

December 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

Date	Attendance Worship	Sunday School
October 30	98	37
November 6	107	39
November 13	95	37
November 20	102	37

From the Pastor

Dear Faith Community,

At this year's Charge Conference we read the names of members who have not participated with the church in a few years. Soon they will receive a letter from me encouraging them to reengage with the church, or if they have moved, to get connected with another church.

Although this is something we are supposed to do each year, the last time we had such a reading of names was in November of 2019. During the covid pandemic, it was somewhat difficult to know who was still engaged with the church and who was not. Now it is a little more clear.

In preparing to send a letter to those whose names were read this year, I looked for the letter that I sent in 2019. It turns out, that letter was sent out in February 2020. That struck me as amusing. I sent out a letter inviting people back to church just a matter of weeks before our church, and every church, was shut down for months! No wonder it didn't get a good response.

I realize there are many people even now who do not get out and go places as much as they used to before the pandemic. I certainly understand that. For those who have physi-

cal or other health concerns, I am thankful that our worship service is streamed online so that you can worship with us even when you can't be here in person. For those who have simply gotten into the habit of not going to church, I want to encourage you to come back! It's not just those whose names were read at the Charge Conference who need this encouragement; I want to remind everyone that when you are not here you are missed.

We are now in the season of Advent, a time of preparing for the coming of Christ. May this season be a reminder to us to always be prepared and preparing. If you haven't been to church in a while, or if you come only infrequently, make this a season of recommitment to your faith and to your church family. There couldn't be a better time for that than this season of preparing for the celebration of Christmas.

Blessings,
Pastor Andy

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Music - 8:30 p.m.

Service 9:00 p.m.



0000011The Community Christmas Concert Band under the direction of Glen Shaw will present its annual concert on Sunday, December 11 at 3:00 pm in the Sanctuary, featuring

both sacred and secular music. There is no admission fee but donations for the purchase of new music will be accepted. The concert will last about one hour. Please join us for an opportunity to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

College Crew

Thank you, Faith Community. Because of you, our FCUM college crew students each received an overflowing care package from their church family. Popcorn, snacks, toiletries, post-it notes....cards from our children's Sunday School class, gift cards for coffee, and the list goes on. Thank you for your support of the following students who are listed below along

with their school. Keep up the good work in supporting these young adults. I know that you're greatly appreciated for appreciating them!

- Bowling Green State University – Kayla Horney
- Ohio Northern University (2) – Ian and Megan Ackenhausen
- Ohio State University (3) – Sarah Creona, Grant Smith, Wesley Wickline
- Ohio University – Jacob Fox
- University of Mount Union – Ciara Horney
- Wright State University – Isabel Wickline

~~Julie Wickline, FCUM College Crew Coordinator

A Voice for Environmental Stewardship Our Carbon Footprint

When it comes to the crises of global warming and climate change, which I believe, most Americans NOW BELIEVE is real and not a hoax, it is easy for us to feel helpless. We are not helpless.

In previous articles I have written about our CARBON FOOTPRINT, meaning the impact that we are having on our Earth by our daily activities that put excess CO₂ into our atmosphere. When we breathe we exhale CO₂, as all animals do. This is not excess CO₂. Excess CO₂ is the unnecessary CO₂ that we produce by our other daily activities that contribute to abnormal greenhouse gas emissions. There are a few ways that we can do this: 1) Driving low gas mileage cars and trucks. By low gas mileage I mean those vehicles that get less than 40 mpg of gasoline. This includes the vast majority of cars and trucks on the road today. The remedy for this is to drive hybrid or electric vehicles. Most hybrid vehicles (with both gasoline and electric motors) also have low greenhouse gas emissions. For instance, KIA Niro and the Toyota Prius regularly get over 50 mpg with low greenhouse gas emissions. Many car manufacturers are now offering hybrid options and some car makers are offering electric vehicles (EV) which don't use any gasoline but are only powered by an electric engine. EVs don't produce any greenhouse gasses, but the electricity they use comes mostly from fossil fuel burning power plants that still produce greenhouse gas emissions. (2) Forty-seven

percent of our home energy usage comes from heating and cooling. If we are conscious of our energy usage, in cold weather we can keep our homes cooler and wear warmer clothes. In warmer weather we can keep our homes warmer and wear cooler clothes. Keeping our thermostats at 70 degrees Fahrenheit is a good compromise. 3) Thirteen percent of our energy usage is from our lighting. Leaving the lights on in rooms that we are not occupying is wasting electricity and money.

