

## March 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

#### March 1 – Ash Wednesday-

Pastor Barb - "Where is  
Your Treasure?"

Psalms 51:1-17; Matthew 6:1-6,  
16-21

#### March 5:

Holy Communion  
"Tempted and Vulnerability"

Psalms 32; Matthew 4:1-11

#### March 12: Pastor Rick

"For God So Loved"

John 3:1-17

Boy/Girl Scout Sunday –  
Building Bridges from Recycled  
Materials

#### March 19: Pastor Barb- "Living, Life Giving Water"

Psalms 95; John 4:5-42

#### March 26: John Sherer

"Time, Talent, and Treasure"

Psalms 85:1-7; Matthew  
25:14-30

.....

### Attendance

Date	Worship	S.S
Jan. 22	222	99
Jan. 29	239	107
Feb. 5	229	96
Feb. 12	208	97

## A Season of Introspection– Lent!

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> 2017, and ends on Holy Saturday, April 15, 2017. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring." Lent is a season in which new spiritual growth can and does take place. The forty days represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry. Lent is a time of living simply, repentance, fasting and preparation for drawing closer to God and the coming of Easter, times of resurrection!. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the

reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others. I would encourage you to think about the things in your life that separate you from God. It could be too much time on your cell phone or any electronic device. Where do you spend the majority of your time? How much time do you spend with God every day? Where is your time best spent? Could your time be spent doing for others or drawing others closer to Christ? Where and what is God calling you spend your time? I am using this as just one of many examples in thinking about a forty day journey that will allow you to give up something that separates you from God.

If chocolate separates you from the Lord, then by all means, give up chocolate and use that time spent on eating and purchasing chocolate in prayer. Make the 40 days during Lent meaningful, use this time to draw you closer to God and God's purpose for

your life, your family, and your church.

During this season of Lent, we will begin a prayer study called, "The Circle Maker," by Mark Batterson. This study is a four week study, Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm in room 6 and Thursday's at 10:00 am in the parlor, and on Sunday mornings in the Open Door Sunday School class at 10:00 am. This powerful 4 week journey includes a short video, and an hour to an hour and a half study and discussion on the greatest moments in life...those being miraculous moments when human impotence and divine omnipotence intersects as we draw a circle of prayer around impossible situations in our lives and invite God to intervene. We will learn how to claim God given promises, pursue God sized dreams, and seize God given opportunities. Isn't it time that you draw a circle of prayer around yourself, your family, your job, your church, your problems, your goals, and your dreams?

You and everyone you know is invited to join in 40 days of prayer during this season of Lent! Have you ever prayed earnestly for 40 days?

It's time we start and journey together...come on, what do you have to lose?

You are invited to a 40 day journey!

Blessings,  
Pastor Barb

### **Ash Wednesday - March 1**

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. On Ash Wednesday we will begin our Lenten observance with a soup and salad meal in the Community Center. The meal begins at 5 pm. Common Cup will furnish the food and table settings with all proceeds benefiting the FISH Food pantry. After the meal at 6:30 pm we will worship God in the sanctuary. During the service the youth in our Confirmation class will share their statements of faith. Also, we will receive the imposition of ashes. All are welcome to participate in the meal and worship service.

### **Help Needed**

Dear members of Faith Community,

April is fast approaching and we need help. Please read on.

1. Sunday April 2 our church is hosting a District Wide Prayer Initiative from 2

to 7 p.m. That will include light snacks and a light meal. Pastor Barb has asked me to head up that responsibility. I will need 5-6 people to help with preparation, serving, and clean up.

2. Thursday, April 13 from 6-8 pm Pastor Barb is planning a Seder meal for us and the community and she has asked me to chair this project. At this point I believe we need at least 12 people to carry out this project.

3. As usual we will have the Sunday morning breakfast for Easter. That takes 20 people working in 2 hour shifts.

I have met the greatest people in the church while volunteering. I am so grateful to be a part of a church where people work together so well. We are blessed. Thank you in advance for considering your willingness to help in making the Easter Season special for our church family

Please check your calendars and your schedules. If you can help please let me know by email at [vap1222@att.net](mailto:vap1222@att.net) or phone at 937-766-5670 or 937-313-1630.

Love to all, Virginia

## Stephen Ministry



*And “don’t sin by letting anger control you. Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a foothold to the devil.” Ephesians 4:26-27, NLT*

**Anger** is such a strong emotion with negative and detrimental connotations. It doesn’t seem to have a place in the caring and compassionate forum of Stephen Ministry. However, it is one of the many difficult emotions that Stephen Ministers may encounter while meeting with their care receivers. Countless aspects of anger are often triggered during stressful life events: anger and fear over a job loss or diagnosis of a life-threatening illness; anger wrapped around grief in the loss of a loved one, over the loss of a marriage, because of infertility; anger and frustration in the care of an ailing family member, aging parents, or troubled children. The anger combinations are ever changing, keeping the care receiver off balance and discouraged.

