

November 2021

Rev. Andy Wagner
937-372-7601 office@fcum.org www.fcum.org
Sunday Worship
9:00 Worship in Sanctuary
10:00 Sunday School
11:00 Worship in Community Center
[We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation](#)

Attendance

	<u>9:00</u>	<u>11:00</u>	<u>S.S.</u>
September 26	93	30	41
October 3	87	31	32
October 10	93	25	37
October 17	86	23	34

From Pastor Andy

Dear Faith Community,

Happy November! It seems that in today's world, no sooner is Halloween over than the rush to Christmas is on. I'm as excited to celebrate Christmas as the next person. And given the supply chain issues going on right now, if you haven't begun your gift shopping yet, you're probably already behind. That being said, let's not skip over the unique beauty of the season we're in now. Not just Thanksgiving Day, but the entire month of November can be a season for giving thanks.

On Thursday, November 18 at 6:30PM we will hold our annual Church Conference. The Church Conference is more than just an annual business meeting we're required to have; it is a time to reflect on where we have come as a congregation over the past year and where God is leading us into the next. It's a chance to see what God is up to with us and to give thanks. God has been so faithful to us as a congregation. We need to recognize and celebrate that.

And God has been faithful not just to us as a congregation, but to Xenia as a community. On Sunday, November 21 at 3:00PM, we

will participate in a community-wide celebration of Thanksgiving worship. We at FCUM are honored to host this first of what I hope will become an annual community Thanksgiving worship. A number of churches are joining together to plan the service. There will be a variety of music including a combined choir. How good it will be to pray together, sing together, hear the Word together, and receive Holy Communion together, as the One Body of Christ across backgrounds and denominations!

Before this month is out, we will enter into the season of Advent. November 28 is the first Sunday of Advent. But don't think that we are jumping straight to Christmas. Advent is a season of preparation. Having given thanks for what God has done and continues to do, we take time to prepare our hearts and lives for the new thing God is doing. "Behold, I make all things new," declares the Lamb upon the throne. Indeed, let us prepare and let us give thanks. I am thankful for each one of you and for this wonderful, faithful congregation called Faith Community United Methodist.

Blessings, Pastor Andy

Welcome Jennifer Damron

The SPRC Committee recently filled the Church Treasurer position by hiring Mrs. Jennifer Damron. I had the opportunity to sit down with Jennifer and learn a bit about her life. She agreed that I could share some details with the congregation. Jennifer grew up in Xenia and graduated from Xenia High School. She received her undergraduate degree from Wright State and then pursued a Master of Business Administration from the University of Dayton. Jennifer met her husband at age 15 at Cub Foods in Bellbrook. She was selling hot dogs near the store and Edward worked at Cub Foods. They have been married for 25 years and have 2 children. Abigail is a pre-vet freshman at Cedarville University and Kaylyn is a junior in high school. The family resides near Waynesville.

I asked Jennifer about her Christian walk. I learned she grew up in a non-Christian home but her neighbor invited her to church. She attended for several years and then began attending church with another neighbor. Throughout her life she has attended Vineyard Christian Fellowship, the Catholic church, and now the family worships at Emmanuel Baptist Church. She credits Bill Dean for helping her find her way to Christ. I wondered where Jennifer would be today if her

neighbor had not invited her to church? It helped me realize that we each have a responsibility to share the Word of God with our neighbors, friends, and family.

In addition to being a stay-at-home mom, Jennifer finds time to hold down 3 jobs. She works for CUSA (Centerville Soccer), Emmanuel Baptist Church, and now also treasurer here at Faith Community. Thank you, Jennifer, for allowing me to spend some time with you. We here at Faith Community welcome you as our new treasurer. Congregation, please join me in welcoming Jennifer. Stop in the office and make yourself known. May God bless our time together. ~~Virginia Pinkerton



Stephen Ministry

Everything I Need to Know about Life I Learned from a Jigsaw Puzzle

If you are trying to deal with the complicated and confusing puzzle of life, it may help to keep in mind these simple yet profound guidelines for putting jumbled situations back together again.

1. Don't force a fit. If something is meant to be, it will come together naturally.
2. When things aren't going so well, take a break. Everything will look different when you return.
3. Be sure to look at the big picture. Getting hung up on the little pieces only leads to frustration.
4. Perseverance pays off. Every important puzzle goes together bit by bit, piece by piece.
5. When one spot stops working, move to another. But be sure to come back to the first spot later (see#4).
6. The Creator of the puzzle gave you the picture as a guidebook. Refer to the Creator's guidebook often.
7. Variety is the spice of life. It's the different colors and patterns that make the puzzle interesting.
8. Working together with friends and family makes any task fun.
9. Establish a border first. Boundaries give a sense of security and order.
10. Don't be afraid to try different combinations. Some matches are surprising.

11. Take time often to celebrate your successes—even small ones.
12. Anything worth doing takes time and effort. A great puzzle won't be rushed.
13. When you finally reach the last piece, don't be sad. Rejoice in the masterpiece you've made and enjoy a well-deserved rest.

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For information about Stephen Ministry and how a Stephen Minister could walk alongside you as you attempt to solve the puzzles in your life, contact Becky Cultice at 937-376-5747.

Save the Date! Stephen Ministry will again be sponsoring “**Blue Christmas: a Service of Healing and Hope**” on Sunday afternoon, December 5th, at 2:30. We encourage you to carve out some space for quiet time as we approach the holiday season. Feel free to invite others to join you.

A Voice for Environmental Stewardship

November 2021

Almost all of my monthly articles have focused on the science of environmental stewardship and our responsibility to take care of our environment. I have not addressed the spirituality of environmental stewardship. Prayer is a major part of our spirituality. Our spirituality connects us with God, our inner being, others and with nature. In our church we have many areas where we apply the practice of prayer. We have a prayer chain, a prayer tree where we have our private prayer requests hanging in little envelopes, prayer in worship, in our Sunday school classes, during our administrative meetings and during our personal daily devotions. We pray for many things, but generally, we do not think of praying for our stewardship of our Earth's environment. Somehow, for many of us, it doesn't seem like it is in the realm of our spiritual concerns. but from my perspective as a practicing Christian, a student of science, and a naturalist, it is a major spiri-

tual concern. With the many things that are happening to the Earth, many are caused by human activity. Climate change and global warming are being fueled by our addiction to burning of fossil fuels in our vehicles, our current agricultural practices, our choice of food, and our never-ending demand for more and more material goods. These are spiritual concerns because they are directly connected to the daily choices that we make, and our daily choices are connected to our spirituality. Our prayer concerns are connected to our own actions and the actions of our leaders. There are consequences that stem from our behaviors and our behaviors affect our relationship with God. PLEASE PRAY WITH ME. Loving, generous and concerned God, help me to be more conscious of what I do every day and how it affects the health of our beautiful Earth, the wellbeing of other humans and all the other species that live on the Earth with us. Help me to change my actions and inactions so that I may be a BLESSING to our Creator and to our beautiful Earth. AMEN.

Rev. Alan D. Barone, B.A. in Science Education,
M.Div., Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist

Acolytes Needed

Would you like to serve as an acolyte? Do you have a child, grandchild, or neighbor who might like to serve as an acolyte? Currently we have 5 children that are serving as acolytes at the 9 am service. They are so cooperative and I so appreciate them but we would be happy to add others to our ranks as well. Pray about others that could join us. –Virginia Pinkerton

United Methodist Men

ATTENTION: ALL MEN – ESPECIALLY VETERANS - YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US

Our regular meeting of the Men of Faith will be on November 15 at 6:00 PM in rooms 16 A&B. We would like our military veterans to attend and share their stories of how they served. We will provide the meal for each of the veterans attending who RSVP to John Sherer (937-372-2204) or shererjw@aol.com by Saturday 11/06. Others attending will need to provide their own meal and beverage

as is now our custom. We will have a social time during the meal. The sharing stories by each of the veterans will start at 6:30 PM. A short business meeting will follow. **ALL MEN ARE WELCOME AND YOU CAN BRING A FRIEND.** Hope to see you on the 15th. **REMINDER: MASKS ARE OPTIONAL IN THE CHURCH BUILDING.**

United Methodist Women

Women of Faith-Monday, November 15, 1pm in 15C
Dorcas-Tuesday, November 16, 1pm in 15A-C

Ad Bd

Your Ad Bd met on Sept 16th. ●Becky Cultice reported for the Staff Parish Committee. We have hired Jennifer Damron as our new Treasurer. ●The Trustees have been busy with landscaping, ●The Mission Committee will hold a ham loaf sale in November. ●The Men's Garage Sale was the best ever and their garden produced **LOADS** of food for the FISH pantry. Great job, Men! ●The Communication Committee reports that the traditional service is now being live-streamed and they are looking for someone to operate the sound board. ●The Benevolence committee has served over 30 clients so far this year. I have only mentioned here a few of the activities taking place. I am so thankful for all the committees. They are diligently at work and most would welcome more help. If you are wondering how you can serve, please talk with the committee chairs and see if you are needed.

Do you know the committee leaders? Call the office. The minutes of the meetings and the reports are all there. Finally, our next meeting will be on Thursday November 18, 2021 at 6:30 pm which will be the **CHURCH CONFERENCE**. That means we are **ALL** invited. We are hoping for very good attendance at this meeting. Mark your calendar. Finally, join me in asking for God's guidance and blessings as we serve HIM.

~~Virginia Pinkerton, Ad Bd Chair

Ham Loaf Sale

The Mission Outreach Committee has decided not to have a Fall Bazaar this year. However, we will be selling ham loaves. Orders are being taken now through November 4 for delivery after

church on Sunday November 14. Price is a package of 6 loaves for \$10. Drop your Order forms in the box in Narthex, Community Center and Church office or call Char Lee at 937-974-1002. If you would like to help make, package or distribute the ham loaves, please contact Char Lee at 937-974-1002 or cleexenia@outdrs.net.

Thanksgiving Challenge

Join our Faith Community family as we help provide a Thanksgiving meal for area families served by Xenia Fish Pantry. You may donate canned or boxed goods and place them in the marked boxes in the narthex or community center. You may also make a monetary donation which allows Fish to purchase needs at a reduced rate. Please mark checks (Fish Thanksgiving). Drop off food donations or monetary donations by Sunday, Nov. 14. They will be distributed to families on Saturday the 21st. Suggested items are: stuffing, gravy, boxed potatoes, canned veggies, chicken broth, cranberry sauce, mac & cheese or baking supplies. Thanks so much for sharing your blessings with others in our community.

St. Paul's Christmas Tree

Faith Community will again be sharing Christmas joy with the children at St. Paul's after school program. The children will be able to visit a special shop to choose gifts to give to their families on Christmas.

Please consider spreading God's love by choosing an ornament from the tree and selecting a small gift (\$5-\$10) and returning gifts unwrapped by Sunday, Nov. 28. Look for the trees in the narthex or community center.

Passings

Prayers and sympathy to Bill and Carol Sykes on the passing of Jean McMahon, mother and mother-in-law.

Thank You

Perhaps you sent a card, or a hug, or a knowing smile, or a prayer, or silent thought. Whatever it was, thank you. They all mean

so much as we deal with the loss of our beloved mother and mother-in-law, Jean McMahan..

Blessings to you all,
Bill and Carol Sykes

FCUM
September 2021 Financials

Monthly Income	\$29,159		YTD Income	\$ 296,018	
Monthly Expenses	\$27,915		YTD Expenses	\$ 257,859	
Difference	\$ 1,245	4.27%	Difference	\$ 38,158	12.89%

Deadline for December
Faith Links: Monday, November 15



Veteran’s Day

Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and Nov. 11 became a national holiday beginning in 1938. Unlike Memorial Day, Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans—living or dead—but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime.

*The more we count the blessings we have,
the less we count the things we do not have.*
(Submitted by Charles Manley)



November 2021 – Give Thanks

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 6-7:45pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 7-9pm-Stephen Ministry-16 A-B	2 Election Day 6-8:15pm-Girl Scouts-15A,B,C, 16A,B 6:30-8:30pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6 6:30-8:30pm-Trustees-Room 6 7-8:30pm-SPRC-Library	3 2-4pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6 6:15-7:15pm-Handbells-Music Room 7-9pm-Praise Band-FCC 7:30-9:00pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary	4 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 1:30-4pm-Woman's Club of Xenia-Parlor 6:30-9pm-Stephen Ministry Training-Library	5	6 Set clocks back
7 D.L.S. Time Ends All Saints Day 9am-Traditional- Sanct. 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary-FCC 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A	8 2-6pm-Blood Drive-FCC 6-7:45pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	9 6pm-8:45pm-Girl Scout Leader Meeting-15A 6:30-8:30pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6	10 2-4pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6 6:15-7:15pm-Handbells-Music Room 7-9pm-Praise Band-FCC 7:30-9:00pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary	11 Veterans Day 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 12:30-1:30pm Membership Care Meeting-Parlor 2-4pm-Grief Support-Parlor Steph.Min. Training-Lib.	12 9-12pm-Christmas Concert Band Set-up-FH B&C	13 9-12pm-Christmas Concert Band Rehearsal-FH B&C
14 9am-Traditional-Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary-FCC 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A	15 1-3pm-Women of Faith-15C 6-8:30-Men of Faith-16A&B 7-8:45pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C Deadline for Dec. F.L.	16 1-3pm-Dorcas-15 A-C 6-8:15-8pm-Girl Scouts-15A,B,C, 16A,B 6:30-8:30pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6	17 12-1pm-Cancer Support-Parlor 2-4pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6 6:15-7:15pm-Handbells-Music Room 7-9pm-Praise Band Practice-FCC 7:30pm-Choir-Sanctuary	18 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6:30-8:30pm-Ad Board-15C 6:30-9pm-Steph.Min. Training-Lib.	19 9-12pm-Christmas Concert Band Set-up-FH B&C	20 9-12pm-Christmas Concert Band Rehearsal-FH B&C
21 9am-Traditional -Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary -FCC 2:30-3:30-Thanksgiving Community Service-Sanctuary 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A	22 6-7:45pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	23 6:30-8:30pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6	24 12-1pm-Cancer Support-Parlor 2-4pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6 6:15-7:15pm-Bells -Sanctuary 7-9pm-Praise Band Practice-FCC	 25	26 9-12pm-Christmas Concert Band Set-up-FH B&C	27 9-12pm-Christmas Concert Band Rehearsal-FH B&C 5-9pm-Double I-15A & Kitchen
28 9am-Traditional -Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary FCC 5-6:30pm-Boy scout Troop #140-15A	29 6-7:45pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	30 6-8pm-Girl Scout Membership sign ups-15C 6:30-8:30pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6				