

January 2019

Pastor: John Guliano

937-372-7601 office@fcum.org. www.fcum.org

Sunday Worship

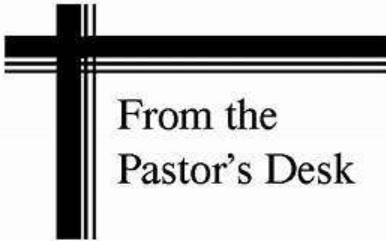
9:00-10:00 Sunday School

10:00-10:30 Fellowship Time

10:30-11:30-Worship in Sanctuary

Attendance

Date	Worship	Sunday School
Dec. 2	165	56
Dec. 9	155	66
Dec. 16	166	52



An Extraordinary Renewal

Can you believe it? We are at the start of another new year! There are many thoughts, feelings and emotions about starting something new. It's hard to start a new school. It's hard to move into a new home. It's hard to be a new parent or spouse. It's hard to be newly retired. It's hard to lose someone you love. It's just hard to be a new "anything." Although, "newness" may be a challenge, being new is one of the most important things we can ever be. It gives us the chance to start over, to begin again, and to write on a blank page. Being new may be difficult, but it is vital.

Being new is vital because being new is the future. God calls each and every one of us to begin anew. One of the most important things about our faith is the opportunity God gives us to be “renewed.” In the process, it takes us deeper into the mystery of God. When we are forced to grow and stretch beyond our comfort zones, there is new life in us.

Being your “new” pastor gives me the opportunity to get to know you and your families. It gives the church an opportunity to see things in a new light and to discern what God has in store for our future. I am excited about the church and our ministries but am compelled to look beyond our present to the future. I see our church being “renewed” in our commitment to grow and to reach new generations for Jesus Christ.

Now, here’s the challenge—can we allow ourselves the “un-comfortableness” of being new and the patience it takes to see where God may be taking us? We all know the military saying, ready-aim-fire. Yet sometimes due to our anxiety or fear about a situation, we resort to ready-fire- and then aim, missing the target. Instead of reacting, can we sit back and allow the Holy Spirit to inspire our hearts? Waiting on God is never easy, but when he showers us with his goodness and love, we can’t help but praise and exalt him.

Lastly, as you stand in the doorway of the New Year, why not resolve this year to be a special year— a year filled with renewal and commitment to making your life, as well as our church, an extraordinary time of renewal.

Blessings,
Rev. John

PR/HR Meeting
Thursday January 3, 2019 @ 4:30p.m.
with Dr. Roper



Stephen Ministry

Blessed to Be a Blessing

Whether we make New Year's resolutions or not, most of us reflect on the year that has passed and look ahead to the coming year. It is a time when we intentionally look back and ahead—maybe assessing what's gone well and thinking about what we might do differently. I challenge all of us to do this not only personally but also as members of Faith Community.

For some in our midst, our church family is their family. When we lived in Connecticut we were hundreds of miles away from any relatives. Our church family was our family, and I'll always be grateful for their love and support. Likewise once we returned to Ohio, our church family stepped up and provided support with ongoing gifts of caring and presence. They truly were the hands and feet of Christ. Challenging times became bearable. Have you experienced the same? I know many have because I've seen how this church family reaches out to others—quietly, boldly, repeatedly. Can we be even more intentional about providing love and support to others whatever the need—large or small?

One way we can start is to reach out to one another, communicate, and let others know when support might be appreciated. That support can come in many ways—phone calls, cards, visits, prayer shawls, meals, transportation, a listening ear. The possibilities are endless, but unless we know about the need we can't be there for each other.

We all have different gifts, things we do well and enjoy doing. Think outside the box. How can each of us share these gifts? Even the seemingly smallest gestures mean a lot. I know because I've been on the receiving end. For me whether it was the dear friend who in my husband's final hours told him that she loved us both and that she'd take care of me (and she faithfully has), to another who trimmed my shrubbery while I was in Maryland following my mother's death, persons who provided a listening ear, the faithful friend who

always provides “road food” and wants to know whether or not I’ve arrived at my destination, those who extend dinner invitations on holidays, and those who ask how I’m doing and really want to know.

Likewise, we all need to learn to be receptive when it’s our time to receive support. Many of us are more comfortable being on the giving end. After all, most of us were taught at an early age that it is more blessed to give than to receive. My neighbor uses an expression that applies to those of us who are givers and have difficulty being on the receiving end, “Don’t take away my blessing.”

Within our midst are those who are alone or lonely. May we all look for ways that we can offer support and unconditional love so that we all will know that there are others who care about us. We all will be blessed as a result. Start small. Dream big. Venture outside your comfort zone.

Will we at Faith Community embody “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors”? In this new year may the hymn “Here I Am Lord” be our prayer and guide.

As Stephen Ministers, we would like to be present with you to walk alongside you to share any burden you may be carrying. If you or someone you know would like to know more, contact Becky Cultice at 937-376-5747 or culticer@sbcglobal.net.



Pastor John is looking for musicians as well as singers who may be interested in forming an acoustic Praise Band. If you are interested in this ministry area please let him know by calling the office or emailing him at johng133@aol.com.

Faith Community Preschool

We had a wonderful Breakfast with Santa and Christmas Program!! We will be on break from December 24-January 7th. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

What is Compassion?

Among emotion researchers, it is defined as the feeling that arises when you are confronted with another's suffering and feel motivated to relieve that suffering.

Compassion is not the same as empathy or altruism, though the concepts are related. While empathy refers more generally to our ability to take the perspective of and feel the emotions of another person, compassion is when those feelings and thoughts include the desire to help. Altruism, in turn, is the kind, selfless behavior often prompted by feelings of compassion, though one can feel compassion without acting on it, and altruism isn't always motivated by compassion.

