

February 2023

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

Attendance

Date

Worship

Sunday School

January 1

Cancelled due to inclement weather

January 8

76

30

January 15

101

30

From the Pastor

Dear Faith Community,

It's hard for me to believe that my time as your pastor has come to an end. This month, my family and I are meeting a new church family as I begin a new appointment at Faith Community UMC in West Chester. I had anticipated having several more years of ministry with you, and I certainly did not expect a sudden, mid-year move. But I must trust that God is in control of all this and I look forward to what he has in store for me and also for all of you.

The most difficult part, besides saying goodbye to so many good friends, is leaving a church that is in such a good place. We have weathered some pretty severe storms in our short three-and-a-half years together. Not any literal tornadoes, thank God. Many of you know what that's like and I'm grateful that has not been part of my Xenia experience. But we have faced some figurative and spiritual tornadoes, nonetheless.

I'm proud of where Faith Community is, following all the upheaval of the past few years. I know it's God's work and not mine, but I have been blessed to be a part of it. Faith Community is well-

positioned for growth, both numerically and spiritually. I just wish I could be there to see it come to fruition.

But that is not what God has for me. I trust that, just as God is leading me to a church where my gifts can best be used for his people, God is also leading a new pastor to Xenia who will be able to guide you in your next steps. That person will come with gifts and graces that are not mine. I pray that you will be as welcoming and supportive of that new pastor as you have been to me and my family. I will continue to hold you all in prayer, and I look forward to hearing about the good things that I know are about to happen at Faith Community United Methodist in Xenia.

Blessings, Pastor Andy

We will be having a farewell luncheon to show our appreciation for Pastor Andy, Lora and their family after church on Sunday 1/29 in the community center. Please come and join us in a time of fellowship, blessings and thanks for Pastor Andy and his family. Also, consider bringing a card and a note to express your appreciation for all they have done for our church.

Stephen Ministry

The Constancy and Challenge of Change

Ironically, one of the constants in life is change. If we didn't already believe that, we certainly do after all the changes we have experienced since 2020. As we are facing a time of transition in our pastoral leadership I revisited portions of an article that appeared before.

Challenges in life are inevitable. That is a given. Sometimes the challenge is anticipated; sometimes it is unexpected. All of us experience change. Loved ones die; jobs end, as do relationships. People relocate, couples marry, babies are born, and children leave for college. Pastors leave. Change, both good and bad, can take an emotional toll. Guess what? Positive changes can be just as difficult to adjust to as the negative ones.

Sometimes we are able to handle change on our own or with the help of family and friends. Sometimes we need professional help. Sometimes it helps to have a Stephen Minister, a Christian friend, to walk alongside us for as long as needed.

Here are some suggestions that may make it easier to adjust to change:

When good change happens, accept it with grace. Embrace the positive however it shows up and celebrate it. When a negative change is looming, try to look for alternative ways of coping before it actually happens.

Day-to-day changes often go unnoticed in spite of the fact that they occur. It's when we are caught off guard that we are most likely to become discombobulated. Emotional change can be particularly difficult. At times like these it is often almost impossible to be objective. Sometimes we need to process our feelings and that may take time.

If the challenges in our life are overwhelming, we don't have to deal with them by ourselves. Friends, family, support groups, counselors, and our church family may be available, but we have to reach out and ask, which can be hard to do. The love and support of those who care about us can help make these times more bearable.

We don't have to like change, but we have to at least tolerate it when it happens. We need to find a way to cope because change happens whether we like it or not.

A Stephen Minister is there for those going through a time that challenges their ability to keep on keepin' on. A Stephen Minister listens, prays, and encourages. God loves us all, and sometimes a Stephen Minister is His tool to reach out and carry us when we are facing a challenging time. For more information, call the church office or Becky Cultice at 937-376-5747.

Those of us of a certain age remember Sister Sledge's "We Are Family." We at Faith Community are family and resilient. With God's help we will get through this time of change. As we grieve the loss of Pastor Andy, recognize his many gifts, and wish him and his family Godspeed. I challenge us to embrace the changes that will come. May we come together to support, build one another up, comfort, and communicate. This is a time in the life of our church when we may need to take on additional responsibilities, be flexible, step out of our comfort zones, and be open to opportunities for growth. Change, even when unwelcome, allows us to build on the past, move forward, and experience new and exciting things.

Becky Cultice

A Voice for Environmental Stewardship

February 2023

Five Positive Actions That We Can Take

1.Plant trees because they are the lungs of the Earth. They “breathe” in carbon dioxide and “breathe out” oxygen, naturally fighting climate change and global warming.

2.Plant native wildflowers that attract pollinators like bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, moths and other beneficial insects. They make your yard more beautiful. Spring blooming wildflowers are: purple coneflower, painted trillium, Jack in the Pulpit (not Andy), wild columbine and blue lupine. Summer bloomers are: milkweed (attracts Monarch butterflies), blazing stars, blue eyed grass, spotted Joe Pye Weed. Fall bloomers are asters, blue mist flower, bottle gentian, fringed gentian. For a more complete list of seasonal wildflowers with pictures, go to nature.org.

3.Reduce the size of your lawn and plant perennial and annual wildflowers in the space instead. Many people use fertilizers and herbicides on their grass. The runoff from watering your lawn can potentially pollute our watersheds, rivers and oceans. Planting flowers can also save you money and time because there is less mowing. Flowers make your yard more beautiful.

4.Recycle as much paper, metal, glass and plastic as you can. Don't buy products that have non-recyclable packaging. Styrofoam packaging is not recyclable. Most recycling companies will recycle plastics with numbers 1 and 2 in the recycling triangle on the bottom of the container.

5.When you buy your next car or truck, make it a hybrid (both gas and electric battery powered) or an electric battery powered one. They both greatly reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions. They are both more expensive than just a gasoline powered vehicle, but they are much more friendly to our Earth's environment. In order to charge an electric vehicle from a charging station, you still have to use electricity made by your utility company most of which still burn fossil fuels (coal or natural gas) in order to power the turbines that generate the electricity. If you can finance it, get solar panels on your home and charge your electric car directly from the electricity made by the solar panels. Five kw solar panels on or for your home will also reduce the cost of the electricity that you use by at least 60%. WE ARE ALL CAPABLE OF BEING BETTER ENVIRONMENT

STEWARDS. WITH ME, LET'S COMMIT TO DOING AT LEAST 2 OF THE 5 ACTIONS IN 2023 AND INTO THE FUTURE!

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

United Methodist Women

Dorcas Circle will not meet in February and March.

The Men of Faith

Monday, January 16th 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 be conducted at 6:30 PM followed by a planning meeting for 2023 goals, projects, and activities. Everyone who may be participating in upcoming projects are urged to attend

FCUM College Crew

Would you like to be involved helping to support the college students of our church? There are currently two ways that you can do this. One is to make a monetary donation to cover the cost of purchasing 2 boxes of Girl Scout cookies for each of our college students. The other is to send them a Thinking of You card. I will have cards and addressed and stamped envelopes available during the Sundays in February. See me and we can all work together to make sure our college crew knows that we are thinking of them.

Julie Wickline - 937-207-8289

Casserole Care-a-van

Do you know of someone connected to our church who could benefit from our Casserole Care-a-van providing them with a few meals? If so, get with me so that I can let you know the information that I will need to get this set up with our amazing Casserole Care-a-van volunteers. Thank you. ~~Julie Wickline - 937-207-8289.

Baptism

Morgan Davis, daughter of Charles and Blair Davis and granddaughter of Brad and Tami Montgomery, was baptized on Sunday, January 15, 2023

Thanks

To everyone who came to celebrate and love on Baby Theodore at the baby shower, thank you so much for everything! We appreciate all of the sweet hand-made blankets, all the diapers, and all the sweet baby clothes that were given to us. Thank you for showering our little boy in blessings! ❤️

Bri Davis

Dear Faith Community UMC,

As food and gas prices escalate, so do the number of hungry people in our county. On average, we are serving over 950 families per month. Helping the many seniors, disabled veterans and families would be impossible without generous donations like yours. Please accept our heartfelt "Thank you."

Gail Matson, Greene County Fish Food Pantry

Dear Friends of Faith Community,

Just a note to say thanks for all the many kindnesses shown to Larry and me. Larry's continuing long term illness combined with my recent surgery was really overwhelming but the special visits, phone calls, snacks, treats and meals helped so much. We are so grateful.

Also, a really big thank you to the carolers who braved super cold weather to sing for us. It was amazing!

We are truly blessed to be part of the Faith Community family. Peace and blessings ~~The Russells

PLEASE NOTE: The ice maker is not working and the Trustees have decided not to repair it at this time. Anyone needing ice for any function will need to buy it. Any questions please contact Margaret Stidham.

Volunteers Needed

We're still looking for a few volunteers to help answer phones in the office, greet on Sunday mornings and help with the Acolytes program. If you are available for any of these positions, please call Deb Klaty in the church office (937)372-7601. Thank you for your service to the Lord.

