

## August 2022

Rev. Andy Wagner

937-372-7601 [office@fcum.org](mailto:office@fcum.org) [www.fcum.org](http://www.fcum.org).

9:15 Sunday School

10:30 Worship in Sanctuary

We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

## Attendance

	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>
June 26	108	18
July 3	95	23
July 10	99	29
July 17	86	27

## From Pastor Andy

“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may all be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.” – Jesus, from John 17:20-23

“Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite notwithstanding these smaller differences.” – John Wesley, from his sermon “A Catholic Spirit.”

These two quotes, the first from the founder of our faith, the second from the founder of our denomination, sort of set the context for me for two big events happening within the life of our congregation this month. The first is our Community Worship, which will take place on Sunday, August 14. That morning, FCUM along with at least a dozen other churches of Xenia, will suspend our normal Sunday morning activities in order to worship together as one body in

Shawnee Park. Worship will begin at 10:30AM and will be truly ecumenical.

The reason for doing this on a Sunday morning, rather than Sunday afternoon or evening or some other time in the week, is to exemplify the truth and the importance of what Jesus prayed for. We are all truly one body of the Body of Christ. When we worship in our own congregations, we are doing so as a small part of a larger body. Our individual churches are not competitors to one another; we are complementary members of the One Body. The Body of Christ encompasses all Christians of every denomination and faith tradition, working together to the Glory of God.

That doesn't mean that our differences don't matter. There are certain things that we will continue to see differently, certain forms of organization and matters of worship and doctrine on which we may disagree. Those concerns are important and because of them we will continue to have separate denominations and congregations. But those differences do not separate us from our unity in Christ. It is that unity in Christ, a bond of love and fellowship that transcends all else, that we will celebrate and affirm when we worship as One on August 14.

The second event for which the two quotes above set the context is a congregational meeting that will be held on Thursday, August 18 at 6:30PM. At this congregational meeting, we will be sharing information regarding the formation of the Global Methodist Church as a new denomination, the reasons why some congregations are choosing to remain United Methodist, and the implications of doing so. After sharing the information, we will answer questions from the congregation and listen to what they have to say.

There will be another of these congregational meetings in September, and perhaps a third. I hope that as many of you as are able will join us for these meetings. The issues to be discussed are difficult and highly consequential. We will not all think alike on these things. But as John Wesley suggests, I trust we can all love alike notwithstanding these smaller differences. I trust that the spirit of oneness for which Jesus prayed will pervade our discussions. And through it all, I trust we will gain a better sense of God's call upon this church, and our place within the one universal Body of Christ.

Blessings, Pastor Andy

## Stephen Ministry

A year ago, Lynn and Mike Engle were commissioned as Stephen Leaders. Both had served faithfully as Stephen Ministers since 2014. We are so grateful that they continue to share their gifts in so many ways. For those of you who know Lynn, you are undoubtedly aware that she is a voracious reader and a lover of books. As Stephen Ministers, we are always looking for resources that might help us and others. This month Lynn shares information about a resource that offers an incredible number and variety of free resources. Until she retired as librarian at Cox Elementary School, she would have labeled the following “a commercial.”

Greene County residents have a wonderful treasure in our Greene County Public Library system. There are books, magazines and movies for any taste. One area of the library that is of great interest to me is the classification of 248. Those are books on prayer. There are prayers of gratitude and solace, grief and comfort. It’s a fascinating genre of books. Sometimes I don’t like to carry a book around with me, but I still want the ability to read whenever I have a few quiet moments. The Greene County Library has books you can download on your phone or tablet. So convenient. Right now, I am reading a book called Prayers for Healing: 365 Blessings, Poems, and Meditations from Around the World. The book was edited by Maggie Oman Shannon. There is a reading for each day of the year. Some of the readings are very short, and some much longer. I find myself thinking about the reading during the day, and I like to look up more essays and reading from authors that intrigue and inspire me.

There are books in the church library for your use. The GCPL is a great resource, and online books can go with you anytime you carry your phone.

Peace – Becky Cultice

## 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”, an-

other 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 August meeting  
Dorcas – August 16, 1-3pm-Room 15-A,B**

### **Men of Faith**

**ATTENTION ALL MEN:** We will meet on Monday, August 15 at 6PM in Room 16-A&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. We hope to see you on the 15th

### **A Voice for Environmental Stewardship**

One of the books that I have been reading is entitled **MERCHANTS OF DOUBT** written by Naomi Oreskes, who was Professor of the History of Science at Harvard University and Erik M. Conway who is a historian of science and technology at the California Institute of Technology. Their book explores how a handful of different scientists and industries over the decades, obscured the truth about chlorofluorcarbon (CFC) gas emissions related to ozone depletion in our upper atmosphere, tobacco smoking as related to human health, and excess greenhouse gas emissions related to global warming and climate change. They deceived the public and politicians and caused them to doubt the seriousness of these problems.

Taken one at a time, ozone, O<sub>3</sub>, in our upper atmosphere (the stratosphere) blocks most of the ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun from reaching the surface of the Earth where people live. When excess of UV radiation reaches unprotected people (without sunscreen) it increases the risk of skin cancer, cataracts in our eyes, and immune deficiency disorders. CFCs were used as coolants in refrigeration and in air conditioners, as well as in propellants in pressurized containers for household products. When CFCs are released

into our atmosphere they rise into the stratosphere and destroy the protective ozone layer. It was not until 1974 that atmosphere chemists showed the connection between CFCs and ozone depletion in the stratosphere. Industries that make CFCs fought the discovery and denied the science. Now CFCs are banned around the world.

Smoking tobacco was once considered a harmless habit in the U.S. and around the World. Tobacco companies used clever advertising enticing people to smoke their brands. Cigarettes with filters, impregnated with menthol, were supposed to be better tasting and safer. They were not safer. It was not until medical researchers discovered that smoking and chewing tobacco can cause lung and mouth cancer and many other health problems. The tobacco companies hired scientists who fought the science, created doubt, and lied to the public about the health dangers. Today every pack of cigarettes has a warning from the Surgeon General of the U.S. that smoking cigarettes can cause cancer and many other health problems. Public health won.

Climate change and global warming are creating havoc and misery all around the world. Climate scientists from around the World have been presenting stronger and stronger evidence for decades that our burning fossil fuels (petroleum products, coal, and natural gas) has pumped huge amounts of greenhouse gasses (excessive CO<sub>2</sub>, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone) into our atmosphere for years. In fact, the Earth's atmosphere is warming much faster than climate scientists have predicted. Fossil fuel companies, especially ExxonMobil's researchers, knew over twenty years ago that burning petroleum products adds huge amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> into our atmosphere, making it warmer, but they kept the evidence secret for decades in order to protect their profits. They fronted massive lobbying campaigns in the U.S. Congress, funding members with millions of dollars of donations and convinced many to become **CLIMATE CHANGE DENIERS. SCIENCE TELLS THE TRUTH** and is the friend of the Earth and all of its creatures when it comes to things that can harm us. Let us pray for God to give us insight and wisdom in all these challenges and more!

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

## Fuller Center Bicycle Adventure

On June 20, Faith Community UMC hosted the Fuller Center Bicycle Adventurers. We had 17 cyclists and 3 support crew. The Community Center was abuzz with cyclists arriving, spreading out their gear, taking their showers, partaking of the snacks and drinks available to them. A big thank you goes out to Virginia Pinkerton, Marrietta Kolozsi, Karen Turner, Sally Wallace, Sharon and John Sherer, Sandy Pramer, and Dick Montgomery for their help as shoppers, cooks, table setters, servers and cleanup crew, and to Deb Klaty for placing the welcome information on the digital sign boards; the cyclists were so impressed, they were taking pictures of each other under and near the signs. After dinner, the cyclists presented a program about the Fuller Center for Housing, for which the group rides to raise money. The Fuller Center for Housing is a grassroots organization that builds and repairs homes for people along the cycling route. This group had five builds during their one-month adventure. At the presentation, Mayor Sarah Mays issued a proclamation naming June 20, 2022 as Fuller Center Bicycle Adventure in Xenia, Ohio. Thank you for your willingness to support his group as you did.

Bill and Carol Sykes

## Boy Scouts

Our Boy Scout Troop 362 went on their annual summer camping trip from June 25<sup>th</sup> – July 2<sup>nd</sup>. We gathered at the church parking lot and headed down to Gatlinburg, TN. Our first adventure was visiting Clingman's Dome, the highest point in the Smoky Mountains. When it wasn't foggy, it provided breathtaking views! We then backpacked on the Appalachian trail, where we had a backcountry permit to stay overnight on the trail in an Adirondack. We enjoyed some time tubing down a river, riding the Moonshine Mountain Coaster, crossing the SkyBridge, and playing some frisbee golf. We also hiked to the peak of Charlies Bunion, where we encountered 1,400 foot cliffs along the hiking trail. We were able to enjoy the swimming and pool and fix meals at our main camp. As we made our way back north, we stopped by Cumberland Falls. We then headed to Sloan's Valley to camp overnight. In the morning we got on our caving gear and went caving in a 24-mile long cave system, entering at the Crockett

Entrance. We explored about a half mile of stalactites and stalagmites and definitely came out muddy! We thank you all for your thoughts and prayers while we were on this trip. We had a blast! If you know anyone interested in Boy Scouts, we meet Monday nights at 7pm at the church.

Micah Fleming  
Troop 362 - Scribe

### Shoes for the Shoeless

We are planning to go back to our previous program and have the children come in to be sized on Saturday, July 30, 9:30-10:30am and return on Saturday, August 13, 9:30-10:30am to pick up their new shoes. This will give the congregation a chance to get involved again by purchasing the shoes. We will have a shoe tree in the narthex on Sunday, July 31 and you can bring shoes in on Sunday, August 7. If you would like to volunteer on either of those Saturdays or have any questions, please call Sandy Pramer at 937-308-3619.

### Festival of Sharing

This year's FOS is Saturday, September 17, 2022, 9am-12pm at Otterbein University. We'll have more information in September Faith Links. In the meantime you can go to their website ([fosohio.org](http://fosohio.org)) for more details.

### Save the Date

Next Family Night will be Sunday, September 18, 5pm. Details to follow.

### Thank You

*To Faith Community United Methodist Church with special thanks to Bill and Carol Sykes and Women of Faith,*

*Please accept a huge thank you for your loving hospitality for our team. You have truly modeled the love of Christ to us! We were so tired and you gave us a beautiful facility for our rest; we were famished – you gave us delicious food; we were dirty and sweaty – you*

*provided a shower. You were the hands and feet of God to us.  
 Thank You!  
 The Zozz Fuller Center Underground Railroad  
 Bike Adventure Team*

*Thanks to the VBS and church family donations we were able to provide 40 blankets to the to CWS Blankets Organization. We are very appreciative.*

**FCUM  
 June 2022 Financials**

Monthly Income	\$25,082		YTD Income	\$ 210,643	
Monthly Expenses	\$33,259		YTD Expenses	\$ 178,179	
Difference	\$ (8,178)	-32.60%	Difference	\$ 32,464	15.41%

**PLEASE HELP KEEP IT CLEAN:** Just a reminder that there are no food or drinks (other than water) allowed in the Narthex or Sanctuary.

**USE CAUTION WHEN PARKING:** Please continue to be careful when you are parking as we will not receive our new bumpers until Mid-August.

**Blankets**

We are so grateful for the donations from VBS and from our church family in raising \$1,000, which enabled us to provide 100 blankets. Thank you!!

**Charles Manley Proverbs**

Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly,  
 leave the rest to God

**Deadline for September Faith Links: August 17**



# August 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> 7-9pm-Stephen Ministry-Library  7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	<b>2</b> 6:30-am-7:30pm-Gr. County Bd. of Elections-Voting-FCC 6:30-8:30pm-Trustees-	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:15-10:15- Sunday School-15C, Parlor 10:30-11:30-Worship-Sanctuary	<b>8</b> 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	<b>9</b> 7-8:30pm-SPRC-Lib.	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 2-4pm-Grief Support	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:30-10:30am-Shoes Pick up-FCC
<b>14</b> 9:15-10:15- Sunday School-15C, Parlor 10:30-11:30-Worship-Sanctuary	<b>15</b> 6-8:30pm-Men of Faith- 16 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	<b>16</b> 1-3pm-Dorcas Circle-Room 15 A-B 3:30-4:30pm-Mission Outreach Team Meeting Room 8	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6:30-8pm-Informational Meeting-Sanctuary	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:15-10:15- Sunday School-15C, Parlor 10:30-11:30-Worship-Sanctuary	<b>22</b> 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 6-8pm-Double L-15A& Kitchen
<b>28</b> 9:15-10:00- Sunday School- 15C, Parlor 10:00-10:30-Fellowship Time-15A-B 10:30-11:30-Worship-Sanctuary	<b>29</b> 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			