

July 7, 2024

Please take a moment to sign our attendance register located in each pew.

(**Indicates, please stand as able)

Greeting/Life of the Church

Prelude

"God is So Good"

Carol Stewart
arr. by Joyce Jones

**Call to Worship

Rely on God's providential care.

God's grace is sufficient for us.

Take nothing for the journey but faith in Christ.

We can trust the God of our salvation.

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Come! Let us worship.

**Opening Hymn

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

UMH #400

Opening Prayer (unison)

Loving God, who opens our hearts to the mysteries of faith in ordinary and extraordinary moments, come near to us today. Make known among us and within us your strength, that we might experience your power that uses what the powers of this world call weakness to demonstrate your Almighty love to all creation. Amen.

Children's Moments

Prayer Hymn

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

UMH #140

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

"Count Your Blessings"

Carol Stewart
Edwin O. Excell

**Doxology

UMH #95

**Prayer of Dedication

You give us everything we need, O God, to build your kingdom. With nothing but your presence and your promise to be with us, your presence in our lives blesses the world. Receive our love and commitment in this morning's gifts and offerings, that the world may know the healing love of your Son. Amen.

Ministry of Music

Pam Colbrunn and Glen Shaw; vocal duet

"Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)"

Newton/Raney

Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

L: The Word of God for the People of God.

P: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Sermon

"Finding Strength"

Pastor Jeff Bandy

Response to the Word

Pastor: Beloved, when our bodies feel unable and incapable, and the voices all around us disparage and criticize our bodies as weak and worthless, God calls to us...

People: Open your heart to your weakness and my strength.

Pastor: When we persist in the false belief that we should and must do everything on our own, never asking for help and persisting in our drive for full independence, God calls to us...

People: Open your heart to your weakness and my strength.

Pastor: When we feel shame because we need help, and the deep vulnerability of our needs pierces our hearts, God calls to us...

People: Open your heart to your weakness and my strength.

Pastor: Listen! Pay attention! God calls to us in our weakness, not to erase our frailties or bemoan all the things society may tell us we lack, but to empower us within the vulnerability of our humanness, naming us Beloved in the fullness of who we are.

People: May we open our hearts to receive the goodness in our weakness and the power in the strength of God's love for all of God's vulnerable creation. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

**Closing Hymn

"Lift High the Cross"

(v.1,3,4) UMH #159

**Sending Forth

Postlude

"Day By Day"

Carol Stewart
Oscar Ahnfelt/Fred Bock



*The Altar Flowers are given by Jim & Joyce Osburn
in honor of their 61st Wedding Anniversary.*

Scripture Reading – 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 (NIV)

² I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. ³ And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows—⁴ was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell. ⁵ I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses. ⁶ Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say, ⁷ or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹ But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. ¹⁰ That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

WELCOME VISITORS!

If you are visiting with us today, we welcome you and hope you will come back and worship with us again soon. We would love to get to know you, please take a moment to provide your information in the attendance register located in each pew.



Sharing Faith, Building Community

Rev. Jeff Bandy

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

Office: (937) 372-7601 ext. 13

pastorjeff@fcum.org ♦ www.fcum.org

Like and Follow us on Facebook @ FCUM.Xenia

We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

July 7, 2024 - Worship Team

Ushers	Rick Smith, Joyce Smith Ed Stidham, Margaret Stidham
Greeters	Scott Jenkins, Carol Jenkins
Liturgist	Mike Engle
Organist	Carol Stewart

JULY

Monday 8	VBS Decorating	9:00 am	Entire Church
Tuesday 9	VBS Decorating Bible Study	9:00 am 10:00 am	Entire Church Parlor
Wednesday 10	VBS Decorating	9:00 am	Entire Church
Thursday 11	VBS Decorating Prayer Shawl Membership Care Magic Volleyball Practice	9:00 am 11:00 am 12:30 pm 6:00 pm	Entire Church Parlor Parlor FCC
Friday 12	VBS Decorating	9:00 am	Entire Church
Saturday 13			
Sunday 14	Sunday School Hospitality Time Worship Service VBS Decorating if needed	9:00 am 10:00 am 10:30 am 12:00 pm	CC 16A Narthex Sanctuary Entire Church

Sunday School Studies

Special Sunday School Class through Jul. 14 – will meet in CC#16 A-B, leader Suzanne Bandy, study of **From the Inside Out: Discovering a Deeper and More Transformative Life with God by Carolyn Arends**. Double I and Open Doors will join this class.

Grades 6-12 will not meet until August.

Preschool – Grade 5 will not meet until August.

Next Sermon – July 14, 2024

“Gathering for Worship”
Scripture Lesson

Rev. Jeff Bandy
2 Samuel 6: 1-5, 12b-19 (NIV)

July 7, 2024 Announcements

BRING YOUR COINS NEXT WEEK: Coins for missions Sunday is **Sunday, Jul 14**. Coins will go to the following Ministries supported by the FCUMC mission and outreach team: Bridges of Hope, Fish Pantry and Family Promise.

MARY & MARTHA GATHERING: REMEMBER; We Will Not Meet In July. The next Mary & Martha gathering will be held Monday, Aug. 12.

WOMEN’S GROUPS: WOMEN UNITED CIRCLE **Will Not Meet In July**. DORCAS CIRCLE will meet on **Tuesday, Jul. 16 at 1:00pm** in the Parlor.

MEN OF FAITH: The Men of Faith will meet on **Monday, Jul. 15 at 6:00pm in CC 16A-B**. All men are invited to join us. Pizza will be served. We will have social time during the meal followed by a devotional from “God Calls You to More.” We will then discuss our annual garden and garage sale projects as well as review the multiple charities we support financially.



