

## November 2023

Rev. Jeff Bandy  
937-372-7601 [office@fcum.org](mailto:office@fcum.org) [www.fcum.org](http://www.fcum.org)  
9:00am-Sunday School  
10:00am-Hospitality Time-Narthex  
10:30am-Worship-Sanctuary  
We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

### Attendance

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>S.S.</u>
September 24	96	27
October 1	94	28
October 8	94	25
October 15	88	25
October 22	95	26

### From the Pastor

Wait! What!. It's November! That can only mean one thing. Thanksgiving is just around the corner. In my October article I wrote about noticing the coming harvest. Well, harvest is in full swing now. With each load that is hauled to the grain bins, there is gratefulness that the year's investment has yielded a return. Harvest time is the foundation on which our holiday of Thanksgiving is based. The root of the celebration is on the bountiful harvest. With that in mind, there is a tradition that has been passed down through the years, where we go around the table before passing the turkey, mashed potatoes, and green beans, sharing what we are thankful for this year. This can be an awkward time or something very special, depending on who all is around the table. It can also be hard for some to give thanks when the year has been rather challenging and difficult. When our capacity to give thanks is grounded in what we can reap from this world, we can lose heart and be defeated. However, if our gratitude is rooted in the grace of God, we can always join Paul and rejoice, "*Thanks be to God, who gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!*" (1 Corinthians 15:57, CEB). In Christ our eyes are opened to the never-ending bounty of God's love and the many offerings poured out on us by God's grace. This month explore what your relationship with Jesus has given you, and give thanks.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Jeff

## Church Conference

Our annual Church Conference will be held on Thursday, November 16 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. The Church Conference is an opportunity for us to review where we are as a congregation and where we are headed. Church Conference will elect the leadership to positions and committee members for the upcoming year. All members of Faith Community UMC are invited to attend and have both voice and vote at the Church Conference.

## Stephen Ministry

### Christmas is Red and Green – So Why Am I Blue?

“Joy to the world, the Lord is come!” Christmas trees with brightly wrapped packages under them, holiday parties, holly and the scent of pine, the sound of carols in shops and malls, visits from family and friends, baking and cooking, food everywhere—the time we celebrate our Savior’s birth—these are the images and memories of Christmas many of us cherish and perpetuate. But not everyone looks forward to the holidays. In fact, many dread this time of year. For those who know that “this Christmas will be a hard one,” either because they have had a death in the family, a broken relationship, a loss of job, other setbacks, or because of painful memories of Christmases past, there will be a Blue Christmas service sponsored by Stephen Ministry on Sunday afternoon, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:30 in the chapel when we will acknowledge the pain and sadness many people experience as the holidays approach as well and encourage people to move toward hope. All who are under stress during the holiday season and in need of a rest, we invite you to attend and to take time for yourself. This especially applies to the caregivers in our congregation who have a very heavy load. Please consider coming and even inviting someone you know who is struggling to continue on despite having feelings that don’t match the outward festivity of the season. A time of fellowship will follow the service.

## Save the Date

The **Unbroken Circle Committee** invites you to the next of our series, *Proactively Planning for Your Future*. Mary Ann Stemley and Liz Bowen will be speaking about “Housing Options and Support Services” on Saturday morning, November 18<sup>th</sup>, from 10-11 in the Youth Lounge. They will be covering pieces of the housing options puzzle including the impact of life transitions, housing options, sup-

port services, dementia, conversations about living arrangements, and planning for options. We encourage you to come and bring along family and friends. There will be an opportunity to ask questions.

## **Alzheimer's Awareness Month**

### **New Resources at FCUMC**

November is designated Alzheimer's Awareness Month. Our Stephen Ministry collection, available to all in the Adult Library, has a couple of recent additions that may be helpful. We shared a review this summer about *Oh, Hello Alzheimer's* in which Lisa Marshall writes about her journey as a caregiver to her husband who was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's. The most recent addition is *A Journey of Faith: A Mother's Alzheimer's, a Son's Love, and His Search for Answers*, written by Edward Grinnan. He shares the all-too-predictable progression of his mother's Alzheimer's, including the impact it had on her children who eventually became her caregivers. He struggles with his search for answers about whether or not he will develop the disease. He asks, "Do I want to know? Accept it? Prepare for it? Deny it? Dread it?" Woven into his story are the experiences of others who have dealt with Alzheimer's one way or another. Throughout the years he has been editor-in-chief, *Guidedposts* has published many stories dealing with Alzheimer's, mostly from family members and loved ones so that we have not only his thoughts and perspective but also those of others who have lived the journey. As he relates, "The Alzheimer's journey is a difficult one millions of families have traveled filled with pain and anger, empathy and hope, faith and prayer and even on occasion joy. "Ours was no different." He feels that love is what holds families together, even in the midst of illness, pain and difficulty and shares these takeaways: Never give up on love. It is more powerful than anything. The word love has a power all its own. Until nearly the end his mother finished every conversation by saying, "I love you." You can never say "I love you" enough. Dementia can cause people to behave erratically, even cruelly, but it's the disease that is responsible. Love them anyway and say it.

