

November 2018 Give Thanks

Interim Pastor: John Guliano
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

To be determined

Attendance

Date	Worship	SS
Sept. 23	123	58
Sept. 30	106	50
Oct. 7	113	49
Oct. 14	137	66



We are pleased that Reverend John A. Guliano will be serving as interim pastor at Faith Community. He will be in the church office on Tuesdays 11:00 to 4:00 pm, and Thursdays, 10:00 to 2:00 pm. He will begin preaching full-time starting October 28.

Rev. John is an Elder in Full Connection in The United Methodist Church. He holds a Bachelor of

Arts in Music and Education from the Dana School of Music of Youngstown State University. He also earned a Master of Sacred Music as well as a Master of Divinity from Ashland Theological Seminary. Rev. John is a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor with Supervisory Designation and has a Master of Art in Clinical Pastoral Counseling. He owns and operates Cornerstone Counseling and Consulting Services in Hamilton, Ohio.

He has been a ministry and mental health professional for the past twenty years and is proficient in the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of behavioral health issues in children and adults. In addition to mental health counseling, he specializes in mood and anxiety disorders and men's health issues. He provides expert consultation to companies and groups regarding workplace issues and organizational development. He has worked in private practice as well as for the Cleveland Clinic, UC Health Medical Center and most recently the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio.

John is a Life Coach and certified by the International Coach Federation. He is also a Financial Coach working with individuals and couples seeking to eliminate debt and build wealth. He is also a Clergy Coach and a Ministry Assessment Specialist for the West Ohio Conference.

Rev. John has been married to Lisa, Superintendent of the Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities, for the past 30 years. They have two adult children, Robert and Marietta.



We need goodies to send to our 12 Faith Community college students. There is still time to donate items on Sunday, October 28 and November 4th. Julie Wickline will be outside the sanctuary prior to and following our 10:30am service, to collect items such as highlighters, pens, post-it notes, microwave popcorn, chips, candy, apples, teas, coffees, gum, boxes of raisins – really anything that you think a college student would appreciate and that can fit in a 12x12 shipping box. If you would prefer to make a monetary donation, that would be wonderful and can help cover the shipping costs involved. Any question call or text Julie at 937-207-8289.



Stephen Ministry **In Everything Give Thanks**

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us be glad and rejoice in it. Psalm 118:24

Every day we wake up we make a choice. We can think about all the things we wish were different about our lives or we can get up, do what we can, and find ways to give thanks for what we do have—the many ways we have been blessed. The challenge for all of us is to live gratefully. No matter what situation we find ourselves in, we can always find a reason to say “thank you” to the One who gives us every breath. It’s important to remember that we aren’t asked to give thanks for all circumstances, but to find ways to be grateful in the midst of them. “As long as thanks is possible, then joy is always possible,” says Ann Voskamp author of *One Thousand Gifts*. There is joy to be found, not only in the good times but in the challenging ones as well.

Now that autumn has arrived, we hear the familiar reminders, “Give thanks,” “Be grateful,” and “Count your blessings.” We celebrate Thanksgiving, offer prayers of thanks and then fall wreaths and decorations are stored until next year.

What if this year we kept intentional gratitude going? Some suggestions—some old, some new: Make it your November mission to look for opportunities to say thank you. Think of it as “Operation Appreciation.” Take note of things family and friends do that often go overlooked. Pay close attention to those around who are serving in some capacity and tell them thanks for doing a great job. If you see police, fire, or military personnel tell them how much you appreciate their service. Send thank you notes “just because”. Think about people God has placed in your life and the blessing they are just by being themselves. Surprise them by letting them know how much they mean to you. Pay attention to the words you speak. Challenge yourself to turn grumbling into gratitude. Shift your focus from what you wish you had to what you have already been given.

Life can be challenging, stressful, and filled with problems, but it is also filled with beauty, joy, and fulfillment. Research shows that people who regularly take time to notice things they are grateful for enjoy better relationships, show more compassion and kindness, and are happier overall. Consider keeping a gratitude journal. To stimulate gratitude think about what your life would be like without certain blessings. Record unexpected or surprising moments that led to gratitude. List things that you are grateful for and the small things you can celebrate.

Make Thanksgiving not just a day or a season, but a way of life. As we are reminded in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

One of the things I’m so grateful for is that we have a group of Stephen Ministers who are willing to walk alongside anyone who is going through a rough time and could benefit from having a Christian friend walk alongside them. To learn more, contact Becky Cultice at 376-5747.



