

June 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>
April 25	94	32	45
May 2	96	36	45
May 9	83	33	41

From the Pastor

A few months ago I preached a series of sermons on some of the popular figures from the Old Testament. Determining which characters and which stories to preach on in that series was not an easy task. There are so many interesting tales and fascinating characters in the Old Testament! One that I really hoped to preach on was Samson, the tall, incredibly strong, long-haired leader of Israel that we find in Judges 13-16. I decided that Samson was such a complex character (aren't we all?) that he really required more than one sermon to do his story justice.

Now the time has come! The first three Sundays in June we will look at this complex man - dedicated to God from before his birth, yet mischievous as any man who ever lived, and short-sighted in love which was his ultimate downfall. I'm looking forward to having some fun with this much-loved tale from the Old Testament. I expect that as we look at Samson's story we will learn some things about ourselves as well.

There will be much change going on at Faith Community this summer. The Governor's announcement that all state-wide mandates related to Covid will end on June 2 will certainly have an impact on the way we do things at the church. Exactly what that means I can't say at the time of this writing. Also, with Pastor Ben and Jen-

nifer moving on to St. Paul UMC at the end of June, and hoping to have the Choir back as the Summer ends, there will be transitions in worship and perhaps even times of services as we look ahead to a strong kick-off in the Fall. All along the way, I will be soliciting feedback from the congregation. Please know that your opinion matters. While no church can possibly please everybody, we do want to serve the needs of our congregation and community as best we can.

Much like last summer, I'm sure there are things that will change week by week at the church. I will keep you up to date on everything in my weekly email. If you are not on that email list, be sure to contact the office and get added so that you can stay current on what is happening at Faith Community.

Blessings, Pastor Andy



Stephen Ministry: Frequently Asked Questions III

We've already shared answers to the questions most often asked about Stephen Ministry and about receiving care from a Stephen Minister. Finally we're sharing the answers to questions about what to expect if you decide to work with a Stephen Minister.

When/where/how often will we meet?

You and your Stephen Minister decide. Meetings typically occur once a week and last an hour or so. However, the frequency may taper off to once or twice a month as things improve. The location can be in your home, at church, at a restaurant—wherever you feel comfortable and confidentiality is possible. Phone calls sometimes supplement the regularly scheduled meetings.

What exactly will we do when we meet?

Talk, listen, laugh, cry, pray—whatever you need. Stephen Ministers are trained to listen, not to try to tell anyone what to do. They are there to walk alongside you during a challenging time.

That sounds a lot like friendship. What is the difference?

Friendship is a two-way relationship with each person supporting the other. Stephen Ministry is a one-way relationship focused on helping you with your challenges. However, once the formal caring relation-

ship ends, some Stephen Ministers and their care receivers continue seeing one another as friends.

**How long will the Stephen Minister work with me?
As long as you both feel the need to meet.**

**How long does this relationship last? How does it end?
A Stephen Ministry relationship lasts anywhere from a few months to several years. The average length is from 12-24 months. As things improve, the care receiver and the Stephen Minister begin to talk about closure and end the formal caring relationship when both feel the care receiver is ready.**

**My problem seems minor. Could we just meet once or twice?
No. Caring relationships continue as long as needed. We know from experience, however, that it usually takes more than a couple of meetings to establish trust –an absolutely essential component of all significant Stephen Minister/care receiver relationships.**

**How can I be assured of confidentiality?
Confidentiality is a cornerstone of Stephen Ministry and is emphasized both in training and supervision. Stephen Ministers do not share what is discussed in their caring relationships. Only the Stephen Leaders in charge of referrals know who is receiving care. If anyone finds out, it will only be because the care receiver chooses to share his/her experience. The only exception to this guideline is that a Stephen Minister must share confidential information in order to save a life.**

Other Questions

**Is there any cost involved?
No. Stephen Ministry is a gift from Faith Community United Methodist Church to those in need.**

**Is Stephen Ministry just for Faith Community UMC's members? What about my neighbor who's going through a rough time?
No. Stephen Ministry is open to family members, friends, and neighbors—members and nonmembers alike.**

Why is this program called Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministry is named after Stephen who was the first lay person the apostles commissioned to provide caring ministry to those in need. (Acts 6)

Is Stephen Ministry unique to FCUMC?

No. Stephen Ministry began in St. Louis in 1975. Since then it has spread to more than 10,000 congregations from more than 150 Christian denominations throughout the United States and Canada and 230 other countries. More than 500,000 pastors and laypersons have been trained as Stephen Leaders and more than a million people have received care through formal caring relationships.

How else do Stephen Ministers serve?

Trained Stephen Ministers facilitate our Grief Support Group which meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the church parlor. We also sponsor Blue Christmas, an annual worship service which takes place in the chapel the first Wednesday in December. For additional information about Stephen Ministry, contact Becky Cultice at 376-5747 or culticer@sbcglobal.net.

A Note From Your Administrative Board

Dear church members,

Our next Administrative Board will meet Monday May 24th so I really don't have any new information to report on. However, I thought I might share with you an incident that Paul and I experienced a few weeks ago. Late one night we were lamenting that no one had called us that day. After some discussion we realized that we had not called anyone either. It didn't take Paul long to call his brother in Colorado. It helped us realize that communication begins with us. If we go day after day and don't communicate with others, it won't be long before we are forgotten.

Communication is so easy today. We can make a phone call, text, Facebook, send a card, write a note, or even go visit. Yes, it takes a bit of time but it connects us and that is so important to each and every member of our church. Sharing our life and our faith in Jesus is the lifeblood of our church. Let's encourage each other to communicate. Don't wait on someone to call you. Each of us are equal members of a wonderful church. When we feel left out, it may

be because we have not communicated. What would happen if everyone made one connection to one church member every day? What if we mentioned God's goodness or shared a blessing with one church member each day? I'm thinking we just might be a bit kinder; we might feel just a bit more involved; and God's love just might grow in our hearts and our church. May God bless us in all we do for HIM.

Virginia Pinkerton, Chair of Ad Board

A Voice for Environmental Stewardship

In his latest book, A Life Lived on Our Planet, David Attenborough writes about the most important energy source for all living things on Earth. That source of energy is our Sun. He writes that the living world is solar powered. The Earth's plants, from the smallest called phytoplankton and algae to the most gigantic trees, get their life energy from the Sun. Scientists tell us that every day the plants on Earth capture 3 trillion kilowatts of energy from the Sun. They say that is 20 times the energy that humans use to power our modern world in one day. Another way to look at this is that every animal indirectly uses solar energy because animals eat plants or eat the animals that eat plants. That includes us. If we could harness just one tenth of the solar energy that the world's plants capture in order to power our modern world, we could avoid the damage that burning of fossil fuels is doing to the Earth. Some people say that using that much solar energy is impractical and would not provide us with nearly the power that burning fossil fuels provides us.

Scientists around the world are realizing that if we continue to burn fossil fuels at ever increasing amounts, the results will be catastrophic. We know that adding so much CO₂ and other greenhouse gases to our atmosphere is changing our earth in ways that cannot be sustained. Life as we know it and love it will be changed dramatically. Scientists are saying that we are rapidly approaching the tipping point. Some argue that the change like that will not happen for generations. I don't know about you, but I don't want to leave an Earth that has an unliveable environment to my children, Adam, Amy and Allison, to my grandson Austin, and future great-grandchildren! For me, a Christian, that would be IMMORAL!

We need to change our MAJOR SOURCE OF ENERGY. How are we going to do it? I believe that we need to take a hint from NATURE itself. Nature has been using that 3 trillion kilowatts of solar

energy every day to supply the needs of all plants and animals for hundreds of million of years. Our needs today could be met with only 1/20 of that energy. It is way past time for us to engage in a massive energy revolution. Humanity has done it before, from burning wood to burning fossil fuels. We can do it again. WE MUST DO IT!!

