communication on the island, and left many of Puerto Rico's 3.4 million people without access to clean water. Roads remain impassable, the power grid is decimated, cell towers are down and very little information is coming out of the country to families and friends on the mainland.

But UCC Disaster Ministries is reaching out through Global Ministries (the UCC-Disciples of Christ common overseas ministry) and FEMA for information and with the offer of recovery help.

"We stand ready to support our fellow Americans in Puerto Rico and call on all our churches to continue to pray and give financially for what will be a long road ahead," said Zach Wolgemuth, UCC Disaster Ministries executive. Gifts to the UCC Hurricane 2017 fund will be used to assist as long-term needs become more clear.

President Trump, planning a trip next Tuesday to the crippled island, said today that assessment work is underway and relief supplies of food, water and medical supplies are arriving hourly from the U.S. mainland. But as Wolgemuth notes, "There will be a great need for organizations like us who bring a spiritual component to our approach with the added ability to be flexible and nimble as needs shift and change over time."

The UCC is in a particularly good position to offer that assistance, with strong relationships with both long-term Global Ministries partners and FEMA contacts. Since the island is an American territory, the UCC can help bridge those relationships and help the groups work together.

"One of the things that makes UCC Disaster Ministries unique in this situation is that we have deep contacts with church partners and with the U.S. FEMA system. Puerto Rico as a U.S. territory and Puerto Ricans as American citizens makes this space potentially very empowering for Puerto Ricans as they recover and rebuild from this devastating disaster," said the Rev. Mary Schaller Blaufuss, team leader of the UCC Global Sharing of Resources team. "We will be present in early response, intermediate and especially long term recovery."

Monetary donations are most important, especially since the small island has no place to safely store or sort in-kind donations, and has very limited means for moving and distribution. The National Disaster Interfaith Network has indicated that Puerto Rico may be forced to ban the import of goods that are not pre-requested or approved.

Bookmark the Disaster Ministries hurricane relief page for more information and ideas for ways to help.

Link to the Disaster Ministries Hurricane Relief page where you can donate:

http://www.ucc.org/disaster_hurricane_2017_relief

Source:

http://www.ucc.org/news_ucc_poised_to_offer_long_term_assistance_in_puerto_rico_09262017

October Happenings

World Communion Sunday- October 1st 10:00 AM - First UCC

On Sunday October 1st the members of First Presbyterian Church will join us for worship as together we celebrate World Communion Sunday. Communion will be served by both the Elders of the 1st UCC and 1st Presbyterian. Come and worship as we join thousands of other congregations around the world and partake of the Lord's Supper as one global church. (PLEASE MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE LUNCH FOLLOWING WORSHIP AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN).

Bread for the World Luncheon- October 1st (following worship) - First Presbyterian

Following worship on World Communion Sunday the deacons of First Presbyterian would like to invite you to a special "Bread for the World" Luncheon presentation in the fellowship hall of First Presbyterian Church. You will be served a lunch from one of the 7 poorest countries in the world. Any donations collected at this lunch will go to Bread for the World, an organization that helps fight hunger.



Neighbors in Need Offering Sunday 10/15

On Sunday October 15th we will collect our annual "Neighbors in Need Offering." This is one of the offerings that makes us a "5 for 5" UCC congregation. Thank you for all that you do to support this church and help others. It is greatly appreciated.

Choir Practice- Wednesdays- 10/4 and 10/18 7:00 PM

Do you enjoy singing? If yes, we would love to have you join the choir! Choir practice is on the first and third Wednesday of each month at First Presbyterian Church, (across the alley) at 7:00 PM. All are welcome to join the choir and sing!

Adult Sunday School- Sunday October 1- Sunday November 5th

The Adult Sunday school class will begin to meet Sunday October 1st from 8:45-9:45am in the church parlor, (Second floor of the education wing across from kitchenette and family restroom). We will be participating in a DVD Study entitled, "If You Want to Walk on Water You Have to Get Out of the Boat," by John Ortberg. If you have any questions please see Lynn Reimer. Participant Guides are available for \$10.00, but are not necessary for participation.

Coming in November

Choir Practice- Wednesdays 11/1 and 11/15 7:00 PM

Thanksgiving Worship- 11/19 at First Presbyterian 10:00 AM

Thanksgiving Lunch- 11/19 at First UCC after worship at First Presbyterian

LOVE Group Church Bazaar- Saturday 11/11

Church Council Meeting- Monday 11/20 6:30 PM

<u>General Fund</u>	
August Giving-	\$4,835.23
Certificate Fund Transfer	\$1,350.00
Change the Church	\$42.74
Picnic Auction	\$114.50
Total General Fund Deposits	\$6,342.47
August Bills Paid-	-\$4,826.16
Difference	\$1516.31

Current General Fund Balance-	\$3,257.98
Earmarked in General Fund	
Mission (Election Supper/Picnic)-	\$1,178.76
Youth Mission Project-	\$1,095.50
Sanctuary Carpet-	\$310.00
Available Balance (less earmarked)	\$676.16

Other Account Balances - September 2017

<u>Certificate Account (Savings)-</u>	\$23,654.11
<u>Trustees (Building and Repair)-</u>	\$13,026.29
<u>Kitchen Fund-</u>	\$5,003.76
<u>Memorial Fund-</u>	\$12,663.76
<u>Funeral Dinner Account-</u>	\$884.48
<u>Improvement Fund</u>	\$4,394.03

Financial Report August 2017

World Communion Sunday
celebrates everyone.



The Women's Guild Needs Our Help!

The Women's Guild of the First United Church of Christ would like to ask you to help us provide, "Health Kits," for homeless individuals at Harmony House in Mansfield. The following items make up one kit:

- Large Bath Towel**
- Wash Cloth**
- Bath Soap**
- Shampoo**
- Deodorant**
- Comb**
- Lotion**
- Toothbrush**
- Toothpaste**
- 2^{1/2} Gallon Ziploc bags**

There will be a bin on the Helpline food table in front of the choir loft where donated items may be placed. Thank you in advance!