

April 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>
February 20	79	27	36
February 27	84	25	32
March 6	81	81	39
March 13	90	25	36
March 20	74	28	32

From Pastor Andy

Grace and peace from the God of resurrection and life. Holy Week and Easter are fast approaching. There are a number of plans coming into place for that week.

April 10 is Palm Sunday. During the 9:00 service that day we will be receiving 6 new members who will be transferring their church membership to Faith Community. Following the 11:00 service that day there will be a fellowship lunch. More details on that will be forthcoming. I hope you plan to join us for one or both of these times of celebration.

April 14 is Maundy Thursday. We will have a special time of worship in the sanctuary at 7:00 PM as we remember and celebrate Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. This will be a very musical service with the Choir singing three Lenten anthems. We will also share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

And of course, April 17 is Easter Sunday. As we did last year, we will have an Easter egg hunt for the children in between worship services. There will also be refreshments for everyone in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 AM. Come enjoy the goodies and watch the children as they hunt for eggs.

Blessings, Pastor Andy

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers Share Newly Acquired Resources

Faith Community has access to a gem that some have yet to discover—our libraries. If you haven't already visited our adult library, I challenge you to do so. Few congregations have such an incredible collection of materials available. Stephen Ministry has a designated section within this library. Located there are books covering a variety of topics—parenting. Serious illness including a cancer diagnosis, grief, suicide, miscarriage, care giving, and aging. If you or someone you know is going through a difficult time, there may be a resource there that would be helpful.

One of our most recent additions is *It's Not Supposed to Be This Way: finding unexpected strength when disappointments leave you shattered* by Lysa Terkeurst. For lots of reasons, life often turns out very differently from what we hoped or expected. Some things happen suddenly or unexpectedly that throw us off kilter temporarily. Others shatter us completely. We feel disappointed, sabotaged, and maybe even wonder how God fits into all of it. As Lysa writes in the introduction, "This is how the formula should calculate: hard times plus healing time plus staying faithful to God should equal the exact good outcome we were counting on. If you are a human who has been doing the adult thing for more than twenty-four hours, you've probably come to the same stunning revelation as I have. We cannot control our outcomes. We cannot formulate how the promises of God will actually take shape.

And we will never be able to demand any of the healing from all the hurt to hurry up.”

She goes on to offer hope. “Though we can’t predict or control or demand the outcome of our circumstances, we can know with great certainty that we will be okay. Better than normal...Sometimes to get your life back, you have to face the death of what you thought your life would look like.” At the end of each chapter there’s a recap of the chapter, scripture to help fill us as we empty ourselves of our misplaced hope and limited perspectives, questions to consider, and a prayer. Turkeurst knows firsthand about disappointment and pain. After twenty-five years of marriage she learned of her husband’s affair and had to tell him, “I love you. And I forgive you. But I cannot share you.”

Disappointments are an inevitable part of life. The important thing is how we handle them. As my deceased husband used to say, “Did this experience make me better or did it make me bitter?” We may not have a choice about what happens to us, but we do have a choice about what we do about it.

Read *It’s Not Supposed to Be This Way* to discover how disappointments and trials can be a gift from God that feels nothing like a gift at all. Terkeurst doesn’t offer bumper sticker quotes that never help and often hurt. She offers real help and a true hope that God will hold us safe through whatever we’re experiencing.

Her most recent book has also been added to the Stephen Ministry section: *Forgiving What You Can’t Forget: Discover how to move on, make peace with painful memories, and create a life that’s beautiful again.*

UMW

CARNATION SALE FOR 2022

Faith Community UMW will be taking orders for carnations for Mother’s Day beginning Sunday, April 17. Carnations will

be red in honor (living) of or white in memory (deceased) of the individual. Cost will be \$2.00 per carnation. The ordering process will be the same as last year. Order forms will be available for pick up in the Narthex, the welcome table in the Community Center and the church office. There is also an order form enclosed with this newsletter. Orders are to be sealed in an envelope along with payment of exact change or a check written to FC United Methodist Women (FCUMW), returned to the church and placed in the boxes, again in the Narthex, on the welcome table in the Community Center, or at the church office. Orders with payment, left in the church office are to be dropped off no later than Wednesday, April 27. Orders, with payment dropped in the Narthex or Community Center are to be submitted no later than Sunday, May 2. Profits from this sale will go to missions locally, nationally, and internationally, and to the UMW Scholarship Fund. Those who order carnations will be permitted to take them home after the worship service identified on the order form.

