

March 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

March 4: John 2:13-22

Holy Communion in Pews

March 11: John 3:14-21

Scout Sunday (Breakfast)

Daylight Saving

Time Begins

March 18: John 12:20-33

March 25: Mark 14:22-50

Palm Sunday

Children Singing

Sunday Participation

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>
	<u>S.S.</u>

Jan. 21	125
	66
Jan. 28	98
	60
Feb. 4	93
	57
Feb. 11	92
	57
Feb. 18	101
	68

From Pastor Barb

Rowing the Boat

In thinking about the month of March, many things come to mind... wind, flying kites, spring, new growth, restarting the cycle of life, St. Patrick's Day, the Irish, planting potatoes, and many more glorious things. One of the things I have looked forward to in my adult life is taking a canoe trip. March is usually the month when things begin to warm up and the anticipation becomes almost unbearable. What are you anticipating? What memories does March hold for you?

Did you know that canoeing and rowing a boat are different? I have actually done both and have my preference, of course. It always amuses me to see someone trying to row a boat

for the first time. Usually the person pulls on one oar so much harder than the other and as a result they simply go around and around in a circle, going nowhere. It is also easier to row a boat in water that is still and smooth, but if you want to test your ability, just get in a fast-moving body of water or try to row against the current. Or better yet, try rowing on a choppy lake when white caps insist on coming into the boat!

I am reminded of the disciples and Jesus out on the water and inside a boat when a storm suddenly blew up. The disciples were frightened and they woke Jesus from sleeping. He commanded the waters to be still and the water became still. They were amazed and said, even the waters obey him.

Life has a way of teaching us lessons, if we stop to think about them. When the devil puts distractions in our way and blocks our view of God's future, we can learn from rowing a boat. I remember when rowing with all my might against the current and thinking that I was making

headway, only to look at an object along the shore and find that even with all my effort the boat was no farther than I had been previously. The boat was literally standing still.

It strikes me that life is like rowing a boat. At times the rowing is easy because the water is quiet, or perhaps we are going with the current and all we need to do is guide the boat. But what happens when we find that the boat we are in is headed upstream? We row harder and harder. We are careful not to pull too hard to one side or the other. We try our best to keep the paddles deep and pull evenly on both oars at the same time. Going upstream is not easy! So in life, we learn not to pull on one oar more than the other because we don't want to wind up going in circles. We shouldn't lean to the negative but be aware of the negative around us, for we need to extend God's grace to each other, saints and sinners alike. Every now and then, take a good look at the shore line, check and make sure that you are not standing still. Now is

the time to pull together, to put our oars deep into God’s word and pull with all our might to get up stream. Let’s go God’s team...it’s all up stream!



**Stephen
Ministry
Smiling Costs
Nothing but
Reaps Rewards**

Years ago, one of the assignments I gave my eighth grade students was to randomly smile at 5-10 people that they did not know and to observe what happened next. Inevitably they would report that the person might look confused, but that the other person usually smiled back. Can you remember a time when someone smiled at you and it made you feel better? Have you ever met someone who could make you feel good about life just with a smile? Smiles are often unexpected and can have a profound influence on your day. Smiling is contagious. Joy is contagious. So are anger and negativity, but here’s the difference—most of us would

rather be joyful even if we won’t admit it.

One Swedish study reports that when researchers showed a picture of a smiling person to a group and asked them to frown, they smiled instead. They had to force themselves to frown.

Mother Teresa was known for her joy and her smile despite the deprivation she confronted every day in Calcutta, and she once said, “Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing.” That’s how we bring happiness to people—through giving more than getting and through actions more than words. Why is that important? Because so many people are lonely, depressed, negative and may not even know it.

Some adults have to relearn how to smile. As children it came natural to us. The average person smiles 20 times a day. Happy people smile 40 to 50 times a day, but children smile an average of 400 times a day. They naturally and intuitively often

do more to promote joy and friendship than the rest of us.

Research also shows that good health and peace of mind are fringe benefits for people who smile. Smiling activates endorphins and serotonin, which help relax us, lower our blood pressure, and elevate our mood.

As Mother Teresa also said, “We shall never know all the good a simple smile can do.”

If you or someone you know needs a smile and more during a challenging time, contact Becky Cultice 937-376-5747 or

culticer@sbcglobal.net to learn more about Stephen Ministry. We have care givers who are ready to walk alongside those in need for as long as the need exists.

Save the Date—April 7th

We at Faith Community have the rare opportunity to host a **Stephen Ministry Introductory Workshop** from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, April 7th. Since 1975 more than 12,000 churches from 170 denominations have trained over 600,000 laypeople as Stephen Ministers to provide

one-to-one Christian care to people who need it. Our church has been active in this ministry since the early 1990’s. Ever wonder what it entails or how it benefits others? Stephen Ministries St. Louis is sending Pam Montgomery to lead this workshop that will include three sessions: Ministering to Those in Grief, An Introduction to Stephen Ministry, and How to Care in a Distinctively Christian Way. During the day we will be able to network with persons from other area churches, show hospitality to our neighbors in Christ, as well as share time with members of our church without the additional responsibilities that are often associated with gatherings we sponsor. Your current Stephen Ministry team is excited about the possibilities associated with this workshop and encourages each of you to consider attending. To learn more, watch for bulletin announcements or talk with Barbara Thompson or Lucy Parsons, our publicity co-chairpersons.

Educational Assistance

for 2018-2019

Guidelines and application forms for FCUMC's Educational Assistance will be available in the church office after March 15. Assistance will be offered to students who are active at Faith Community and are entering or continuing their education in college or technical schools. These forms must be completed and returned to the church office by April 15, 2018.

Scout Sunday March 11, 2018

Please join us for a pancake breakfast in Fellowship Halls A & B from 9:30-10:30 am. The menu is: Pancakes (Gluten Free available), Sausage Link, Butter & Syrup, Orange Juice, Milk, Coffee.

There will be a free will donation to support the Scouts.

Common Cup

The upcoming Common Cup meals will be March 7, April 4, and May 2. Please join us at 5 pm for a great meal and a time of fellowship. Entrees planned include...

March 7 - Beef Stew and Chicken Breasts

April 4- Meat Loaf and Chicken and Noodles

May 2- Ham Loaf and Chicken a la King

Questions--Call Virginia at 937-766-5670.

United Methodist Women Circle Meetings

Lydia: Wednesday, March 14, 7pm- Parlor

Priscilla: No meeting

Dorcas: Tuesday, March 20, 1:00pm - Parlor

Women's Prayer Breakfast

Priscilla Circle invites all women to our annual Prayer Breakfast March 10, 2018 at 9:30 AM. Tickets will be on sale Sunday mornings in the Narthex and at Coffee Fellowship. For \$6 you will be served delicious food and beverages (coffee, tea and juice).

United Methodist Men

The Men of Faith will meet on Monday March 19 in room #6 at 6:30 PM with meal served. The program will start at 7:00 PM. Come at 7:00 if you only want to attend the program, which will be an

update on the Xenia “Fish” Food Pantry, presented by Gail Matson, Food Pantry Manager, or Mike Reeves. Please call William (Brownie) Brown (372-7373) if you plan to attend for the meal, so we can plan the quantity of food. All men are welcome and you can bring a friend. Hope to see you on the 19th.

Men’s Ministry Opportunities

***Community Men’s Breakfast** - All men are invited to attend the Community Men's Breakfast scheduled for March 3rd at Faith Community United Methodist church. Registration and fellowship begin at 7:30 with breakfast at 8 AM. The program speaker will be Jamie Roten, AHOP Student Ministries Pastor. For more information see posters throughout the church or call John Sherer at 372-2204 or Bruce Pickelheimer at 376-2361.

***Miami Valley District United Methodist Men Thursday March 29**
Calling all Methodist men to attend the district meeting

being held at Sulphur Grove UMC, 7505 Taylorsville Rd, Huber Heights, Ohio. Registration is from 6- 6:30 PM, followed by praise music and speaker Pastor Marty McMichael speaking on **Revitalizing Men’s Ministry**. The program will end by 8:30 PM. Pastor Marty is a professor of psychology at Wright State and wishes to explore ways to reach younger men. So if you are a younger man, we need your help in developing programming that would interest you. To RSVP a VAN ride, contact John Sherer at 372-2204. Van will leave church parking lot at 5:30 PM.

*The Men of Faith are exploring the idea of hosting a family night out for a Rodeo (tickets \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children) some Friday night in July and perhaps a family night out at the Dragon's Baseball game (ticket price \$12.00 and we could all sit together). This would require RSVP. If you and your family would be interested in either of these events, please email John Sherer at shererjw@aol.com

or call 372-2204 or catch me at church.

Looking Ahead:

UMM GARAGE SALE DATE

SET- weekend of May 4th & 5th. If you have items to be picked up before that week, call John Sherer at 372-2204.

Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt

Easter breakfast is being planned and all members of the congregation and all their friends and neighbors are invited and encouraged to attend. The breakfast will begin at 9 am and will be similar to those of the past few years. We will need help serving, preparing food, and eating. Please contact Virginia Pinkerton if you would like to volunteer in any way. If you cannot volunteer, we want you to join us for breakfast and the Easter egg hunt.

