

August 2017

Senior Pastor: Barb Schnecker

Associate: Deacon Rick Tettau

Sunday Worship

9:00 Traditional in Sanctuary

10:15 Sunday School & Fellowship

11:15 Contemporary in Community Center

Worship Schedule

Aug. 6: Wendy Lybarger

“Feasting on Enough”

Matthew 14:13-21

Holy Communion

Shoes4Shoeless Fitting

Aug. 13: Pastor Rick

“Taking a Step of Faith”

Matthew 14:22-33

Blessing of the

Backpacks and Shoes

Infant Baptism of

Johannes Zerling

Pool Party at Pinecrest 1-5pm

Aug. 20: Pastor Barb

“Have Great Faith!”

Matthew 15:10-20 & 21-28

Aug. 27: Pastor Rick

“One Body in Christ”

Romans 12:1-8

Sunday School Kick-off &

Promotion

Harp Concert at 4:00pm

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#### Attendance

| Date    | Worship | SS |
|---------|---------|----|
| June 25 | 215     | 64 |
| July 2  | 209     | 78 |
| July 9  | 176     | 82 |
| July 16 | 179     | 80 |

#### Pastor Barb Schnecker

##### Do You Know Who Broke This?

I can remember asking my children at various times throughout their lives...do you know how this got broken? Have you ever asked that question?

In reading “Strength for the Broken Places,” by James A. Harnish, he writes, “So, here’s the question: How do things get broken anyway? If the world breaks all of us, how did the breaking get started, and why does it keep happening?”

In the late 1980’s the book, “Everything I Need to Know, I Learned in Kindergarten” was published. The author Robert Fulghum begins with a well-known nursery rhyme, Humpty Dumpty. After reading the nursery rhyme we are left with questions. How did an egg get on a wall? Why did this egg fall off the wall? We are left won-

dering about liability questions, were there protective railings, and the list of questions goes on. Ultimately, we are left with the question, who cleans up this mess? And how is it that Humpty Dumpty gets put back together again?

The Bible has a word to describe the cause or condition of all of our brokenness and that word is sin. President Calvin Coolidge has a reputation for being a man of few words. The story goes that he came home from church one day, and his wife, Grace, asked, "Was the sermon good?" The President said, "Yup." Grace asked, "What was it about?" "Sin," he said. She went on, "And what did the minister say?" President Coolidge replied, "He's against it!"

If only life were that easy. We know that just saying no is not always enough in dealing with sin. Sin is far more subtle and complicated. It lurks in the shadows of our souls. It hides in the dark corners of our relationships. It infects the complexity of economic and political systems and even our churches. It breaks our lives and our hearts and our world. It leaves scars on all of us. Truth be told, we know that it takes more than just being against sin!

Here's the good news....sin can be redeemed. The God of creation is also the God of re-

demption. The Bible is the story of the lengths to which a loving God goes to mend, heal, and redeem a sin-broken creation. Salvation is the biblical word that describes God's work of healing in the broken world. If Humpty Dumpty is the story of the way things get broken, the gospel story is the story of the way God puts things back together again. Believe me when I say that this includes every broken one of us!!

## Shoes4the Shoeless Back-to-School Outreach

Thank you for your support of Shoes 4 the Shoeless in Xenia over the last 5 years. Many children and families are blessed by your generosity. Every child in need receives new gym shoes, 2 pair of socks and a Bible through this ministry. All items are supported through in-kind donations. We are grateful for our community partners and our Common Cup Churches who graciously support us. It is a delight to get to know the families who live in our community. A new pair of shoes can make a child feel like a new person.

This fall we are going to do Measuring Day on Sunday, August 6 from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm. We are going to do Fitting Day on Sunday, August 13 from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm. The reason for the change is that we want to invite the families who

come for shoes into the life of the church. We will have a Blessing of the Shoes and Backpacks in worship on August 13 and there is a Pool Party at Pinecrest that same afternoon from 1 pm - 5 pm which families are welcome to be a part of. The children's Sunday School will be ready to welcome new kids to their class. If you have any questions please contact Pastor Rick Tettau or Sandy Pramer.

### Leadership Team

The Leadership Team met on June 20. Bill Vahle led in devotions. Then the team did a prayer walk through the church, focusing prayers on the different areas housing the upcoming Vacation Bible School'

Faith Community is beginning a period of growth. So, the team, led by Mary Shummard, examined the aspects of growth and how people relate.

Most people like growth. It looks good. It is positive. It is the embodiment of hope, that all is well in the world. And people like growth until it touches them. Then the anxiety sets in and they worry. Their world is beginning to spin out of control. Skepticism sets in. What if the plan doesn't work? What if the plan does work? Panic may show. I wasn't told of this. What is happening? I don't understand how the new

activities are helping the church, helping me.

