

## June 2018

Pastor: Barbara Schneckner

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### Sunday Worship

9:00-10:00 Sunday School

10:00-10:30 Fellowship Time

10:30-11:30-Worship in Sanctuary

### Worship Schedule

**June 3:** Pastor Barb

Holy Communion in Pews; Mark  
2:23-3:6

**June 10:** Mary Shumard

Mark 3:20-35

**June 17:** Men of Faith

Father's Day

Mark 4:26-34

**June 24:** Pastor Barb

Mark 4:35-41

### Sunday Participation

Date	Worship	SS
April 22	115	70
April 29	124	71
May 6	123	52
May 13	132	58
May 20		

### From Pastor Barb

It's Hard to See in the Dark!

“For you were once in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light...” Ephesians 5:8

Hidden from the world, impending new life is often physically evident when watching an expectant mom. Many changes take place as her external body transforms and the baby begins to grow and develop. Sheltered from outside influences and enclosed in darkness, it is the liquid surrounding the baby that provides for movement and growth. At an appointed time, the baby reaches maturity and the water breaks and the child is eventually delivered. This miracle is not lost on many of us.

Although Nicodemus in John 3 appeared to understand the concept and mystery of physical birth, he could not comprehend what it meant to be born again....to be born of the spirit.

If anyone could explain rebirth, it was Jesus! Nicodemus himself acknowledged that when he said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For

no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.” Jesus went on to tell him that to enter the kingdom of God required water birth and spiritual birth.

It was the evidence Jesus demonstrated through his work that provoked Nicodemus’ questions about new life. He did not understand that when we allow sin in our life we are dead to the spirit of God. Jesus went on to increase his understanding when he spoke and said, “That which is born of flesh is flesh but that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit.” Lest anyone want to argue whether you are sinful flesh walking in darkness, you only need to read Job 14:1. “Man that is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble.”

For many years I heard people speak of their born-again experiences. Most often I saw these persons as religious zealots given over to frenzy and hype. One part of me saw nothing in the world around them had changed one iota, but one thing I did notice is that these folks that had born again experiences were often able to discontinue negative behaviors and become new people. Being born

again is not a one-time experience, it is a birthing process. After experiencing a rebirth experience and as an avid church goer through the years, I thought the best place to start using my spiritual gifts would be to teach younger children in Sunday school. Do you know that children even at a very young age have inquisitive minds? They want to know everything...and they are persistent. It was a mini seminary session at an early age. I had to look up things that hadn’t even occurred to me... why? because inquiring minds want to know these important faith questions, just like Nicodemus.

Some of my friends that I attended church with on a regular basis let their thoughts of raising hands in church or even those who proclaimed to be overcome with the Spirit become somewhat off limits and taboo. Some of the kids would imitate those who had been overcome with the Spirit.

Then one Sunday, one of those people who had more or less made a pact of no hand clapping or raising their hands in praise, was moved by the Holy Spirit. After the service we talked about her display of emotion and what that was all about? She seemed ex-

tremely peaceful and filled with joy and as her eyes filled with tears, she responded, “I don't know but something came over me.” She demonstrated no shame.

A number of years have passed, and I admit that there are times when the Holy Spirit stirs inside of me. I love recalling those moments because it brings me a sense of peace. To be on fire for the Lord and spent spiritually is the most amazing feeling in the entire world! In a sermon that I preached on May 13, I mentioned that the one thing that we really need is to be filled by the Holy Spirit...and there was only one requirement...to ask God to fill us!

When was the last time you felt the Holy Spirit nudging you...filling you? What keeps you from asking? Pride can keep us in a cold, dark, damp place, but faith pulls us to a warm and comforting place. When we fully surrender our lives to Christ, there are changes that occur deep inside of us...changes that other people notice but most times cannot explain. Negative thoughts give way to new, positive thoughts. Visions of brighter futures and our understanding of the spirit of God living inside of us gives

birth to those who believe that God is able to do more with a willing person seeking the light of Jesus Christ than one filled with self-determination and pride.

Aren't we thankful for Jesus Christ and his atonement for our sins? What a blessing that God has given us a church...a faith family that we can worship and praise God... and even share our struggles. God is a good, good God, for he is faithful. We are God's church and we are caring people who share the love of Jesus Christ everywhere God sends us. God's light shines brighter when we serve together and build up the body of Christ. We are the church... and we glorify God through new birth each and every day...what a gift and what a blessing...in him there is no darkness for Jesus is the light of the world!



