

NOVEMBER 2017

Pastor: Barbara Schneckner

937-372-7601 office@fcum.org www.fcum.org

Sunday Worship

9:00-10:00 Sunday School

10:00-10:30 Fellowship Time

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Nov. 5: Matthew 5:1-12, "You Are Blessed", Holy Communion in the pews, All Saints Sunday (lighting of candles & ringing of bell for each saint)

Nov. 12: Matthew 23:1-12, "Humbled", Honoring Our Veterans, Personal Testimony

Nov. 19: Matthew 25:14-30, "Trustworthy Stewardship" Personal Testimony

Nov. 26: Luke 17:11-19 "Christ is Merciful"



ATTENDANCE

Date	Worship	S.S.
Sep. 24	Worship in the Park	
Oct. 1	271	78
Oct. 8	167	79
Oct. 15	133	80

FROM PASTOR BARB

Isaiah 43:1-3 helps us to know that God is with us...as you read these words, hear God speak to you. "I, the Lord, created you and formed your nation. Israel, don't be afraid. I

have rescued you. I have called you by name; and now you belong to me. When you cross deep rivers, I will be with you, and you won't drown. When you walk through fire, you won't be burned or scorched by the flames."

As you read these words again...put your name in the scripture and realize that God is speaking directly to you. "I, the Lord, created (put your name here) and formed your nation. Israel (Faith Community), don't be afraid. I have rescued you. I have called (put your name here) by name; and now (put your name here) you belong to me. When you cross deep rivers, I will be with you (put your name here), and you won't drown. When you (put your name here) walk through fire, you won't be burned or scorched by the flames."

God is speaking to us and giving us a divine assurance. God uses the broken places, our sorrows and turns them into joy. God gives us hope and a future!

William Blake wrote...

*"Joy and woe are woven fine,
A clothing for the soul divine;*

*Under every grief and pine,
Runs a joy with silken twine."*

G. K. Chesterton, is a British journalist, novelist, and theologian. He observed children and their unbridled joy in repeating the same thing over and over again. Every grandparent and parent knows this is true. After a child learns to crawl and then walk, they discover they can climb. We watch and protect in ways that keep our children safe. It seems that once a child repeatedly climbs onto a surface, even if they need the assurance that comes from holding onto with just one finger and gaining the assurance that they will not fall, children want to repeat the activity again and again. It brings them great joy. Often children will call out to a parent or grandparent, come on, let's do it again. Often not only do we assure, but often we are invited by children to jump or do an activity with them. Soon we are taking turns.

Perhaps God is saying to Faith Community every morning, "Do it again!" After all God says it to the sun, every morning, noon time, and evening. God says it to the moon and the stars as well. God makes every flower, and not all are the same, but God never tires of making flowers. It may seem that God has the eternal appetite of infancy; for we have sinned and grown old, and our Father is younger than we.

Chesterton identified pessimism as "an emotional half-holiday" and called joy "the uproarious labor by which all things live."

The writer of Psalm 126 celebrated the God who has "the eternal appetite of infancy"; the God who is always ready to "do it again"; the God who never gets weary of healing the broken places, turning tears into laughter and sorrow into joy.

The writer of Psalm 30:5 claimed the hope that "weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning." In a time when tears had been his food night and day the psalmist remembered going up to the Temple "with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving." (Psalm 42:2) On the basis of that memory, G. K. Chesterton could have been speaking of the Israelites' faithful hope when he said, "They are in spirit fierce and free, and therefore they say... "Do it again."

The psalmist in Psalm 126 described a joy that is nothing less than a miraculous work of God. Listen to what other people were saying about the returning exiles;

"Then it was said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.' The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced." (Psalm 126:2-3)

Returning from exile was not something this band of de-

jected refugees could have ever done for themselves. It was an unimaginable, unanticipated, unadulterated work of God. It's joy, underserved, unearned, and largely an unanticipated work of divine grace in the lives of God's people.

During the month of November, we remember all for which we are grateful. Thanksgiving is a time to remember all that we have been given, not earned, but given by the grace of a loving and merciful God. In John 16:20, 33 we are reminded of Jesus' words at the Passover table on the night before he died, when he told the disciples, "You will have pain, but our pain will turn into joy... In this world you will face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!" Jesus compared the kind of joy he promised to the pain of a woman in labor. Far from offering us an escape from pain, Jesus often leads us deeper into it. He never promised to do away with pain, but he promised that our pain would be overcome by joy.

Bishop William Willimon was surprised when he found a member of one of his most affluent congregations washing dishes in a homeless kitchen. The bishop asked, "Have you always enjoyed working with homeless people?" The man barked back, "Who told you that I enjoyed working with

homeless people? Have you met any of these people?" Somewhat surprised by the reply, the bishop asked, "Then how did you get here, washing dishes at seven in the morning for a bunch of homeless people?" The man replied, "I got put here by Jesus, that's how. How did you get where you are?"

