

May 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>
March 21	62	27	33
March 28	60	32	37
April 4 (Easter)	91	30	37
April 11	93	28	34
April 18	91	16	42

From the Pastor

April 2021 was a wonderful month at Faith Community UMC. We began the month with a joyous Easter celebration. Someone pointed out to me that this was my first Easter inside with you all. My first Easter here we were out in the parking lot. That was fun but I sure do prefer being inside the church building for Easter worship.

We followed that up with Confirmation Sunday on April 11.

Would you believe we actually had more people in the sanctuary for our Confirmation service than we did on Easter?! It's true. Congratulations to Moira Ackenhausen, Ciara Horney, Grace Smith, and Molly Mossing, who were finally able to confirm their faith and become members of the church almost a year after completing the classes.

May 2021 is going to be a special month at Faith Community UMC as well. On the 2nd we will celebrate Bible Sunday, the 9th is Mother's Day, the 16th we will have a blessing of prayer shawls, and on the 23rd we will celebrate our graduating seniors with Graduation Sunday. May 23 is also Pentecost Sunday! And as if that weren't enough, we get a bonus Sunday on the 30th! (I haven't decided yet what special thing we'll do that day.)

Every Sunday is special at Faith Community UMC. I do so enjoy gathering with you all in worship. And I appreciate those who aren't able to gather in person but continue to be with us in spirit (and also online). We continue to be with you in prayer. Thank you to each one for your continued faithfulness to your church and to our God.

Blessings, Pastor Andy



Stephen Ministry Never Takes a Summer Break

While many groups take a break during the summer, Stephen Ministry doesn't. It is like New York's slogan, the city that never sleeps. We're there twenty-four seven. Last month we began a series on Frequently Asked Questions about Stephen Ministry. This month we continue with the focus on questions about receiving a Stephen Minister. Next month we'll finish with questions about what happens during a caring relationship.

How do I know if I should request a Stephen Minister?

If you are facing a challenge that you'd rather not deal with on your own or if you find yourself wearing out your family and friends with your problems, a Stephen Minister might be right for you. Stephen Ministers are specially equipped to walk along side you through problems large and small.

How do I request a Stephen Minister?

Contact Becky Cultice at 376-5747 or culticer@sbcglobal.net for a chance to learn more about the process.

I have a friend whom I think would benefit from having a Stephen Minister. How can I refer him or her?

First, talk with your friend about Stephen Ministry and get his or her permission to contact our referrals coordinator, Becky Cultice. There are Stephen Ministry brochures available in the church's lobby that you could share with your friend. Please do not surprise your friend by making a referral without his or her permission. Just because they agree to have someone contact them does not mean that they are agreeing to receive care. They are just agreeing to learning more about the program.

How are Stephen Ministers assigned?

Once a request is made, the potential care receiver will be contacted. If the circumstances seem appropriate, the referrals coordi-

nator will review the list of available Stephen Ministers and determine who would be the best match. After prayerful consideration, the person agreeing to receive care is given the name of the Stephen Minister and notified that he or she will be contacting him or her to set up a first meeting.

Will I be assigned to a man if I'm a man or a woman if I'm a woman?

Yes, care receivers are always paired with a Stephen Minister of the same gender.

I'm a teenager. Can I get a Stephen Minister?

No. Minors are not able to give legal consent to receive care, nor would it be possible or necessarily advisable to guarantee confidentiality since parents have a legal right to know what goes on in any caring relationship where their child is the care receiver.

My spouse and I have the same issue. Can we work with a Stephen Minister together?

While you may be facing the same issue, you're probably processing it differently. Therefore, it is best for each of you to have a different person as your Stephen Minister. Furthermore, Stephen Ministers are usually only assigned to one person at a time.

Will I get a Stephen Minister with expertise in my area of concern? Will it be someone who has been through something similar?

That is possible, but not a requirement. Stephen Ministers are trained to listen and process all sorts of issues.

COVID-19 losses - If you know of anyone who had a family member pass away from COVID-19, FEMA will provide up to \$7,000.00 to reimburse funeral expenses for deaths that occurred after January 20, 2020. The program starts in April and the information can be found on:

<https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance> This is a very important benefit for anyone who has lost someone due to COVID

