

## June 2020

Rev. Andy Wagner  
937-372-7601 [office@fcum.org](mailto:office@fcum.org) [www.fcum.org](http://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  
We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

### From Pastor Andy

I'm thinking back to the day in March when our Bishop asked churches not to hold in-person worship services for the next two weeks. I was disappointed, but I remember thinking at the time, "Well, two weeks isn't so bad. We'll be back together by the end of the month." That was over two months ago now. Unfortunately, we still don't know when we will all be able to gather in the sanctuary again for worship.

In the meantime, we have been blessed to be able to worship in our homes on a weekly basis. I've heard from some of you who get up each week on Sunday morning to prepare for worship and turn the service on right at 10:30 AM. Some even shave and put on nice clothes. I can't say I'm quite there. I've found that I kind of enjoy worshipping in my pajamas. I'll try to remember not to do that once I'm back in the pulpit.

When that will be, we don't know at this point. The West Ohio Conference has issued guidelines for reopening in three stages. We have just entered into Stage 1 which allows us to open the building and hold meetings with not more than 10 people. We also have to maintain a safe social distance from one another and wear face coverings. Stage 2 will allow for gatherings of not more than 50 people, and Stage 3 is when we can lift the restrictions on numbers of people.

We continue to await guidance from our Conference on when we can enter into Stage 2 and, further down the line, Stage 3. As I said, we have just this week entered Stage 1. Corporate worship as we're used to having it is still a long way

away. I know this is frustrating to many people. We would all like to know when we can get back to all being together in the sanctuary again. Please know that our Conference leadership is working in coordination with our state government and health experts to provide us with the most faithful guidance possible. In the meantime, we will continue to be creative and do what we can within the restrictions that are in place.

To this end, one of the things we are beginning to implement are what I'm calling "worship circles." For those who would like to come to the church building and worship with others, there will now be opportunities for you to do so. However, since we cannot gather more than 10 people at a time, you will have to sign up for a time slot. We will start with three time slots - Monday at 2:00PM, Tuesday at 10:00AM, and Wednesday at 7:00PM - beginning the first day of June. I imagine many of you will continue to worship at home, but there may be some who would like to be with others as you worship. If that's the case, I want to make this opportunity available to you. If there is a higher demand for these "worship circles" I will be happy to add more times.

For these worship circles, chairs will be spaced more than six feet from one another and I ask everyone who comes to wear a face covering the entire time, keep a safe distance from one another, and refrain from physical contact. We will worship together using the on-line video service and then have some time for Bible study and mutual sharing following the service. There is a sign-up link in the weekly email and on the church website. If you do not use a computer or have trouble finding the link, you can sign up for one of the worship circles simply by contacting Pastor Andy at 937-305-2163.

Also, I am pleased to announce that we will be having another Drive-in worship service on June 21 at 10:30AM. As we did on Easter Sunday, you will remain in your car in the church parking lot and tune in to the service on your radio. For those of you who weren't able to access the frequency last time, please know that we learned from that mistake and we will find a frequency that all the cars will be able to get. I hope you will join us in the

parking lot this Father's Day. It will be good to worship together once again. And I promise, I won't wear my pajamas.

Blessings, Pastor Andy

## Stephen Ministry

### A Challenge



Like some of the rest of you, one of the ways I have been utilizing my time recently is tackling long-deferred projects including organizing my Stephen Ministry files. A few days ago I came across the following email received years ago and decided to share it.

### The True Meaning of Stress

As a young lady confidently walked around the room carrying a raised glass of water during a session that she was leading on stress management, the audience anticipated that she was going to ask the question “half full or half empty?” Instead, she asked, “How heavy is this glass of water?” Answers called out ranged from 8 oz. to 20 oz. She replied, “The actual weight doesn’t matter. It depends on how long I hold it. If I hold it for a minute, that’s not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I’ll have a sore right arm. If I hold it for a day, you’ll have to call an ambulance. In each case it’s the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes and that’s the way it is with stress. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won’t be able to carry on.” As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we are refreshed, we can carry on with the burden—holding stress longer and better each time we practice. So, as early in the evening as you can, put all your burdens down. Don’t carry them through the evening and into the night. If necessary, pick them up tomorrow.

During these challenging days that naturally include various degrees of stress, I challenge each of us to focus as much as possible on the positives in our lives. Specifically, what is going

well? Research indicates that social relationships and connections with others help keep us healthier and support our immune systems. We don't want "social distancing" to keep us from finding creative ways to stay in touch with our church family. Continue calling and sending cards to let others know someone is thinking about them.