## Stephen Ministry

### ***Strength for the Moment***

This book written by Lori Hogan, cofounder of Home Instead Senior Care, caught my attention. As most of us know, being a caregiver can be very rewarding, but it can

also be exhausting both physically and emotionally.

Stephen Ministers are always looking for resources to help those who are caregivers.

*Strength for the Moment: Inspiration for Caregivers* is a keeper. It is designed to provide daily inspiration, strength, and encouragement for those who are caring for their loved one's physical and emotional needs.

As the author shares in her introduction, she chose the title *Strength for the Moment* because care giving situations often change from one moment to the next. She goes on to state, "At any given moment you may be praying for guidance and strength, patience while dealing with family members, wisdom to understand a doctor's instructions, endurance to make it through the evening shift, humor in a difficult or stressful situation, joy in times of trouble, courage to make tough decisions, one more day to share the gift of life, or encouragement to make it through the next moment and then the next."

If any of this sounds familiar, consider picking up this devotional book that emphasizes the many different emotions that are common among

caregiving relationships. Each of the fifty-two stories has an introduction, a verse of scripture, an inspiring story, and a caregiver prayer which is meant to bless you and to give you God's strength for every caregiving task.

*Strength for the Moment* promises to inspire caregivers and help them face each day refreshed in their thinking and prepared to provide the best help for those they love the most. A copy of *Strength for the Moment* is now available in the Stephen Ministry section of our adult library. Guideposts.org offers articles for caregivers as well. Under the Family and Friends tab on the website are subdivisions dealing with aging parents, caregiver burnout, and the sandwich generation.

As always, feel free to contact Becky Cultice @ 937-376-5747 to learn more about how a Stephen Minister might be helpful for you or your loved one. All of us have times when we can benefit by having support during especially challenging times in our lives. Our Stephen Ministers are here to walk alongside you for as long as is necessary.

## Higher Education

Congratulations to Samuel Johnson who has recently graduated from Xenia High School. Samuel plans to attend the University of Dayton in the fall and major in History. Please remember and be blessed with this bible verse, Samuel, as you work to continue your education - [Proverbs 16:3](#) *“Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.”*

## Congratulations to FCUMC's Educational Assistance Recipients!

Thanks to the generosity of members past and present, Faith Community is able to offer educational assistance each year to graduating high school seniors and to continuing education students as well. These funds come from gifts that were designated for scholarships. The amount varies from year to year depending upon how many individuals apply and upon the interest earned on these gifts. This year we are pleased to award a total of \$10,500 to six of our members. Graduating senior, Samuel Johnson, will be attending University of Dayton. The continuing education students receiving as-

sistance include Kimberly Johnson at Sinclair Community College, Emma Horney at the University of Kentucky, Hunter Ratliff at the University of Cincinnati, and Juliana Erwin and Brant Wickline at the Ohio State University.

**100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration  
Open House for  
Betty Anderson  
Sunday, June 3, 2-4 p.m.  
No gifts please  
cards welcome**

## United Methodist Women

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Carnations for Mother's Day sale.

Reminder that we will be selling carnations for Father's Day in the narthex before and after the 10:30 service and during coffee and fellowship time on June 3 and June 10. Forms will also be available in the office 9 am-3 pm through Wednesday, June 13.

## Circle Meetings

Lydia: Wednesday, June 14. 7 p.m. - Parlor

Priscilla: No June or July meetings

Dorcas: Tuesday, June 19, 1 P.M. - Parlor

## United Methodist Men of Faith

### **CALLING ALL MEN: - THIS MEANS YOU !!**

The Men of Faith will meet on Monday, June 18 in room 6. Start time is 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. The program will be a presentation from Bishop Palmer's 2017 Episcopal Address-Theme "**Be not Afraid- Facing the Future**". John Sherer will also give a brief preview of the Lakeside West Ohio Conference actions 2018. 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

#### **Potato Drop Project**

Every year during the West Ohio Conference (WOC) the United Methodist Men sponsor a POTATO DROP. We ask all delegates to bring a bag or 2 of potatoes. They are dropped off at a truck at Lakeside and all the potatoes are delivered to local food pantries. I'm suggesting that Faith Community members share in this worthwhile mission project by bringing a bag or 2 of potatoes and dropping them off at the flag pole outside of our church on the

morning of (Sunday) June 3rd. FCUMC delegates will deliver them to Lakeside that day. Thanks for your consideration.  
John Sherer

