

April 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>
February 21	56	26	31
February 28	74	38	38
March 7	56	41	39
March 14	57	38	36

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From Pastor Andy

Dear Faith Community,

Can you believe Easter is here?! I remember last year how excited we were to be “gathering” in the parking lot for our drive-in Easter service. That was a lot of fun and I’m glad we did it, but I’m even more glad that we don’t have to do it again. How nice it will be to not have our beautiful Easter flowers blown over by the wind in the middle of the service. (At least I hope that doesn’t happen this year!) We also won’t have to worry about which car radios receive which frequencies.

One thing we do need to be cautious of this Easter, though, is maintaining our masking and social distancing. I anticipate that our worship spaces will be more crowded than they have been since returning to in-person worship. It will be tempting to huddle in crowds and give and receive hugs. As much as we would love to be able to do that, it’s not quite time for that. Yet. That time will come soon, I’m sure. And I’m looking forward to it as much as you all. But until everyone has an opportunity to receive the vaccine and the statewide restrictions are lifted, we need to remain cautious and careful.

Try to maintain as much distance from other families as possible during worship and while coming and going. When we go outside for

the Easter egg hunt in between services, try not to huddle too closely. Especially when taking down your mask to bite into a donut or take a sip of coffee, make sure you are practicing social distancing.

I'm excited to announce that the Sunday after Easter, April 11, will be Confirmation Sunday. Finally! Our four Confirmation students completed the classes almost a year ago, and have been waiting to confirm their faith and join the church ever since. On April 11 they will be received as professing members of Faith Community UMC. We will celebrate with a reception of punch and cookies in between the worship services (again, socially distanced as much as possible). Please join us on April 11 to welcome our newest members.

Blessings.

Stephen Ministry

Frequently Asked Questions



At Faith Community UMC has been a Stephen Ministry church since the 1990's, it's not unusual that we have questions about the ministry. In the next few months, we'll revisit the most frequently asked questions: About Stephen Ministers. Becoming a Stephen Minister, Working with a Stephen Minister, and Other Questions. This month we'll concentrate on Frequently Asked Questions about Stephen Ministers.

Who are Stephen Ministers?

Members of a congregation who are specially trained to provide emotional and spiritual care to individuals facing a crisis or difficult situation. They demonstrate God's love by coming alongside care receivers who need a little extra support.

How are Stephen Ministers trained?

After submitting an application, being interviewed and receiving favorable recommendations from references, potential Stephen Ministers must complete 50 hours of initial training.

Topics include the art of listening, Christian care and prayer, confidentiality, assertiveness, boundaries, how to begin and end caring relationships, depression, grief and loss, and divorce. Stephen Ministers participate in monthly continuing education to help them grow as Christians and care givers.

How are Stephen Ministers supervised?

All Stephen Ministers participate in monthly supervision. This supervision provides support, encouragement, and accountability for each other so they can provide the highest quality care. During supervision, Stephen Ministers may discuss issues their care receivers are facing but they never discuss care receivers by name or give identifying information. Only Stephen Leaders who handle referrals know who is receiving care.

Who are Stephen Leaders

Stephen Leaders are Stephen Ministers who have undergone extensive additional training and who oversee the Stephen Ministry program. They recruit, select, train, organize, and supervise Stephen Ministry. They also help identify people in need of care and match them with a trained Stephen Minister.

Why do Stephen Ministers volunteer?

Stephen Ministers are Christians who have discovered that they have gifts of caring, encouragement, listening, faith, mercy, and compassion. They feel called to serve others through this ministry and participate because they know that in Christ alone is there hope.

What kinds of problems are Stephen Ministers equipped to deal with?

Stephen Ministers support care receivers who are dealing with all sorts of problems. They include but are not limited to: ●The loss of a loved one, divorce or separation, failed relationships, family stress ●Hospitalization, serious or chronic illness, aging and dying, recovery after an accident or disaster. ●Birth, adoption, miscarriage, infertility ●Unemployment or job crisis, financial concerns, relocation.

Are any areas off-limits?

Stephen Ministers are not equipped to work with minors, those who are at risk of hurting themselves or others, or those who need mental health treatment, therapy, or medication. When appropriate, Stephen Ministers may refer care receivers to health professionals or counselors. For additional information about these and other Stephen Ministry-related questions contact Becky Cultice at 376-5747 or culticer@sbcglobal.net.

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.

Committee News

Greetings to all congregants.

