



December 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>
October 24	77	22	39
October 31	86	19	37
November 7	94	23	37
November 14	98	23	35

From Pastor Andy

Dear Faith Community,

Grace and peace to you from the one who came down from heaven to show us God's love.

We are into the Advent season. Preparations for Christmas are well under way. In last month's article I made a comment about the supply chain issues holding up our Christmas purchases. Since then, I have seen memes with a picture of The Grinch and the quote "Maybe Christmas (he thought) doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more." What a great reminder! That quote, of course, comes from the Dr. Seuss book *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.

For our Advent study and series this year, we are using a book by Matt Rawle called *The Heart that Grew Three Sizes: Finding Faith*

in the Story of the Grinch. Both of our adult Sunday school classes, as well as our youth and children's classes, are following this study. If you are not already part of a class, you are invited to join at any time.

As we journey together toward Christmas, may all of our hearts grow larger by the love of God sent to us in Jesus Christ. That is the true meaning of Christmas. ~~Blessings, Pastor Andy

Family Night at Faith Community

Please join us on December 12th at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Center for our quarterly family night. We will share a simple meal, fellowship, have a family picture taken, decorate sugar cookies and make an ornament! All are welcome!

Stephen Ministry

Christmas is Red and Green—So Why Am I Blue?

“Joy to the world, the Lord is come!” Christmas trees with brightly wrapped packages under them, holiday parties, holly and the scent of pine, the sound of carols in shops and malls, visits from family and friends, baking and cooking, food everywhere—the time we celebrate our Savior’s birth—these are the images and memories of Christmas many of us cherish and perpetuate. But not everyone looks forward to the holidays. In fact, many dread this time of year. For those who know that “this Christmas will be a hard one,” either because they have had a death in the family, a broken relationship, a loss of job, other setbacks, or because of painful memories of Christmases past, there will be a Blue Christmas service sponsored by Stephen Ministry on Sunday afternoon, December 5th, at 2:30 in the sanctuary. At that time, we will acknowledge the pain and sadness many people experience as the holidays approach as well as encourage people to move toward hope. For all who are under stress during the holiday season and in need of a rest, we invite you to attend and to take time for yourself. This especially applies to the caregivers in our congregation who have a very heavy load. Please consider coming and even inviting someone you know who is struggling to continue on despite having feelings that don’t match the out-

ward festivity of the season. A time of fellowship will follow the service.

Acolytes

Yay! We have a new acolyte at the 9 am church service. We are happy to welcome Evelyn Mahan to the group. She joins Micah and Morgan Fleming, A.J. Trent, and Will and Catherine Mossing. If you know of anyone else who would like to acolyte, we would be happy for them to join the ranks. Give me a call at 937-313-1630 or email me at vap1222@att.net. We appreciate our acolytes.

~~Virginia Pinkerton

A Voice for Environmental Stewardship

“In the end, we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We understand only what we are taught.” Dr. Baba Dioum, Senagalese conservationist. This is one of the most important quotes that I have ever read related to our growing in knowledge. As we learn more about the physical world around us, we gain knowledge about the Earth. We learn the science that teaches us about the Earth. The more that we learn about the Earth, the more we understand and appreciate about the Earth. The more we appreciate about the Earth, the more we will love the Earth. The more we love the Earth, the more we will want to protect the Earth from the things that will harm the Earth, our only home. We all want to protect our homes. These connections give us FOOD FOR THOUGHT. The more food for thought we digest, the more energy we have for action. Each action that we take makes us better environmental stewards. When we take action, we may do different things. Some of the Actions that we can take include: 1) Look up the website <http://www.greenamerica.org> for green living ideas. 2) Google “find my carbon footprint” to learn how to reduce the amount of EXCESS carbon you are adding to our atmosphere. 3) Google “organizations that address climate change” and join one or two. 4) Please pray about your living a more Earth Friendly life.

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

Meet Debbie Klaty

If you have ever called the church office you may have met our church Secretary, Debbie Klaty. Recently I visited with Debbie to learn a bit more about her life so I could share that information with you. It has been said that a true love story never ends. Debbie's life is a testament to that saying.

Debbie was born near Colorado Springs. She has two older sisters, Michelle and Cathy. She claimed she was a good student but did not really like school, much preferring to have a job instead. She told one story that caught my interest right away. Her entire high school was at an assembly during her junior year. A senior guy she did not know, named Jim, arrived late and had to sit beside her because there were no other seats. Debbie had recently learned that she and her family were moving to California. A girl near her at the assembly began talking about a going away party for Debbie. Jim asked, "Can I be invited?" Of course he could was the answer and he did just that. Debbie and Jim hit it off right away. Even though she moved to California, Debbie's dad allowed her to go back to Colorado so she could attend the prom with Jim. Then Jim moved to Cincinnati. In those days, long distance communication was a bit more difficult and way more expensive than it is today and eventually Jim and Debbie drifted apart.

Debbie married. She wanted children but children did not come. She worked at a Linen Company and quickly moved up to the director of advertising. That job gave her the opportunity to travel all over the United States. Her next job was working for Curves. Marketing and advertising seemed to be her specialty. She won the first ever marketing association Co-op Award. She became the executive assistant for a magazine called "Nuts and Volts." This is a ham radio magazine. In fact, she still works for that magazine the week of Hamvention. This is one of the good reasons why she is happy she and Jim landed in Ohio.

However, on the home front things were turning sour. Her husband became verbally abusive and eventually this led to a separation and a divorce. It was a rough time for Debbie. Imagine her surprise when she found a Facebook post that said, "Hey, do you remember me?" It was Jim 32 years later. Debbie was in no mood to even think about marriage but within 5 days she knew he was her

soulmate and at some point she would be married again—only this time to Jim, her high school sweetheart. Debbie and Jim got married at the top of Pike’s Peak in 2015. Debbie was an instant grandmother and babysitter to Jim’s daughter’s two adorable little girls. They are now 9 and 10 and a real joy to Debbie.

I asked Debbie about her Christian walk. She mentioned her family always went to church and she was baptized when she was 10. Yet, when she was 13 her parents divorced and the family quit attending church services. She went to church with her sister until her sister got married. Debbie said her first husband did not attend church and she admits she also just drifted away from church. However when she and Jim got married, they knew they wanted to be a part of the family of God. After visiting many churches they found Oldtown United Methodist and it was a perfect fit for them. They are regular attenders there.

Debbie loves her job here at Faith Community. She claims to have the best job in the world. There are no corporate politics here and it is the happiest place she has ever worked. “Joyful” is how she described her job. We are blessed to have Debbie on our church team. Thank you Debbie, for letting me interview you and thank you for your gifts you share with the Xenia Community. May God bless you and as Tiny Tim says, “God bless us everyone.”

~~Virginia Pinkerton

IHN Name Change

Dear Faith Community,

Interfaith Hospitality Network’s name has changed to FAMILY PROMISE OF GEENE CO. Their new logo includes a star as a central symbol. The five points of the star represent the five key elements of Family Promise: Prevention, Shelter, Stabilization, Community and Promise. The name Family Promise refers to the promise—the commitment—which communities make to families in need. It also refers to the promise—the potential—inherent in every family.

Currently, there are six guest families at the Schneider House of Hope representing 9 adults and 6 children, ranging in ages from 9 months to 16 years old. If you would like to provide the evening meal for our guests, read to the little ones or help with homework for the older ones over Zoom, or help these families grow in their potential in other ways, please contact me. We are excited to widen our

community of support for our guest families. We are deeply grateful to Faith Community for your support. ~~Beth Holten, Director



The Community Christmas Concert

Band will present its annual concert on Sunday, December 12 at 3:00 in the afternoon in the Sanctuary. Both sacred and secular music will be

performed. There is no admission fee but donations for the purchase of new music will be accepted. The concert will last about one hour. Come join us for an opportunity to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

United Methodist Men

All men in Greene County are invited and welcome to join our group. The December 20th 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 start at 7:00 PM with the election and installation of officers for 2022. We will then sing Christmas Carols followed by communion in the Chapel. Come at 7:00 PM if you want to come just for the program. Hope to see you there and you may bring a friend.

United Methodist Women

Women of Faith:, Monday, December 13, 1pm in 15C
Dorcas: Tuesday, December 14, Christmas Carry-in, 1pm in 15A-C

The Xenia Association of Churches and Missions

is working with the City of Xenia to sponsor "Hometown Christmas Friday", December 3rd. They are requesting different churches to provide 5 or more singers to sing Christmas carols at different times, 5 , 6, 7 & 8 PM. Right now we can pick our time, I'm suggesting 7 PM. We will sing unison unless someone wants to harmonize. This is open to anyone. If you would like to sing Christmas carols & join in this fun event, contact John Sherer at 937-372-2204 or email him at shererjw@aol.com. There will be many events going on the entire evening. This is just one of such events.

Thanks

The Trustees would like to express our gratitude and appreciation for all those who showed up on Monday Nov. 1st to help remove several trees. The weather cooperated and the work was done without anyone getting hurt. It is because of people like you that the Trustees can do the work to maintain and keep our church safe. Our church is blessed. Again, a huge Thank You.

The Thanksgiving Challenge reaped 143 pounds of food supplies and \$480 in monetary donations. Thanks to a generous and caring congregation, families in the Xenia area were able to enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner with all the fixings.

We would also like to thank those who provided Christmas gifts for St. Paul's Christmas Tree, which enabled children in their after-school program to visit a special shop to choose gifts to give to their families on Christmas.

It's Poinsettia Time

Poinsettia order forms will be available at each service and in the office beginning November 28-December 14. The cost is \$10.00. Please complete the form: choose red, white or pink; write the donor name (s) and to whom it is given in honor of or memory of. They will be available for pick-up after Christmas Eve or December 26.

Altar Flowers

Sign up now for 2022 altar flowers. The flower calendar for 2022 is on the table in the narthex. Your gift of flowers enhances the worship service and reflects the beauty of God's World. If you sign up for flowers we can order them or you can order them from your favorite florist. You will receive a reminder call prior to the date. If you have any questions please call the church office or Joyce Smith (937) 372-6576 or Betsy Murray (937) 372-376.

Ad Board

By the time you receive the Faith Links I will have presided over the last meeting of Administrative Board as its chairman. This task

has been a real blessing to me. I am grateful to Pastor Andy, our secretary Mary Ann Spahr, and all the members of the board. The work of the committees has been the driving force of many good things that have happened the past two years. It was a most unusual time as we dealt with the COVID issue. We do appreciate their hard work. Please join me in praying for the new leaders in our church. With God's help we can and will further the Kingdom of God. I extend blessings to each member of our congregation. Thank you for allowing me to serve and may God bless our labors for Him. ~~Virginia Pinkerton

FCUM
October 2021 Financials

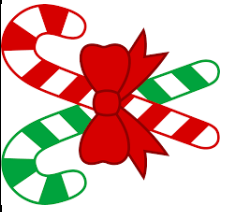
Monthly Income	\$ 22,433		YTD Income	\$ 318,451	
Monthly Expenses	\$ 33,484		YTD Expenses	\$ 291,254	
Difference	\$(11,051)	-49.26%	Difference	\$ 27,197	8.54%

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Music ♦ 8:30 PM Service ♦ 9:00 PM

Deadline for January 2022 Faith Links - December 15



December 2021-*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 5 9am-Traditional- Sanct. 10am-Sunday School 1.1am-Contemporary-FCC 2-5pm- Blue Christmas -Sanctuary, Parlor	6 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15A,B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 7-9pm-Stephen Ministry-Library	7 3:30-5:15pm-XHS Winter Guard Prac.-FCC 6-8:15pm-Girl Scouts-15A,B,C & 16 A-B 6:30-8:30pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6 6:30-8:30pm-Trustees-Room 8	1 12-1:30pm-Cancer Support-Parlor 2-4pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6 6:15-7:15pm-Handbells-Music Room 7-8:30pm-SPRC-Library 7-9pm-Praise Band-FCC 7:30-9:00pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary	2 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 4-8pm-Dillaplain Recep.-FH-A-C 6-8pm-Volleyball-FCC	3 10-11am-Christmas Band rehearsal setup-FH-A,B,C 3:30-5:15pm-XHS Winter Guard Practice-FCC	4 9-12pm-Christmas Concert Band Rehearsal-FH B&C
12 9am-Traditional-Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 1.1am-Contemporary-FCC 3pm-Christmas Concert-Sanctuary 5-7pm-Family Night-FCC	13 1-3pm-Women of Faith-15C 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	14 1-3pm-Dorcas -15A-B 3:30-5:15pm-XHS Winter Guard Prac.-FCC 6-8:45-8pm-Girl Scout Leader mtg-15A 6:30-8:30pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6	15 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	16 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6-8pm-Volleyball-FCC	17 3:30-5:15pm-XHS Winter Guard Practice-FCC 6-8pm-Girl Scouts Crafts and Games-FCC, FH-1A-C, Kitchen	18
19 9am-Traditional -Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 1.1am-Contemporary -FCC	20 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 6-8:30-Men of Faith-16A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	21 3:30-4:30pm-Mission Outreach Team-Rm. 8 3:30-5:15pm-XHS Winter Guard -FCC 6-8:15pm-G.S-6:30-8:30pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6	22 12-1pm-Cancer Support-Parlor 2-4pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6 6:15-7:15pm-Bells -Sanctuary 7-9pm-Praise Band -FCC 7:30-9-Choir-Sanctuary	23 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6-8pm-Volleyball-FCC	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 8:30 pm-Music 9:00 pm-Service	25 Christmas Day 
26 9am-Traditional -Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 1.1am-Contemporary FCC	27 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	28 3:30-5:15pm-XHS Winter Guard-FCC 6:30-8:30pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6	29 12-1pm-Cancer Support-Parlor 2-4pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6 6:15-7:15pm-Bells -Sanctuary 7-9pm-Praise Band -FCC 7:30-9-Choir-Sanctuary	30 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6-8pm-Volleyball-FCC	31 New Year's Eve	