

July 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>
May 16	88	23	40
May 23	85	38	48
May 30	84	24	36
June 6	98	27	39
June 13	93	34	31
June 20	82	29	35

From the Pastor

Dear Faith Community,

It feels like things are finally starting to get back to normal around church and that feels great! It's so nice to be able to receive hugs and shake hands once again. But be warned, my hands are always cold, so if you go to shake mine, be ready!

One of the things I have missed doing over the past year is leading a weekly Bible study. Later this summer, I would like to begin a Disciple Bible Study, probably on Monday evenings beginning near the end of August.

Disciple 1: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study, is a 34 week in-depth journey through the Bible. Class members commit to daily readings of about 20-30 minutes a day and a weekly meeting of two hours. Disciple will give you a more thorough and well-rounded understanding of the Bible than you have ever had before. But Disciple is designed for more than just for information; it is for transformation. Through Disciple Bible Study you will gain insight into who God has created you to be and you will be better equipped to live into your

divine calling. The class is limited to 12 participants. Groups who go through this together really develop a special bond. I have been through Disciple Bible Study with several different groups and it never disappoints.

I know a number of people at FCUM have already gone through Disciple 1, but I'm sure there are many who haven't. This may be the right time for you. I'd like to gauge the interest level for having a Disciple 1 class. If you would like to sign up, or if you have questions about the program, please email me at pastorandy@fcum.org or call me at the office. If you are interested but Monday evenings don't work for you, let me know; I'm not locked into that.

Blessings, Pastor Andy

Sometimes, It's Just a God Thing

I remember back in September of 2020 when I met Pastor Andy. Covid was the rage and no one really knew how to deal with it in the church. Pastor Andy and I had talked that day about starting a Contemporary Worship Service at Faith Community. I had been involved in Worship Bands for over 30 years and was so excited about seeing what we could do at FCUMC. I believe that Pastor Andy will agree with me, that after our breakfast that day, we knew this was a God Thing!

As most of you know, the first few months were a little rough. Jennifer joined with me and did an amazing job playing the piano as we were trying to figure out an identity. Then, out of nowhere someone came forward and offered to play the guitar. Thank you, Scott Enoch. Then someone came forward to play the drums. Thank you to Lennie Presock. Finally, Joe Kennedy came forward and offered his talents in playing the Acoustic Guitar. Also, a huge thank you to Michaela Skaggs and Lizzy Presock for offering their vocal talents and being a huge part of the team. Now we have the band that we have today, and I'm going to boast a little as I believe we have THE best Praise Bands in the Miami Valley District, if not the West Ohio Conference.

I am so grateful and so proud of the entire Contemporary Worship team here at Faith Community. I also want to offer a special "Thank you" to Nate Wagner. Nate has been more than essential in running the sound board and setting up all

the “techie” stuff for Sunday mornings. Thank you to Scott Skaggs for running the slides, I know that I haven’t always made Sunday mornings easy for you but you have been amazing in the role that you have been serving.

As you know, I have been appointed as Pastor at St. Paul UMC in Dayton effective June 27. I have mixed emotions on this appointment. As I consider my own thoughts and am thinking about this time of transition, I am reminded of Philipians 1:6, “being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” I know that God has started something special here at FCUMC, and I also know that God has a plan for each and every one of us.

When I got involved in the ministry, I knew that there was always a chance of being appointed to another church. I am excited about this new appointment, and pray that you will all keep me in your prayers as well as the congregation at St. Paul. I am also aware that St. Paul and Faith Community have a long history of working together both missionally, and congregationally. I am excited to see that relationship continue. So as much as this may sound like a “Good Bye” letter, it is actually intended to start as a letter introducing the next chapter of ministry between two churches.

Jennifer and I have been so grateful for the friends we have made, and for the love and support that we have felt while serving with you at Faith. May God bless both of our churches, and continue to pour our His peace, and grace on all of us.

In His Service,
Pastor Ben Webster



Stephen Ministry

Are you the one friends call on
When trouble comes their way?

Are you the one who holds their hands
During a hospital stay?

Are you the one who gives support
To those who are feeling blue?

Accept that this is your spiritual gift
And Stephen Ministry is for you.

By way of Christian caring
You can administer God's grace and love
Submit unto your calling
And receive blessing from above.

Shared by N. Branford, Friendship Church

Some of us have attended classes at Faith or elsewhere devoted to discerning our spiritual gifts. Not all of us possess the same gifts, but we have all been entrusted with something valuable and we are encouraged to use these gifts wisely and well. To volunteer our gifts and graces in service is to honor God with what God has equipped us to share. When we ask God, "How should I use my day, my time, to reflect that you have given everything to me," we discover a fruitfulness of purpose and a delight in action that is beyond its own reward, for God has made us for such a life. Prayerfully consider where God is leading you.

Are you compassionate, encouraging, patient, a good listener, one who thrives on a one-to-one setting? For only a few hours a week, you too can be trained to serve God effectively with the gifts you have been given and become a blessing to those in need of Christian caring. And in being a blessing, you will also discover the joy of being blessed. A new training class will begin in September.

