

## JANUARY 2021

Rev. Andy Wagner

937-372-7601 [office@fcum.org](mailto:office@fcum.org) [www.fcum.org](http://www.fcum.org).

Sunday Worship

9:00 Traditional Worship in Sanctuary

10:00 Sunday School

11:00 Contemporary Worship in Community Center

**We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation**

## ATTENDANCE

	<u>9:00</u>	<u>11:00</u>	<u>S.S.</u>
November 22	69	40	42
November 29	76	42	34
December 6	62	43	36
December 13	66	40	35
December 20	69	30	40

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## FROM PASTOR ANDY

Happy New Year, Faith Community!

We are all hoping and praying that 2021 will be a better year than 2020. Of course, as Christians, we know that it is not the turning of the calendar or the rotation of the planets or the placement of the stars that affects our fortune. It is the God who created heaven and earth who holds all things in his hands.

As difficult as 2020 was, and as thankful as we are to bid the year goodbye, we cannot neglect the fact that God has been doing a good work in us and in all who believe. God has been reminding us that we are not masters of our own destinies. God has been strengthening our reliance on him. God has been teaching us new ways. God has been turning the hearts of many back to him.

At Faith Community, God has been doing a good thing in us as well. He has been positioning us for powerful mission

and ministry in this new year. We now have three strong and well attended worship services - traditional, contemporary, and virtual - allowing us to meet the worship needs of a larger portion of our community. We are in a strong financial position with our members faithfully supporting the ministries of this church. Perhaps most importantly of all, we have a sense of vision - All People Connected in Community - with a desire to connect our church family with all segments of our society as we continue Sharing Faith and Building Community.

It is not a new number on the calendar that will make this our best year yet; it is the new spirit God places within us, making us faithful to his call. We are blessed to receive and respond to that spirit together in this family called Faith Community.

Blessings, Pastor Andy

## **FCUM CHURCH DIRECTORY ARRIVING SOON**

FCUM Church Directories are expected to arrive mid to late January. Their arrival will be announced in Pastor Andy's Wednesday Email Bulletin, on our church website and at our church services. Directions for picking them up can be found at any of these sites once they are here. They will be distributed upon members' arrival at church services initially. Further instructions will be provided once the Directories have actually arrived.

I want to thank those volunteers that helped with making phone calls for photo appointments and also those who served as hosts and hostesses on the picture-taking days. We could not have accomplished anything without their help. These volunteers include: Ann Ledbetter, Sandy Pramer, Cindy Elliot, Alice Osman, Carol Shaw, Joyce Smith, Janet Schellin, Chris Allen, Lynn Engle, Pam Colbrunn, Margaret Stidham, Rhonda Cook, Dianne Presock, Lora Wagner, Becky Cultice, Wayne Cook, Jerry Mahan, Frank Brown, Bill Moon, Dick Montgomery, Mike Engle, Ed Stidham and Rick Smith.

Special thanks to Deb Klaty and Chrystal Hoskins. They both did so very much to help us out during the whole process for this Directory.

This new Faith Community United Methodist Directory is so much more than a collection of church members. On the committee with me were Bruce Pickleheimer and Joyce Smith. They both were amazing from start to finish on this project. Both of these people should be nominated for FCUM Sainthood!! I nominate Bruce for his tireless efforts throughout the years as our “official” church photographer. He is always on the spot taking pictures of the FCUM activities and events, including behind-the-scenes photos. His work on this Directory was phenomenal! He even went out into the community to get pictures of our shut-ins so they could be a part of this. He also edited and worked on the submitted photos to make them fit our needs.



## **A Voice for Environmental Stewardship January 2021**

**“All things are connected. We are part of the Web of Life. We did not create the Web, but we are merely a stand in it. What we do to the Web we do to ourselves.” (Chief Seattle)**

In my studies as a naturalist I have learned many surprising things. One of them relates to the ecology of the forests. Did you know that the trees in the forest communicate with each other? Not with human words, of course, but in other ways. Under ground the roots of many trees touch each other and communicate with each other through chemicals that their roots release. Some of the information is about threats to the community of trees, such as insect infestation or other diseases. The healthier trees share nutrients and water with

other trees that need the extra help. Among the tree roots grow fungi that break down organic materials into simpler compounds that help to nourish the trees. There is a complete Web of Life under the surface that is invisible to us humans that live our lives above the ground. What happens below the surface can teach us about the healthy Web of Life above the ground.

