



December 2018

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

Dec. 2: 1st Sunday of Advent; Lighting the Candle of Hope
Sermon Series: The Gift of the Nutcracker

1. Waiting for Christmas, Jeremiah 33:14-16, Luke 1:30-33
Sacrament of Holy Communion

Dec. 9: 2nd Sunday of Advent; Lighting the Candle of
Peace; Sermon Series: The Gift of the Nutcracker

2. A "God" Father's Love; Isaiah 40:1-5

Dec. 16: Third Sunday of Advent

Lighting the Candle of Joy; Sermon Series:
The Gift of the Nutcracker

3. Changing Perspective; Luke 3:1-6, Zephaniah 3:14-20

Dec. 23: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Lighting the Candle of Love

Sermon Series: The Gift of the Nutcracker

4. The Greatest Gift; Luke 1:47-55

December 24: Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service with Communion

Music at 8:30 p.m. Service at 9:00 p.m.

Dec. 30: Sunday After Christmas

"Looking Up"; Colossians 3:12-1

<u>Attendance</u>		
Date	Worship	S.S
Oct. 21	104	47
Oct. 28	135	55
Nov. 4	148	53
Nov. 11	164	67
Nov. 18	148	71

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

As the Christmas Season is upon us, I am thankful to almighty God for sending his only begotten Son to the world to be our salvation. Because of his unselfish love for us, we have the promise of eternal life with him. The Lord has truly blessed each and every one of us. One of the greatest blessings that we rejoice in this holiday season is the life and ministry of the Faith Community United Methodist Church. The presence of the Lord has truly been felt in the church and community throughout the decades. Many have come to know the Lord Jesus Christ, not only as the babe in the manger, but as the hope and salvation of their lives through the ministry of the church.

As this most festive yet reverent time of the year approaches, I welcome you to attend the regular Advent worship services, Sundays at 10:30. This Advent we will have a four-week sermon series that is family friendly and relevant to people of all ages. The series is titled "The Gift of the Nutcracker." The Nutcracker was first performed in 1892 and quickly became a holiday tradition, one that continues for many families to this day. This Christmas classic will be viewed in a new way, that is, through the **eyes of faith.**

Throughout history, people have debated and drawn a dividing line between the "sacred" and the "secular". At first the dividing line may seem obvious, but when we stop to exam-

ine what God has to say about this division, we might be surprised what we find. Scripture says all things were made through Christ and through Christ all things were reconciled to God. This iconic tale will help us understand God's greatest gift of the Christ Child and of the kingdom that Christ came to build. We will use this story along with the Holy Scripture to ponder God's most amazing gift at Christmas, our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is my prayer that you may invite someone to attend church during the Advent season. This is an excellent opportunity to host a family who may be unchurched or struggling to find the meaning of Christianity and the "culture" of the church. We can reach out to others using this sermon series and our worship to allow the God of all ages to work through the Holy Scripture and the Story to understand the most extraordinary gift— Jesus.

Thank you for welcoming me into the church and into your lives. It is my honor to serve as your pastor. I look forward to our Advent Worship as well as the Christmas Season.

Rev. John

Annual Conference – December 2

The Faith Community United Methodist Church annual conference will be held **December 2, 2018** following the morning worship service. A light lunch will be provided.

This will be a Church conference which means all active members will be voting. We encourage all members to attend as we will be determining our church governing structure.

In 2011, our church voted to use the Leadership Team model as our organizational structure. At this time the Leadership Team believes this decision needs to be revisited. We encourage all members to attend and be a part of this important decision.

Coping with the Holidays

The holiday season is supposed to be a time of joy, parties and gatherings with friends and families. But the holidays can be difficult for many dealing with personal grief, loneliness, illnesses, economic concerns, separation and other relationship issues. We talk about peace on earth but live with the reality of terrorism and the reality that many of our service men and women from our country are at war. The commercialism of the holiday season bombards us with many unrealistic expectations. And many feel overwhelmed when our “to-do” list goes on forever.

The holidays are especially difficult when our feelings of sadness, loneliness, depression and anxiety are the opposite of the “Hallmark” images we see all around us. Try as much as possible to maintain your routines like sleeping, exercising, taking medications and appointments. It is all right to excuse yourself for some time away from social gatherings. While continually isolating yourself is not helpful, there are times when solitude can be a time of replenishment, re-connection and satisfaction.

There are many opportunities to volunteer during the Holiday Season. The satisfaction of giving to others can help you put your own problems in perspective. Live in the **now!** Try to let go of past regrets and experiences and find joy in the present moment. And remember laughter is good medicine!

Overall, may the Holidays remind us that God welcomes us and loves us just as we are. His love always surrounds us and he will keep us in his care.



Stephen Ministry - Blue Christmas

You are invited to A Service of Healing and Hope at Faith Community on December 6th at 6:30 p.m.

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.

Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 16



The Community Christmas Concert Band under the direction of Glen Shawn will present a program of sacred and secular Christmas music on Sunday, December 16 at 3:00 p.m. in Faith Community's Sanctuary. The concert is presented with no admission fee, but donations for the purchase of music are appreciated. Come join us in the celebration of the birth of our Savior.