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

United Methodist Women

CARNATION SALE

Faith Community UMW will be taking orders for carnations for Father's Day beginning Sunday, May 30. Carnations will be red in honor of (living) or white in memory of (deceased) the individual(s). Cost will be \$1.50 per carnation. We will be following the same process for Father's Day that we did for Mother's Day. Order forms will be available for pick up in the Narthex, the welcome table in the Community Center and the church office as well as an insert in this newsletter. Orders are to be sealed in an envelope with payment of exact change or check made payable to Faith Community United Methodist Women (FCUMW) and returned to the church office or any of the boxes as listed above. Please mark the envelope UMW Carnation Sale. Orders and payment are to be returned no later than Sunday, June 13. Profits from this sale will go to missions locally, nationally, and internationally.

CIRCLES

Dorcas – Tuesday, June 15, 1.P.M. – 15 A-C

Women of Faith – Monday, June 21, 1:00 P.M. – 15 C

United Methodist Men

The Men of Faith will meet on Monday, June 21 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 report of the General Conference decisions. There will be a short business session following the program. Hope to see you on the 21st.

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

I want to thank everyone who brought food to my family after my last hospital stay. Sharing food is one of God's warmest blessings and our church community surely excels in this. Not only was the food delicious, you could feel the love it brought with it and that was the best part.

Again, many thanks to everyone. – Sheila Woosley



Special thanks to Sandy Pramer and all the volunteers for providing 128 pairs of shoes for children in need during the Shoes 4 the Shoeless drive-thru event on Saturday May 8.

Passings

Condolences to family and friends on the passing of Thelma Heath.

**FCUM
April 2021 Financials**

Monthly Income	\$32,130		YTD Income	\$	155,692	
Monthly Expenses	\$25,074		YTD Expenses	\$	106,486	
Difference	\$ 7,057	21.96%	Difference	\$	49,206	31.60%

Deadline for July Faith Links – Monday, June 14

A colorful poster for a family night event. At the top, there is a string of colorful triangular bunting flags in shades of purple, blue, green, yellow, and orange against a light blue sky with white clouds. The word "Family" is written in a large, dark blue, cursive font. Below it, the word "NIGHT" is written in large, white, block letters with a black outline, set within a yellow rectangular banner with a black border. Below the banner, the text "Please join us on Sunday, June 13th at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Center for an evening of FUN, FOOD, and FELLOWSHIP!" is written in a dark blue, italicized font. At the bottom, the text "There will be outdoor games (weather permitting) for kids and adults as well hot dogs, chips, dessert and drinks." is written in a dark blue, sans-serif font. The entire poster has a decorative border of small white squares.

June 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 6-8:45pm-Girl Scouts-15A,B,C,16A-B 6:30-8:30pm-Trustees- Room 6 7-8:30pm-SPRC-Library	2 7-9pm-Praise Band-FCC	3 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-16A-B	4	5
6 West Ohio Conf. online 9am-Traditional-Sanct. 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary-FCC 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A	7 West Ohio Conf. online 6:10-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 7-9PM-Stephen Ministry-Library	8 6-8:45pm-Girl Scout. Leader Meeting-15A	9 4-5pm-Worship Design-Library 7-9pm-Praise Band Practice-FCC	10 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-16A-B 2-4pm-Grief Support-16 A-B	11	12
13 9am-Traditional-Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary-FCC 5-7pm-Family Night-FCC 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A	14 Flag Day 6:10-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	15 1-3pm-Dorcas15 A-B 3:30-4:30pm-Mission/Outreach Team-Room 8 6-8:45pm-Girl Scouts-15A,B,C,16A	16 7-9pm-Praise Band Practice-FCC	17 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-16A-B 7-8:30pm-Christian Ed. Meeting-Library	18	19
20 FATHER'S DAY 9am-Traditional - Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary - FCC 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A	21 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	22	23 7-9pm-Praise Band Practice-FCC	24 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-16A-B	25	26 5-9pm-Double I-15A & Kitchen
27 9am-Traditional - Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary FCC 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A	28 6:10-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	29	30 7-9pm-Praise Band Practice-FCC			