Leadership Team members understand. Most of the Leadership Team grew up going to church. Church was an institution. You were always in church on Sunday. You dressed up (show your respect to the Lord). And when you have children, you take them to church. That was just what you did. But the church is not an institution. It is a movement. The church is to move out, to reach out to others, to take Jesus outside the walls of Faith Community and to grow disciples.

The Leadership Team knew that for Faith Community to grow and to move, things had to change. So, we started small changes and we are seeing growth at Faith Community. Little things, like the first sprouts in the spring, are starting to be seen. And the team is getting excited. We are looking to grow more, to move out, to grow and build the kingdom of God. We were worried but understood that we had to trust when setting out. We took our concerns to God. "What if we fail, Lord? What if we do the wrong thing? Lord, help us. Lord, show us." were the recurring prayers offered up. And they are being answered.

We understand that many in the congregation may be leery about the changes that have been implemented. The Lead-

ership Team was leery. But the team knew that to grow meant that change had to occur and change meant risk. We were worried, anxious but knew that was part of growth. We decided to accept that anxiety. We took small risks. And we are seeing growth begin.

Mary completed her session by asking us to complete the sentence:

There are so many exciting things happening at Faith Community, I want you to get excited with me because \_\_\_\_\_.

Members of the Leadership Team replied with:

- \* I like the new two-service Sunday. I am seeing people I haven't seen in a long time. I feel like we are more united in worship.
- \* I love the sound of the singing; it resounds throughout the sanctuary.
- \* I enjoy greeting the people that come in the door. They are always smiling.
- \* Faith Community is a giving church. If there is a need, Shoes for the Shoeless, Wings of the Morning, potatoes for Lakeside, mission trips, you name it, members of Faith Community give with a generous heart.
- \* Faith Community is going to support the Xenia High School women's soccer team. I love

sports and this is something I can do, support the team.

How will you complete the sentence?

The Leadership Team wrapped up their meeting with summarizing the business of the church from the various teams. The financial report was presented. There are no surprises. The income is behind the anticipated amounts but so is the outgo. Unfortunately, the semi-annual payments are coming up – taxes, insurance – so Faith Community may have a larger deficit. The trustees are working on updating the church inventory for insurance purposes. HR/PR is looking at ways to increase Faith Community's online presence. The education team presented a third action in support of Vacation Bible School – Sunday Sundaes on the Sunday after VBS.

The Leadership Team and Faith Community congregation are partnering to support the Xenia High School women's soccer team. Faith Community will be providing a meal for the team in August and the Leadership Team is committed to attending their games during the season. Please join the Leadership Team in cheering on the team and encouraging each young lady as they do their best.

Meeting ended with prayer.  
Submitted by Diane Ohde

## Stephen Ministry



### **FYI: Bits & Pieces**

Faith Community is part of the Greater Dayton Stephen Ministry Network. One of the ways we work together is by offering a class to train new Stephen Ministers. This year's class will begin in September and will be held on Tuesday evenings. Some of you have expressed an interest in learning more about this quiet, behind-the-scenes, confidential one-on-one Christian caregiving. Men are paired with men and women with women. An information session will be held in August. In the meantime, talk with our pastors or any Stephen Minister to learn more about this life-changing ministry. While it may be summer and some groups are taking it a little slower, know that your Stephen Ministers aren't. We are available as always to walk alongside you during a difficult time. We never are "on vacation." If you or anyone one you know needs a compassionate listener to help you get through a challenging time, please contact Becky Cultice at 937-376-5747.

Many in our church family are dealing with cancer. Miami Valley South has a cancer support group from 4-5 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. Anyone who is currently in treatment, those who are in

remission, survivors, caregivers, and anyone else who is interested in being supportive of others is welcome. As one of the fliers I picked up at the July meeting indicates, "Having cancer is hard. Finding help shouldn't be!" The American Cancer Society is committed to helping patients get well through patient resource navigation. These free resources are available at 1-800-227-2345 or cancer.org. They offer general information, resources to help meet day-to-day needs during treatment, and information about emotional support that is available. A copy of this flier can be found in the Stephen Ministry section of the church's adult library.

New resource added to our lending library: *The Cure for Sorrow: a Book of Blessings for Times of Grief* by Jan Richardson. {There will be more information about this book in a future issue of Faith Links.}

## Congratulations to FCUMC's Educational Assistance Recipients!

Thanks to the generosity of members past and present, Faith Community is able to offer educational assistance each year to graduating high school seniors and to continuing education students as well. These funds come from designated

gifts and the amount varies from year to year depending upon how many individuals apply and on the amount of money available for distribution.