REDUCING OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT IS VERY DOABLE.

Rev. Alan Barone, BA. in science ducation, M.Div., O.C.V.N.

Stephen Ministry

Even during the best of times, the holidays can tax physical, emotional, and financial resources. A significant 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 anticipates 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 4. Care Notes targeting specific difficult situations will be available in the narthex and monthly grief support will meet on Thursday, December 8 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 11 at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1801 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 5 @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 more positively, 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.”

For additional information, contact Becky Cultice, 937-376-5747 or culticer@sbcglobal.net.

St. Paul's Christmas Tree

We will again be sharing Christmas joy with the children at St. Paul's after school program. The children will be able to visit a special shop to choose gifts to give to their families on Christmas. Please consider spreading God's love by choosing an ornament from the tree in the narthex and selecting a small gift (\$5-10) and returning gifts unwrapped by **Sunday, December 4.**

Christmas Cookie Sale

When: Sunday, December 4, 10am-12pm, **Where:** Faith Community Narthex, **Why:** to raise funds to purchase holiday craft supplies for the children in Xenia area shelters. Each plate or container will be sold for \$5.00. You can help by baking your favorite holiday cookies, package in tins, on plates or any festive packaging. Label with the name of the cookie, if they contain any nuts or nut products such as peanut butter, or if they are gluten free. Contact Betsy Murray (937)372-8376.

A Huge Thank You!! Our Thanksgiving Offering for Greene Co. Fish Food Pantry topped \$1350 in monetary donations and a box of supplies. Thanks to all who shared to be a blessing to our neighbors in need. **Faith Community: You are amazing!**

Family Night at Faith Community

Please join us on December 11th at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for our quarterly family night. We will share a meal of soup and Sloppy Joes. There will be good fellowship, singing of Christmas carols, trivia, crafts and decorating cookies. All are welcome!

Sign Up for 2023 Altar Flowers

The flower calendar for 2023 is on the table in the narthex. Your gift of altar flowers enhances the worship service and reflects the beauty of God's World. If you sign up for flowers we can order them or you can order them from your favorite florist. You will receive a reminder call prior to the date. If you have any questions please call the office or Joyce Smith (937)372-6576 or Betsy Murray 937)372-8376.

United Methodist Women

Women of Faith – Monday, December 19, 1-3pm-15C

Dorcas – Tuesday, December 20, 1-3pm, 15A-B

United Methodist Men of Faith

The Men of Faith will meet on Monday, December 19th at 6 PM in Room 16A & B (Community Center). All men are invited to join us. Each person may 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 followed by the installation of new officers for 2023. We will have Christmas Carol singing, and will close with Communion. We hope to see you on the 19th.

Men of Faith Donations for 2022:

Save our Souls(SOS) ministries	\$300.00
Family Promises (IHN)	900.00
The Cleft	900.00
Xenia Fish Food Pantry	950.00
Bridges of Hope	600.00
Paws 4 Ability	350.00
Jeremiah Tree	700.00
HER Story	550.00
Living Well Clinic	300.00

Emerge Recovery	100.00
Donnellan Shelter of Gr. Co.	100.00
UMCOR-Ukraine and local disasters	200.00
Society of St. Andrews/meals for millions	100.00
UMW – for helping with garage sale	200.00
Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts	200.00
TOTAL	6450.00

(Donations from garage sale and Market Place)

We also raised a vegetable garden and took in a total of 1,278 lbs. of produce, mainly corn and tomatoes. All produce was donated to Xena Fish Pantry and Family Promises. We also gleaned 650 lbs. of winter squash and distributed to 3 different food pantries. We also collected Christian bibles. So far, we have sent 900 lbs. of materials. We thank everyone who donated to our garage sale and to the Love Packages and materials for LOVE PACKAGES sent to Third World Countries. So far, we have sent 900 lbs. of materials. We thank everyone who donated to our garage sale and to the Love Packages.

Thanks

On behalf of the Warner family I want to thank everyone very much for the many phone calls, cards, visits, and other acts of kindness after the death of my husband Bob. I want to thank Pastor Andy, Carol Stewart and John Sherer for the beautiful memorial service. I also want to thank Deb Klaty and Crystal Hoskins for their valuable help. We all were very grateful for the lovely dinner after the service and all the effort made to prepare it.

Sincerely, Mary Ellen Warner



Thank you so much for the beautiful get well card you sent me. I so enjoyed reading all the signatures on the card! I am so thankful to God for Faith Community church family. I miss you all! Thank you so much for all your phone calls and prayers.

