

March 2020

Rev. Andy Wagner

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

Sunday Worship

9:00-10:00 Sunday School

10:00-10:30 Coffee and Fellowship

10:30-11:30 Worship in Sanctuary

Past Attendance

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Sun. School</u>
January 19	115	46
January 26	141	64
February 2	122	46
February 9	123	52
February 16	117	52

From The Pastor

“You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

– Jesus (Matthew 5:48)

“Do you expect to be made perfect in love in this life?” That’s a question that John Wesley asked of every person wanting to be a Methodist preacher. It’s still asked to this day of every person wishing to be ordained in The United Methodist Church. This is how we can fulfill the command of Christ to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect – by being made perfect in love. When we are made perfect in love by the grace of God, sin is entirely removed from us, from our hearts and our lives.

Charles Wesley wrote of this hope and this promise in hundreds of hymns. Here is one example:

O for a heart to praise my God,
A heart from sin set free!
A heart that always feels thy blood,
So freely spilt for me!
A heart resigned, submissive, meek,
My great Redeemer’s throne,
Where only Christ is heard to speak,
Where Jesus reigns alone.
A heart in every thought renewed,
And full of love divine,
Perfect, and right, and pure, and good –
A copy, Lord, of thine!

John Wesley wrote in *The Character of a Methodist*:

Because of love for God with the whole heart, Methodists strive to keep all

of God's commandments with all their might. Love is the source of this obedience. Therefore, loving God with the whole heart, Methodists serve God with all their strength...Without reserve Methodists completely devote themselves, all they have and are, to the glory of God.

Every power and strength of the Methodist's soul, every part of his or her body, and all of his or her talents are constantly employed according to the Master's will.

Consequently, whatever a Methodist does, it is all to the glory of God. Methodists not only *aim* at this in all efforts...but actually *attain* it. Work and leisure, as well as prayers, all serve to this great end. Whether sitting in the house or walking by the way, whether lying down or rising up, Methodists promote, in all words and actions, the one business of life. Whether getting dressed, or working, or eating and drinking, or playing, everything tends to advance the glory of God through peace and good will among people. One invariable rule is this: Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Do those words describe your life? If this is the character of a Methodist, then are you a Methodist? Our sermons throughout the season of Lent will focus on approaching this standard of what the Wesley brothers called Christian Perfection. Let us join together in being made perfect in love, that we may fulfill the command of Christ.

Blessings, Pastor Andy



Stephen Ministry - The Challenge of Change

Challenges in life are inevitable. That is a given. Sometimes the challenge is anticipated; sometimes it is unexpected. All of us experience change. Loved ones die; jobs end, as do relationships. People relocate, couples marry, babies are born, and children leave for college. Change, both good and bad, can take an emotional toll. Guess what? Positive changes can be just as difficult to adjust to as negative ones. Sometimes we are able to handle change on our own or with the help of family and friends. Sometimes we need professional help. Sometimes it helps to have a Stephen Minister, a Christian friend to walk alongside us for as long as needed.

Here are some suggestions that may make it easier to adjust to change:

When a good change happens, accept it with grace. Embrace the positive however it shows up and celebrate it. When a negative change is looming, try to look for alternative ways of coping before it actually happens. Day-to-day-changes often go unnoticed in spite of the fact that they occur. It's when we are caught off-guard that we're most likely to become discombobulated. Emotional change can be particularly difficult. At times

like these it is often almost impossible to be objective. Sometimes we need to process our feelings and that may take time.

If the challenges in our lives are overwhelming, we don't have to deal with them all by ourselves. Friends, family, support groups, counselors, and our church family may be available, but we have to reach out and ask which can be hard to do. The love and support of those who care about us can help make these times more bearable. We don't have to like change, but we have to at least tolerate it when it happens. We need to find a way to cope because change happens whether we like it or not. A Stephen Minister is there for those going through a time that challenges their ability to keep on keepin' on. A Stephen Minister listens, prays, and encourages. God loves us all, and sometimes a Stephen Minister is His tool to reach out and carry us when we are facing a challenging time. For more information, speak with our pastor or call Becky Cultice at 937-376-5747.

