

March 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>
January 23	78	25	24
January 31	78	29	36
February 6	70	27	32
February 13	87	19	33

From the Pastor

With the single exception of March 1, we will spend the rest of the month of March in the season of Lent. The word Lent comes from an Old English word meaning Spring Season. However, Lent for us is not so much about the changing weather or the lengthening days; rather it is a holy season of the church, a time of repentance and spiritual introspection.

The 40 day period of Lent is patterned on Jesus' 40 day fast in the wilderness at the beginning of his public ministry. Much of our focus during Lent, however, is not on the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, but on the end of it – his atoning sacrifice for us on the cross. Before we can fully appreciate the triumph of Easter, we must first walk with Jesus to the cross. His absolute self-denial inspires us in our own self-sacrifice and fasting. His gift of himself for us inspires us in our own generosity toward others. It is with the model of Christ in mind that we enter into our spiritual disciplines of fasting and giving. Ash Wednesday this year is on March 2. As we always do, we will

begin this holy season in worship together with a special Ash Wednesday service in the Sanctuary at 7:00PM. The Choir will be singing. The Anthem is one that we began rehearsing for Lent two years ago before Covid shut us down. I was very disappointed that we didn't get to share it with the congregation at that time and am excited that we will get to share it with you all this year. We will also share in the sacrament of Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes.

Let us sanctify ourselves unto the Lord in this holy season of Lent.

Blessings, Pastor Andy



Stephen Ministry

In his book, *Finding God in Unexpected Places*, Philip Yancey tells the story of a young South African woman who spent a year visiting inmates at one of the most brutal prisons in her country. Day after day she shared stories that depicted reconciliation and forgiveness. After a year the inmates were transformed. Incidences of violence dropped from close to 300 down to only 2. When asked how she achieved this her reply was. "Well, of course, God was already present in the prison. I just had to make him visible." Time and again, in our relationships as Stephen Ministers with our care receivers, there are revelations of God's presence all along. It is in these "aha" moments that hurting people often understand that they were not alone when they thought they were; there was healing that got lost in the shuffle of their lives. These are the sparks that allow us to fan the flames of reassurance and hope.

Like the prisoners in South Africa, we too are prisoners. The illusion that we are free...free to come and go, free to direct our lives, choose our soul mates, and expect stability...can vanish in a moment when something unexpected intrudes. When we get that scary phone call; when we lose our job; when we are suddenly and accidentally injured, we can find our-

selves sliding down a very slippery slope.

At times like these, the questions for each of us will be: Can I continue to hold God's hand? Can I even find it? Can I pray and can I hear the answer in the chatter of worry? Can I be calm enough to remember his presence in the past? Will it be reassurance for the presence? Can I go it alone or do I need someone to walk alongside me? This is what the body of Christ is for and why Faith Community UMC is a Stephen Minister congregation. Call Becky Cultice, Referrals Coordinator at 937-376-5747 to learn more.

All praise to the God and Father of our Master, Jesus the Messiah. Father of all mercy! God of all healing counsel! He comes alongside us when we go through hard times, and before you know it, he brings us alongside someone else who is going through hard times so that we can be there for that person just as God was there for us. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (MSG)

Family Night – Dinner and a Mystery - You are invited to join us for an evening of fun, food and a mystery to solve! Please join us for our next Family Night on March 13th at 6:00 p.m. for Dinner and a Mystery. It's guaranteed to be a blast for all ages!



A Voice for Environmental Stewardship

If you have read my articles over the last two years that have talked about trees, they are one of our best defenses that we have against global warming and climate change. By now you have heard and read about how climate change and global warming are very real concerns for people all over the world. Taking action against them should never be a red or blue choice, but a HUMAN CHOICE. We humans have created this ominous condition on Earth, and we must be directly involved with solutions to combat it, before it is too late for our planet.

This is where trees come into the picture for us. Trees and other plants have an amazing process called photosynthesis. They absorb CO₂ and sunlight through their leaves and draw water up through their roots. In their leaves glucose is manufactured for energy, and other substances such as cellulose and starches are made. A byproduct of this process is oxygen (O₂) which is released from leaves. If it were not for this oxygen, no animals on Earth would be able to breathe, on land or under water. Trees and other plants are an essential creation that God has given to us and to all animals so that we may live on Earth! The natural state of our atmosphere has a balance of CO₂ with O₂, but since the start of the industrial revolution, humans have been adding more and more CO₂ and other pollutants into our air. Now the pollution problem has gotten way out of hand. In fact, 97% of all climate scientists around the world have been challenging governments and the public to understand that we have a global crisis, and that rapid mitigation of this pollution needs immediate action before climate change and global warming reach the point of no return. Some climate scientists have said that we have already reached that point, and others hold out hope that we can slow it down and reverse it. Green energy (wind, solar, geothermal, hydropower from dams, and making biomass fuels) are already in use. We can also expand our forests. The task is daunting but not impossible. Humanity has created solutions to huge problems before that were thought to be impossible to solve. Next month I will share an opportunity that each of us may want to take part in, the planting of trees.

Rev. Alan Barone, B.A. in science education, M.Div., Ohio
Certified Vol. Naturalist

UMW

Faith Community United Methodist Women will be hosting the annual Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, March 19, 2022 in the Fellowship Hall. The guest speaker this year is Pastor Dar (Sherer) Hensley, and she will be speaking on Animal Therapy.