Sunday School Studies

Explorers meet in Room 6 led by Char Lee studying Welcome Home: Connection and Engaging People in the Church

Double I meet in 15C led by Wayne Cook, starting a 12 week study - Job Wrestling with God

Open Doors meet in the Parlor led by Sandy Pramer studying Grace by Max Lucado

Senior High meet in Room 8 led by John Sherer in a 14-week study of Book of John Chapter 1-10

Preschool - Grade 5 - Join the children under the leadership of Karen Mossing and Kylie Fleming for Bible studies and activities to reinforce the Bible story of the day.

In December the children will be studying about the birth of Jesus under the leadership of Joyce Smith and Betsy Murray with singing at 9:40. All children are welcome.

Please join your friends at 9 am.

United Methodist Women

Circles:

Lydia – Wednesday, December 12, 7-8:30 pm-Parlor

Priscilla – Monday, December 17, 7-9 pm-Parlor

Dorcas – Tuesday, December 18, 1-3:30 pm-Parlor

Calling All Men: This Means You !!

The Men of Faith will meet December 19 in room 6.. Start time is 6:30 PM and a meal will be served. The program will start at 7:00 PM. with election and installation of officers for 2019. We will then sing Christmas Carols followed by communion in the chapel. Come at 7:00 PM if you want to attend just for the program. Hope to see you there.

Love Packages

Thank you for your continued donations of new and used Christians materials for Christians overseas. Please keep the donations coming! Following is a testimony from India and number of packages shipped in 2018.

India:

Thanks, here is a praise report from the mission field. By the grace of God, our church team was able to reach 47 unreached villages, and we reached two hundred and seventy-five thousand people with the literature and new praise and thank God for the privilege given to us to visit as first missionary to these 47 new villages. We have distributed more than two hundred thousand pieces of literature in the last 5 months. We also have displayed crucifixion of Jesus Film, through this way God enabled us to take the gospel to many unreached people. Because of the outreach literature ministry three thousand and twenty-one people have accepted Christ and we keep baptizing them in various places and pioneering churches. We are sending fulltime workers there to prepare great harvest of souls for the kingdom of God.

Totals	For	2018
Shipped from ILLINOIS - Butler		
Country	Pounds	#Pkgs
Dominican RP	40,000	1,244
Ghana	280,000	10,724
Guatemala	40,000	1,121
Haiti	60	2
Honduras	8,934	336
India	440,000	16,499
Kenya	200,000	7,802
Liberia	80,000	2,439
Mexico	460	9
Nigeria	120,000	5,292
Philippines	120,000	4,541
South Africa	280,000	10,960
Saint Lucia	40,000	1,609
Saint Vincent	40,000	1,360
Tanzania	80,000	3,023
Thailand	120,000	4,128
Uganda	40,000	1,501
Trinidad	40,000	1,507
Zimbabwe	80,000	2,363
Shipped from ALABAMA		
Country	Pounds	#Pkgs
Afghanistan	420	35
Bahamas	125	4
El Salvador	110	4
Ghana	160,000	6,239
Guatemala	110	4
Guinea	40,000	1,555
Honduras	275	14
India	280,000	10,027
Kenya	40,000	1,279
Mexico	380	12
Philippines	42,441	1,329

Poland	9,345	489
South Africa	40,000	1,383
Ukraine	105	4
Zambia	40,000	1,485
Zimbabwe	40,000	1,677
Other	160	12
TOTAL	2,742,925	102,012
	1,372 TONS	
	Volunteers	
	Alabama – 615	
	Illinois – 1,990	

Faith Community Preschool Upcoming Events

Breakfast with Santa Wednesday Dec. 5th

This is a special breakfast for our Preschoolers. They will get to eat breakfast, see Santa and tell him what they want for Christmas, as well as get a special gift from Santa and do some fun Christmas Crafts.

Christmas Program Saturday Dec. 15th at 10:00am

Our preschoolers will put on a special program for parents, grandparents, friends and family. They will sing songs they have learned as well as some finger plays. Then we will have punch and cookies afterwards. Everyone is welcome to this event.

It is time to order **Poinsettias** for the Christmas services.



Order forms will be in the bulletin December 2 and December 9, and in the office December 3 – 6. The cost per plant is \$10.00

Birth Announcement - Elli (Elliott Ann Louise Adrian) was born August 13, 2018, in Philadelphia. She is the daughter of Laura Dillingham and Jon Adrian, sister of Bryson. Grandparents are Dawn and Wally Dillingham; great-grandparent, Marlene Gifford.

Prayers and Sympathy to

Bruce (Debbie) Spittler on the death of Bruce's niece **Kellie MacKenzie**

Laurie Krakowiak on the death of her sister, **Pat Seddon**

Don Luttrell, Becky (Mike) Tittle and family on the death of **Jo Luttrell**, wife and mother

Flo Harner and Lisa (Gary) Trent and family on the death of **Joe Harner**, husband and father

Kim Etter and family on the death of her husband **Robert Etter**

Donna Ritenour on the death of her sister, **Marjorie Schneider**

Mathew Bone and Jane Bone on the death of their mother **Mary Jane Bone**

Dorothy Montgomery, Brad (Tami) Montgomery, Eric (Amy) Montgomery, Stephanie Bradbern, Richard Montgomery on the death of **Robert Montgomery**, husband, father, and brother.