This year we are pleased to award a total of \$13,500 to twelve of our members. Four first-time recipients include Erica Benson and Kylie Saner who will be attending Wright State University, Alex Mills who will be beginning studies at Sinclair Community College, and Michaela Skaggs who will continue her training at The French Pastry School in Chicago. The continuing education students receiving assistance include sophomores Kimberly Johnson at Sinclair Community College and Carolyn Engle at Indiana State University; juniors Jocelyn Brodsky at Bowling Green State University (Ohio), Emma Horney at the University of Kentucky, Hunter Ratliff at the University of Cincinnati, and Brant Wickline at the Ohio State University; and seniors Lauren Brickey at Wilmington College and Abigail Saner at Wright State University.

As something different this year, we sent them off with a blessing during the 9 o'clock service on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. We wish them all well as they begin a new school year and want them to know that we want to support them while they are away

and look forward to seeing them when they are home and to hearing how things are going with them.

**Please Note:** We often receive returned mailings because of incorrect addresses for which we are charged by the post office. If you have or know someone who has recently had a change of address, please notify Jackie Foster 372-1689, email [jrnostalgia@aol.com](mailto:jrnostalgia@aol.com), or contact the church office 372-7601. Thanks.

### **Picnic/Carry-In Sponsored by Men of Faith and United Methodist Women**

The Men of Faith and the United Methodist Women's August 21<sup>st</sup> event will be a cook-out at the Historical Society beginning at 6:30 PM. The men will furnish the hamburgers, hot dogs, paper plates and plastic ware. The women will furnish the drinks and condiments. We are inviting all the members of the church to attend. Bring a dish to share and come and enjoy the evening with us.

Please call William (Brownie) Brown (372-7373) if you plan to attend, so we can plan the quantity of food for the meal. Everyone is welcome and you can bring a friend. Hope to see you on the 21<sup>st</sup>.



We still have spots open if you have or know someone in preschool. Stop by and pick up a packet and get your child registered!! Faith Community Preschool is the best!!

### Faith Community Preschool



Tuesday August 29, 2017  
10:00am-2:00pm & 6:00pm-8:00pm

Come check out the classrooms & meet the teachers!!

### Back to School Supplies Needed

It is that time of year again! Students are preparing to go back to school. To show our support the church is collecting school supplies for the Festival

of Sharing UMCOR bags, Xenia Community Schools, Xenia School's Homeless Education Liaison, and St. Paul's Outreach in Dayton. The school supplies given to the UMCOR bags will benefit children around the world. The remaining school supplies will benefit children in Xenia and Dayton. If you would like to make a financial donation, please mark your check "School Supplies" and place it in the offering. Someone will shop for you. Please only purchase items on the list below. There are strict overseas shipping regulations for the UMCOR bags. Our plan is to bless the school supplies in worship on Aug. 13 during our *Blessing of the Backpacks* celebration.

#### Festival of Sharing Bags

- 1 pair of blunt scissors (rounded tip)
  - 3 70-count spiral notebooks
  - 1 30-centimeter ruler
  - 1 handheld pencil sharpener
  - 1 eraser, 2" or larger
  - 1 box of 24 crayons
  - 6 new unsharpened pencils
- Xenia Schools and St. Paul Items**
- Wide ruled notebook paper and Composition note books
  - Pencils No. 2
  - Pocket Folders
  - Crayola Crayons and Colored Pencils
  - Washable Markers
  - Elmer's glue or glue sticks

Fiskars Scissors  
Lice Shampoo – generic brand  
Pencil pouches  
Blue and Red Ink Pens  
Rulers  
Boxes of Tissues  
Book bags gently used or new

### Showers for Blessings

Ladies, please mark your calendars for Thursday October 26<sup>th</sup> for the next Showers for Blessings. At this time I do not know of any expectant moms. If you know of someone, please contact me. I think you will agree with me that we do not want any babies to enter this world without our blessings. Please check this Faith Links and September and October issues for more information. Blessings to each of you who participate. We welcome new participants at any time. Questions???—Call Virginia Pinkerton or Sandy Pramer.

### Thank You

Dear Faith Community UMC,  
Thanks to all who generously gave to the Showers for Blessings for our baby girl. We are overwhelmed by all the love and support this church has shown our growing family. Your gifts are very much appreciated and will be cherished through the years.

Thanks again.

Natalie Tyree & Family



To my loving friends at Faith Community,

Again I send my sincere thank you for the beautiful cards on my 99<sup>th</sup> birthday – such a generous gift that was truly appreciated. May God bless you all as you continue your Christian endeavors.

Betty Anderson



Dear Faith Community,

We graciously thank everyone for their prayers and expressions of love, encouragement, support, and well-wishes we've received for our recent marriage!

Special thanks to Pastor Rick for officiating the event and to Betsy for the altar decorations! We are so blessed to begin our life journey together as members of this supportive and caring church.

Rick and Donna Ritenour



Thanks to all the children and adults who contributed to this year's VBS mission offering. Our mission this year was Wings of the Morning and we were able to send a check for \$1000.00 dollars for this medical mission.

## Passings

Prayers and sympathy to family and friends of **Robert K.O'Bryant**,

Virginia Fowler and family on the death of her son, **Michael Fowler**. Address for Virginia: 943 Wright Ave., Xenia;

Wanda Durnbaugh on the death of her husband **Charles Durnbaugh**. Address for Wanda: 267 Bowman Dr., Fairborn 45324

## Summer Sunday School

A huge thank you is due to Abraham (Clarence Dinnen), Jacob (Mike Murray), Joseph ( Bill Vahle), Ruth ( Carla Skaggs), David (Rick Tettau),and Esther (Julie Wickline) who have told the Bible Stories to the children this summer during Sunday School. Thanks also to Betsy Murray and Joyce Smith who have helped with the crafts, and led the singing. At this printing we still have Mary, Jesus, Peter, John the Disciple, and Paul to portray and Wayne Cook has agreed to be Peter.

It has been a fun summer learning about the Bible Characters. We are grateful.

~Virginia Pinkerton

## Sunday School Kick-off 2017 Style

We are in the planning stages of our Sunday School Kick -off to be held on August 27th. We are asking all classes

to join together that day to recognize classes and members of classes and teachers who have been loyal supporters of the Sunday School this year. We will also promote some young people and recognize teachers for the next year. This should be a good day with much activity planned for the Sunday School hour with a dinner and fellowship time to follow the Spirit Fire Worship. Please mark your calendar for August 27th and spend some special time with our church members. More information will be available during church time and in the bulletin.

## Children's Church needs Your Help

The change in church service times has prompted a need for more volunteers for the Children's Church Program. Children's church meets every Sunday September - May except for the first Sunday of the month. We currently need a leader for the Spirit Fire Service Children's Church and volunteers to help out at least once a month in both services. Please pray about this need and talk with Pastor Barb or Rhonda Cook if you can help.



## Common Cup

will be back on a more limited basis beginning Sept 6. If you have helped in the past you will be sent a letter soon urging you to sign up for the next season. We will need volunteers the first Wednesday of each month and also on Feb 14 which is Ash Wednesday. We encourage you to be in prayer about your willingness to help prepare, serve, or clean-up following the meal. We are praying God will continue to bless this program that has enriched the lives of so many of our community. Look for the sign-up sheet in the mail or possibly online or pick one up at church.

Thanks to you volunteers who make this blessing happen. If you have any questions please feel free to email me at [vap1222@att.net](mailto:vap1222@att.net) or call 937-313-1630.

## Free Concert at FCUM



The Greene County Concert Band under the direction of David

Leapley, assisted by Glen Shaw, will perform at Faith Community on Sunday, August 13 at 3:00 pm. Donations always appreciated.

## Blood Donors

On June 12, 2017 Faith Community hosted its 36<sup>th</sup> blood drive. We registered 40 applicants, drew 30 units of blood (100% of our goal). Each donation can save as many as three lives. Each donor is a hero to someone in our community. Thank you to all who participated. Donors were: Richard Baker, Christopher Bradley, Joyce Branham, Trena Carter, Paul Carter, Donald Coakley, Ashley Coleman, Alison Corry, Brianna Davis, Lynn Dell, Robert Densmore, Crystal Desouzaldanha, Susan Fellie, Eric Gagliano, Alyssa Gant, Ann Gordin, Brian Henderson, Randall Hoskins, Gerald Hughes, Kevin Hyde, Jon Keck, Rachel Kelsey, Laura Long, Connie Mccoygrow, Carol Milam, Barbara Mills, Aimee Morse, Betsy Murray, Jennifer Napier, Lucy Parsons Carol Milam, Barbara Mills, Aimee Morse, Betsy Murray, Jennifer Napier, Lucy Parsons, Jodi Pitzer, Catherine Ream, Andrew Root, Bruce Spitler, John Tatman, Ronald Volkerding, William Voskuhl, Ruth Weaver, Donald Wolf, Kasey Yount.

Next drive is scheduled for Monday, October 19, 2017, 2-6 PM.. If you would like to help in any way or have questions, call John Ford at 372-6641 or email [jford9@woh.rr.com](mailto:jford9@woh.rr.com)