

August 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>
June 27	94	17	34
July 4	82	26	33
July 11	91	35	42
July 18	84	38	29

From the Pastor

Dear Faith Community,

In my sermon on Acts 6 which I preached on July 11, I mentioned that Acts 6 reports probably the first time in Church history where one group of Christians raised a complaint about another group of Christians. I also covered the part of chapter 6 where Stephen was doing wondrous works for God, and then opposition arose. I said "Doesn't it always?" Opposition always arises when we are doing God's work.

I truly believe we are on the verge of doing some very great things at Faith Community. We just completed a well-attended and exciting Vacation Bible School with lots and lots of kids from outside our church. Later this month our Choir will return to the traditional service. The Praise band is sounding better each week in the contemporary service. And those worshipping online can participate in the entire service live. Shoes 4 the Shoeless will come back inside the building this September.

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 Tuesday evenings beginning near the end of August.

All kinds of new ministry opportunities are opening up. We are well positioned for reaching out to our community and making meaningful connections with our neighbors.

But be careful. When we are doing great things for God, that is when the devil attacks the hardest. That is when the enemy seeks to sow division in the church. I would be lying if I didn't admit I have some trepidation that we are on the verge of such an attack. I am asking you, as we enter into this new season at FCUM, to redouble your efforts in praying for our church. Pray that we remain faithful to God's call and united in our efforts to serve the Lord. Pray that people would be brought to a saving faith in Jesus Christ through the witness of our church. Pray for me as your pastor and for all of our members, and for all of those out in the neighborhoods around us who have yet to hear the good news of Jesus Christ. May we remain ever focused on our calling in Christ's name.

Blessings, Pastor Andy

Chancel Choir Resumes

The Staff/Parish Committee is pleased to announce that we have hired Bob Colaner as our interim choir director. A music educator for more than 40 years Bob currently teaches music at Legacy Christian Academy. At various times he has directed their band, orchestra, and choir for Grades 5-12 and taught all the elementary music for students in grades Pre K-6. He has offered private lessons in voice, piano, violin/viola, and fretted strings. In recent years, he has directed the city-wide choir for the Xenia Martin Luther King Day celebrations.

A graduate of the University of Mt. Union, he earned his bachelor's degree in Music Education. Later he received his Masters of Education from Ashland University.

Bob and his wife, Barbara, have been Xenia residents since 1993. They have three grown children and eight grandchildren.

Bob is enthusiastic about seeing our choir resume contributing to our corporate worship. Come meet him on August 1st when we will introduce him during the 9 o'clock service. Choir rehearsals will begin Wednesday, August 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Bell Choir

Bells, directed by Jim McPeck, will have their first rehearsal on Wednesday August 18 at 6:15 p.m.

Ad Board

Greetings from your Administration Board. We met July 15th. The song "Trust and Obey" was the theme of the devotions led by Evelyn Mash. Pastor Andy challenged us to vision our church where ALL of us were at the task of making disciples to each other and also to All of the world as the great commandment states. Other highlights included:

- The choir and bell choir will be returning in the fall.
- The contemporary service welcomed Tom Blackburn as the band leader.
- The stain glass windows in the front of the sanctuary are in need of serious repair.
Franklin Glass in Columbus will be working on that for us in late August.
- Bible School will be complete by the time you get this newsletter. Thanks to Joyce, Betsy and all those who made it possible. Currently we have 80 children signed up.
 - Stay tuned for another family night in September.
- Bob Whipp was welcomed to the Benevolence Committee.
- Rob Smith will be revamping the website.

It was a productive meeting. Kudos to the committees who work, the chairmen who report, and the entire board who listens and encourages. Please remember to pray for each member of our church, the committees, the pastor and the rest of the staff. May we all focus on Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

Blessings to all,
Virginia Pinkerton

Stephen Ministry

An Invitation to Commissioning

August 22nd our congregation will commission our newest Stephen Leaders. Throughout history, when God has called people to special ministry, members of their community have

commissioned them for the important new work they are beginning. Now we invite you to help carry on that biblical tradition by being a part of commissioning those who have responded to God's call to be part of the leadership of Faith Community's Stephen Ministry.

In addition to the intense Stephen Leader training Mike and Lynn Engle recently completed to equip them, both have already completed 50 hours of Stephen Ministry training and served six years as Stephen Ministers. Soon we will lay hands on them, pray for them, and send them out to minister, asking for God's blessing and the Spirit's wisdom and power.

This commissioning service offers an opportunity to show our support for this ministry. Our new Stephen Leaders will be depending on our support as they assume the duties of their ministry. How can we help?

First of all, we can pray for our Stephen Leaders, our Stephen Ministers, and their care receivers. This ministry calls for both time and effort. The assurance of our prayers and appreciation will help them keep moving forward.

We can also affirm and show our appreciation for this valuable ministry. We can tell them how much their hard work means to us, tell others how much we value our Stephen Ministry, and focus attention on our Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders to bless and affirm them in special ways—as we do with our commissioning services.

