

February 2021

<p>Rev. Andy Wagner 937-372-7601 office@fcum.org 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</p>
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Attendance

Dec. 23 - Christmas Eve Eve 56
Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve 6:30 50
9:00 52

	<u>9:00</u>	<u>11:00</u>	<u>S.S.</u>
December 27	49	26	27
January 3	67	35	37
January 10	64	28	40
January 17	59	27	40

From Pastor Andy

Dear Faith Community,

At our most recent Worship Committee meeting, we began discussing the upcoming Lenten season which will begin on February 17. It makes me mindful of the fact that we were in the middle of Lent last year when the coronavirus began to explode across the country, church buildings were closed down, and ministry changed dramatically. It's hard to believe we've been dealing with this for almost a year now!

Some of the changes in how we do ministry are for good, and also for the better. We now have online worship, which I anticipate will be with us even after we get past the coronavirus. It's so nice that those who can't be with us in person on Sunday morning can still be a part of our worshiping community. And you can share the worship service on social media

as a way of reaching out to others that are not yet a part of our worshipping community.

We have decided that for this year, our Ash Wednesday worship service will be online only. This is not due to a fear of crowds. If you've come to an Ash Wednesday service in the past, you know that crowding is not an issue and that social distancing would not be a problem. Rather this decision is based on making the Ash Wednesday service accessible to as many people as possible.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. It is the beginning of a 40-day (excluding Sundays) season of repentance and spiritual discipline. For many people it is a time of fasting. For many people it is a time of taking on some new spiritual practice – perhaps reading from the Bible every day, or spending a certain hour in prayer every day. It is helpful for us to mark our entry into this season of renewed commitment with a time of worship. That is what our online Ash Wednesday service will offer – a time for you to present yourself to God in worship and to mark your commitment to growing deeper in faith.

You will be able to access the Ash Wednesday service any time on February 17 the same way you do the online Sunday service. There will also be a link to the service in the weekly Wednesday email that goes out that morning.

I can't wait until we're able to take the masks off and give hugs and handshakes on Sunday morning again! I look forward to seeing the smiles on your faces more clearly and hearing you singing out more fully. Until that time, though, I greatly appreciate your cooperation with our protocols. It is good to know that we can gather for worship and still feel that we are being safe and responsible to one another. Keep up the good work and hold fast to the faith.

Blessings, Pastor Andy

Stephen Ministry

Are You a Midlife Orphan or Do You Know Someone Who Is?

In a recent conversation with a friend, she told me that she felt like an orphan after her mother's death. I immediately remembered a book that we have in the Stephen Ministry section of our adult library, entitled *Midlife Orphan: Facing Life's Changes Now That Your Parents Are Gone*. Mary Russell first shared this book with us, and I had a copy on my bookshelf that I hadn't gotten around to reading until a few days ago.

When we hear the word "orphan" most of us think of a child. But, according to author, Jane Brooks, even a very self-sufficient adult can feel the pain of "orphanhood" after the last parent dies. Complicating things, this often occurs during our thirties, forties, or fifties when we are coping with other mid-life issues—marital relationships, career concerns, personal health, and parent-adolescent conflicts. In the course of dealing with her midlife loss, Brooks decided to write about what she was experiencing. As word of her project spread, she was inundated with those who wanted to be a part of her study. Ultimately she selected fifty-two individuals from all walks of life, from all parts of the country, and with many religious backgrounds represented to interview in depth. All had lost their last parent within the past seven years. If you or someone you know falls into this category, I recommend this book. Brooks reveals some of the issues underlying this life passage and addresses the subtle yet powerful changes in self-image that can arise after our parents are gone; how unresolved issues with our deceased parents can play a role in personal problems; how to recognize and cope with feelings of anger, guilt, loneliness, fear, and sorrow; why a financial inheritance can be an emotional "mixed blessings"—and how to handle it wisely, and the shifting of roles and the necessity of finding new sources of strength in both ourselves and others. The attachment to our parents continues throughout life, no matter how long that may be. For many of us, long isn't

long enough. When we lose our last parent we are hit with the fact that we now have a new role. When my grandmother died at 99, I remember my mother sharing how difficult it was for her. She suddenly realized that she was now the matriarch in the family—something she'd never anticipated.

While each of our experiences will be ours alone, there are many commonalities that are shared in this book. It's an easy read and one that I hope will prove helpful.

