

March 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

Lenten Sermon Series: "Called"

Our Lenten sermon series show us how God interrupts the lives of ordinary men and women, calling and empowering them to live lives of service they never would have imagined on their own. This series shows that the same God that called six of the bibles most iconic characters: Abraham, Samuel, Esther, Jonah, Mary Magdalene and John, calls us also, to bring hope and transformation to the world. We will learn how to hear and respond to the unique call God is placing on our lives.

Date	Attendance	
	Worship	Sun. School
January 27	141	57
February 3	165	54
February 10	126	50
February 17	135	62

From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

As the month of March is upon us, we enter the Holy Season of Lent in our church. This six-week period of preparation for Easter is an opportunity for us to reflect on our personal walk with the Lord as well as our "human" journey that we face on this earth as son and daughters of the Lord Most High. Lent can be a good time of sharing who we are and knowing who we are.

Are human beings “good” or “bad?” The answer is both. We have the potential for great righteousness and great evil, but most of us live somewhere in between. If, then we are going to make Lent a period of sharing who we are, what is it that we share?

Lent is a penitential season and the Lenten color, **purple**, signifies repentance. Many people give up something for Lent, a favorite food or luxury, but what good is “giving up,” if we do not also “give to?” We need to add something.

Let’s look at both of these. We do not need to give up, get rid of those things that make our lives less than our best. We need to turn ourselves around at times, for we are fallible and often make misjudgments, pursuing wrong or inadequate goals. But what parent would want a child constantly lamenting his or her failings and endlessly saying, “I’m sorry?” Parents and God seek a rewarding life, a productive life for those whom we love.

Lent calls us to find our genuine, whole selves. In the process we turn away from those things that are counter-productive or unworthy, but we seek primarily to turn towards what has true value. Who—really are you? And what could you become, with God’s guidance? There is a lot of good in everyone, often more than we give them credit for. We all have within us the seeds that can produce beautiful growth.

Getting to know who we are—self-discovery—is a good thing to add to our Lenten observance. The objective, though, is not to draw up a balance sheet of good and bad within us. It is rather an effort to “accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative.” We are called to be all that we are able to be as God’s children.

I invite you to join me in starting our Lenten journey on March 6, 2019. We will have a soup and salad dinner at 5:00 p.m. followed by an Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30 p.m. May we be blessed as we introspect our human lives that are transformed by the spiritual presence of the Holy Spirit in our daily journey.

Blessings ~~ Rev. John

Confirmation Class

We will be having a Confirmation Class for grades 7-12 beginning Sunday, March 24th from 9:00-10:00 am. Students who are interested should contact the church office for registration and further information. Confirmation will be held on Sunday, June 9, 2019. The class will be taught by Pastor John and John Sherer. Please pray for these young adults as they consider making a personal commitment to follow Jesus through membership in His church.

Stephen Ministry

Continue Praying!

“Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference.”

Max Lucado

While we are told that there is not a right or wrong way to pray and that for each of us prayer is an individual thing, sometimes it helps to have some suggestions.

Prayer is an essential component of Stephen Ministry. Several years ago we had the opportunity to attend a workshop “Pray with Me” as part of our continuing education. Jackie Nowak then of Southminster Presbyterian spoke about many aspects of prayer including “When to Pray.” She shared the following: Sometimes the expectation and timing of a prayer is obvious: before a meal, at the conclusion of a meeting, during our worship rituals, when tucking a child into bed, when a friend is about to be wheeled off to surgery.

Sometimes, though, we find ourselves in circumstances where prayer, at least prayer aloud with others is not going to happen unless we initiate it. Then we can honor our intuition that the time is right, allow prayer to be a response to joy as well as concern. Be conscious of times when others have offered to pray with us and how that felt. Always ask permission but don't be offended if the person asked says, “No.” Consider sharing scripture, formal prayers we already have in

common, blessings, or other material that has inspired us as the content of prayer. Eliminate the anxiety over “what” and/or “how” to pray so that the decision remaining is “when.”

