

October 2017

Pastor Barb Schnecker

Sunday Worship

9:00-10:00 Sunday School

10:00-10:30 Fellowship Time

10:30-11:30-Worship in Sanctuary

Worship Schedule

October 1: Pastor Rick Preaching; Matthew 18:15-20; World

Communion Sunday
(Communion in Pews)

October 8: UMW Sunday;
Paulette Pinkerton speaker;

Jeremiah 1:4-10;

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

October 15:

Laity Sunday; Pastor Barb;
Matthew 22:1-14

October 22: Pastor Barb;
Stewardship Series; Matthew
22:15-22; Psalm 24:8-14

Oct. 29: Pastor Barb; Steward-
ship Series; 1 Timothy 6:11-19

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#### **Attendance**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Worship</b> | <b>S.S.</b> |
|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| Aug. 27     | 180            | 40          |
| Sept. 3     | 169            | 81          |
| Sept. 10    | 148            | 96          |
| Sept. 17    | 160            | 93          |

### **Pastor Barb Schnecker**

#### **Endurance for the Long Haul**

Meriwether Lewis writes  
*"Were I to describe the blessings I desire in life, I would be happy in a few but faithful friends...Thus would I pass*

*cheerfully through that portion of my life which cannot last always, & with resignation wait for that which will last forever."*

Like a Shakespearean tragedy, the heroic story of the friendship of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark comes to a heartbreaking end. Lewis had always been prone to what Thomas Jefferson described as melancholy. But in his companionship with Clark, he found the strength and courage to lead the Corps of Discovery across the American frontier to the Pacific Ocean.

So how do we get the strength to endure and move forward? The apostle Paul's life offers a hopeful contrast to Lewis' tragic end. Paul was an old man and he wrote to his young friend, Timothy, "The time of my departure has now come." In brilliant contrast to the darkness that closed in around Lewis in his final hours, Paul looked back on his life's journey and declared, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." Instead of focusing on the past, he was anticipating the future. As if he were look-

ing toward the rising sun, he saw on the horizon the “crown of righteousness” that was waiting for him. (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

Here’s my point. The life of faith is not a short sprint; it’s a long marathon. The kind of faith with which Paul concluded his life is not something we pick up at the end of the journey. It is the result of specific patterns of spiritual discipline, which, if practiced over time, strengthens us for the long haul.

Neitzsche, a German philosopher was wrong when he wrote about the death of God, but he was right about what makes life worth living. It’s like running in a marathon. It’s “a long obedience in the same direction.” The grace that strengthens us in our broken places continues to strengthen us for the long haul.

How do we find strength to make it over the long haul? It’s perseverance and digging deep into our spiritual practices. We draw on the strength of the Holy Spirit. Psalm 121 asks us, from where do we get our strength? Our strength comes from the Lord! In the race of discipleship, we are sustained by the Spirit through the disciplines of prayer, scripture, and worship. Like runners in a marathon, we are also strengthened by other Christ-followers who encourage us along the way. When Stephen Ambrose

described how the Corps of Discovery survived their perilous pilgrimage to the west, he pointed to the men and one Native American woman...he said, we are in it together. They had determined that, “they would triumph, or die, as one.”

One of the apostle Paul’s final words to his friend Timothy are a reminder that the life of faith is like running a marathon. It’s long obedience in the same direction...and that direction is keeping our eye on the prize...Jesus Christ!

Keep Running the race faithful servant’s we are in this together for the Lord!

Blessings,  
Pastor Barb

The Leadership Team and I would like to thank you for all of the input, both positive and otherwise over the past 3 weeks. We have compiled the input and with much prayer and discernment we feel that we are moving in God’s preferred future. Beginning October 1st we will have one worship service in the sanctuary. There will be children’s church during our worship time. Our goal is to have a blended worship service that is authentic and passionate. The worship design team will work diligently to design worship that glorifies God. Your prayers are appreciated as we prepare and worship our mighty

God. It is our desire to re-launch the contemporary service within a year from now.

**9:00 – 10:00 am -Sunday School**

**10:00 - 10:30 am – Fellowship Time**

**10:30 – 11:30 am - Worship**

### **Questions & Concerns ???**

If you have questions or concerns regarding staffing at Faith Community UMC, please know that I am available to clarify and answer questions. Please contact me by email at [pastorbarb@fcum.org](mailto:pastorbarb@fcum.org), or feel free to call the church at 937-372-7601, ext 12. If I am not available, please leave me a message and I will get back to you as soon as I am available. Please join others at Faith Community in prayer as we move into God's preferred future together. ~Pastor Barb

### **Director of Operations**

Greetings Faith Community, It is my privilege to be serving at FCUM as your new Director of Operations. I want to take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about myself.

My husband John and I have been married for 47 years. We have two grown daughters, Sharon and Brenda, and three grandchildren; John, Joseph, and Sofia.

I spent my professional career in the field of psychology as a clinical social worker and mental health therapist as well as an Addiction Counselor. I also worked in the field of Forensic Psychology and Trauma and Abuse recovery. My private practice was known as G.R.I.P Counseling with an emphasis on the fact that God Reaches in Personally to transform us and to set us free.

I am looking forward to meeting all of you here at FCUM. My job responsibilities include oversight of the staff and ministry areas here at Faith. I am interested to learn more about the many ministry opportunities already established by this faith community and to continue to build teams and equip the saints of FCUM.

Please feel free to stop by the office and say hello or to contact me at [doo@fcum.org](mailto:doo@fcum.org). You may also call the church office Ext. 13 or my cell phone at [1-513-477-5219](tel:1-513-477-5219).

I solicit your prayers as I move into this new area of ministry. I believe that if we stay focused on the mission of the church, listen to all voices but speak as one, and undergird all that we do with prayer, we will honor God and share the Good News of Christ to all of Xenia.

In His GRIP,  
Mary Shumard, DOO

## **Stephen Ministry**

### **Everything I Need to Know about Life I Learned from a Jigsaw Puzzle**

If you are trying to deal with the complicated and confusing puzzle of life, it may help to keep in mind these simple yet profound guidelines for putting jumbled situations back together again.

1. Don't force a fit. If something is meant to be, it will come together naturally.
2. When things aren't going so well, take a break. Everything will look different when you return.
3. Be sure to look at the big picture. Getting hung up on the little pieces only leads to frustration.
4. Perseverance pays off. Every important puzzle goes together bit by bit, piece by piece.
5. When one spot stops working, move to another. But be sure to come back to the first spot later (see#4).
6. The Creator of the puzzle gave you the picture as a guidebook. Refer to the Creator's guidebook often.
7. Variety is the spice of life. It's the different colors and patterns that make the puzzle interesting.

8. Working together with friends and family makes any task fun.
9. Establish a border first. Boundaries give a sense of security and order.
10. Don't be afraid to try different combinations. Some matches are surprising.
11. Take time often to celebrate your successes—even small ones.
12. Anything worth doing takes time and effort. A great puzzle won't be rushed.
13. When you finally reach the last piece, don't be sad. Rejoice in the masterpiece you've made and enjoy a well-deserved rest.

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For information about Stephen Ministry and how a Stephen Minister could walk along-side you as you attempt to solve the puzzles in your life, contact Becky Cultice at 937-376-5747.

## **Higher Education**

It is COLLEGE CARE PACKAGE time again! We have 10 college kids who I know would love to receive a care package from the members of their

home church. I will be outside the sanctuary before church services on October 8th and 15th to collect any items that you donate to the cause. What do we need? Anything that you think would make a college student happy and that will fit into a shoe sized box. Some items that worked well last year include nutty bars, chewing gum, any kind of candy bar, pudding cups, pop tarts, snack size anything, chips, etc. I also received word back from the students that they enjoyed receiving notes of encouragement. Gift cards are also much appreciated, and finally, we can always use some cash donations to either finish filling the boxes or covering the mailing costs.

Below is a listing of the college students who have expressed interest to me that they would like to stay connected with FCUM this year:

**Lauren Brickey** - Wilmington College

**Jocelyn Brodsky** - Bowling Green State University

**Carolyn Engle** - Indiana State University

**Juliana Erwin** - Ohio State University

**Emma Horney** - University of Kentucky

**Kimberly Johnson** - Sinclair Community College

**Hunter Ratliff** - University of Cincinnati

**Abby Saner** - Wright State University

**Kylie Saner** - Wright State University

**Brant Wickline** - Ohio State University

If you know of any other college student who you think would be interested in being a part of this group, please ask them to contact me via text message.

Thank you -

Julie Wickline

937-207-8289

### **Preschool**

**October 6** – Field Trip to Apple Country Farm

**October 10 & 11** – Firemen visit preschool

**October 30 & 31** – Halloween Parties

### **Showers for Blessings**

Currently we have no moms-to-be for the scheduled October 26th Showers for Blessings. Check out the weekly church bulletins for updates. If you know of someone we have missed, please let Sandy Pramer or Virginia Pinkerton know so we can include them.

### **United Methodist Women**

**Lydia:** Wednesday, October 10, 7-8:45pm-Parlor

**Dorcas:** Tuesday, October 17, 1-3:30pm-Parlor

**Priscilla:** Monday, October 16, 7-9pm-Parlor

## **Thank You!!!**

Your response to UMCOR and the hurricane relief has been amazing!

Thank you for participating in the 30 UMCOR flood buckets and the monetary donations which exceed \$3000.00. It takes a village to help in times like these.

Well done good and faithful servants!

Blessings...Pastor Barb

## **Men of Faith**

The Men of Faith will meet on Monday, October 18 in room #6 at 6:30 pm. A meal will be provided. Come at 7:00 if you only want to attend the program that will be a great DVD on Stewardship by Dr. James McDonald.