Tickets will again be \$6.00. Sales will begin Sunday, February 27 and will end on Sunday, March 13. Tickets will be available prior to and after each worship service. So, get your tickets early; you won't want to miss this speaker's informative presentation.

Circles Meetings: Dorcas – No March meeting
Women of Faith – March 21, 1-3pm-15C

UMM

ATTENTION ALL MEN: The Men of Faith will meet on March 21st at 6:00 PM in rooms 16 A&B. All men are invited to join us. Each person will bring their own meal and beverage. We will have a social time during the meal. A short business meeting will follow at 6:30PM. We would like to have a discussion at this meeting with the men of Faith Community regarding their interests in programming. We need as many of the men as possible to provide their input so the MOF can meet their needs. We hope to see you on the 21st!

Reminder: Face 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.

Pantry Name Change

The Xenia Area FISH Food Pantry will now be known as Greene County FISH Pantry.

We always see decreased donations in January and February and with the supply chain shortage we have needs for tuna fish, cereal, box mixes, soups, cake mixes, icing, brownies, and condiments.

Thanks to all our wonderful donors and partners.

Recital

Dr. John W.W. Sherer, son of John and Sharon Sherer, will perform an organ recital Sunday, March 20 at 4 pm at the First Baptist Church of Dayton. As a youth, Dr. John took organ lessons from Pat Berger who was organist at Faith Community at that time. He went on to get degrees in music at Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, Masters Degrees in Divinity and Organ Performance at Yale, then his doctorate degree from Julliard School of Music. He currently is organist and director of music at Fourth Presbyterian church in Chicago. The organ at First Baptist encompasses a total of 126 ranks, or 7,000 pipes. The recital and parking are free. For a flyer, call John Sherer at 937-372-2204 or email shererjw@aol.com

Passings

Prayers and sympathy are extended to the families and friends of **Sandra Samanas, Bruce Pickelheimer, Sheila Woosley, and Mary Lou McClelland.**

Thank You

To the Faith Community Family: Words can never express how grateful the family of Dick and Dolores Strous is for all the care, prayers, food and fellowship for Mom and Dad, not only for the past couple of years but also throughout the years. The counsel and care for us as we took on the challenges of the

past few years is immensely appreciated. It was such a comfort to know that they had many angels looking out for them.

With much love – Nancy, Tom, Angie, Rick, Mike, Sera, Nicole, Dylan, Jacob, Kathleen, and Elie.



I would like to thank all members of Faith Community who have been so kind to me the past 2 years. First of all, I appreciate receiving the weekly bulletin. I follow right along and feel like I'm there in person. Someone brings me the Upper Room and other items as well.

Every few months I get a "goodie" bag and word search puzzles. All these things are so welcome. Cards bring back memories to me.

I'm so glad to be a member of such a caring church. Blessings to all!! ~~Genevieve (Genny) Jones



To Faith Community UMC,

Thank you for all your continued thoughts and prayers throughout last semester and the holiday season. I wish the best to you all through this New Year.

Best,

Alexandra Fellie



Thank you for your 2021 support and for your continued partnership in 2022. Together we're impacting the lives of students in a significant way. Through our Cleft Collective Network we've launched an initiative to see all 197 Miami Valley middle and high schools adopted by a local church. This represents 132,363 Miami Valley students.

We appreciate you.

The Cleft

FCUM
January 2022 Financials

Monthly Income	\$62,551	
Monthly Expenses	\$25,082	
Difference	\$37,469	59.90%

YTD Income	\$ 62,551	
YTD Expenses	\$ 25,082	
Difference	\$ 37,469	59.90%

Manley Proverbs

(compiled by Charles Manley)

A moment of anger can destroy a lifetime of work;
whereas a moment of love can break barriers that took a life-
time to build.



Deadline for April Faith Links: Friday, March 18.

March 2022 – Women’s History Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 3:30-5:30pm-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 6:30-8:30pm-	2 12-1:30pm-Cancer Support-Parlor 7-8pm- ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE- Sanctuary	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 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 12-1:30-Membership Care-Parlor 2-4pm-Grief Support-Parlor 6:30-9pm-Stephen Ministry Training-Library 7-8:30pm-Christian Ed. Meeting-Room 8	11 10-15-11:30-Book Club of Greene County Library-Parlor 3:30-5:30pm-XHS Winter Guard Practice-FCC	12
13 Daylight Saving Time begins 9am-Traditional-Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary-FCC 5-7pm-Family Night-FCC	14 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 St. Patrick’s Day 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6:30-8:30pm-Ad Bd.-15C 6:30-9pm-Stephen Ministry Training-Library 7-8:30pm-Christian Ed-#8	18 11am-3pm-Prayer Breakfast Setup 3:30-5:15pm-XHS Winter Guard Practice-FCC	19 9:30-12pm-UMW Prayer Breakfast-FH 15 AC
20 9am-Traditional -Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary -FCC	21 1-3pm-Women of Faith-15C 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 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	29 3:30-5:15pm-XHS Winter Guard -FCC 6:30-8:30pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6	30 12-1pm-Cancer Support-Parlor 6:15-7:15pm-Bells -M.R 7-9pm-Praise Band -FCC 7:30-9-Choir-Sanctuary	31 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor		