

April 2024

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

We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

Attendance

Date	Worship	Sunday School
February 25	84	37
March 3	77	33
March 10	73	37
March 17	91	47

FROM THE PASTOR

On Easter Sunday we rejoiced together remembering the day of Christ's resurrection and the defeating of sin and death. The day of celebration may be over, but the season of Easter continues until Pentecost Sunday on May 19th. I encourage you to remain in an attitude of celebration and joy during these 50 days of Easter. I also want to encourage you, as I begin my spiritual formation and renewal leave on April 1st and will be unavailable throughout April, to come together as the body of Christ to be available to one another and pay attention to each other's needs. Paul emphasized, *"For the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us."*(Romans 12:3-6a,NIV).

Faith Community is blessed with a variety of gifts and passions to serve one another. We have the capacity to truly build each other up when we are attuned to one another. If something arises and assistance is needed in my absence' be assured, our lay leadership, staff, and office volunteers are prepared to address any day to day things that may arise. In addition, our Stephen Ministers and hospital visitation team are prepared to meet the congregation's needs for compassion care in a variety of ways. In the case of a crisis or a funeral which requires access to a pastor, our friend Rev. Vic Toney will be available to offer care. To receive the care you need, please contact the office with your concern. I will be back in the office on May 1st, and if not before, I will see you on Sunday, May 5th. Until then, may the peace and joy of Christ be with you! Blessings– Pastor Jeff

NAILS 1 Chronicles 22:3

He (David) provided a large amount of iron to make nails for the doors of the gateway (to the temple).

At the time of bulding the temple (about 1000 BCE) iron was hard to come by. But David was gathering the necessary materials so his son Soloman could build a temple to the Lord. Everything had to be the best—even the common iron nail. At that time, nails had to be made by hand. The Blacksmith would hammer them out and put a crude head on the nail so that it could be driven into the wood. Iron was scarce and basically used for military equipment (swords and chariots). The fact that they were using iron nails in large quantities for building a temple was very unusual and worthy of being included in the Bible.

The making of nails has not changed for thousands of years. When the Romans conquered parts of Britain, they brought the technology of making nails. Their blacksmith made tons of nails for their planned constructions projects. When the soldiers were called back home to defend the

empire, they were afraid the barbarians in Britain would use their cache of nails to make weapons. They planned to return to Britain so did not want to take the nails back to Rome. Their solution was to hide them by burying them in select locations. They never returned to Britain so the nails remained hidden until rediscovered in the 20th century.

Some people have speculated that the nails found in Britain were from the same batch that was used in Jesus' crucifixion. John 20:25 *"Unless I (Thomas) see in his hands the imprint of the nails and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."*

This is probably not true that these nails were used in the crucifixion; however the same technology of making the nails was probably used throughout the Roman Empire and thus used in crucifixions. Iron nails in the USA in the 1600's were considered so important that people who were moving would burn their houses so they could salvage and reuse their nails. The Virginia Legislature was so concerned about this practice that they passed legislation to forbid it. Today the nail is so inexpensive that it costs more for a carpenter to pick up a dropped nail than it is to just grab another out of their nail pouch. Not all nails are the same. We have different nails for each project. There are over 20,000 different types of nails but they all have the same purpose. They are to hold things together. By themselves nails are relatively useless. They are made for a purpose. When unused, they just lie around and take up space. We can compare our Christian life to nails. Like nails we are all different and have different talents. If we don't use our talents, we are relatively useless and are just taking up space. However if we put our talents to use, we can hold things together.

This should be our goal-to use our talents, to hold our family, our church and our community together-just like the common nail.

— Luke Snell

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Experiencing God's Peace

May the Lord of peace himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with all of you. – 2 Thessalonians 3:16

During today's bible study, two women shared how when facing challenging times, they had felt God's peace and how comforting that had been. Then, later in the day, I read an article from the Dayspring website entitled, "Experiencing God's peace. So, I am sharing what spoke to me from both. It was a message I needed to hear and maybe one you need to hear too.

