



Sharing Faith, Building Community

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We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u> <u>Worship</u>	<u>Sun. School</u>
December 22	162	54
December 23*	92	—
December 24**	213	—
December 29	112	47
January 5	136	48
January 12	143	64
January 19	115	

*Christmas Eve, Eve **Christmas Eve

From The Pastor

What do you believe in? For almost as long as the Christian Church has existed, the Apostles' Creed has stood as a defining statement of what we hold to be the essential beliefs of the Christian faith. Some of us grew up saying the Apostles' Creed in church every Sunday. Many can even recite it from memory. But how often do we take the time to think about what these statements in the Creed really mean and why these beliefs matter?

That is what we have been focused on in our sermons for the past few weeks, and we will continue through much of February. It has been personally meaningful to me to reflect on the deep significance of these foundational beliefs. I pray that the same has been true for you, and will continue to be so in these next few weeks.

If you miss a Sunday morning at church, or if you want to re-visit the sermon again later in the week, our sermons are now being posted on YouTube. The great thing about this is, not only can

you watch the sermon anytime you want, you can also share it with others. I want to thank my son, Nathan, for getting this going and creating the videos each week.

Currently I am sharing the links on my Facebook page and we are also posting them to the church's Facebook page each week. That's the easiest way to find them. But if you don't use Facebook, you can also search directly on YouTube. If you type the sermon title followed by Faith Community in the YouTube search, you should be able to find them. The more that people watch and share the videos, the easier they will be for others to find, so please keep it going!

The sermons' titles for this series are:

1/12/20 I Believe in the Father

1/19/20 I Believe in the Son

1/26/20 I Believe in the Holy Spirit

2/2/20 I Believe in the Church

2/9/20 I Believe in Forgiveness

2/16/20 I Believe in Resurrection

See you in church. And on-line!

Blessings, Pastor Andy



Stephen Ministry

Cancer—Now What? Taking Action, Finding Hope, and Navigating the Journey Ahead

One way or another most of us have been impacted by cancer whether we have heard “You have cancer” ourselves or supported a friend, relative, colleague, neighbor, or close family member who was diagnosed with cancer. During such a difficult time we often feel helpless. We want to reach out with care and assistance. We want to offer help and hope. But how can we do so? One way is to share a copy of *Cancer—Now What?*, a book developed by Stephen Ministries founder, Kenneth C. Haugk, Ph.D.

It is estimated that more than 1.6 million Americans will receive a cancer diagnosis this year—adding to the 14.5 million who are currently fighting the disease. In the United States, one in three women and one in two men will be diagnosed at some point in their lifetime. Given this reality, Haugk, a pastor and clini-

cal psychologist, recognized the need for a book dealing with cancer that speaks directly to this disease that impacts so many. *Cancer—Now What?* provides readers with practical information about the medical, emotional, relational, and spiritual challenges of cancer.

Dr. Haugk began developing this book drawing on everything he learned as he walked alongside his wife during her battle with ovarian cancer. He built on that foundation by working with a research team to gather firsthand knowledge and experience from over 3,500 people including cancer survivors, loved ones of those diagnosed with cancer, oncologists, and other medical professionals—integrating their wisdom, experience, and expertise into the book. Barbara Thompson, Wendell Cultice, and I were among those who provided input. When we were asked to be advance readers, I was reading and responding primarily as a caregiver to my husband who was dealing with cancer. Little did I know that later I would share the diagnosis. Barbara was already a cancer survivor.

The objective of *Cancer—Now What?* is to help those diagnosed with cancer and their loved ones deal with cancer in the best ways possible and equip them to work effectively and efficiently with their oncologists and other members of their medical team. The result is a caring, how-to-resource—written in a warm, conversational style—that covers the wide range of issues a cancer diagnosis brings. It consists of 74 concise chapters organized into 12 parts, making it simple for readers to quickly find the information they need. *Cancer—Now What?* provides helpful information, practical ideas, and hope-filled encouragement. Copies are available in the Stephen Ministry section of the adult library and may also be purchased at www.stephenministries.org.