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, Joyce Smith (937)372-6576 or Betsy Murray 937)372-8376.

Benevolence Team

We're looking for a few people to help the benevolence team distribute money to those less fortunate. If you are interested, please contact Bob Whipp at (372) 306-8281 or Robert.Whipp@yahoo.com.

Closing Due to Inclement Weather

If the church is going to be closed during the week or for Sunday Worship Services, it will be listed on WHIO(TV 7), 1290AM/95.7FM), WDTN (TV2,CW26), WKEF/WRGT (ABC22/FOX45) and our Facebook page www.facebook.com/FCUM.Xenia

Lions Club

The Lions Club is now also collecting hearing aids in addition to the eyeglasses and cellphones. You can place them in the bins by the education wing. If you have any questions, please call Roger Sanders 937-862-9157.

Prayer Team

Our Prayer team prays for concerns every day and would be blessed to add your request to that list. Go to our website (fcum.org)

and click on Prayer Request link which will take you to the request page. Fill out the form with your name and email address, complete the request section with the information you would like us to pray about and then click on SEND MESSAGE. All requests are confidential and will be on our prayer list for seven days. If you feel your request was answered, please let us know by using the prayer request form. We want to thank God for answering your request. If you don't have access to the internet, phone requests can be made by calling Rosi Mackey at (937)902-9022.

FCUM
December 2022 Financials

Monthly Income	\$ 27,883		YTD Income	\$ 387,789	
Monthly Expenses	\$ 38,172		YTD Expenses	\$ 356,176	
Difference	\$(10,289)	-36.90%	Difference	\$ 31,613	8.15%

**Deadline for March Faith Links:
February 14**

Manley Proverbs
(Submitted by Charles Manley)

A moment of anger can destroy a lifetime of work; whereas a moment of love can break barriers that took a lifetime to build.

Noteable Dates

- February 2 – Groundhog Day
- February 15 – Valentine’s Day
- February 20 – President’s Day
- February 22 – Ash Wednesday

February 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6:15-7:15-pm-Handbells-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice- Sanctuary	2 Groundhog Day 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 12-2:30pm-Woman's Club of Xenia Luncheon-15A & Kitchen	3 3:30-5:30pm-XHS Winter Guard-FCC	4
5 9:15-10:15- Sunday School-15C, Parlor, Rm.11, Edge 10:30-11:30-Worship-S.	6 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15-C 7-8pm-G.C. Special Olymp. Basketball-FCC 7-9-Steph Min.-Library	7 3:30-5:15-XHS Winter Guard-FCC 5:30-7pm-Magic Volleyball practice-FCC 6-8:15pm-Girl Scouts-15A,B,C; 16A-B 6:30-8:30-pm-Trustees-Room 8 7-8:30pm-SPRC-Lib.	8 6:15-7:15-pm-Handbells-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice- Sanctuary	9 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 2-4pm-Grief Support-Par. 7-8:30pm-Christian Ed.#8	10 3:30-5:30pm-XHS Winter Guard-FCC	11
12 9:15-10:15- Sunday School-15C, Parlor Rm.11, Edge 10:30-11:30-Worship	13 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15-C 7-8pm-G.C. Special Olympics Basketball Practice-FCC	14 Valentine's Day 3:30-5:15-XHS Winter Guard-FCC G.S. Leader Mtg.-15A	15 11:30-6pm-G.S. Cookie Pickup- FCC 6:15-7:15-Handbell practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary	16 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor	17 3:30-5:30pm-XHS Winter Guard-FCC	18
19 9:15-10:15- Sunday School-15C, Parlor, 10:30-11:30-Worship Rm.11, Edge	20 Presidents' Day 6-8:30pm-Men of Faith-16A-B 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 7-8pm-G.C. Special Olymp. Basketball -FCC	21 3:30-4:30-Mission Outreach-Rm 8 3:30-5:15-XHS Winter Guard-FCC 5:30-7pm-Magic Volley ball practice-FCC 6-8:15pm-Girl Scouts-15ABC; 16A-B	22 First Day of Lent 6:15-7:15-Handbell practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice Sanctuary	23 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor	24 3:30-5:15-XHS Winter Guard-FCC 5:30-7pm-Magic Volleyball Practice	25 6-8pm-Double I-15A/K
26 9:15-10:15- Sunday School- 15C, Parlor 10:30-11:30-Worship- Rm. 11, Edge	27 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 7-8-Spec. Olymp.-FCC	28 3:30-5:15-Winter Guard-FCC 5:30-7pm-Magic Volley ball practice-FCC				