

November 2019

Rev. Andy Wagner
937-372-7601 office@fcum.org www.fcum.org
Sunday Worship
9:00-10:00 Sunday School
10-10:30-Coffee and Fellowship
10:30-11:30-Worship in Sanctuary

Attendance

Date	Worship	Sun. School
September 29	136	49
October 6	121	46
October 13	132	55
October 20	146	69

From Pastor Andy

I want to thank the United Methodist Women for planning and leading worship on October 20, and especially for bringing Sarah Putman to deliver the message. Sarah shared an amazing and powerful personal testimony of God calling her to step out in faith. She said that if God had shown her all at once the whole picture of all that he would ask of her she would've been hiding under a rock. So instead, God showed her the next step and called her forward one step at a time.

I could certainly relate to her story. From the time that I first heard and accepted the call to ministry to the time that I was ordained was a twelve year journey. Had God told me at the time how long it would take and all the steps I would have to go through and all the challenges I would face, I probably would've been too overwhelmed to answer the call. So instead, God led me through the process and continued to call me forward one step at a time.

Sarah expressed the joy that she has from having stepped out in faith and following God's call even though it wasn't something she would have ever planned for herself. I can testify to the same for myself. My calling from God takes

me well beyond my comfort zone almost daily. But the joy of serving him and the blessings that come when we make the decision to do just that, is beyond measure.

I wonder what next step God is calling for from you. What nudgings from the Holy Spirit have you been feeling lately? Have you held back because you didn't see the big picture? Perhaps it's for the best that you haven't seen the big picture. Just know this – when you do decide to take that next step in faith, you will begin to see God's plan come together and you will be blessed.

Our annual Church Conference will be held Monday, November 25 at 6:30pm with Rev. Dr. Jocelyn Roper presiding. The purpose of the annual Church Conference is to set the church's goals for the coming year, elect the officers and committee members who will lead us in reaching those goals, review our membership rolls, and set the pastor's compensation. All professing members of Faith Committee United Methodist Church have both voice and vote at the Church Conference.



to

Stephen Ministry

Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart: How to Relate Those Who Are Suffering

Shel Silverstein's poem "Helping" describes

two very different kinds of help:

*And some kind of help
Is the kind of help
That helping's all about
And some kind of help
Is the kind of help
We can all do without.*

Kenneth C. Haugk, a pastor and clinical psychologist who is the founder and Executive Director of Stephen Ministries in St. Louis, Missouri and the author of *Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart* experienced both kinds of "help" in the months before and after his wife's death. He learned first-hand a great deal about what is and what is not helpful when one is hurting. During times of suffering, everyone intends to help. No one tries to add to another's hurt. We look for ways to comfort, express our concern, and love. And, if we are the person who is hurting, we hope others will console, comfort, care, and love us when we feel the most vulnerable. Haugk recognizes that at some point each of us fails to be the kind of caregiver we'd like to be. As a result of his experiences, he determined to do all that he could to alleviate some of the pain of suffering by "heading off the hurtful and promoting the helpful" when he wrote this book.

The writers of the Bible were aware of our tendency to add to the pain of those we really want to help. One proverb especially speaks to this:

*Like one who takes away a garment on a cold day,
or like vinegar poured on soda,
is one who sings songs to a heavy heart. –Proverbs
25:20*

This proverb, as true today as when it was written, indicates that we can actually increase a suffering person's pain with misdirected care. With the best of intentions we can add to another's problems. Since suffering people are so fragile, those who relate to them must relate with sensitivity and compassion. In *Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart*, Haugk offers suggestions not only about what not to say and do but offers suggestions about what we can say and do.

Haugk reminds us that one of the great truths about relating to those who are suffering is that nobody does it perfectly. God continues to call imperfect people to reach out and do the best we can. Recognizing this frees us to care even as we grow in learning how to be more effective care givers. As Christians, we are called to bring hope and compassion during times of suffering. To learn more, read *Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart*. A copy is available in the Stephen Ministry section of the adult library.

No one should hurt alone. That's why we have Stephen Ministry! Faith Community UMC desires to be a place where no one has to hurt alone. God works through specially trained men and women (Stephen Ministers) to plant a seed of hope and healing in a person whose life has taken an unwanted detour. To learn more, contact Becky Cultice at 376-5747 or culticer@sbcglobal.net.

Christmas is **Red** and **Green**—So Why Am I **Blue**?

“Joy to the world, the Lord is come!”

Christmas trees with brightly wrapped packages under them, holiday parties, holly and the scent of pine, the sound of carols in shops and malls, visits from family and friends, baking and cooking, food everywhere—the time we celebrate our Savior's birth—these are the images and memories of Christmas many of us cherish and perpetuate. But not everyone looks forward to the holidays. In fact, many dread this time of year. For those who know that “this Christmas will be a hard one,” either because they have had a death in the

family, a broken relationship, a loss of job, other setbacks, or because of painful memories of Christmases past, there will be a Blue Christmas service sponsored by Stephen Ministry on Wednesday evening, December 4, at 6:30 in the chapel. At that time we will acknowledge the pain and sadness many people experience as the holidays approach as well as encourage people to move toward hope. For all who are under stress during the holiday season and in need of a rest, we invite you to attend and to take time for yourself. This especially applies to the caregivers in our congregation who have a very heavy load. Please consider coming and even inviting someone you know who is struggling to continue on despite having feelings that don't match the outward festivity of the season.