We can become involved in this ministry in many ways. Some of us may recognize a call to use our special gifts in this ministry and may apply to be a Stephen Minister. A new training class will begin this fall. Others may accept the care of a Stephen Minister. We can be ministers of referral, watching for people in need and suggesting a Stephen Minister's care. We all can give our enthusiastic support by keeping Stephen Ministry always before us and by praying for and affirming those who have answered God's call to serve in this way.

As we commission our newly trained Stephen Leaders, let us thank God for all that they will bring to this congregation in providing care to others, and let us promise them our daily prayer and support as we send them out to minister among us.

You're Invited



In order to give you an opportunity to learn more about our one-to-one caring ministry, you are invited to join us in Fellowship Hall A for a light lunch after the 11 o'clock service on Sunday, August 22nd. There will be a short video as we eat and a chance to talk informally with our Stephen Ministers. We promise not to take up too much of your Sunday afternoon, but we'd like you to know that being a Stephen Minister is not only helpful to others but it's also one of the most fulfilling and joyful experiences you'll ever have.

A Voice for Environmental Stewardship August 2021

I often wonder why intelligent people sometimes refuse to believe the science based facts of climate change and the resultant problem of global warming. The effects are frequently reported in the news. The problem has grown into a climate emergency recognized by 97% of published peer reviewed climate scientists from all over the world.

One of the most obvious effects is the huge increase in wildfires in the forests of the western states of the U.S. and in some of the western provinces of Canada. These wildfires have become more frequent, have begun earlier in the normal fire season. Forestry officials KNOW that longer lasting droughts have been made worse because of climate change. Many of the lakes and reservoirs from which the firefighters get the water to fight the fires have been depleted because of the drought conditions. We have seen the helicopters that scoop up the water in huge buckets and fly the water to the closest wildfires. In many places the problem is becoming hopeless. On the human side of the problem, firefighters have

to work such long shifts, without replacements, that they are exhausted. More firefighters from more states are on the front lines of blazes than ever before!

Many of the fires are out of control with little chance of controlling them in the near future.

Whole towns with all their homes and businesses are going up in flames. Some people who cannot evacuate soon enough are dying horrible deaths.

All of this destruction of thousands of people's lives and property doesn't seem to make a MORAL IMPACT on the climate change deniers in U.S. Congress. Politics should never block action on mitigating and reversing climate change. It seems to me that politics itself has polluted the time tested blessing of rational thinking! RAPID climate change is NOT a natural phenomenon. Worldwide, climates have changed over thousands of years, but not in just in the span of one person's lifetime. Sir David Attenborough from my May 2021 article, wrote in his book, A Life on Our Planet, that he researched the changes in CO2 concentration in our atmosphere since 1937. Just in the last 83 years CO2 has increased 47%. All that extra CO2 captures much more heat in our atmosphere than it did 83 years ago.

We all contribute to climate change and global warming. Everyone of us uses electricity produced by a utility. Most utilities burn fossil fuels, coal or natural gas, to power their turbines that generate the electricity. If we drive a motor vehicle that uses gasoline, we are producing greenhouse gasses the most harmful of which is CO2. Even electric cars have to charge their cars at charging stations. The charging stations get their electricity from utility companies, like DP&L. EVERY ONE of us must take responsibility for our share of the problem.

Two years ago I purchased 18 solar panels from Power Home Solar. They installed them on the south facing portion of my roof. The panels produce at least 60 % of the electricity we use in our home. I am reducing the amount of greenhouse gasses that DP&L produces to supply my home with electricity. For ten years I have driven a hybrid car. The Kia Niro I drive now gets at least 50 miles per gallon of gas, with very low greenhouse emissions. I am not carbon neutral (with no CO2 emissions from my lifestyle) yet, but I am working toward it.

If we all do what we can to address climate change and global warming, collectively, we will be better environmental stewards CARING FOR OUR PRECIOUS MOTHER EARTH .

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

Shoes 4 the Shoeless Is Back!

Our next event will be Saturday, September 25 from 9:00am – 12:00pm in the community center. Kris H. is coming again with all her shoes so the kids get their shoes that day. Anyone interested in volunteering please contact Sandy Pramer (937) 307-3619 or Deb Klaty in the Church office at (937) 372-7601.

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women are pleased to announce that the speaker for our Autumn Blessings Brunch will be our Ohio First Lady Fran DeWine. Since space is limited, tickets will also be limited, so plan to get your tickets when they go on sale in late September or early October. The brunch is scheduled for Saturday, October 23 at 11 AM.