United Methodist Women Prayer Breakfast

There is still time to get tickets for the Faith Community United Methodist Women's Annual Prayer Breakfast to be held on Saturday, March 14 beginning at 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. Sandra Sheridan is the guest speaker. She is a weekly columnist for the Xenia Gazette, writes a blog entitled Verses From Mama, is a wife, mother, realtor, and office manager for Sheridan and Associates. Tickets are \$6 each and can be purchased from any Faith Community UMW member or the church office, Monday through Thursday, from 10 AM to 2 PM. Ticket sales will close on Monday, March 9. For more information please call 937-562-3063.

Pie Sale

Serving pie at your Easter dinner? Why not save yourself some time and effort. Buy your pies from Faith Community United Methodist Women. Pies will be \$10 each; flavors are Lattice-top Apple, Cherry, Peach, Blueberry, Lemon Meringue, Coconut Cream, Chocolate Cream, and Pecan. Orders will begin on Sunday, March 15 and close on Sunday, March 29. Pick up will be Saturday, April 11 in The Community Center. To order, see a UMW member or place an order during coffee time or before and after worship services.

CIRCLE MEETINGS: Lydia, Mar.11; Priscilla, Mar.16; Dorcas, Mar. 17

United Methodist Men

The MOF will meet on March 16, 2020 in room #16 A&B. 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. The program will be an update by Beth Holten from Interfaith Hospitality Network on how they are expanding and growing their program. Please call Bruce Pickelheimer (376-2361) if you plan to attend for the meal. Hope to see you on the 16th.

Missions Report

January FCUMC raised \$765 for Bridges of Hope to help with food to feed the homeless. They currently are in need of sugar and coffee.

Xenia Fish Pantry is in desperate need of sugar and oil. How many of us go to the store more than once a week? Why not pick up some sugar, oil or coffee each time you go?

We are also collecting small plastic flower containers and cloth ribbon for the containers for Henderson Settlement. They are going to plant flowers in the containers that children can purchase for their mothers this Mother's Day.

There are plastic bins in the Narthex for you to support Bridges of Hope, Fish Food Pantry or Henderson Settlement. Thanks for your support and being a Blessing to God's children.

Landscape Notice - Weather permitting, the landscaping under the portico, around the flag pole and to the right of the main entrance will be torn out and replaced the week of March 30th. The handicapped parking spaces in the first row by the portico will be unavailable for at least part of the week. As individuals or groups, please plan accordingly. Your cooperation is appreciated by the Trustees.

A Voice for Environmental Stewardship March 2020

In this article I will write about our (humanity's burning of fossil fuels, which covers coal, gasoline, diesel fuel, other oil products and natural gas.

Coal is becoming less and less economical to mine, transport and process. More electrical generating utilities are choosing natural gas to run their turbines for electric generation. The reality is though, that natural gas is also a fossil fuel, like coal, and burning it releases CO₂ into the atmosphere. Coal is almost completely carbon. 1% of Ohio's electricity is generated from burning coal and natural gas.

I pulled out my college chemistry book and looked at Modern Periodic Table of Elements. Remember that from high school science and/or chemistry? I saw that carbon has an atomic weight of 12 and oxygen has an atomic weight of 16. When one carbon atom is burned in the air it combines with two oxygen atoms forming carbon dioxide (CO₂). When I

added up the atomic weights in CO₂ I got (12+16+16+44). In other words, when we burn coal in the air the weight of a molecule of CO₂ jumps to 44. Forty-four is 3.66 times greater than carbon alone (12). In terms of pounds, 1.0 pound of BURNED carbon becomes 3.66 pounds of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. Most people don't know about this fact (or care about it)! It is very regrettable that our government does not care about it. However, when we accept the proven scientific fact that the unnatural buildup of CO₂, and other greenhouse gasses, in our atmosphere is due mainly to our burning of fossil fuels, it should mean something to us. This unnatural build up of CO₂ in our atmosphere started about 150 years ago with the beginning of the industrial revolution. The great heat of burning coal fueled many industries and improved the economies of many western nations. For all this time the amount of *heat trapping greenhouse gasses* in our atmosphere has been increasing dramatically. Now our earth's atmosphere is responding accordingly. All over the world high temperature records are being broken.