Stephen Ministers offer safe, non-judgmental relationships which allow care receivers to vent, rant, cry, and lament over their current challenges. The care giver rallies around the care receiver giving support, actively listening, compassionately caring, and thoughtfully praying. It’s a powerful ministry that benefits the Stephen Minister as much as the care receiver.

I believe the following poem describes the “specialness” and beauty of a Stephen Ministry relationship:

“When troubles come your soul to try, you love the friend who just stands by. Perhaps there’s nothing he can do—the thing is strictly up to you.

For there are troubles all your own, and paths the soul must tread alone. Times love cannot smooth the road nor friendship lift the heavy load. But just to know you have a friend who will “stand by” until the end, whose sympathy through all endures, whose warm handclasp is always yours—it helps somehow to pull you through, although there’s nothing he can do. And so with fervent heart you cry, God bless the friend who just “stands by.”

(Author unknown, although some research referenced

William Carlos Williams, others  
B. Y. Williams)

If you or someone you know is experiencing a challenging life event and feeling angry, frustrated, and/or grieving, please reach out to our pastors or to our Stephen Ministry Referrals Coordinator, Becky Cultice, 376-5747.

### **Shoes for the Shoeless**

The mission of Shoes 4 the Shoeless is to provide new, properly fitting gym shoes, new socks, and a Bible to children in need. It is the gospel mandate, "for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." (Matthew 25:35-36)

We believe as a church that we are blessed to be a blessing. Shoes, socks and a Bible are a blessing to the families who receive these gifts. Children smile from ear-to-ear after putting on their new socks and shoes. They cling to their Bibles with both arms. Parents are most grateful for your kindness and

generosity. You are truly appreciated by many.

Our spring Measuring Day is planned for March 4 from 10 am until noon with devotions starting at 9 am. Our spring Fitting Day is planned for March 18 from 10 am until noon with devotions starting at 9 am. Names of children in need of sponsors will be available on Sunday morning, March 5. You can also support this mission by buying new gym shoes and socks for the closet or by providing a financial donation with your check payable to 'Faith Community' marked 'Shoes'. Money is spent on Bibles and special order shoes. Many thanks for your ongoing support of Shoes 4 the Shoeless.

### ***Hero Central -Discover your Strength in God***

Vacation Bible School 2017  
Vacation Bible School at Faith Community is June 19-23 from 9:30 am until noon daily. Kids will discover what it means to be a hero for God. We will take epic adventures alongside some of our favorite Bible heroes and discover the qualities that make us truly heroic in God. Joyce Smith and Betsy Murray are coordinating VBS this year.

## VBS Schedule

Day 1 - God's Heroes have HEART. Samuel anoints David

Day 2 - God's Heroes have COURAGE. Abigail saves the day.

Day 3 - God's Heroes have WISDOM. Jesus goes to the temple.

Day 4 - God's Heroes have HOPE. Beatitudes.

Day 5 - God's Heroes have POWER. The Day of Pentecost.

## VBS Special Offering

During the season of Lent and on Easter Day (March 1 - April 16) the church will collect a special offering for VBS with 100% of the special offering going towards our VBS kids. Vacation Bible School is a non-budgeted ministry at Faith Community. The special offering is our only source of income for VBS, and we can only serve as many kids as our funds allow. It costs the church about \$25 per child. We do not charge families who send their children to VBS. VBS is a gift from the church to any child who would like to participate. If you would like to contribute towards VBS, please find a special 'Vacation Bible School' offering envelope in

worship or in the church office. Please mark your check 'VBS'. Last year we had nearly 100 children attend. Our fundraising goal based on last year's attendance is \$2,500. Thank you for your prayers and support of VBS this year.

## **Educational Assistance**

Guidelines and application forms for FCUMC's Educational Assistance are available in the community center, narthex, and church office. This year assistance will be offered to graduating high school seniors who are contemplating entering a college or technical school in the fall of 2017.

These forms must be completed and returned to the church office by the April 16, 2017 deadline.

## **United Methodist Women Women's Prayer Breakfast Saturday, March 11**

The Priscilla Circle invites all women to attend the Women's Prayer Breakfast. Spend the morning in fellowship and prayer with other women of faith as we eat a delicious meal and enjoy a presentation by Pastor Barb

Schnecker. The breakfast begins at 9:30AM on Saturday, March 11, 2017. Tickets will be on sale before and after church services and at Common Cup for a donation of \$5.