Yet another book in our collection is *My Past is Now My Future* by Lanny D. Butler and Karen K. Brizentine. This quick read explains 7 stages of dementia, what to expect, and suggests possible strategies that have proven successful in caring for a loved one with dementia. The authors provide alternatives to caregiving and offer

possibilities, not just limitations. In addition, the Miami Valley and Dayton area Alzheimer's Association offers numerous resources including practical suggestions and emotional support at [www.alz.org/dayton](http://www.alz.org/dayton). The national Alzheimer's Association offers support through their 24/7 Helpline at 800-272-3900.

## **A Voice for Environmental Stewardship**

**November 2023**

**There is No Planet "B"**

As I was reading the October 2023 issue of the Scientific American magazine I was struck by the lead article by Sarah Scoles, "Will Humans Ever Live in Space?" I answered that question with a question of my own. Why would we ever want to live in space? Even the hugely popular science fiction television and movie series "Star Trek" did not suggest that we should find other planets to colonize, but it only proposed that we could explore the universe in order to find other planetary civilizations that exist now or that existed in the past.

The author noted the many dangers that humans would face trying to inhabit another planet, considering that humans evolved with conditions that exist NOW on Earth, that have enabled the human race, all of our animals and plants to thrive. The extreme unlikelyhood of ever finding a planet with our atmospheric composition, temperature range, protection from radiation and gravity would be virtually impossible to duplicate. The attempt to even find a "planet B", in my opinion, is an EXTREME COP OUT.

COP OUT is a very appropriate term here because we have a God-given responsibility to protect our Mother Earth from the irresponsibility, negligence, greed, ignorance and hubris of the worst of human instincts. We have known for many decades what our unchecked human activity is doing to our atmosphere, our oceans, our freshwater and our land. Climate scientists have warned since the 1970's that burning fossil fuels for energy is polluting our atmosphere, warming our oceans, changing our climate and destroying our precious biodiversity.

Instead of looking for a planet B to destroy, we need to change our spiritual relationship to our own planet and treat our Mother Earth with RESPECT. We need to change our values and behavior and treat our planet "A" with the respect that we treat our own homes. God expects no less of US!

Rev. Alan Barone, B.A. in science education, M.Div.,  
Ohio Certified Vol. Naturalist

🎄 **Coming Soon** 🎄

The St. Paul Christmas tree will return to the narthex November 5<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>. Please join our congregation as we help bring the spirit of Christmas to the homes of children served by St. Paul's after school out reach program. Simply select an ornament or two, shop for a \$5-\$10 gift appropriate for the category listed, return it unwrapped and place under the tree by November 26<sup>th</sup>. Gifts will be delivered, November 28 so they can be prepared for the children's shopping trip.

**United Methodist Women**

**Women United Circle** will meet on Monday, November 20 at 1:30PM in the Parlor. All women are welcome to attend.

At our September meeting the Women United decided to donate \$150 to the Kiev Women Choristers. This money, plus additional funds, was raised through the sale of carnations for Mother's and Father's Days. Thank you to all who helped with this donation.

**Dorcas Circle** will meet on Tuesday, November 21 at 1:00PM in the Parlor.

**United Methodist Men of Faith**

The Men of Faith will meet on Monday, November 20 at 6pm in Room 16A & B (Community Center). All men are invited to join us. Pizza will be served and we will have a social time during the meal. We are continuing our study, *Rooted: Grow Deep, Live Strong* (Lesson 4), followed by a meeting discussing future projects, and other activities. All men are welcome to attend.



