

## August 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>S.S.</u> |
|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| June 25     | 90             | 36          |
| July 2      | 94             | 31          |
| July 9      | 83             | 26          |
| July 16     | 79             | 27          |

## From the Pastor

At Vacation Bible School this year we taught the children to shine the light of Jesus wherever they went. For the most part, when we think about children, they have no problem with shining light through their joyful and playful interactions with the world. However, many of us adults have a harder time with being bright beacons for the world around us because of our awareness to so much darkness in the world.

*Jesus shared, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12).*

We can come up with reasons as to why we don't readily radiate the light of Christ, but that's not the call on our lives.

Jesus sent us out as his representatives and he is the light of the world. That means we are filled with the light. Darkness can surround us, but in Christ darkness cannot overcome us. Shining the light of Jesus means we disperse the darkness wherever we are through how we respond to every situation we encounter. It isn't hard to light up a room when we enter it following Jesus. Remember, Jesus is the light of life. Be a light and together let's bring life to the world around us.

In Christ,  
Pastor Jeff

Please note that Faith Community will be participating in the Community Worship in the Park on Sunday, August 20 at 10:30am. There will be no Sunday School at our church.

## **A Voice for Environmental Stewardship August 2023**

### **Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve**

As a retirement occupation in 2014 I got training from the Ohio State University Extension and became an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist. Since 2014, I have worked at the Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve in Clifton, Ohio. Most of the time I worked at the Nature Center two Saturdays a month, April through October. As children, youth and adults come into the Nature Center they see many interesting displays including terrestrial and aquatic turtles, a longnose gar, and a large honeybee hive. We have on tables about 30 pelts of Ohio mammals and several mammals that have been preserved by a taxidermist. We also have numerous birds on a high shelf including a Baltimore Oriole, different ducks, a red tailed hawk, a kestrel, and a few owls including a great horned owl. We have displays of any species of insects, and of oak leaves. In case you are

wondering how we got these animals if we are a nature reserve, **WE DID NOT KILL THEM FOR OUR DISPLAYS**, but they were gifts from individuals and the State of Ohio for our Nature Center for Education.

Outside in the forest we have several trails surrounded by over 300 species of wildflowers, and over 100 species of deciduous trees and shrubs, many species of birds singing in the trees and innumerable invertebrates flying through the air and on the ground.

A nature preserve is a place where all living things are protected from human intervention like picking wildflowers, cutting down trees, hunting or fishing. There are currently 140 State Nature Preserves in Ohio. We who work at these nature preserves are committed to protecting our plants and animals for their value in their forest ecosystems and for the enjoyment and edification of human beings for generations to come.

God has given us this natural world, of which we are a part, as a GIFT of CREATION. God has made us to be wise stewards of our natural world and He has given us a Spirit of Gratitude that appreciates what He has given us. **THANKS BE TO GOD!!**

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

## **Shoes For the Shoeless**

The children will come in to be sized on Saturday, July 29, 9:30-10:30 am and return on Saturday, August 12, 9:30-10:30 am to pick up their new shoes. We will have a “shoe tree” in the narthex on Sunday, July 30 and any shoes purchased can be brought to church on Sunday, August 6. If you would like to volunteer on either of those Saturdays or have any questions, please call Sandy Pramer at 937-307-3619.

## **United Methodist Women**

Women United Circle will meet on Monday, August 21 1:00 pm in the Parlor. All women are welcome to attend.

Dorcas Circle will meet on Tuesday, August 15 at 1:00 in the Parlor.

## United Methodist Men of Faith

The Men of Faith will meet on Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup> 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 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. You can find more information in our Men of Faith pamphlet in the Narthex.

(Information about the Garage Sale in September can be found on page 8.)

## Stephen Ministry

### Oh, Hello Alzheimer's

Green Heart Living Press has just released a new book written by Lisa Marshall called, *Oh Hello Alzheimer's*. It is the journal of Lisa, the caregiver to her husband, Peter. In his early fifties, Peter is diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's. This book tells their story.

You may be familiar with their story when you read that Steve Hartman from CBS *On the Road* did a feature story about the couple. In the midst of Alzheimer's Peter falls in love with his caregiver and asks her to marry him. She said yes and they celebrated their love and commitment to each other.

Lisa writes very eloquently about the stages of Alzheimer's and how exhausting it is to be a caregiver. She also writes about finding joy where you are in the painful parts of living. Peter was also able to participate in some clinical trials and

Lisa explains the process. She also navigates insurance, medication, asking for help, and stages of Alzheimer's disease.

If you have a loved one going through Alzheimer's or dementia, consider reading *Oh, Hello Alzheimer's*. This resource is available in the Stephen Ministry section of the church library. (Discovered and reviewed by Lynn Engle.)

Side note: We at Faith Community have a couple of incredible and underutilized "treasures" that you may or may not know about our adult and children's libraries. Our adult library includes an extensive fiction collection as well as a full wall of nonfiction books. In addition, Stephen Ministry has a special collection of resources that are available to all, not just Stephen Ministers. The children's library is something that every parent and grandparent should check out. Once again, the collection includes both fiction and nonfiction appropriate for different ages as well as *Veggie Tales* and other DVD's

## Vacation Bible School

We would like to thank everyone who participated in Vacation Bible School this year by volunteering their time or donating money so we could spread GODS LIGHT to so many children. We averaged about 74 children per day. This year the children's donations totaled \$231.00 to support Wings of the Morning.

## Triple Baby Shower

Surprise! We actually have 3 babies to celebrate. Please join us for a baby shower for Erica Stone, having a boy; Kara Paredes (Pastor Jeff and Suzanne's daughter), having a girl, and the new addition is Jayleen Greene who just had a baby girl on July 4<sup>th</sup>. We will celebrate on Wednesday, August 2 at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Hope to see you there.

## 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.

## Greeters Needed

Would you like to be a greeter on Sunday mornings? We have a sign-up sheet on the table in the nathex and you can choose the days you would like to greet. Thank you for your service to the Lord.

## Prayer Team

Would you be willing to be on our prayer team? We have a Prayer Request link on our website and have prayer requests from the congregation and from the community that are submitted for prayer. The prayer requests are confidential within the prayer team. Everyone on the team is asked to pray for those requests for seven days. The information is emailed to the prayer team so that everyone gets the same information and can pick it up daily at their convenience. If you are willing to try it, just go 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.

**FCUM**  
**June 2023 Financials**

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|                  |            |         |              |            |        |
|------------------|------------|---------|--------------|------------|--------|
| Monthly Income   | \$28,539   |         | YTD Income   | \$176,948  |        |
| Monthly Expenses | \$37,395   |         | YTD Expenses | \$180,240  |        |
| Difference       | \$ (8,856) | -31.03% | Difference   | \$ (3,292) | -1.86% |

## **Food Drive**

Thanks to all who participated in the food drive for the Fish Food Bank on Sunday, July 23. Your food and monetary donations are greatly appreciated.

## **Manley Proverbs**

**(Contributed by Charles Manley)**

*What holds most people back is not the quality of their ideas but their lack of faith in themselves. You have to live your life as if you are already where you want to be.*

**Deadline for September Faith Links:  
August 18**

**Men of Faith Garage Sale – Friday, September 8, 6-8pm and Saturday, September 9, 9am-12 noon.**

Items can be dropped off on Thursday, September 7 from 12 noon to 8pm and Friday morning, September 8, 9am-12 noon. If you have furniture or large items that you'd like picked up early, contact Bob Whipp. We have storage space in the garage and may post the items on Market Place to sell ahead of the garage sale. For pick up and more information, call Bob at 937-668-3137 or email at [robert.whipp@yahoo.com](mailto:robert.whipp@yahoo.com). Thanks for your support. All proceeds go to local missions and projects.

List any major items you plan to donate and put in the offering plate, drop off at the office or give to Bob Whipp.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

If pickup is needed, check box (  )



# August 2023

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY    | SATURDAY   |
|--|--|--|--|---|-----------|--|
|  |  | <b>1</b> 10am-11:30am-Bible Study Parlor<br>6pm-8:45pm-Dayton Area Harp Ensemble-15C (private event)<br>6:30-8:30pm-Trustees-Parlor<br>7-8:30pm-SPRC-Li- | <b>2</b><br>7-8:30pm-Showers for Blessings-15A-B | <b>3</b><br>11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor<br>1:30-4pm-Women's Club of Xenia-Parlor                                | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>   |
| <b>6</b><br>9:15-10:15am-Sunday School<br>10:30-11:30am-Worship  | <b>7</b><br>7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C<br>7-9pm-Stephen Ministry-Library                          | <b>8</b><br>10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor<br>6:30-7:30pm-Greene County Bd. of Elections-Voting   | <b>9</b>   | <b>10</b><br>11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor<br>2-4pm-Grief Support-Parlor<br>7-8:30pm-Christian Ed. Meeting-Room 8 | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b><br>9-10:30am-Shoes 4 the Shoeless Pickup Day-FCC |
| <b>13</b><br>9:15-10:15am-Sunday School<br>10:30-11:30am-Worship | <b>14</b><br>4-5pm-Worship Design Team-Pastor's Office<br>7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C              | <b>15</b><br>10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor<br>1-3pm-Dorcas Circle-15A-B<br>3:30-4:30pm-Mission/Outreach Team-Parlor                                      | <b>16</b>  | <b>17</b><br>11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor  | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b>  |
| <b>20</b><br>Worship in the Park<br>10:30am<br>No Sunday School  | <b>21</b> 1-3pm-Women United-Parlor<br>6-8:30pm-Men of Faith-16 A-B<br>7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C | <b>22</b><br>10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor   | <b>23</b>  | <b>24</b><br>11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor  | <b>25</b> | <b>26</b><br>6-8pm-Double I-15A/Kitchen                    |
| <b>27</b><br>9:15-10:15am-Sunday School<br>10:30-11:30am-Worship | <b>28</b><br>2-6pm-Community Blood Drive-FCC<br>7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C                        | <b>29</b><br>10-11:30am-Bible Study Parlor   | <b>30</b>  | <b>31</b><br>11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor  |           |  |