Stephen Ministry is adding Zoom meetings as another way to connect since it appears that we won't be gathering as we traditionally have any time soon. While the usual avenues available to us as Stephen Ministers aren't currently recommended, we are still able to be present through phone contacts, emails, cards, and Zoom meetings. So, if you or anyone you know feels that having a listening ear would be beneficial, please contact Becky Cultice at 937-376-5747 or [culticer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:culticer@sbcglobal.net).

## Trustees

The Trustees have been busy during the covid closing. The hall between the narthex and activity center has been painted as well as the fellowship hall and entrance to the activity center. A couple of other areas have been painted as well. A new gate and some fencing for the dumpster area has been built and painting done there. We have been trying to clean some areas that have not been cleaned in a long time and have been trying to freshen up areas. Some deep cleaning and sanitizing has also been done. Work has begun to clean up the area beyond the parking lot to the back. That will be an ongoing project for the summer. We will continue to make improvements over the summer months. We hope the time and effort spent will make our church building a pleasant place for many functions in the future.

On behalf of the Trustees I would like to thank Cain's Landscaping for the great work in cleaning out and replanting the landscaping around the flag pole, under the portico and to the

right of the main entrance. The plants look great and have been cleaned up and updated in the areas which were overgrown.

~~Margaret Stidham

## United Methodist Men

### ATTENTION: ALL MEN - YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US

Since the quarantine is being adjusted to allow small groups to meet starting in June the executive committee thought we should begin meeting again. Our regular meeting date will be on June 15th. There will be a few changes from our previous plans. The meeting time will be 6:00 PM in rooms 16 A&B. Each person will bring their own meal and beverage. We will have a social time during the meal and a very short business session. The program will be a video streamed from a website.

The Annual Men's Garage Sale has been rescheduled for September 18th & 19th with pick up and drop off date September 17th. Hold on to your donations if you can or call John Sherer at 372-2204 if you can't wait that long. Look for more information in the August and September Faith Links. Thanks!!

We have received a considerable donation of furniture from Wayne Dawson, a widower who recently married and was joining into one household. Mr. Dawson was interested in where our donations went so we sent him the records of all our donations in 2019. We received the following note from Mr. Dawson:

“Thanks John for the information about how your church has shown the love of Jesus in your community.” I thank God for the work of your church.”

## Greetings From Your Ad Board Council

What an unusual year. When I took the job as Chairman of the Administrative Board I had no idea that we would not have a meeting in March, April, and May. I also had no idea that we would have no church services in late March and all of April and May and probably part of June. Hopefully, the prayers have continued for our church, our country, and each of us and our families.

I would continue to encourage each of us to continue to pray and also to call each other and /or send cards. Thank you to Bruce who keeps our prayer chain up to date and thanks to those of you who make sure we have a church service each week online. We also have Debbie and Karen who keep our office going, so we are blessed.

Keep your heart and mind open for deeds we can do to be able to hit the ground running when the coronavirus subsides somewhat. In the meantime, pray, love those around you, read the Bible, rest, stay healthy, and stay safe.

With Christ's love,  
Virginia Pinkerton  
Chairman of Ad Bd Council

## Prayers and Sympathy

Our church family extends sincere condolences to families and friends on the recent passings of:

Dorothy Beard, Paul Cushwa, Bill Shaw, Rock McColaugh, Virginia Fowler, Susan Thompson, Ronald Lewis, Charlie Brown, Nancy Hornick, Betty Thayer (sister of Doris Eakins), Betty Gultice, Edward Ringer (brother of Phyllis Harner, Alyce Stocker, Dick Rowland (Caroly Craine's companion).

## Thank You

*Thanks for all the prayers, phone calls, cards, and concerns for my recovery period here at home. I am doing well since my accident but still have limitations till later part of June.*

*Bill Turner*

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*Thank you so much for allowing our family to have funeral services for our father David Fawley on March 13 and 14. Words cannot express how wonderful everything was and how kind and thoughtful Crystal was. She is such a special soul!*

*God Bless – Erica, Kea, Jack, Adi Cotterman, Matt Fawley, Kass Thomas, Erin Fawley, Michele Kirk, Lisa and Craig Dunbar*

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*I want to thank all my church friends for their phone calls, visits, cards, concerns, support and prayers after my misfortune on March 7. I am now “at home” at: Friends Care Community, 170 E. Herman Street, Apt. 15, Yellow Springs, OH 45387, phone 937-319-0531.*

*I welcome phone calls and visits when this crazy virus is under control. Blessings to all of you.*

*Genevieve (Genny) Jones*

## VBS

Many difficult decisions have had to be made over the past several months. We realize that the health and safety of all is critical. We have decided that Vacation Bible School will not be held on its scheduled week in June. Since we have no way of knowing what the future holds, no new date has been chosen.