"True Fun is the "feeling of being fully present and engaged, free from self-criticism and judgment. It is the thrill of losing ourselves in what we're doing and not caring about the outcome. It is laughter! It is playful rebellion...It is the bliss that comes from

letting go. When we are truly having fun, we are not lonely. We are not anxious or stressed. We are not consumed by self-doubt or existential malaise...True Fun makes us feel alive." *The Power of Fun*" by Catherine Price

**Mary & Martha Gathering:** We have yet to meet a woman, of any age, who doesn't crave just one night away from a home...a night filled with FRIENDS in FAITH, FUN, and yummy FOOD!. And so, we are excited to announce the start of the "Mary & Martha" gathering, the second Monday of EVERY month, here at Faith Community in the Community Center, from 6-8 pm. YOU deserve it! \*Our first gathering will be **Monday, November 13, 2023:** \*open to all \*childcare provided \*potluck meals to share \*anonymous prayer concerns AND \*women encouraging/supporting women. Join us at our to be Facebook Page. Reach out to Laurie Krakowiak at (937) 694-8114 or Barbara Mills at (937) 414-4108.

**College Crew Care Package Time Again!**

We have ten students studying hard this Fall semester. Let's send them a care package full of love and support from their home church. I asked each student to give me some items that they would like to receive in a care package and their responses included dry erase markers, post-it notes, gummy bears, coffee (or any) gift cards, Frisch's gift cards, Pringles potato chips (original flavor), Nutella, goldfish crackers and fruit snacks. There will be collection bins in the Narthex starting on November 1<sup>st</sup> and will remain there until after our service on November 12<sup>th</sup>. If you have questions or want to offer help in any other way by keeping connected to our College Crew, please let me know. -- Julie Wickline, 937-207-8289.

**New Short Term Sunday School Class for Advent**



Are you looking for a short term study during the Advent season? Come and listen to and learn about Handel's Messiah. We are going to explore some of the historical aspects and Biblical texts that went into this wonderful piece of music. We are also going to be surrounded by the glorious music of Messiah. This fun class will meet at 9:00 am on November 26, and December 3, 10, and 17. Please let

Lynn Engle know if you are interested, so enough materials can be ordered.

## Passings

Prayers and sympathy are extended to family and friends of **John Bailey**, and to family and friends of **Brian Stephan**.

## Thank You

*Dear FCUM Family,*

*We wish to thank all those connected to the church who have reached out to us in so many ways since my husband John's passing. From Pastor Jeff Bandy, whose eulogy was so touching, to the Family Outreach Committee for the terrific meal provided, and many others who have expressed concerns and spiritual strength to us in various ways, we are so very grateful.*

*Blessings to all of you and thank you,  
Carolyn Bailey and Karen and Megan DeMain*

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*The Woman's Club of Xenia appreciates Faith Community giving us a place to meet on the first Thursday of the month. This is a token of that appreciation. Thank you.*

*Carol Jenkins, Corresponding Secretary*

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*On October 5 I drove my friend Janice to her infusion appointment at Miami Valley South Hospital. She noticed the bowl at the nurses station that was full of colorful knit hats. We discovered that your members made them and donated them to the unit for cancer patients. On her way out of the area, Janice selected a hat. She is fighting a stage-four cancer diagnosis and now wears a wig that is adorned by your beautiful hat. Please share our appreciation for your hat makers – truly a gift of their God-given talents, love and grace. All prayers for Janice and her care givers are appreciated! Thank you for keeping my friend warm and making her feel special.*

*Janet Kolp*

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*Thanks to everyone who helped with promoting, greeting, collecting donations, preparing food, etc., for the ladies of the Orchestra, and Chorus, for their "Hope for Ukraine" East Coast Tour stop in Xenia.*

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Thanks again for the use of your community room. *Everyone had a fabulous time. We appreciate the Christian charity you extended to us. — Donna Proffitt, Toward Independence*

Dear Deb, Jeff & Crystal,  
 Thank you so much for blessing us with your gym facility for our Xenia boys Senior Dinner with their families. We appreciate you.  
 God Bless You.  
 Vince Purpero (“Coach”)

**Volunteer Receptionist Needed**

Would you like to be more involved with the daily activities at the church? We need a receptionist in the church office on **Friday mornings from 9am-12pm**. Daily duties include answering phones, greeting guests and stuffing bulletins. If you are interested or know of someone, please call Deb Klaty, Office Administrator at 937-372-7601.