We've all had times when we have been afraid, when we felt things weren't going as we had hoped, when what we thought was a sure thing wasn't and we felt as if our world had been turned upside down. At a time like that, the ladies today conveyed that they prayed, leaned into God's word and in time, felt an overwhelming sense of serenity—the amazing feeling of relief that comes with the kind of peace that only God can give. God's peace is truly an experience that is indescribable but so very real. We learn about God's peace in John 14:27 ESV when Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let them be afraid." And we also learn about this divine intervention in John 16:33 NIV when he says, "*I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.*"

So it only makes sense when we see a friend suffering the loss of a loved one, or hear of a family member battling a serious illness, or witness a friend struggling through the challenges of day-to-day life, we pray for God to give them His peace, to relieve all the pain and pressures and to fill them with the sense of His loving presence. Obviously, we need to encourage ourselves to do the same when we face tough moments.

Know someone who is struggling? Reach out to them. Send an encouraging card or an ecard. Give them a call. Let them know

that you are praying for God to fill them with His peace during this difficult time. It may just be words they need to hear to give them hope.

Our Stephen Ministry team is available to walk alongside, be nonjudgmental, listen, and support. Jesus assures us that we don't have to go through tough times alone. To learn more, contact Becky Cultice, 937-376-5747.

Save the Date: Dave Ringhiser, Pastoral Care Pastor at Fairhaven, will be speaking on "The Art of Listening" on April 14th from 2:20-4:30 at Fairhaven. All are welcome to this program sponsored by The Greater Dayton Stephen Ministry Network. Everyone can benefit from learning more about this important skill. Refreshments will be served.

— Becky Cultice

A VOICE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

April 2024

Each year on the Sunday closer to Earth Day, April 22nd, we have been offered tree seedlings to plant in our yards or other places. This year, that Sunday is April 21st. Earth Day has been celebrated since 1970 around the world in order to express **OUR RESPECT FOR AND OUR DESIRE TO PROTECT THE EARTH.**

As we know, trees are the lungs of the Earth. They take in carbon dioxide (CO₂) and release oxygen (O₂) through the process of photosynthesis into our atmosphere. As we have learned from climate science, that excess CO₂ in our atmosphere is raising the temperature of our Earth. This excess of CO₂ is mainly from Humans burning fossil fuels (coal, oil products and natural gas) for energy. The sooner we Humans transition from burning fossil fuels for energy to renewable energy (solar power, wind power, geothermal energy and hydroelectric power) the better it will be for our Earth and all living things on land and in our oceans. **TODAY**, recess heat in our atmosphere is influencing greater evaporation from our oceans which creates extreme rainfall events, flooding of our rivers onto land, destruction of property and more powerful hurricanes which destroy much property and cause more human suffering. Destructive tornados and violent thunderstorms result from unstable conditions and our atmosphere which comes from more heat and water vapor. Our climate **IS** changing.

Trees and other plants are nature's original means of keeping excess CO2 from building up in our atmosphere. We need to partner with Mother Earth for a healthy planet. I believe that God loves trees too because they help keep His creation, Mother Earth, healthy.

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

MARY AND MARTHA

Come one – come all for this extra special evening sponsored by the Mary & Martha Gathering. Our very own Xenia High School Jazz Ensemble has agreed to share their musical talents for a toe-tapping, joy inspired evening of entertainment on Monday, April 15, 6pm at Faith Church Community Center. All women and men are welcome to join us for this open event. Potluck as always, will be provided for everyone. Let's show our support for these talented young people in our neighborhood while reminding ourselves of the loving community here at FCUM. Additional details can be provided by Laurie Krakowiak 937-694-8114 or Barbara Mills 937-414-4108.

FCUM PROGRAM ON ESTATE PLANNING

The Unbroken Circle Committee of Faith Community United Methodist invites you to our next program in our series, "Proactively Planning for Your Future." Attorney Peter D. Stephan will be speaking on "The Advantages of Estate Planning" on Saturday, April 20, 2024, at 11 a.m in the youth lounge of our church. Mr. Stephan is an Attorney at Law in the areas of Probate Law, Estate Planning, Real Estate and Corporate Law. He is a past president of the Greene County Bar Association, the Xenia Rotary Club, the Xenia Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Xenia Education Endowment Fund. Mr. Stephan practices law in the areas of Probate Law, Estate Planning, Real Estate, and Corporate Law. There will be an opportunity to ask him questions after his presentation. This program is open to all interested adults, and you are encouraged to invite family, friends, and neighbors. There is no charge for this informative program, and all are welcome.

Reservations are appreciated, but not required. Please call Judy Mahan at 937-372-5711 for reservations.

UMW CIRCLES

Women United will meet on Monday, April 15 at 1:30 P.M. in the parlor. All women are welcome to attend.

Dorcas will meet on Tuesday, April 16 at 1:00 PM in Room 15 A-B.

UNITED METHODIST MEN OF FAITH

The Men of Faith will join the Mary and Martha event on Monday, April 15th at 6 PM in the Community Center in place of our regular meeting. The Xenia High School Jazz Ensemble will be providing an evening of entertainment and there will be a potluck meal for everyone.

SAVE THE DATE!

Vacation Bible School is set for July 15-19, 2024. Please plan to join us as a participant, either as a child or young at heart staff member. We'll be heading to Camp Firelight for fun adventures as we learn to trust in God. Watch for more details! Call Betsy, 937-768-1143, or Joyce, 937-609-3907 to volunteer or ask questions.

PLEASE NOTE: The church office will close on Monday, April 8 at 12pm. so that everyone can observe the once in a lifetime Solar Eclipse.

THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

You make the difference! Through gifts from United Methodist Men Groups like yours, to the Society of St. Andrew, healthy food reaches the tables for our hungry brothers and sisters every single day. When you give, good, fresh, nourishing food is on plates instead of in landfills, making our environment just a little cleaner. So, thank you for choosing the

Society of St. Andrew as your partner in reducing food waste and ending hunger. Thank you for caring for the “least of these.”

Chesley R. Vohden, Director, Meals for Millions

Passings

Our Faith Community Family extends sincere condolences to the family and friends of Clarence Dinnen who passed away on February 27.

FCUM February 2024 Financials


Monthly Income	\$27,990		YTD Income	\$ 77,681	
Monthly Expenses	\$31,450		YTD Expenses	\$ 63,777	
Difference	\$ (3,459)	-12.36%	Difference	\$ 13,904	17.90%

**Deadline for May Faith Links
April 17**



Welcome Spring

APRIL 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Easter Monday 11am-12pm-Office Closed 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 7-9pm-Steph, Ministry-Library	2 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 4-5:30pm-XHS Winter Guard-FCC 6-8:30pm-Girl Scouts-15A,B,C, 16A-B 6:30-8:30pm-Trustees-Parlor 6-7:45pm- Volleyball-FCC	3 6:15-7:15pm-Bells-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice Sanctuary/Chapel	4 11am-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 2-3:45pm-Woman's Club of Xenia-Parlor 6-7:45pm- Magic Volleyball Practice-FCC	5 4-5:30pm-XHS Winter Guard-FCC	6
7 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30pm--Hospitality Time-Narthex 10:30-11:30am-Worship-Sanctuary	8 Solar Eclipse 12pm. - Office Closed 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	9 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 6-7:45pm-Magic Volleyball -FCC 6-8:45pm-G.S. Leader Meeting-15A	10 6:15-7:15pm-Bells-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice Sanctuary/Chapel	11 11am-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 2-4pm-Grief Support-Parlor 6-7:45pm- Magic Volleyball Practice-FCC 7-8:30pm-Christian Ed Meeting-Room 8	12	13
14 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30pm--Hospitality Time-Narthex 10:30-11:30am-Worship-Sanctuary 1:00-2pm-District SPRC Training-Jenn Lucas-Library-Library	15 1:30-3pm-Women United-Parlor 6-8pm-Mary & Martha-FCC 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	16 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 1-3pm-Dorcas-15A-B 3:30-4:30pm-Mission/Outreach-Par. 6-7:45pm-Magic Volleyball Practice-FCC 6-8:30pm-Girl Scouts-15A,B,C, 16A-B	17 6:15-7:15pm-Bells-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice Sanctuary/Chapel Deadline for May Faith Links Articles	18 11am-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6-7:45pm-Magic Volleyball Practice-FCC	19 6:30-8:30pm-Private Event	20 9-11am-Private Event-15A 10-11am-Unbroken Circle Seminar Series-Youth Rm. 16 A-B
21 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30pm--Hospitality Time-Narthex 10:30-11:30am-Worship-Sanctuary	22 Earth Day 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scout-15C	23 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 6-7:45pm-Magic Volleyball Practice-FCC	24 6:15-7:15pm-Bells-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice Sanctuary/Chapel	25 11am-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6-7:45pm-Magic Volleyball Practice-FCC	26	27 6-8pm-Double I-15A
28 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30pm--Hospitality Time-Narthex 10:30-11:30am-Worship-Sanctuary	29 2-6pm-Blood Drive-FCC 6:30-7:30pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	30 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 6-7:45pm-Magic Volleyball Practice-FCC			