Please call William (Brownie) Brown (372-7373) if you plan to attend for the meal, so we can plan the quantity of food for the meal. All men are welcome and you can bring a friend. Hope to see you on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **Sunday School**

Yea! Thank you to Carol Stewart and Lynda Shaw who have agreed to assist Kristy Christian in the K-2nd grade class this month. We are also grateful to Kylie Fleming who is assisting Karen Mossing in the pre-school class. And Lucy Parsons is serving as a teacher

with Lonna McKinley in the youth class. Rhonda Cook reports that several members have agreed to help her with Children's Church. We are so grateful for the volunteers who have stepped forward. We could still use some help in the 3rd-5th grade classroom and people who can step in at the last minute are always welcome. We just need to know who you are. If you would like to help in any way, please let us know. ~Virginia Pinkerton

## **Common Cup**

The first monthly Common Cup meal was served on September 6 with 150 persons enjoying their ham loaves or chicken tetrazzini. The next Common Cup meal will be October 4 and meatloaf or pulled pork sandwiches are on the menu. We hope you can join us. If you have signed up to volunteer, the schedules are on a table in the narthex. If you want to volunteer, please email me at [vap1222@att.net](mailto:vap1222@att.net). Often times, if you tell me at church, I forget by the time I get home. Thank you to all.

## **Thank You Notes**

*My family and I wish to thank the ladies of the church for the delicious luncheon and for all the love and support our family has received from everyone during this rough time.*

*Our gratitude to Pastor Rick for being such a good friend, and for his support, and for providing Mike with a lovely Memorial Service*

*Virginia Fowler*



*I wish to thank everyone for their prayers and the card. My tests came out well and I am sure the prayers helped.*

*Wallace Dillingham.*

*Dear Faith Community,*

*Thank you so much for the very generous donation of the variety of school supplies. The donation is much appreciated.*

*Kathy Napier*

*Xenia Community Schools*



*The Women's Club sincerely appreciates your letting us use your church for our meetings. We would like you to use our contribution as you see fit. We always look forward to our meetings and having access to your beautiful church makes it even more pleasant.*

*Sincerely, Gail DeWall for the Woman's Club*



*My son recently got custody of his three daughters. It was not expected, but we are so blessed to have them*

*As a grandparent, I wanted to say "thank you" for your help with new shoes. They love them! This truly helped us a lot. Bless each and every one of you.*

*Thank you to everyone who made hygiene and school kits for Festival of Sharing which took place on September 23 at Otterbein University.*

*At times of need UMCOR and Church World Service share what they have in their warehouses to supply whatever is needed in the United States and throughout the world.*

*Again, thank you.*

*Carol Jenkins*



*Many thanks to the crew who helped with sealing the exit driveway. This saved the church a considerable amount of money. Those who helped were Bill Turner, Bill Vahle, Bruce Pickelhemier, John Grayson, Frank Brown, Rick Ritenour, and John Sherer.*

## **Leadership Team**

The Leadership Team appreciates all who came to the meeting this week to show their love and support for the body of Christ that we call Faith Community UMC. We understand that all questions and concerns did not get addressed because of time constraints and we want to give everyone an opportunity to be heard.

Please submit any questions regarding the church that you might have to Mary Shumard at [doo@fcum.org](mailto:doo@fcum.org) or you may call her at the church office ext. 13. **The deadline for submitting questions is Thursday, October 5, 2017.**

After all questions have been received they will be batched according to topic and the Leadership Team will answer them to the best of their ability. Please feel free to share your comments and concerns as well, both positive and negative along with your questions.

The Leadership Team continues to seek your prayer support as we strive to work towards God's preferred future for Faith Community. Please pray this prayer along with us from Psalm 25 (paraphrased):

***Make us to know your ways,  
O Lord; teach us your paths.  
Lead us in your truth and teach us,  
for you are the God of our salvation;  
for You we wait all the day long.***

We are better together  
Your FCUMC Leadership  
Team

### **Blood Drive**

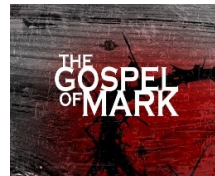
**Monday, October 16, 2-6pm.**

You can make a reservation to donate by going to [www.donortime.com](http://www.donortime.com). This website is not overly user friendly unless you can remember your donor number and password, However, I will be happy to make an appointment for you. Call John Ford at 372-6641 or e-mail [jford9@woh.rr.com](mailto:jford9@woh.rr.com). Ask for your preferred appointment

time. I will confirm your appointment if you leave a phone no. or e-mail address.

**Remember that your one-time donation can save as many as three lives.**

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Virginia Pinkerton who was recently inducted into the Greene County Women's Hall of Fame on September 23.



**October 4<sup>th</sup> – November 29, 2017**

Clarence Dinnen will be leading a Bible study on Wednesday evenings 6:30 – 7:30 pm in Room 6 on the Gospel of Mark. Be prepared to discuss Mark's Gospel by reading 2 chapters a week. Please invite others. You won't want to miss this opportunity to grow!

**Deadline for Nov. Faith Links: October 18**

**Please remember to bring items for the Food Pantry. Collection Containers are in the narthex.**