Sometimes the opportunity to pray aloud just isn't there. Then, with confidence that God is always listening, we can accept that prayer can take many forms: the touch of a hand, the sharing of feelings, simply the occasion of being together.

Check the Care Notes in the narthex under the Stephen Ministry bulletin board for additional suggestions about prayer: *Discovering Simple Ways to Pray, Squeezing Prayer into a Busy Life*, and those specifically geared for Lent—*Prayer Starters for All the Days of Lent* and *Five Simple Ideas to Enrich Your Lent*.

For further information about “Pray with Me” or Stephen Ministry, contact Becky Cultice, 937-376-5747.

“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

I Thessalonians 5:16-18

Forgiveness: Yours, Mine, and Ours

The Greater Dayton Stephen Ministry Network is sponsoring a presentation by Rev. Kitty Kincaid, Executive Director, New Creation Counseling Center, on March 10th at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 33 West Dixon Avenue in Oakwood. Registration begins at 2:15 with the program from 2:30-4:30. Light refreshments will be served. Since forgiveness is a challenge that most of us deal with at one time or another we invite you to join us for this relevant in-service. All are welcome. For additional information including the possibility of care pooling, contact Becky Cultice at 376-5747.

Please Note: John Sherer wishes to inform all church members that if they wish him to sing at a funeral, he would be happy to do so at no charge, providing he is available.

United Methodist Women

Lydia: Wednesday, March 13, 7pm – Parlor

Priscilla: Monday, March 18, 7pm - Parlor

Dorcas: Tuesday, March 19, 1pm - Parlor

An Invitation to the Women's Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, March 16, 2019 at 9:30 AM -Delicious food, fellowship and an inspirational speaker, Sheila Luther. Tickets may be purchased (\$6) at church on Sunday mornings, March 3 and 10 or in the office, 9:30 AM-2:30 PM, Monday-Thursday
Come and bring a friend!

Men of Faith

The Men of Faith will meet on March 18 in room #6. A meal will be served at 6:30 p.m., followed by the program at 7:00 p.m. The program will be a Review of the United Methodist Special General Conference decisions regarding the four proposed plans they will be considering for the future of the United Methodist Church. The decision could have a great impact on our church worldwide. 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. Hope to see you on the 18th.

LOOKING AHEAD: Men of Faith annual garage sale date is May 3rd and 4th. Pick up date is May 2nd. If you have items that need to be picked up before that, contact John Sherer at 372-2204 or email at shererjw@aol.com .

Featuring A Friend of Faith.... Ann Ledbetter

Dear Reader,

I recently took the opportunity to visit Ann Ledbetter and her handsome cat, Zippy. Ann was the most gracious hostess. Zippy was jealous of my presence but eventually he trusted me enough to leave the room and take a nap. That gave me the opportunity to talk with Ann and learn a portion of HER story. I would like to share some of that with you.

Ann is the youngest of 5 children with her oldest sister being 21 years older than she. She is a lifelong resident of Greene County.

Ann graduated from Xenia High School, worked for Ohio Bell for 12 years, then began her career with Dayton Power and Light. In those days, if women worked it was a secretarial role but Ann was not that. She and the Home Economist, Judy Fricker, were put in a little room the size of a closet with 2 desks and 2 phones. In 1974 she was promoted as a DP&L representative. Many years later she realized she was given the promotion so she would quit. Her boss thought women could not do the hard work. Instead Ann learned how to speak her mind, grow from her mistakes, and became a very successful business woman. She worked with farmers to electrify their farms, and laid out the electrical gridwork for several plats in Greene County.

In the early 70's Ann married a widower, Roy Ledbetter. They were happily married until he passed away in 1991.

