

January 2018

Pastor: Barbara Schnecker

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

Sunday Worship

9:00-10:00 Sunday School

10:00-10:30 Fellowship Time

10:30-11:30-Worship in Sanctuary

Worship Notes

January 7: Mark 1:4-11

Holy Communion

Wesley Covenant

Epiphany Sunday

Baptism Renewal

January 14: John 1:43-51

January 21: Mark 1:14-20

January 28: Mark 1:21-28

Sunday Participation

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>S.S.</u>
Nov. 19	131	69
Nov. 26	128	79
Dec. 3	141	67
Dec. 10	124	83
Dec. 17	127	53

Our Top List of Beliefs

Pastor Barb Schnecker

If you were asked to make a list of the things that you believed instead of a list of New Year's resolutions, what would be on your list? I have thought about this for quite some time, because I believe we

can be part of a solution as well as part of God's plan. I have also thought that what we believe is extremely important.

As United Methodists and part of the Wesleyan tradition, we believe in a triune God, (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). We also believe in the work of the Holy Spirit. It is the nature of the Holy Spirit to reveal and to speak to us intimately and personally in the depths of our hearts, and to address us publicly, principally through scripture and preaching. For me, music allows the Holy Spirit to move and speak to me.

We also believe that scripture is useful to guide us as we hear God's voice, to see the way forward and the path of righteousness as we receive the guidance of the living God. We meet

Christ in the scriptures. As ancient writings that were compiled over a four thousand year period, the church is sustained, encouraged, and at the same time severely criticized and challenged by the very same scripture that the church originally produced. Scripture is primary to our beliefs and our way forward.

As Christians we believe in salvation for sinners. We are saved not by what we do or work's righteousness, but we are saved by the reconciliation of Jesus Christ's work on the cross through God's redeeming grace. Not only are we saved from our sins, but we also believe through Christ's resurrection, death is defeated and we too will be resurrected from the dead. Jesus welcomed sinners, and he even received a lot of grief from the religious leaders because of his welcoming sinners. Throughout Jesus' ministry, we see him moving toward us relentlessly. Not like the religious leaders who sought to make careful distinctions be-

tween the righteous and unrighteous, and the clean and unclean.

John Wesley explained God's grace in the following way, prevenient grace is the grace that woos or courts us as when we are in a relationship. Justifying grace is God's act of removing the guilt and penalty of sin while at the same time declaring a sinner righteous through Christ's atoning sacrifice. Salvation is not a static, one-time event in our lives. It is the ongoing experience of God's gracious presence transforming us into whom God intends us to be. Through God's sanctifying grace, we grow and mature in our ability to live as Jesus lived. As we pray, study the Scriptures, fast, worship, and share in fellowship with other Christians, we deepen our knowledge of and love for God. As we respond with compassion to human need and work for justice in our communities, we strengthen our capacity to love our neighbors. Our inner thoughts and motives, as well as our outer actions

and behavior, are aligned with God's will and testify to our union with God. John Wesley called this, moving toward perfection.

Throughout these words so far, where do you find yourself? Is God wooing you, do you believe that Jesus Christ's ministry, death, and resurrection has significance for your life redemptively? Are you growing into a path of discipleship and do your daily spiritual practices help you to grow more and more Christ like?

In James' epistle, he teaches us that worship is what Christians are compelled to do out of love for Christ, both in and outside of church. We are to be "doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves." (James 1:22) We believe the church is a gift from God. The church is the body of Christ, serving and growing.

John Wesley shared that the church is sometimes taken for a building, sometimes a body of people or a congregation that is united

together in the service of and for God. The church is also where God serves us by coming to us, blessing us through means of grace, such as the sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism, and giving us the grace to do what God asks us to do. Christians are under obligation to make their lives a visible, undeniable testimony to the truth that "in Christ, God was reconciling the world to him." (2 Cor 5:19)

Through all of what has been stated, what if we as a church, claimed God's gift to us, since we believe in God and stand on God's word? What if we sought the truth in love and squelched rumors? What if we thought of the church as more than the staff and sought God's will and direction to grow? What if we refused to leave God's church and stood firm on God's promises and word? I believe this is worth not only thinking about, but it is the way to move forward and honor God's call upon our lives as Faith Community UMC!



Kind and caring God,
My once secure life
now holds tremendous
change.

Come into my turmoil
and quiet my anxiety.
Be there with the gifts
of your peace and guid-
ance.

Let me not be over-
whelmed with the fear of
the unknown.
Grant me the ability
to face what awaits me.
Take my hand and assure
me, that you will always be
with me,
No matter what the future
holds.
(From Joyce Rupp's *Your
Sorrow Is My Sorrow*)

Experiencing loss
All-embracing love,
Your circle of strength
is around me.

