

January 2020

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
November 24	140	57
December 1	146	45
December 8	168	58
December 15	160	53

From The Pastor

Happy New Year!

A new year for me, as for many others, is always a good time to look back and to look ahead. As I look back over this past year, I am amazed at the number of changes in my life – a new relationship, a new appointment, a new home, a new city, a new church family, a new wife. I know God says, “I make all things new,” but when it happens all at once it can be a little overwhelming! As I look ahead to 2020, I’d be quite content if God would just leave things the same for a while. But then again... There is always work to be done, always changes to be made, always progress to be had.

We are in quite a great place at Faith Community right now. Attendance is up. Giving is up. Morale is up. Things are going well. But let us not forget, there is always work to be done, changes to be made, and progress to be had. We can never grow complacent in the church and think we have arrived. We have not arrived until God calls us to our heavenly home. So while we’re still here on this earth, let’s be about doing His work and building His Church.

The three priorities that I will be focusing on here at Faith Community in 2020 are: 1) Developing a congregation-wide vision for our church of who we are called to be and how we are going to get there; 2) Establishing a contemporary praise service that will be a connecting point for the unchurched; and 3) Continuing to strengthen and grow our Family Ministries Program for children, youth, and parents. I pray that you will join me in these efforts as together we endeavor to strengthen our witness to God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ, here in Xenia and to the ends of the earth.

Blessings, Pastor Andy



Stephen Ministry

What Does It Take to Become a Stephen Minister (and What Do You Receive in Return)?

Okay, admit it. Stephen Ministry has crossed your mind a few times. You might even have picked up a brochure or talked with one of our pastors about it. But now you want to take a closer look at the idea of becoming a Stephen Minister. You're wondering: Is this right for me? Following are some guidelines that might help you in your decision making:

Gifts

A Stephen Minister is a person with the gift of mercy, who shows compassion and gives encouragement to and intercedes for those he or she cares for. Many Stephen Ministers say that they receive much more from the caring relationship with their care receiver than they give.

Commitment

A Stephen Minister devotes time, energy, and resources to this ministry. In return, a Stephen Minister has the chance to participate in meaningful ministry, make a major difference in another person's life, and grow as a joyous child of God.

Training A Stephen Minister completes 50 hours of training before ever meeting with a care receiver. He or she learns about listening, assertiveness, confidentiality, and many

other aspects of caregiving. After completing the initial training, there is continuing education. Stephen Ministers find that their relationships become richer and deeper at home, church, work, and with friends.

Dedicated Service

A Stephen Minister serves wholeheartedly. This isn't a casual ministry. It involves prayer, thought, consideration, study, and commitment. In return, the Stephen Minister receives grateful thanks from his or her care receiver, our Stephen Leaders, the congregation, and our Lord.

Accountability

A Stephen Minister is accountable to God, the congregation, the Stephen Leaders, the other Stephen Ministers, and the care receiver. In return, he or she receives support, encouragement, and guidance in Small Group Peer Supervision.

Continuous Learning

A Stephen Minister is open to adjusting and adapting his or her caregiving to fit the needs of the care receiver. He or she learns more about caregiving at each meeting with a care receiver and at each supervision session. Stephen Ministry is an experience of continuous learning, growth, and joy.

What's next?

A new training class for Stephen Ministers is starting soon. The Holy Spirit may be calling you to the joy, commitment, growth, meaning, training, service, and care of being a Stephen Minister. For more information, please speak with Becky Cultice, 376-5747.

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Coffee Time

I extend a big thank you to all who have helped with Coffee Time at 10:00 am each Sunday morning. This ministry has been successful because so many have volunteered. 2020 is right around the corner. We need help again. We are asking groups or friends to sign up for next year. We had about 7 groups participate last year. We also had 2 groups of 5

friends who volunteered for a month. If you are wondering what you can do this year for the church, this is a great opportunity to know others, to work together, and to share your talents with the members of the congregation. The small children really appreciate the coffee time. Talk with your group or friends and see if you are interested in volunteering. Please call Virginia Pinkerton at 937-766-5670 or 937-313-1630 or email at vap1222@att.net. You can be assured that I will help you. It takes about 4 people per month.

Thank you so much for all your help in the past.

Monday Bible Study will Resume on January 6

Your Help is Needed by the History Committee

Do you have articles, pamphlets, bulletins, old directories, pictures of events, etc. regarding the history of Trinity U.M., First Methodist, Faith Community? Maybe you have items going back many years referencing the beginnings of our current church and the families. Perhaps you have items regarding the John Sale burial ground at the Wolf farm, the merger of two churches, etc. I recently received a very old bulletin and it listed some family names that have been a part of our history for a long time. If you have any articles, please drop off at the church office with a note:
Attn: Marlene Gifford. Thank you!



