

October 2023

Rev. Jeff Bandy

937-372-7601 office@fcum.org www.fcum.org

9:00am-Sunday School

10:00am-Hospitality Time-Narthex

10:30am-Worship-Sanctuary-Sanctuary

We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

Attendance

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>S.S.</u>
August 27	90	20
September 3	78	12
September 10	94	31
September 17	104	30

From the Pastor

I admit now that I am living in Xenia and so close to Dayton and Springfield, I spend less time thinking about what is going on in the fields. Farming is not on everyone's minds like it was in northwest Ohio. However, when we read the scriptures we have to keep in mind that our biblical ancestors' lives were ordered around seasons of harvest. Their relationship with the Lord was informed by the rhythms of their agrarian lifestyle. The writer of Proverbs shared, *"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops."* (Proverbs 3:9, NIV). *When our biblical ancestors heard or read these words of wisdom from Proverbs they understood why it was wisdom and not folly. They knew that without God's provision they would have nothing to sustain them. They literally brought a portion of their crops to the priests before they continued with the rest of the harvest to honor the Lord.*

In our not so agrarian society, we must interpret the wisdom of the proverb regarding our response to honor the Lord with our wealth. The same is true for us, that without God's provision would have nothing to sustain ourselves. Consider what it means to honor the Lord with our wealth by giving the Lord our first fruits.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Jeff

A Voice for Environmental Stewardship

October 2023

You may remember the movie, released in 2000, titled Erin Brockovich. Erin was played by Julia Roberts. It was a classic movie about environmental justice based on a true story. Erin was involved in an automobile accident, which was not her fault. She pleads with her attorney to hire her as a paralegal in his law firm. She is hired as an investigator and discovers that there is a large company that is in the vicinity of her home. She uncovers a huge amount of evidence that the company was heavily involved in a cover up related to its pollution of the ground water with toxins that cause devastating illness and death among many of the people in the community. Erin is such a thorough investigator and defender of the victims of the toxic water pollution that she is able to win huge monetary settlements for the victims.

Unfortunately there are few advocates for environmental pollution as tenacious and fearless as Erin Brockovich. There are many sad examples of large petrochemical, oil and gas companies which make hundreds of millions of dollars while polluting the land, water and air in the communities in which they are located. Communities that existed before companies built their plants most often do not have the political power or effective legal representation to DEFEND their communities against the powerful polluters in their areas.

A big part of environmental stewardship is caring for the land, water and air that have been given to ALL OF US by God as part of the natural world. Our responses to ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE are moral and spiritual concerns for Christians and all people of faith around the world. Humanity was given dominion over all the Earth and the role of faithful stewards of our Earth in Genesis 1:28. Let us fulfill God's expectations of us. –

Rev. Alan Barone, B.A. in science, M.Div., and Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist

United Methodist Women

Women United Circle will meet on Monday, October 16 at 1:30 pm in the Parlor. All women are welcome to attend.

At our August meeting the Women United Circle decided to donate \$400 to the Xenia Fish Food Pantry. 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, October 17 at 1:00 pm in the Parlor.

United Methodist Men of Faith

The Men of Faith will meet on Monday, October 16, 6 PM in Room 16A & B (Community Center). All men are invited to join us. Pizza will be served. 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 the garden and garage sale projects, and other activities. All men are urged to attend.

Living Memorials by Luke Snell

When all the nation had finished passing over the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, "Take twelve men from the people, from each tribe a man, and command them, saying, 'Take twelve stones from here out of the midst of the Jordan, from the very place where the priests' feet stood firmly, and bring them over with you and lay them down in the place where you lodge tonight.'" Then Joshua called the twelve men from the people of Israel, whom he had appointed, a man from each tribe. And Joshua said to them, "Pass on before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan and take up each of you a stone upon his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, 'What do those stones mean to you?' Then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it passed on over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever. Memorials are critical for us to remember the past and to motivate the next generations. We are moved by The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Lincoln Memorial. They remind us of our rich history and how people's sacrifice made a positive difference to our lives and our country. Not all memorials may be meaningful to you. As a young engineer, I worked on a restoration of the Jefferson Davis Monument in Fairview, Ky. I did not feel the same way as I would if I was working on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. I still did my best, but it was just another project I was working on.

