

March 2021

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

Attendance

	<u>9:00</u>	<u>11:00</u>	<u>S.S.</u>
January 24	57	23	32
January 31 (no services)			
February 7	46	29	36
February 14	60	24	34

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All People Connected in Community

That is my vision for Faith Community UMC and for all the people of the Xenia area.

When God first called Abraham and established a covenant with him, he said that Abraham was "blessed to be a blessing" and that "all the families of the earth would be blessed" through him. It has always been God's intention for his people to make a difference in the lives of others, to be a blessing to the world.

We at Faith Community UMC are blessed in a special way. Because of the faith that we share and the community we build within our church, we are blessed with a wonderful, loving church family. When we are facing difficult times (and haven't we all faced difficult times this past year?) we are blessed to know that we have church friends we can call on for just about anything we may need. Someone to talk to, someone to pray with, someone to offer a helping hand, a word of encouragement, a piece of advice, someone to bring a meal over, someone to offer a ride or pay a visit. We are blessed to know we have someone we can call on because of the relationships we have built through the church.

There are many people living in the Xenia area who don't have that. When they need someone to talk to, someone to pray with them, someone to offer encouragement or advice, someone to give

them a ride or pay them a visit or lend a helping hand, they don't know who to call. As connected as our world is through technology, there is still a lot of isolation out there. Wouldn't it be something if we could bless the rest of the Xenia community with the same kind of meaningful relationships that we have in the church? That's what the Bible means by "blessed to be a blessing." That's what I mean when I talk about "all people connected in community." That's the difference God is calling us to make.

Our Administrative Board has been talking and reflecting on this vision for some months. It is beginning to make its way into our Committee discussions as well. I have also recently called together an ad hoc Vision in Action team to help us begin turning this vision into a reality. This isn't the kind of thing that I, as the pastor, can do alone. It can't be staff-driven. This is something that will come about only when everyone who is a part of Faith Community UMC sees it as their own personal calling to develop meaningful connections between our church and the more isolated people of Xenia.

Over the next several months, I and others in the church will be sharing information about opportunities to get involved, activities that might help us make some more of those connections. But don't wait for us to get started. If you have an idea, something you'd like to head up that would help us connect with others outside of the church, let me know and let's get going! Perhaps it could be as simple as keeping your eyes open for those around you who might feel isolated, inviting them to join in some activity you're already doing. Perhaps it could be inviting some members of the church and other people from outside of the church to join you in something that you enjoy doing. Let's all be looking for those opportunities to make connections. Let's all be watchful for those people who tend to fall through the cracks so we can find ways we can lift them up.

If we all take this responsibility as part of our personal calling, then pretty soon we are sure to see: All People Connected in Community.

Blessings, Pastor Andy



Stephen Ministry

Morning Will Come

Where can we find hope during difficult times?

Brenda Humfleet of Hospice of Dayton Foundation shares this account of her visit with one of their patients, the father of a friend of hers. Encouraged by his daughter he said, “When I was a little boy, I learned a Bible verse that has sustained me throughout my life.” He quoted Psalm 30:5, “Weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.”

He proceeded to explain that when his son was killed in the Vietnam War, for a while he was unable to feel hopeful, but as his grandchildren gathered around to comfort him, he realized that there may be sadness for a time but even in sadness, “morning” comes in the form of the concern and comfort others share with us. When he was first diagnosed with cancer and given the prognosis of a short time to live, he truly felt that “night had come” for him. He was grieving the loss of his own life. Then he witnessed the love, compassion, concern, and gentle care he received from his family, the hospice nurses, and physicians. At that point he reported that he knew “morning had come” for him. He continued, “Morning in Psalm 30:5 is just another word for ‘hope.’”

For him hope was present because he was not alone. He concluded his conversation by saying, “No matter how dark it may get, if you have others who care for you in your time of need, *morning will come*.”

Not everyone has a strong support system. Family members may live too far away. Some individuals may have outlived their loved ones. There are those within our church family who are willing to walk along side with anyone who is wondering if “morning will come.” Stephen Ministers are ready to share in helping others find hope during difficult times. Contact Becky Cultice, 376-5747, to learn more.

