

May 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 Schedule

Eastertide

May 6: John 15:9-17

Holy Communion by
Intinction

May 13: Mother's Day

Luke 24:44-53

May 20: Pentecost

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 27: John 3:1-7

Trinity Sunday

Memorial Day

Sunday Participation

Date	Worship	S.S.
Mar. 25	141	66
Apr. 1	211	—
Apr. 8	111	64
Apr. 15	127	52

From Pastor Barb

"What If's"

Have you ever been in a position similar to Martha and Mary? In John chapter 11, we read about their brother, Lazarus, dying. They had sent for Jesus and four days later he finally arrives.

"But Lord, if you had been here he wouldn't have died, they exclaimed!"

We have all been on the receiving end of news that we did not want to hear; medical news, family news, relationship news, church news, financial news....the list can go on and on. That is precisely how Martha and Mary felt. Their brother was gone for good and their lives as they had known them were changed and for all practical purposes, over. But, it's not over until God says it's over!

Jesus shows up...four days later, but he showed off his power in a way that had never before been witnessed! He reversed the withered, dead body of Lazarus right before everyone's eyes. Jesus showed us that his power is no match for death.

To appreciate this miracle, we need to understand the ancient Jewish burial traditions. Lazarus was basically buried like a mummy with layers of cloth surrounding his body. It must have

been like a full body cast. So how did Lazarus get up and get out of the tomb with a full body cast? Well, to be honest, that had to be a miracle as well...we will call it miracle number two. The first miracle would have been being raised from the dead.

Can you imagine being there and witnessing such an amazing event? Lazarus comes hopping out of the tomb and grieving turns to laughter and they have something to talk about the rest of their lives. I mean, who wouldn't be talking about being raised from the dead after four days? It must have felt pretty hopeless prior to the resurrection of Lazarus. Have you ever thought that this miracle not only foreshadows Jesus' resurrection, but it foreshadows our resurrection and many other resurrections, including the church's resurrection! It is a snapshot of what Jesus wants to do in our lives and in our church right here, right now.

Let's not miss the point. When we sin, it's like the enemy of our very soul wraps us up in grave clothes. Sin buries us alive and makes a mummy out of us. We become only a shadow of the person that we were meant to be. But Jesus calls us out

of our tombs. He raises us up and helps us to become the person we are meant to be. After all, every promise that God has ever made is a yes in helping us to follow and become more like Christ.

One of the things that I have found helpful is to personalize scripture. In order to do that we can take Lazarus' name out of the scripture and put our name or another name in its place. For example...*Barb...come out!* Take a moment and think about what Jesus is calling you out of and into.

Allow yourself some quiet time and listen for God's calling. He's calling you out of sin and death. God is calling us to resurrection! We are resurrection people...so let's tell others all the good things that God is doing in our lives!

Eastertide Blessings,
Pastor Barb



Stephen Ministry

Have you had the difficult conversation?

Have you ever heard anyone say, I'm not afraid of death, but I'm afraid of dying? In life we prepare for everything—career, marriage, children, and retirement. In

spite of the conversations we have surrounding these important milestones, only about 30% of us have discussed our end-of-life wishes with family members or other caregivers in spite of the fact that more than 90% of us think it important to do so. Unlike 50 years ago when the average person died of acute conditions without prolonged illness, Americans today are living longer with chronic conditions which often lead to challenges at the end of life. Talking is the single most important thing we can do to prepare for the death of someone we love or for our own death. Often such conversations are avoided out of an understandable desire to spare each other's feelings. That's why it's so important to begin the discussion before it becomes necessary. It is as important as all other life plans we have made. Having a plan in place makes it easier for us, our doctors, and loved ones if we are unable to communicate our health care wishes because of injury or serious illness. By starting early, it is more likely that wishes will be heard and honored.

Such a conversation is not likely to take place spontaneously. Whether you are an

aging parent or a concerned adult child, make the first move. Seize any opportunity to begin the discussion whether it's bringing up death as part of a general conversation or using a more direct approach. Fifty-three percent of 1,000 Americans polled by the Conversation Project, a Boston-based program dedicated to helping people talk about their wishes for end-of-life care, indicated that they would feel relieved if a loved one initiated such a conversation.

