

## September 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

### Attendance

July 5	9am - 53	11am - 46
July 12	9am - 48	11am - 46
July 19	9am - 49	11am - 45
July 26	9am - 36	11am 40
August 2	9am - 41	11am - 47
August 9	9am - 35	11am 37

### Online Services

For those who have not yet returned for in-person worship, or for those who like to share our worship with others, the Sunday morning service is posted each week on-line. It takes a few hours to edit and post, but is usually available by late Sunday afternoon. You can find the service by going on YouTube.com and searching Faith Community United Methodists. It is also posted on the church website, [www.fcum.org](http://www.fcum.org).

### From the Pastor

“Be strong and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord.” Psalm 31:24

“I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope.” Psalm 130:5

I don't like to wait. Does anyone? Waiting is never fun. Our human condition compels us to get our needs met now. If I'm not getting what I want when I want it, then something must be wrong. Of course, we all know that's not the way the world works. But still, we wish that it did, don't we? Nobody likes to wait.

Still, there are some things that are worth waiting for. Lora and I have taken our boys to amusement parks several times this summer. Each ride that we come to the question is always – how long is the

line and is it worth it? There are times that we pass on a ride because the wait is simply too long – it’s just not worth it. Other times we get off a thrilling ride and say, “That was definitely worth the wait!”

The Bible says a lot about waiting for the Lord. Nobody likes to wait. But let me tell you, when it comes to waiting for the Lord, it is definitely worth the wait! God’s timing is perfect and God’s blessings are beyond compare.

I was hoping to have more updates by now as to changes at church – when we can move back into the sanctuary, when we can restart Sunday school, etc. Unfortunately, I don’t have those answers yet. We’re still waiting. It feels like that’s all we’ve been doing for months – waiting. And nobody likes to wait.

But the truth is, that’s not all we’ve been doing. We’ve been worshipping our God, praising our Savior, finding ways to serve our neighbor, remaining steadfast in prayer, finding hope in his Word. We’ve been waiting – yes – but we’ve been waiting for the Lord. The answers will come in God’s time. Whenever those answers come and whatever those answers may be, I promise you we will look back and proclaim, “That was definitely worth the wait!”

Blessings, Pastor Andy

## Stephen Ministry



The most recent newsletter from Hospice of Dayton included an article entitled “Living Loss and Navigating Grief during Covid-19.” The information included is pertinent to many of us. I am sharing it as written:

During the Covid-19 pandemic, many people are experiencing grief, even though they may not have experienced the death of a loved one or friend. This is known as a living loss. It is important to identify these symptoms and learn ways to navigate grief.

People are experiencing a variety of losses, including loss of financial security, loss of control, loss of events (weddings, graduations, parties, etc.), and loss of connection to others. These losses can impact our emotional, mental, and physical well being.

You may feel sadness, heaviness and anxiety. You may experience difficulty sleeping, irritability, restlessness, difficulty concentrating. You may also have a change in appetite. If grief is not handled properly, it can settle into depressions. Strategies to cope with grief are not a one-size-fits-all approach. Some strategies that have been

helpful for others are:

\*Ac-

knowledge your grief. It is OK to grieve, no matter the circumstance.

\*Take a break from the news. Disconnect for a time.

\*Take care of your body. Exercise, decrease your caffeine intake,

\*practice deep breathing exercises, and get a good night's sleep.

\*Reach out and connect to others.

\*Focus on what you can control. You can control your routine, attitude and self-care.

Faith Community's grief support group meets the second Thursday of each month and our Stephen Ministers are available to walk along side you during these difficult times. To learn more, contact Pastor Andy or Becky Cultice at 937-376-5747.

## Stephen Ministry Fall In-Service Open to All

On October 4<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 to 4:30 the Greater Dayton Stephen Ministry Network is sponsoring presentations of special interest to anyone dealing with children and teenagers. Josh Egeland a licensed social worker at Daybreak will speak on "Understanding Gender Identity and Expression among Adolescents" and Sandra L. Todd, Pediatric Psychologist at New Creation Counseling Center and Dayton Children's Hospital will share thoughts on "Children, Adolescents, and Screen Time." Registration for this free program is required by Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. Attendees may opt either to attend in person at Fairhaven Church, 637 E. Whipp Road in Centerville with social distancing guidelines in place and attendance limited to 35 persons or by Zoom with spaces reserved for 50. To learn more, contact Becky Cultice at 937-376-5747 or [culticer@sbcgobal.net](mailto:culticer@sbcgobal.net).

## From Virginia Pinkerton

Dear church members,

Greetings! I am hoping you are all well in spite of the coronavirus sweeping the country. Please do all you can to stay safe. As your Chairman of the Administrative Board, I feel compelled to encourage you. It is easy to get discouraged and lax in our work as Christians. I was pondering the situation the other day, I asked myself, How can I be a Christian in the midst of a pandemic? I think we are all asking that question. Pre-pandemic, I was continually at the church busy with some project- projects that don't happen right now due to restric-

tions. After some thought I came up with 10 ideas that I could/ should do to continue to serve the Lord and our church and also grow as a Christian. They are..