Glaciers all over the world are receding, permanently. Antarctica, our coldest continent has had record breaking high temperatures and centuries old massive ice shelves are breaking off into the southern Ocean at a rate never seen before.

Why should we be concerned with earth's rising temperatures? Well, we have all seen the news about how record rainfalls have spawned devastating record floods in areas close to relatively tame rivers. There have even been "500 year floods" in multiple places in the past 10 years. There have been many devastating tornados in the southern states in the WINTER. On May 27-28, 2019, multiple tornados in rapid fire succession ripped through Brookville, Celina, Fairborn and Beavercreek as a line of tornados went all the way into Indiana. This unprecedented chain of tornados is very unusual for Ohio. There have been more intense hurricanes than in previous decades. On the west coast of the U.S. long lasting droughts have devastated forests and made them much more susceptible to record-breaking wildfires, year after year. Communities in these areas have experienced total or massive destruction. Human lives have been lost and countless wildlife have died. Fire experts say that the only logical explanation for these conditions persisting so long is global warming and climate change that it brings. In the April edition of Faith Links, I will focus on the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, April 22, 2020.

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

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. 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.

Coffee Time

Thank you to Janet Adkins who helped with the Coffee Time between Sunday school and worship in February. It was so helpful. In March the Explorer Class has agreed to host the coffee time. Can you help during other months? We welcome groups and friends to assist throughout the year. We have openings for April, May, June, July, August, October, November, and December. Please talk this over with your friends and committees and see if they would be willing to help. Of course, I will be on board to bring the juice, napkins, plates, cups, etc. and Dick Strous graciously makes the coffee every Sunday. Give me a call if you want to sign up or if you have questions. Phone 937-313-1630 or email at vap1222@att.net. Thanks to all, Virginia Pinkerton.

Thank You

To my Faith Family,

Thank you for your cards, your phone calls, your visits, and your prayers during my recent surgery and recovery. I'm doing well and will probably see many of you by the time you read this. I want to especially thank Pastor Andy for his visit to the hospital before my surgery. You are truly examples of sharing one another's burdens. –Bill Sykes

Preschool

Our preschool director, Michelle Holvogt, has diligently worked to provide a wonderful place for your children to attend preschool. We appreciate all of her hard work and dedication in keeping the preschool running smoothly for the past five years. We are now faced with some changes, as Michelle wishes to participate more fully in her children's education. Therefore, we are beginning our search for a director for the 2020-2021 school year. If you know anyone who may be interested in information about this position, please have them call the preschool. Minimum qualifications are as follows:

“Four courses in child development or early childhood education from an accredited college or university, and two years of experience in a state licensed preschool”.

FCUMC preschool has been a long standing mission outreach of the church. ~~The Preschool Advisory Board

Easter Flowers

It is time to order the flowers for the Easter service. The order forms will be in the bulletins three Sundays, March 15th, March 22nd, & March 29th, and In the church office weekdays from March 16th through March 27th. We must have the order form and payment by March 31st to order the flowers. Both, the lilies and the tulips will be \$11.00 each.

Administrative Board

The 2020 Administrative Board had it first meeting January 28. The monthly meetings are scheduled for the 4th Tuesday. I thought it might be helpful for our congregation to know who is on that board and what their primary roles are for the year. A list follows.

