

July 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

We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

From The Pastor

Leaving the church one day following worship, a man complained to his pastor that he had not enjoyed worship at all that day. The pastor's response? "That's okay, we weren't worshipping you."

If that response sounds cold and offensive, you might want to reassess your understanding of worship. Our consumer culture has tried to convince us that worship is all about us – meeting our needs, pleasing our interests, conforming to our wants. Such concerns as these are not true worship at all. Worship is paying reverence and honor to God. Worship is about setting ourselves aside for God. Worship is about giving ourselves over to God.

I am so excited that we are going to be resuming in-person worship this month! You will find information about when and how we will do this in this newsletter. It will be quite different from what any of us are used to. All of us will need to make adjustments. I'm sure there will be something that will make every one of us somewhat uncomfortable. But that's okay, we're not worshipping ourselves.

When we come together for worship, it is important for us to remember why we are there. We gather for worship to show that God is the One – the ONLY ONE – worthy of all honor and praise. We gather in worship to show that we are all equally in need of God's grace. We gather in worship to show that we are all made one in Christ. We gather in worship in order that God may multiply our witness.

Your church leadership is instituting procedures that we hope and pray will allow us to carry out the true meaning of communal worship in the most responsible and faithful manner possible in this moment. Some will be pleased with the procedures and some will not. Some will be ready to return and some will not. All of that is okay as long as we keep Christ at the center of all that we say and do and as long as we treat one another with the same love and forbearance that Christ has shown us.

As we begin to return to church, let us not forget to BE The Church!

Blessings, Pastor Andy

Stephen Ministry

Resources to Help Navigate Uncertainty and Find Hope for Ourselves and Our Loved Ones

As we are still dealing with uncertainty and trying to navigate new territory, there are numerous resources available to help. One site that offers comprehensive, positive options is www.guideposts.com. Their home page includes the following subcategories: Someone Cares, Inspiration, Better Living, Friends & Family, Caregiving, and Faith & Prayer. There is something there for everyone who is looking for encouragement such as “Words to Help You Find Hope and Strength in Any Situation”, “10 Bible Prayers for Comfort and Hope,” “17 Devotions to Help You Get Through the Pandemic,” “5 Ways to Keep Hopes and Dreams Alive.”

While many of us are now able to get out, though with care, there are still those in our own families and in our church family who cannot. Restrictions are softening in nursing home and assisted living facilities, but for a variety of reasons many in our older population are still isolated. What can we do to let them know we care? Fun Ways to Stay Busy When Isolated @homeinstead.inc suggests ways to keep older adults engaged and encouraged whether they are living at home or in an assisted living facility. Scheduling a time to touch base by phone, Facetime, or Zoom gives them something to anticipate. Share devotions or prayer. Grandparents can read to a child or the grandchild can read to the grandparent. Read the same book and compare reactions. Plan a window visit. Use technology or phones to watch a TV show “together.” Game shows are especially good choices—ie. Jeopardy or Wheel of Fortune. See who can get the right answer first. Bring out old photo albums and take a trip down memory lane. If pictures aren’t labeled, see if your loved one can help do that. Encourage them to “give of themselves” by writing letters, calling a friend, resurrecting a previous hobby, etc. If they have access to internet, there are lots of virtual trips available that you might help them access. Any of these activities can be helpful in relieving the sameness of each day and the lack of new things to share when communicating.

As decisions need to be made about what is safe and what is not for our loved ones, they will be personal with no clear-cut answers. Fortunately there are resources that help us make informed decisions. AARP Resources for Caregivers and Their Families at www.aarp.org is one such source. “How Family Caregivers Can Keep Loved Ones Safe as Stay-at-Home Orders Lift” is just one recent, pertinent article.

As Stephen Ministers, our current roles are somewhat altered, but we are eager to offer support in any way we can. Don’t hesitate to reach out to us if you or someone you know is going through an especially difficult time. Contact Becky Cultice @ 937-376-5747 to learn more.

Prayer Shawls

Since August of 2018 several of us meet weekly to knit or crochet prayer shawls. These prayer shawls are available for anyone who is going through a challenging time. Joyous moments can be celebrated as well as difficult ones. Giving and receiving a shawl has tremendous potential to open doors of communication, reinforce relationships, and invite understanding and healing. It can be a tangible symbol of love when words can't be found to adequately express feelings. Shawl recipients often sense that there is hope for tomorrow, that they are not completely alone, and that someone cares enough to reach out and let them know. Feel free to pick up one to share. For information about where to find them, stop in the church office.

United Methodist Women

Dorcas Circle has resumed meetings and will meet on July 21 at 1:00 PM in the Parlor. Priscilla Circle and Lydia Circle do not meet in July.

United Methodist Men

Since the quarantine was adjusted to allow small groups to meet starting in late May the executive committee thought we should begin meeting again. Our regular meeting date will be on July 20th. 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. The program will start at 6:30 PM with a presentation on Interfaith Hospitality Network by Beth Holten, followed by our regular business session. **ALL MEN ARE WELCOME AND YOU CAN BRING A FRIEND.** Hope to see you on the 20th.

THE ANNUAL MEN'S GARAGE SALE has been rescheduled for September 18th & 19th. Hold onto your donations if you can or call John Sherer at 937-372-2204 if you can't wait that long. Look for more info in the August and September Faith Links.

A Voice for Environmental Stewardship

Did you know that one mature leafy tree produces as much oxygen as ten people inhale in a whole year? Trees produce oxygen from the process called photosynthesis, as you know.

They take the energy from the sun, carbon dioxide from the air and water from the ground and make glucose in order to grow. This process happens in leaves in cells containing green chlorophyll. Oxygen is released from the cells as a by-product of this process.

All animals, including us, use oxygen to breathe, making life possible. There is a balance in nature between the oxygen that all plants produce and the oxygen that animals need in order to breathe. There is also a balance between the carbon dioxide that animals breathe out and the carbon dioxide that plants absorb through their leaves.

The more trees that we have growing, adding oxygen to our atmosphere, the healthier our air is for us and all animals. If you have the opportunity and the space to plant a tree or to save a tree, please do it. Trees are a beautiful and valuable gift from God to us and to all of Nature.

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

Prayer Chain

WOULD YOU LIKE US TO PRAY FOR YOU OR YOUR LOVED ONE? We have a prayer team that prays for concerns every day and would be blessed to add your request to that list. To place a prayer request you can go to our website (fcum.org) and click on the Prayer Request link which will take you to the request page. Fill out the form with your name and email address, complete the request section with the information you would like us to pray about and then click on SEND MESSAGE. All requests are confidential and will be on our prayer list for seven days. If you feel your request was answered, please let us know by using the prayer request form. We want to thank God for answering your request. If you don't have access to the internet, phone requests can be made by calling Bruce Pickelheimer at 937-376-2361 or email prayerchain@fcum.org.

Congratulations to our FCUM College Graduates

Can you name all three of the college graduates who have or will soon be graduating and are associated with our church?

Carolyn Engle – Congratulations to Carolyn who recently graduated from Indiana State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Speech-Language Pathology. Carolyn graduated Magna Cum Laude and is an Honor College graduate. In keeping with the plan to become a speech pathologist, she will be returning to Indiana State University in the fall and begin work towards her Master's Degree with hopeful plans to graduate in May of 2022.

Juliana Erwin – Congratulations also to Juliana Erwin. Juliana recently obtained a Bachelor's of Science degree in Community Leadership with a Specialization in Extension Education from the Ohio State University. Once the

COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, she will be looking for a job to complement her studies. She is also looking forward to a fall of 2021 wedding.

Hunter Ratliff – Hunter is just one elective course away from earning his Bachelor’s Degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Cincinnati. In June, he will begin his employment with Andrews Laser Works where he will put his studies to good use and is projected to graduate in August of this year.

Carolyn, Juliana, and Hunter... Congratulation on your academic achievements and praise God for his hand of protection and his guiding influence on you over the past few years. We are proud of your success and celebrate your achievements with you.

Good News!!

Dear Faith Community,

I am excited to announce that we are set to resume live worship on July 5! It will have been three and a half long months since we gathered together for worship inside the building. I am so looking forward to seeing your faces and lifting our praises together!

Here are the details of how we will be doing things. We are entering into Phase 2 of the reopening process, which means we are limited to gatherings of no more than 50 at a time, and are not yet able to offer child care or children’s classes. We apologize to the families who are impacted by this, but we are simply not yet able to offer children’s classes in a safe manner. Children are always welcome in the worship service. We will be holding two worship services on Sunday mornings, one at 9:00 and one at 11:00. The services will both be held in the Community Center and will be identical services. Rather than designating a time for you to come, we are going to try allowing you to choose which hour you would like to attend. However, please note that due to our number restrictions, we may find it necessary to begin assigning times if the self-selection does not work out well. Please do not enter the building more than 20 minutes prior to the service time in order to allow for transition time and cleaning. Chairs will be switched out between services. We will not be using bulletins or hymnals. Everything you need for participating in worship will be projected on the walls next to the stage.

There will be singers and musicians on the stage to provide music during the service. They will be an extra distance away from the congregation so that they can lead worship safely. The congregation is expected to wear masks at all times while in the building (with the exception of children age 2 and under). If you would like to sing along with the hymns, we ask you to do so “under your breath” and leave your mask in place. Even with masks

on, singing has been shown to project the virus much further than speaking. Humming along or singing to yourself would be appropriate.

When you arrive, you will enter through the Community Center entrance next to the office. There will be someone there recording names of all in attendance. Please make sure that your name gets recorded. You will then be directed to a seat by an usher. If there are several families arriving at the same time, please remember to stay socially distanced while waiting to enter and be seated.

Chairs will be set in groups of three with at least six feet in between each grouping. If there are more than three in your household grouping, simply move two groups of seats together. Following the service, you will be dismissed by the ushers to exit through the doors at the north end of the Community Center.

Offering plates will not be passed during the service. There will be baskets at both the entrance and exit where you can place an offering. Continuing to give on-line through the church website is always an option.

Please monitor your own health before coming to church. If you have a fever, please stay home. If you have a cough or sore throat, please stay home. If you have any symptoms of illness, please stay home. We will continue to offer on-line worship for those who are not yet ready or able to return in person. We want to have you back, but we also need to be considerate and do what we can to keep one another safe and healthy.

Pastor Andy

Prayers and Sympathy

Condolences to Jim and Bonnie McPeek on the death of Jim's mother; to family and friends on the death of Robert Swigart; to Sandra Samanas on the death of her husband Joe; to Wayne and Rhonda Cook on the death of Wayne's father; and to family and friends of Alice Rudy on her death.

Thank You

I wish to thank everyone who kept me in their prayers, sent cards, called, or emailed during my hospitalization and recovery. Your cares and concerns have been very much appreciated by Dawn and me. Stay safe. Blessings to all.

--Marlene Gifford

Greetings from Your Administrative Board

Due to the Coronavirus we have not been meeting but your committee chairmen have been busy sending in reports of things they have done, so the work is not completely stopped. The good news is that by the time you get this newsletter, we will have met and hopefully we will have planned a safe way to worship again together. I think we all realize that it will not be

"life as normal". However, we need to be creative to figure out ways to be about the Lord's work. It is very easy to get complacent, or at least it is for me. We are called as Christians to serve. If you are not a member of the prayer chain, please consider joining. If you have not been to a Bible Study, now might be the time, but wear a mask. Did you know our church has a program called the casserole caravan? If you know of someone who is sick, laid up, or just needs help with meals for a time, please consider calling Sandy Pramer or Julie Wickline. Volunteers can usually prepare a meal in 48 hours notice. Most of all, keep praying.

Love always, Virginia Pinkerton..

Church Directory

We have a new picture-taking schedule due to our shutdown this Spring. Our new dates and times are as follows:

Thursday, July 30 from 2:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Friday, July 31 from 2:00 PM -7:30 PM

August 1 from 10:30 AM – 4:00 PM

If you choose to schedule your photography appointment online, simply go to www.ucdir.com, click online scheduling. Enter "oh2305" in the church code field and enter photos in the church password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you are unable to use a computer, you can register at the table in the Community Center during Sunday morning worship or call Deb Klaty or the Directory Volunteers in the church office, 937-372-7601, ext. 10. Please leave evenings and Saturdays for families where parents work outside the homes. Please note the online system is only available Monday – Friday. During the week and on weekends when the church is closed or computer unavailable, you may also call Judy Mahan at home – 937-372-5711. If no answer, please leave message and I will return your call.

Here are some helpful preparation hints from the photographers:

- Clothing- Solid colors work best and will make you look thinner.
- Hair – be yourself, avoid changing your hairstyle or cutting your hair right before your session.
- Jewelry – If you have jewelry that has special meaning to you, wear it!

- Make-up – Apply make-up as you would normally. Pay special attention to your eyes: they're the focal point in a portrait!
- Glasses – If you wear eye glasses all the time, you'll want to wear them in your portraits. We'll take care of any glare.
- You may invite extended family members for a multi-generational photo.
- Bring your pets. We know they are an important part of the family. Please check with the church.

Please read the insert for more information

FCUM
May 2020 Financials

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------|---------|--------------|-----------|--------|
| Monthly Income | \$22,990 | | YTD Income | \$176,056 | |
| Monthly Expenses | \$26,240 | | YTD Expenses | \$148,121 | |
| Difference | (\$3,249) | -14.13% | Difference | \$27,935 | 15.87% |

Manley Proverbs

“I cannot choose how I feel but I can choose what I do about it.”

(Contributed by Charles Manley)

Deadline for August Faith Links – Thursday, July 16



July 2020

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| | | | 1 7-8:30pm- Worship Circle w/Pastor Andy-15 A&B | 2 10-11:30 -Bible Study-Parlor 11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor | 3 | 4 Happy Fourth of July |
| 5 LIVEWORSHIP!! 9am & 11am Community Center | 6 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 7-9pm-Stephen Ministry-Library | 7 10-11:30am-Directoy Committee-Library 4:30-6:30pm-SPRC-Library 6:30-8:30pm-Trustees-FH-15C | 8 | 9 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 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 LIVEWORSHIP!! 9am & 11am Community Center | 13 2-6pm-Community Blood Drive-FCC 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C | 14 | 15 | 16 10-11:30 -Bible Study-Parlor 11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor | 17 | 18 |
| 19 LIVEWORSHIP!! 9am & 11am Community Center | 20 6-8:30pm-Men of Faith- 16A&B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C | 21 1-3:30pm-Dorcas Circle-Library 4-5pm-Worship Design Team-FH15A&B 6:15-7:15pm-Mission/Outreach-FH-15 A&B. | 22 | 23 10-11:30 -Bible Study-Parlor 11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor | 24 | 25 5-9pm-Double I Dinner-FH A,B |
| 26 LIVEWORSHIP!! 9am & 11am Community Center | 27 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C | 28 6:30-8:30pm-Ad Board-FCC | 29 | 30 10-11:30 -Bible Study-Parlor 11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 2-8pm-Directory Photos | 31 2-7:30pm-Directory Photos-FCC | |

Dear Church Family, It's time for a New Directory!

Celebrating faith. Connecting families. Sharing hope.

New Safety Procedures

Universal is committed to the health and safety of your church families & our employees.

We want you to know that we are taking the necessary precautions to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

- Following 6 ft. Social Distancing rules throughout the photography process
- Germ guard plexiglass between customers & photographers at the viewing station
- All equipment will be disinfected between sittings
- Utilizing larger lobby rooms for safe social distancing
- Staff will be utilizing hand sanitizer between sittings

Join us for this "Family Connections Event" and be part of what God is doing right here at your church!



Family Connections Event

Our church directory will not be complete without you. Please join us and help celebrate faith and family with our new church family directory.

- Schedule your professional photography session when you stop by the sign-up table at the church or simply go online and follow the instructions below.
If we don't see your name on our 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 right here at your 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.

Directory Committee

Set your appointment with Universal today!

1-888-742-5823



New Safety Glass at Viewing Station