VBS IS ALMOST HERE: Vacation Bible School is coming for children 4 years to entering 6th grade. Come be a part of this year’s ADVENTURE WITH GOD. Just go to FCUM.org to register your child/children. There are many areas needing help: decorating; classroom assistants; people to help with crafts & games; and people to bake cupcakes or cookies. If you are able to help in any way, please contact Betsy Murray at gmama9875@aol.com or (937) 768-1143 or Joyce Smith at jes1129@aol.com or (937) 372-6576.

SHOES 4 THE SHOELESS: The children will come in to be sized on **Saturday, Aug. 3, 9:30-10:30am** and return on **Saturday, Aug. 17, 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, Aug. 4** and any shoes purchased can be brought to church on **Sunday, Aug. 11**. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions please call Sandy Pramer at (937) 307-3619.

POTENTIAL MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY: In a school just a few blocks from our church, 90% of the students live in poverty, 12% are homeless and a large percentage of children come from a single parent home. Suddenly, out of necessity and compassion, the school is more than an educational institution. It is the only full meal a child may get. It is the only source of love and support for some children. It is the only source of encouragement for a child. Today’s teachers are more than teachers and are sometimes overwhelmed with the baggage that many children bring into the classroom. For their sake and the child’s sake, they need a helping hand. Currently Shawnee School has a mentor program that is working to help students while giving teachers time to focus on educating. It is woefully short of volunteers. The Ad Board Outreach Sub-Committee of our church is looking for those who would be interested in becoming volunteers for just a few hours a week who can support the current mentor program. Like in our Vacation Bible School many children are impacted by the attention of a compassionate adult. Please pray and consider being a mentor volunteer. We will soon conduct a survey to help us discern Faith Community’s response to this need.

JULY

Monday 8	VBS Decorating	9:00 am	Entire Church
Tuesday 9	VBS Decorating Bible Study	9:00 am 10:00 am	Entire Church Parlor
Wednesday 10	VBS Decorating	9:00 am	Entire Church
Thursday 11	VBS Decorating Prayer Shawl Membership Care Magic Volleyball Practice	9:00 am 11:00 am 12:30 pm 6:00 pm	Entire Church Parlor Parlor FCC
Friday 12	VBS Decorating	9:00 am	Entire Church
Saturday 13			
Sunday 14	Sunday School Hospitality Time Worship Service VBS Decorating if needed	9:00 am 10:00 am 10:30 am 12:00 pm	CC 16A Narthex Sanctuary Entire Church

Sunday School Studies

Special Sunday School Class through Jul. 14 – will meet in CC#16 A-B, leader Suzanne Bandy, study of **From the Inside Out: Discovering a Deeper and More Transformative Life with God by Carolyn Arends**. Double I and Open Doors will join this class.

Grades 6-12 will not meet until August.

Preschool – Grade 5 will not meet until August.

Next Sermon – July 14, 2024

"Gathering for Worship"
Scripture Lesson

Rev. Jeff Bandy
2 Samuel 6: 1-5, 12b-19 (NIV)

July 7, 2024 Announcements

BRING YOUR COINS NEXT WEEK: Coins for missions Sunday is **Sunday, Jul 14**. Coins will go to the following Ministries supported by the FCUMC mission and outreach team: Bridges of Hope, Fish Pantry and Family Promise.

MARY & MARTHA GATHERING: REMEMBER; We Will Not Meet In July. The next Mary & Martha gathering will be held Monday, Aug. 12.

WOMEN'S GROUPS: WOMEN UNITED CIRCLE **Will Not Meet In July**. DORCAS CIRCLE will meet on **Tuesday, Jul. 16 at 1:00pm** in the Parlor.

MEN OF FAITH: The Men of Faith will meet on **Monday, Jul. 15 at 6:00pm in CC 16A-B**. All men are invited to join us. Pizza will be served. We will have social time during the meal followed by a devotional from "God Calls You to More." We will then discuss our annual garden and garage sale projects as well as review the multiple charities we support financially.



VBS IS ALMOST HERE: Vacation Bible School is coming for children 4 years to entering 6th grade. Come be a part of this year's ADVENTURE WITH GOD. Just go to FCUM.org to register your child/children. There are many areas needing help: decorating; classroom assistants; people to help with crafts & games; and people to bake cupcakes or cookies. If you are able to help in any way, please contact Betsy Murray at gmama9875@aol.com or (937) 768-1143 or Joyce Smith at jes1129@aol.com or (937) 372-6576.

SHOES 4 THE SHOELESS: The children will come in to be sized on **Saturday, Aug. 3, 9:30-10:30am** and return on **Saturday, Aug. 17, 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, Aug. 4** and any shoes purchased can be brought to church on **Sunday, Aug. 11**. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions please call Sandy Pramer at (937) 307-3619.

POTENTIAL MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY: In a school just a few blocks from our church, 90% of the students live in poverty, 12% are homeless and a large percentage of children come from a single parent home. Suddenly, out of necessity and compassion, the school is more than an educational institution. It is the only full meal a child may get. It is the only source of love and support for some children. It is the only source of encouragement for a child. Today's teachers are more than teachers and are sometimes overwhelmed with the baggage that many children bring into the classroom. For their sake and the child's sake, they need a helping hand. Currently Shawnee School has a mentor program that is working to help students while giving teachers time to focus on educating. It is woefully short of volunteers. The Ad Board Outreach Sub-Committee of our church is looking for those who would be interested in becoming volunteers for just a few hours a week who can support the current mentor program. Like in our Vacation Bible School many children are impacted by the attention of a compassionate adult. Please pray and consider being a mentor volunteer. We will soon conduct a survey to help us discern Faith Community's response to this need.