We also have several Care Note titles that are available for you or for you to share: *Facing the Fear of Cancer*, *Living with Cancer a Day at a Time*, *How It Feels to Have Cancer*, *Confronting Cancer with a Spirit of Hope*, *Prayers for Coping with Cancer*, *Wrestling with God and Cancer*, *When Your Spouse Has Cancer*, *Feeling Overwhelmed by the Reality of a Loved One's Cancer*, and *Four Stages of Coping for Cancer Survivors*. (These are located in the narthex in the display rack under the Stephen Ministry bulletin board.)

We are fortunate in this area to have incredible support offered by our hospitals that are increasingly recognizing the benefits

of integrative medicine treatment for cancer patients. More and more there is a tendency to reach beyond medical treatment to provide healing for the whole person—body, mind, and spirit. There are support groups for both patients and family members. Maple Tree Cancer Alliance believes that exercise is medicine and is working with 6,000 patients in 18 different healthcare facilities—14 in the Miami Valley. Certified cancer exercise trainers design free, personalized, and structured progression of cancer rehabilitation for each patient from the initiation of cancer treatment through survivorship.

Stephen Ministers are also available to walk alongside you or someone you love during what can be a very challenging time. For more information about Stephen Ministry, any of the resources mentioned, or several others that weren't due to space limitations, contact Becky Cultice, 376-5747.

United Methodist Women

SAVE THE DATE: The Annual UMW Prayer Breakfast, hosted by Priscilla Circle, will be Saturday, March 14, 9:30 A.M. The guest speaker this year is Sandra Sheridan, local columnist for the Xenia Gazette. We look forward to hearing what Ms. Sheridan has for us. Tickets will go on sale in February; watch the bulletin or speak with one of the members of UMW.

CIRCLES

Lydia: Wednesday, February 12, 7-8:30pm - Parlor

Priscilla: Monday, February 17, 7-8:30pm - Parlor

Dorcas: No February Meeting

Men of Faith

ATTENTION ALL MEN: YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US.

The Men of Faith will meet on February 17 in room #15-16. Start time is 6:30 PM and a meal will be served. The program will start at 7:00 PM. Come at 7:00 if you only want to attend the program which will be approving the budget, program topics and activities for 2020. We will also show a short video of Rev. Kenneth Levngston, Senior Pastor at Jones Memorial United Methodist Church

in Houston, Texas, preaching a closing sermon at its Fourth Global Gathering at Asbury United Methodist Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma on Saturday, November 9, 2019.. Please call Bruce Pickelheimer (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 can bring a friend. Hope to see you on the 17th.

Benevolence Report for 2019

Many years ago some very nice members and friends of our church set up the Cosley Benevolence fund. Our church is designated by the courts to administer the funds. There is a committee of 4 to 5 members who administer the funds. For 2020, those members are John Sherer, Chad Mossing, Cinda Elliott, and Carol Jenkins. We'd like another member. If you'd be interested, let Pastor Andy know.

We can only use the investment income from the fund. This usually runs about \$2,500 or whatever the investments return on the funds per year. The fund is set up to help those in Greene County who have fallen on hard times and need a little help. We set the maximum that we help at \$150.00 so we can help as many as possible. If a request is for \$300.00, we have the party try to come up with the other \$150.00 and unless they can, we will not pay since our \$150.00 would not gain a closure. This year we reviewed 54 requests and distributed \$3,796.39 to 29 people who were approved for funds. Typically people are asking for help paying rent, utilities, & DPL bills. On occasion we help with other needs but these are on a case by case basis.

This is a busy committee serving the need of many who need help in our county. I thought you would want to know that your church is providing this service.

By: John W. Sherer, Chair

Faith Community Preschool

Hard to believe the school year is half over. We are excited to be back in a routine after our Christmas break, and can't wait to see these preschoolers learn and grow even more!! We will have some fun exciting field trips coming up as well as some great experiences in the classrooms!

A Prayer to Pray for our FCUM College Students:

I challenge you to pray this prayer 6 times this month – one time for each of our 6 college students.

