

February 2022

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>
Christmas Eve - 174	-	-	-
December 26	64	14	19
January 2	79	24	36
January 9	84	26	36
January 16	88	27	115

From the Pastor

Dear Faith Community,

Those of you who attend worship at Faith Community know that we are currently in a sermon series on the book of Daniel. The inspiration for preaching on this book came from my disappointment in the Disciple Bible Study materials related to Daniel.

At the beginning of each Disciple class, we watch a video of roughly 10 minutes that provides some scholarly background for our Bible readings of that week. We actually have two different sets of videos at the church – the original set produced in the early 1990’s and a revised set produced in the mid 2000’s. Before each class I watch both of the videos for that week; whichever I deem more helpful is the one we watch in class. Except for the week on Daniel. The class didn’t watch a video that week. I found both of the videos to be less than

helpful. But I found the readings fascinating and inspiring. I felt led by the Spirit to spend some time studying the book of Daniel for myself and sharing my learnings with you. So, if you're not happy about the current sermon series topic, take it up with my boss.

What I found most exciting about Daniel is the fact that, while the stories are so ancient and their settings so antiquated, the issues addressed in Daniel are the exact same issues facing the faithful today. To what extent do we blend in with the culture around us and to what extent are we called to stand out? How do we serve the authorities God has placed over us without bowing down to the false idols that surround us? What is the cost of faithfulness in this world and what are God's promises to those willing to pay that cost?

Besides the exciting stories that fill the first half of the book, there are also the enrapturing visions that compose the second half. What do these visions mean? How do they relate to us today? How do they fortify us for life in a world filled with spiritual warfare? These are some of the questions we will continue to look at through this month of February as we continue our journey together through the book of Daniel. I hope that you will do some study of the book on your own too, and by all means, share with me what you're learning!

Blessings, Pastor Andy

Stephen Ministry

Are You Experiencing a "Winter" in Your Life?

In addition to the cold weather outside, many people experience "winters" in their personal lives. A recent loss through death, divorce, or relocation may leave them feeling lonely. A hospitalization, a cancer diagnosis, or ongoing medical problems may leave them feeling isolated. The loss of a job, the fear of layoffs, or a financial setback can devastate one's self-esteem. Family and personal struggles may leave them with nowhere to turn to for support.

If you are going through a difficult time, our Stephen Ministers can bring God's warm love back into your life. They provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will meet with you privately and regularly to listen, to support and encourage you, to pray with and for you, and to walk with you for as long as is needed.

To find out more about Stephen Ministry and how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk with Becky Cultice, 937-376-5747. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to walk alongside you as a Christian.

UMW

Save The Date: The UMW of Faith Community annual Prayer Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, March 19. Mark your calendars.

Dorcas Circle will not meet until April. Women of Faith will meet next on Monday, February 28.

UMM

The Men of Faith will meet on February 21st 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 their own meal and beverage. We will have a social time during the meal. The program will begin at 7:00 PM. It will be a video on "Love Packages" the program we collect for at Faith Community. Anyone who is interested in learning about "Love Packages" is invited to attend. **YOU MAY BRING A FRIEND.** Hope to see you on the 21st.

REMINDER: MASKS ARE RECOMMENDED IN THE CHURCH BUILDING.

Garage Sale Notice

The Men of Faith Community have set the date of our annual Garage Sale to September 9th and 10th. Items can be dropped off Thursday, September 8th from 12 noon until 8 PM and Friday morning, September 10th from 9 AM until 12 noon. The Garage sale will run from Friday, September 10th, 6–8 PM and Saturday, September 11th from 9 AM to 12 noon. If you have furniture or large items you'd like picked up early, let John Sherer know. We have storage in the garage and may post the item on Market Place to sell ahead of the garage sale date. This worked very well last year. For pickup or more information, call John Sherer at 937-372-2204 or email him at shererjw@aol.com. All proceeds go toward local missions and projects. Thanks for your support.

Love Packages

This is just one of the many Love Packages testimonies from 3rd world countries:

Sierra Leone

Rev. Nat Kombat writes “Thanks for the Bibles, reference books and teaching materials along with tracts we received from Love Packages through you. Our church has never been the same since we received the materials. Our Sunday school attendance has increased tremendously, and the teachers are more effective as a result of the materials given to us. Not only that, but we have been using the tracts in our Evangelism outreach. To the glory of God in the past three months 30 souls have been added to our church. We give God all the glory”.