Ann became a member of the Lumberton Methodist Church at age 15, then, when she and her mother moved to Xenia, she attended First Church. She spoke lovingly of the beauty of that church. She was a member here when Faith Community was formed and has always been active in the work of this church.

Ann was instrumental in the founding of Common Cup; she works as a greeter in the church office; she is active in United Methodist Women and served 8 years as Treasurer of

Dayton South District of United Methodist Women. She has also served as a trustee; on the Pastor Parish committee, and the Administrative Board.

Her favorite scripture is 2 Timothy 1:7. "For God did not give us a spirit of timidity but of power, of love, and of self-discipline." Ann demonstrates that scripture in all her endeavors. Ann's hope for our church is that we continue the path of cooperating, working together and serving the Lord.

Ann, we salute you and thank you for the many gifts you share with us for Christ. May God continue to bless you (and Zippy).

And now, dear reader, you know a bit more about our faithful friend of Faith Community, Ann Ledbetter.

~Virginia Pinkerton

Faith Community Preschool

FUNDRAISER: Chipotle Tuesday March 5th from 4:00pm-8:00pm. Please come support our Preschool. At checkout tell them you are there for our Fundraiser.

REGISTRATION: We are accepting registrations for 2019-2020 school year!! Tell your friends and family that have children from the ages of 3-5 to come check out our preschool.

Coffee time

Join us for coffee, a snack, and lots of greeting fellow Christians from 10-10:30 each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall (by the kitchen). Coffee and snacks will be served until 10:20 which allows time for clean-up. All are welcome. We are in the process of re-structuring this time of fellowship and are looking for groups, committees, and Sunday School Classes to host a month out of the year. Open Doors class has agreed to host in March; Explorers in April; and Double I in May. We invite your committee or group to also sign up for a month. Contact Virginia Pinkerton @937-766-5670 for more information.

Sunday School

We have Sunday School classes available for all age groups. We invite you to join a class. It's good to come and learn from other non-perfect Christians as we all strive to learn about Christ. We have classes available for ages 3-100. For more information, contact the church office.

Nursery and Child Care Providers

Faith Community is seeking child care providers for Sunday worship, Wednesday choir rehearsals, and special events. These persons will be paid \$10/hour and must have AED and CPR training and pass a background check. Interested persons should contact the church office or Wayne Cook (937-479-8020 or wlcook47@gmail.com).

VBS Special Offering

During the season of Lent and Easter Sunday, the church will be collecting a special offering to support Vacation Bible School. Your gift will help provide for children participating in this year's program "ROAR" Life is Wild – God is Good. The cost is approximately \$25 per child. Our goal is to raise \$2,500. VBS offering envelopes will be available in the pews or office. Please mark your check VBS. Thank you for your prayers and support as we prepare to explore God's goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith powering them through this wild life.

Prayers and Sympathy to

Family and friends of *Hazel Fernalld-Prickett* on her death; Meri-
beth Debord on the death of her father *Ray Harruff*;
Family and friends of *Wallace Gossett* on his death;
Genevieve Kroemer and family on the death of her husband *Fred Kroemer*,

Susan Miller and family on the death of her mother *Mary Ellen Lewis*;

Don (Ann) Wolf, Ed (Irma) Wolf Jr., Mike (Catherine) Wolf, Karen (Jim) Sturgeon, and John Wolf on the death of their mother *Marguerite Wolf*.

Daylight Saving Time Begins, Sunday, March 10

Deadline for April Faith Links: Monday, March 18



Ash Wednesday, March 6

Please join us for a soup and salad meal at 5:00 P.M. in the Community Center. A free-will offering for the meal will be accepted and proceeds will be donated to Bridges of Hope. The Ash Wednesday Service will follow at 6:30 P.M. in the Sanctuary.



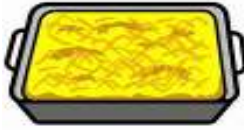
Common Cup Carry-in Wednesday, March 27

Faith Community Center

Bring a dish to share. Tableware and drinks will be provided.

Be prepared to eat at 5:30 P.M.

Everyone is invited!.



Check it Out! If you have not already done so, please take a look at Faith Community's "renovated" website. Same address: www.fcum.org. You'll find sermons, downloadable apps, and much more.

March 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 3:30-5:30pm-XHS Band Boosters-FCC	2
3 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30a-Fellowship and Coffee 10:30-11:30am-Worship-Sanctuary	4 6:30-8:30pm-Cub Scouts-Rm. 5,11,12 7-9pm-Stephen Ministry-Library 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	5 3:30-5:30pm-XHS Band Boosters-FCC 6-8pm-Girl Scouts-15ABC, 16A Youth Rm. 6-9pm-Magic Volleyball-FCC 6:30-8:30pm-Trustees-#6	6 10 AM- Bulletin DL Ash Wednesday Meal at 5:00 P.M. Service at 6:30 P.M.	7 10-11:30am-Bible-P Parlor 11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6-7:30pm-Fast Track Bible Study-15-C 6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC	8 3:30-5:30pm-XHS Band Boosters-FCC 5:55-7pm-Volleyball-FCC	9
10 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30a-Fellowship and Coffee 10:30-11:30am-Worship-Sanctuary Daylight Saving Time Begins	11 6:30-8:30pm-Cub Scouts-Rm. 5,11,12 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	12 3:30-5:30pm-XHS Band Boosters-FCC 1-2pm-Presch.Mtg.-#4 4-5pm-Worship Design Team-Pastors Office 6-9pm-Magic Volleyball-FCC 6:30-8:30pm-G.S. Leader Mtg.-15A&B 6:30-7:30pm-Worship Design Team- Pastors Office	13 10 AM- Bulletin DL 6:15-7:15pm-Handbells-Music Room 7-8:30p--Lydia Circle-Parlor 7:30-8:30pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary	14 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6-7:30pm-Fast Track Bible Study-15-C 6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC 7-9pm-Grief Support-P	15 2-3pm-Women's Prayer Breakfast Set up 3:30-5:30pm-XHS Band Boosters-FCC	16 9:30am-Women's Prayer Breakfast-15A,B,C
17 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30a-Fellowship and Coffee 10:30-11:30am-Worship-Sanctuary	18 Faith Links DL 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	19 1-3:30pm-Dorcas-P 3:30-5:30pm-XHS Band Boosters-FCC 6-8pm-Girl Scouts-15-A,B,C-Youth Room 6:15-7:15pm-Mission Outreach Team-Library 6-9pm-Magic Volleyball-FCC	20 10 AM- Bulletin DL 6:15-7:15pm-Handbells-Music Room 7:30-8:30pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary	21 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6-7:30pm-Fast Track Bible Study-15-C 6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC 7pm-C.C. Council-15A	22 3:30-5:30pm-XHS Band Boosters-FCC 5:55-7:30pm -Volleyball-FCC	23 5-9pm-Double I-FH-A/Kitchen
24 9-10am-Sunday School 9-10am-Confirmation Class 10:30a-Fellowship and Coffee 10:30-11:30am-Worship-Sanctuary 31 9-10am-Confir. Class SS, Fellowship, Worship-Regular Times	25 No Preschool 6:30-8:30pm-Cub Scouts-Rm. 5,11,12 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	26 No Preschool 3:30-5:30pm-XHS Band Boosters-FCC 6-9pm-Magic Volleyball-FCC 6:30-9:30pm-Ad Board Council-Room 6	27 No Preschool 10 AM- Bulletin DL 5pm-Common Cup Carry-in-FCC 6:15-7:15pm-Handbells-Music Room 7:30-8:30pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary	28 No Preschool 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6-7:30pm-Bible Study-15C 6-9pm-Volleyball	29 No Preschool	30 4-8pm-Cub Scouts Blue & Gold Dinner-FCC