United Methodist Women

CIRCLES

Lydia: No January meeting

Priscilla: Monday, January 20, 7-8:30pm – Parlor

Dorcas: No January meeting

Men of Faith

ATTENTION ALL MEN: There has been a change in the planning of the January 2020 MOF meeting. The Men of Faith meet on the third Monday of each month in 2020. Since this is Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday we will meet at Frisch's at **6:00 PM** for the meal. The program will be attending the city-wide Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Service. It is always a wonderful and unifying experience. This year's service on **January 20** will take place at **AHOP, 282 Stelton Rd. in Xenia, Ohio at 7pm.** Please call Bruce Pickelheimer (376-2361) if you plan to attend so we will know how many men to request for seating at Frisch's. All men are welcome and you can bring a friend. Hope to see you on the 20th.

A Voice for Environmental Stewardship

January 2020

This article is the first in a monthly series concerning environmental stewardship. In this first article I will share what the United Methodist Church believes about our responsibilities to our environment in the broadest view as United Methodist Christians. The Bishops of the U.M. Church released a statement entitled, God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action. In this statement, the Bishops urged people to look at how they see themselves as a part of creation, and adjust it so they stop harming the environment. People need to stop looking out for only themselves, and take on the roles of being stewards for the planet if there is any hope of redeeming earth from destruction.



SOCIAL PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Natural World – All creation is the Lord's and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God's creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. God has granted us stewardship of creation. We should meet these stewardship duties through acts of loving care and respect. Economic, political, social, and technological developments have increased our human numbers, and lengthened and enriched our lives. However, these developments have led to regional defoliation, dramatic extinction of species, massive human suffering, overpopulation, and misuse and overconsumption of natural and nonrenewable resources, particularly by industrialized societies. This continued course of action jeopardizes the natural heritage that God has entrusted to all generations. Therefore, let us recognize the responsibility of the church and its members to place a high priority on changes in economic, political, social and technological lifestyles to support a more ecologically equitable and sustainable world leading to a higher quality of life for all of God's creation.

PLEASE SAVE THIS ARTICLE FROM FAITH LINKS. EACH ARTICLE ON OUR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP WILL GREATLY INFORM US ABOUT OUR GOD GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY TO OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

Rev. Alan D. Barone, B.A. in Science Education, M.Div.,
Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist

Thank you!

A big thank you to Rick and Joyce Smith, Betsy Murray,

Ed and Margaret Stidham, Jim and Joyce Osburn, and Debbie Spitler for the beautiful Christmas decorations. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Many thanks to all who prayed for my November surgery and for a quick recovery! We appreciate your visits, flowers, meals, Get Well cards and other expressions of kindness and encouragement. A special Thank You to those who generously shared their breast cancer stories - we value your continued support!

*Feeling very blessed,
Cheryl and Fred Whitan*

Sometimes life is hit with an unexpected dark time. Such was the case for me when I was diagnosed with Leukemia this Fall. It really dealt me and my family a heavy blow. I cannot overstate what it has meant to us to have the support of our church family. The prayers, call, cards and many kindnesses that have been extended to myself and to my family have been and continue to be uplifting and encouraging.

Although there is a long and winding road ahead, God has been faithful in His healing process and our church family has been faithful in supporting us. On behalf of my family and from the bottom of my heart, I say thank you all.

Jim Kennedy

Thanks to everyone who generously contributed Christmas gifts for St. Paul's. Your thoughtfulness and support are greatly appreciated.

Dear Friends in Mission,

The dear people you just helped with your gift to UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be – Thank you!

Since 1940, UMCOR has served as the humanitarian agency of the United Methodist Church, providing disaster re-

sponse and relief to areas impacted by natural and man-made disasters around the world.

Thomas G. Kemper, General Secretary

Flower Calendar

The flower calendar for the New Year 2020 is on the table in the narthex. There are changes starting the first of the year. This is going to be handled through the church office. You will be responsible for ordering your altar arrangement and delivery to the church on Friday morning or you can pick it up and bring it to the church. It will be refrigerated until Sunday. Someone from the office will call the week before to get the information for the bulletin and remind you about ordering the flowers. You can order from Flower Stop at 372-1436 in Xenia, Furst Flower in Dayton at 223-1213, or any place you choose.

Passings

Prayers and sympathy to John Finlay on the death of his sister **Gail Brim**.

