

August 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
June 30	85	4
July 7	93	15
July 14	93	14
July 21	97	14

From the Pastor

In the United Methodist Church, July marks the beginning of a pastoral year. Every year the District Superintendents meet one-on-one with the pastors in their district to review their ministry at their current appointment. The pastor and the church Staff Parish Relations Committee both get an opportunity to provide a review of the church's viability and the pastor's wellness and leadership. Together we also provide some goals for us to aspire to for the year.

Last week I met with Rev. Jenn Lucas, Great Miami River District Superintendent and shared with her our plans and now I want to share them with you. As with last year, our focus will continue to be on both in-reach and out-reach as we continue ministries to share our faith and build our community. As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, from the in-reach perspective we would like to build on our small group ministry and create a few new Meet & Greet groups. At this time, I have not received any interest, so I am reminding you this month to please consider being a part of a group. I am not asking anyone specific to lead a group; rather, I am asking the church to commit to getting to know a group of people better and to be open to God's grace to see where the Holy

Spirit leads you. In addition, we plan to offer some short-term studies to help us grow together in our faith response. Regarding out-reach, we're planning to partner with Shawnee Elementary to provide them mentorship support for some of their students. For this to happen we need folks who can commit to showing up at the school regularly throughout the school year. We created a survey to allow you to express your interest, availability and student grade you would be most comfortable with (See Insert). Please prayerfully consider supporting the children of our community and return the survey to the office as soon as possible. And lastly, in order to best support all our ministries, we have set a goal to review our stewardship practices after several years of various changes and challenges that Faith UMC has endured. These goals are a reminder that we all play a part in assuring the viability of our church and its capacity to fulfill our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Jeff

Stephen Ministry

Just what is Stephen Ministry? How did we at Faith get involved?

Stephen Ministry offers one-to-one, confidential care to our congregation and community who are struggling with a special need. Each individual is paired with a trained Stephen Minister—women work with women and men with men. Stephen Ministers offer Christian support and care, not advice and counsel.

Stephen Ministry was founded in St. Louis by Kenneth Haugk, a Lutheran pastor and trained clinical psychologist, who called on nine of his laypeople to help as Christian caregivers. This ministry was named after Stephen, the first layperson the Apostles asked to care for the needs of the early congregation described in Acts 6. What began with nine in 1957 has grown to more than 600,000 men and women from all walks of life who have trained and served as Stephen Ministers. Currently there are more than 13,000 Stephen Ministry congregations representing 190 Christian denomina-

tions in the U.S. and Canada and 30 other countries. More than one-and-a-half million people have had a Stephen Minister to walk with them, providing Christian care during tough times.

Faith Community has been a Stephen Ministry congregation since the early 1990's. Four individuals saw the possibilities of Stephen Ministry for Faith. Bob and Dorothy Montgomery, Cliff McKee, and Ann Ledbetter paved the way by being the first to train to become Stephen Ministers and Stephen leaders. Thanks to many others who have served, we're looking forward to beginning a new training class soon.

This Christ-centered ministry is not a casual ministry. It involves prayer, thought, consideration, study, flexibility, and commitment. We challenge you to prayerfully consider this training. Being a Stephen Minister is not only helpful to others, but it's one of the most fulfilling and joyful experiences you'll ever have.

To learn more, come to *A Taste of Stephen Ministry* immediately following the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, August 4th, or Thursday, August 8th at 7 p.m. Stephen Leaders, Lynn and Mike Engle, Judy Mahan, or Becky Cultice, will be glad to answer questions or provide additional information about what's been a life-changing experience for each of them.

Long-Time Editor of Faith Links

Each month, the Faith Links newsletter arrives in your mailbox. A message from Pastor Jeff and several other articles of interest are included, along with a calendar for the month, detailing various activities, a financial statement and record of attendance for the previous month. Did you ever wonder how all this happens? For 30 plus years, Jackie Foster has been the "editor-in-chief".

She met Ray Foster in High School and they married in 1958, Ray's last year at Ohio State, and were together until his passing in 2020.

Shortly after moving to Xenia where he accepted the job of Band Director at Xenia High School, they were invited to attend First Methodist Church and became active members, giving their

time and talents to the church activities. Jackie continues to volunteer her time and talent in various activities including volunteering in the church office. She wants no recognition for all the work she puts in to getting the Faith Links out in a timely fashion each month.

This is a wonderful way to communicate with the members of the church including those who might be shut-ins.

–Submitted by Joan Baxter

Mary & Martha

Welcome back to Mary & Martha gathering on Monday, August 12 from 6-8 pm! We have kept busy scheduling fun and fulfilling programs for the rest of the year and also hosting events to get our information out: Xenia Days over the 4th and VBS serving coffee and pastries to volunteers and parents! We will continue with the same schedule so bring a dish to pass and be prepared to be WOWED with our August program! If you have questions, please, call Laurie Krakowiak at 937-374-2239, or Barbara Mills at 937-4108.

UMW

Women United will meet on Monday, August 19 at 1:30pm in the Parlor

Dorcas will not meet in August.

United Methodist Men of Faith

The men will meet on Monday, August 19th at 6 PM in Room 16A & B Community Center. 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. If you have large items to be donated to the garage sale in September, please contact Bob Whipp (937-306-8281) or Victor Hess (937-352-6256). *See details on page 8.

Sun Dried Bricks – Exodus 5:6-14(NIV)

“That same day Pharaoh gave this order to the slave drivers and overseers in charge of the people, “You are no longer to supply the people with straw for making bricks; let them go and gather their own straw, but require them to make the same number of bricks as before; don’t reduce the quota. They are lazy; that is why they are crying out, “Let us go and sacrifice to our God.” Make the work harder for the people so that they keep working and pay no attention to lies.” A major part of the Exodus story involves straw and how to make successful bricks. Bricks in biblical times (and in many developing countries today) were made from clay and baked/hardened by the sun. To make a successful brick it requires that you follow an exact procedure. First you must gather the clay, add a little water so it is semi solid, add straw and form it into a brick. It is then placed in the sun where it will harden. Not too surprisingly, it is called sun dried bricks. These become the building materials for making an inexpensive but a very comfortable and cool house especially in a hot desert environment.

So why is straw so important? We have all seen mud puddles that have dried out and they are not pretty and have several cracks! If these cracks occurred in the bricks, they would be unusable. Something as simple as straw will reinforce the sun dried bricks and hold it together while it is drying. The U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1934 studied how to make sun dried bricks. They recommended that 0.1 pounds of straw were needed to make successful brick. This may seem to be just little amount but without this straw or reinforcement, they could not make a successful brick.

Likewise, a little reinforcement is needed in our Christian lives to make us useful. This reinforcement may be seen as small, such as attending the devotionals or Bible classes, lending a helping hand to someone in need, showing a loving spirit or praying for others. God will help us find the reinforcement we need and how we can reinforce others. As with the sun dried bricks it does not take a lot of reinforcement but

the reinforcement is critical. Our efforts to reinforce ourselves and each other can let us create something useful and beautiful.

Luke M. Snell, P.E., F.A.C.I., Honorary Member-
ACI Concrete Consultant

Shoes4Shoeless

The children will come in to be sized on Saturday, August 3, 9:30-10:30am and return on Saturday, August 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 in the narthex on Sunday, August 4 and any shoes purchased can be brought to church on Sunday, August 11. If you would like to volunteer on either of those Saturdays or have any questions, please call Sandy Pramer at (937-307-3619

Xenia Citywide Worship in Shawnee Park Sunday, August 18 at 10:30am in the Pavilion

FCUM along with several other churches in Xenia, will be suspending out regular Sunday morning activities in order to worship together in the park. This is an opportunity for us to witness to the Xenia community about our oneness in Christ. Caleb Ingram from Declare Dayton will be our speaker. There will be chairs set up in the pavilion or you may bring your own chair or blanket to set up on the lawn.

Passings

Condolences are extended to Karen Turner and family on the death of her husband Bill Turner; and to the family of Bill Tonne on his death.

Thanks

A well deserved thank you to Joyce Smith and Betsy Murray! It is due to the countless hours over several weeks

of hard work and dedication (and exhaustion) on their part that we had another fun, rewarding, and successful VBS week.

