

February 2018

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
10:30-11:30-Worship in Sanctuary

Worship Schedule

Feb. 4: Mark 1:4-11
Holy Communion
(Intinction)

Feb. 11: Mark 9:2-9
Transfiguration Sunday
Scouting Sunday

February 14: Matthew
6:1-6, 16-21
Ash Wednesday, 6:30pm

Feb. 18: Mark 1:9-15

Feb. 25:
Mark 8:31-38

Restored! Finding Redemption in Our Mess

As we enter into the season of Lent, we begin to do some discovery work within ourselves and within our spiritual journey. It is a time of reflection within. In doing so, we sometimes find ourselves in the midst of changes and even in the midst of a mess, personally, physically, spiritually, and even financially. Have you ever been there?

Within our mess there is usually a story, but more than that, there is a God who wants to restore our relationship personally, spiritually, physically, and financially through grace.

Lent has been a time, for me, of self-reflection to encounter and enhance my spiritual relationship with the One who continues to

Sunday Participation

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>S.S.</u>
Dec. 17	127	105
Dec. 24	155	53
Christmas		
Eve	181	—
Dec. 31	100	59
Jan. 7	110	60
Jan. 14	90	55

create anew in me. It is also a time of calling from and by God...to be in touch with the areas of my life that separate me from God, but also God's grace calling me, guiding me, and almost as if dancing with me into the next level of relationship through an underserved grace and pardoning.

Our Lenten Bible study will be over a 6-week period and everyone is invited to explore their spiritual beliefs and discover a path to God's restoration. It is my hope that each person will personally come to one of the Bible studies and even invite someone else. Those who come do not need to be a member of our church or any church, for that matter. Jesus calls us to be invitational... "Come and follow me."

Have you ever thought...do you believe that you are created in God's image? Genesis 1:27 tells us that "God created humanity in God's own image, in the divine image God created them, male and female, God created them." So then, what

does it mean to be created in God's image? Do you see the goodness of God reflected in your life, what about the life of others?

What is sin? (Anything that separates us from God.) Sin hides and covers the beauty that God intended for us and the world to enjoy. Tom Berlin shares that, "A sin is an action or attitude that is in conflict with God's desire for our lives. Humans commit sins so frequently that we come to realize that our problem is not one specific sin we regret, but that our lives are in a state of sin. This is the conflict found in the human story. We want to know God's presence, but we also want to do whatever we desire. The result is alienation from the One who created us."

Tom Berlin points out in his discussion of "The Pharisee and the Tax Collector" that admission of a bad life is the first step in finding a new life." In order to process this, we must ask ourselves some questions...

What actions and attitudes in your life are in conflict with God's desire for you?

What situations make you most mindful of this tension between following your own desires and following God's will for your life?

What parts of God's beautiful and loving image within you are hidden by sin?

How do you try to manage...your sin?

How do you feel about sharing your struggles with people that you trust?

How do you feel when someone else shares their struggles with you?

The goal is for us to restore God's image within ourselves, personally. Sharing and hearing our stories is a sacred privilege. If we are honest, each one of us is a mess; we are all falling apart, one way or another. Don't believe me....open your Bible and take a look! Most every one of God's servants is or has been a mess!

Most of the time we understand struggles with

similar issues. We come to worship to hear and understand how God's grace can help us experience transformation. When people commit to do spiritual work together, we find Christ knocking on the doors of our hearts. Restoration is the goal of our Christian life.

We are created in God's image, but for many of us sin has made that a distant memory. We are stuck...we are complacent...but the good news is Jesus Christ restores us! May this Lenten season be a time of restoration and a journey of grace and transformation!

Be Restored by God's Grace.

Pastor Barb

Lenten Study

The Lenten season is almost here. In fact, Ash Wednesday is February 14th! Pastor Barb has selected a meaningful Lenten all-church study entitled "Restored". To quote the author, "I've called the book *Restored* because

restoration is the goal of the Christian life. Honesty about our mess is important, but it can also be depressing unless we remind ourselves of the ultimate goal. The good news of the gospel is that by the grace of Christ, found in the love and power of his death and resurrection, we can be restored to the image of God in which we were created." Please check the flier for the days and times. You won't want to miss this opportunity!

The goal is for all ministry leaders and those serving on ministry teams, as well as the general congregation to participate in one of these classes.

You may also develop your own class if there is another more convenient time. Please let Pastor Barb know which class you will be attending and if you are willing to facilitate a class. She will need to know so that she can order the books. The cost of each participant's book will be \$11.00.