This month I had the privilege of attending two of the committee meetings. First, I visited the Mission Committee. This group is chaired by Char Lee. Other members are Sandy Pramer, Carla Skaggs, Elaine Hughes, Sharon Boothe, Scott Jenkins, Ruthanne Lamb, and Dick Montgomery. I was so pleased with the work they have done. In 2020, a year that was hard to help due to COVID, they assisted 8 organizations with over \$15,000. The organizations included Bridges of Hope, Fish Pantry, Shoes 4 the Shoeless, Wings of the Morning, Festival of Sharing, IHN, St. Pauls, and Henderson Settlement. In addition to that they have asked for and received the financial reports of those organizations so that this year they can be more specific in their giving. For one example, they are hoping to support Henderson with funds to purchase much needed farm equipment. Do you ask, "How can I help"? My response is that you do when you put money in the blue buckets on the second Sunday of the month, when you support the bazaar, and when you volunteer to take food to St. Pauls' or purchase Christmas gifts so children can pick out a gift for their relatives. Please continue to support the Mission Committee and perhaps next year you would like to serve on that committee. Help is always welcomed. Thank you Mission Team for your hard work.

I also attended the Education Committee Meeting. It is chaired by Rhonda Cook. Other members include Karen Mossing, Kylie Fleming, Joyce Smith, Julie Wickline, Carla Skaggs, Wayne Cook, Sandy Pramer, Cheryl Vahle, Lynn Engle, and Chad Mossing. This committee makes your Sunday School happen week after week. Due to COVID, this year has been especially challenging but our Sunday School has been open since October. We thank these teachers who are so faithful. In addition to Sunday School, they are planning to, present Bibles to the 3rd graders, have an Easter Egg Hunt, have Confirmation Sunday, a Sunday to celebrate acolytes and graduates,

and hopefully a church fun night when it warms up. Of course, the committee would love for each church member to participate in as many of these activities as possible. There are currently several classes for you to attend and you should feel free to visit various classes as you choose. Hats off to the education committee. Let's show our support to these people.

Our next Ad Bd meeting will be in May. If you would like to see what we do, feel free to come and visit us. We are on the Ad Bd to serve you as we serve Jesus Christ. Blessings to you all.

Virginia Pinkerton, Ad Bd Chair

A Voice for Environmental Stewardship

From February 28 to March 14, on Sunday and Thursday nights, I participated in a Zoom workshop, entitled: "Loving People and the Planet in the Name of God", with 80 people from all over the U.S. We engaged in Bible study, discussions on 5 different topics found in the textbook, *Climate Justice: A Call to Hope and Action*. The presenters were people from many different conferences of the United Methodist Church who had vast experience and expertise in the topics in the book, both lay and clergy.

One of the eight chapters in the book was, "Climate Injustice: Earth Consequences", authored by Dottie Yunger, a U.M. minister and a marine biologist. She told about a very powerful learning experience that she had with a group of American college students who were studying marine life on the small island, Calabash Caye, on the Belize barrier reef, the second largest barrier reef in the world. They were there to study how the intricate and exotic ecosystem of the coral reef functioned. At the field station on the 2 mile long island, there were four simple rules that everyone had to follow.

#1 was to check your pants for scorpions before you put them on in the morning.

#2 catch only the fish you want to eat, the day you want to eat it because refrigeration was in short supply.

#3 turn the porch light off at night during breeding season so that the sea turtle hatchling would not get distracted and disoriented by the artificial light.

#4 take short showers just once a day because all the water they had for showers was collected in rain barrels, and they didn't know how much it would rain during their two week stay.

Everyone learned a hard lesson from #4. Some of the students took longer than necessary showers and it didn't rain for their two week stay. When Dottie told the students that they were out of water for showers, they said, "What will we do; if we can't shower we will have to go home" (but they couldn't go home until the boat from the mainland came for them.)

God's has house rules too. If the whole of creation is God's house then we must abide by God's rules.

#1 Take only your share.

#2 Clean up after yourselves.

#3 Keep the house in good repair for future housemates.

When we think about how we relate to God, and each other, as his children on planet Earth, we have been very careless dealing with our healthy environment. We have polluted our planet, air, fresh water, oceans and land. We have allowed the big polluters to get away with their degradation that hurts the most vulnerable among us and future generations of all humanity. THIS IS NOT JUSTICE.

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

United Methodist Women

CARNATION SALE ON FOR 2021

Faith Community UMW will be taking orders for carnations for Mother's Day beginning Sunday, April 18. Carnations will be red in honor (living) of or white in memory (deceased) of the individual. Cost will be \$1.30 per carnation. However, due to ongoing COVID precautions, the ordering process will be different this year. Order forms will be available for pick up in the Narthex, the welcome table in the Community Center and the church offices as well as an insert in this newsletter. Orders are to be sealed in an envelope along with payment of exact change or a check written to Faith Community United Methodist Women (FCUMW), returned to the church and placed in the boxes, again, in the Narthex, on the welcome table in the Community Center, or at the church office. Orders and payment are to be returned no later than Sunday, May 2. Profits from this sale will go to missions locally, nationally, and internationally.

CIRCLES

Women of Faith – Monday, April 19, 1:00 P.M. – 15 C
Dorcas – Tuesday April 20, 1:00 P.M. – Room 15 A-B

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 which 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.

