

October 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>Date</u>	<u>9:00</u>	<u>11:00</u>	<u>S.S.</u>
August 15	100	34	27
August 22	95	37	24
August 29	98	25	31
September 5	86	29	33
September 12	104	34	37
September 19	109	25	35

From the Pastor

Dear Faith Community,

If you've been around the church building in the past couple of weeks, you might have seen me wearing a mask. I don't wear it in the pulpit or when I'm alone in my office, but otherwise I try to keep it on when I'm moving around the building or close to other people. This isn't because I'm concerned about my own health but because I'm concerned for you. Ever since I received the COVID19 vaccine I've felt very freed and confident in going about my regular routine without much concern. Having been vaccinated, I know that even if I do contract the virus (which we all know is possible even among the vaccinated) it will most likely be a very mild case. However, over the past month or so, I have grown increasingly concerned over the possibility of spreading the virus to others (which we also know is possible even among the vaccinated). I would feel terribly guilty, and like I had somewhat failed in my Christian responsibility to love others, if

I allowed relishing in my own freedom to cause me to pass the virus on to one of the children under 12 at the church who cannot yet get vaccinated, or to one of our immuno-compromised members, or to a grandparent who could not then be around their grandchildren. Doing what I can to prevent this from happening seems to me a very small thing for someone whose Lord commands, "Take up your cross." When I consider the cross that he bore, the cross that he was nailed to, the cross on which he died for my sake, what is a little piece of fabric over my nose and mouth to complain about?!

The Administrative Board has voted to recommend the wearing of masks while in the church building. This is not a requirement; no one is being forced to follow this recommendation. As with everything in our faith, we are free to follow our conscience and the conviction of the Holy Spirit. But please be reminded, the question for a Christian is never, "What do I want?" or "What suits me best?" but only and always "How can I best show my love for others?"

Blessings, Pastor Andy

A Voice for Environmental Stewardship

You have heard me talk about our carbon footprint before. My carbon footprint is a measure of how much and in what ways I contribute to the buildup of excess carbon dioxide in our Earth's atmosphere. I recently discovered a website called Live Green. It helps me track these elements of my carbon footprint: 1) my mode of transportation and the carbon output of that transportation 2) The miles that I walk every day 3) The amount of carbon output that I am responsible for through my use of electricity and natural gas that I use in my home. Even though I use energy saving light bulbs everywhere in my home 4) The food that I eat, because I eat meat and meat production increases greenhouse gas emissions 5) The things and the amount of those things that I buy because manufacturing anything increases greenhouse gas emissions. Live Green encourages me to REDUCE my carbon footprint. It estimates my annual carbon footprint (cf) and compares it to

the average of people in other nations. It also contrasts my cf with the United Nations goal for people everywhere, if we as humans are going to be able to contain global warming so that it doesn't reach the POINT OF NO RETURN, WHICH IS A GLOBAL INCREASE OF 2.0 DEGREES CELSIUS OR JUST 3.6 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT, humanity as a whole needs to DECREASE OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT. I started out with a carbon footprint of 13.1 tons of excess carbon released per year. Because of the actions that I have taken I have offset 21.5 tons of carbon annually. That is the equivalent of planting 95 trees. What have I done to offset 21.5 tons annually? 1) I drive a hybrid car that get an average of 53 miles per gallon of gas. 2) I combine my car errands to as few trips as possible, sometimes going 7 different places in one trip. 3) I turn off the lights in rooms that I am not occupying, thus using less electricity supplied by DP&L, which burns coal to generate the electricity. Lighting can consume more electricity than any other use in my home. 4) I buy as few things as possible, re-purposing many items that I use. I also buy many good clothes from Goodwill. I also donate many good clothes to Goodwill to help them in their mission of employing low- skilled men and women. 5) I recycle as many things as possible so that the materials can be remade into other useful items. Much of what I recycle is paper including corrugated cardboard, cereal boxes, etc., and stationary that has had both sides used for writing. There are many things that we can do to reduce our carbon footprints. Each of us needs to do that if we are going to DO OUR PART IN REDUCING GLOBAL WARMING. Americans have the largest carbon footprint of almost any nation in Planet Earth. It is TIME TO ACT. ~~Rev. Alan D. Barone, B.A. in Science Education, M.Div., Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist

From the Trustees

The Trustees, in an effort to Plan for and Protect the church building, have established an account with an initial investment of \$50,000. The account is for the purpose of re-roofing the church building when the time comes. The current estimated cost to re-roof the entire structure is \$300,000. The Trustees feel we have an-

other 8 to 10 years, hopefully, before this project needs to be addressed.

We are inviting anyone who would like to donate towards this major project to do so. Any donations received and earmarked for this project will be deposited with the \$50,000, and with growth will be used to help pay for this project when the time comes.

Scott Jenkins, Margaret Stidham



Stephen Ministry

How to Embrace the “Next Normal”

2020 was a year unlike any other and 2021 is proving to be equally challenging. It’s difficult to know who or what to believe or how to plan. We have needed strategies to deal with the stress, anxiety, worry, isolation, and intensity. Sometimes they have worked; other times they haven’t. Through these unprecedented and challenging times that have brought uncertainty and fear, God gives us the promise that we’ll get through this. However, God doesn’t promise that getting through difficult times will be quick or painless. He does assure us, though, that we are never alone.

The last year and a half has taken a toll on all of us whether we acknowledge it or not, but as one of my former colleagues used to say, “It is what it is.” So what are our options? I’d like to share excerpts from “How to Embrace the Next Normal,” by Holly Lebowitz Rossi, posted in *Positive Living*, September 8, 2021. She indicates that she was always bothered by the expression “the new normal.” When she started seeing references to “the next normal,” she was intrigued. According to Rossi, the phrase was popularized early in the pandemic by the management consulting McKinsey & Company. In the business context, “the next normal” means after COVID-19 “finally, mercifully fades into the rear-view mirror, we

should calibrate our expectations to reflect two truths: 1. Life will not go back to ‘normal’ as we understood it before the pandemic. 2. Change is a constant we should expect and even embrace in the months and years to come.” The incomprehensible changes we’ve experienced—from shutting down completely when the pandemic first struck to understanding and accessing vaccines, changing masking habits, stepping back into social activities...and then adjusting as the Delta variant surges—cleanly captures the notion of “the next normal.” Rossi goes on to say: “Whether we have done so with grace or impatience, tears or fortitude, we have navigated many transitions in rapid succession since spring 2020. Most of us, I’d wager, have walked through this time with a combination of calm and challenge. At each step on the journey, we have needed to recognize ‘a next normal’ that required us to assess our behaviors and adjust our outlooks.”

“I believe,” Rossi shares, “life will feel this way for the foreseeable future. I also believe that the ‘next normal’ mindset is a helpful addition to a life of authentic positivity. Think of the energy we can save if we stop expecting the world to revert to some ‘before’ state—or to stop changing the tides against the shore.”

“Instead, imagine the beauty we will be able to notice in the world if we pivot toward embracing change, sharpening our flexibility skills and recognizing that we are stronger when we bring our full, authentic selves to whatever next normal life sets before us. “

Staff Change

We welcome Jennifer Damron as our new Treasurer effective October 1. She will be shadowing Karen Beyer up until September 30, when Karen will be leaving us for her new-full time position as Grandmother. We appreciate all Karen has done for us as Treasurer and wish her Godspeed.

IT'S FCUM College Crew Care Package Time!

We have twelve students studying at the college or graduate level this semester. Let's send them a care package full of love and support from their home church. I asked each student to give me some items that they would like to receive in a care package and their responses included dry erase markers, pens, pencils, post-it notes, gummy bears, Starbucks gift cards, Pringles (original and pizza flavored), and snacks. I will put up a collection bin to gather any items that you would like to donate and will take any financial contributions that are made and use those funds to purchase care package items and to cover mailing costs. The bins will be in the Narthex and by the exit doors of the Community Center on October 3rd and 10th. I will work to send the Care Packages out after those dates. If you have questions or want to offer help in any other way by keeping connected to our College Crew, please let me know. Julie Wickline 937-207-8289

United Methodist Women

Due to circumstances beyond the control of the UMW, the Autumn Blessings Brunch has been cancelled. We are sorry for any disappointment you may be feeling. Have a blessed autumn! ~~Carol Sykes

Circles:

Women of Faith –October 11, 1-3 pm–Room 15-C
Dorcas – October 19, 1-3 pm–Room 15-A-B

United Methodist Men

ATTENTION ALL MEN: The Men of Faith will meet on October 18 at 6:00 PM in rooms 16A & B. Each person will bring his own meal and beverage. We will have a

social time during the meal and the program will be a video titled "The Treasure Principle". YOU MAY BRING A FRIEND. Hope to see you on the 18th.

Garage Sale Results

On behalf of the United Methoist Men of Faith Community, I want to thank everyone who donated items or gave their time and talents to make our garage sale a success. A special thanks to all the ladies and those who stepped up to help, sharing their time and talents in pricing and organizing the items. I'm happy to report that we cleared \$2,670.25. In addition we donated several pick-up truck loads of items to Goodwill in Xenia. In addition we sold \$3854 on Market Place. To God be the glory as we use these funds to further His Kingdom through mission and projects here on earth.

Sincerely,

John W. Sherer, Chair MOF Garage Sale

Garden Project Report

We have a large plot of land on Bob Warner's farm where we grew veggies. The veggies went to the local Fish Pantry and to IHN.

We donated 77.5 dozen ears of corn from MOF's garden, 149 dozen ears of corn from Don Wolf's farm, 364 lbs. of tomatoes, 146 lbs. of peppers, zucchini and cucumbers and 124 lbs. of melons. Calculating that one ear of corn weighs 0.75 lbs., we donated 2,817 lbs. of produce to Xenia Fish Food Pantry and/or IHN for 6-8 weeks this summer.

Those who volunteered were: Butch Smith, Bill Sykes, Vic Tooney, Bruce Pickelheimer, Frank Brown, Bob Whipp and John Sherer. Thanks to Bob and Mary Ellen Warner for volunteering the garden space on their farm.

To God be the Glory for the opportunity to share this produce with those in need.

Thanks

A special THANK YOU to all the members who remember that I am alive and well, living at Elmcroft Sr. Living in Xenia. Although this is way overdue, I want to sincerely thank you all for the many newsletters, prayer chain, flowers, cards, notes, and visits.

A special thank you to Sharon and Marlene! I went through some challenging times but am once again healthy and well.

Don't forget other members who would love to hear from you. It means more than you can imagine.

Thank you. ~Barbara Johnston, Elmcroft Sr. Living, Apartment 228, Paceline Circle, Xenia, OH, 45385.

Passings

*Prayers and Sympathy are extended to the family and friends of **Betty Anderson**.*

FCUM

August 2021 Financials

Monthly Income	\$25,767		YTD Income	\$ 266,858	
Monthly Expenses	\$26,833		YTD Expenses	\$ 229,945	
Difference	\$ (1,066)	-4.14%	Difference	\$ 36,913	13.83%

Deadline for November Faith Links: October 15



October 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 9am-Traditional-Sanc. 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary-FCC 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A	4 6:10-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 7:00-9:00pm-Stephen Ministry - Rm 15 A-B	5 6:00-8:15pm-Girl Scouts-Rm 15A-C,16AB 6:30-8:30pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6 6:30-8:30pm-Trustees-Room 8	6 2-4pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6 6:15-7:15pm-Handbell Practice-Music Room 7-9pm-Praise Band-FCC 7-8:30pm-SPRC-Library	7 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 1:30-4pm-Women's Club of Xenia-Parlor 6:30-9pm-Stephen Ministry Training-Library	8	9
10 9am-Traditional-Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary-FCC 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A	11 1-3pm-Women of Faith-15C 6:10-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	12 6pm-8:45pm-Girl Scout Leader Meeting-15A 6:30-8:30pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6	13 2-4pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6 6:15pm-Bells-Music Rm 7-9pm-Praise Band Practice-FCC 7:30pm-Choir-Sanctuary	14 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 2-4pm-Grief Support-Parlor 6:30-9pm-Stephen Ministry Training-Library	15	16
17 9am-Traditional -Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary -FCC 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A	18 6-8:30pm-Men of Faith-16-A-B 6:10-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	19 1-3pm-Dorcas-15A,B 3:30-4:30pm-Mission Outreach-Room 8 4:30-5:30pm-Investment Group-Lib 6:00-8:15pm-Girl Scouts-Rm 15A-C,16AB 6:30-8:30pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6	20 2-4pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6 6:15pm-Bells-Music Rm 7-9pm-Praise Band Practice-FCC 7:30pm-Choir-Sanctuary	21 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6:30-9pm-Stephen Ministry Training-Library 7-8:30pm-Christian Ed. Meeting-Room 8	22	23 5-9pm-Double 1-15A & Kitchen
24 9am-Traditional -Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary FCC 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A	25 6:10-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	26 6:30-8:30pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6	27 2-4pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6 6:15pm-Bells-Music Rm 7-9pm-Praise Band Practice-FCC 7:30pm-Choir-Sanctuary	28 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6:30-9pm-Stephen Ministry Training-Library	29	30
31 - See above						