Graduates

Faith Community is happy to congratulate Nathan Wagner and Isabel Wickline as both are set to graduate from high school this

month. Nathan will be graduating from West Carrollton High School. His post-graduation plans are to attend Northern Kentucky University and study Electronic Media and Broadcasting. Isabel will graduate from Xenia High School and then starting this fall, will attend Wright State University and major in Nursing. As a graduation present for each of them, FCUM will purchase a study Bible. And... to make it an extra special gift, I am asking that the members and friends of FCUM identify a favorite verse by highlighting it and then signing your name. I will be passing these Bibles around during the Sunday School hour during the month of May. You can also catch me either before or after services. Finally, I also will be happy to highlight your favorite verse and sign your name if you simply e-mail me a verse that speaks to you. I will be happy to highlight it and mark your name in their Bibles. My e-mail address is wicklinecasa@aol.com. Let's all work together to show Nathan and Isabel how proud we are of their student accomplishments and future goals. -- Julie Wickline

Shoes 4 the Shoeless

There will be a Drive-Thru style event on Saturday, May 8 from 10:am-11:00am (while supplies last). Shoes 4 the Shoeless will be providing all the shoes and most of the volunteers. If you are able to volunteer, please call Sandy Pramer at 937-307-3619

A Note From Your Administrative Board

The last meeting of the Ad Bd was held on March 18. Each committee had presented reports beforehand via email and several committee chairs re-emphasized the work of their committee. Pastor Andy has appointed a committee in an effort to connect our church with the Xenia community. Stay tuned for more information on the works of this group. Easter plans were discussed. Becky Cullice encouraged all of us to be on the lookout to welcome new attendees to our Sunday Worship services. Janet Adkins and Ann Ledbetter agreed to join the Benevolence Committee. It was mentioned that the past year has been a difficult time to attend to the committee work of the church and all were thanked for their efforts.

On April 11, as the new confirmands were welcomed into the church, Pastor Andy reminded all of us that we were to be confirmed Christians in the community and as church members by supporting the work of Christ with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service. Well said, Pastor Andy. May God help us all to find our way to serve the Lord as we grow in faith.

Blessings to us all,
Virginia Pinkerton, Chairman of The Administrative Board

A Voice for Environmental Stewardship May 2021

One of the books that I have been reading is a new book by Sir David Attenborough entitled, *A Life on Our Planet (My Witness Statement and My Vision for the Future)*. Sir David was Knighted by the British Crown in 1985 and is now 94 years old. He is Britain's best known natural history film maker, explorer and journalist and he has been doing his remarkable work for 70 years. He has made 8 natural history documentary series for the B.B.C. In addition to his latest documentary, *A Life on Our Planet*, he has written his companion book by the same name. He has been a student and keen observer of life on this planet since he was 12 years old and he has seen the Earth change in dramatic ways in his 94 years. Mostly he has seen a great decrease in the biodiversity of living things, that he calls our biggest mistake as human beings, but, he also says that if we act NOW and change our relationship to the planet, we can put things RIGHT!

Sir David Attenborough has also been a student of climate change. In his book he has documented carbon dioxide concentrations in our atmosphere since 1937. In that year the CO₂ concentration was 280 parts per million (ppm) and in 2020 the concentration was 415 ppm. Doing simple math, that means in 83 years the CO₂ concentration has increased 135 ppm, or 48%. As you know, increased CO₂ in the atmosphere captures more heat. In 1937 there were very few people aware of global warming and climate change. Now 97% of peer reviewed and published climate scientists worldwide are alarmed by the changes that they see around the world. They know that the CO₂ humans are pumping into our atmosphere IS THE CAUSE. Most laypeople and skeptics don't see the effects of climate change on a daily basis. However, when we pay attention to

the news on television and in print media, we realize that many shocking things are happening much more frequently than they used to. Historic amounts of rain fall in areas where it is very rare, creating massive flooding and great destruction. Constantly rising temperatures in the oceans are creating more and more powerful hurricanes, which when they make landfall with high winds, incredible amounts of rain and storm surge, devastate island and coastal communities, kill many people and cause billions of dollars in damage. Coral reefs, the nursery for vast numbers of fish species in many parts of the world are dying because the oceans are becoming more acid. The oceans are having to absorb more and more CO₂ and that makes them more acidic. Glaciers and sea ice are melting at unprecedented rates, raising sea levels and eroding the coastlines in the Arctic where Native Americans have their villages. Polar bears that hunt for seals from sea ice are finding it harder and harder to hunt for their food because of the diminishing amounts of ice and their survival is in peril. There are many more significant examples of the effects of global warming and climate change!

There is HOPE, however. If we bravely convert our source of energy away from burning fossil fuels to renewable sources: solar, wind, geothermal, hydrothermal and hydroelectric, etc., we will have a much brighter future. In fact, when we respect our Earth and are good stewards, as God commissioned us to be, we are respecting the GIFT THAT GOD HAS GIVEN US and we, as God's Children, are RESPECTING and LOVING GOD! –Rev. Alan D. Barone, B.A. in science education, M.Div., Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist.