Circle Meetings

Dorcas: April 19, 1:00 PM, Rooms 15 A-B

Women of Faith: April 25, 1:00 PM – Rooms 15 A-B

UMM

ATTENTION ALL MEN: The Men of Faith will meet on Monday, April 18. 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. A short business meeting will follow at 6:30 PM. We will be showing the video of the Last Supper drama entitled “Is It I?” This drama was performed by Men of Faith Community in March of 2013 and features the thoughts of the Apostles when confronted with the knowledge that one of them would betray Jesus. It is a moving story. We hope to see you on the 18th.

A Voice for Environmental Stewardship

April 2022

As I promised in the March 2022 issue of our church newsletter Faith Links, I am going to share about our opportunity to plant trees on your property or elsewhere. As you know, planting trees will help to fight climate change and global warming. This is something positive that each of us can do as individuals without waiting for governments or organizations to take concrete action.

For the last few years I have donated evergreen and broadleaf seedlings to the people of Faith Community United Methodist Church. They start out small but they will grow when we take care of them. If you want to start with a sapling or larger tree, tree nurseries have them to purchase.

This year I have decided to provide a larger selection of tree seedling species than before. My seedling distribution day will be April 24th, the Sunday after Earth Day April 22nd. The species that I have this year are the following: 10 White Pine, 10 Norway Spruce, 3 Dawn Redwood, 3 Bur Oak, 3 Northern Pecan, 3 Red Maple, 3 White Dogwood, and 3 Red Bud. I will also have some wildflower seeds. If you are interested in a specific species of tree you can Google the name of the tree and you can find out what the tree will look like when it is grown, and how big it can grow in the best location.

Since I am giving you the list of species in this Faith Links, which you will get in the mail by April 1st, you will have time to Google your tree species information before distribution day on April 24th.

I believe you know how important trees are for the wellbeing of our precious Mother Earth, they are her LUNGS.

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

Faith Community Will Be Celebrating Three Graduates This Spring

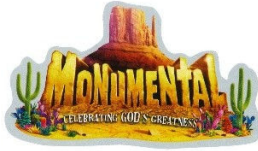
- Clara Horney will be graduating from Cedarville High School and the Greene County Career Center with her High School diploma. She plans to attend the University of Mount Union this Fall with a goal to become a Physical Therapist. While there she will participate as a member of the Purple Raiders Basketball team.
- Samuel Johnson will be graduating from the University of Dayton. While there, he has opted towards a dual major in both History and English.
- Carolyn Engle will be graduating with her Masters in Speech and Language Pathology from Indiana State University.

Jam Seeds and Donations

Jackson Area Ministries (JAM) is celebrating their 50th year of garden ministry by collecting seeds and donations. JAM helps persons who have lost their jobs, senior citizens, and low-income families. This ministry enables the growers to increase both quantity and quality of their available food. The number of gardeners continues to increase in the 18-county area served in southwest Ohio. Deadline for collection is April 15. For more information see jamumc.org or contact Scott and Carol Jenkins.

Prayer Chain

Rosi Mackey (937-902-9022) is our new prayer chain coordinator. We will continue to use the regular prayer chain email but if you call in a request, please contact Rosi. Many thanks to her for taking on this important mission.