Chairman - Virginia Pinkerton

Vice Chairman - (to be decided)

Secretary - Mary Ann Spahr

Treasurer - Karen Beyer

Pastor - Andy Wagner

Lay Leader - Cinda Elliott

Lay member to Western Ohio Annual Conference – Pam Colbrunn

Staff parish Relations Chairman— Becky Cultice

Trustee Chairman— Scott Jenkins with Margaret Stidham as

Vice Chairman

Finance Chairman - Rob Smith

Education Chairman – Rhonda Cook

Worship Chairman - Joyce Smith

Membership Care Chairman – Sandy Pramer

Missions and Outreach Chairman – Char Lee

Communications Chairman – ??????

Pre-School Representative - Evelyn Mash

United Methodist Women Representative – Carol Sykes

United Methodist Men— Wayne Cook

Youth Representative – Megan Ackenhausen

Members at Large in the Class of 2021 - Don Wolf, Carol Shaw,

Elaine Hughes, and Mike Murray

Members at Large in the Class of 2022- John Sherer, Ed Stidham,

Mike Engle

In addition, Rosie Mackey and Mike Murray have agreed to serve on the Benevolence Committee and Bruce Pickelheimer has been appointed to the Finance Committee as a member at large. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please speak with the lead person listed above. If you want to know about the work of the board, you are invited to visit the meetings as an observer. We are not a closed group. One of our continuing problems is how to communicate the needs of the community to each other and the workings of the committees and the board to our

members. If you have any ideas please share this information with the pastor or any person listed above. We welcome ideas.

Most of all we hope you will join us as we pray for Christ to be at the center of our church this year. We know we are facing a trying time but we are grateful for the support of our members and the example Christ gave when he lived, died, and then rose again for our sins. With Him all things are possible.

Blessings to all, Virginia Pinkerton

Deadline for April Faith Links: March 16

UNITED METHODIST MEN'S ANNUAL GARAGE SALE IS SCHEDULED FOR Friday, May 1 and Saturday May 2. Many have already responded with items for the garage sale and we are so appreciaproative of your support. If you are planning on donating significant items, it would be helpful if you would list those items below. Typical items donated are dishes, glassware, pots, pans, electrical items, pictures, games, toys, bikes, clocks, radios, TV's, garden tools, tools, mowers, & etc. Please no clothing, and please make sure electrical items are in working condition. If you have a garage sale prior to ours and have items left over, call us and we'll arrange to pick up left over items. Items may be dropped off at the Community Center Thursday, April 30 from 1 to 8 PM, or Friday May 1 from 9 AM -11 AM. The sale runs from 6 to 9 PM Friday evening and will continue Saturday morning 9 AM to 12 noon. Pick up of items may be arranged by calling John Sherer at 372-2204. We have storage for early pickups. Please list major items you plan to donate and put in the offering plate, turn into the church office, or give to John Sherer.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE# _____

needed, check this box ()

If pick up

Your support is greatly appreciated!! Proceeds go for UMM missions and projects.

It's Time for a New Directory

Celebrating faith.

Connecting families.

Sharing hope.

When people enter the doors of our church they are looking for a place to belong. Our directory brings us together to develop new relationships, connect with our own families and reconnect with those we haven't seen in a while. Join us for this "Connections Event" and be part of what God is doing right here at our church!

~~Directory Committee

Our church directory will not be complete without you. Join us to celebrate faith and family with our new church family album.

●Schedule your professional photography session when you stop by the signup table at church or simply go online and follow the instructions below. **IF WE DON'T SEE YOUR NAME ON YOUR LIST OF APPOINTMENTS, YOU WILL RECEIVE A PHONE CALL INVITING YOU TO PARTICIPATE.**

●Everyone who is photographed by Universal will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory!

●Universal provides a complete professional portrait studio here at our church! You'll enjoy a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finish and framing options AND have the opportunity to purchase portraits to give to family and friends.

