

November 2022

Rev. Andy Wagner
937-372-7601 office@fcum.org www.fcum.org.
Sunday Worship
9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Contemporary Worship
We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

<u>Date</u>	Attendance Worship	Sunday School
September 25	116	35
October 2	102	36
October 9	100	32
October 16	98	35

From the Pastor

This month of November will be a month filled with holy conferencing.

The North Central Jurisdictional Conference will meet November 2-5 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Jurisdictional Conference is where Bishops are elected and appointed to their positions of leadership within The United Methodist Church. I believe the North Central Jurisdiction will be electing three new bishops, whose appointments will begin on January 1, 2023.

Our Charge Conference for Faith Community UMC will be held on Sunday, November 6, at 3:00PM. Charge Conference is a meeting of the local congregation with the District Superintendent. Items that are voted upon at the yearly Charge Conference include setting the pastor's compensation for the coming year, electing church officers and committee members, and updating our membership list. This year's Charge Conference will be a regional one. Many congregations from this part of the Miami Valley District will meet at the same time here at

FCUM to conduct our business together. Our Administrative Board will meet an hour prior to the Charge Conference in order to discuss all the items that will be voted upon and finalize all of our reports.

Finally, there will be a special session of the West Ohio Annual Conference held on Saturday, November 19. This online Conference will include both a clergy session and a full session. The purpose of this special Annual Conference is to approve the withdrawal of those congregations that have voted to disaffiliate from the UMC and the clergy that have chosen to surrender their United Methodist credentials and their West Ohio membership. I don't know yet how many churches this includes. At a recent clergy gathering, Bishop Palmer indicated it looked to be somewhere in the range of 45 congregations. (There are roughly 900 United Methodist churches in West Ohio.)

As United Methodists, we trust that God works through these times of holy conferencing. Let us pray for the Holy Spirit to pervade all of these gatherings and discussions.

Blessings, Pastor Andy



Stephen Ministry

Seasons of Grief—Living with Loss During during the Holidays

The crisp, cold, colorful days of autumn have arrived. Although it is one of the most beautiful times of the year, Christmas decorations appear in stores before we've had a chance to enjoy fall. For many Halloween has now replaced Thanksgiving as the "kick-off" to an ever-lengthening marathon of holiday preparations and activities.

Even during the best of times, the holidays can tax physical, emotional, and financial resources. A signifi-

cant loss of any kind often adds another layer to the challenge. Unfortunately, withdrawing into a cave and hibernating with bears until spring isn't a practical option. It isn't too early to begin planning and preparing if you or a loved one anticipate that this year's holidays will be difficult. Several opportunities are available to help those of us in this category experience peace, healing, and hope.

Once again, the Stephen Ministry team will sponsor a Blue Christmas service at 2:30 on Sunday, December 4th at Faith Community UMC. Care notes targeting specific difficult situations will be available in the narthex and monthly grief support will meet on Thursday, November 10th and December 8th at 2 p.m. in our parlor.

Ohio's Hospice's Pathways of Hope is offering *Hope for the Holidays* at 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 11th at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 101 Saint Paris Pike, Springfield. This gathering provides a way for grieving individuals and families to honor a lost loved one. Helpful insights and information about coping with holiday grief will be shared. RSVP by December 5th @ 937-258-4991.

Whether you personally are grieving at this time or not, Sarah Young offers the following in the October 17 entry in *Jesus Calling* written as if Jesus himself is speaking to us:

“Anxiety is a result of envisioning the future without Me. So the best defense against worry is staying in communication with Me. When your thoughts turn to Me, you can think much more positively. Remember to listen, as well as to speak, making your thoughts a dialogue with me. If you must consider upcoming events, follow these rules: 1) Do not linger in the future because anxieties sprout up like mushrooms when you wander there. 2) Remember the promise of My continual presence; include Me in any imagery that comes to mind.”

While this might be a HO HO NO!!! year, help is available. Seek it. For additional information, contact Becky Cultice, 937-376-5747 or culticer@sbcglobal.net.