Educational Assistance

Guidelines and application forms for FCUMC’s Educational Assistance are available in the community center, narthex, and church office. This year assistance will be offered to graduating high school seniors who are contemplating entering a college or technical school in the fall of 2021 as well as to upper classmen

currently enrolled in college.

These forms must be completed and returned to the church office by the April 17, 2021 deadline.

A Voice for Environmental Stewardship

Since November 3rd I am much more hopeful that the United States will have an environmental policy that is based on the facts of science. The new administration will have a lot of help realizing its goals. There are many environmentally active and effective organizations that have long track records of protecting the Earth's environment. I want to share with you the names of some of them that may be new to you:

1. The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) provides legal defense against policies that harm the environment and people, and fights for clean air, water, soil and healthy communities. It has been doing its vital work for 50 years.

2. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has been active for 60 years. Its efforts are worldwide helping countries preserve unique environments for posterity. In Ohio it has protected 55,000 acres of our lakes, forests, winding rivers and rolling hills from development. It brings people together and works with communities to solve today's conservation challenges from climate change and habitat loss, to protecting clean water.

3. The National Audubon Society has chapters in every state. It has been protecting birds and their habitat for 100 years. They are active through education and advocacy for birds and people, sponsoring bird counts, and many other areas of concern all over the United States. In fact, for the summer of 1967, I was a staff member of a National Audubon Society adult camp in Sarona, Wisconsin. It helped me to grow as a teacher and a naturalist in ways that I would never have experienced otherwise.

These are just three organizations that help us to become better environmental stewards. A few others are: Ocean Conservancy, the Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth, Green Peace, Environmental Defense Fund, and the Union of Concerned Scientists (and non-scientists). I am a contributing member of several of them and get regular updates on their work through their newsletter and magazines.

In my opinion, it is very important that everyone who loves our beautiful Earth become active in protecting her through joining organizations that share our values and do great work.

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

The Lenten Challenge

This year's Lenten offering is to benefit Xenia people in need. Our donations will go to support FISH, IHN, and Bridges of Hope. Each week we will take up an offering. The idea of this challenge is to remind us of all we have and to remember those that are less fortunate. Each week's offering is based on items you have at home but people in need might not have.

For example, Week 1 is cans of soup/veggies and for each can you have at home, you would donate 25 cents. Twenty cans=\$5.

Week 2 is shoes. Count the shoes in your closet and donate 50 cents for each pair of shoes.

Week 3 is winter coats, donate \$1 for each coat.

Week 4 is beds in your house. Each bed is \$2.

Week 5 is blankets. Donate 50 cents for each blanket you have.

Week 6 is \$1 for each meal eaten out (or carried in) that week.

These amounts are just suggestions. Our desire is for us to realize how much we each have and to give back to those local charities that help those in need. Thank you for being a part of the Lenten challenge!

Administration Board Memo (also known as Ad Bd)

Thanks to Mike Engle and the members of the Ad Bd the work of the church continued during my recent illness. I thought today I might share with you some information you might not know about the Ad Bd.

1. We have several committees within the church and they, along with our staff, do the big work of the church.
2. The Ad Bd meets every other month to listen to the committee reports and act on them if necessary.
3. The Ad Bd also spends time in devotion and in visioning the future of our church.

4. The Ad Bd meets in January, March, May, July, September, October and December, usually on the 3rd Thursday.

5. We meet at 6:30 at the church.

6. Other meetings can be called as needed.

7. Mary Ann Spahr is our Secretary and does an excellent job recording the events and notices of the meeting. If you would like to know what happens at a meeting, call the church office. Usually within a week she has a draft of the minutes prepared and available. Look for an article next month here in Faithlinks that will tell you a bit more about the workings of the Ad Bd. In the meantime, I encourage you to pray for the Ad Bd, the committees, and the staff of Faith Community. Each of us are members and each of us are called to be workers for Christ.