There is no "right" way to start the conversation nor is there a "right" time. We could mention articles about people like Barbara Bush who recently indicated that she will no longer seek treatment and ask what others think about that. Or we might start with some else's experience. "Do you remember what happened to ____ and what his/her family went through? I don't want you to have to go through that with me. That's why I want to talk about this now while we can." In a more direct approach we might say, "I want to talk about how I'd like to be cared for if I was sick or injured" or "If you ever got sick, I don't know what kind of care you would like. Could we talk about this?"

When people do end up having these conversations many find that they weren't as "scary" as they thought they would be. Some even feel relief. Studies show that having end-of-life discussions and knowing that a loved one's wishes were followed often helps families during their time of grieving.

There are numerous resources available to help with planning for end-of-life decisions. Initiate discussing your wishes with your doctors. Get information about advance directives and a medical power of attorney. "Choices—Living Well at the End of Life Advance Directive Packet" is available at www.ohiohospitals.org. "Are Some Conditions Worse than Death?" and "Personal Medical Preferences Test," a couple of the tools offered by www.starttheconversation.org, might prove helpful.

Having these conversations encourages each of us to think about what we want. They can also help us or our loved ones make difficult decisions with less pain, doubt, and anxiety in addition to possibly minimizing conflict within a family when/if the time comes. It means everything to know we have fulfilled our loved one's wishes

to the best of our ability. Give this gift to

your loved ones and to yourself.

As always, if you or someone you know is going through a difficult time, our Stephen Ministers are available to walk alongside as a caring, Christian friend. To learn more, contact Pastor Barb, Mary Shumard, or Becky Cultice at 376-5747.

United Methodist Women- Circle Meetings

Lydia: Wednesday, May 9,
7pm in the Parlor

Priscilla: Monday, May 21,
7pm in the Parlor

Dorcias: Tuesday, May 15,
1pm in the Parlor

Mother's Day Carnation Sale

United Methodist Women will still be selling Mother's Day carnations on Sunday, April 29 and May 6. Flowers will be displayed in the sanctuary on Mother's Day, May 13. Cost of flowers is \$1.25 each. Forms will also be available in the office. Please make checks payable to F.C. United Methodist Women and indicate in the

memo "Carnations". We are unable to accept orders without payment. No phone orders please.

Mother-Daughter Banquet Friday, May 11

Tickets will still be available in the narthex April 29. Price of tickets is: 12 years and older- \$10.00; ages 4-11- \$6.00; 3 and under - no charge.

Father's Day Carnation Sale

Carnations will be sold in the Narthex before and after the 10:30 service and in the Fellowship Hall during coffee and fellowship time on May 27, June 3, and June 10. Cost of flowers is \$1.25 each. Forms will also be available in the office 9 am-3 pm. Please make checks payable to F.C. United Methodist Women. Payment must be made at time of order. Please no phone orders.

United Methodist 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 pro-

gram will start at 7:00 PM. WE WILL MEET ON May 21st. Come at 7:00 if you only want to attend the program.

The program will be a presentation from "Bridges of Hope" and all men are asked to attend. 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 21st.

Miami Valley District UM Men are collecting pill bottle donations. They are sent to Matthew 25 Ministries in Cincinnati.

We probably receive about 3,000 pounds of pill bottles a month. Our Pill Bottle program has grown from a small collection organized by a friend of our Founder and President's living in a local retirement community to a nation-wide program fulfilling the dual needs of improving medical care in developing countries and caring for our environment.

Every pill bottle donated enhances one of these missions and the recycling aspect actually fulfills a dual mission, since it not only rescues plastics from landfills and incineration facilities, it

generates cash which goes into our programs. As many as 200 gaylords (4 foot x 4 foot x 4 foot boxes) of pill bottles may be saved from the landfill with every truckload of recyclable chips.

Acceptable collection items include: Prescription Pill Bottles, Over the Counter Pill Bottles, Large Pill Bottles, Small Pill Bottles, Pill Bottles with Secure Caps (child resistant), Pill Bottles without Secure Caps. (Faith Community's Collection containers are under the coat racks as you enter the education wing.)

