

May 2023

Rev. Jeff Bandy

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>
March 26	99	27
April 2	95	22
April 9 Easter	171	No Classes
April 16	101	31

From the Pastor

The May flowers are blooming and the trees are becoming green again. When the sun is shining and the new growth is springing up it gives us a boost of energy. Our outlook is brighter and we tend to get things done, even if it is spring cleanup around the yard. I feel good to be outside enjoying God's creation. Recently, Suzanne and I went on a walk through the trails at John Bryan State Park. Being on the trails that went along the river really gave us a sense of peace. The beauty we saw, the sounds of the river flowing and the birds chirping, and warmth of the sun filled our hearts with joy.

God's creation invites us into the Lord's presence and proclaims God's characteristics. Paul wrote to the Roman church, declaring, "*Ever since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities — God's eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, because they are understood through the things God has made. So humans are without excuse.*"

((Romans 1:20, CEB). Go out and enjoy what God has created and go with the intention to walk with Jesus praising him for the goodness of new life we have in him. As you take in the goodness of nature consider the qualities of God that are revealed: Creative, Powerful, Purposeful, Lifegiving, and so much more. What characteristics do your senses detect? Praise God for all you experience.

**Joy and Peace,
Pastor Jeff**

Stephen Ministry

Why Are We So Reluctant to Ask for Help?

“I can do it myself!” An angry toddler screamed and pushed away her parent who was trying to help her. “I can do it myself!” How many of us have observed a similar scenario? How many of us may have even been the screaming toddler? As adults we can still have this attitude of “I can do it myself!”

Over the many years I have been a part of Stephen Ministry, I have witnessed more than a few refusals—polite refusals—but refusals nevertheless. The refusal often comes as “I don’t want to be a burden,” “You must have people who need help much more than I do,” or “It’s not so bad; I’ll be fine.”

What is behind this reluctance? Pride, fear of losing control, or shame might be part of the reason even when the help is needed and certainly could be beneficial. Maybe we can do it ourselves, but why should we when we don’t have to?

We have all heard the expression that it is better to give than receive. I believe the reverse is true more often than we might realize. As my neighbor reminds me if I am the least bit reluctant to accept something she’s offered, “Don’t take away my blessing.” It is important for us to be gracious receivers as well as gracious givers.

It takes courage and humility to ask for help. We are called to be a blessing to others. It is not a one-way street. When we accept care we are engaging in God’s work too.

We are honoring the one offering help. Relationships develop and deepen. There are times when all of us need help, and then there are times when we can offer support.

At Faith Community we have many opportunities to give and receive. Stephen Ministry is one. Stephen Ministry provides confidential, Christian, one-on-one care for as long as is needed. To learn more about Stephen Ministry and how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, contact Becky Cultice, 937-376-5747.

As part of our desire to care for one another, we want to know if you or someone you know would appreciate a visit. If there is someone in the hospital, nursing home, or unable to get to church, please let the church office know (937-372-7601). Our Nursing Home Visitation contact persons are Betsy Murray (937-372-8376) and Joyce Smith (937-372-6576).

Have you heard about our Casserole CAREa-van? It's a meal ministry. Contact person: Julie Wickline (937-207-8289) or wicklinecasa@aol.com. Grief support meets the second Thursday of each month at 2 pm in the church parlor. Sandy Pramer (937-307-3619) facilitates that group and is the contact person. In each of these cases, there is an opportunity to give as well as to receive. We all have seasons in our lives when we can share our time and our talents. If you are in a position to help in any of these areas, we would welcome hearing from you. We are family and as family we want to support one another as much as we can. As the song by Jars of Clay suggests, "They'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love"—the love we receive as well as the love we give.

A Voice for Environmental Stewardship

April 2023

I have often wondered if my monthly articles on ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP have any motivational impact on our congregation.

In this article I would like to propose the creation of a **Green Team** for Faith Community UMC. It would be in conjunction with the Board of Trustees. I was especially encouraged

by the article in the center of the March-April edition of the Upper Room Daily Devotional by Andrew Garland Breeden. He suggests, as a consequence of our love for our Earth and our commitment to environmental stewardship, that congregations create **Green Teams**.

He suggests several things that **Green Teams** could do. I have added a couple myself. They cover a wide range of suggestions:

1. A litter pick up day in our community
2. A church-wide recycling program
3. A beautiful perennial and annual wildflower garden in the front of the church around the large structure that has the name of the church on it
4. Investigation into getting Solar Panels for our church
5. Planting more beautiful trees on our church property.

These are just a few ways that we can address environmental stewardship as a congregation. If you are interested in forming and being part of a **Green Team**, please contact me at 937-416-9567 (text message). Again, this would be in conjunction with the Board of Trustees.

Rev. Alan Barone, Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist

United Methodist Women

Women United Circle (formerly Women of Faith) will meet on Monday, May 15 at 1:00 P.M. in the Parlor. All women are welcome to attend.

Dorcas Circle will meet Tuesday, April 16, 1-3:00PM in the Parlor.

Men of Faith

The Men of Faith will meet on Monday, May 15 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 meet-

ing will be conducted at 6:30 PM followed by a meeting discussing the garden and garage sales projects, and other activities. All men, especially those who may be participating in upcoming projects are urged to attend.

Garage Sale Notice

The Men of Faith Community have set the date of our annual Garage Sale to be September 8th and 9th. Items can be dropped off Thursday, September 7th from 12 noon until 8 PM and Friday morning, September 10th from 9 AM until 12 noon. The Garage Sale will run from Friday, September 8th, 6-8 Pm and Saturday, September 9th from 9 AM to 12 noon. If you have furniture or large items you would like to have picked up early, let Bob Whipp know. We have storage in the garage and may post items on Market Place to sell ahead of the garage sale date. This has worked very well in the past. For pickup or more information, call Bob Whipp at 937-306-8281 or email him at RobertWhipp@Yahoo.com. All proceeds go toward local missions and projects. Thanks for your support.

Would You Like Us To Pray For You Or Your Loved One?

We have a prayer team that prays for concerns every day and would be blessed to add your request to that list. To place a prayer request you can go to our website (fcum.org) and click on the 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 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. You may also email

prayerchain@fcum.org. If you don't have access to the internet, phone requests can be made by calling Rosi Mackey at (937) 902-9022.

Are you getting our Faith Links Newsletter?

Our monthly newsletter is mailed out via Bulk Rate and we have to mail at least 200 pieces to get the discounted postage price. Our address list is close to running below 200. Please notify the office if you would like to be added to the mailing list.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry is expanding and we need your help. Besides the prayer shawls and lap blankets, we are now also making chemo hats for those suffering hair loss due to chemo treatments. Please let the office know if you are aware of anyone who would find comfort in these hats, prayer shawls, or lap blankets given for those who are going through serious injuries, surgeries, illnesses or grief of death, divorce, job loss, depression or loneliness. We will see that they receive our gift.

We are also asking for more volunteers who knit or crochet to join our Thursday group (11-12:30) or would like to do projects at home. We very much would appreciate those who can teach these skills or can help problem-shoot for new members wanting to learn these skills. Please call Judy Mahan at (937)-372-5711 or (937)416-4015.

V.B.S. 2023

Vacation Bible School is set for July 17-21. We are in the organizing process and more detailed information will follow in Faith Links June edition. If you would like to volunteer with our crew, please contact Betsy Murray @ 937-768-1143 or Joyce Smith @ 937-609-3907.

Please Consider Helping West Ohio Conference Collection

Shampoo (12-19oz size, Laundry Detergent (109-150 oz. size) are needed. There will be collection boxes in the narthex during the month of May. These items will be distributed to those in need, especially in the wake of disasters across the states.

Passings

Prayers and sympathy are extended to Kim Nelson and family on the death of her husband Kevin Nelson.

Thank You

Thank you so much Faith Community. Because we are part of such a generous and thoughtful congregation, we were able to send 67 seed packets and \$175 to Jackson Area Ministries. Also, your generous Lenten offering for Vacation Bible School surpassed our goal of \$3,000.