Keep bringing used Christian materials, bibles and (they now are accepting hymnals) to FCUM collection tub found on left as you enter the education wing. Any questions, call John Sherer at 937-372-2204.

Educational Assistance

Guidelines and application forms for FCUMC's Educational Assistance are available in the narthex, community center, and church office. This year assistance will be offered to graduating high school seniors who are contemplating entering a college or technical school in the fall of 2022 as well as to upper classmen currently enrolled in college. These forms must be completed and returned to the church office by the April 17, 2022 deadline.

College Crew

Please keep our FCUM College Crew on your mind and on your prayer list. They are once again being greatly impacted by COVID-19. College is stressful enough without the added stress and limitations of this virus. I will be sending them all a box or two of their favorite Girl Scout Cookies soon on behalf of the church to hopefully remind them that we are thinking of and praying for their spiritual growth and educational success. Here is our current list of students and their college or university:

- Ian Ackenhausen – Ohio Northern University
- Megan Ackenhausen – Ohio Northern University
- Carolyn Engle – Indiana State University
- Alexandra Fellie – Colorado School of Mines
- Jake Fox – Ohio University
- Kayla Horney – Bowling green State University
- Samuel Johnson – University of Dayton
- Grant Smith – Ohio State University
- Isabel Wickline – Wright State University
- Morgan Wickline – Cincinnati State University
- Wesley Wickline – Ohio State University

A Voice for Environmental Stewardship

As I write this article I am asking myself, “what do the people of Faith Community United Methodist Church in Xenia, Ohio, care about when it comes to our ENVIRONMENT?” With-

out taking a survey, my guess is that we are most concerned about how our environmental changes will affect us and our loved ones. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) predicts that as the temperature of our atmosphere rises because of the rapid increase of our polluting greenhouse gas emissions, health problems for our children, youth and people with respiratory challenges will increase. The elderly without air conditioning in their homes will find the increased heat to be unbearable. Many may die of heat stroke and dehydration. Even those of us who do have air conditioning may be forced to stay indoors more often because of the excessive heat causing dehydration. The Ohio EPA predicts that the number of summer days when the temperature will reach 95 F will increase from 5 days to 15 days. One of the air pollutants that is especially harmful is ground level OZONE. It can cause lung and heart problems even for healthy adults. In recent decades heat stroke has caused hundreds of people in the Midwest to die. Add higher humidity from more rainfall because of greater evaporation and heat stress becomes more severe. People in developing countries are being impacted even more than people in developed countries. If we have a tendency to think that poor people in developing countries are not a moral concern for us, THINK AGAIN. As Christians we are called to care about the poor and suffering people everywhere. People in developed countries, like the U.S.A., have pumped vastly more greenhouse gasses into our Earth's atmosphere than people in developing countries. Yet people in developing countries are experiencing the WORST EFFECTS of global warming and climate change, like severe droughts and famines, floods and landslides. People who prosper in developed countries bear much greater responsibility for climate change and global warming than the poor. This is where our morality as Christians comes into play. We are responsible for assuring that Climate Justice is being addressed by our country. We as Americans have to put effective pressure on our leaders to take strong steps to combat climate change and global warming. It is not a RED or

BLUE issue. It is a HUMAN ISSUE. IT IS A MORAL ISSUE. AND YES, IT IS A SPIRITUAL ISSUE. Please PRAY about this and ACT!

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

Inclement Weather Closing

If the church is going to be closed during the week or for Sunday Worship Services, it will be listed on WHIO (TV7), 1290AM/95.7FM), WDTN (TV2,) CW26, WKEF/WRGT (ABC22/FOX45) and our Facebook page www.facebook.com/FCUm.Xenia.

Lions Club

We're still collecting Eye Glasses, Glasses Cases, Hearing Aids, and Cell Phones for the Lions Club. Please put them in the drawer marked Lions Club in the plastic storage cabinet in the narthex.