Faith Community United Methodist,

Thank you so much for sponsoring a community meal at One Bistro. Your generosity has made a difference to those with food insecurity in the Xenia Community. We appreciate you! Bless you,

One Bistro Team

Faith Community,

Thank you so much for supporting my education. I feel so lucky to have a community within the church. You all have supported me from the beginning, and for that I am incredibly grateful.

Sincerely, Molly Mossing

Dear Faith Community ,

Thanks from Bridges of Hope for your generous support. We greatly appreciate people like you who support this ministry. – Stephen Taylor, SKBOH Director

FCUM

June 2024 Financials

Monthly Income	\$24,914		YTD Income	\$ 168,952	
Monthly Expenses	\$31,336		YTD Expenses	\$ 184,872	
Difference	\$ (6,422)	-25.78%	Difference	\$ (15,920)	-9.42%

**Deadline for submitting articles for
September Faith Links: August 19**

Garage Sale Notice

The Men of Faith Community have set the date of September 6th and 7th for annual garage sale. Items can be dropped off Thursday, September 5th from noon to 8pm and Friday morning, September 7th, 9am to 12 noon. The sale will run Friday, September 6th from 6 to 8pm and Saturday, September 7th, 9am to noon. If you have furniture or large items to be picked up early, let Bob Whipp know, We have storage in the garage and may place the item on Market Place to sell ahead of the garage sale. This has worked very well in the past. For pickup or more information, call Bob Whipp at 937-668-3137 or email Robert.whipp@yahoo.com. All proceeds will go toward local missions and projects. Thank you for your support.

August 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 11am-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor	2	3 9:30-10:30am- Shoes4theShoeless fitting 11am-12:30pm-Private Event
4 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30am--Hospi- tality 10:30-11:30am-Wor- ship-Sanctuary 12-1pm-A Taste of Stephen Ministry-15A	5 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 7pm-8:45pm- Stephen Ministry-Li- brary	6 10am-11:30am- Bible Study-Parlor 6:30-8:30pm- Trustees-Parlor	7	8 11am-12pm- Prayer Shawl-Parlor 7pm-8pm-Stephen Ministry Info Session- Parlor 7-8:30pm-Christian Ed Meeting-Room 8	9	10
11 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30am--Hospi- tality Time-Narthex 10:30-11:30am-Wor- ship-Sanctuary	12 6pm-8pm-Mary & Martha-FCC 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	13 10am-11:30am- Bible Study-Parlor	14	15 11am-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor	16	17 9:30-10:30am- Shoes4theShoeless Pickup
18 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30am--Hospi- tality Time-Narthex 10:30-11:30am-Wor- ship-Sanctuary	19 1:30-3pm-Women United-Parlor 6-7:30pm-SPRC-Li- brary 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	20 10-11:30am- Bible Study-Parlor 3:30-4:30pm-Mis- sion Outreach Team Mtg.- Parlor	21	22 11am-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 4pm-7pm-Private Event	23	24 6-8pm-Double I-15A/ Kitchen
25 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30am--Hospi- tality Time-Narthex 10:30-11:30am-Wor- ship-Sanctuary	26 2pm-6pm-Commu- nity Blood Drive-FCC 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	27 10-11:30am- Bible Study-Parlor	28	29 11am-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor	30 4-7pm-Private Event- Sanctuary	31 4pm-Private Event- Sanctuary

Potential Ministry Opportunity

FCUMC / Shawnee School Mentor Program

In a school just a few blocks from our church, 90% of the students are eligible for the free lunch program. 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. If interested, please fill out the form on the reverse side and either place it in the offering plate or drop it off at the office.

Name: -----

Email: -----

Telephone: -----

Availability:

How many hours are you available in a week?

What are your best days?

Best Day -- Mon -- Tue -- Wed -- Thu -- Fri

Do you prefer: ----- Morning ----- Afternoon

Mentor: ----- Boy ----- Girl ----- Either

Grades: --- K --- 1 --- 2 --- 3 --- 4 --- 5

Participation Requires Background Check by ESC

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