GARAGE SALE NOTICE: The Men of Faith Community have set the date of our annual Garage Sale to be September 10th and 11th. Items can be dropped off Thursday, September 9th from 12 noon until 8 PM and Friday morning, September 10th from 9 AM until 12 noon. The Garage sale will run from Friday, September 10th, 6PM- to 8 PM and Saturday, September 11th from 9 AM to 12 noon. If you have furniture or large items you'd like picked up early, let John Sherer know. We have storage in the garage and may post the item on Market Place to sell ahead of the garage sale date. This worked very well last year. For pickup or more information, call John Sherer at 937-372-2204 or email him at shererjw@aol.com. All proceeds go toward local missions and projects. Thanks for your support.

MAUNDY THURSDAY - APRIL 1: Worship service in the Sanctuary, at 7:00pm. Join us as we remember the momentous events of Holy Week and prepare for the celebration of Easter.

EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 4
Traditional Service – 9:00 A.M.
10:00 A.M. – Easter Egg Hunt
Contemporary Service – 11:00 A.M.

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, meals, and prayers that I received during my surgery and recovery of total knee replacement. It was good to know that many members were praying for me through the different stages. I feel blessed.

Sincerely – Karen Turner

Dear Faith Community,

Thank you for your recent donation to The Jeremiah Tree. It is an exciting time here as 2 of our men are looking for jobs and moving over to our transitional house very soon. Thank you for being a real part of their growth!

With gratefulness, The Staff, Board & Residents

Passings

Prayers and condolences are extended to families and friends on the deaths of John Thompson; Leola Abels and Mary Jane Dowler.


FCUM

February 2021 Financials

Monthly Income	\$47,736		YTD Income	\$92,827	
Monthly Expenses	\$27,218		YTD Expenses	\$55,834	
Difference	\$20,518	42.98%	Difference	\$36,994	39.85%

Deadline for May Faith Links: April 19

April 2021 – Happy Easter

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Maundy Thursday 7pm-Worship Service-Sanctuary 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-16A-B 6-7:30pm-Volleyball-FCC	2 Good Friday	3
4 Easter Sunday 9am-Traditional- Sanctuary 10am-Easter egg hunt 11am-Contemporary-FCC 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A-B	5 OFFICECLOSED 6:10-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 7-9PM-Stephen Ministry (Zoomonly)	6 6-8:45pm-Girl Scouts -15-A,B,C, 16-A,B 6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC 6:30-8:30-Trustees-Rm 7-8:30pm-SPRC-Library	7 7-9pm-Praise Band Practice-FCC	8 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	9 6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC	10
11 Confirmation 9am-Traditional-Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary-FCC 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A-B	12 6:10-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	13 6-8:45pm-Girl Scouts Leader Meeting-15A 6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC	14 4-5pm-Worship Design Team Meeting-Library 7-9pm-Praise Band Practice-FCC	15 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-16A-B 6-7:30pm-Volleyball-FCC 7-8:30pm-Christian Ed Meeting-Library	16	17
18 9am-Traditional - Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary - FCC 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A-B	19 F.L. Deadline 1-3pm-Women of Faith-15C 6-8:30pm-MOF-16A-B 6:10-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	20 1-3:30pm-Dorcas-15 A-B 3:30-4:30pm-Mission Outreach-Room 8 6-8:45pm-Girl Scouts-6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC	21 7-9pm-Praise Band Practice-FCC	22 Earth Day 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-16A-B 6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC	23 6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC	24 5-9pm-Double I-15A & Kitchen
25 9am-Traditional - Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary Worship-FCC 12-1:30pm-Scholarship Interviews 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A-B	26 6:10-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	27 3:30-5:15-XHS Winter Guard Practice-FCC 6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC	28 7-9pm-Praise Band Practice-FCC	29 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-16A-B 6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC	30 Arbor Day	

**THE UMW CELEBRATE THE WOMEN IN YOUR LIFE CARNATION SALE
RED IN HONOR OF THOSE LIVING
WHITE IN MEMORY OF THOSE WE HAVE LOST
COST: \$1.30 PER FLOWER**

CHECKS PAYABLE TO FC UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Please fill out the form below and turn it in, **WITH PAYMENT**, to the boxes provided in the Narthex or the Community Center, Sunday mornings April 18, 25 or May 2. There will also be a box in the church office to deposit completed forms and payment; drop-off not later than Friday, April 30.

NAME OF PERSON ORDERING: (please print) _____

Please **print names below clearly** as they should appear in the Bulletin on Mother's Day.

INDICATE/CIRCLE service you attend: **9AM Traditional** **11AM Contemporary**

In HONOR (Living-RED) _____

Total Red: _____ (Honor/Living)

INDICATE/CIRCLE service you attend: **9AM Traditional** **11AM Contemporary**

In MEMORY (Deceased-WHITE) _____

Total White: _____ (Memory/Deceased)

Total Number (Red & White) Carnations ordered _____