Come One–Come All August 16

Sponsored by the Men of Faith and

United Methodist Women

The Men of Faith and the United Methodist Women's August 16th event will be a cook out at the Historical Society. The meal will be served beginning at 6:30 PM. The men will furnish the hamburgers, hot dogs, paper plates and plastic ware. The women will furnish the drinks and condiments. We are inviting all the members of the Church to attend. Bring a dish to share and come and enjoy the evening with us. Tour of the facility will also be available. Please call Wayne Cook (937-479-8020) if you plan to attend, so we can plan the quantity of food for the meal. Everyone is welcome and you can bring a friend. Hope to see you on the 16th.

Thanks

Dear Faith Community,

I want to thank Faith Community's Dorcas Circle for their donation to Red Bird Missions.

Optimism grows as we emerge from the pandemic and resume activities at our familiar times and places.

Tim Crawford, Development Director

Dear Faith Community,

Thank you for your gift to Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greene County. One in sixteen children in the U.S. will experience homelessness before the end of first grade. In 2020, 34% of the individuals served at the Schneider House of Hope were children age 5 and under. Your financial donation assures that these very youngest persons benefit from a homelike safe and secure atmosphere which we provide. Thank you again for being part of the supporters who believe that "Every Child Deserves a Home!"

Beth Holten, Director

Passings

Our church family extends prayers and sympathy to the family and friends of **Jane Keller** on her death.

Deadline for September Faith Links: August 15

FCUM

June 2021 Financials

Monthly Income	\$24,279		YTD Income	\$ 217,655	
Monthly Expenses	\$29,963		YTD Expenses	\$ 174,319	
Difference	\$ (5,684)	-23.41%	Difference	\$ 43,336	19.91%

UNITED METHODIST MEN'S ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

Friday, Sept. 10th, and Saturday Sept. 11th. Many have already responded with items for the garage sale and we are so appreciative of your support. If you are planning on donating significant items, it would be helpful if you would list those items below. Typical items donated are dishes, glassware, pots, pans, electrical items, pictures, games, toys, bikes, clocks, radios, TV's, garden tools, tools, mowers, & etc. Please no clothing, and please make sure electrical items are in working condition. If you have a garage sale prior to ours and have items left over, call us and we will arrange to pick up left-over items. Items may be dropped off at the Community Center Thursday, September 9th from 1 to 8 PM, or Friday September 10th from 9 AM -12 Noon. The sale runs from 6 to 8 PM Friday evening and will continue Saturday morning 9 AM to 12 Noon. Pick up of items may be arranged by calling John Sherer at 372-2204. **Please list major items you plan to donate and put in the offering plate, turn into the church office, or give to John Sherer.**

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE# _____ If pick up
needed, check this box ()

Your support is greatly appreciated!! Proceeds go for local missions and MOF projects.

VBS



VBS 2021 was a wonderful experience for everyone involved. It would not have been possible without the help of all the volunteers who: taught the classes of children, welcomed the families and registered the children, taught the songs and led the music, prepared and worked with the crafts, prepared and served wonderful snacks, taught the children games and recreation, taught the science lessons, provided cookies , helped decorate the halls and rooms, cooked hotdogs and ran after forgotten items.

We also want to thank Crystal and Deb for all their help and patience and the office volunteers who helped with a variety of tasks. We also appreciate those who made financial donations that allowed us to purchase the curriculum and ancillary items. A big thanks to Pastor Andy for being our Knight in Shining Armor (literally). See picture. It truly takes many hands and hearts to provide this experience for 100 children from our community.

You are a blessing.

We collected a daily offering which will provide three flicks of chickens and two goats for the Heifer program.

August 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9am-Traditional- Sanct. 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary-FCC 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A	2 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 7-9pm-Stephen Ministry-Parlor	3 6:30-8:30pm-Trustees-Room 6 7-8:30pm-SPRC-Library	4 7-9pm-Praise Band Practice-FCC	5 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor	6	7
8 9am-Traditional- Sanct. 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary-FCC 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A	9 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	10 6-8:45am-Girl Scouts Leader Meeting-FH-15A	11 8am-10am-XAACM-FH 15A-B 7-9pm-Praise Band Practice-FCC	12 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 2-4pm-Grief Support-Parlor	13	14
15 9am-Traditional-Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary-FCC 11:30-3:30-VBS Set up 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A	16 6-8:30pm-Men of Faith-16-A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	17 3:30-4:30pm-Mission/Outreach-Rm. 8	18 7-9pm-Praise Band Practice-FCC 6:15pm-Bells-Sanc. 7:30pm-Choir-Sanctuary	19 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 7-8:30pm-Christian Ed Meeting-Library	20	21
22 9am-Traditional -Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary -FCC 1-2:30pm-A Taste of Stephen Ministry Recruiting Lunch 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A	23 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	24 1-3pm-Dorcas-FH 15A-B	25 Faith Links Mailing 7-9pm-Praise Band Practice-FCC 6:15pm-Bells -Sanctuary 7:30pm-Choir-Sanctuary	26 1-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor	27	28 5-9pm-Double 1-15A & Kitchen
29 9am-Traditional -Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary FCC 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A	30 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	31				