While cynics may dismiss compassion as touchy-feely or irrational, scientists have started to map the biological basis of compassion, suggesting its deep evolutionary purpose. This

research has shown that when we feel compassion, our heart rate slows down, we secrete the “bonding hormone” oxytocin, and regions of the brain linked to empathy, caregiving, and feelings of pleasure light up, which often results in our wanting to approach and care for other people. That’s nice to know.

Men of Faith

ATTENTION ALL MEN: The Men of Faith will be meeting on the third Monday of each month in 2019. 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 January 21st. Come at 7:00 if you only want to attend the program. The program will be planning the budget, program topics and activities for 2019. 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.

United Methodist Women

Priscilla: Monday, January 21, 7pm - Parlor
Lydia: Wednesday, January 9, 7pm - Parlor
Dorcas: No January meeting

Prayers and Sympathy

to Phyllis Nickoson and family on the death of her sister-in-law, Ann Roberts, and family and friends of William Spahr on his death.

Please Note: The Trustees, in an effort to maintain the pew seats and carpet in the Sanctuary, would like to request NO food or drink, except water, be brought into the Sanctuary. Your help in keeping this area clean is appreciated.



Freezer for Sale: The Trustees are selling the chest freezer which has been located in the kitchen storage room. It works fine at this time. Asking price is \$75.00. Please contact Margaret Stidham at 937-768-4503 if you are interested or have questions.



Thanks to all who purchased poinsettias to help beautify our Sanctuary for the Christmas season.

Habitat for Humanity wishes to thank Faith Community UM for your recent gift. Your support will provide families in the Dayton area the strength, stability, and self-reliance that result from homeownership. Your continued support is deeply appreciated.

Thanks to our many volunteers. Faith Community couldn't function without you.

Donna Fugate has submitted her resignation as Office Assistant at Faith Community effective December 27th, 2018. Donna has served Faith Community well this past year as Secretary, Receptionist, and Administrative Assistant. She now has the opportunity to go to Hawaii for two months (January and February) to help some family friends living there. The SPRC Team is in the process of hiring a new Administrative Assistant for the church office and an announcement will be made very soon.

Wayne Cook,
Chair, SPRC



Common Cup Carry-In Wednesday, January 23
Faith Community Center

Bring your favorite dish to share. Tableware will be provided. We plan to eat at 5:30 P.M.

Everyone is invited.



Deadline for February Faith Links:
Friday, January 18

HAPPY NEW
2019
YEAR

January 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 	2 10 AM- Bulletin DL 6:15-7:15pm- Handbells-Music Room 7:30-8:30pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary	3 9am-Piano Tuning 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 11:30-12:30pm- Prayer Shawl-Parlor	4	5
6 9-10am-Sun- day School 10-10:30a-Fellow- ship and Coffee 10:30-11:30am- Worship-Sanctuary	7 6:30-8:30pm-Cub Scouts-Rm. 5,11,12 6:30-9pm-Stephen Ministry-Library 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	8 11:30pm-Building Use Mtg-Pastor's Office 1pm-Preschool Meeting-#4 6-9pm-Volleyball- FCC 6:30pm-Worship De- sign-Pastor's Office	9 10 AM- Bulletin DL 6:15-7:15pm- Handbells-Music Room 7:30-8:30pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary 7pm-Lydia-Parlor	10 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 11:30-12:30pm- Prayer Shawl-Parlor 7-9pm-Grief Sup- port-Parlor	11 6pm-Volleyball- FCC	12
13 9-10am-Sun- day School 10-10:30a-Fellow- ship and Coffee 10:30-11:30am- Worship-Sanctuary	14 6:30-8:30pm-Cub Scouts-Rm. 5,11,12 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	15 11:30pm-Build- ing Use Mtg-Pas- tor's Office 6:30-8:30pm-G.S. Meeting-15A,B,C, Youth Room 16-A 6:30p-Leadership Mtg.-#6	16 10 AM- Bulletin DL 6:15-7:15pm- Handbells-Music Room 7:30-8:30pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary	17 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 11:30-12:30pm- Prayer Shawl-Parlor	18 Faith Links Deadline	19
20 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30a-Fellow- ship and Coffee 10:30-11:30am- Worship-Sanctuary	21 6:30-8:30pm-Cub Scouts-Rm. 5,11,12 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 7-9pm-Priscilla Circle-P 6:30-9pm-MOF- Room 6	22 11:30pm- Building Use Mtg- Pastor's Office 1-3:30pm-Dorcas- Parlor 6-8pm-Girl Scouts- 15-A,B,C-Youth Room 16A 6-7pm-Mission Out- reach Team-Library	23 10 AM- Bulletin DL 6:15-7:15pm- Handbells-Music Room 7:30-8:30pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary 5:30-6:30pm-Com- mon Cup Carry-in- FCC	24 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 11:30-12:30pm- Prayer Shawl-Parlor	25 6pm-Volleyball- FCC	26 5pm-Double I-FH- A/Kitchen
27 9-10am-Sun- day School 10-10:30a-Fellow- ship and Coffee 10:30-11:30am- Worship-Sanctuary	28 6:30-8:30pm-Cub Scouts-Rm. 5,11,12 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	29 11:30am-Building Use Mtg-Pastor's Office	30 10 AM- Bul- letin DL 6:15-7:15pm- Handbells-Music Room 7:30-8:30pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary	31 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 11:30-12:30pm- Prayer Shawl-Parlor		