March 2020 Calendar & Building Usage

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9-10-am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Fellowship & Coffee 10:30-11:30am Worship- 4:30-5:30pm-Confirmation Classes-YR	2 2-3pm-Bible Study with Pastor Andy-Parlor 6-8pm-CUSA Soccer-FCC 6:30-8:30-Cub Scouts-15A&B, #5,11,12	3 3:30-5:30pm-XHS Winter Guard-FCC 6-8:45pm-Girl Scouts-FH-A-C & 16-A 6-9pm-Magic Volleyball-FCC 6:30-8pm-Trustees-#6	4 6:15-7:15pm-Handbells 7-8:30pm-Chancel Choir-Sanctuary	5 10-11:30 -Bible Study-Parlor 11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6-9pm-Magic Volleyball-FCC	6 3:30-5:30pm-XHS Winter Guard-FCC	7
8 9-10-am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Fellowship & Coffee 10:30-11:30am Worship- 4:30-5:30pm-Confirmation Classes-YR	9 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	10 3:30-5:30pm-XHS Winter Guard-FCC 6-8:45pm-Girl Scouts-4-5pm-Worsip Design Team-Pastor's Office 4:30-6pm-SPRC-#6 6-8:45-G.S. Ldr Mtg.-15A,B 6-9pm-Magic Volleyball Practice-FCC	11 Bulletin Deadline 6:15-7:15pm-Handbells 7-8pm-Lydia-P 7-8:30pm-Chancel Choir-Sanctuary	12 10-11:30 -Bible Study-Parlor 11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 12:30-1:30pm Membership Care-#6 6-9-Magic Volleyball-FCC 7-9pm-Grief Support-P	13 12-3pm-Prayer Breakfast Set up-FH, Kitchen 3:30-5:30pm-XHS Winter Guard-FCC 6-9-Magic Volleyball-FCC	14 9:30am-UMW Prayer Breakfast-FCC
15 9-10-am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Fellowship & Coffee 10:30-11:30am-Worship-Sanctuary 4:30-5:30pm-Confirmation Classes-YR	16 2-3pm-Bible Study with Pastor Andy-Library 6:30-8:30-Cub Scout Mtg.-15A,B,rms. 5,11,12 6:30-9pm-MOF-16B 7-8:30 -Boy Scouts-15C 7-9pm-Priscilla-Parlor	17 1-3:30pm-Dorcas-Parlor 3:30-5:30pm-XHS Winter Guard-FCC 6-9pm-Magic Volleyball	18 Bulletin Deadline 6:15-7:15pm-Handbells 7:30-8:30pm-Chancel Choir-Sanctuary	19 10-11:30 -Bible Study-Parlor 11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6-9pm- Magic Volleyball Practice-FCC 6-8:45pm-Girl Scouts-15C 7-8:30pm-Christian Education Mtg.-Library	20 9am-12pm-Shoes 4 the Shoeless Measuring Set up-FCC 6-7:30pm- Magic Volleyball Practice-FCC	21 8:30-1:30pm-Shoes 4 the Shoeless-measuring-FCC
22 9-10-am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Fellowship & Coffee 10:30-11:30am-Worship-Sanctuary	23 2-3pm-Bible Study with Pastor Andy-Library 6:30-8:30-Cub Scouts.-15A,B,rms. 5,11,12	24 6-9pm-Magic Volleyball 6:30-8:30pm-Ad. Council-#6	25 Bulletin Deadline 6:15-7:15pm-Handbells 7:30-8:30pm-Chancel Choir-Sanctuary	26 10-11:30 -Bible Study-P 11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlo 6-7:30pm- Magic Volleyball Practice-FCC	27 6-7:30pm- Magic Volleyball Practice-FCC	28 5-9pm-Double I-15A
29 9-10-am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Fellowship & Coffee 10:30-11:30am-Worship-Sanctuary 4:30-5:30pm-Confirmation Classes-YR	30 Landscape Work 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	31 Landscape Work 6-9pm-Magic Volleyball				