Use this prayer for Carolyn, Alexandra, Kayla, and Morgan:

Lord, I pray _____ will have eyes to see You and ears to hear You as she navigates big decisions about her major, internships, relationships and her future. Please bring clarity and to her decisions and peace as she makes them. Help her to seek Your will above her own. Help her to know the purpose You have for her. Help her to be patient as You reveal Your perfect will for her and help her to lean not on her own understanding but to trust You to make all of her paths straight. Help her discern when others are speaking wisdom from You. Open doors widely and close them loudly as You lead her. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Use this prayer for Hunter and Samuel:

Lord, I pray _____ will have eyes to see You and ears to hear You as he navigates big decisions about his major, internships, relationships and his future. Please bring clarity to him and decisions and peace as he makes them. Help him to seek Your will above his own. Help him to know the purpose You have for him. Help him to be patient as You reveal Your perfect will for him and help him to lean not on his own understanding but to trust You to make all of his paths straight. Help him discern when others are speaking wisdom from You. Open doors widely and close them loudly as You lead him. In Jesus' name, Amen.

A Voice for Environmental Stewardship

This is the second monthly article on Environmental Stewardship. Please keep all of these monthly articles so that we have at our hands this vital and crucial information. We all need to make important decisions about how we relate to God's Gift of Creation to us. Our decisions have to be made based on scientific facts and on Christian ethics.

Are you aware that the last eight out of ten years have been the warmest years, worldwide, since temperature record keeping began in the mid 1800s? The cause for this rise in temperatures has been determined by the International Council on Climate Change (IPCC) in their 2018 report, to be the rapid increase in greenhouse gasses in our atmosphere. Their research, and that of our U.S. government climate scientists, has proven that the chief culprit has been the rapid rise of carbon dioxide(CO₂), mainly from our burning of fossil fuels (coal, gasoline, diesel fuel and natural gas). If we drive a gasoline or diesel fuel motor vehicle, we are daily contributing to the build up of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere and to global warming. According to a pie chart, 28% of the total carbon dioxide emissions comes from our personal transportation, our family cars and trucks; the things we buy 26%, home heating and cooling 17%, other energy use in our homes (water heater, furnace, clothes washer and dryer, lighting, electronics and other appliances 15%, and the food we buy and consume 14%.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration Report of 2018, 81% of Ohio's electricity is produced by burning fossil fuels (coal and methane). As you can see, we have a long, long way before our love affair with fossil fuels can be replaced by energy sources that do not warm our planet.

So what does this mean for us? The scientific evidence shows that each of us is contributing to global warming every day. The more we drive our low gas mileage cars and trucks, the more we are warming the earth unnecessarily. I am trying to practice what I preach. Except for two years driving a KIA Optima, my last three cars have been hybrids. They have gotten between 45-55 miles per gallon of gasoline. My present car is a 2018 Kia Niro Crossover, a small SUV. It can get up to 59 mpg with the very low greenhouse gas emissions. I travel an average of 11,373 miles per year. It releases 2.84 tons of CO₂ into our atmosphere. Compare this to a GMC Yukon SUV. It gets an average 18 mpg and releases 12 tons of CO₂ into our atmosphere for the same distance traveled. Few of us drive a Yukon, but much smaller cars and trucks. Scale down to your car, and find out your average mpg. Do some checking on <https://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles> and find out how much CO₂ your car releases into our atmosphere over a year of driving 12,000 miles. This is one small step in our effort to be Good Environmental Stewards.

—Rev. Alan Barone, B.A. in science Education, M.Div., Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist, LifeLong Environmentalist

Fish Food Pantry Report

FCUM donated 524 pounds to Fish Food Pantry in the year 2019. Your donations were very much appreciated.

Blessings, Sharon Sherer

Passings

Prayers and sympathy to Diane Cushwa and family on the passing of her husband Paul Cushwa; to family and friends of Dorothy Beard on her passing; family and friends of Barbara Vorpe, wife of the late Rev. Carl Vorpe who served at Faith Community in the past; and to Judy Mahan and family on the death of her brother Les Barnard.

Thank You

Dear Friends of Bridges of Hope,

Thank you very much for your donation to the shelter. Your gift allows us to continue to reach out in our community to those in need, provide a safe environment to rest, and direction to move forward from their current situation.