United Methodist Women

CIRCLES

Women of Faith – Monday, May 17, 1:00 P.M. – 15 C
Dorcas – Tuesday, May 18, 1:00 P.M. – Room 15 A-C

United Methodist Men

The Men of Faith will meet on Monday, May 17th at 6:00 PM in rooms 16 A&B and all men are invited to join us. Each person will bring his own meal and beverage. We will have a social time during the meal. The program will be a presentation from Xenia "Fish" Food Pantry and their plans for the year. There will be a short business session followed by the program. Hope to see you on the 17th.

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.

Thanks

Thanks to all who participated in our Lenten Challenge offering. We raised \$2501! This will greatly benefit FISH food pantry, IHN, and Bridges of Hope. I continue to be blown away by your generosity and the way you all step up to the challenge during these difficult times. You just keep on confirming the faith!

Pastor Andy

Dear Faith Community Friends,

On behalf of Henderson Settlement, I would like to thank you for your recent generous donation. Your contribution has been exceptionally critical as we have made numerous changes to meet the needs of our community as they have changed dramatically and rapidly over the past year.

*James L. Knight
Executive Director*

FISH Food Pantry wishes to thank you for your contribution. Each dollar provides 5 lbs. of food. These are difficult economic times for an increasing number of families and an ever-growing number of people are seeking assistance. Again, our thanks; we hope you will continue your support which makes possible the work that we do.

*Sincerely,
Brenda Donahue*

Passings

Prayers and condolences are extended to families and friends on the deaths of Jim Kennedy, Dorothy Montgomery, John Huston, Mary Louise Armentrout Jones Pickering.

FCUM March 2021 Financials

Monthly Income	\$ 23,255	YTD Income	\$ 123,562
Monthly Expenses	\$ 25,583	YTD Expenses	\$ 81,413
Difference	\$ (2,328) -10.01%	Difference	\$ 42,149 34.11%


Would You Be Willing to Be On Our Prayer Team?

We have a Prayer Request link on our website and have prayer requests from the congregation and from the community that are submitted for prayer. The prayer requests are confidential within the prayer team. Everyone on the team is asked to pray for those requests for seven days. The information is emailed to the prayer team so that everyone gets the same information and can pick it up daily at their convenience. If you are willing to try it just go to the church website (fcum.org), click on the Prayer Request link, then put in your name and email address. In the space for prayer requests you can say that you want to be added to the PRAYER TEAM, then click the SEND MESSAGE button and we will add your email address to the team. You can also email your request to join the team to: prayer-chain@fcum.org. If you don't have access to the internet you can be put on our phone prayer team by calling Bruce Pickelheimer at (937) 376-2361.

Deadline for June Faith Links: May 14



May 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 9am-Traditonal- Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary-FCC 12-1:30-Scholarship Interviews - Parlor 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A	3 10-2pm-Greene Memorial Volunteer Luncheon-15A-C 6:10-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 7-9PM-Stephen Ministry-16 A-B	4 6-8:45pm-Girl Scouts -15-A-C, 16-A 6-7:30pm-Volleyball-FCC 6:30-8:30-Trustees-Room 6 7-8:30pm-SPRC-Library	5 7-9pm-Praise Band Practice-FCC	6 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-16A-B 6-7:30pm-Volleyball-FCC	7 6-7:30pm-Volleyball-FCC	8 9-11:30am-Shoes 4 the Shoeless-Parking Lot (FCC if it rains)
9 Mother's Day 9am-Traditional-Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary -FCC 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A	10 6:10-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	11 6-8:45pm-Girl Scouts Leader Meeting-15A 6-7:30pm-Volleyball-FCC	12 4-5pm-Worship Design Team Meeting-Library 7-9pm-Praise Band Practice-FCC	13 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-16A-B 12:30-1:30pm-Membership Care-16A-B 2-4pm-Grief Support-16A-B 6-7:30pm-Volleyball-FCC	14 Faith Links Deadline	15
16 9am-Traditional - Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary -FCC 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A	17 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	18 1-3:00pm-Dorcas-15 A-B 6-8:45pm-Girl Scouts-15 A-B 6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC	19 7-9pm-Praise Band Practice-FCC	20 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-16A-B 6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC 6:30-8:30pm-Ad Bd, Mtg. 15A-C	21 6-9pm-Volleyball-FCC	22 5-9pm-Double I-15A & Kitchen
23 9am-Traditional - Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary FCC 30 See above Services & Sunday S.S. 5-6:30pm-B. Scouts-15A	24 6:10-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 31 Memorial Day	25	26 7-9pm-Praise Band Practice-FCC	27 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-16A-B	28	29