

January 2017

Senior Pastor: Barb Schneckner Associate: Deacon: Rick Tettau

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:30 & 11:00 Traditional in Sanctuary

11:00 spirit.fire in Community Center

9:30 Sunday School

Worship Notes

January 1: Pastor Rick

“Getting Fit: Making a Covenant with God” 1 John 1:5-2:6; We will use parts of the Wesley Covenant in our worship service

Holy Communion in the pews

January 8: Pastor Barb

Baptism Renewal

“You Are God’s Beloved!”

Isaiah 42:1-9

Matthew 3:13-17

Confirmation

Commissioning

Students, Families,
and Mentors

January 15: Pastor Barb

“What Are You Looking For?”

Isaiah 49:1-7; John 1:29-42

January 22: Pastor Rick

“Getting Fit: Follow Me”

Matthew 4:12-23

January 29: Pastor Barb

“Change Your Heart and

Live” Psalm 27:1, 4-9

Stewardship Sunday

Matthew 4:12-23



Happy New Year & God’s Blessings!

Throughout the month of January 2017, you will be challenged to become spiritually fit through the sermon series, “Getting Fit!” Many times we make a list of good intentions at the beginning of the year and by the last of January or February, we tend to slide back into our old habits. So the question for each one of us as an individual and as a church is this; how do we exercise our faith and what does that mean? In Proverbs 19:8 it says this: *“They who get wisdom love their own soul; those who cherish understanding pros-*

Sunday Participation

Date	Worship	S.S.
Nov. 27	232	110
Dec. 4	224	100
Dec. 11	227	110
Dec. 18	238	78

per.” For me, spiritual fitness involves our constant pursuit of wisdom. The more “wisdom” you and I get, the more our soul prospers and the more “spiritually fit” you and I become. Spiritual fitness begins with a personal relationship with God. Is your relationship with God becoming closer and more intimate? Are you seeking God’s will, instead of your will? What about your practice of spiritual disciplines? Is that something you’ve wanted to get around to doing and haven’t yet?

Do you feel yourself growing into spiritual fitness? The sure foundation of our spiritual fitness comes from Jesus Christ, who is our guide and source of strength. I am praying that you and I grow spiritually fit in order to serve God with all of our heart, strength, and soul.

Getting Fit for Christ!
Pastor Barb

Stephen Ministry



This Is the Day of New Beginnings

When I awakened on the morning that the Faith Links submission was due, I found that the tune to *This Is the Day of New Beginnings*

was playing in my mind. I even found myself singing along. As I thought about it, it occurred to me that this song is so appropriate as we look to the new year. For those of you who may not be familiar with this hymn, the lyrics are as follows:

Verse 1- This is the day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on, time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that’s gone.

Verse 2- For by the life and death of Jesus, God’s mighty Spirit, now as then can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again.

Verse 3- Then let us with the Spirit’s daring step from the past and leave behind our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.

Verse 4- Christ is alive and goes before us, to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.

May it be so!

Whatever our circumstances, whatever 2016 brought, we have an opportunity to begin anew in 2017 knowing that we never have to go through the challenges of life alone.

If you feel overwhelmed by troubles and heartache and cannot seem to feel God's presence or promise, consider having a Stephen Minister walk alongside you. Many care receivers feel their burdens lightened and sense God's love and guidance during this caring relationship. With a Stephen Minister there is compassion, listening, non-judgment, and confidentiality as they walk with you through trials, listening for God's direction and finding His presence in and through your challenges. If troubles are overwhelming you or someone you know, lean into Him, trust Him, seek assurance in His word, and reach out to Stephen Ministry.

God is THE Cure Giver. Stephen Ministers are the Caregivers. For more information, contact Becky Cultice at 376-5747.

CLM Corner

It is cold outside! Just this week, there is breaking news about a small local church planning to open their doors when temperatures plunge below 20 degrees, to provide a "Warming Shelter." They can use volunteer help to work a shift, provide food, or just support in any way needed. This is only

a temporary plan as an overnight Homeless Emergency Shelter is still needed in our community.

As I journeyed through my CLM class, God laid on my heart the Matthew 25 passage to guide and "call" me. In this past year I have been so much more aware of the needs of the "least of these" that are in and around my life. Even in recovery, personal needs are very complicated and stability is fragile. My Sunday School class has been supportive of Prison Ministry, homelessness, and poverty.

I wonder as 2017 comes where I will be led, where FCUM will be led? Looking back on 2016, I completed this CLM Academy, led the Leadership Team during a lot of transitions, and grew in grace as I served God. I so enjoyed the Emmaus Walk and hope to assist some of our youth to take the Chrysalis Flights! It looks like I will be staying involved in leading some kind of small group at Legacy Assisted Living!

I encourage you to take care of yourselves as I also participate in self-care. We need to care for our bodies, minds, hearts and spirits so we have the balance and energy to serve God in the

“good works” He has prepared for us to do (Ephesians 2:10). God bless us all as we take care of ourselves and set out to serve Him in 2017.

Happy New Year!
Stephanie Blackburn

United Methodist Women

Lydia: Wednesday, January 11, 7pm-Parlor

Priscilla: Monday, January 16, 7pm-Parlor

Dorcas: No January or February meeting

Attention All Men

The Men of Faith will be meeting on the third Monday of each month in 2017. Start time is 6:30 PM and a meal will be served. Our next meeting will be on January 16 in room 6. The program will start at 7:00 PM. Come at 7:00 if you only want to attend the program which will be planning the program topics and activities for 2017. Please call William (Brownie) Brown (372-7373) if you plan to attend for the meal, so we can plan the quantity of food. All men are welcome and you can bring a friend. Hope to see you on the 16th.

The Faith Community
Men of Faith's garden pro-

duced the following for 2016:

We gleaned 1,229 lbs. of tomatoes, 723 lbs. of ear corn, and 326 lbs. of turnips for a total of 2,278 lbs. All were delivered to local food pantries or shelters.

The MOF plant and raise our own garden and all produce is donated locally.

We wish to thank Bob Warner for allowing us to use his land to plant. He also provided 60 lbs. of corn out of his garden included in the above count. Also a big thank you to Don Wolf who donated 540 lbs. of ear corn, included in this report total.

If other members are taking produce to the Fish Food Pantry, please let me know how many lbs. The West Ohio Conference records the total amount of produce gleaned and we compete with the other Conferences throughout the USA. West Ohio Conference usually comes in about 10th. If you have waste (produce you're not gleaning and will call me, we will glean it for you to take to the food pantry) My phone # is 372-2204.

Thanks to all who helped with this project.

In His Service,
John W. Sherer, Garden
Project Coordinator

Women's Bible Study

This class will begin on January 11 from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm in Fellowship Hall 15C. The class will continue for 8 weeks until March 1, 2017. Participants will use Beth Moore's study *James: Mercy Triumphs*. This study explores both the life and book of James. Charlotte Lee is the class facilitator. Workbooks need to be ordered. Please reserve your copy by calling Charlotte at 937-974-1002 before December 31.

Confirmation 2017

If you are in eighth grade or older and are interested in what it means to be a member of Faith Community Church, Confirmation may be just for you! Starting in mid/late January, we will be having classes that speak to making that commitment.

If you are an adult who is interested in sitting alongside some students wanting to learn more about what it means to be a Christian, pray about being a Confirmation Mentor.

Please contact Susan Fellie for more information.

Weather Closings

Just a reminder that Faith Community UMC will close on the days that the Xenia Community Schools close due to inclement weather. We will post on Channel 7 and Channel 2 when the church is closed.

Also, if there is no school due to bad weather on a school day then there will be no Common Cup meal or programs. If weather becomes inclement during the day on Wednesday, please watch your local news stations for evening cancellations. We will do the best we can at communicating with you through the winter season. Let's hope the weather does not present unsafe conditions for our staff, volunteers, and guests. Be safe.

Thank You

Thank you to those who contributed to the college student care packages! Faith Community has many generous and compassionate members. There were 18 students who received care packages. Thanks to Julie Wickline and April Ratliff who headed and helped with this project. You make a difference in the lives of our college students. Remember to keep them in your prayers.

Dear Pastor Rick,

We want to thank you and your congregation for your support in the way of school supplies for our children. What a wonderful and kind gesture from all of you.

Over the years we have been blessed to experience your kindness and helpfulness in so many ways to our students and staff and that means so much!

Most sincerely,
Shawnee Elementary
Staff & Students

Dear Friends,

We are thankful for your gifts, your prayers and your presence. Because of your faithful support, we are able to be in mission and ministry here in Appalachia. You help us to reach out in love to our community and give us hope as well.

Thank you for blessing us and these communities here in Kentucky and Tennessee.

Mike Feely, Director of
Mission Advancement
Henderson Settlement

Thank you so much for my care package! It was a very generous and much appreciated gift. I am so blessed to be a part of our church.

Abby Saner

Thank you for allowing us to use the church for Eleanor McClelland's funeral. She so loved your church. We are thankful for the beautiful meal that was served by your Family Outreach.

Thank you again for all you do.

The family of
Eleanor McClelland

Passings

Prayers and sympathy to Mary Jane & Bill Short on the death of her mother. Address: 450 Allen Street, Yellow Springs, OH 45387; to Betty Johnson, and Ronald (Marilyn) McClelland on the death of their mother, **Eleanor McClelland**. Address for Ronald and Marilyn: 808 Union Road, Xenia, OH; and to Becky Cultice and family on the death of her husband, **Wendell Cultice**. Address: 885 S. Detroit Street, Xenia, OH.

Wednesday Kid's Club

Due to lack of consistency in children attending Wednesday Kid's Club, it seems at this time this ministry will be suspended. If you have children that need child care, the nursery will be available with ample help for all ages up to the 5th grade.