

March 12, 2023

(**Indicates, please stand as able)

Prelude "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" Handbell Choir
Lowell Mason

Greeting/Life of the Church Pastor Jeff Bandy

**Call to Worship

L: God calls with a blessing.

P: Our help is in God.

L: God calls with a promise.

P: Our help is in God.

L: God calls through our questions.

P: Our help is in God.

L: God calls through the Spirit.

A: Our help is in God.

**Opening Hymn "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" UMH #127

Opening Prayer (unison)

Spirit of help and hope, be with us this day. Breathe into our prayers and praise. Breathe into our spirits. Breathe into our worship with your promise of help, your promise of rebirth, and your promise of blessing. In faith and trust, we pray. Amen.

Children's Moments

OT Lesson Genesis 12:1-4a

L: The Word of God for the People of God.

P: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Prayer Hymn "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart" (v. 1,5) UMH #500

Prayers of the Faithful & the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Worship with Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

**Doxology UMH #95

**Prayer of Dedication

God, our help and our hope, bless these gifts, that they may bring help to the needy and hope to the despairing. Bless us this day, that our very lives may be gifts of help and hope for your world. Amen.

**Gospel Lesson John 3:1-17

L: The Word of God for the People of God.

P: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Ministry of Music Handbell Choir
"Steal Away" Traditional Spiritual

Sermon "Giving It Up: Expectations" Pastor Jeff Bandy

**Closing Hymn "A Charge to Keep I Have" UMH #413

**Sending Forth

Postlude



*The Altar Flowers are given by Janet Schellin
in honor of the Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir.*

Gospel Lesson – John 3: 1-17 (NIV)

Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

³ Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.” ³ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

⁴ “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” ⁹ “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰ “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? ¹¹ Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

WELCOME VISITORS!

If you are visiting with us today, please take a moment to sign our attendance register located in each pew. We welcome you and hope you will come back and worship with us again soon.



Rev. Jeff Bandy

Office Hours M, T, TH 9:00am-3:00pm & by Appt.

Office: (937) 372-7601 ext. 13

pastorjeff@fcum.org ♦ www.fcum.org

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We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

March 12, 2023 – Worship Team

Ushers	Doug Wickilne, Bruce Spitler, Brant Wickline
Greeters	Bob Whipp, Pam Whipp
Acolytes	Evelyn Mahan, Catherine Mosing
Liturgist	Mike Engle
Guest Organist	Jim McPeek
Choir Director	Glen Shaw
Bells Director	Jim McPeek



Monday 13	Cub Scouts Boy Scouts	6:30 pm 7:00 pm	FH 15 A-B FH 15 C
Tuesday 14	Lenten Bible Study Winter Guard Practice Magic Volleyball Practice Girl Scouts Leaders	10:00 am 3:30 pm 5:30 pm 6:00 pm	Parlor FCC FCC FH 15 A
Wednesday 15	Handbell Practice Choir Practice	6:15 pm 7:30 pm	Music Room Sanctuary
Thursday 16	Prayer Shawl Ad Board Council	11:00 am 6:30 pm	Parlor FH 15 C
Friday 17	Winter Guard Practice Magic Volleyball Practice	3:30 pm 5:30 pm	FCC FCC
Saturday 18			
Sunday 19	Sunday School Worship Service	9:15 am 10:30 am	Parlor, 11, 15C, 16A Sanctuary

Sunday School Studies

Double I meet in 15C, Leader Wayne Cook, study of **"The Final Week"** by John Birch.

Open Doors meet in Parlor, Leader Sandy Pramer study of **"The Final Week"** by John Birch.

Grades 6-12 will meet in Rm 16 A-B, Leader Julie Wickline.

Preschool – Grade 5 Join the children in Rm 11 under the leadership of Kiley Fleming and Karen Mossier for Bible Stories and activities to reinforce the Bible Story of the day.

Next Sermon – Sunday, March 19

"Giving It Up: Enemies"
Gospel Lesson

Rev. Jeff Bandy
Luke 19: 37-44

March 12, 2023 Announcements

TODAY IS COINS FOR MISSIONS SUNDAY: Coins will go to the following Ministries supported by the FCUMC mission and outreach team: Bridges of Hope, Fish Pantry and Family Promise.

WOMEN OF FAITH: The Women of Faith Circle will meet on **Monday, March 20, at 1:00pm** in the Parlor. We will be reorganizing the circle; deciding a new name, programs and missions. Any woman of Faith Community is welcome.

ATTENTION ALL MEN: The Men of Faith will meet on **Monday, March 20 at 6PM** 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 6:30PM followed by a meeting discussing the garden and garage sale projects, and other activities. All men especially those who may be participating in upcoming projects are urged to attend.

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE: We will have a blood drive in the Community Center on **Monday, April 3, 2:00pm to 6:00pm**. You can make a reservation for your preferred appointment time to donate by going to www.donortime.com or (937) 461-3220. Remember that your donation can save as many as THREE lives!

LENTEN OFFERING FOR VBS: During the season of Lent through **Easter Sunday, April 9**, the church will be collecting a special offering to support Vacation Bible School. Your gift will help provide for children participating in this year's program. The cost is approximately \$30 per child and our goal is to raise \$3000. VBS Offering Envelopes will be available on the table in the narthex or in the office. Please mark your check VBS. Thank you for your prayers and support as we prepare to explore God's goodness.

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS: Educational Assistance Guidelines and application forms for FCUMC's Educational Assistance are available in the narthex and church office. This year assistance will be offered to graduating high school seniors who are contemplating entering a college or technical school in the fall of 2023 as well as to upper classmen currently enrolled in college. These forms must be completed and returned to the church office by the **April 16, 2023** deadline.

CARD SHOWER: Please join us as we shower Joann Sidders, our oldest church member, with get well or thinking of you cards. Joann is staying with her daughter in Florida recovering from a few health issues that she experienced during her yearly winter visit. Please also pray for her recovery and her return back home to Xenia. Mail cards to: **Joann Sidders, 2409 Bass Bay Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32312**

JACKSON AREA MINISTRIES: Spring is arriving soon! It's time to think about helping the Jackson Area Ministries with their seed project again. The "JAM" program provides garden plants and seeds for the residents in need so they can provide veggies and fruits for their family. Please consider making a donation (mark checks J.A.M. project) and place in the offering plate or drop seed packets into the basket in the narthex.



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