Carol Stewart

Dear Deb, Crystal, John, Andy and FCUMC

Thank you so much for the blessing to use your wonderful facility for the celebration of the senior football players and their families. You are the best.
Coach P

Thank you to my FCUM community family for my Halloween treats and card. It means so much to know that my "church family" is thinking of me. I miss coming to church but I do watch on Facebook.

Sincerely – Joann Sidders

Passings

Our church family extends prayers and sympathy to family and friends of **Sally Brown** on her death.

FCUM
October 2022 Financials

Monthly Income	\$ 28,931		YTD Income	\$ 322,109	
Monthly Expenses	\$ 26,527		YTD Expenses	\$ 290,521	
Difference	\$ 2,404	8.31%	Difference	\$ 31,588	9.81%

Please Note: Former minister, Rev. Robert McDowell's final sermon as an active minister in the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church will be **June 11, 2023 at 10:30 A.M.** at Athens First United Methodist Church at **2 South College St., Athens, Ohio.** All are welcome to attend and/or send a note of celebration. **(THIS IS A SURPRISE TO PASTOR ROBERT.)**

Deadline for January Faith Links: December 14

Manley Proverbs

It's not what you gather but what you scatter that tells the kind of life you have lived.

(Submitted by Charles Manley)



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**ORDER POINSETTIAS
FOR
CHRISTMAS**



It is time to order your Poinsettias for the Christmas services. The flowers truly beautify the church for all the worshipers. **Please place order form and payment in the offering plate or return to the church office by SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11.** Please indicate how many plants and if you want Red, White, or Pink. The cost per plant is \$10. Make checks payable to Faith Community UMC, mark your check "Poinsettia" in the memo and/or on your envelope. We need to have this form and payment to record your order.

Indicate number of flowers you wish to order in the appropriate areas below.

Number of Red ____ Number of White ____ Number of Pink ____

(Total poinsettias ordered_____) (Amount paid_____ check or cash Please circle


(Name)_____

Given in honor of_____

Given in memory of _____

Your phone number _____

December 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 1:30-4pm-Women's Club of Xenia-Parlor	2 9am-Christmas Concert Set up-FH A-C 3:30-5:30pm-XHS Winter Guard-FCC	3 9-12pm- Christmas Concert Rehearsal-FH A-C 12-3pm-Toward Independence Concert-FCC
4 9:15-10:15- Sunday School-15C, Parlor 10:30-11:30-Worship 10-10:15am- Christmas Cookie Sale-Narthex 2:30pm-Blue Christmas	5 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15-C 7-9pm-Stephen Ministry-Library	6 5:30-7pm-Magic Volleyball practice 6-8:15pm-Girl Scouts-15A,B,C; 16A-B 6:30-8:30pm-Trustees-Room 8 7-8:30pm-SPRC-Library	7 6:15-7:15-Handbell practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary	8 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 2-4pm-Grief Support-Parlor	9 9am-Christmas Concert Set up-FH A-C 3:30-5:30pm-XHS Winter Guard-FCC	10 9-12pm- Christmas Concert Rehearsal-FH A-C
11 9:15-10:15- Sunday School-15C, Parlor 10:30-11:30-Worship 3pm-Community Christmas Band Concert-Sanctuary 5pm-Family Night-15AB	12 6-8:45pm-Dayton Harp Ensemble-Narthex 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15-C	13 5:30-7pm-Magic Volleyball practice-FCC 6-8:45pm-Girl Scouts Leaders Meeting-15A	14 6:15-7:15-Handbell practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary	15 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6-7pm-Staff & Ad Bd.Fellowship-FCC	16 3:30-5:30pm-XHS Winter Guard-FCC	17
18 9:15-10:15- Sunday School-15C, Parlor 10:30-11:30-Worship	19 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	20 1-3pm-Dorcas-Par. 3:30-4:30-Mission Outreach-Rm 8 5:30-7pm-Magic Volleyball practice-FCC 6-8:15pm-Girl Scouts-15ABC; 16A-B	21 6:15-7:15-Handbell practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary.	22 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor	23	24 Candlelight Service Music – 8:30 p.m. Service – 9:00 p.m.
25 Christmas Day 9:15-10:00- Sunday School- 15C, Parlor 10:30-11:30-Worship	26 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	27 5:30-7pm-Magic Volleyball practice-FC	28 6-8pm-Double I – 15A-B 6:15-7:15-Handbell practice-Music Room No choir practice	29 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor	30	31 New Year's Eve