

November 2020

Rev. Andy Wagner

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

Sunday Worship

9:00 Worship in Sanctuary

10:00 Sunday School

11:00 Worship in Community Center

We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

Attendance

	<u>9:00</u>	<u>11:00</u>	<u>S.S.</u>
September 27	41	54	
October 4	54	57	39
October 11	48	50	39
October 18	39	47	25

From Pastor Andy

How good it has been to have our Sunday School classes back together again at Faith Community! Thank you to all of the teachers and thank you to all of the participants who have been so cooperative as we gradually restart our ministries.

Sometimes I wonder, when I listen to how things are going with the coronavirus, whether we are doing the right thing. As cases continue to rise and the threat level in Greene County moves into the red, should we really be doing more in-person ministry? And yet I know that God calls us to move forward, to walk in faith. And I see how careful you all are about distancing and masking. And I am encouraged that God is indeed leading us forward in our mission.

In this month of November we will take a couple more steps forward. On November 1, the 9:00AM worship service will move back into the sanctuary! I know that there are many people who have been coming at 11:00AM who would also like to worship in the sanctuary and wonder why we don't move both services in there. There are two main reasons - one of them logistical and the other missional.

Logistically, it would be very difficult to hold two worship services in the sanctuary on the same day. The amount of cleaning

that would be required in between services is enormous. That is why we have been worshipping in the Community Center, where we can simply replace the chairs in between services.

But the bigger reason for keeping the 11:00AM service in the Community Center is missional. For the future of Faith Community, I believe it is essential that we have a contemporary praise service. That has been one of my main goals since coming to Faith Community. I believe that now is the time for us to begin transitioning our second service into a contemporary praise service to help us connect with a segment of the community that is currently unreached.

The transition will not be immediate but it will be quick. The first couple of Sundays the worship service will be the same except for the time and location. Midway through the month we will begin to make changes to the 11:00AM service, adding more contemporary elements. I know for some of you, that will mean changing your Sunday morning routine. I am sorry for that. But I have said throughout this pandemic mode that things at church will never go back to the way they were before. I don't believe that God wants us to move backwards. God is always pressing forward, inspiring a new vision, calling us to the new challenge, inviting us to walk in faith. I truly believe that God is positioning us to be a healthy and vibrant church, not just for the year ahead, but for generations to come.

Blessings, Pastor Andy

Church Conference

Faith Community will hold our annual Church Conference on Tuesday, November 10, at 6:30pm in the Community Center. The business of the Church Conference is to discuss the vision and mission of the church, set the pastor's compensation, update our membership roles, and elect officers and committee members for the coming year. All members of Faith Community have voice and vote in this Church Conference.

Stephen Ministry

Are You Experiencing Pandemic Fatigue?

Are you feeling exhausted from all the disruptions to life brought on by the pandemic? Are you or someone you know struggling with challenges like . . .

- Isolation and loneliness
- Anxiety over health
- Grief due to many different kinds of losses
- Tension from juggling work, childcare, and schooling
- Financial strain or job loss
- Uncertainty about the future
- Other unexpected life challenges?

If so, you don't have to face it alone. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support. A Stephen Minister will meet with you privately—by phone, by video chat, or, if safely possible, in person—to offer care and support. It's free and completely confidential. For more information, call our church office. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28.

Blue Christmas : A Service of Healing and Hope

Christmas comes every December, whether we are ready or not. This Christmas will be different for all of us all because most of us have never lived through a global pandemic. Memories of past experiences and the pain of present circumstances can become overwhelming even in the best of years. With all that we've experienced this year, Christmas may be harder than ever for many.

Once again there will be a Blue Christmas service sponsored by Stephen Ministry at 2 p.m. on Sunday, December 6th. While some things will be different this year due to Covid-19, much will be the same. We will gather in the sanctuary rather than the chapel so that we can socially distance. Masks will be required. Communion will be served, but with pre-packaged elements. As always, this will be a time of quiet music, reflection, and prayer. During this service, there will be an acknowledgement that this is not a season of joy for everyone. We invite reflection on the pain, loneliness, sadness, and uncertainty we may be feeling. Our hope is that you will find healing and comfort in knowing that you are not alone. Consider coming and even inviting someone you know who is struggling during these unprecedented times.

