

## June 2023

**Rev. Jeff Bandy**  
**937-372-7601** [office@fcum.org](mailto:office@fcum.org) [www.fcum.org](http://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>
April 24	95	37
April 30	101	35
May 7	108	33
May 14	99	30
May 21	114	29

### From the Pastor

June has arrived which means it is time for the Annual Conference of the West Ohio Conference which will be June 1<sup>st</sup> thru June 3<sup>rd</sup>. This year it is being held at the Dayton Convention Center which is very convenient for us in the Miami Valley District. This year's conference has the theme "Committed, Connected, Community." The inspiration comes from Hebrews 10:23-25 which encourages, "*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together; as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*" (NIV)

Gathering together at the conference as the community of committed believers is a reminder of our connectedness.

Hoever, over the past several years so many different things have

separated us as individuals, local churches, conferences, and communities. In many ways we have given up meeting together. I want to encourage everyone to reconnect. Reconnect with friends, family, community, and of course your church family. We are created to be in relationship, first with God, and also with one another. It is when we are together that we are able to encourage each other in our commitment to Christ, which leads us to extend love to our community. Here at Faith Community we claim we are connected and committed to “Sharing Faith, Building Community.” What can we do to make this more and more a reality that is undeniable to us and to our neighbors?

Joy and Peace,  
Pastor Jeff

### **Stephen Ministry**

Stephen Leader Lynn Engle offers the following review of the newest acquisition to our Stephen Ministry library: **The Gift of Empathy by Joel P. Brescher and Kenneth C. Hauck**

*The Gift of Empathy* is a newly released resource from Stephen Ministries. The tag line on the book is “Helping others feel valued, cared for, and understood. Stephen Ministers have been trained to listen and offer support. But what if you aren’t a Stephen Minister, or you just want a book that will give you an insight into Stephen Ministry, or give you some tools for communicating with others in stressful situations? This book may be just what you need.

So what exactly is empathy? When we interact and talk with others, most of the time we are trying to formulate a response. That is listening with our head. Empathy is listening with our hearts and building relationship with that person. This book gives you the tools to step out of your comfort zone and talk with others. As an example, I was at a doctor’s

appointment and the technician was looking anxious. I asked if she was having a stressful day, and she got teary eyed for a minute and said her in-laws had both passed away unexpectedly. I expressed my sympathy and told her I would be praying for her situation in my head all day. And I did pray. Being empathetic isn't a difficult or time-consuming way of life. It's treating hurting people the way you would want to be treated. Also realizing that most everyone is hurting in some way. Being empathetic and understanding might have added an extra minute to that appointment, but we both went away from the experience feeling better.

How do you empathize with your parents? It's in the book. Children? Co-workers? Siblings? Friends? Your spouse? It's all in the book. Helping people feel valued and cared for and understood is something we all should aspire to do. This book will be available in the church library with the other Stephen Ministry resources.

Soon after we read *The Gift of Empathy* we were contacted by Stephen Ministries, St. Louis. They are working on a discussion guide to accompany the book and asked us to participate in piloting this additional resource. We are very excited to share this opportunity. As we hope you already know, *The Gift of Empathy* Pilot Group will run as an 8-week Sunday School class beginning on June 4. Participants will be asked to read the book and provide feedback during class. This is a compact book and the reading will be less than an hour per week. Books will be provided and you do not need to be a Stephen Minister to participate. The content is applicable, helpful, and accessible to all! Our feedback will be shared with the authors to aid them as they finalize the discussion guide that is targeted for publication next year. You do not need to be in Stephen Ministries to participate. If you would like to join us, please call or text Lynn Engle at 937-409-0667.

## **A Voice for Environmental Stewardship**

### **June 2023 – Trees and Our Climate**

We know that the leaves on trees “breathe in” carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and produce oxygen during the process of photosynthesis. They are literally the LUNGS OF THE EARTH. All animals need oxygen to breathe in order to live. Whenever we can plant a tree or save a tree we are doing something very good for our Earth. The more trees that are growing on the Earth the better it is for all animal life on our planet.

A certain amount of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gasses (chg) in our atmosphere is necessary in order to keep our planet warm and livable, but excess greenhouse gasses heat up our atmosphere and our whole planet creating unacceptable global warming. When our atmosphere is overheated it heats up our oceans which cover 70% of our earth’s surface. When our oceans heat up there is more evaporation and this fuels much more rain over the land. Huge amounts of rainfall over the land cause rivers to flood, overwhelming communities and farmland. Floods like this create much human suffering and economic loss. It is all tied together. When our climate changes weather patterns, weather becomes erratic and droughts occur more frequently. The drought in Ohio last summer caused summer crops to produce only 60% of the normal harvest, creating economic hardship for our farmers.

Anything and everything that we can do in order to reduce the amount of greenhouse gasses that we produce will be good for the health of our planet. Driving less, walking or riding a bike for short distance errands, driving a high miles per gallon of gasoline car, driving a hybrid or electric vehicle would be good. Using Green Cats buses whenever possible is also good. Our electric utilities still burn a lot of coal and natural gas (fossil fuels) to power their turbines that generate our electricity. Perhaps you have gotten letters from CLEAN CHOICE ENERGY which produces electricity from large arrays of solar

panels and wind turbines, which is clean energy and does not add greenhouse gasses to our atmosphere. We can also get solar panels for our homes that will significantly reduce our reliance on the polluting electric utilities. The cost of solar panels for homes keeps dropping.

The time to act is now. This is based on well-established climate science for the last thirty years, in spite of the statements of the climate change deniers. Zoologists, Ecologists, physicists and many other scientists have been saying that we are in the midst of a **CLIMATE CRISIS**. Even large numbers of animal species are disappearing and becoming extinct because of climate change. The time to support climate change remedies is **NOW**. **IF WE DON'T SUPPORT CLIMATE CHANGE REMEDIES, OUR PLANET Earth** will become a much different place for our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. It is an ethical and spiritual issue. **THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW!!**

Rev. Alan Barone, B.A. in Science Education, M.Div.,  
Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist

## **Graduation**

On Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup> we celebrated the high school graduation of our own Grace Smith. Grace is the daughter of Robert and Shannon Smith, and she recently graduated from Xenia High School. It has been our pleasure to watch Grace grow in her years at FCUM. She likes to support the church by helping with Easter breakfasts and egg hunts, she served as an acolyte for many years, and she went through confirmation here as well. She actively participated at Xenia High in the National Honor Society and on the swim team and also volunteered at the fish food pantry. Please wish Grace all the best as she next will attend the University of Cincinnati and major in Nursing. Congratulations Grace.

## **United Methodist Women**

**Women United Circle** (formerly Women of Faith) will meet on Monday, June 19 at 1:00 P.M. in the Parlor. All women are welcome to attend.

**Dorcas Circle** will meet Tuesday, June 20, 1:00 P.M. in the Parlor.

## **Men of Faith**

The Men of Faith will meet on Monday, June 19 at 6 PM in Room 16A & B (Community Center) All men are invited to join us. PIZZA will be provided so you will not need to bring a meal. We will have a social time during the meal. We are continuing our study, *Rooted: Grow Deep, Live Strong*, 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.

## **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](http://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 Fath 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.

### **Gardening Opportunity**

Do you like to garden? The Men of Faith are planning to plant a garden this year to help supply fresh vegetables to the Xenia Food Pantry. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Bob (Butch) Smith at 937-532-6164.

### **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 in touch 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.

Juylie Wickline (937) 207-8289.

### **Passings**

Faith Community extends prayers and condolences to the Blackburn and Montgomery families on the death of **Stephanie Blackburn**.

## Thank You

Dear Faith Community,

*I just wanted to say thank you for helping me get my electric turned back on. I have never had anything turned off before. I thank you and God for the blessing of your help.*

*Melissa Brinegar*

*The Family Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone for their generosity; we have received an entire cupboard- full of empty containers which will be used for leftovers, etc.*

### FCUM

#### April 2023 Financials

Monthly Income	\$26,279		YTD Income	\$124,110	
Monthly Expenses	\$27,076		YTD Expenses	\$115,428	
Difference	\$ (797)	-3.03%	Difference	\$ 8,682	7.00%

**Deadline for July Faith Links: June 16**

## Flag Day

Many Americans celebrate Flag Day by displaying the Red, White and Blue in front of homes and businesses. The day commemorates the adoption of the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of the United States.

Both President Wilson, in 1916, and President Coolidge, in 1927, issued proclamations asking for June 14 to be observed as the National Flag Day. But it wasn't until August 3, 1949 that Congress approved the national observance, and President Harry Truman signed it into law.





## 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 June 4 and June 11. Order form and payment must be 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.

# June 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1</b> <b>8am-7pm-West Ohio Conference-Dayton Convention Center</b> 11am-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 12-2:30pm-Women's Club of Xenia Luncheon-15A-B&Kitchen	<b>2</b> <b>9am-6pm-West Ohio Conference-Dayton Convention Center</b>  5:30-7pm-Girls Volleyball Practice-FCC	<b>3</b> <b>8:30-12:30pm-West Ohio Conference-Dayton Convention Center</b>
<b>4</b> 9:15-10:15am-Sunday School 10:30-11:30am-Worship	<b>5</b> 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C  7-9pm-Stephen Ministry Library	<b>6</b> 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 5:30-7pm-Girls Volleyball-FCC 6:30-8:30pm-Trustees-Parlor 7-8:30pm-SPRC-Library	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 2-4pm-Grief Support Parlor 7-8:30pm-Christian Ed Meeting-Room 8 7-8:30pm-Unbroken Circle-Library	<b>9</b> Organ Tuning  5:30-7pm-Girls Volleyball Practice-FCC	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>  9:15-10:15am-Sunday School  10:30-11:30am-Worship	<b>12</b>  7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	<b>13</b> 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor  5:30-7pm-Girls Volleyball-FCC	<b>14</b> <b>Flag Day</b>  	<b>15</b> 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor  6:60-8:30pm-Ad Board Council-Room 15C	<b>16 F.L. Deadline</b> 9-12pm-UMW-Carnation Cutting/Vases for Father's Day  5:30-7pm-Girls Volleyball Practice-FCC	<b>17</b>
<b>18 Father's Day</b> 9:15-10:15am-Sunday School  10:30-11:30am-Worship	<b>19</b> 1-3pm-Women United Circle-Parlor 6-8:30pm-Men of Faith-16 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	<b>20</b> 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 1-3pm-Dorcas Circle-15 A-B 3:30-4:30pm-Mission Outreach Team-Parlor 5:30-7pm-Girls Volleyball-FCC	<b>21 Summer Begins</b>	<b>22</b>  11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor	<b>23</b>  5:30-7pm-Girls Volleyball Practice-FCC	<b>24</b>  6-8pm-Double I-15A/ Kitchen
<b>25</b> 9:15-10:15am-Sunday School 10am-10:30am-Fellowship Time-15A,B  10:30-11:30am-Worship	<b>26</b>  7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	<b>27</b> 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor  5:30-7pm-Girls Volleyball-FCC	<b>28</b> 9am-12pm-Faith Links Mailing	<b>29</b>  11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor	<b>30</b>	