1. Pick a book of the Bible and really take time to study it in depth. Try to learn something each day.
2. Call Debbie at the church office and ask her about assisting with the casserole caravan.
3. Also, call the office and become a part of the prayer chain. It links so many people with news of needs and praises.
4. Send an encouraging note to a friend or church member you've missed. People love to get mail that is not a bill.
5. Thank those who are keeping the church going.
6. Pray often. Our world needs prayers. Join the 1 minute prayer time at 9 pm each day.
7. Listen to music with a religious theme. It is more uplifting than the news, for sure.
8. Smile—It brightens the day!
9. Count your blessings.
10. Reach out with love to your family, friends, and neighbors. They may be lonely.

I am sure there are many other ideas. If you have a good idea~ why not share it here in the Faith Links for October. I close with a special thank you to Jackie Foster who makes this church paper happen each month. She is amazing.

## **United Methodist Women**

The United Methodist Women gave \$500 from their scholarship funds to each of the graduating seniors, Ian Ackenhausen, Megan Ackenhausen, Jacob Fox, Reese Skaggs, Grant Smith, and Wesley Wickline, to help further their education.

### **CIRCLES**

Lydia – Wednesday, September 9, 7pm – 15A-B

Dorcas – Tuesday, 1pm – 15A-C

Priscilla – Monday, September 21, 7pm – 15A-B

## United Methodist Men

Our regular meeting of the Men of Faith will be on September 21<sup>st</sup>. 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 from Nathan Chrisman from THE CLEFT, followed by our regular business session. **ALL MEN ARE WELCOME AND YOU CAN BRING A FRIEND.** Hope to see you on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**REMINDER: MASKS ARE REQUIRED IN THE CHURCH BUILDING.**

## A Voice for Environmental Stewardship

Have you ever heard of the Anthropocene Epoch? This is a term that was coined in 2000. It relates to the current geological age, viewed as the period of time during which human activity has been the dominant influence on climate and the environment. "Some geologists argue that the Anthropocene Epoch began with the industrial revolution, about 150 years ago, when burning coal became the major source of energy used for industries of all kinds. Burning coal continues to be the major energy source for generating our electricity.

As we have learned in these articles on environmental stewardship, the burning of coal and other fossil fuels adds huge amounts of carbon dioxide to our atmosphere. After sunlight passes through our atmosphere, and warms the surface of the Earth, CO<sub>2</sub> traps the heat and doesn't allow it to be reflected back into space. The normal amount of trapped heat is a good thing because it warms the earth enough for life to flourish. Too much CO<sub>2</sub>, however, traps too much heat. Just like a greenhouse that gets too warm for the plants inside to flourish.

During the last 150 years the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in our atmosphere has become excessive. Our oceans and our land absorb the vast majority of the excessive CO<sub>2</sub>, but it has become a growing problem. Our oceans have become more and more acid, killing marine life such as coral reefs all around the world. Ocean ecosystems are being polluted not only by excessive CO<sub>2</sub>, but by all the junk and plastics we are throwing into them.

Humans are changing the face of the earth, but not for the good of many of the species that have lived on our Earth **MUCH LONGER** than we have. One of the most poignant statements that I have heard about the Anthropocene is, "We **ARE** what we leave

behind.” If other animals could name us, I believe they might name us the THE POLLUTANT RACE. We can change that.

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

## Preschool Status

It is with sadness that we notify you of the status of Faith Community Preschool for the 2020-2021 school year. Due to the uncertainty of the current health crisis and low enrollment, we will not be opening the preschool this year.

We have so enjoyed working with your children and will miss the smiles and sounds of singing and laughter coming from those classrooms. We have appreciated the dedication of our staff in their caring and teaching of your children. We pray for God’s blessings, that your families stay safe and continue to thrive even in these times of stress and uncertainty.

If you put up a Preschool yard sign thank you, we so appreciate your support in advertising for us. You can either return it to the church or call Debbie at the church office (937) 372-7601 and we will be happy to come pick it up!!

Sincerely, The Faith Community Preschool Board

## Festival of Sharing Update

The Festival of Sharing event for September 2020 has been canceled. The event will occur sometime in 2021 in coordination with Otterbein University. Currently we have 50 school kits and 10 health kits with more shopping to do. The Jenkins will store the completed kits until the next event or our board makes other arrangements. We continue to shop for materials as there are partial kits to be completed. A NEW opportunity exists as the South Ohio Brethren Disaster group has made an offer in relation to flood buckets. For every \$75 in cash given to put together one flood bucket they will match it with two [2] more buckets. So by the purchase of one you will be providing a total of [3] three. All monies for the flood buckets need to be in to Carol and Scott or the church by September 19. If giving by check, please put "Buckets" in the memo line. Thank you and blessings.