We so appreciate all those who made financial contributions to support this ministry. Those funds will be kept in a VBS account, to be used when we can safely welcome the children. It is probable VBS might not occur until June of 2021. We look forward to FCUM being filled with singing , laughing , and praising.

## Freebies

Rev. Alan Barone has tree seedlings to give to the children (or anyone else who wants one) once we return to church. Varieties available are Norway Spruce, Colorado Spruce, Red Maple, White Dogwood, and Red Buds. The only condition for receiving one of these is a commitment to planting it! They will be identified in baggies along with instructions for planting. Look for these at a table in the Narthex whenever we are able to return to church.

## Important!

If you have not been receiving weekly emails from the church, please check your Spam or Junk bin to see if they are going there. Also, please contact the church office to make sure we have your correct email address.

## Xenia FISH Pantry Has Moved!

We have moved and remained open as a drive-through pantry during this pandemic with a minimal staff. There has been an increased need for food the past 6 weeks. We sincerely thank you for continuing to support efforts to feed those in need.

Our new location is 774 Cincinnati Ave. Our mailing address is Xenia FISH Pantry, PO Box 113, Xenia OH 45385

## Manley Proverbs

*“Close your eyes to the faults of others and you open the doors of friendship.”*

*(Compiled by Charles Manley)*

**Stay safe and healthy.  
We're all in this Together!**





### **Manley Proverbs**

***“Close your eyes to the faults of others and you open the doors of friendship.”***

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**Deadline for May Faith Links: April 17**

**\*\*ATTENTION: CHANGES IN CHURCH DIRECTORY  
PICTURE TAKING!!!**

Due to the Coronavirus precautions, we have postponed the picture taking dates for our church directory. Instead of April 23, 24, & 25, we will be doing them on June 18, 19, & 20 !!! All of the April appointments have been cancelled and new appointments must be made for the June sittings. More detailed instructions will be in the May issue of Faith Links and in the church bulletins. The new dates & times will be posted on the same site and you sign up there, or at the table in the narthex on the 5 Sunday mornings preceding the week of picture taking, or by calling the church office. The site is [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com) . Faith Community Code is oh2305. The password to schedule your time is "photos". Then follow the prompts to schedule your date and times. If there are more than 6 in your family, please schedule 2 time slots. We ask that you save the evening times and Saturday for those who work during the week days. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation.

Please, all of you take the precautions to stay well!

## June 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> 2-3:30pm-Worship Circle w/Pastor Andy-15 A&B  7-9pm-Stephen Ministry-Library	<b>2</b> 10-11:30am- Worship Circle w/Pastor Andy-15 A&B 4:30-6pm-SPRC-Room 6 6:30-8:30pm- Trustees-Room 6	<b>3</b> 7-8:30pm- Worship Circle w/Pastor Andy-15 A&B	<b>4</b> 10-11:30 -Bible Study-Parlor  11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 2-3:30pm-Worship Circle w/ Pastor Andy-Parlor	<b>9</b> 10-11:30am- Worship Circle w/Pastor Andy-15 A&B  4-5pm-Worship Design Team-Pastor's Office	<b>10</b> 7-8:30pm- Worship Circle w/Pastor Andy-15 A&B	<b>11</b> 10-11:30 - Bible Study-Parlor 11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 12:30-1:30pm Membership Care-#6 7-9pm-Grief Support-Parlor	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 2-3:30pm-Worship Circle w/Pastor Andy  6-8:30pm-Men of Faith-16A&B	<b>16</b> 10-11:30am- Worship Circle w/Pastor Andy-15 A&B  6:15-7:15pm-Mission Outreach -Adult Library	<b>17</b> 7-8:30pm- Worship Circle w/Pastor Andy-15 A&B	<b>18</b> 10-11:30 -Bible Study-Parlor  11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 10:30-11:30am-DRIVE-IN WORSHIP SERVICE Parking Lot - MUST STAY IN YOUR CAR	<b>22</b> No Worship Circle	<b>23</b> No Worship Circle  6:30-8:30pm-Ad Board-Room 6	<b>24</b> No Worship Circle	<b>25</b> 10-11:30 -Bible Study-Parlor  11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 2-3:30pm-Worship Circle w/Pastor Andy-Parlor	<b>30</b> 10-11:30am- Worship Circle w/Pastor Andy-15 A&B				