**FCUM  
 September 2023 Financials**

Monthly Income	\$ 17,124		YTD Income	\$ 242,186	
Monthly Expenses	\$ 36,032		YTD Expenses	\$ 265,706	
Difference	\$(18,908)	-110.42%	Difference	\$ (23,520)	-9.71%

**Manley Proverbs**

(Compiled by Charles Manley)

Goodness is about character – Integrity, honesty, kindness, generosity, moral courage and the like. More than any of these, it is all about how we treat other people.

**Deadline for December Faith Links: November 17**

*Have a Blessed Thanksgiving*





**Friday, November 10, 5pm-8pm**  
**Saturday, November 11, 9am-12pm**

On Friday night we will offer Hot dogs and Sloppy Joes (proceeds go to local missions in Xenia).

Participating Vendors are: Scentsy, Pink Zebra, quilts, L & B Boutique, Back 40 Crafts, M & K Custom Creations, C & M Cakes & More, JTs Embroidery & Gifts, Tupperware, Color-

street, Pampered Chef, A & D Creations, Mary Kay & more.

**There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for people to donate baked goods and/or a silent auction basket for the bazaar.**

# November 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>Give Thanks</p>			<b>1</b> 6:15-7:15-Bells Practice-Music Room  7:30-9pm-Choir Practice Sanctuary	<b>2</b> 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 1:30-4pm-Women's Club of Xenia-Parlor 5:45-7:30pm--Magic Volleyball practice-FCC 7-8:30pm-Enneagram-Discovering Our Personal Perspectives-	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5 DLS Time Ends</b> 9:00-10:00am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Hospitality Time-Narthex 10:30-11:30am-Worship	<b>6</b> 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B  7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 7-9pm-Stephen Ministry-Library	<b>7 ELECTION DAY</b> 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 6-8:45pm-Girl Scouts-FH15-ABC & 16A-B 6:30-8:30pm-Trustees-Parlor 7-8:30pm-SPRC-Lib.	<b>8</b> 6:15-7:15pm-Bells Practice-Music Rm.  7:30-9pm-Choir Practice Sanctuary	<b>9</b> 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 12:30-1:30pm-Membership Care-Parlor 2-4pm-Grief Support 7-8:30-Enneagram-Parlor	<b>10</b> 5-8pm-Fall Bazaar-FCC	<b>11 VETERAN'S DAY</b>  9am-12pm-Fall Bazaar-FCC  9am-12:30pm-Christmas Concert Band Practice-15A-C
<b>12</b> 9:00-10:00am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Hospitality Time- Narthex 10:30-11:30am-Worship	<b>13</b> 6-8pm-Mary & Martha Gathering-FCC  6:30-8:30pm- Cub Scouts-15 A-B  7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	<b>14</b> 10--11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor  6-8:45pm-Girl Scout Leader Meeting-15 A-B	<b>15</b> 6:15-7:15-Bells Practice-Music Room  7:30-9pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary	<b>16</b> 11am-12-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 5:45-7:30pm--Magic Volleyball practice-FCC <b>6:30-8:30pm-ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE</b> -15 A-C Ad Board Mtg.-15C	<b>17</b> 9am-12pm-Christmas Concert Band Setup FH B&C	<b>18</b> 9am-12:30pm-Christmas Concert Band Practice-15A-C  10-11am-Unbroken Circle Seminar Series-16A-B
<b>19</b> 9:00-10:00am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Hospitality Time- Narthex 10:30-11:30am-Worship	<b>20</b> 1:30-3pm-Women United-Parlor 6:30-7:30pm- Cub Scouts-15A-B 6-8:30pm-Men of Faith-16 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	<b>21</b> 10--11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor  1-3pm-Dorcas Circle-15 A-B	<b>22</b> 6:15-7:15-Bells Practice-Music Room  7:30-9pm-Choir Practice- Sanctuary	<b>23</b> <b>THANKSGIVING</b>  11am-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor  5:45-7:30pm--Magic Volleyball practice-FCC	<b>24</b> 9am-12pm-Christmas Concert Band Setup FH B&C	<b>25</b> 9am-12:30pm-Christmas Concert Band Practice-15A-C  6-8pm-Double I-15A
<b>26</b> 9:00-10:00am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Hospitality Time-Narthex 10:30-11:30am-Worship	<b>27</b> 6:30-7:30pm- Cub Scouts-15A-B  7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	<b>28</b> 10am--11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor	<b>29</b> 6:15-7:15-Bells Practice-Music Room  7:30-9pm-Choir Practice- Sanctuary	<b>30</b> 11am-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor  5:45-7:30pm--Magic Volleyball practice-FCC		