The Easter Egg Hunt will begin at 10 am. Again, to make this successful, we need volunteers and children. We do not need Easter Eggs as in the past. We look forward to the Easter Season with faith,

hope and prayer that God may be glorified in our work.

Question--Call Virginia at 937-766-5670 or vap1222@att.net

Showers for Blessings

Attention all ladies in the church. Jennifer Burgess is expecting a baby girl in May. Please hold the evening of March 22 to celebrate with a baby shower. The shower will begin at 6:30 in the chapel as always and then we will proceed to the Fellowship Hall for a time of gift-giving and fellowship. There will also be light refreshments. If you have never participated in this program you are most welcome to join us. If you have participated in the past you are also most welcome. It is a wonderful time to share our blessings for Jennifer and Jeremy's blessing that will be joining us in May. Please pray for the Burgess family and this program. Questions? Call Virginia at 937-766-5670 or email. at vap1222@att.net

Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the teachers who are so faithful to the Sunday School program. Of late we have endured some tough times but you have stood firm in the Lord and in your work teaching about the Bible and God. We are grateful. We are convinced that knowing and sharing the Word of God is vital to the health of our church. May God Bless you.

We ask our entire congregation to pray for our Sunday School program and the hundreds of children in the Xenia area who are unaware of the goodness of Jesus.

~~ Virginia Pinkerton

Sharon Sherer wishes to thank everyone who offered prayers and sent cards following her recent surgery.

Passings

Prayers and sympathy to Vicki Six and family on the death of her mother, **Nettie Cole** and to Mary Ann Spahr and family on the death of her husband **David Spahr**.

Easter Flowers

It is time to order flowers for the Easter service. There will be order forms in the church bulletins on the following Sundays: March 4, March 11, and

March 18. and in the office between Monday, March 5 and Thursday, March 22.

The cost of the lilies and tulips will be \$11.00 each. Please return order forms and payment to the church by March 22, 2018

Also, there are a number of openings for altar flowers for the Sunday services for the remainder of the year. Please check if there is a certain time you might want to honor or remember someone. ~Dolores Strous

Faith, Hope, and Love

Night is falling on a little town; the sun setting in colors of splendor. Crickets begin chirping their bedtime songs to each other. And, a bird hurriedly heads for its nest of comfort. And, I think of loved ones alive, some lost and remembered. And, I wonder if all living things in nature feel grief when one of their own dies. Who would know if that is so? I will have to find someone to answer that question. And, in the meantime, I believe, have faith that there is going to be a better day bringing better things ahead with God. Hope for healing to be with loved ones again, to laugh and share our God with each other. And, I celebrate the great Artist's work of nature. I enjoy

being human...and, the joy and love of just being alive.

Submitted by Laura Roby

VBS Special Offering

During the season of Lent and Easter Sunday, the church will be collecting a special offering to support Vacation Bible School. Your gift will help provide for children participating in this year's program "Rolling River Rampage". Approximate cost per child is \$25. Our goal is to raise \$2,500. VBS offering envelopes are available in the pews or the office. Make checks payable to Faith Community and mark VBS in the memo. Thank you for your prayers and support as we prepare to guide the children through an adventure of a lifetime with God!

Save the Date: Mark your calendars for **June 11-15**. We are preparing for an exciting week of VBS as we take the children on a "Rolling River Rampage". Watch for more details in the next newsletter.

Please contact Joyce Smith at 937-609-3907 or Betsy Murray at 937-372-8376 if you have questions.

Mission Trip to Henderson Settlement

March 25-28, 2018

If you are interested in participating in a mission trip to Henderson Settlement with a

group from Common Cup, please contact Pat Haley from Richland-Crumley UMC at 937-470-6661, or Betsy Murray at 372-8376.

Jackson Area Ministries Garden Ministry

Spring is fast approaching and it is **SEED** time again. That means helping Jackson Area Ministry [JAM] gather garden supplies. They need **SEEDS-SEEDS-SEEDS** and More **SEEDS**. Vegetable seeds of all kinds or cash for potato and tomato plants. The collection basket/tub will be found in the Narthex soon. Please watch for it and gather those **SEEDS**. Please do not miss this opportunity to help feed the needy, as they grow their gardens. Last year JAM provided over 42,000 pounds of seed potatoes along with supplying seeds for 4,253 gardens. If you have any questions please contact someone in the Jenkins household, 372-1372 and God bless.

**Deadline for April Faith Links
Friday, March 16**