I ask for grace to yield
to the reality of this loss.
I pray to surrender

to what cannot be
changed.
I beg for deliverance
from the emotional drain
and the unending
sadness that this loss has
brought me.

Let peace return.
Let hope begin.
Let comfort be mine.

Showers for Blessings



Thank you to all who at-
tended the shower in No-
vember as we celebrated 3
moms and babies. It was
a good night. Thank you to
Karen Turner and Sandy
Pramer and also to my
granddaughter Catherine
Mossing, who did so much
to make the evening a suc-
cess. The next shower will
be in late February or
March and we currently
know of one mom. Jen-
nifer and Jeremy Burgess
are expecting a baby in
May. There may be others

as time progresses. If you know of anyone who is expecting, please let me know so we can plan accordingly.

Love to all,
~~Virginia Pinkerton
937-766-5670 or
vap1222@att.net

Preschool News

The preschool had a wonderful December filled with a great Christmas Program as well as a fun two days of Breakfast with Santa.



Preschool will resume January 3, 2018. We still have spots open if you know of anyone who would like to enroll a child.

Sunday School Information

Thank you to all who worked so hard for the December 3rd Hymn Sing and young people's performances. Thank you to Wes Wickline, Grace and Grant Smith, Luisa Christian, Samuel Johnson, Reese Skaggs, and Molly Mossier for participating in the play, for the children's choir who performed under the direction of Jennifer Burgess, for Beth Gulley who presented an interesting program, for Pastor Barb who led the singing and arranged for Beth Gulley to come, for Betsy Murray, Margaret Stidham, and Joyce Smith who prepared, served, and cleaned up the soup meal, and all who attended. It was a very

pleasant evening and helped put us in the Christmas Spirit. Blessings to all.

As we begin a new year, let's consider coming to Sunday School. You meet the nicest people, the Bible is the focus of Sunday School, and we all need to grow in our Christian walk. It is my prayer that our Sunday School will grow by 20% this year and that our focus will be Bible oriented, and friendships will be formed that last a lifetime. Please join us.
~~Virginia Pinkerton

FCUM College Kid Connection

Thank you to all who helped make the fall semester a little brighter for our 11 college students. Due to your financial contributions and your donated care package items, each student was able to receive a very tightly packed care package. Some responses that were sent in reply include, "Thank you so much!! I really appreciate all the sup-

port." and, "Thank you so much, I love it!"

As our students start off for spring semester this month, I will be working to get some cards of encouragement ready to mail for them. I would love your help again. If anyone is interested in sending good wishes and cards of encouragement to our college students, please send me a message via e-mail at wicklinecasa@aol.com or via text at 937-207-8289. I will be happy to get you some cards and some already addressed envelopes. All you will need to do is add in a few words of encouragement and support, your signature, and a stamp. Thanks again, Faith Community. I believe that our collective support of gifts, prayers, and love to this group does make a difference.

Church Closing Due to Inclement Weather

If Xenia Community Schools are closed during inclement weather, the church will also be closed.

If school is closed on the first Wednesday of the month, there will be no Common Cup as well. If weather becomes inclement during the day on Wednesday, please watch and/or listen to your local news stations for evening cancellations. We will do the best we can in communicating with you throughout the winter season. Let's hope the weather does not present unsafe conditions for our staff, volunteers, and guests. Be safe!

United Methodist Women

Lydia: Wednesday, January 10, 7pm-Parlor

Priscilla: Monday, January 15, 7pm-parlor

Dorcas: No January meeting

United Methodist Men

ATTENTION ALL MEN: The Men of Faith will be meeting on the third Monday of each month in 2018. 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 January 15th.** Come at 7:00 if you only want to attend the program.

The program will be a presentation by Max Fuller updating on the disposal of the UTS properties on Salem Ave in Dayton, We will also review the program topics and activities for 2018.

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 15th.



Common Cup

Meals will be served on January 3, February 7, and on February 14. We will serve soup and salad for Ash Wednesday. Feel free to join us between 5 and 5:30 for dinner. Meat Loaf and

Chicken Tetrizzini will be the January 3 menu and we will serve Baked Spaghetti and Turkey Roll-ups on February 7. We will plan to see you there.

Prayers and Sympathy

To Bonnie Weimer and family on the death of her sister, Sharon Beard; Bonnie's address – 3214 Orchard Grove Rd., Sabina, OH 45169.

Baptism

Chase Alexander Cyr was baptized on Sunday, December 10. His is the son of Justin Cyr and Chelsie Eldridge. Paternal Grandparents are Amy and Alan Cyr, Maternal Grandparents are Robin Eldridge and Tad Groeschen.

Please note the insert in this newsletter regarding 2018 Leadership Team and Ministry Teams.

Deadline for February Faith Links: January 15, 2018

FISH FOOD PANTRY NEEDS YOUR DONATIONS YEAR ROUND!!



Happy New Year!