College Crew Update

Thanks to the amazing generosity of so many of you, FCUM was able to send a very nice care package to all six of our FCUM college students last month. Thank you for your plentiful donations of food items, chewing gum, snacks, gift cards, and money to support this program. I am positive that FCUM was and will be remembered many times by Kayla, Morgan, Alexandra, Samuel, Carolyn, and Hunter as they reached into their care package to select a snack. Your support of this program each year is most appreciated!

Thank you.

Julie Wickline

United Methodist Women

CIRCLES

Lydia: Wednesday, November 13, 7-8:30pm, Parlor

Priscilla: Monday November 18, 7-8:30pm – Parlor

Dorcas: Tuesday, November 19, 1-3:30pm, Parlor

Men of Faith

ATTENTION ALL MEN: The Men of Faith will meet on November 18 at 6:30 PM. in youth room B and a meal will be served. The program will start at 7:00 PM. Come at 7:00 if you only want to attend for the program which will be a report from FCUM's Jerry Johnson, a veteran who spent time in Iraq during the early part of the war.

Please call Bruce Pickelheimer (937-376-2361) if you plan to attend for the meal, so we can plan the quantity of food needed. All men are welcome and you may bring a friend. Hope to see you on the 18th.

THE CLASS MEETING Study for Men

The Class Meeting is a curriculum in the form of a book written by Dr. Kevin Watson. The book is designed to be used as an eight week study that gradually shifts from an informational study about the class meeting to a class meeting itself. John Wesley used the class meeting concept for the early church. It is not necessarily a bible study, it is more concerned with accountability and "How is it with your Soul?" How are you growing as a disciple of Christ?

Each of the eight weeks has a different chapter to study and address. The chapter titles are as follows:

1 The New (OLD) Kind of Small Group ; 2) The Class Meeting: The heart of the Methodist Revival; 3) Moving into God's House: The Theological Foundation of the Class Meeting; 4) Becoming Wesleyan Again; 5) The Basics: From Start to

Finish; 6) The Role of the Class Leader; 7) What could possibly go wrong?; 8) The Keys to a Life Changing Group.

John Sherer has been through the study and is willing to lead a small group through it. The book costs about \$20.00. John is suggesting a Saturday morning study group, starting January 4th, 2020 at 8 AM lasting 1 hour. The group will be limited to 6-8 men. First come first served. Suggestions for other times will be considered.

To sign up for or get more information on the Class Meeting, call John Sherer at 372-2204 or email at shererjw@aol.com.

Christian Education

The Christian Education Committee is working diligently to provide fun evenings once a month that will help families get to know each other. In September Scott and Carla Skaggs hosted a fun evening in the big barn complete with hot dogs, s'mores, games, a hayride. and also much needed rain. By the time you read this newsletter, we will have held a Fall Family Fun Night at the church featuring Pastor Andy's chili, a scavenger hunt for candy, a ring toss game, and family pumpkin decorating along with other games. On December 1 we are planning an event to welcome the advent season. It will also be at the church and the food feature will be "fix your own taco". Look for more information in the November bulletins. All are welcome to these events.

Sunday School

Sunday school begins at 9 am each Sunday. There are classes for all ages. We encourage you to include this in your Sunday schedule. After a few weeks of attending, you will find in which class you want to participate and that will open a host of new friends and knowledge of Jesus. Please join us.

Blood Drive

The next blood drive at Faith Community will be Monday, November 11, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. You can make a reservation to donate by going to www.donortime.com. This website is not overly user friendly unless you can remember your donor number and password. However, I will be happy to make an appointment for you. Call John Ford at 372-6641 or e-mail jford9@woh.rr.com. Ask for your preferred appointment time. I will confirm your appointment if you leave a telephone no. or e-mail address. Mark your calendars and plan to donate. Our drives here at FCUM are scheduled approximately 8 weeks apart from those at St. Brigid which makes it convenient to stay on schedule for donations at these two locations. Remember that your one time donation can save as many as three lives.

Bazaar

Virginia Pinkerton is in charge of the Bakers' Table at our bazaar on November 8 and 9. We need people who are willing to donate pies, cakes, candy, breads, etc. to be sold. If this is a project that interests you please call Virginia Pinkerton at 937-766-5670 or 937-313-1630 or email her at vap1222@att.net. It would be helpful if you would include the recipe so that we might check ingredients for our food allergy customers.

If you wish to purchase frozen ham loaves at the bazaar call Char Lee (937-974-1002) before November 3 to place your order. The price is 6 for \$10.

Passings

Prayers and sympathy are extended to Janese (Richard) Brooks on the death of her mother Elizabeth Jo Lee Harris; and to family and friends of Wanda M. Wildinger Durnbaugh on her death.

FCUM Financial Standing

September Income	\$36,401		Year-to-Date Income	\$336,820	
September Expense	\$38,372		Year-to-Date Expenses	\$335,849	
Difference	(\$1,971)	-5.42%	Difference	\$971	0.29%

Did you know that when FCUM shops at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates to our chosen charitable organization? Our charity is UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

Thanks

We want to thank everyone who came to help celebrate our 65th anniversary, and for all the cards and well wishes. It was a wonderful time. Thanks so much.

Dick and Dolores Strous

Deadline for December Faith Links: November 15

“At the end of life, what really matters is not what we bought but what we built; not what we got but what we shared; not our competence but our character; and not our success but our significance. Live a life that matters. Live a life of love.”






–Author unknown

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 2-5pm-Ham Loaf Prep. for Bazaar- Kitchen	2 8am-3pm-Baking for Bazaar-Kitchen
3 DAYLIGHTSAVING TIME ENDS 9-10-am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Fellowship & Coffee 10:30-11:30am Worship- 4:30-5:30pm-Confirmation Class-Youth Room	4 2-3pm-Bible Study-Parlor 6:30-8:30-Cub Scouts- 15A&B, #5,11,12 7-8:30 -Boy Scouts-15C 7-9pm-Stephen Ministry- Library	5 ELECTIONDAY 4:30-6pm-SPRC-Room 6 6pm-8:45pm-Girl Scouts- FH15A-C, 16A 6:30-8:30pm-Trustees-6	6 Bulletin Deadline 6:15-7:15pm-Handbells 7-8:30pm-Chancel Choir- Sanctuary	7 Bazaar Setup 10-11:30 -Bible Study-Parlor 11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 5-7pm-Vendors Setup	8 Fall Bazaar  5 pm-8 pm	9 Fall Bazaar  9 am-2 pm
10 9-10-am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Fellowship & Coffee 10:30-11:30am-Wor- ship-Sanctuary	11 VETERANS' DAY 12-7pm-Blood Drive 2-3pm-Bible Study-Parlor 6:30-8:30-Cub Scout Mtg.- 15A,B,rms. 5,11,12 7-8:30 -Boy Scouts-15C	12 2-5pm-UMW Thank Offer- ing-15A 5:30-6:30pm-Worship De- sign Team-Library 6:15-7:15pm-Mission Out- reach Team-Adult Lib.	13 Bulletin Deadline 6:15-7:15pm-Handbells 7-8:30pm-Lydia-15A 7-8:30pm-Chancel Choir- Sanctuary	14 10-11:30 -Bible Study-Parlor 11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 12:30-1:30pm-Member- ship Care Mt.#6 7-9pm-Grief Support-P	15 Faith Links deadline 9:30-12pm-Christmas Concert Band Rehearsal Setup-FH-B&C 1-12pm-Setup Thanksgiv- ing Altar	16 9am-12:30pm-Concert Band Rehearsal-FH- 15B&C
17 9-10-am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Fellowship & Coffee 10:30-11:30am-Worship- Sanctuary 11:30am-1pm-A Taste of Stephen Ministry-15A-C	18 2-3pm-Bible Study- Parlor 6:30-9pm-Men of Faith- Room 16B 6:30-8:30-Cub Scouts.- 15A,B,rms. 5,11,12 7-8:30-Boy Scouts-15C 7-9pm-Priscilla-Parlor	19 1-3:30pm-Dorcas Circle- Parlor 6pm-8:45pm-Girl Scouts- FH15A-C, 16A 6:15-7:15-Mission Out- reach Team-Library	20 Bulletin Deadline 6:15-7:15pm-Handbells 7-8:30pm-Chancel Choir- Sanctuary	21 10-11:30 -Bible Study-P 11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 7-8:30pm-Christian Ed. Meeting-Library	22 Christmas Concert Band Rehearsal Setup-FH-B&C	23 9am-12:30pm-Concert Band Rehearsal-FH- 15B&C 5-9pm-Double I-15A
24 9-10-am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Fellowship & Coffee 10:30-11:30am-Worship- Sanctuary 4:30-5:30pm-Confirmation Class-Youth Room	25 2-3pm-Bible Study-Par- lor 6:30-8:30pm-Church Con- ference 6:30-8:30pm-Cub Scouts-15A,B,C 7-8:30-Boy Scouts-15C	26 6:30-9:30pm-Ad. Bd. Council-Room 6	27 Bulletin Deadline 6:15-7:15pm-Handbells 7-8:30pm-Chancel Choir- Sanctuary	28 	29 Office Closed Christmas Concert Band Rehearsal Setup- FH-B&C	30 9am-12:30pm-Concert Band Rehearsal-FH- 15B&C