On behalf of the Faith Community Men of Faith, I want to thank everyone who donated items or gave their time & talents to make our garage sale a huge success. A special thanks to all the ladies who stepped up to help us men, sharing their time and talents in pricing and organizing the items. I'm happy to report that we cleared about \$3,254.00 in the 6 hours of sales. In addition, we donated items (probably worth another \$1,000.00) to the Salvation Army. We need younger men to volunteer. This would be a wonderful way for younger men of our church to get to know us older guys. This is a wonderful project but we do need younger blood to help with heavy lifting. To volunteer for next year, call me at 372-2204. To God be the glory as we use these funds to further His Kingdom through missions and projects here on earth.

Sincerely,  
John W. Sherer, Chair FCU-  
MOF Garage Sale

The Men of Faith is organizing a fun night out for families so we can get to know one another better.

We will attend the Saturday night, June 16th at FOX HOLLOW RODEO located at 1909 St. Rt. 73, Waynesville, Ohio 45068.

No RSVP required. Just show up. The rodeo starts at 6 PM. Fox Hollow rodeo offers something for everyone with both novice and jackpot bull riding, calf riding, & sheep riding (known as mutton bustin') for the younger cowboys and cowgirls. Free pony rides and line dancing during intermission and barrel racing. Cost to get in \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children (6-12).

Oh yes, there is food like famous chili fries, nachos, soft pretzels, popcorn, pulled pork barbecue, homemade chili, hamburgers, hot dogs and more. No alcohol is allowed and no carry in food. If you'd like to follow the Van or ride in the Van, call John Sherer at 372-2204. The Van will leave the church parking lot at 5:15 PM. It would be more fun to arrive together and sit to-

gether for an enjoyable evening.

This is especially planned for young families. So you all come!!

John Sherer,  
Organizer for MOF

### Blood Drive

Faith Community will host another blood drive on Monday, June 18 from 2:00-6:00 PM in the Community Center. Please help your community and others in the Miami Valley by donating blood. If you cannot donate for whatever reason, invite a relative or friend to stop by and give to help save lives. To make an appointment, go to [www.donor-time.com](http://www.donor-time.com) or call John Ford at 372-6641. Thank you for helping to save lives.

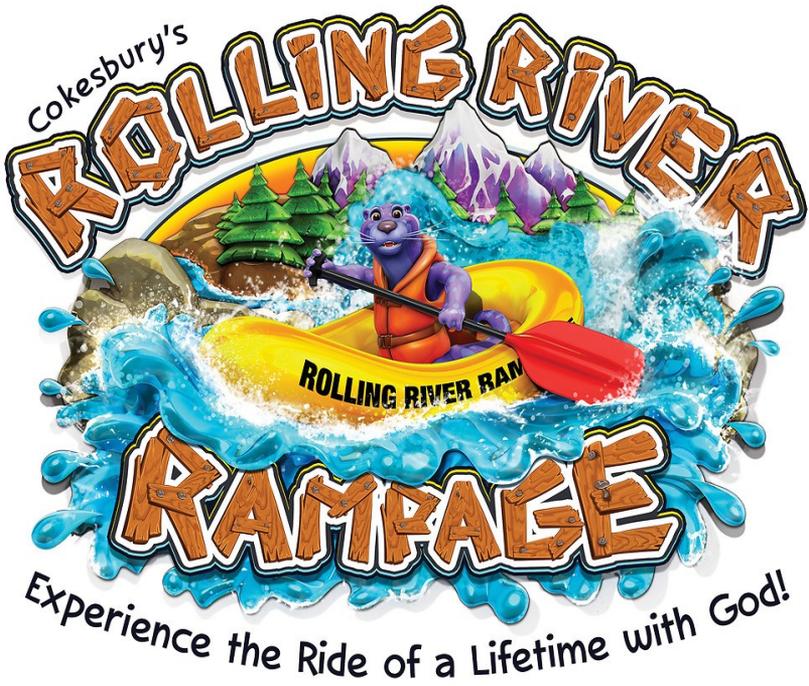
### Prayers and Sympathy

to family and friends of **Russell Pickering** on his passing; **Don Carroll** on the passing of his brother **Larry Carroll**; Family and friends of **Jean Dalessandro** on her passing.

**VBS 2018**  
**JUNE 11 – 15**  
**9:30 – 12:00**

**Crafts**

**Music**



**Songs**

**Games**