Amanda Bailey, Shelter Administrator

Dear Congregation,

I know this is a very delayed card, but thank you for your scholarship, as well as all your prayers and support. Your care package was very appreciated!

Blessings,

Alexandria Fellie

FCUM December Financials

Monthly Income*	\$109,959		YTD Income	\$451,624	
Monthly Expenses	\$18,050		YTD Expenses	\$437,738	
Difference	\$91,909	83.58%	Difference	\$13,886	3.07%

*Includes two bequests

Manley Proverbs

“Blessed are they who laugh at themselves for they shall never cease to be amused.”

(Compiled by Charles Manley—more to come in future Faith Links.)

Deadline for March Faith Links: February 17

Exciting News! Our church leadership has determined that it is time for our new pictorial church directory. Our dates for photography will be April 23, 24 and 25. We need volunteers to help with the sign-up process for our families. Please contact Judy Mahan at 372-5711 this week to volunteer to be part of this project.

Yes! I would be willing to help with:

Publicizing our directory event. I am a media guru.

Contacting families. I love to talk to people

Helping with portrait appointment sign-ups. I like to help others.

Greeting our families during photography. Social butterfly is my middle name.

Taking and collecting photographs for our church’s activity pages and ministries. I should be working for National Geographic.

Creative design ideas for our new directory. I love letting my creativity come out to play!

Gaining student community service hours working with this program. I know that looks good on my college application and resume.



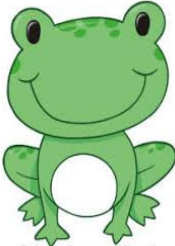
Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Thank you for your support of this important event in the life of our church.

February 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 National Freedom Day
2 9-10-am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Fellowship & Coffee 10:30-11:30am Worship- 4:30-5:30pm-Confirmation Classes-	3 2-3pm-Bible Study with Pastor Andy-Parlor 6:30-8:30-Cub Scouts-15A&B, #5,11,12 7-8:30 -Boy Scouts-15C 7-9pm-Stephen Ministry-Library	4 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	5 Bulletin Deadline 6:15-7:15pm-Handbells 7-8:30pm-Chancel Choir-Sanctuary	6 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	8
9 9-10-am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Fellowship & Coffee 10:30-11:30am-Worship-Sanctuary	10 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	11 4:30-5:30-Worship Design Team-Pastor's Off. 6-8:45pm-Girl Scout Leader Mtg.-FH15A,B 6-9pm-Magic Volleyball	12 Bulletin Deadline Lincoln's Birthday 6:15-7:15pm-Handbells 7-8:30pm-Lydia-Parlor 7:30-8:30pm-Chancel Choir-Sanctuary	13 10-11:30 -Bible Study-Parlor 11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 12:30-1:30-Membership Care-Room 6 6-9pm- Magic Volleyball Practice-FCC 7-9pm-Grief Support-Par.	14 Valentine's Day 6-7:30pm- Magic Volleyball Practice-FCC	15
16 9-10-am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Fellowship & Coffee 10:30-11:30am-Worship-Sanctuary 4:30-5:30-Confirm class Youth Room	17 Washington's Birthday Observed 2-3pm-Bible Study with Pastor Andy-Library 6:30-8:30-Cub Scouts.-15A,B,rms. 5,11,12 6:30-9pm-Men of Faith 7-8:30-Boy Scouts-15C 7-9pm-Priscilla-Parlor	18 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	19 Bulletin Deadline 6:15-7:15pm-Handbells 7:30-8:30pm-Chancel Choir-Sanctuary	20 10-11:30 -Bible Study-P 11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6-7:30pm- Magic Volleyball Practice-FCC	21	22 5-9pm-Double I-15A
23 9-10-am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Fellowship & Coffee 10:30-11:30am-Worship-Sanctuary	24 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	25 6-9pm-Magic Volleyball 6:30-9:30pm-Ad Board-#6	26 Bulletin Deadline Ash Wednesday	27 10-11:30 -Bible Study-P 11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6-9pm-Magic Volleyball	28 6-9pm-Magic Volleyball	29  It's a Leap Year!