A VOICE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP NOVEMBER 2022

Ecosystem

This word has become part of the English vernacular in the last ten years or so. It relates to a complex network or interconnected system. For instance, “Silicon Valley’s entrepreneurial ecosystem” or “The entire ecosystem of movie and video production will eventually go digital.”

Originally the meaning of ecosystem came from the word ecology, which is the study of the interactions of organisms with each other and their physical environment. In college in the 1960s I was fascinated with ecology and wanted to become an ecologist. After the word ecology was coined in the 1950s, the concept of an ECOSYSTEM was explained by scientists. It is a COMMUNITY of organisms, both plants and animals, that interact with each other and their physical environment.

Our Earth has both terrestrial and marine ecosystems. Our land and oceans have vast numbers of ecosystems. Wherever there are plants and animals living in association with each other, they share in the same ecosystem. Whether it is a woodland, a grassland, a wetland, a mountain, a river or an ocean, they have their own ecosystems. Climate change and global warming are having a very negative effect on many of Earth’s ecosystems.

When the temperature of the ocean increases because the atmosphere above the ocean has gotten warmer because of the increased amount of CO₂ in the air, more ocean becomes more acidic. When ocean water becomes more acidic in areas where there are coral reefs, the acid kills the coral. Living coral reefs are nurseries for many species of fish. Without large populations of fish the marine food chain breaks down and the larger fish in the area don’t have enough food to eat.

This is a good example of a marine ecosystem demonstrating how living things are affected by their physical environment. Human activities make more CO2 and negatively affect Earth's ecosystems.

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

United Methodist Women

Circles:

Women of Faith – Monday, November 21,
1-3pm in the library

Dorcas – Tuesday, November 15, 1-3pm in Room 15 A-B

United Methodist Men

The men of Faith will meet on Monday, November 21 at 6PM in Room 16A&B (Community Center). All men are invited to join us. Each person will bring their meal and beverage. We will have a social time during the meal. A short business meeting will follow at 6:30PM followed by a presentation by Victor Hess. We hope to see you on the 21st.

GARDEN REPORT:The Men of Faith (MOF) once again had a successful garden. We took all produce to either Fish Food Pantry or Family Promises. The following represents our donations:

Zucchini - 17 lbs, Cucumbers - 15 lbs, peppers - 33 lbs, melons- 56 lbs, corn - 23 dozen or 207 lbs. tomatoes 950 lbs for a total of 1,278 lbs of produce to feed the hungry.

We want to thank Mary Ellen and Bob Warner for allowing us to use a plot of land on their farm. The garden was 50X55 feet plus a couple other smaller plots. I also

want to thank the men who helped: Butch Smith, Bill Sykes, Wayne Cook, and Bob Whipp. To God be the Gory!!

We also got a call from St. Andrews Meals for Millions to help glean winter squash in the Wilmington area. We gleaned over 600 lbs and these were split among 3 different food pantries. We brought 195 lbs back to the Xenia Fish Food Pantry. Thanks to Mike Tittle, Bill Vahle, and Bob Whipp for helping me with this project.

John W. Sherer, Coordinator

Please Note

The Double I Class will be studying "The Minor Prophets: God Still Speaks Today" for the next several weeks.

Showers for Blessings

Do you remember Bri Davis? Bri was a dependable young lady who was a member of our youth group and then worked with Susan Fellie to assist with prom preps and many other activities within the church. Bri is expecting a baby boy in December so Sandy Pramer and I thought it most appropriate to bless Bri with a shower for her upcoming new little boy. Set aside Thursday, November 3rd to help us celebrate with Bri.

We will meet in the chapel at 6:30 for story and prayer time and then progress to the Fellowship Hall for the opening of gifts and some light snacks. We hope all the ladies of the church will be able to celebrate with us.

Virginia Pinkerton

FCUM College Crew

Last month, I challenged you to match up our FCUM College Crew students with their major? How did you do? Here is a list of our FCUM college students with their major:

- Ian Ackenhausen - Accounting
- Megan Ackenhausen – Exercise Physiology
- Sarah Creona - Marketing
- Alexandra Fellie - Biochemistry
- Jacob Fox – Games and Animation
- Ciara Horney – Exercise Science
- Kayla Horney – Middle Childhood Education
- Grant Smith – Industrial and Systems Engineering
- Isabel Wickline - Nursing
- Wesley Wickline – Agribusiness with Applied Economics

Now... can you guess where each student attends school? I will provide you with these answers in our next Faith Links.