To Faith Community Congregation,

Last week Carol Stewart brought me a lovely prayer shawl that someone knitted. I really appreciate the kindness and the many prayers for me. I think of you fondly each time I wrap up in it.

Blessings~~Joyce Branham



Thanks to all those who provided gifts for the St. Paul's after school program, which enables children to select a Christmas gift for their family members.



A big THANK YOU to our church family for many prayers and cards during my recent stay (October 7 through 14) at Methodist Hospital, Indianapolis, IN. It meant so much to Alice and me to know that you all were praying for us. The Chaplain of that hospital mentioned to me that he was called by someone in our church and asked to visit and pray with us. How blessed we are! Thanks again.

In Christian Love ~~Harry and Alice Osman



A big thank you to everyone who donated items or money for our college students' care packages. Your generosity is much appreciated



Thanks to Betsy Murray, Jim and Joyce Osburn, Ed and Margaret Stidham, and Rick and Joyce Smith for once again making our church beautiful for the Christmas season.

We would like to thank everyone for their concerns for John during his recent health issues. We have appreciated the prayers, the cards, the calls, and the visits which have all helped us through a difficult time. John is still receiving treat-

ment but is doing much better. We realize what a very caring congregation we have at FCUM.

*Sincerely,
John and Carolyn Bailey*

A sincere thank you to those who baked goods for our Baker's Table section of Marketplace for Missions . We have some wonderful cooks here in Faith Community and we appreciate those who share their gift of baking with the community. I appreciate Nikki and Nancy Wellman who worked so faithfully. May God bless us all as we share our gifts with others.

Virginia Pinkerton

Thanks to the Family Outreach Committee who have been so busy this past month. This team of ladies deserve a round of applause for the good they do for our church and the community at large. We are blessed by their kind deeds.

Please Note: We need your help in keeping track of shut-ins, those in hospitals, nursing homes, etc. We want to make sure that we are aware of all those who need visitation, cards, and prayers. You may contact the church office via phone – 372-7601 or email – office@fcum.org.

Blood Donors

Community Blood Center thanks the following for presenting to donate at Faith Community's blood drive on Monday, October 15: Karen Beyer, Christopher Bradley, Steven Brodsky, Donald Coakley, Cynthia Connolly, Alison Corry, Richard Critz, Wallace Cypher, Emily Degler, Grant Degler, Lynn Dell, Diane Dubose, James Erbaugh, Susan Fellie, Michael Fitzmaurice, John Hames, Dallas Hanson, Mark Hartman, Rebecca Holland, Tina Jonas, Gail Lewis, Richard Lewis, Laura Long, Edward Mangen, Jason Mick, Chandra Minch, Virginia Mitchell, Richard Montgomery, Betsy Murray, Lucy Parsons, Jaclyn Pierce, Jodi Pitzer, Michael Place, Sandra Pramer, Mark Schroeder, Cherie Sheets, Jane Sheets, Richard Stelzer, Alan Stock, Jessica Stuart, John Tatman, Adrienne Traxler, Thomas Wallman, Cody Weaver, Barbara Zulliger.

One donation can help save several lives and each donor is a hero to someone in our community!

Deadline for January Faith Links:
Friday, December 14



***Have a Blessed Christmas and a
Happy New Year***

Something to think about.....

Our struggles make us stronger, our experiences make us wiser, and our past makes us realize that we are meant to go through these things in order for our future to be brighter. We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we have faith. Only God knows why he does things. Having a positive attitude towards problems and disappointments will enable you to have an amazing life full of beautiful surprises. And that is exactly is what is happening in our church!! Have you noticed more smiling people in church that is made up of old friends as well as new visitors? Have you noticed that people are talking about the service and engaging in fellowship and laughter?

Do you realize that people are giving more, offering their services and thinking positively about new ways to reach God's kingdom in and outside of our church building? Have you heard the joyous hymns and the sound of the joy of the Lord? Our church is becoming what God wants us to be? If you have experienced these things, then tell someone. Our church is poised to change lives- both on the inside as well as the outside. Perhaps this can be placed on your refrigerator and daily we can witness to what we have seen and experienced. Most importantly, let us thank God! Every time we're able to say "yes" to these experiences, we are experiencing the essence of Christ in our midst. To God Be the Glory!

**kindest regards.
Mike Murray, Lay Leader**

Christmas Eve, Eve December 23



Come join us for a casual family gathering with food, a service and hymn singing.

We'll will have soup and sandwiches at 6:00 p.m. and singing and service at 7:00 p.m.

Anyone who wants to come is welcome. It will be a fairly short service (about 45 minutes).

We will have our regular Candlelight service on Christmas Eve with music at 8:30 p.m. and service at 9:00 p.m.