Joy will come...it will come from the same place as pain. The gospel is clear that the only way to joy is the way that goes through sorrow. The only path to laughter is the one that is sometimes blinded by tears. The only way to resurrection is the way that leads to a cross. The only way to find new life is to face up to the reality of death. As far as I can tell, the divine transformation that changes sorrow into joy is always a work of the Spirit of God. It is always new life that comes out of pain. God's grace is always available to strengthen us in the broken places. And so, our broken hearts cry out, "Do it again! Do it again! And I believe God is doing it again...we are one in the Lord!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Lydia: Wednesday, November 8, 7-8:45pm-Parlor

Dorcas: Tuesday, November 21, 1-3:30pm-Parlor

Priscilla: Monday, November 20, 7-9pm-Parlor

We wish to thank all the women who said, YES, and were willing to participate in United Methodist Women's Sunday. Your help was greatly appreciated by all of us.

Ann Ledbetter, Dolores Strous, Bonnie Weimer and Marlene Gifford.

Hurricane Buckets: A GIANT THANKS to everyone for the many donations to this cause and those who helped with set-up, putting the items in the buckets and to Tim Holly and John Sherer for taking the buckets to the church in Springfield for shipment. Any items that were the wrong size and could not be placed in the buckets were donated to the Women's Recovery Center and IHN. the buckets were donated to the Women's Recovery Center and IHN.

The United Methodist Women

CALLING ALL MEN: - THIS MEANS YOU !! - ESPECIALLY MILITARY VETERANS

The Men of Faith will meet on November 20th. Meetings are in room #6 at 6:30 PM and a meal will be served. The program will start at 7:00 PM.

Come at 7:00 if you only want to attend the program. We are asking all veterans to

attend and share your experiences during the time you were serving our country. Please call William (Brownie) Brown (372-7373) if you plan to attend for the meal, so we can plan the quantity of food needed. All men are welcome and you can bring a friend. Hope to see you on the 20th.

FAITH COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL

Thank you to everyone who helped our Fundraiser at Los Mariachis!

In November we will be learning about Pilgrims and Indians and we will have a Thanksgiving Feast at the end of the month.

Our older classes had a great time on our Field Trip to Apple Country Farm Market.



We also got to learn about Fire Safety when the Xenia Firemen came and visited our preschool.



SHOWERS FOR BLESSINGS

Ladies, Our October Shower for Blessings will be held on November 16 (Thursday), 2017 beginning in the chapel as usual. We found out just two weeks ago that we did have a couple of babies coming our way but it did not give you all much notice. Sandy suggested we move it to the third Thursday in November. Kate Henning Winningham is expecting a baby and so is Becky Adkins Test. Becky is expecting a boy and Kate will find out soon so check out the bulletin for more information. Remember we begin at 6:30 in the chapel. Who is invited? Everyone who wants to come. Remember we begin with a prayer time and get to know each other time in the chapel and then move to the Fellowship Rooms for shar-

ing of gifts and light refreshments. This gives us a chance to meet the new moms and grandmas and fellowship together. Thanks to all who have participated in the past and we hope you can all attend November 16 as well.

Blessings, Virginia Pinkerton
(937-766-5670)



FALL BAZAAR & COOKIE WALK

**Friday, November 10, 5-8pm
and Saturday, November 11,
9-2pm**



GREETINGS FROM MARY

In 1 Cor. 2:9-12 it states, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him. But God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the ways of God except the Spirit of God. We have not

received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us."

I am quickly finding out that the people of Faith Community are a people who desire to be led by the Holy Spirit and not the spirit of the world. The Holy Spirit is doing amazing things here at FCUMC. Just look around at all the volunteers and people involved in ministry. God is certainly working in the hearts and in the actions of His people. I want to thank each and every one of you who serve on ministry teams and those who volunteer in so many different ways to make Faith Community the body of Christ that I have witnessed in my short time here.

Some of the upcoming events that need your help include:

Oct. 28 - FCUMC will be hosting the West Ohio UMW Retreat. Please know that all the women of the church are invited to attend.

Oct. 30 & 31- Pre-school Halloween Parade. Volunteers are needed to come and bring candy (no peanuts or peanut products) so that we can put on a great Halloween parade for the kids! See Mary Shumard for more information.

Nov. 10 & 11 - The Annual Fall Bazaar will be held. Please see Nancy Wellman or Carla Skaggs for more information.

As you can see, the Holy Spirit is alive and well here at Faith. Let's help Him do His work and be the hands and feet of Christ!

In His Grip,
Mary Shumard, DOO
Faith Community UMC



Stephen Ministry

Seasons of Grief— Living with Loss during the Holidays

The crisp, cool, colorful days of autumn have arrived. Although it's one of the most beautiful times of the year, Christmas decorations appear in stores before we've had a chance to enjoy fall. For many Halloween has now replaced Thanksgiving as the "kick-off" to an ever-lengthening marathon of holiday preparations and activities.

Even during the best of times, the holidays can tax physical, emotional, and financial resources. A significant loss of any kind often adds another layer to the challenge. Unfortunately withdrawing into a cave and hibernating with bears until spring isn't a practical option. It isn't too early to begin planning and preparing if you or a loved one anticipates that this year's holidays will be difficult. Several opportunities are available to help those of us in this category experience peace, healing, and hope.

Once again, the Stephen Ministry team will sponsor a Blue Christmas service at 6:30 on Wednesday, December 6th at Faith Community UMC. Care Notes targeting specific difficult situations will be available in the narthex and monthly grief support will meet on Thursday, November 9th and December 7th at 7 p.m. in our parlor.

Pathways of Hope is offering *Hope for the Holidays* from 7-8 p.m. on Thursday, December 7th or Wednesday, December 13th at Hospice of Dayton Community Room in the Shaw Building, 324 Wilmington Avenue, Dayton. This gathering provides a way for grieving individuals and families to honor a lost loved one. Helpful insights and information about coping with holiday grief will be shared. RSVP by November 22nd @ 937-258-4991.

Whether you personally are grieving at this time or not, Sarah Young offers the following in the October 17 entry in *Jesus Calling* written as if Jesus himself is speaking to us:

“Anxiety is a result of envisioning the future without Me. So the best defense against worry is staying in communication with Me. When your thoughts turn to Me, you can think much more positively. Remember to listen, as well as to speak, making your thoughts a dialogue with me.

If you must consider upcoming events, follow these rules, 1) Do not linger in the future because anxieties sprout up like mushrooms when you wander there. 2) Remember the promise of My Continual Presence; include Me in any imagery that comes to mind.”

While this might be a HO HO NO!!! year, help is available. Seek it.

For additional information, contact Becky Cultice, 937-376-5747 or culticer@sbcglobal.net.

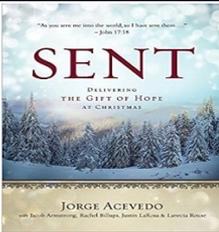
St. Paul Outreach Christmas Gifts

The children and youth who participate in the programs at St. Paul UMC in Dayton are given the opportunity to choose a gift for each member of their family. These gifts are then taken home and wrapped. Faith Community will be helping ring in this time of sharing by collecting gifts. There will be Christmas trees in the Welcome Area and Community Center. Please take a bell and purchase the item indicated. Please bring your unwrapped gifts to Faith by Sunday, November 26th and place them under the trees. Gifts should cost around \$15 each.

HELP!!

“We need hosts for the Fellowship Hour on Sunday from 10-10:30. If there is no host avail-

able, it may be cancelled. The sign-up sheet is on the table each Sunday so check it out and see if you can help. There are informational sheets under the sign-up if you want to see what all is involved. If you have any questions, call Debbie Spitzer at 545-9879. Thank you!"



FAITH COMMUNITY'S ADVENT BIBLE STUDY will be conducted over 4 weeks for adults and youth. The 1st class will be on Sunday, November 26th at 6:30 pm in the library for youth. There will be a Wednesday evening class beginning at 6:30 pm in room 6 and a Thursday morning class at 10:00 am in the parlor. Please invite your family, friends, and co-workers. Everyone is invited! For more information, contact the church office (937-372-7602), Pastor Barb (pastorbarb@fcum.org), or Mary Shumard (doo@fcum.org).

ORGAN RECITAL

Dr. John W. W. Sherer, son of John & Sharon Sherer will

present an organ recital at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 990 Old Springfield Pike, Xenia, Ohio on Tuesday evening, November 7th at 7:00 PM. The recital is free and open to the public.

Dr. Sherer has a doctorate from Juilliard and currently is Organist and Director of Music at Fourth Presbyterian Church in downtown Chicago. He has performed numerous organ recitals throughout the country including several regional & national organists' conventions.

PASSINGS

Prayers and Sympathy to Carol Cassidy on the death of her husband, **Roy Cassidy**;

Debbie Keller on the death of her mother **Elsie Wilson**;

Family and friends of **Betty Docton** on her death;

Marguerite Wolf and family on the death of her sister **Betty Lou Jack**.

THANK YOU

The staff and congregation of St. Paul U.M. Church sincerely thank you for the generous donation. Your support is very much appreciated.

DEADLINE FOR

**DECEMBER NEWS:
Wednesday, November 15**



Save the Date!

Sunday, December 3, 2017 at 5:00 pm

Faith Community UMC

Invites All to a Christmas Community Hymn Sing!

We will have a youth play, carols, and choirs from Faith Community UMC, United AME, and 1st United Christian Church in Xenia. Invite your family, friends, neighbors, and anyone who would like to attend. It will be a spirit filled evening of fun, fellowship, food, and the Lord!

Following the hymn sing will be delicious homemade soup and sandwiches and lots of fellowship!