Our human environment is our Web of Life. “What we do to the Earth, we do to ourselves. ”What we do to our air affects our Web of Life. In other words, the massive CO2 pollution that we are pumping into our atmosphere through the burning of fossil fuels, in our vehicles and for the generation of our electricity, captures more heat energy and that makes our oceans warmer. Warmer oceans evaporate more water into our air. This creates greater numbers of hurricanes and more severe hurricanes. All this impacts our coastal areas with more intense storm surges with the high winds. Huge amounts of rain falls inland and rivers overflow their banks, flooding inland communities. The amount of damage is staggering.

Everything is connected. We don't live our daily lives in isolation from the rest the Earth. When God told Adam and Eve to take the Earth and subdue it, He did not tell them to pollute the Earth with their daily activities, but to care for the Earth and to be good stewards of the Earth. God trusted us.

Rev. Alan D. Barone, B.A. in science education, M.Div.,  
Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist.



## Stephen Ministry

This Is the Day of New Beginnings

Earlier this week I was reviewing previous Faith Links submissions. While it has been a while since I wrote this, it

seems especially appropriate as we anticipate leaving 2020 behind and looking with hope to 2021 so I am sharing it again.

When I awakened on the morning that the Faith Links submission was due, I found that the tune to *This Is the Day of New Beginnings* was playing in my mind. I even found myself singing along. As I thought about it, it occurred to me that this song is so appropriate as we look to the new year. For those of you who may not be familiar with this hymn, the lyrics are as follows:

**Verse 1** This is the day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on, time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.

**Verse 2** For by the life and death of Jesus, God's mighty Spirit, now as then can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again.

**Verse 3** Then let us with the Spirit's daring step from the past and leave behind our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.

**Verse 4** Christ is alive and goes before us, to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new. May it be so!

Whatever our circumstances, whatever 2020 brought, we have an opportunity to begin anew in 2021 knowing that we never have to go through the challenges of life alone. If you feel overwhelmed by troubles and heartache and cannot seem to feel God's presence or promise, consider having a Stephen Minister walk along side you. Many care receivers feel their burdens lightened and sense God's love and guidance during this caring relationship. With a Stephen Minister there is compassion, listening, non-judgment, and confidentiality as they walk with you through trials, listening for God's direction and finding His presence in and through your challenges. If troubles are overwhelming you or someone you know, lean into Him, trust Him, seek assurance in His word, and reach out to Stephen Ministry. God is THE Cure Giver.

Stephen Ministers are the Caregivers. For more information, contact Becky Cultice at 937-376-5747.



**ALTAR FLOWERS FOR 2021:** The flower calendar for the New Year 2021 is on the table in the narthex. You will be responsible for ordering your altar arrangement and delivery to the church on Friday morning or you can pick it up and bring it to the church. It will be refrigerated until Sunday. Someone from the office will call the week before to get the information for the bulletin and remind you about ordering the flowers. You can order from Flower Stop at 372-1436 in Xenia or Furst Florist in Dayton at 223-1213 or any place you choose.

## **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

### **Circles**

Women of Faith – Monday, January 18, 1-3 pm-15A-C

Dorcas – Tuesday, January 19, 1-3:pm – 15A-C

## **UNITED METHODIST MEN**

### **Attention All Men**

The Men of Faith meet on the third Monday of each month in 2021. Our regular meeting of the Men of Faith will be on January 18<sup>th</sup>. The meeting time will be 6:00 PM in rooms 16 A&B. Those attending will need to provide their own meal and beverage as is now our custom. We will have a social time during the meal.

We will have a short business session and the program for the evening will be a video.

Since this is Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday we will be streaming the MLK Celebration that is being held at AHOP starting at 7:00 PM. This will provide less exposure for those attending to also be able to view the celebration. All men are welcome and you may bring a friend. Hope to see you on the 18<sup>th</sup>. REMINDER: MASKS ARE REQUIRED IN THE CHURCH BUILDING.

### Passings

Prayers and sympathy to the families and friends of: Jean Whetstone, Sandy Smittamp, Betty Merrill; Loraine Crawford, Jerry Gifford; Richard Gifford.; Sylvia (Sudie) Macduff.

### Thank You

*To the Members of Faith Community,*

*Thank you very much for the care package! I appreciate it greatly! I hope you all have a happy and healthy holiday season.*

*Blessings – Alexandra Fellie*



*I want to thank my church family for the overwhelming support that Glen and I have received. The cards, phone calls, and most especially prayers are very appreciated.*

*Please pray for the healing process of my femur to be successful this time.*

*It is truly a blessing to be part of the Faith Community family.*

*Carol and Glen Shaw*



*To all my friends at Faith Community Church,*

*Thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers during my trying times. It has certainly been a rough year for me as well as Keith. His cancer is getting worse.*

*I am having a very difficult time walking and getting around but hope to see you some time during the holiday*

season. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. God Bless - Beverly Walton



I want to thank the persons who brought me goodies and flowers. Also, receiving the bulletin makes it possible for me to have it in my hands and participate in worship. I feel like I'm there in person. I'm blessed to be a member of such a caring and giving church.

Genevieve Jones

**“You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know when it might be too late.” (Contributed by Charles Manley)**

**FCUM  
November 2020 Financials**

Monthly Income	\$ 29,378		YTD Income	359,584	
Monthly Expenses	\$ 28,121		YTD Expenses	329,243	
Difference	\$ 1,257	4.28%	Difference	30,341	8.44%

**Deadline for February Faith Links: January 15**



May you have a safe and peaceful 2021.



# January 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 <b>NEWYEARS DAY</b> OFFICE CLOSED 3:30-5:15-XHS Winter Guard Practice-FCC	2
3 9am-Traditional Worship-Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary Worship-Community Center	4 6:10-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-9pm-Stephen Ministry-16 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	5 3:30-5:15-XHS Winter Guard Practice-FCC 4:30-6pm-SPRC-Lib 6-8:45pm-Girl Scouts-15A,B,C,16A 6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC 6:30-8:30pm-15A-C-16 Trustees-Rm. 6	6	7 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-16A-B  6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC	8  3:30-5:15-XHS Winter Guard Practice-FCC	9
10 9am-Traditional Worship-Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary Worship-Community Center	11 1-3pm-Women of Faith-FH-15C 6:10-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B  7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	12 3:30-5:15-XHS Winter Guard Practice-FCC 6-8:45pm-Girl Scout Leader Meeting-FH-15A  6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC	13  4-5pm-Worship Design Team-Library	14  11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-16A-B  2-4pm-Grief Support-16  6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC	15  3:30-5:15-XHS Winter Guard Practice-FCC  6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC  Faith Links Deadline	16
17 9am-Traditional Worship-Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary Worship-Community Center	18 <b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b> - Office Closed 6:10-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 6-8:30pm-Men of Faith-16A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	19 1-3pm-Dorcas Circle 15 A-C 3:30-5:15-XHS Winter Guard Practice-FCC 6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC 6-8:45pm-Girl Scouts-15A,B,C,16A 6:15-7:15-Mission Outreach-Room 8	20	21 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-16A-B  6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC 6:30-8:30-Ad Board-FCC	22 3:30-5:15-XHS Winter Guard Practice-FCC  6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC	23  5-9pm-Double I-15A & Kitchen
24 9am-Traditional Worship-Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary Worship-Community Center	25 6:10-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B  7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	26  3:30-5:15-XHS Winter Guard Practice-FCC  6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC	27	28  11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-16A-B  6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC	29  3:30-5:15-XHS Winter Guard Practice-FCC  6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC	30
31 See above						