

## September 2021

Rev. Andy Wagner  
937-372-7601 [office@fcum.org](mailto:office@fcum.org) [www.fcum.org](http://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>Date</u>	<u>9:00</u>	<u>11:00</u>	<u>S.S.</u>
July 25	128	28	25
August 1	97	27	27
August 8	118	23	33
August 15	100	34	27

### From the Pastor

Dear Faith Community,

Schools are back in session. The Choir has been re-hearsing once again. By the time you receive this, the Choir will have sung in worship for the first time in almost a year and a half. The Bell Choir will be playing in worship very soon. Disciple Bible Studies are meeting weekly. Fall programs are kicking into gear. It really feels like things have gotten back to normal. (Or as normal as normal gets anyway.) We do know, though, that we're not completely out of the woods yet. As the Delta variant began to fill the hospitals up once again, some began to ask what this would mean for the church. Would we have to put some restrictions back in place? The best answer I can give is "I don't know but I hope not." Unless a new mandate comes along that is beyond our control, I don't intend to change our current practices at FCUM. I think you all have been exceptionally reasonable and faithful.

There are some who currently feel the need to wear masks in the church and I'm glad that they feel comfort-

able doing so. Vaccines for children and boosters for all will soon be available and that is another couple of steps in the right direction. I'm excited to see what God has in store for us in the coming months as we are able to reach out more into our community. Please continue to pray for our church and for the people God has placed around us, that we might make significant and life-changing connections with one another.

Blessings, Pastor Andy



## 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)

Mike and Lynn Engle were commissioned as Stephen Ministry Leaders on Sunday, August 22. They have served as Stephen Ministers since 2014.

"Save the Date." The Greater Dayton Stephen Ministry Network is sponsoring a program on Trust Building that will be at Fairhaven on October 3rd. Details will follow.

It's not too late to be a part of the new training class that will be starting soon. For more information contact Becky Cultice at 937-376-5747 or [culticer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:culticer@sbcglobal.net).

### **Educational Assistance**

Congratulations to FCUMC's Educational Assistance Recipients! Thanks to the generosity of members past and present, Faith Community is able to offer educational assistance each year to graduating high school seniors and to continuing education students as well. These funds come from designated gifts. This year we are pleased to award a total of \$10,500 to nine of our members. First-time recipient includes Isabel Wickline who will be attending Wright State University. The continuing education students receiving assistance include sophomores Ian and Megan Ackenhausen both at Ohio Northern University, Jacob Fox at Ohio University, Grant Smith and Wesley Wickline at the Ohio State University; juniors Alexandra Fellie at Colorado School of Mines and Kayla Horney at Bowling Green State University (Ohio); and senior Samuel Johnson at the University of Dayton.

We wish them all well as they begin a new school year and want them to know that we want to support them while they are away and look forward to seeing them when they are home and to hearing how things are going with them.

### **A Voice for Environmental Stewardship**

If our Mother Earth could communicate with us about the pain she is experiencing, I believe she would do so through nature's reactions to what we are doing to her. She would tell us that she has A SEVERE FEVER because her atmosphere is getting warmer and warmer

with all the greenhouse gasses that we are pumping into her air from our burning of fossil fuels. She would tell us that her oceans are all getting warmer all around the world as air temperatures are rising. She would remind us that her oceans cover 70% of our planet and that the oceans absorb 90% of the excess heat from climate change.

She knows that humans watch television and that we have seen the two massive HEAT DOMES that have baked much of the USA so far this summer. She has rarely experienced such heat over so much of the northern hemisphere. She knows that we have heard about all the high temperature records being broken and that so many humans are suffering. She wants us to know that many land and marine animals are suffering too! She cares about us.