Our Stephen Ministry team is always available to help during the challenging times that inevitably come during each of our lives. Having a Christian friend to walk alongside us is invaluable. If you are interested in learning more about this confidential one-on-one relationship, please talk with our pastors or contact Becky Cultice at 937-376-5747 or culticer@sbcglobal.net.

Closing Due To Inclement Weather: Please check WHIO, WDTN, WKEF/WRGT and our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/FCUM.Xenia.

A Voice for environmental Stewardship February 2020

Included in environmental stewardship is environmental justice. It is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin or income, with respect to development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

This sounds very heady, but in terms of the fair treatment of all people, we are an obvious part of our environment. When I took part in Earth Day marches in Columbus in 2017, 2018 and 2019, environmental justice was always part of the message we were sending out to the world. In the January/February issue of the Sierra magazine there is an important article related to environmental justice. The name of the article is Hasta La Vistra, translated it means "so long Vistra". Vistra Corporation is the largest greenhouse gas emitter in the US utility sector. It announced plans to shutter all of its remaining coal-fired power plants

(for generation of electricity) Illinois and Ohio by 2027. The planned closures will prevent 250 premature deaths, 4,200 asthma attacks, and 5 million cars worth of carbon pollution.

Joyce Blumenshine, who lives near Peoria, Illinois, provided the content of this article. For thirty years she has been rallying against the coal industry's toxic pollution in her area. But it took a recent coalition (no pun intended) of environmental and human rights groups to join together in the Beyond Coal campaign. Blumenshine's local power plant will soon be closing. This will happen none too soon, because Vistra will continue to operate three coal plants in Texas, one of which is the country's biggest sulfur dioxide and mercury polluters, both of which are major contributors to human health problems. As we have been reading and hearing, industrial air, water and soil pollution impacts communities of color and low income disproportionately. Not surprisingly, these same communities have the least political clout to fight for environmental justice.

As United Methodist Christians, we have the responsibility to stand up for human wellbeing wherever we see it being threatened by environmental injustice. Just because WE may not be visibly impacted directly by the actions of polluters, WE CANNOT turn a blind eye to the injustices impacting the less powerful. Environmental justice is NOT a radical agenda!

Rev. Alan D. Barone, B.A. in science education, M.Div., OCV

UMW Circles

Women of Faith – Monday, February 8, 1-3pm – 15A-C
Dorcas – No meeting through March

United Methodist Men

The Men of Faith will meet on Monday, February 15 and all men are invited to join us. We will meet at 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. Business portion will be approving the budget and programs for most of 2021 followed by a short video. YOU MAY BRING A FRIEND. Hope to see you on the 15th

MANY THANKS TO ALL OF YOU!

Men of Faith experienced the best ever income from our 2020 garage sale. Since we were not able to have the sale in April/May as planned we needed to come up with other ideas to sell the early donations we had in the garage. We decided to use Home2Home for selling some of the items. Then realized we could also use Beaver Creek Marketplace to try moving some more of the items we had in the garage. The actual garage sale was in the middle of September and also brought in a record income, too. The total of all of these activities brought in \$5,423.60. As a result of this income we decided to double our donations to the charities we give to on a quarterly basis. The additional amount was a total of \$600.00. The charities and donation amounts were:

GROUP / CHARITY	AMOUNT
GCUMM Recertification for 2021	\$ 85.00
Interfaith Hospitality Network - IHN	\$ 500.00
Boy Scout Troop #362	\$ 100.00
Cub Scout Pack #362	\$ 100.00
The CLEFT	\$ 600.00
Xenia Fish	\$ 500.00
Bridges of Hope	\$ 500.00
St Andrews / Meals for Millions	\$ 100.00
Donnellan Shelter of Greene County	\$ 100.00
4 Paws for Ability	\$ 100.00
The Jeremiah Tree	\$ 400.00
Living Well Clinic	\$ 100.00
Her Story House	\$ 300.00
Music Mission Kiev	\$ 50.00
Prayer Partners	50.00
TOTAL	\$ 3,585.00

The carry-over balance will enable us to increase our donations

to charities for 2021. We want to thank all of the people who donated goods, time and volunteer labor to make this year the record-breaking success that it was. **THIS COULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT YOUR HELP.**

Altar Flowers for 2021

The 2021 flower calendar 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 to the church. It will 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.

Address Labels

Do you have any address labels that you don't need? Would you like to help out our teachers? Your labels have great pictures on them that make great stickers for teachers. If you would like to donate yours put them in the box in the narthex. If you have questions, please call Ann Wolf at 937-287-4655.

Report on Fish Food Pantry Donations

FCUM donated 394 pounds to FISH Pantry in 2020, including 210 lbs. at Thanksgiving. Some have asked what FISH stands for. It is **Friends In Serving Humanity**. Thanks for your support.

Blessings, Sharon Sherer

Passings

*Faith Community extends prayers and sympathy to Jim and Joyce Osburn on the passing of Jim's sister **Betsy Hagler**, and to Gary, Chris Allen and Diana Allen, on the death of Diana's boyfriend, **Brad Huffman**.*

Deadline for March Faith Links: Monday, February 15.

CHURCH DIRECTORIES ARE FINALLY HERE !!!!!

Those of you who had your pictures taken for the Directory, or who submitted your photos, may pick up your new Church Directory on the following dates and times:

Sunday, January 31st prior to the church services from 8:30-9:00 and from 10:30-11:00 AM.

Sunday, February 7th prior to the church services from 8:30-9:00 and from 10:30-11:00 AM.

Tuesday, February 2nd from 12:00-2:00 PM and from 6:30-8:30 PM in the sanctuary narthex.

Tuesday, February 9th from 12:00-2:00 PM and from 6:30-8:30 PM in the sanctuary narthex.

Wednesday, February 10th from 6:30-8:30 PM in the sanctuary narthex.

We will deliver the directories to our shut-ins and nursing home residents.

We are very excited with the results of this project and hope you will be also. We look forward to seeing you at one of these pick-up times

February 2021 Black History Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 6:10-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-9pm-Stephen Ministry-16 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	2 12-2pm & 6:30-8:30pm-Directory Pickup-Narthex 3:30-5:15-XHS Winter Guard Practice-FCC 6-8:45pm-Girl Scouts-15A,B,C,16A 6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC 6:30-8:30pm-Trustees-7-8:30pm-SPRC-Lib.	3 7-9pm-Praise Band Practice-FCC	4 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-16A-B 6-7:30pm-Volleyball-FCC	5 3:30-5:15-XHS Winter Guard Practice-FCC	6
7 9am-Traditional Worship-Sanctuary 10am -Sunday School 11am -Contemporary Worship-FCC 8:30-9, 10:30-11-Directory Pickup	8 1-3pm-Women of Faith-Room 15C 6:10-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	9 12-2pm & 6:30-8:30pm-Directory Pickup-Narthex 3:30-5:15-XHS Winter Guard Practice-FCC 6-8:45pm-Girl Scouts Leader Mtg.-2A 6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC	10 4-5pm-Worship Design Team-Library 6:30-8:30pm-Directory Pickup-Narthex 7-9pm-Praise Band Practice-FCC	11 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-16A-B 12:30-1:30 Membership mtg.16 A-B 2-4pm-Grief Support-16 A-B 6-7:30pm-Volleyball-FCC	12 3:30-5:15-XHS Winter Guard Practice-FCC 6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC	13
14 Valentine's Day 9am -Traditional Worship-Sanctuary 10am -Sunday School 11am -Contemporary Worship-Community Center	15 Presidents' Day 6-8:30pm-MOF-16A-B 6:10-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C Faith Links Deadline	16 3:30-5:15-XHS Winter Guard -FCC 6-8:45pm-Girl Scout – 15A,B,C,16A 6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC 6:15-7:15-Mission/Out-Reach-Rm. 8	17 Ash Wednesday 7-9pm-Praise Band Practice-FCC	18 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-16A-B 6-7:30pm-Volleyball-FCC 7-8:30pm-Christian Ed.Library	19 3:30-5:15-XHS Winter Guard Practice-FCC	20
21 9am-Traditional Worship-Sanctuary 10am -Sunday School 11am -Contemporary Worship-Community Center	22 6:10-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	23 3:30-5:15-XHS Winter Guard Practice-FCC 6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC	24 7-9pm-Praise Band Practice-FCC	25 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-16A-B 6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC	26 3:30-5:15-XHS Winter Guard Practice-FCC 6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC	27 5-9pm-Double I-15A & Kitchen
28 9am-Traditional Worship-Sanctuary 10am -Sunday School 11am -Contemporary Worship-Community Center						