Even in the midst of darkness...the Light Has Dawned

You are invited to Blue Christmas: A Service of Healing and Hope at Faith Community on December 6th at 6:30 p.m. This gathering is a time to recognize that Christmas can be a bittersweet time of the year. It is a time when some of us are reminded of what and who we have lost or what we've never had. The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, and the pain of isolation can make us feel very much alone in the midst of the festive season. All of this is compounded by the deepening darkness of the year. We need space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern. We need to feel that we are not alone. We need to know God's presence during this season.

So, we invite you to experience a meditative worship service that takes time for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. Join with us to hear scripture, offer prayers for healing and wholeness, and to hear song that acknowledges that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who grieve, for those who struggle. God's Word comes to shine light in our darkness.

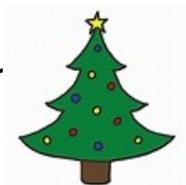


Our preschoolers are in full swing and having a great year so far! The older classes just had their first field trip to Apple Country Farm. We have a great group of kids and great teachers! We still have some spots open if you know of anyone looking for a preschool.

The preschool would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to the boy scouts, leaders, parents, trustees, and church members who made the purchase and spreading of the playground mulch a reality. The looks on the student' faces were priceless when they returned to school on Tuesday to see the mountain of mulch in the driveway on Monday transformed into their "new playground". The labor of love was worth every sore muscle and every drop of sweat.

It's Christmas in November

Look for the St. Paul's Christmas tree in the narthex beginning November 4. Please consider spreading God's love by providing a small gift for the St. Paul's after school program. The children will be able to select a Christmas gift for their family members through your generosity.



Select an ornament and buy a \$5-\$10 gift for a child, teen or adult listed on an ornament and return it, unwrapped, by November 25. The gift items will be taken to St. Paul's after school program and made available for the children's shopping event.

United Methodist Women

Circles:

Lydia – Wednesday, November 14, 7-8:30 pm-Parlor

Dorcas – Tuesday, November 20, 1-3:30 pm-Parlor

Priscilla – Monday, November 19, 7-9 pm-Parlor

CALLING ALL MEN: - THIS MEANS YOU !!

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 NOVEMBER 19th** . Come at 7:00 if you only want to attend the program.

The program will be a summary of the Leading an Effective Meeting webinar and will be presented by John Sherer. 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 19th.



The Faith Community Prayer Shawl Ministry is part of the outreach, prayers, and ministry that began through a divine nudge after the death of Betty Merrill's husband Howard. Over the years Betty and her son Mark have made and distributed hundreds of prayers shawls and lap robes.

At the encouragement of our own Julie Wickline, Director of Education and Staff Development at Hospice of Dayton, four of us began a six-month long course, *The Unbroken Circle*, at Hospice of Dayton. As we were looking for our first opportunity to move toward supporting members of our congregation through the seasons of illness, end of life, and grief, we chose to come alongside Betty and Mark to expand the Prayer Shawl Ministry they began years ago.

Since early August several of us have met on Thursdays from 11:30-12:30 p.m. in the parlor to knit or crochet. No prior knowledge is necessary. Betty and Mark have graciously

offered to teach any who are interested in learning. What began as a group of two has grown to more than a dozen and there's always room for more. If that time frame doesn't work for you, you can work on your own too.

During the October 7th worship service, we blessed more than a dozen prayer shawls that had been completed since we began getting together. Several others have been added since then. These prayer shawls are available in the church office. Feel free to pick up one for someone who is going through a challenging time. Joyous moments can be celebrated as well as difficult ones. Giving and receiving a shawl has tremendous potential to open doors of communication, reinforce relationships, and invite understanding and healing. It can be a tangible symbol of love when words can't be found to adequately express feelings. Shawl recipients often sense that there is hope for tomorrow, that they are not completely alone, and that someone cares enough to reach out and let them know. For additional information about this ministry, contact Mark Merrill (937-554-8086) or Becky Cultice (937-376-5747).

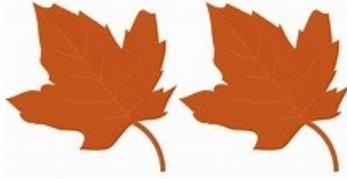
Thanks

Thank you for the hospital visits, all the beautiful cards, phone calls, and especially the many prayers; that is what got me through this.

Blessings ~~Sue Ann Beam



Prayers and Sympathy to the family and friends of Betty Geyer on her death.



**Faith Community
Annual Marketplace for Missions
November 9 and 10**

6pm - 9pm Friday
10am - 3pm Saturday

Over 20 vendor booths of homemade items and well-known products.

Our Daily Bread Café featuring Ham Loaves, Pulled Pork and Chili/Hotdogs

In the Baker's Table are homemade cookies, pies, party trays and more.
(50 cents off at Café or Baker Table with mission donation)

Silent Auction

Free admission but mission donations are accepted