Greetings from the Ad Bd Council

Did you know you have access to all the reports from the Ad Bd Council? Each Chairman of each committee in the church sends in a report a few days before the meeting so we can read their report before the meeting. Following the meeting our Secretary, Mary Ann Spahr writes up the draft of the minutes and via email sends the minutes and the reports out to all board members. If you would like a copy of any of the reports just call the office and our church Secretary Debbie would be happy to see that you get an electronic copy. This process was started by former Ad Bd Chairman Chad Mossing and it has reduced our actual meeting time by 2 to 3 hours. Thank you, Chad.

In other news, look for some changes in the near future as we begin to attempt to find a new normal. In a month or so, the traditional service will be at 9 am in the sanctuary (Yay) and a contemporary service at 11 is in the works but not quite ready yet. Stay tuned.

Pray for Pastor Andy and the SPRC Committee as they implement these changes. Pray for our services and God's work in the Xenia area. Blessings to you all.

Virginia Pinkerton
Ad Bd Chairman

A Voice for Environmental Stewardship

November 2020

One of the books that I have bought for my grandson Austin is entitled Why Should I Recycle Garbage? It is a paperback book filled with colorful pictures of children recycling many things that we would normally call garbage. When I was in India in the Peace Corps from 1968 to 1970, I shopped in a little village bazaar for my vegetables and fruits. Much to my surprise, my little grocery bags were made from paper sheets of discarded children's school notebooks. I had an awakening and realized how wasteful I was back in the States. Even in developing countries 50 years ago, people knew the value of paper as a recyclable product! Paper is not garbage. It is from a renewable natural resource, trees.

There are many things that we have bought, used and discarded because we no longer have a use for them. They include junk mail, writing paper, cereal boxes, newspapers, magazines, corrugated cardboard boxes, etc. In fact, most of our garbage is paper in some form or another. The vast majority of paper items are recyclable. The more paper that is

recycled, the fewer trees we have to cut down. We know why trees are important to the health of our earth. (Trees, especially, take polluting CO2 out of the air and as a byproduct of photosynthesis, release life-giving oxygen into our atmosphere. We throw away many plastic items including drink bottles, jars and boxes that our salads and takeout meals come in. Many kinds of plastic containers are recyclable. Have you noticed recently that workers in Walmart are often wearing vests made from recycled plastic? If we look on the bottom of the container we find a small triangle with a number in the center. This tells us the type of plastic that it is made of. Generally, numbers 1 through 7 are cyclable plastics. Not all recycling companies recycle all numbers of plastic types. My waste management company is Rumpke and they take many types of plastics in their red recycling tubs. All types of metal cans and glass jars are recyclable. I regularly fill up three tubs with paper, plastic, metal and glass recyclables. Of course, everything that we recycle must be cleaned first so that the recycling processes are not contaminated with food! Part of environmental stewardship is waste reduction. Many countries of the world have excellent recycling programs. It is good to remember the "three Rs as environmental stewards: REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE. Alan D. Barone, B.A. science education, M.Div. Ohio Certified Vol. Naturalist

United Methodist Men

ATTENTION: ALL MEN – ESPECIALLY VETERANS - YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US

Our regular meeting of the Men of Faith will be on November 16th. The meeting time will be 6:00 PM in rooms 16 A&B. We would like our military veterans to attend and share their stories of how they served. We will provide the meal for each of the veterans attending that RSVP to John Sherer (937-372-2204) or shererjw@aol.com by Saturday 10/17. Others attending will need to provide their own meal and beverage as is now our custom. We will have a social time during the meal. The sharing stories by each of the veterans will start at 6:30 PM. A short business meeting will follow. ALL MEN ARE WELCOME AND YOU CAN BRING A FRIEND. Hope to see you on the 16th. REMINDER: MASKS ARE REQUIRED IN THE CHURCH BUILDING.

2020 MOF Garden report

The Men of Faith's garden project was a huge success this year. We harvested the following crops:

1,655 lbs. of sweet corn

686 lbs. of tomatoes

212 lbs. of Zucchini

158 lbs. of melons

66 lbs. of cucumbers

Total donated to Xenia Fish pantry and IHN was 2,777 lbs..

I want to thank those men who helped this year: Butch Smith, Bill Sykes, Wayne Cook, Bruce Pickelheimer, & Frank Brown. We also want to thank Bob and Mary Ellen Warner for allowing us to use their plot of ground. Also thanks to Don Wolf who planted extra sweet corn and allowed us to glean 99 dozen or 1,088 lbs. included in our totals above. The Fish pantry and IHN were most appreciative to receive all this fresh produce over a period of about 2 months. If you would like to help with the garden next year, please let me know.

God Bless. John Sherer, project coordinator.

United Methodist Women

Women of Faith: Monday, November 16 1 -3pm, 15A-C

Dorcas: Tuesday, November 17, 1-3:30 pm, Room 15 A-C

Thank You

Dear Men of Faith,

Thank you so much for your continued support of Living Well Clinic. The clinic is back in full swing as we serve those in our community who are unable to pay for medical services. We are so grateful for your continued prayers for us during this time. Would you especially pray for more medical volunteers such as nurses and providers (Doctor, NP or PA)? We are also looking for a part time clinical director to support our executive director on clinic nights. Thanks again for your continued prayers and support! We couldn't do it without you!!

Passings

Prayers and Sympathy to Dick Strous and family on the death of his wife Dolores Strous.

Gratitude Challenge

Join our Gratitude Challenge and see how many families we can serve. We have set a goal of 35 meals!!! We'll be helping the area Fish Food Pantry to provide the supplies for Thanksgiving dinner to our area families in need. You may donate \$10.00 (or whatever you feel you can) to purchase a turkey or sides. You may also shop for the sides and return them to the dinner tables in the narthex or community center.

Please drop off the money or cans and packages by November 15. The dinners will be distributed Saturday, November 21.

Items needed: stuffing, chicken broth, instant mashed potatoes, canned green beans and corn, mushroom soup, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie mix, Jiffy pie crust, canned milk, mac & cheese and canned yams.

St. Paul's Christmas Tree



Please consider spreading God's love by providing a small gift for St. Paul's children's program. The children will be able to select a Christmas gift for their family members through your generosity. Look for the decorated trees and select an ornament, purchase a gift between \$5-\$10 and return unwrapped and place under the tree between November 1-29.

The gift items will be delivered to St. Paul’s church and be made available for the children’s shopping event in December.

**FCUM
September 2020 Financials**

Monthly Income	\$ 29,669		YTD Income	\$ 298,874	
Monthly Expenses	\$ 27,875		YTD Expenses	\$ 268,792	
Difference	\$ 1,794	6.05%	Difference	\$ 30,081	10.06%

**Deadline for December
Faith Links: Monday, November 16**



November 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 All Saints Day 9am-Worship-Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Worship-Community Center	2 6:10-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7,-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	3 Election Day 6-8:45pm-Girl Scouts-15A-C 6:30-8:30pm-Trustees-15 A-C	4 4:30-6pm-SPRC-Library	5 11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-16A,B	6	7
8 All Saints Day 9am-Worship-Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Worship-Community Center	9 6:10-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	10 4-5pm-Worship Design Team-Library 6-8:45pm-G.S. Leader Meeting-15A 6:30-8:30pm-Church Conference	11 Veterans Day	12 11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-16A-B 2-4pm-Grief Support-16 A-B	13	14
15 9am-Worship-Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Worship-Community Center	16 1-3pm-Women of Faith-15 /a-C 2-7pm-Community Blood Drive-FCC 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 6pm-8:30pm-Men of Faith-16A-B 6:10-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B Faith Links Deadline	17 Dorcas-1-3:30pm-15 A-C 6-8:45pm-Girl Scouts-15A,B,C, 16A	18	19 11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-16A-B 7-8:30pm-Christian Ed. Meeting-Library	20	21
22 9am-Worship-Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Worship-Community Center	23 6:10-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	24 1-3:30pm-Dorcas-15A-C 6:15-7:15pm-Mission Outreach-15A-C Faith Links mailed 6:30-9:30pm-Ad Bd.	25	26 Happy Thanksgiving 11:30-12:30pm-Prayer Shawl-16A-B	27 Office Closed	28 5-9pm-Double I-15A & Kitchen
29 9-9:45-Worship-Sanctuary 10-10:45-Sunday School 11-11:45-Worship-Community Center	30 6:10-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 7-9pm-Stephen Ministry-Library					