Mother Nature also knows that her forests in the western half of the U.S., Western Canada, Australia and now in Spain have had very long-lasting droughts that have been made worse because of climate change. And that FOREST FIRES are much more frequent and intense, covering greater areas than ever before. She wants us to know that the forests are HER LUNGS that take CO<sub>2</sub> out of our atmosphere and help keep CO<sub>2</sub> and oxygen balanced so that humans and all animals can breathe healthy air. She wants us to know that her glaciers and ice caps hold 68% of the freshwater on the Earth. She has had glaciers and ice caps for hundreds of thousands of years, but they are melting at a much faster rate than humans realize. Mountain glaciers all over the world are melting rapidly and Antarctica's ice shelves are breaking off the continent and becoming icebergs in the Southern Ocean. Greenland has more glaciers than any place in the northern hemisphere and losing mass so fast that snowfall cannot balance the loss. When the complete ice sheet melts, sea levels will rise 23 feet. She knows that sea levels are rising much faster than humans realize and much sooner than later cities and communities on

the coasts of oceans will experience massive flooding and great property destruction. She would also tell us that the fresh water from melting glaciers is pouring into the Atlantic Ocean. One of the results of all that cold water is that the Gulf Stream that keeps the British Isles and much of western Europe as warm as it is, is losing its strength and may fail, changing the climate in those countries even more.

I believe that if Mother Nature had her own hands she would throw them up in Great Dismay. She would tell us that “she has made life possible for Humans on this BEAUTIFUL PLANET, but LOOK what they have done to her. Is that the way they show GRATITUDE to their Creator? Mother Nature knows that there are many Humans that care about the Earth and cherish her and want to take care of her. She hopes that these wise and informed ones will rise up and be HER HANDS and do what their Creator put them on Earth to do, and TAKE CARE OF THE EARTH, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE !

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**

United Methodist Women will be hosting Autumn Blessings Brunch on Saturday, October 23, 2021 at 11 AM in the Community Center of Faith Community UMC. Guest Speaker will be Ohio First Lady Fran DeWine. Tickets will be \$10 each (yes, this is an increase) and will go on sale on Sunday, October 3. Tickets will be limited so plan to get yours early.

## Circles:

Women of Faith –September 20, 1-3 pm–Room 15-C  
Dorcas – September 21, 1-3 pm–Room 15-A-B

## **United Methodist Men**

**ATTENTION ALL MEN:** The Men of Faith meet on September 20 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 his own meal and beverage. We will have a social time during the meal. The program will be a report and review of the MOF Garage Sale results.

## **Administrative Board**

Greetings from the Ad Bd. Our next meeting will be September 16th. However, we are preparing for a busy Autumn season. As I write this article, my grandchildren are just getting off the bus from Day 1 at school, the volleyball, football, and cross teams are practicing, and two of my grandchildren are headed off to Ohio State. This time of year helps me refocus on the routine of the school year.

Last night Paul and I attended the introductory meeting for the Disciple Bible Study Class. As I sat and listened to each person introduce themselves and tell why they were taking the course, I was encouraged by their comments. I have been wanting to take a Bible Study Class for some time and that time has finally arrived. Thank you to Pastor Andy who will be our fearless leader. Speaking of leading, there are several jobs that need volunteers. Please consider what you can do to be an active part of our church. We encourage each person to do what they can. For some that will be attending and praying. For others, it may be joining a committee or the Women or Men of Faith or maybe even a Sunday School Class. The opportunities are limitless. We encourage you to pray earnestly about your role here at Faith Community. We are so appreciative of our congregation. May

God continue to bless us and may we be His servants in the the Xenia community.

Virginia Pinkerton, Chairman Ad Board

### **It's Time for Festival of Sharing**

This year Festival of Sharing will be September 18 at Otterbein University. We are collecting Hygiene and School kits. Please watch for the tubs where you can place your kits. There is now a web site that you can go to for information on the contents and a video for the collection and making the kits: [Fosohio.org](http://Fosohio.org) All kits are due by September 14. We have some bags for the school kits. Please remember there is a \$2 processing fee that should be put in an envelope attached to the kits. Scott and Carol Jenkins are our contact people at (937)372-1372.

