

July 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
May 26	88	- - -
June 2	92	18
June 9	100	21
June 16	97	21

From the Pastor

Welcome to summer! Summer is a great time to connect with family and friends as we take advantage of the opportunities that the season offers us. Staying connected is important for our emotional and physical health. It is clear in the scriptures that from the beginning we have been created to be in relationship with one another and with God. We all know that it is easier for most of us to maintain relationships with those who are close in proximity to us and it is harder when they are farther away. It is also more natural to relate with those we can physically meet with. This is why for many it is a challenge to create and nurture a relationship with the Lord who we are not able to meet with face to face. Yet, Jesus himself declared, *"I am the vine, you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, then you will produce much fruit."* (John 15:5, CEB).

When our relationship with the Lord is well connected, our spiritual health flourishes and we become more effective in sharing love in all our other relationships. Here's the best part of what I want to say; When we meet together for the purpose of nurturing our connection with the Lord, our relationship with each other and the Lord are both strengthened.

Last year there were two Meet & Eat groups created which are still meeting to provide a means for connecting.

If you are interested in being a part of a new Meet & Eat group, please let me know by sending an email to pastorjeff@fcum.org or calling me at the office at 937-372-7601. I can answer any questions you might have about these groups and we will create as many groups as necessary, so don't be shy about expressing your interest.

Let's live well into our church vision of "Sharing Faith, Building Community" as we share our lives of faith with each other in order to encourage one another to build our community around us.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Jeff

Stephen Ministry

What does Stephen Ministry Mean to Me?

Stephen Ministry continues to be a life-changing experience. While I wasn't sure whether or not it would be a good fit for me, others in our church in Connecticut encouraged me to take the training. I've never regretted that decision. In fact, serving as a Stephen Minister was so important to me that when we relocated in 2006, we knew we would eventually join a church with an active Stephen

Ministry program. Stephen Ministry is about relationships. Without breaching confidence, I can say that my life has been enriched enormously because of the individuals that I have been privileged to walk alongside. I've learned a lot from each relationship. I've been humbled and I have grown. It means opportunity. I was commissioned as a Stephen Minister in the spring of 2003. Jesus' promise that "Where two or three are gathered, there I am also" became real. Stephen Ministry continues to offer me a way to discover, cultivate, and use the spiritual gifts I've been blessed with.

All aspects of my life have been enriched by the distinctively Christian caregiving skills I've learned and strive to practice. I experience joy as I see God working through me to bring hope and healing to a hurting person. I also grow spiritually as I experience the Lord's loving presence in community with other Christian caregivers. When we get out of the way, God does amazing things through us. When we prayerfully turn over the situation to God, He provides the resources we do not have. We are never alone in the process. We have Pastor Jeff, Stephen Leaders, the benefit of the Greater Dayton Stephen Ministry Network, and the resources of Stephen Ministries, St. Louis.

The Christ-centered nature of Stephen Ministry is reflected in the logo which is on the banner in the hall leading to the Community Center and in the stained glass piece hanging above the entrance into the narthex. A broken person behind the cross and a whole person in front of the cross symbolize that we are all broken people and it is only through Jesus and the cross that we can be made whole.

As you assess your spiritual gifts and recognize those of others, consider becoming a Stephen

Minister yourself or encouraging those who have qualities that seem compatible with Christian caregiving to explore the possibility of becoming Stephen Ministers. A new training class will be starting soon. Watch the bulletin, Wednesday emails, and Faith Links for additional information.

Whatever else the church is called to be, it is most certainly called to be Jesus' expression of love and compassion to the world. Providing care for hurting people is not an option, but an opportunity because sometimes we are the only glimpse of Jesus some people will ever see. Caring laypeople bear a powerful witness to the love and compassion of Christ through their compassionate interaction with those who are hurting. St. Francis said, "Preach the gospel at all times—sometimes even using words." We invite you to share in this important ministry. Guaranteed, your life will never be the same! --- Becky Cultice

A Voice for Environmental Stewardship

Our Precious Planet

About 8 years ago, my grandson Austin, then 4 years old, and I took a trip to the Carriage Hill Metro Park, north of Huber Heights. In the visitors center was a small book store. In it I found a book with the title Earth Matters, edited by David deRothschild, published by 2008 DK Publishers. In it I found inspiring chapters about many of the ways that our Earth is full of fascinating features that make Earth so special in our solar system, including the history of our Earth, the history of life on Earth, the different environments and ecosystems found on Earth by region. He talks about the animals and plants that inhabit those regions. Dr. Rothschild is

an adventurer and ecologist who appreciates how unique our Earth is in our solar system and about how our precious planet is in the whole of our Universe.

I know that astronomers have been eager to find other stars with planets that are habitable, but so far they have found none. Such a planet is described as being in “Goldilocks Zone”. The planet would have to be just far enough from it’s star for water to be in liquid form that would make life as we know it possible. Of the 1,780 planets that have been found beyond our solar system only 16 have been found to be in the habitable zone. And even if they are in the habitable zone, the planet has to have an atmosphere that would support life as we know it, with plants and animals like we have, not to mention civilizations. When I was in high school in the early 1960’s, I wanted to be an exobiologist. Of course, at that time there was no field of study like that.

Our Earth is obviously VERY PRECIOUS. Anything that humans do that threatens the habitability of our Earth is crazy. We have initiated significant global warming and climate change just within the last 50 years or so. Our use of fossil fuels for energy is the culprit. Now we have a CLIMATE CRISIS. We must work intensively to adopt renewable energy on a huge scale before it is too late. The use of solar panels, wind turbines, geothermal energy (heat pumps in our homes), and the use of hybrid and electric vehicles, DO NOT pollute our precious atmosphere with excess CO2. There are many things we can do to combat global warming and climate change. WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

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

Mary & Martha

The June Mary & Martha gathering was another night filled with food, fun and fellowship. REMEMBER, we will not meet in July! The next Mary & Martha gathering will be held Monday, August 12, 6-8PM in the community center. You will not want to miss this gathering as we have another exciting night planned for you ladies! Don't forget to bring a dish to pass – no food theme! If you don't have time to make something, please don't let this stop you from coming. Questions, call Laurie Krakowiak @ (937) 694-8114. or Barbara Mills @ (937) 414-4108.

UMW

Women United will not meet in July.
Dorcas will meet Tuesday, July 16 at 1 P.M. in the Parlor

UMW Scholarships were awarded to
Moira Ackenhausen, Molly Mossing & Grace Smith.

Congratulations!!

United Methodist Men of Faith

The men will meet on Monday, July 15, 6 PM in Room 16A and 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).

SAVE THE DATE

Vacation Bible School: Monday, July 15-
Friday, July 19

Shoes 4 the Shoeless: August 3 Measuring
Day &
August 17 Pick Up Day

Men of Faith Garage Sale: Friday,
September 6 &
Saturday, September 7

Help Wanted

We're still looking for a few volunteers to help answer phones in the office on Thursday afternoons and Friday mornings. If you are available, please call Deb Klaty in the church office (937) 372-7601.

Thanks

Dear Faith Community,

Thank you for four years of financial support and wonderful goodie boxes during my time in college. Your generosity has made a huge difference in my life, and I am grateful for the care and kindness you have shown me.

With heartfelt thanks,
Jake Fox

Passings

Prayers and sympathy are extended to Pastor Jeff on the death of his uncle, and to Carl Conover on the death of his brother.

Manley Proverbs

Where would we be if Jesus tried to excuse himself from the work of redeeming our souls as we try to excuse ourselves from his work.

(Submitted by Charles Manley)

FCUM

April 2024 Financials

Monthly Income	\$23,571		YTD Income	\$120,882	
Monthly Expenses	\$26,357		YTD Expenses	\$119,077	
Difference	\$ (2,786)	-11.82%	Difference	\$ 1,805	1.49%

FCUM

May 2024 Financials

Monthly Income	\$ 21,569		YTD Income	\$144,038	
Monthly Expenses	\$ 34,459		YTD Expenses	\$153,536	
Difference	\$(12,890)	-59.76%	Difference	\$ (9,498)	-6.59%

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



**DO YOU NEED A LITTLE LIGHT IN
YOUR LIFE?**

Vacation Bible School is coming July 15-19, 9:30am-12:00pm for children 4 years to entering 6th grade. Come be a part of this year's ADVENTURE WITH GOD. There are many areas needing



help: decorating on Thursday, July 11, and Friday, July 12; classroom teachers and assistants; people to help with crafts and games; and people to bake cupcakes and

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.

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