I visited Mongolia shortly after the collapse of the USSR and when Mongolia became independent of foreign influence. One of the first things they did was to remove the monuments and statues that were a reminder of USSR's control of their country. In some cases,

they were destroyed. A statue to Stalin was removed to the cheers of the Mongolians and placed unceremoniously in the dark corner of a disco.

So what happened to Joshua's memorial? Can we visit it? Yes and no. There is no physical place here we can visit, however we have become the "memorial" of passing through the Jordan (accepting God into our lives) and entering the promised land (living our life as a Christian should by loving our neighbors as ourselves).



Stephen Ministry

"I will not leave you comfortless...I will come to you. John 14:18

God won't give you more than you can handle. Most of us have heard or said that at some time or another. It is statements such as this that are included in Adam Hamilton's *Half Truths*, which is available in our church library. According to Hamilton, when one says, "God won't give you.." the implication is that God is responsible for the challenging things that happen to us. God doesn't give us bad things. While we will face adversity in our lives—things that are more than we can handle, these things are not sent by God but are instead part of the human experience. God walks through them with us. Hamilton further suggests that scripture doesn't promise that we won't go through hard times. What is promised, however, is that God wants to be our help and strength through both the good times and the bad times. Sometimes we face circumstances that are truly more than we can handle. Hamilton contends that if we can move beyond the half truth of God won't give you more than you can handle," it's more accurate to say. **"It's not that God won't give you more than you can handle, but that God will help you handle all that you've been given."** Sometimes we face circumstances that are truly more than we can handle, and that's why we may turn to others for help. That help may come in the form of a doctor, counselor, pastor, family member, or friend. Sometimes that help can come in the form of a Stephen Minister. We do not have to experience the tough times alone. Sometimes God brings others into our lives.

It isn't easy to lay our burdens down and ask for help. God knows that we all need to be heard, understood, cared for, and affirmed. Jesus promised that He would not leave us comfortless, that

He would come to us in spirit and that he would care for us through others. If you or someone you know is carrying heavy burdens alone right now, consider learning more about having someone who will walk with you through your hard time—supporting, encouraging, affirming, and praying. For more information about Stephen Ministry, contact Becky Cultice at 937-376-5747.

“How Jesus Heals Trauma” is the topic of a session sponsored by the Greater Dayton Stephen Ministry Network on Sunday afternoon, October 8th, at Fairhaven Church from 2:30-4:30. Julie Barlow, a clinical mental health counselor whose passion is working with trauma survivors is the speaker. All are welcome. For additional information, contact Becky Cultice at 937-376-5747.

Proactively Planning For Your Future

The Unbroken Circle Committee invites you to the second in our series, *Proactively Planning for Your Future*. Pete Stephan will be speaking about “The Advantages of Estate Planning” on Saturday morning, October 14th, from 10-11 in the Youth Lounge. We encourage you to come and bring along family and friends. There will be an opportunity to ask questions.

Congratulations to FCUMC’s Educational Assistance Recipients

Thanks to the generosity of members past and present, Faith Community is able to offer educational assistance each year to graduating high school seniors and to continuing education students as well. These funds come from designated gifts. This year we are pleased to award a total of \$16,500 to ten of our members. First-time recipient is Grace Smith who is attending the University of Cincinnati. The continuing education students receiving assistance include sophomore Ciara Horney at the University of Mount Union; junior Isabel Wickline at Wright State University; seniors Ian and Megan Ackenhausen both at Bowling Green State University (Ohio); Sarah Creona, Grant Smith and Wesley Wickline at the Ohio State University. We wish them all well as they have begun a new school year and want them to know that we want to support them while they are away and look forward to seeing them when they are home and to hearing how things are going with them.

Organ Recital

Dr. John W.W. Sherer (son of John & Sharon Sherer) will perform an organ recital at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 125 Wilkinson St., Dayton. The recital will begin at 12 noon, Thursday, October 12th and ends at 12:45 PM with a light lunch provided after the recital for a small donation. Dr. Sherer grew up in Faith Community UMC and practiced on the FCUM organ in his high school days. He is a graduate of Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, obtained dual Masters degrees on organ performance at the School of Divinity from Yale, then went on to receive a Doctorate degree from Juilliard School Music. He is completing his 28th year as Organist and Choral Director at Fourth Presbyterian Church located on the famed Michigan Avenue in Chicago. The recital is free and open to the public.

Thank You

Dear members of the Scholarship Committee,

I wanted to thank you for your generosity for the scholarship I received! This scholarship helps me to continue my education at Wright State University. I am currently a junior in the nursing program at my school. I also work at Miami Valley Hospital in Labor and Delivery. I am in the sorority Zeta Tau Alpha and I am our vice president II New Member Educator. I am even on the College Panhellenic Council as Vice President of Recruitment Training. When I am not busy with all those things I try to help in the nursery.

My educational pursuits have become more feasible with this scholarship. Thank you so much! Love – Isabel Wickline



Dear Ladies of FCUM,

Thank you all so very much for throwing a baby shower for me and the other new moms! I feel so blessed by the outpouring of gifts and the talents on display. Extra thanks to Sandy Pramer for organizing the special event! Blessings to all – Erika Stone



Thank you for including us in your church baby sprinkle! It was great meeting all of you. Thank you for the clothes, books, baby toys, handmade blankets and more! We can't wait to use it all when baby girl gets here. What a blessing you all have been to our family!

Kara & Angel



Thank you to the members of the Family Outreach and especially to Joyce Smith and Betsy Murray. There are no words to adequately thank you for the lovely meal provided for all those who knew and loved my aunt Gwen. It was truly a beautiful thing to see so many people come together to honor my aunt. I had no idea there would be so many in attendance! But it was even more beautiful to see the way they were cared for, the wonderful food and hospitality shown by all of you. I saw Christ working through your gracious and unselfish servanthood and I've never been more proud of my church. With much appreciation and gratitude on behalf of the Gwen Tonne family, Love and Blessings.- Kelly Wright



Dear Church Family,

Thank you very much for your love and prayers through the many cards, phone calls and wonderful words of encouragement in the death of our son Kevin. – Harry Osman & Family



As a member of Fuller Center Bicycling Adventures charity, I'm grateful and thankful to Faith Community Methodist Church for allowing us to stay in your gym. It's a wonderful blessing for all involved when faith communities join together to serve and help others in need. The FCBA mission of affordable housing was advanced as many persons of faith came together to share God's blessing and grow in God's spirit of caring for others. Thank you Faith Community Methodist Church, Crystal, Bill and Carol Sykes and Fuller Center for providing housing for this week of community and fellowship. To God be the glory for caring and sharing for others, especially those less fortunate and hurting. – David Toler



Thank you to our amazing Casserole CARE-a-van Crew. We have had over 20 requests so far this year for meal assistance, and our crew has 100% responded to those needs. Thank you to the following for their generous support of this ministry so far this year:

Joyce Smith, Karen Turner, Carol Sykes, Marietta Kolozsi, Elizabeth Johnson, Pam Toney, Becky Cultice, Judy Mahan, Laurle Krakowlak, Anne Finley, Alice Osman.

If you are interested in learning more about the Casserole CARE-a-van, contact Julie Wickline by phone or text at 937-207-8289, or by e-mail at wicklincasa@aol.com. We would love to have more volunteers and would also be happy to help if you have a situation that would benefit from having some assistance with meals.