## Shoes 4 the Shoeless Huge Success

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to help on Saturday at the Shoe giveaway by guiding traffic, loading and unloading the trucks, giving Bibles, sizing and taking orders, running orders, selecting socks and shoes, and providing snacks. We could not have done it without all of your help. Because of you, we were able to provide shoes for 181 children! Kris has kindly agreed to come back and do it again in Spring 2021. We will notify you when a date has been chosen. Faith Community still has a "shoe closet" which is giving shoes to those in need throughout the school year. If you wish to make a donation to the our program you can still do that.

Thank you, Sandy Pramer

## Thank You

*How blessed I am!! My friends at Faith Community sent me a beautiful card and a loaf of banana bread. Thank you all so very much. Love and hugs – Betty Anderson*

*We would like to thank the church members for the calls, cards, and those that brought in meals and helped with the work necessary to making the move to our new home since we have been having health concerns at the same time. We have a very caring church family. Thank you so much.*

*Dolores & Dick Strous*

*Dear Faith Community United Methodists Women,*

*Thank you so much for awarding me one of the 2020 FCUM scholarships. I appreciate all of your support in helping me pursue my dream of becoming a welder by attending Hobart Institute of Welding Technology. I am excited to be able to start my education late fall instead of having to wait a few months to raise extra money. Thank you so much for our generosity and helping support young people pursue their dreams. –Zachary Reese Skaggs*

*Scholarship Committee,*

*Thank you so much for the generous scholarship. I am incredibly blessed to have such an amazing church family to support me. Graduate school will be an interesting experience during this time but I look forward to visiting as often as I can!*

*Thank you again and God bless. – Carolyn Engle  
Dear Scholarship Committee,*

*Thank you for the \$2,000 Church Scholarship! This means so much to me! With this, I can now help my parents alleviate some stress off of their shoulders with tuition! Getting something like this doesn't happen to just anyone, so it is especially kind and generous of you to give me the opportunity I now have. Thanks to you, I will fulfill my dreams at Ohio University!*

*Once again, from the bottom of my heart, thank you for this special gift and I will always be glad to be a faithful and loyal member of Faith Community UMC! –Jacob Fox*

## Passings

Our church family extends prayers and sympathy to Wallace (Dawn) Dillingham on the death of his mother Barbara Dillingham.

### FCUM July 2020 Financials

Monthly Income	\$23,977		YTD Income	\$238,063	
Monthly Expenses	\$33,153		YTD Expenses	\$214,021	
Difference	(\$9,176)	-38.27%	Difference	\$24,042	10.10%

## The Power of Prayer

Someone has said that if Christians really understood the full extent of the power we have available through prayer, we might be speechless. Did you know that during World War II there was an advisor to Churchill who organized a group of people who dropped what they were doing every day at the prescribed hour for one minute to collectively pray for the safety of England, its people and peace? There is now a group of people organizing the same thing here in America. If you would like to participate: Every evening at 9pm, stop what you are doing and spend one minute praying for the safety of the United States, our troops, our citizens and for a return to a Godly nation. If you have a smart phone, set an alarm to pray from 9:00-9: 01 p.m Please pass this along to your prayerful family and friends. Our prayers are the most powerful asset we have.



**Deadline for October Faith Links: September 18**

**UNITED METHODIST MEN'S ANNUAL GARAGE SALE IS SCHEDULED** for Friday, September 18 and Saturday September 19. Many have already responded with items for the garage sale and we are so appreciative 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, September 17 from 1 to 8 PM, or Friday September 18 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# \_\_\_\_\_

**If pick up**

**needed, check this box (  )**

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

## September 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> 9-4pm-Lifeline Screening-FCC 4:30pm-6pm-SPRC-Library 6:30-8:30pm-Trustees-15A-C	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10-11:30 -Bible Study-Parlor  11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9am & 11am Worship-FCC	<b>7 LABORDAY</b> Office Closed 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	<b>8</b> 4-5pm-Worship Design Team-Pastor Andy's Off.	<b>9</b> 7pm-Lydia Circle-15A-C	<b>10</b> -11:30 -Bible Study-16A-B 11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-16A-B 12:30-1:30pm-Membership Care-16A-B 7-9pm-Grief Support-16A-B	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9am & 11am Worship-FCC.	<b>14</b> 7-9pm-Stephen Ministry-Library  7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	<b>15</b> 1-3:30pm-Dorcas-15A-B  6:15-7:15-Mission Outreach-15A-C	<b>16</b>	<b>17 10 UMM Garage Sale Setup</b> 10-11:30 -Bible Study-16A-B 11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-16A-B 7-8:30pm-Christian Ed.-Lib.	<b>18</b> Deadline for October Faith Links  6-9pm-Garage Sale-FCC	<b>19</b> 9am-12pm-Garage Sale-FCC
<b>20</b> 9am & 11am Worship-FCC	<b>21</b> 6-8:30pm-Men of Faith- 16A&B  7-8:30pm-Priscilla-Youth Rm.-16A-C 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	<b>22</b> 6:30-8:30pm-Ad. Board-FCC	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10-11:30 -Bible Study-Parlor  11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 5-9pm-Double I -FH A,B
<b>27</b> 9am & 11am Worship-FCC	<b>28</b> 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>			