Higher Education

Messages from some of our College Crew:

From Dean Ohde: Hey, Julie. I just wanted to pass on that I received the Girl Scout cookies and letter from the members at FCUMC. I wanted to thank you for the support getting me through college. If you could also pass on thanks to Ann Wolf, Marlene Gifford, Cinda Elliot, and Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins that would be much appreciated. It's been a while since I've given you an update but I graduate with my BS in May and will start my DPT shortly after still

at Ohio University. It's a 3-year program and I am very excited for it. My address will change around then and I'll be sure to get that to you once everything is finalized. Thank you again and I hope all is well back home in Xenia.

From Lauren Brickey: Thank you so much for the prayer and the cookies.

From Kylie Saner: I got my girl scout cookies in the mail! Thank you so much for thinking of me!

Congratulations to Lauren Brickey, Dean Ohde, and Abby Saner who will all graduate with their undergraduate degrees this May. *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6, NIV)*

Sunday School

Summer is coming and there are some needs in the Sunday School Department. We need volunteers to work with Joyce, Betsy, or me as we teach the children in a one class setting. We also need a teacher for the youth or some-

one to do what I do so I can teach the youth. Lucy Parsons has been a most capable teacher for one year but has asked us to find a replacement for her as soon as possible. If you have a desire to work with adorable youth for 30 minutes per week, this is your chance.

Give me a call at 937-766-5670 or email at vap1222@att.net.

Virginia Pinkerton

Passings

Prayers and Sympathy to Shirley Newton and family on the death of her husband **Russell Newton**; Don Huston and Jim Huston (Ann) and family on the death of **Carol Huston**, wife and mother; Joan Gnau, Cameron Snider, and David Snider on the death of their father, **Phillip Snider**.

Birth

Amelia Joy Burgess, was born on March 19, 2018. She is the daughter of Jennifer and Jeremy Burgess, sister of Conner and Hannah.

New Member

Welcome to Cinda Elliott who has transferred her membership from Verona UMC.

Showers for Blessings

At this time, we know of no expectant mothers. If you hear of one, please let Sandy Pramer or me know. Thank you, Virginia

Thank You

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your donation of seeds to the gardening program of Jackson Area Ministries. Gardeners in our area look forward to being able to plant vegetables and tomatoes and have fresh produce.

*Blessings,
Rev. Bob Davis, Director*



I want to thank everyone for their prayers, visits and cards while I was in the hospital. The woman who delivered the mail said I must have lots of good friends and I told her I was blessed with my church family. I am home and doing extremely well, and as we all know, prayer works! Thank you for yours.

Sheila Woosley



Thanks to the many members of our church family who sent cards, attended our 50th anniversary party, or who wished us well along

the way. It was a memorable day for us and we are blessed to have so many friends in our church. You made a difference and we are grateful.

*Love always to all of you,
Paul & Virginia
Pinkerton*

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Virginia Pinkerton

Common Cup News

• Food Court's last meal will be served on May 2.

Menu includes Ham Loaf and chicken a la King.

• The Henderson Settlement Mission trip is scheduled for June 4-6.

• You are invited to a Spaghetti Dinner at Oldtown UMC, 1639 US 68 N., Xenia, on May 19, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Menu is: Spaghetti, meatballs, salad, garlic bread, & a cookie. Carry-out only. Cost: donation. Limited number of gluten free available. All are welcome!

Deadline for June Faith Links: Wednesday, May 16



**Remember
those who
sacrificed for
our freedoms!**

UNITED METHODIST MEN'S ANNUAL GARAGE SALE is scheduled for **Friday, May 4 and Saturday, May 5**. Many have already responded with items for the garage sale and we are so appreciative of your support. If you are planning on donating significant items, it would be helpful if you would list those items below. Typical items donated are dishes, glassware, pots, pans, electrical items, pictures, games, toys, bikes, clocks, radios, TV's, garden tools, tools, mowers, etc. Please no clothing, and please make sure electrical items are in working condition or mark otherwise. If you have a garage sale prior to ours and have items left over, call us and we'll arrange to pick up left over items. **Items may be dropped off at the Community Center Thursday, May 3 from 1 to 8 PM, or Friday May 4 from 9 AM -12 Noon.** The sale runs from 6 to 9 PM Friday evening and will continue Saturday morning 9 AM to 11 AM. Pick up of items may be arranged by calling **John Sherer at 372-2204** Please list major items you plan to donate and put in the offering plate, turn into the church office, or give to John Sherer.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE# _____ If pick up needed, check this box ()

Your support is greatly appreciated!!
missions and projects.

Proceeds go for UMM