Passings

Prayers and sympathy to the family and friends of **Kevin Osman**, and to family and friends of **Gwen Tonne**.

FCUM August 2023 Financials

Monthly Income	\$29,637		YTD Income	\$225,062	
Monthly Expenses	\$29,496		YTD Expenses	\$229,674	
Difference	\$ 141	0.47%	Difference	\$ (4,612)	-2.05%

Manley Proverbs

(Compiled by Charles Manley)

A moment of anger can destroy a lifetime of work; whereas a moment of love can break barriers that took a lifetime to build.

Kiev Women Choristers and Instrumentalists

will be stopping in Xenia on their Fall East Coast Tour, October 3-4. The men are required to remain in Ukraine and are performing a concert in Kiev. The concert will take place Tuesday, October 3 at Xenia High School, 303 Kinsey Rd., at 7 pm.

Many years ago Diane Nash McMurrin and her husband, skilled director, Roger McMurrin, founded and led the Kiev Symphony Orchestra and Chorus to Greene County for three East Coast tours of the U.S. Their son, Matthew, conducted the Youth KSOC in Xenia also. There will also be a breakfast and time with Xenia United Presbyterian preschoolers on Wednesday, October 4th before their departure to the next tour stop.

They perform sacred and classical as well as traditional cultural music on tours throughout the U.S. and Canada. Money from donations goes to help the musicians as well as MMK missions for youth, widows, orphans and other ministries.

Deadline for November Faith Links: October 18

October 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:00-10:00am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Hospitality Time-Narthex 10:30-11:30am-Worship	2 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 7-9pm-Stephen Ministry-Library	3 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 4:30-6pm-Dinner for Kiev Choir-FH-15A-B 6-8:30pm-Girl Scouts-FH15-ABC & 16A-B 6-8:30pm-Trustees-Par 7-8:30pm-SPRC-Lib.	4 6:15-7:15-Bells Practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice Sanctuary	5 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 1:30-4pm-Women's Club of Xenia-Parlor	6	7
8 9:00-10:00am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Hospitality Time-Narthex 10:30-11:30am-Worship	9 Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples Day 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	10 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 6-8:45pm-Girl Scouts Leader Meeting-15A	11 6:15-7:15pm-Bells Practice-Music Rm. 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice Sanctuary	12 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 2-4pm-Grief Support-Parlor 7-8:30pm-Christian Ed. Meeting-Room 8	13	14 10-11am-Unbroken Circle Committee Meeting-16A-B
15 9:00-10:00am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Hospitality Time-Narthex 10:30-11:30am-Worship	16 1:30-3pm-Women United-Parlor 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 6-8:30pm-Men of Faith-16 A-B	17 10--11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 1-3pm-Dorcas Circle-15 A-B 3:30-4:30pm-Mission Outreach Team-Parlor 6-8:30-Girl Scouts-FH15-ABC & 16A-B	18 Deadline for Nov. Faithlinks 6:15-7:15-Bells Practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice Sanctuary	19 11am-12-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 4-8:30pm—Xenia HS Football Sr. Dinner -6-7:30pm-FCC	20 5:45-7:30pm-Magic Volleyball practice-FCC	21 12-4pm-Private Event FH 15 A-B
22 9:00-10:00am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Hospitality Time-Narthex 10:30-11:30am-Worship 5-7pm-Family Night-FCC-FH 15 A-B	23 6:30-7:30pm- Cub Scouts-15A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	24 10--11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor	25 6:15-7:15-Bells Practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice Sanctuary	26 11am-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor	27 5:45-7:30pm-Magic Volleyball practice-FCC	28 6-8pm-Double I-15A
29 9:00-10:00am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Hospitality Time-Narthex 10:30-11:30am-Worship	30 6:30-7:30pm- Cub Scouts-15A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	31 Halloween 10am--11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor				