

## July 23, 2023

(\*\*Indicates, please stand as able)

Greeting/Life of the Church

Prelude Elaine Grayson  
"What a Friend We Have in Jesus" Charles Converse

\*\*Call to Worship

Liturgist: This is none other than the house of God. This is nothing less than the gate of heaven.

**People: Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

Liturgist: God hems us in, behind and before, and lays hands of blessing upon us.

**People: Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

Liturgist: Rest in the majesty of our God. Give thanks and sing of God's glory.

**People: Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

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

Opening Prayer (unison)

**Holy Mystery, we yearn to grow closer to you this day. When our spirits grow unsettled, meet us in our need. When we seek isolation from the unrest of our time, remind us how the wheat and weeds grow together until the harvest. When we feel captive to the pressures of this world, remind us that we need not succumb to our fears, for you have given us a spirit of adoption as children of God. Pursue us and hold us near, Gentle One, that we may truly be set free. Amen.**

Children's Moments

Prayer Hymn "Near to the Heart of God" UMH #472

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.**

Offering/Offertory Elaine Grayson  
"Morning Hymn" Gordon Young

\*\*Doxology UMH #95

\*\*Prayer of Dedication

**God of dreams and visions, we offer you our gifts this day in gratitude and praise for your angels who come to bring us your blessings. May this offering be a sign of our commitment to be a blessing to all the peoples of the earth. Amen.**

Scripture Reading Genesis 28:10-19  
L: The Word of God for the People of God.  
**P: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Ministry of Music Michaela Skaggs, vocal solo; Gene Foiles, piano  
"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

Sermon "Sacred Place" Pastor Jeff Bandy

\*\*Closing Hymn "O Come and Dwell in Me" UMH #388

\*\*Sending Forth

Postlude Elaine Grayson  
"Laudes Domini" Gordon Young



*The Altar Flowers are given by John & Carolyn Bailey  
in celebration of 57 years of marriage.*

## Scripture Reading – Genesis 28:10-19 (NIV)

### Jacob's Dream at Bethel

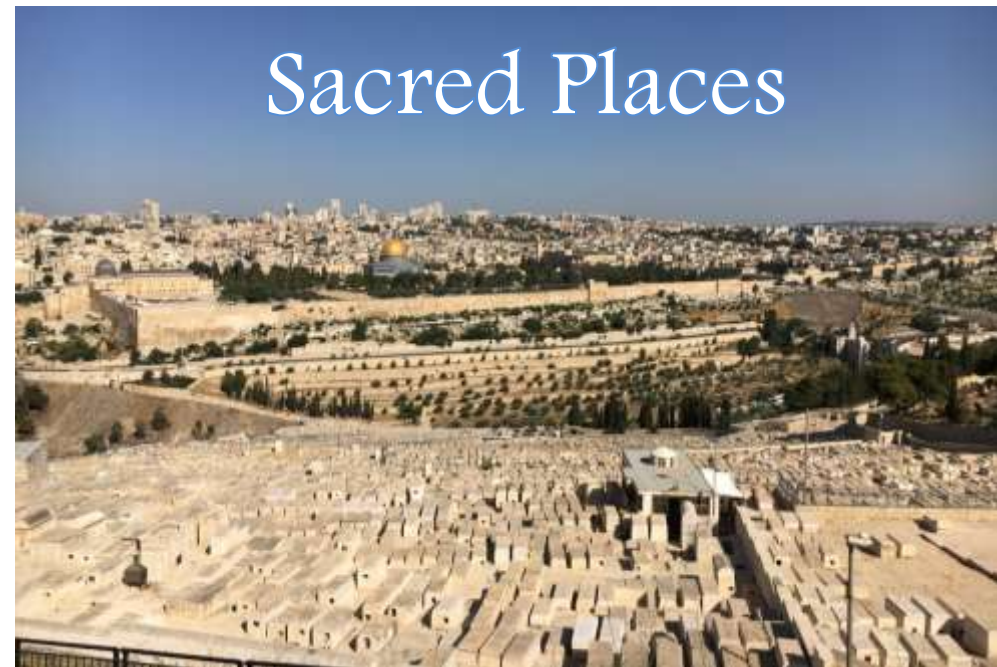
<sup>10</sup> Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. <sup>11</sup> When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. <sup>12</sup> He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. <sup>13</sup> There above it stood the LORD, and he said: "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. <sup>14</sup> Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. <sup>15</sup> I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

<sup>16</sup> When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." <sup>17</sup> He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

<sup>18</sup> Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. <sup>19</sup> He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

#### 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.



## Sacred Places



### Rev. Jeff Bandy

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

Office: (937) 372-7601 ext. 13

[pastorjeff@fcum.org](mailto:pastorjeff@fcum.org) ♦ [www.fcum.org](http://www.fcum.org)

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**We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation**

### July 23, 2023 - Worship Team

Ushers

Gerald Mahan, Chad Mossing,  
Gary Allen, Will Mossing

Greeters

Jim Osburn, Joyce Osburn

Liturgist

Julie Wickline

Guest Organist

Elaine Grayson



Monday 24	Bike Hope Love Overnight Boy Scouts	5:00 pm 7:00 pm	FCC, FH A-B, Kit Rm 16 C
Tuesday 25	Bike Hope Love Overnight Bible Study	Out 8 am 10:00 am	FCC Parlor
Wednesday 26			
Thursday 27	District Laity Retreat Prayer Shawl	9:30 am 11:00 am	FCC, 15A,B,C, 16 A,B Parlor
Friday 28	Shoes 4 Shoeless Set Up	9:00 am	FCC
Saturday 29	Shoes 4 Shoeless Measuring Day Double I Dinner	9:30 am  6:00 pm	FCC, Kitchen  FC 15 A, Kitchen
Sunday 30	Sunday School Worship Service	9:15 am 10:30 am	16A, FH 15C Sanctuary

### Sunday School Studies

**Double I** meet in 15C, Leader Wayne Cook, study of "A Bible Study on "The Screwtape Letters"."

**Summer Sunday School** will meet in Rm 16A-B, Leaders Lynn Engle and Becky Cultice, study of "The Gift of Empathy."

### Next Sermon – Sunday, July 30

"God Intercedes"  
Scripture Lesson

Rev. Jeff Bandy  
Romans 8: 26-39

## July 23, 2023 Announcements

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**FOOD DRIVE TODAY!** Let's help our neighbors. The Missions Team will be having a food drive on **Sunday, Jul 23**. If you weren't able to bring any food, please consider making a monetary donation and mark your checks: Xenia area Fish Food Bank.  
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**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS GOING STRONG!** We would like to thank everyone who has participated in VBS this year by volunteering their time or donating money so we could spread GOD'S LIGHT to so many children. We averaged about 74 children per day. This year the children's donations are going to Wings of the Morning. If you would like to participate also, please put Wings of the Morning on the memo line of your check or on the envelope and drop in the offering plate on **Sunday, Jul 23**.  
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**SHOES 4 THE SHOELESS:** The children will come in to be sized on **Saturday, Jul 29, 9:30-10:30am** and return on **Saturday, Aug 12, 9:30-10:30am** to pick up their new shoes. This gives our congregation a chance to get involved by purchasing the shoes. We will have a "shoe tree" in the narthex on **Sunday, Jul 30** and any shoes purchased can be brought to church on **Sunday, Aug 6**. If you would like to volunteer on either of those Saturdays or have any questions please call Sandy Pramer at (937) 307-3619.  
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**TRIPLE BABY SHOWER!** Surprise! We actually have 3 babies to celebrate. Please join us for a baby shower for Erica Stone, having a boy; and Kara Paredes (Pastor Jeff & Suzanne's daughter), having a girl; and the new addition is Jaylynn Greene who just had a baby girl on July 4th. We will celebrate on **Wednesday, Aug 2 at 7:00pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Hope to see you there.  
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**TEE SHIRT SALE:** There has been some interest expressed in getting some t-shirts made with FCUM on them. Some groups of people thought it would be nice when out serving in the community. Short sleeved shirts would cost \$10 and long sleeved shirts \$15. XXL and larger would be slightly more. If you or your group are interested, please contact the church office or Margaret Stidham (937) 768-4503.  
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**WE NEED GREETERS:** Would you like to be a greeter on Sunday mornings? We have a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex and you can choose the days you would like to greet. Thank you for your service to the Lord.  
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**WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO BE ON OUR PRAYER TEAM?** The prayer requests are confidential within the prayer team. If you are interested, go to the church website ([fcum.org](http://fcum.org)), click on the Prayer Request link, then put in your name and email address. In the space for prayer requests you can say that you want to be added to the PRAYER TEAM, then click the SEND MESSAGE button and we will add your email address to the team. You can also email your request to join the team to: [prayerchain@fcum.org](mailto:prayerchain@fcum.org). If you don't have access to the internet you can be put on our phone prayer team by calling Rosi Mackey at (937) 902-9022.  
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