### **Thanks**

*The family of Jane Keller would like to thank everyone for their prayers and cards. A special thank you to Family Outreach for the wonderful dinner after her service. Also a special thanks to Pastor Andy.*



*Thank you so much for all of your cards, kind thoughts, and well wishes following my recent shoulder surgery and cardiac catheterization. Someone said they couldn't remember the time of my surgery so they just prayed all day. And I felt the prayers!*

*Thank you again so much for being such a wonderful church family. ~~Elaine Hughes*



*To Everyone at Faith Community United Methodist,  
First of all, I am sorry I waited so long to write this note to everyone.*

*I really appreciate everyone's prayers, thoughts, and many questions and concerns about my health over the*

*last six months of problems. I guess you all know that I had COVID 19 pretty bad and a real struggle to recover. After a little more than four months in the nursing home and three trips to the hospital, I was released and now about two and a half months at home. I am doing very well on oxygen levels (down to one and a half liters from almost 10,) staying by myself and doing most things on my own except driving. Thanks to many of you people that provide rides to various places I need to go. I want to give a special thanks to John Sherer for his visits to me while I was in the nursing home. I want to say thanks for all the cards I received with thinking of you greetings, get well, and especially for my birthday. I have a stack of cards about a foot tall.*

*Again, I thank everyone.*

*Dick Strous*

**Have You Seen a Ladder?**

The Trustees purchased an 8 Ft ladder for use in the garage. It has disappeared. If you happened to borrow it or know of its whereabouts we would appreciate it being returned. It was just purchased in the spring.

**Deadline for October Faith Links: September 17**

**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 9<sup>th</sup> 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

# September 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> 2-4pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6 6:15-7:15pm-Handbell Practice-Music Room 7-9pm-Praise Band-FCC 7:30-9:00pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary	<b>2</b> 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 1:30-4pm-Woman's Club of Xenia-Parlor	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9am-Traditional- Sanct. 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary-FCC 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A	<b>6 Labor Day Office Closed</b>	<b>7</b> 6:00-8:15pm-Girl Scouts-Rm 15A-C,16A 6:30-8:30pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6 6:30-8:30pm-Trustees-Room 8	<b>8</b> 2-4pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6 6:15-7:15pm-Handbell Practice-Music Room 7-9pm-Praise Band-FCC 7:30-9:00pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary	<b>9</b> 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 12:30-1:30pm-Membership Care Meeting-Parlor 2-4pm-Grief Support-Parlor 7-8:30pm-SPRC Meeting-Library	<b>10</b> <b>6-9pm-UMMM Garage Sale-FCC</b>	<b>11</b> <b>9am-2pm-UMMM Garage Sale- FCC</b>
<b>12</b> 9am-Traditional-Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary-FCC <b>5-7pm-Family Night-FCC</b> 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A	<b>13</b> 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 7:00-9:00pm-Stephen Ministry - Rm 15 A-B	<b>14</b> 6pm-8:45pm-Girl Scout Leader Meeting-15A 6:30-8:30pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6	<b>15</b> 7-9pm-Praise Band Practice-FCC 6:15pm-Bells-Music Rm 7:30pm-Choir-Sanctuary	<b>16</b> 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6:30-8:30pm-Ad Board-15C	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9am-Traditional -Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary -FCC 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A	<b>20</b> 1-3pm-Women of Faith-15C 6-8:30pm-Men of Faith-16A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	<b>21</b> 1-3pm-Dorcas-FH 15A-B 6:00-8:15pm-Girl Scouts-Rm 15A-C,16A 6:30-8:30pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6	<b>22</b> 2-4pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6 6:15pm-Bells-Music Rm 7-9pm-Praise Band Practice-FCC 7:30pm-Choir-Sanctuary	<b>23</b> 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>9:30-10:30am-Shoes 4 the Shoeless</b> 5-9pm-Double I-15A & Kitchen
<b>26</b> 9am-Traditional -Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary FCC 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A	<b>27</b> 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	<b>28</b> 6:30-8:30pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6	<b>29</b> 2-4pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6 6:15pm-Bells-Music Rm 7-9pm-Praise Band Practice-FCC 7:30pm-Choir-Sanctuary	<b>30</b> 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor		