

## July 2022

Rev. Andy Wagner  
937-372-7601 [office@fcum.org](mailto:office@fcum.org) [www.fcum.org](http://www.fcum.org)  
Sunday Worship  
9:15 Sunday School  
10:30 Worship in Sanctuary  
[We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation](#)

### Attendance

|        | <u>9:00</u> | <u>11:00</u> | <u>S.S.</u> |
|--------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| May 22 | 97          | 23           | 32          |
| May 29 | 91          | 28           | 34          |

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|         | <u>S.S.</u><br><u>9:15</u> | <u>Worship</u><br><u>10:30</u> |
|---------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| June 5  | 31                         | 130                            |
| June 12 | 27                         | 97                             |
| June 19 | --                         | 107                            |

### From the Pastor

On June 2, our Administrative Board held a special meeting for the purpose of discussing the possibility of disassociating with The United Methodist Church and joining with the newly forming Global Methodist Church. I want to make it clear that our Administrative Board has not taken a position on this question one way or another. There are some members of our congregation who feel strongly that Faith Community should leave the UMC and join the Global Methodist Church. There are other members of our congregation who feel strongly that Faith Community should remain a United Methodist Church. Many members of the congregation are probably not even aware of the issues involved or why this is coming up at this time.

Before the Administrative Board goes any further in discussions, it is important for the entire congregation to be as informed as possible about what is going on. You need to know what is happening and we need to know what you think about all of it. To that end, we will be having a few congregational meetings this summer. The dates and times are not yet set at the time of this writing, but it is my hope that we will have at least one of those meetings by the end of July, with a total of three by the end of the summer. We would like for as much of the congregation as possible to attend one or all of those meetings. There will be two main purposes of these congregational meetings:

1. To provide you with as much information as possible about the issues involved.
2. To hear from you, the congregation, about how you feel on these things.

Once we have accomplished these two goals, the Administrative Board will be in a better position to deliberate and discern how to move forward as a congregation.

I have been clear that I intend to remain United Methodist no matter what Faith Community decides. The UMC has always been my home and continues to be the church where I can most fully and faithfully be who God has created and called me to be. However, I can only make that decision for myself, not for any of you. You, the members of Faith Community, must decide who God has created and called you to be as a church.

My commitment to you is to make that discernment process as faithful and fruitful as possible, with all voices being heard and respected. I was mightily encouraged by the meeting we had on June 2. The discussion was respectful and loving. I told the Admin. Board members that I loved them all when we came into that room, and somehow, I loved them all even more when the meeting was over. Despite our many differences and disagreements, God's grace binds us together in

love as the family of faith. It is my intention to do whatever I can to encourage that same spirit within all of our congregational meetings. I hope that you will be a part of it.

Blessings, Pastor Andy

## **Tell Us How and Why You joined Faith Community**

The History and Membership Care committee needs your input. We are asking our members, friends and all those involved to tell us when they decided to join Faith Community and why they are still here. Will you please write down your thoughts and email to Marlene Gifford, [mlg1036@yahoo.com](mailto:mlg1036@yahoo.com), or take your information to the church office. Include your areas of participation (past, present, how long) such as: Men of Faith, UM Women, Circles (past and present), committees, worship, outreach, Grief Support, visitation, Stephen Ministry, and the list goes on. Did you transfer, come with family or friends, how long you have been a member, etc.? This is the 50th year anniversary of the joining of Trinity and First Methodist. I have started my history with Faith Community and am not done yet. Please consider doing yours.

Many Thanks! Marlene Gifford, History Committee.

## **Stephen Ministry**

### **Life Interrupted**

Survivor's guilt—what do you know about it? Have you or anyone you know experienced it? In the past week it has come up twice. I am reading a memoir written by a young woman who was diagnosed with leukemia a few weeks before her twenty-third birthday. She was only given a thirty-five percent chance of survival. Four years later, after multiple rounds of chemo, participation in a clinical trial, and a bone marrow transplant, her doctors told her she was “cured,” but it wasn't that simple. She soon realized that “a cure is not where the work of healing ends; it's when it begins.” Later in the week, a

friend mentioned that her daughter struggled with feeling guilty after her diagnosis of colon cancer. She was one of the fortunate ones. The cancer was detected early and surgery was all the treatment that was needed. Although she was grateful, lots of “why” questions plagued her. Most of us have also heard about Covid survivors who wonder why they lived and others died.

Many in our congregation have had to navigate serious medical conditions. Some still are doing so. If you or someone you know has successfully “beaten” the initial challenges and been given encouraging news, there will likely be moments of wondering “now what?”. As the author of *Between Two Kingdoms* shares, “Now that I’ve survived, I’m realizing I don’t know how to live.” Some deal with depression. There’s almost always apprehension before follow-up appointments and after blood tests, CAT scans, or MRI’s. An entire range of emotions may surface—anxiety, fear, grief, anger, guilt—and rarely are we given a “heads up” that this may happen, let alone be provided advice about how to deal with these feelings.

She also shares that she is painfully aware that the struggles of recovery are a privilege many don’t get to experience. “I’m afraid of sounding ungrateful –or worse yet–insensitive to those dealing with far scarier unknowns.” Yet she struggles to reconcile what she imagined remission to look like with the facts of her reality. She misses the sense of clarity and purpose she felt while in treatment. Facing her mortality caused her to focus on what really mattered. She eventually realizes that “while it might not be possible to move on from illness, I have to start trying to move forward with it.” When the worst thing that can happen to you happens, you have a choice. Are you going to let it immobilize you or are you going to resolve to live as fully as possible? What does it mean to live again? Life is forever changed. You can’t go back to who you were before all this happened. What does this mean? What does the future look like? Where or who can you go to share what you are thinking and feeling?

Then there are the concerns of family members. Many of the same questions surface for them too. Friends whose spouses have had heart attacks or strokes wonder how much is too much for their recovering loved one to do. When do they need to push them to overcome their natural fear of resuming activities? Will they come across as nagging? Fear is present whether expressed or not. Will there be another one? Will he/she survive? How will I cope? What is my role now that I am no longer a caregiver?

All of these scenarios are ones that are appropriate for Stephen Ministry. Just knowing that you can share your thoughts and concerns with someone who will listen, keep everything confidential, help with resources as appropriate, pray with and for you, and be a “sounding board” for as long as needed can be invaluable. To learn more about Stephen Ministry, contact Pastor Andy or Becky Cultice at 937-376-5747.

## UMW

### WOF SPONSORING COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER

Women of Faith will be sponsoring a “community” baby shower. On Sunday, September 4, there will be “baby booties” available for pick up in the Narthex on which will be a baby item. There will also be three baskets in the Narthex. One basket will be labeled “Boy;” another will be marked “Girl;” the third will be marked “Neutral.” We are inviting the congregation to pick a “baby bootie” from the display and return the new item to the appropriate basket. Items in the baskets will be distributed to local charities that use these items, such as Family Promise of Greene County (formerly IHN). The last day for items in the baskets will be Sunday, September 18.

Circles: Women of Faith – No July, August meetings  
Dorcas – No meeting in July

## Men of Faith

Attention All Men: The Men of Faith will meet on Monday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at 6PM in Room 16A&B (Community Center). 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. Gail and Tom Matson will provide an update on the "Fish Food Pantry" at 7:00PM. We hope to see you on the 18<sup>th</sup>!

## Thank You

FCUMC,

*Thank you so much for all of the lovely gifts! I appreciate all of the support you have given me throughout my entire life. The church family has been such a blessing. Thanks again.*

*Carolyn Engle*

*Dear Faith Community United Methodist Women,*

*Thank you all so much for the wonderful shower and all the amazing gifts for Baby Wickline. We are truly blessed with an amazing church family and group of women like you. May God bless you all and thank you again.*

*Blessings,*

*Juliana Wickline*

*Thank you so much for the wonderful baby shower for Jules and me and our babies. We are so blessed and thankful for your gifts and prayers. It's so amazing knowing that our children will be growing up with such a supportive faith family. Thank you again for your love, support, and prayers.*

*—Lauren Kjersten*

*Thank you so much to Joyce Smith and the FCUM church for coordinating and bringing over lunch on the day of Jim Beller's funeral. It was a huge help to us that day and we sincerely thank you for your love and support during this time.*

*Judy Beller & Kim, Mike & Audrey Renz*

## Passings

Prayers and sympathy are extended to Suzanne Collins and family on the death of her husband Roger Collins; to the family of Mary Warner; to Judy Beller and family on the death of her husband Jim Beller; to the family of Sara Stout; to Rick (Janese) Brooks on the death of his brother Mike Brooks; and to Bonnie Weimer on the death of her brother-in-law, Ron Weimer.