If you would like to help in the purchase of 4 new mats for the entrance doors to the narthex, office and community center, your donation would be greatly appreciated. Please mark your check or envelopes Door Mats.

FCUM November Financials




Monthly Income	\$27,721	YTD Income	
Monthly Expenses	\$25,294	YTD Expenses	
Difference	\$2,427	Difference	39%



Deadline for February Faith Links: January 17



January 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 	2 10-11:30 -Bible Study-Parlor 11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6-8pm-Staff Recognition Party-FH, 15A-C 6-9pm-Magic Volleyball Practice-FCC	3 3:30-5:30pm- X.H.S. Winter Guard Practice-FCC	4
5 9-10-am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Fellowship & Coffee 10:30-11:30am Worship-	6 2-3pm-Bible Study with Pastor Andy-Library 6:30-8:30-Cub Scouts-15A&B, #5,11,12 7-8:30 -Boy Scouts-15C 7-9pm-Stephen Ministry-Library	7 3:30-5:30pm- X.H.S. Winter Guard Practice-FCC 4:30-6pm-SPRC-Room 6 6pm-8:45pm-Girl Scouts FH15A-C, 16A 6-9pm-Magic Volleyball Practice-FCC 6:30-8:30pm-Trustees-6	8 Bulletin Dead-line 6:15-7:15pm-Handbells 7-8:30pm-Chancel Choir-Sanctuary	9 10-11:30 -Bible Study-Parlor 11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 12:30-1:30pm-Membership Care-Rm. 6 6-9pm-Magic Volleyball Practice-FCC 7-9pm-Grief Support-P	10 3:30-5:30pm- X.H.S. Winter Guard Practice-FCC 6-7:30pm- Magic Volleyball Practice-FCC	11
12 9-10-am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Fellowship & Coffee 10:30-11:30am-Worship-Sanctuary 4:30-5:30-Confirm clas-s Youth Room	13 2-3pm-Bible Study with Pastor Andy-Library 6:30-8:30-Cub Scout Mtg.-15A,B,rms. 5,11,12 7-8:30 -Boy Scouts-15C	14 3:30-5:30pm- X.H.S. Winter Guard -FCC 4:30-5:30-Worship Design Team 6-8:45pm-Girl Scout Leader Mtg.-FH15A,B 6:30-9:30pm-Ad. Bd. Room 6 6-9pm-Magic Volleyball	15 Bulletin Dead-line 6:15-7:15pm-Handbells 7:30-8:30pm-Chancel Choir-Sanctuary	16 10-11:30 -Bible Study-Parlor 11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6-7:30pm- Magic Volleyball Practice-FCC 7-8:30pm-Christian Ed. Meeting-Library	17 3:30-5:30pm- X.H.S. Winter Guard Practice-FCC	18
19 9-10-am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Fellowship & Coffee 10:30-11:30am-Worship-Sanctuary 4:30-5:30-Confirm class Youth Room	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day 2-3pm-Bible Study with Pastor Andy-Library 6:30-8:30-Cub Scouts.-15A,B,rms. 5,11,12 7-8:30-Boy Scouts-15C 7-9pm-Priscilla-Parlor	21 3:30-5:30pm- X.H.S. Winter Guard Practice-FCC 6pm-8:45pm-Girl Scouts FH15A-C, 16A 6-9pm-Magic Volleyball Practice-FCC 6:15-7:15pm-Mission Outreach Team-Library	22 Bulletin Dead-line 6:15-7:15pm-Handbells 7:30-8:30pm-Chancel Choir-Sanctuary	23 10-11:30 -Bible Study-P 11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6-7:30pm- Magic Volleyball Practice-FCC	24 3:30-5:30pm- X.H.S. Winter Guard Practice-FCC 6-7:30pm- Magic Volleyball Practice-FCC	25 5-9pm-Double I-  15A
26 9-10-am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Fellowship & Coffee 10:30-11:30am-Worship-Sanctuary	27 2-3pm-Bible Study with Pastor Andy-Library 6:30-8:30-Cub Scouts.-15A,B,rms. 5,11,12 7-8:30-Boy Scouts-15C	28 3:30-5:30pm- X.H.S. Winter Guard Practice-FCC 6-9pm-Magic Volleyball 6:30-8:30pm-Ad Board-#6	29 Bulletin Dead-line 6:15-7:15pm-Handbells 7:30-8:30pm-Chancel Choir-Sanctuary	30 10-11:30 -Bible Study-P 11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6-9pm-Magic Volleyball	31 3:30-5:30pm- X.H.S. Winter Guard Practice-FCC	