Life Recovery Addiction Group

The Leadership Team and the Mission Outreach Team have been discussing Faith Community's participation in the area of addiction recovery. There are multiple recovery opportunities within the Xenia area but most of them are for those people who are in the first stage of addiction recovery. Faith Community has an opportunity to offer what is known as a "second order change" program. This is the stage of recovery where true transformation can occur and life-changing decisions are made.

The first order of business is to have a walk-through of the 8-week course that will be offered to the community. This first 8-week course will be for all those interested in serving with this new ministry. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, a classroom pal, or just interested in learning more about addiction recovery please join me on Mondays

March 5 - April 16, 2018
from 6:30-8:30.

Please contact me if you have any questions or are interested in participating. Faith Community has an opportunity to offer a ministry to the community unlike any other. I hope you will be a part of it!

~~Mary Shumard

Shoes 4 the Shoeless

Yes, it is time to think about Shoes 4 the Shoeless again. FCUMC will host this ministry in the Spring so please be aware of the following dates:
Sunday, March 4 @ 12:30 PM in the Library - a planning and organizational meeting for all those interested in participating
Saturday, March 10 @ 9:00 AM - Measuring Day
Saturday, March 24 @ 9:00 AM - Give Away Day

Please join the fun by inviting all those in your ministry area to participate in this vital ministry to the Xenia community. If you have any questions please

contact Mary Shumard (doo@fcum.org) or Pastor Barb (pastorbarb@fcum.org).



Stephen Ministry

Are You Experiencing a "Winter" in Your Life?

In addition to the cold weather outside, many people experience "winters" in their personal lives. A recent loss through death, divorce, or relocation may leave them feeling lonely. A hospitalization, a cancer diagnosis, or ongoing medical problems may leave them feeling isolated. The loss of a job, the fear of layoffs, or a financial setback can devastate one's self-esteem. Family and personal struggles may leave them with nowhere to turn to for support.

If you are going through a difficult time, our Stephen Ministers can bring God's warm love back into your life. They provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will meet with you privately and

regularly to listen, to support and encourage you, to pray with and for you, and to walk with you for as long as is needed.

To find out more about Stephen Ministry and how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk with Becky Cultice, 937-376-5747. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to walk alongside you as a Christian friend.

Showers for Blessings

Attention all ladies: Set the date for Thursday, March 22nd to join us at the church as we feature Jennifer Burgess as the mom-to-be. Jennifer is expecting a little girl in May. Our greet and praise time will begin at 6:30 pm in the chapel and then we will proceed to the Fellowship Hall for light refreshment, gifts and visitation. If you know of any other pregnant moms we could feature, please call me at 937-766-5670 or email at vap1222@att.net.

~~Virginia Pinkerton

Sunday School Information

"I would go to Sunday School but it starts at 9 am and that is too early."
"It's too cold today." "It's too hot today." "I don't know which class to attend." "I don't like that teacher." "I don't understand the Bible." "That person is too opinionated."

Yes, those reasons (excuses) could all be true, but we still want you in Sunday School. More importantly, **God** wants you learning and sharing with fellow congregants. We hope you will prayerfully consider joining a Sunday School class. The first few weeks might be a bit difficult but soon you will feel comfortable with some new friends and the Bible. If you have any questions please feel free to talk with Pastor Barb or call me at 937-766-5670.

I am so pleased with the teachers in our Sunday School. The Bible is definitely the main focus of study with our children.

what a great opportunity for our young people!

We would like to add numbers to our group. Dr Warren Wiersbe has been quoted as saying, "*We want numbers, not so we can count people, but because people count.*" I like that quote. That puts the focus on people's souls and not on the attendance charts.

Thank you to all regular attenders at Sunday School. You would be surprised how much you encourage others just by your attendance.

Blessings to all,
Virginia Pinkerton

United Methodist Women

Save the Date:

March 10, 2018
Annual Women's
Prayer Breakfast
Tickets go on sale
February 18

CIRCLES

Lydia: No meeting (Ash Wednesday Service)

Priscilla: Monday, February 19, 7pm - Parlor

Dorcas: Tuesday, February 20, 1pm - Parlor

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.

Next meeting is February 19. Come at 7:00 if you only want to attend the program which will be a DVD video on "Domestic Violence" presented by Shawn Foster. 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 19th.

Love Packages

Do you have old Christian materials you don't use anymore?

Bibles, Sunday School curriculum, Christian books and paperbacks, daily devotions, magazines, CD's, videos, & DVD's!!

The Love Packages ministry collects and sends used Christian materials to missionaries and ministries around the world to be used to further God's Kingdom. Collectively, over 800 tons of used Christian materials were sent to third world countries last year. We sent nearly one ton of materials from Faith Community.

Faith Community UMC is a collection Center. You will find the LOVE PACKAGES tub now at the entrance of the education wing. Once the tub is full we call for a pick up. To learn more visit www.loveackages.org.

Thanks for your help.
John W. Sherer
Men of Faith
missionary project
372-2204



Common Cup

A light meal of soup and salad will be served on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 5-6 pm in the community center followed by a service in the Sanctuary at 6:30 pm with imposition of ashes.

Prayers and Sympathy

to friends and family of **Margaret (Peg) L. Harruff**;
to friends and family of **Patty May**, mother of Steve (Nancy) May;
to friends and family of **Erma Pitzer**;
to friends and family of **Phyllis Penewitt**.

Blood Drive

Faith Community's next blood drive will be on Monday, February 19, 2018, 2:00-6:00 PM. You can make a reservation to donate by going to 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. Ask for your preferred appointment time. I will confirm your appointment if you leave a telephone no. or E-mail address.

Mark your calendars and plan to donate. Our drives here at FCUM are scheduled approximately 8 weeks apart from those at St. Brigid which makes it convenient to stay on schedule for donations at these two locations.

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

Eyeglasses and Hearing Aid Collections

Faith Community is collecting not only used eyeglasses for the Lions Club but also used hearing aids. If you have either of these items you would like to donate, there are collection areas near the en-

trance to the Education Wing. Thanks.

Looking Ahead

Save the date for Saturday, February 17, 2018 for a Leadership Team, Ministry Teams, and Churchwide envisioning retreat!

Faith Community Safety Team

The Faith Community Safety Team recently met on January 9, 2018 and discussed the safety of our parishioners, guests, and staff and is making this issue a priority given the violent acts that have occurred in churches and other places. The Xenia Police Department made suggestions and we accepted their recommendations. Those immediate recommendations include 1) securing the entrances to the building, and 2) offering Alice Training (for which a date will be announced as soon as the PD gets back to us.)

Please know that we are doing due diligence in keeping everyone safe, but we need everyone to understand that you are part of making that happen, so your cooperation and participation are important.

Beginning the first Sunday in February (2/4/18) the entrance doors will be secured. This means that the main entrance will be opened and our other various entrances will be locked. At 10:45 the main entrance doors will be locked as well. The ushers will be manning the main entrance during the worship service after the doors are locked. This will not impede exiting the church but will help to keep those inside safe.

Stay tuned for more information in Faith Links

and the bulletin as the Safety Team works to keep us safe.

Thank You

*Faith Community
Family,*

*Thank you so much
for the generous care
packages! Your support
means the world to
us.*

Abby and Kylie Saner

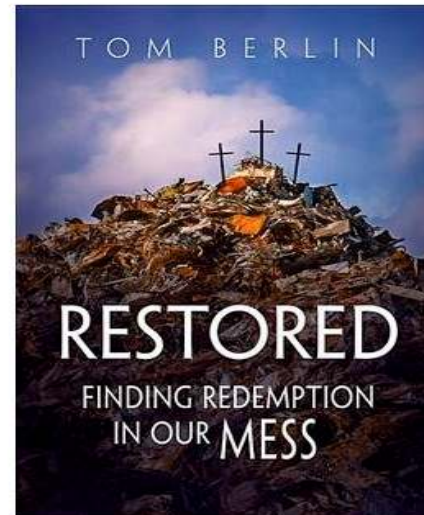
**Deadline for
March Faith Links:
February 16, 2018**



Ash Wednesday Services

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Please join us for homemade soup and salad between 5-6:00 pm in the Community Center. Ash Wednesday Service will begin in the sanctuary at 6:30 pm followed with the imposition of ashes. Everyone is invited to begin their Lenten journey with our Lenten Fellowship & Service.



Lenten Study

Please join us as we are personally “Restored” through this Lenten journey by God’s amazing grace. Classes will be held for 6 weeks and are offered as follows:

Thursday’s – Noon – 1:30 pm bring your lunch or snack
(Begins 2/15/18) in the Parlor

Sunday’s – 9:00 – 10:00 am in various
Sunday School Classes

Wednesday’s – 6:00 – 7:30 pm in room 6 (Begins 2/21/18)