The Stephen Ministry website, www.stephenministries.org offers a great deal of information under the Learn about Stephen Ministry tab on the home page. In addition to a written explanation of "What is Stephen Ministry?" there are several videos which describe how Stephen Ministry brings hope and healing to hurting people as well as testimonials from several individuals who have had a Stephen Minister. For further information about Stephen Ministry at Faith Community, contact Becky Cultice, 937-376-574

Trip Opportunity

John Sherer is working with the Xenia Adult Recreation and Service Center for a trip to Pigeon Forge to attend the National Quartet Convention. This is an opportunity to hear won-

derful gospel music. The bus leaves XARSC at 8 AM September 27th and includes:

Bus trip, Two nights hotel, and concerts at the National Quartet Convention LeConte Center (September 27th & 28th) A Southern Style dinner at the Applewood Farmhouse Restaurant. Songs, Sips, and Sweets morning hymn sing, Barbecue and Bluegrass Gospel dinner and entertainment, Breakfast daily, baggage handling, and more. Return to Xenia Wednesday, September 29th. The full package for double occupancy will run \$450.00, Single \$589.00, Triple-\$417.00.

Ad Board

Our Ad BD Council met on May 24th. We learned that we could attend church "maskless", if we desired, on June 2nd. Of course, if people feel more comfortable with a mask, that is okay also.

By the time you receive the Faith Links, Ben and Jennifer Webster will be at the St. Paul Church in Dayton instead of leading our praise team here at Faith Community. Please join us in praying for their welfare and the welfare of the St. Paul Church.

By fall we hope our programming will be expanded by filling two positions - one a worship leader, and two, a family ministries director.

Since our meeting we had a most enjoyable family night at the church on June 13th. Thank you to Rhonda and her committee. We also are installing new cabinets in the kitchen and they are really nice. Stop in and check out what's going on there. Thank you to the trustees for that.

Finally, Do you have your new directory yet? If not, pick it up in the office. Thanks to the company that put the directory together we can put an app on our cell phones and it is really handy. I needed to call the office the other day and I hit the app button and I could call the church office, find the phone numbers and addresses, emails (and even a picture) of the church members. It does a lot more than that. It is the easiest app I have ever used. If you have not put that app on your phone yet, call the church office and they will give you your code.

We seem to be "on the move again". Praise God for that!
Blessings to each of you and *Keep Praying* for each other, our church, and our country.

Virginia Plunkerton,
Chairman of Ad Bd

A Voice for Environmental Stewardship

July 2021

One of the TREASURES that I found tucked away in the pages of my home library was a little card with a quote from St. Teresa of Avila of Spain. She lived from 1515 to 1582. She was canonized by Pope Gregory of Rome in 1622. She was a Carmelite nun, a theologian and writer of great importance in the Christian Church. Her writings and her life have inspired Christians down through the centuries. Here is the quote:

"Christ has no body but yours; no hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which His COMPASSION looks upon the world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do GOOD. Yours are hands with which He BLESSES all the world."

This is one of the important inspirations that have motivated me to care about people and our Mother Earth. Far from fueling complacency about our environment, it has made me an advocate for environmental stewardship. It pricks my conscience and makes me take responsibility for my actions and inactions in caring for the earth.

Perhaps we can all take inspiration from St. Teresa of Avila, as Christians, and sense our calling to be good environmental stewards everyday by the choices we make that impact the health of our MOTHER EARTH.

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

United Methodist Women

CIRCLES

Dorcas – Tuesday, July 13, 1.P.M. – 15 A-C

Women of Faith – No July meeting

United Methodist Men

The Men of Faith will meet on July 19 at 6:00 PM in rooms 16 A & B. Each person will bring his own meal and beverage. We will have a social time during the meal. The program will be a report from the Living Well Clinic followed by a short business session. **YOU MAY BRING A FRIEND.** Hope to see you on the 19th.

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

*Dear Becky and members of the scholarship committee,
Thank you so much for your generous scholarship. I appreciate it so much and it will help me immensely throughout my college journey.*

*Love,
Isabel Wickline*



Thank you for making it so I could go to Camp Otterbein. I got to do high ropes for the first time. Swimming in the lake is always fun. It was a great week. Thank you for helping pay for me to go to camp.

Zach Wagner

Deadline for August Faith Links: July

FCUM
May 2021 Financials

Monthly Income	\$ 30,256		YTD Income	\$ 185,948	
Monthly Expenses	\$ 29,635		YTD Expenses	\$ 136,122	
Difference	\$ 620	2.05%	Difference	\$ 49,826	26.80%

Greene County Adult Concert Band
Tribute to Ray Foster

On July 25 at 3:30 pm, the Greene County Adult Concert Band will hold an outdoor concert at Hobson Freedom Park, 2910 Trebein Rd. in Fairborn. The GCACB will dedicate this concert to the memory of Ray Foster, the band's founder and long-time leader. All are welcome (BYO lawn chair), and light refreshments will be served at an informal reception in the park after the concert to remember Ray, hosted by his loving family.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS BACK! VBS is scheduled for July 19-23, 9:30am-12:00pm for children 4 years old to entering 6TH grade. The excitement is mounting! Be a part of this adventure. There are many areas where help is needed: classroom assistants, crafts, baking, and decorating. If you are able to help please email or call Betsy Murray (937) 372-8376, gmama975@aol.com or Joyce Smith (937) 372-6576, jes1129@aol.com.



July 19 -23, 9:30 – 12:00

Ages 4 years – Beginning 6th grade

Faith Community United Methodist

100 Country Club Dr, Xenia

Knights of North Castle



Student's Name _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Date of Birth _____ Age _____

Last school grade attended _____

Allergies _____

Emergency Contacts:

Name _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Name(s) of people who can pick up this child