SAVE THE DATE. VBS is coming: June 20-24, 9:30am-12:00PM for children 4 years to entering 6th grade. It will be **MONUMENTAL!** Come be a part of this year's adventure. There are many areas needing help: classroom assistants, crafts, baking and decorating. If you are able to help, please email or call Betsy Murray, 937-768-1143, gmama9875@aol.com or Joyce Smith, 937-372-6576, jes1129@aol.com.

Prayer Chain

Rosi Mackey (phone number 937-902-9022) is our new prayer chain coordinator. We will continue to use the regular prayer chain email but if you call in a request, please contact Rosi. Many thanks to her for taking on this mission.

FCUM

February 2022 Financials

Monthly Income	\$26,581		YTD Income	\$ 89,131	
Monthly Expenses	\$34,101		YTD Expenses	\$ 59,183	
Difference	\$ (7,520)	-28.29%	Difference	\$ 29,948	33.60%

Manley Proverbs

Let's be cautious about relying so much on material things that we have no energy left for the spiritual aspects of our lives.

Deadline for May Faith Links: April 15

EASTER FLOWERS

It is time to order your Tulips or Lilies for Easter Sunday. The flowers truly beautify the church for all the worshipers. Please place the order form and payment in the offering plate or return to the church office by Monday, April 11, 2022. Please indicate how many plants and if you want to order tulip(s) or lilies(s). The cost per plant is \$11.00. Make checks payable to Faith Community UMC, mark your check "Easter Flowers" in the memo and/or on your envelope. We need to have this form & payment in order to correctly place and record your order.

(#) _____ Tulips (#) _____ Lilies (Amount paid _____ check or cash, Please circle)

Given by: I(Your name) _____

Given in honor of:

Given in memory of:

If you purchase flowers, you may pick them up immediately following the 9:00am or 11:00am services on Easter Sunday. Flowers not picked up on Easter Sunday may be picked up during regular office hours Tuesday, April 19 thru Friday, April 22. (The church will be closed on Monday, April 18.) Thank you

April 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 3:30-5:30pm-XHS Winter Guard-FCC	2
3 9am-Traditional-Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary-FCC	4 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 7-9pm-Stephen Ministry-Library	5 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	6 12-1:30-Cancer Support-Parlor 6:15-7:15pm- Handbells-Music Room 7-8:30pm-SPRC-Library 7-9pm-Praise Band-FCC 7:30-9:00pm-Choir-San.	7 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 1:30-4pm-Women's Club of Xenia-Parlor	8 10-15-11:30-Book Club of Greene County Library-Parlor	9
10 Palm Sunday 9am-Traditional-Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary-FCC (11-145-Lunch & Missionary Talk)	11 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	12 Girl Scout Leader Meeting-15-A 6:30-8:30pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6	13 12-1pm-Cancer Support-Parlor 6:15-7:15pm-Handbells-Music Room 7-9pm-Praise Band-FCC 7:30pm-Choir-Sanctuary	14 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 2-4pm-Grief Support-Par. 7-8pm-Maundy Thursday Service-Sanctuary	15 Good Friday	16
17 EASTER 9am-Traditional -Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary -FCC	18 Office Closed 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 6-8:30-Men of Faith-16A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	19 1-3pm-Dorcas-15 A-B 3:30-4:30pm-Mission Outreach-Room 8 6-8:15pm-Girl Scouts-15A,B,C; 16 A-B 6:30-8:30pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6	20 12-1pm-Cancer Support-Parlor 6:15-7:15pm-Bells -M.R 7-9pm-Praise Band -FCC 7:30-9pm-Choir-Sanctuary	21 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor	22	23 5-9pm-Double I-15A
24 9am-Traditional -Sanctuary 10am-Sunday School 11am-Contemporary FCC	25 1-3pm-Women of Faith-15C 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	26 6:30-8:30pm-Disciple Bible Study-Room 6	27 12-1pm-Cancer Support-Parlor 6:15-7:15pm-Bells -M.R 7-9pm-Praise Band -FCC 7:30-9pm-Choir-Sanctuary	28 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor	29	30