**Deadline for August Faith Links: July 15**

## FCUM

### May 2022 Financials

|                  |          |        |              |           |        |
|------------------|----------|--------|--------------|-----------|--------|
| Monthly Income   | \$35,125 |        | YTD Income   | \$185,561 |        |
| Monthly Expenses | \$28,251 |        | YTD Expenses | \$144,919 |        |
| Difference       | \$ 6,875 | 19.57% | Difference   | \$ 40,642 | 21.90% |

## Manley Proverbs

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose,  
but mosquitoes come close!

(Contributed by Charles Manley.)





**A HUGE THANK YOU!!:** VBS 2022 was a **MONUMENTAL** experience for everyone involved. It would not have been possible without the help of all the volunteers who: taught the classes of children, welcomed the families and registered the children, taught the songs and led the music, prepared and worked with the crafts, prepared and served wonderful snacks, taught the children games and recreation, taught the science lessons, provided cookies, helped decorate the halls and rooms, cooked hot dogs, and ran after forgotten items. We also want to thank Crystal and Deb for all their help and patience and the office volunteers who helped with a variety of tasks. We also appreciate those who made financial donations that allowed us to purchase the curriculum and ancillary items. A big thanks to Pastor Andy for leading our opening as Park Ranger Andy each day. It truly takes many hands and hearts to provide this experience for over 90 children from our community. You are a blessing! We collected a daily offering which will provide blankets for our neighbors near and far. Check our bulletin board at the main entrance to see how many blankets were provided VBS week.



# July 2022

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY  | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY   |
|--|---|-----------|-----------|--|--|--|
|  |   |           |           |  | <b>1</b>   | <b>2</b>   |
| <b>3</b><br>9:15-10:15- Sunday School-15C, Parlor<br>10:30-11:30-Worship-Sanctuary   | <b>4</b><br><b style="color: red;">Independence Day</b><br><b style="color: blue;">Office Closed</b><br>7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b><br>11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor  | <b>8</b>   | <b>9</b>   |
| <b>10</b><br>9:15-10:15- Sunday School-15C, Parlor<br>10:30-11:30-Worship-Sanctuary  | <b>11</b><br>2-6pm-Community Blood Drive-15A-C<br>7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C   |           |           | <b>14</b><br>11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor<br>12:30-1:30pm-Membership Care-Parlor<br>2-4pm-Grief Support-Parlor<br>7-8:30-Christian Ed.-#8 | <b>15</b><br><b style="color: red;">FAITH LINKS DEADLINE</b> | <b>16</b>  |
| <b>17</b><br>9:15-10:15- Sunday School-15C, Parlor<br>10:30-11:30-Worship-Sanctuary  | <b>18</b><br>6-8:30pm-Men of Faith-16A-B<br>7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C   | <b>19</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b><br>11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor<br>6:30-8:30pm-Ad Board-15C   | <b>22</b>  | <b>23</b><br>6-8pm-Double I-15A& Kitchen             |
| <b>24</b><br>9:15-10:15- Sunday School- 15C, Parlor<br>10:30-11:30-Worship-Sanctuary | <b>25</b><br>7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C  | <b>26</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b><br>11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor   | <b>29</b><br>9-11am-Set up Shoes for Shoeless-FCC            | <b>30</b><br>8am-12pm-Measure Shoes for Shoeless-FCC |
| <b>31</b><br>9:15-10:15- Sunday School-15C, Parlor<br>10:30-Worship-Sanctuary        |   |           |           |  |  |  |