Dear Faith Community,

Thank you for your recent support of Family Promise. We appreciate your generous gift and helping those in need.

If you would like a personal tour of the facility or to talk about the impact your gift has made, please contact me at jwofford@familypromisegreeneco.org.

Jeremy Wofford, Board of Trustees

Deadline for June Faith Links: May 17

FCUM
March 2023 Financials

Monthly Income	\$ 22,088	
Monthly Expenses	\$ 34,348	
Difference	\$(12,261)	-55.51%

YTD Income	\$ 97,831	
YTD Expenses	\$ 88,352	
Difference	\$ 9,479	9.69%



**Veterans are a symbol of what
makes our nation great, and we
must never forget all they have done
to ensure our freedom.**

FATHER'S DAY CARNATIONS

It is time to order carnations for Father's Day. Place your order at the table in the Narthex before or after the church service on May 2, June 4 and June 11. The order form and payment must be made in the office no later than noon on June 12. Please indicate how many red and white carnations you want to order. The cost per carnation is \$2.00. Make checks payable to Faith Community UMC and mark your check "Carnations" in the memo area. We need to have this form and payment in order to correctly place and record your order.

(#)_____red carnations (#)_____white carnations

Amount paid _____(check or cash (please circle))


Given by: (Your name)_____

Given in honor of (red carnations):_____

Given in memory of (white carnations): _____

If you purchase flowers, you may pick them up immediately following the service on Father's Day. Flowers not picked up on Father's Day may be picked up during regular office hours Monday, June 19 through Friday, June 23. Thank you.

May 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 7-9pm-Stephen Ministry-Library	2 10-11:3am-Bible Study-Parlor 5:30-7pm-Girls Volleyball-FCC 6-8:15pm-Girl Scouts-15A,B,C; 16 A-B 6:30-8:30pm-Trustees-Parlor 7-9pm-Scoutmaster's Office	3 6:15-7:15pm- Handbells- Music Room No Choir Practice	4 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 1:30-4pm-Women's Club of Xenia-Parlor	5 5:30-7pm-Girls Volleyball Practice-FCC	6
7 9:15-10:15am-Sunday School 10:30-11:30am-Worship 12pm-1pm-Educational Assistance Interviews-Parlor	8 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	9 10-11:3am-Bible Study-Parlor 5:30-7pm-Girls Volleyball-FCC 6-8:45pm-G.S. Leader Meeting-15A	10 6:15-7:15pm- Handbells- Music Room No Choir Practice	11 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 12:30-1:30pm-Membership Care-Parlor 2-4pm-Grief Support-Parlor	12 5:30-7pm-Girls Volleyball Practice-FCC	13
14 Mother's Day 9:15-10:15am-Sunday School 10:30-11:30am-Worship	15 1-3pm-Women United Circle-Parlor 6-8:30pm-Men of Faith-16A-B 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	16 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 1-3pm-Dorcas-15A-B 5:30-7pm-Girls Volleyball-FCC 6-8:15pm-Girl Scouts-15A,B,C; 16 A-B	17 6:15-7:15pm-Handbells-Music Room 7:30pm-Choir-Sanctuary	18 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6:60-8:30pm-Ad Board Council-Room 15C	19 5:30-7pm-Girls Volleyball Practice-FCC	20
21 9:15-10:15am-Sunday School 10:30-11:30am-Worship	22 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	23 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 5:30-7pm-Girls Volleyball-FCC	24 6:15-7:15pm-Handbells-Music Room 7:30pm-Choir-Sanctuary	25 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor	26 5:30-7pm-Girls Volleyball Practice-FCC	27 6-8pm-Double I-15A
28 9:15-10:15am-Sunday School 10am-10:30am-Fellowship Time-15A,B 10:30-11:30am-Worship	29 Memorial Day- Office Closed 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	30 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 5:30-7pm-Girls Volleyball-FCC	31 6:15-7:15pm-Handbells-Music Room 7:30pm-Choir-Sanctuary			