- Bowling Green State University
- Colorado School of Mines
- Ohio Northern University (2)
- Ohio State University (3)
- Ohio University
- University of Mount Union
- Wright State University

Baptism

Annie Marie Kjersten daughter of Simon and Lauren Kjersten, was baptized on Sunday, October 23.

Thanks

I want to thank each and everyone of you at FCC for your prayers and support during Roger's long health battle and passing. I also want to thank the many dedicated

women and men in the kitchen. They do a wonderful job. Thank you so much. –Suzanne Collins & Carolyn Cochran (Roger's sister)

Passings

Our church family extends prayers and sympathy to Judy Mahan and family on the deaths of her brother, James Barnard and her niece, Christine Holmes, to Mark Wellman and family on the death of his mother Jean Wellman.

FCUM

September 2022 Financials

Monthly Income	\$22,859		YTD Income	\$ 293,178	
Monthly Expenses	\$28,928		YTD Expenses	\$ 263,994	
Difference	\$ (6,069)	-26.55%	Difference	\$ 29,184	9.95%


**Deadline for December Faith Links
November 16**

Manley Proverbs

You will never do anything in this world without courage.
It is the greatest quality of the mind next to honor.



November 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 5:30-7PM-Magic Volleyball practice-FCC 6-8:15pm-Girl Scouts-15A,B,C; 16A-B 6:30-8:30pm-Trustees-Room 8 7-8:30pm-SPRC-Library	2 6:15-7:15pm- Handbell practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary	3 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 1:30-4pm-Women's Club of Xenia-Parlor 6:30-8pm-Showers for Blessings-Chapel, 15A, Kitchen	4	5
6 Daylight Saving Time Ends 9:15-10:15- Sunday School-15C, Parlor 10:30-11:30-Worship 3-4pm-Regional Conference	7 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 7-9pm-Stephen Ministry-Library	8 Election Day 5:30-7pm-Magic Volleyball practice 6-8:45pm-Girl Scout Leader Meeting-15A	9 6:15-7:15-Handbell practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary	10 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 12:30-1:30pm-Membership Care-Parlor 2-4pm-Grief Support-Par. 7-8:30pm-Christian Ed. Meeting-Room 8	11 Veterans Day 9-12pm-Christmas Concert practice Set up	12 9-12:30pm-Christmas Concert Practice-FH, A-C
13 9:15-10:15- Sunday School-15C, Parlor 10:30-11:30-Worship	14 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	15 1-3pm-Dorcas-15A-B 5:30-7pm-Magic Volleyball Girls practice-FCC 6-8:15pm-Girl Scouts-15A,B,C; 16A-B	16 6:15-7:15-Handbell practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary	17 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6:30-8:30pm-Ad Bd Council-15C	18 9-12pm-Christmas Concert practice Set up	19 9-12:30pm-Christmas Concert Practice-FH, A-C
20 9:15-10:15- Sunday School-15C, Parlor 10:30-11:30-Worship	21 2-6pm-Blood Drive-15 A-C 1-3pm-Women of Faith-15C 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15A-B 6-8:30pm-Men of Faith-16A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	22 5:30-7pm-Magic Volleyball Girls practice-FCC 6-8:15pm-Girl Scouts-15ABC; 16A-B	23 6:15-7:15-Handbell practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary.	24 Thanksgiving Day 	25 9-12pm-Christmas Concert practice Set up OFFICE CLOSED	26 9-12:30pm-Christmas Concert Practice-FH, A-C 6-8pm-Double I-15A& Kitchen
27 9:15-10:00- Sunday School- 15C, Parlor 10:30-11:30-Worship	28 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	29 5:30-7pm-Magic Volleyball Girls practice-FC	30 6:15-7:15-Handbell practice-Music Room	Office Closed		