

## September 2024

Rev. Jeff Bandy  
937-372-7601 [office@fcum.org](mailto:office@fcum.org) [www.fcum.org](http://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
July 28	82	11
August 4	96	14
August 11	84	6

### From the Pastor

The beginning of September marks the end of summer. Can you believe it? Every year at this time the church anticipates an uptick in activity associated with the church. Summer schedules tend to keep folks from joining us on Sunday mornings for Sunday school and worship and engaging with our other ministries.

When summer ends, regular schedules are resumed and different distractions can keep folks from staying connected with their faith community. Jesus taught, *“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. A branch can’t produce fruit by itself, but must remain in the vine. Likewise, you can’t produce fruit unless you remain in me.” (John 15:4, CEB).*

As much as we might try to sustain our connection with Christ outside the body of Christ the church, it doesn’t last and we will begin to wither like a branch unattached to the

vine. Too often members of the church lose touch with the church for various reasons and if the “church” hasn’t reached out to them, conclude “They must not miss me, so I won’t go back.”

This is not the case. You are missed! You are a part of the body! If you feel disconnected, please let me know. I am available to you. I am usually in the office Monday-Thursday during the church office hours, 9am-3pm. You can contact me by calling the office at 937-372-7601, or via email at [pastorjeff@fcum.org](mailto:pastorjeff@fcum.org). I also can be reached on my cell phone by calling or texting me at 567-203-9161. As a reminder, if you are having surgery or are in the hospital and would like a pastoral visit, please let me or the church office know. Hospitals and other medical care facilities do not contact churches. If you are unable to participate in the activities of the church for various reasons and would like a home visit, then I would love to set that up. Besides myself, there are also folks in the church that are available to visit hospitals, nursing facilities, rehab centers, and homes. So let us know your needs. And don’t forget we are a Stephen Ministry church and have trained Stephen Ministers who can meet one-on-one with anyone who would like someone to walk with them through a challenging time.

Let’s help each other stay connected and bear fruit together in the name of Jesus Christ.

Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Jeff

## Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry St. Louis is constantly doing research and improving and updating their materials, as well as writing new books. Last summer, we had a short term Sunday School class review The Gift of Empathy. It was an awesome class and people still mention things they learned.

There is a new book out called Caring Assertiveness. This is targeted toward caregivers, but all of us are caregivers in some regard. We interact with family, friends, co-workers, and people in need. This book is a great tool for our toolbox. Chapter 8 is all about offering, asking for and accepting help. This chapter might have been written for me. Chapter 14 is very, very intriguing. It is all about relating assertively to God. What a concept! We are told to come boldly to the throne of grace! God wants to hear from us. This new book is available in the Stephen Ministry section in the adult library. For me, this book was engaging and thought provoking.

–Lynn Engle

## **A Voice for Environmental Stewardship September 2024**

### **Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve**

Many of you are acquainted with the beautiful Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve in Clifton. It is just south of St. Rt. 343, less than one mile from Clifton. I have been working at the CGNP since 2014 when I became an OHIO CERTIFIED VOLUNTEER NATURALIST. Wayne Cook is also an OCVN. I mainly work as an interpretive naturalist at the nature center. I have always wanted to become a naturalist since I majored in biology in college. My father inspired me. He was a self-taught geologist, photographer and naturalist.

Geographically CGSNP is well within the temperate zone of North American forests. As a nature preserve, it protects the forest plants, animals, geology and the scenic Little Miami River. It is home to 347 species of wildflowers, 105 species of trees, shrubs, and over 200 species of birds have been seen visiting the gorge. Also, scores of species of mammals, large and small, including bats that make their home in the gorge, not to mention the many species of reptiles and amphibians. The number of species of insects is innumer-

able. There are many well maintained trails of varying degrees of difficulty for people with differing abilities.

Clifton Gorge is also a natural wonder. The 60 feet deep gorge was mainly formed from the melted waters of the Wisconsin glaciation that started receding about 14,000 years ago. The glacier covered a large portion of what would become northern Ohio.

A nature preserve is a perfect example of Environmental Stewardship. The State of Ohio is very invested in the creation and maintenance of state nature preserves. In fact, there are 144 state nature preserves, large and small, in Ohio. The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves is part of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Governor Mike DeWine, whose home is between Cedarville and Yellow Springs, is very supportive of natural areas and preserves.

There is much life and there are many wonders to protect in Ohio. The Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve is the closest to us in Greene County. The Nature Center is open to the public from the first weekend of April to the last weekend of October, Friday to Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm. COME VISIT US.

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

## **Meet the Custodian**

No doubt you notice each time you enter Faith Community United Methodist Church that the whole interior of the building is spotless, thanks to Chrystal Hoskins who is responsible for the entire building. Her obvious responsibilities include multiple office spaces, multiple restrooms, parlor, sanctuary, nave and chapel, as well as Sunday school rooms, library, community center, kitchen and meeting rooms. She changes the pulpit hangings in the sanctuary to the appropriate color seasonally and ensures that the candles are ready for Sunday morning lighting.

Another responsibility which she has taken upon herself is to be at the main entrance to the church on days when there are group meetings in the parlor.

The only unlocked door to the church on weekdays is through the office. Those coming to the parlor are greeted with a big smile and an open door to ensure ease in getting to the parlor.