Prayer Team

If you would like our team to pray for you or your loved one, you can go to our website (www.fcum.org) and click the Prayer Request link which will take you to the request page. Fill out the form with your name and email address, complete the request section with the information you would like us to pray about and then click on SEND MESSAGE. If you don't have access to the internet, prayer requests can be made by calling Bruce Pickelheimer at (937)376-2361 or email prayerchain@fcum.org.

Passings

Prayers and sympathy are extended to the family and friends of Donna Howard on her death, to Jeff Heller on the death of his mother Dorothy Simison, and to family and friends on the death of Dick Strous.

Thank You

*I want to thank Faith Community church for all the nice cards, prayers and thoughts I received during my knee procedure. You all are the best! Thanks so much for your kindness.
~~Marie Ford*

FCUM

December 2021 Financials

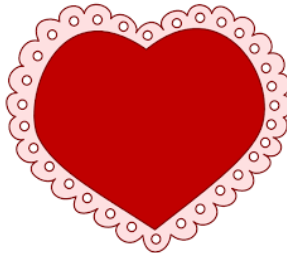
Monthly Income	\$37,638		YTD Income	\$ 387,106	
Monthly Expenses	\$39,473		YTD Expenses	\$ 363,077	
Difference	\$ (1,835)	-4.88%	Difference	\$ 24,030	6.21%

Manley Proverbs

“You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.”

(These are proverbs compiled by Charles Manley, some original, some gathered from many sources.)

Deadline for March Faith Links: February 14



February 2022 – Black History Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 3:30-5:30pm-XHS Winter Guard-FCC 6-8:15pm-Girl Scouts-15A,B,C; 16 A-B 6:30-8:30pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6 6:30-8:30-Trustees-Room 8	2 Groundhog Day 12-1:30pm-Cancer Support-Parlor 6:15-7:15pm-Hand-bells- Music Room 7-9pm-Praise Band-FCC 7:30-9:00pm-Choir- 7-8:30pm-SPRC-Library	3 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 1:30-4pm-Women's Club of Xenia-Parlor 6:30-9pm-Stephen Ministry Training-Library	4 3:30-5:30pm-XHS Winter Guard Practice-FCC	5
6 9am-Traditional- Sanct. 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary- FCC	7 9-4pm-Lifeline Screening-FCC 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15A,B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 7-9pm-Stephen Ministry-Library	8 3:30-5:30pm-XHS Winter Guard Prac.-FCC 6-8:45pm-G.S. Leader Meeting-15A 6:30-8:30pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6	9 12-1:30-Cancer Support-Parlor 6:15-7:15pm-Handbells- Music Room 7-9pm-Praise Band-FCC 7:30-9:00pm-Choir-San.	10 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 2-4pm-Grief Support-Parlor 6:30-9pm-Stephen Ministry Training-Library	11 10:15-11:30-Book Club of Greene County Library-Parlor 3:30-5:30pm-XHS Winter Guard Practice-FCC	12 Lincoln's B.D.
13 9am-Traditional-Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary-FCC	14 Valentine's Day Faith Links Deadline 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	15 3:30-4:30pm-Mission Outreach-Rm 6 3:30-5:15pm-XHS Winter Guard Prac.-FCC 6-8:45-8pm-Girl Scouts-15A,B,C; 16 A-B 6:30-8:30pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6	16 12-1pm-Cancer Support-Parlor 6:15-7:15pm-Handbells-Music Room 7-9pm-Praise Band-FCC 7:30pm-Choir-Sanctuary	17 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6:30-9pm-Stephen Ministry Training-Library 7-8:30pm-Christian Ed-#8	18 3:30-5:15pm-XHS Winter Guard Practice-FCC	19
20 9am-Traditional -Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary -FCC	21 President's Day & Washingtons B.D. 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 6-8:30-Men of Faith-16A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	22 3:30-5:15pm-XHS Winter Guard -FCC 6:30-8:30pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6	23 12-1pm-Cancer Support-Parlor 6:15-7:15pm-Bells -M.R 7-9pm-Praise Band -FCC 7:30-9-Choir-Sanctuary	24 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6:30-9pm-Stephen Ministry Training-Library	25 3:30-5:15pm-XHS Winter Guard Practice-FCC	26 5-9pm-Double I-15A
27 9am-Traditional -Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary FCC	28 1-3pm-Women of Faith-15C 3:30-7:30pm-Blood Drive-FCC 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C					