### Circle Meetings

Lydia: Wednesday, March 8, 7pm in the parlor

Dorcas: Tuesday, March 21, 1pm in the parlor

Priscilla: No meeting

### CALLING ALL MEN: - THIS MEANS YOU !!

The Men of Faith will be meeting on the third Monday of each month in 2017. Meetings will be held in room #6. Start time is 6:30 PM and a meal will be served. The program will start at 7:00 PM. WE WILL MEET ON March 20th. Come at 7:00 if you only want to attend the program. The program will be Show & Tell. Bring your unique, unusual or hobby item and tell us about it. Please call William (Brownie) Brown (372-7373) if you plan to attend for the meal, so we can plan the quantity of food needed. meal. All men are welcome and you can bring a

friend. Hope to see you on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Faith Community Preschool

**\*Our Pre-K classes get**



**to go to Domino's this month and make their**

**own pizzas for FREE!!**

**\*We will have St. Patrick's Day Parties the 16th and 17th**

**\*Spring Break 21-25**

### \*Missing Coat\*

Someone inadvertently took the wrong coat from the narthex coat rack after the 8:30 service on February 5<sup>th</sup>. It is a dark, charcoal grey <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> length wool coat with black leather gloves in the pockets. Please check the coat that you took to be sure that you have the correct one. If you find that it is not yours, please return it to the church office. Thanks. Sally Wallace

## **Thank You**

**Dear Church Family,**

***The overwhelming love and support we received during Wendell's illness and after his passing are genuinely appreciated and comforting. Thank you for your cards, calls, prayers, visits, and stories shared. In addition to Pastor Barb and Pastor Rick we also are indebted to Julie Wickline for her compassionate assistance and presence both before and after Wendell's time at Hospice of Dayton.***

***Blessings,  
The Cultice Family***

***I am writing this short note to express my sincere appreciation to all of Faith Community Church for your cards and letters during my extended illness. The healing power of prayers brought me through this illness. A special thanks to my good friend Pastor Rick, and John and Carolyn who brought prayers and***

***smiles.***

***I'm home now and working with a physical therapist trying to strengthen my legs and arms. Still using a walker. Just as soon as I am able I will be at Faith Community for Sunday worship. May God bless each and every one of you.***

***Sincerely, Roger Collins***

***Thanks so much for all of the cards, phone calls, and visits during my unexpected hospital stay. When I came home it was so wonderful to receive a meal from Common Cup.***

***I am so happy to be a member of a caring church family.***

***Brenda Boroff***

***Thank you so much for the meal you gave to the family of Ida Fleming. Thanks Pastor Rick for all of your help. You did a good job.***

***Mona Middleton***



*I can't thank you enough for your donation to the Caring Place. God Bless you.*

*Barbara Swinehart*

*Thank you for your donation to the Food Pantry.*

*Deacons,*

*Cedarville Food Pantry*

*Thank you for partnering with The Cleft in 2016 through your financial support. We look forward to seeing more lives impacted as we continue to share hope, inspire change and reveal Jesus to the next generation.*

*On behalf of Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Family Resource Center, I would like to thank you for the donation you provided the Center. As a non-profit organization, we rely heavily on donations from local community members, organizations, and individuals just like yourself.*

*We appreciate your support.*

*Susan Lopez, Coordinator  
The family of Kathleen McClanahan wish to thank FCUM for all of its kindness and caring during Kathleen's recent illness and sudden passing. We deeply appreciate how kind everyone was to our mother when she was healthy. She truly loved being a member of FCUM. A special thanks to the choir, the ladies who prepared the family luncheon, and to the wonderful pastors of FCUM.*

### **Passings**

Prayers and sympathy to the family of **William Kindred** on his death;

Gwen Lemon-Tonne and family on the death of her grandson, **Brett Lemon**. Address: 626 Eden Roc Dr., Xenia;

Family of **Kathleen McClanahan** on her death;

Mary Ellen and Bob Warner on the death of her brother **David**. Address: 1087 St. Rt. 380, Xenia.

## Common Cup

Beginning September 6, 2017, Wednesday night Common Cup will be held only once a month. At the last meeting of the Common Cup Council Board, a decision was made to limit Wednesday night food court to the first Wednesday of each month, September 2017 through May 2018 and a Lenten meal on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2018.

The decision was not prompted by poor attendance; it has been an absolute success for 14 years confirmed by the crowds averaging 150 to 200 guests each week and many dedicated volunteer workers. But 14 years start to wear on the workers, particularly on the ones who have to start on Tuesday in preparation. Virginia Pinkerton and Marrietta Kolozsi will continue as food court coordinators.

Growth Groups and Youth Group will continue to meet and it appears they will meet on the same schedule as be-

fore but with some tweaking to be done.

## Common Cup Menu

**Mar. 1** – Amish Barn Soup or Vegetable Beef Soup – Lenten Meal

**Mar. 8** – Beef Stew or Pork Loin

**Mar. 15** – Chicken & Noodles or Baked Spaghetti

**Mar. 22** – No Common Cup/No School

**Mar. 29** – Sausage & Kraut or Meat Balls

## Fish Food Pantry

**Please remember to help the less fortunate in our community by dropping off your non-perishable food items in the narthex and the community center.**

**\*Deadline for April Faith Links: Fri., March 17\***