May God Bless us all,

Virginia Pinkerton, Ad Bd Chairperson

Faith Community College Crew Update

Our 10 college students are now well into their Spring Semesters, and I bet that they would love to hear from you. In today's world of Snapchat, Instagram, E-mails, and Facebook, how extra special is old-fashioned "snail mail"? Are you interested in sending one or more of our college crew a Thinking of You card or a nice note? If so, please let me know by e-mailing me at wick-linecasa@aol.com and I will send you as many mailing addresses as you want – 1 or all 10. Let's let these young adults who have had to truly adapt from the norm during this past year know that they are not forgotten, loved by this congregation, and loved by our God.

Thank you,

Julie Wickline

UMW Circles

Women of Faith – Monday, March 15, 1:00, Room 15C

Dorcas – No meeting through March

United Methodist Men

ATTENTION ALL MEN: The Men of Faith will meet on March 15th and all men are invited to join us. 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. There will be a short business session followed by the program. The program will be sharing stories of “Funny and/or Frightening” events you have experienced. **YOU MAY BRING A FRIEND.** Hope to see you on the 15th.

Easter Flowers

It is time to order your Tulips or Lilies for Easter Sunday. The flowers truly beautify and enhance the Easter service for our worshippers. Forms will be available in the office and bulletins. The cost will be \$10.00. Please make checks to Faith Community UMC and mark your check “Easter Flowers”. Order forms and payment are due by Tuesday, March 29th.

Benevolence Report

Many years ago some very nice members and friends of our church set up the Cosely Benevolence fund.

Our church is designated by the courts to administer the funds. There is a committee of 4 to 5 members who administer the funds. For 2021, those members are John Sherer, Chair, Rosi Mackey, Ann Wolf, and Laurie Fox. We need 1 or 2 new members. If you are interested, let Pastor Andy know.

We can only use the investment income from the fund. This usually runs around \$2,500.00 depending on the returns for the year. The fund is set up to help those in Greene County who have fallen on hard times and need a little help. We set the maximum that we help at \$150.00 so we can help as many as possible. If a request is for \$300.00, we have the party try to come up with the other \$150.00 and unless they can, we will not pay since our \$150.00 wouldn't gain a closure. We do assist them find other help.

This year we reviewed 39 requests and distributed \$2,807.64 to 32 people who were approved for funds. Typically people are asking for help paying rent, utilities, & DPL bills. I thought you would want to know that your church is providing this important service.

Respectfully: John W. Sherer, Chair

Thank You

Dear Members of Faith Community,

Thank you ever so much for the cards, meals, and prayers I received during my recent bout of COVID. Through it all I felt the encouragement of the members of our church. That and the support of my family helped me stay focused on what I needed to do to recover. Praise the Lord I did recover and with that I realized how important it is to support others during their difficult times. Blessings to each of you and also I pray that we all will continue to be mindful of others.

Sincerely,

Virginia Pinkerton

Dear Joyce Smith, Faith Community and volunteers,

Thank you so much for providing such a wonderful, tasty meal after my mother Sylvia's funeral. Mom would have been so grateful and pleased. She truly loved her church.

~~Blessings and love from Stephanie and the Macduff family

Thank you for the special Valentine remembrance. I know a lot of work and time went into putting it together and it was so much appreciated. I am so blessed and send blessings to all. ~~Lillian Grant

Passings

Faith Community extends prayers and sympathy to Tammy (Richard) Byers on the death of her father.

FCUM

January 2021 Financials

Monthly Income	\$	45,091		YTD Income	\$	45,091	
Monthly Expenses	\$	29,151		YTD Expenses	\$	29,151	
Difference	\$	15,940	35.35%	Difference	\$	15,940	35.35%

*When we do the best we can, we can never know what miracle
is wrought in our life or in the life of another.
(Submitted by Charles Manley)*

Deadline for April Faith Links: March 15

You will receive an email with a Unique Identifier from Faith Community, then you can download the Directory App via the following instructions on either page:

myUCD App Start Guide

1

Download The App From The App Store or Google Play



- With your smart phone touch the App Store icon for your type of phone (Apple Store -or- Google Play) then search for: **'Universal Church Directory'**
- The App is called *myUCD*
- Click on the "GET" -or- "INSTALL" button
- When the App has finished installing, click "OPEN"

2

Enter Your Family's UNIQUE IDENTIFIER

- A **Unique Identifier** was sent to the heads-of-household whose email was listed.
 - Enter unique identifier.
 - Click on the gray "Download My Church Directory" button (there may be a few seconds delay)
- "If you did not receive an email please see your church administrator"*

3

Begin Using Your Church App Features

- Video link
 - Email the church
 - Call the church
 - Church announcements
 - Calendar of events
 - Online giving
 - Link to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram
 - Staff contacts
 - YouVersion Bible App
 - Directory of all members
- "Some features may -or- may not be available for your church"*

myUCD Desktop Directory

1. Go to **directory.ucdir.com**
2. Enter unique identifier and hit **GO**
3. Prompts will appear to create your own Username & Password.
4. Click on **'CREATE ACCOUNT'**

2020 HOW TO GUIDE - END USER

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2020 HOW TO GUIDE - END USER

MyUCD Church APP & Desktop Directory for Church Members *(getting started)*

Thank you for being a part of the MyUCD Church Directory. In addition to receiving the printed directory, you are now able to access the directory on your mobile device as an App or on your home computer as a web-based Desktop Directory.

IT'S FREE AND EASY TO USE! Below is an explanation how the App can be used, from installation to daily usage.

The Mobile App

The App works on iOS (Apple devices) as well as Android devices. The following simplifies the process of downloading and using the App to your best advantage.

1. iOS (Apple App Store) / GooglePlay.com

1. Download the App

The first thing a user needs to do is actually get the App onto their mobile device. This section explains how that will work and any concerns/questions related to this part of the user experience.

- On your smart phone, touch the APP Store icon for your type of phone then search for 'universal church directory'
- Click on the "GET" -or- "INSTALL" button
- The button will then change to "INSTALL," click on the button again
- When the App has finished installing, click "OPEN"



iPhone



Android

2. After App Installation

After the user has downloaded and installed the App, **once the App is opened, the user will be prompted to enter a code, given to them by their church administrator.**

- When the App is accessed for the first time, you must enter your unique identifier code*
- Click on the **"Download My Church Directory"** button (there may be a few seconds delay)
 - **First**
the church member information is downloaded into the App
 - **Second**
the App will start to download images in the background, so the image may not appear with the church member information immediately

3. Using the App

There are two options once you've entered your identifier code:

1) List View

Browse your church directory using a list of names

2) Image View

Browse your church directory using family pictures

Settings

If the settings option is chosen, the App will resort back to the main screen, with a prompt for an identifier code. This is the only settings option throughout the App.

The Desktop Directory

This version of the Directory works on any computer that has internet access since this version is web-based.

In your web browser (Internet explorer, Google Chrome, Firefox, etc.) type in the address **directory.ucdir.com** and it will take you to this page for the Desktop Version of the Directory. **You then need to enter the code, emailed to you by the church administrator and set up your account.**



March 2021

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 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-Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary-FCC 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A	8 6:10-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	9 3:30-5:15pm-XHS Winter Guard Practice-FCC 6-8:45pm-Girl Scouts Leader Mtg.-2A 6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC	10 4-5pm-Worship Design Team-Library 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 Daylight Saving Time Begins 9am-Traditional-Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary-FCC 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A	15 1-3pm-Women of Faith-15C 2-6pm-Blood Drive-FCC 6-8:30pm-MOF-16A-B 6:10-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C Deadline for Faith Links	16 3:30-5:15-XHS Winter Guard -FCC 6-8:45pm-Girl Scouts -15A,B,C,16A 6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC 6:15-7:15-Mission/Out-Reach-Rm. 8	17 St. Patrick's Day 7-9pm-Praise Band Practice-FCC	18 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-16A-B 6-7:30pm-Volleyball-FCC 6:30-8:30pm-Ad Bd Council-15A-C	19 3:30-5:15-XHS Winter Guard Practice-FCC	20
21 9am-Traditional-Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary-FCC 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A	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-Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary Worship-FCC 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A	29 6:10-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	30 3:30-5:15-XHS Winter Guard Practice-FCC 6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC	7-9pm-Praise Band Practice-FCC			