Chrystal has been employed at the church for about five years. A native Buckeye, she was born in Wilmington, but has lived in Xenia for several years. She is the mother of three daughters and grandmother of four special little ones. She especially likes to work with children when possible. She describes herself as a “stay at home” person who loves all kinds of word puzzles.

Crystal always has a big smile for everyone who enters the building, making strangers as well as regular parishioners feel totally welcome.

–Joan Baxter

## Mary & Martha

What a great response we had to our August Mary & Martha gathering! It was good to see so many lovely ladies after one month off! The next gathering will be Monday, September 9 from 6 to 8 pm in the Community Center. We have asked Lisa Jordan of *Providing for Women* to speak to us on her non-profit organization. This is one of our service projects to help donate products to her organization. The needs are pads, tampons, liners, feminine wipes, zippered pouches (i.e. pencil pouches or make-up bags) and incontinence products. If you have any questions, please call Laurie Krakowiak at 937-694-8114, or Barbara Mills at 937-414-4108.

## **UMW**

**Women United will meet on Monday, September 16 at 1:00 P.M. in the Parlor  
Dorcas will meet Tuesday, September 17 at 1:00 PM in Room 15 A-B**

## **United Methodist Men of Faith**

**The men will meet on Monday, September 16 at 6 PM in Room 16A & B Community Center. All men are invited to join us. We will grill burgers and hot dogs (weather permitting) with 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.**

**REMINDER: Garage Sale will be Friday, September 6th from 6-8pm and Saturday, September 7th, 9am to noon. Items can be dropped off Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> from noon to 8pm and Friday morning September 6<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm. If you have large items to be donated to the garage sale, please contact Bob Whipp (937-306-8281) or Victor Hess (937-352-6256).**

## **Shoes4theShoeless**

**Because of your generosity, seventy children received shoes, socks, underwear and Bibles. Thanks to all who purchased the shoes or made a monetary donation. This program can only be successful because of our many faithful volunteers and donors.**

## It's Kit Time

Festival of Sharing time is here. There are directions for School Kits and Hygiene Kits in the Narthex. FCUM will supply the school bags. We will be collecting filled kits through Sunday, September 22. If you have any questions, please contact Scott or Carol Jenkins at 937-372-1372.

## Passings

*Condolences to Joyce Smith and family on the death of her sister Sheila Fauble, and to Mary Russell and family on the death of her husband Larry Russell.*

### FCUM July 2024 Financials

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Monthly Income	\$ 21,851		YTD Income	\$ 190,804	
Monthly Expenses	\$ 32,052		YTD Expenses	\$ 216,924	
Difference	\$ (10,200)	-46.68%	Difference	\$ (26,120)	-13.69%

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**Deadline for submitting articles for  
October Faith Links: September 16**



**YOU'RE INVITED TO A BIRTHDAY PARTY!**  
Please join us Saturday, September 7, 2-4:00pm  
in FH 15A-B for the Celebration of JoAnn Sidders'  
100<sup>th</sup> Birthday, hosted by her daughters Keitha,  
Debbie and Vicki. (850-524-0637)



# September 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30-Hospitality 10:30-11:30-Worship-Sanctuary	<b>2</b> <b>Labor Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	<b>3</b> 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 6-8:30pm-Girl Scouts-15A,B,C,16A-B 6:30-8:30pm-Trustees-Parlor	<b>4</b> 6:15-7:15pm-Bells Practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary/Chapel	<b>5</b> 11am-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 2-3:45pm-Women's Club of Xenia-Parlor 7-8pm-Finance Committee-Library	<b>6</b> 6-8pm-Garage Sale-FCC & FH 15A-C, 16A-C 2-4pm-Joann Sidders 100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Party-FH-15 A-B	<b>7</b> 9am-12pm-Garage Sale-FCC- FH15 A-C & 16 A-C 2-4pm-Joann Sidders 100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Party-FH-15 A-B
<b>8</b> 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30-Hospitality 10:30-11:30-Worship-Sanctuary	<b>9</b> 6-8pm-Mary&Martha-FCC, Kitchen 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	<b>10</b> 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor	<b>11</b> 6:15-7:15pm-Bells Practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary/Chapel	<b>12</b> 11am-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 12:30-1:30pm-Membership Care-Parlor	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30-Hospitality 10:30-11:30-Worship-Sanctuary	<b>16</b> <b>Deadline for October Faith Links</b> 1:30-3pm-Women United-Parlor 6-8:30pm-Men of Faith-16A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	<b>17</b> 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 1-3pm-Dorcas-Parlor 6-8:30pm-Girl Scouts-15A,B,C, 16A-B	<b>18</b> 6:15-7:15pm-Bells Practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary/Chapel	<b>19</b> 11am-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6:30-8:30pm-Ad Board-FH Rm 15-C	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30-Hospitality 10:30-11:30-Worship-Sanctuary	<b>23</b> 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	<b>24</b> 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor	<b>25</b> 6:15-7:15pm-Bells Practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary/Chapel	<b>26</b> 11am-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6-8pm-Double I-15A & Kitchen
<b>29</b> 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30-Hospitality 10:30-11:30-Worship-Sanctuary	<b>30</b> 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C					