

October 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
August 25	101	15
September 1	84	20
September 8	93	26
September 15	90	19

From the Pastor

Around this time of year within the United Methodist Church, we prepare for what is called either a “church conference” or “charge conference”. They are the same with the exception that a charge conference is limited in attendance to those serving on the Administrative Board. Here at Faith Community it has been common practice to hold a “church conference”, inviting all church members to come and have a voice and a vote. At the church conference we take some time reflecting on the past year’s ministry efforts and look ahead to goals for next year. We also set aside a time to remember the saints of the church that have gone on to glory with Christ over the past year. As good stewards of the resources we present required annual reports which document the ways we manage our property and the safety of our members with the

Trustees Legal and Property Report, Parsonage Inspection, and Safe Sanctuary Policy, as well as determining the compensation package for the pastor. All these things are important to the vitality of the church; however, there is one other item, which I recognize as mission critical to the church. This mission critical item is the setting and electing of officers and committee team members of all the teams required and created to assure Faith Community is actively serving the Lord and pursuing the Lord's will. We are all servants of the Lord. And whether you are an official member of the church or not, everyone connected with Faith Community who has a desire for the Lord's will to be carried out through this church is welcome to serve in some capacity.

When we serve together, we not only get to know each other better, but we grow in our faith together. Please consider how you might connect with your brothers and sisters in Christ in ministry as a servant of the Lord on one of the church's various teams and committees. Contact me to let me know where you are interested in serving or contact me with any questions about any of the ministries or roles. The mission field around us is ripe and there are endless opportunities for us to make an impact for the Lord as we continue to serve the Lord together.

Grace & Peace
Pastor Jeff

Stephen Ministry

Loss is a Given, but We Don't have to Go it Alone

If we could eliminate something from our life journey, many of us would choose loss. It's been with us to one degree or another since childhood when we lost a teddy bear or a favorite baby blanket. As adults it may have involved losing a job, moving and needing to start over, going through a divorce, drifting away from a life-long friend, or ultimately saying goodbye to a loved one who dies. Throughout our lives, we learn that loss is inevitable and hard. It doesn't feel right. We

know that this wasn't God's original plan, but thanks to Adam and Eve's actions, we still experience loss. It is often unexpected. Loss can easily make us feel overwhelmed and out of control. Letting go can be really, really hard, and none of us know what it will be like to walk through something we haven't yet experienced. We may feel a little unsettled or disoriented as if "the bottom has fallen out." At times like these, it's essential for us to know that there is someone who will be there with us no matter what, offering support, healing, and comfort for as long as needed.

Because of Jesus, we have hope that helps us carry through times of loss. Will it be easy? Of course not. But can we turn to Him and make it through? Absolutely. Whether it's seemingly insignificant to the world (but not to us), or if it's one of the most devastating situations we've ever had to face, He is present. We are reminded that God draws near to us in a special way during the toughest times. "The LORD is near to us in a special way during the toughest times. "The LORD is near to the brokenhearted" (Psalm 34:18). The familiar and comforting "Be still, My Soul" reassures us of His presence no matter what we face: *"Be still my soul, the Lord is on thy side. Bear patiently the cross of pain; Leave to thy God to order and provide. In every change he faithful will remain."*

Loss is a part of life. Saying goodbye to anything or anyone can be extremely challenging but letting go is easier when we remember that the One we're turning to and holding onto is forever holding on to us. There is always room for hope. As Romans 8:28-29 reminds us, nothing can separate us from the "love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

There are those here on earth, too, who can walk alongside us to listen and provide support. No one has to deal with loss alone. Consider letting our Stephen Ministers share the pain. To learn more, contact Becky Cultice, 937-376-5747 or culticer@sbcglobal.net

A Voice for Environmental Stewardship

October 2024

The Endangered Species Act

Climate change and global warming are massive changes that have effected changes in many of Earth's ecosystems. They have caused the rapid decline of hundreds of species within families of animals and plants on Earth. Another way to describe this loss is to say that these animals and plants are being threatened with extinction because of environmental changes in their habitats. Habitats are also lost because of the expansion of housing and businesses, including agriculture. As the Earth's human population continues to grow, now at 8.2 billion, more and more natural habitats will disappear.

Our government, with great bipartisan support, wisely passed the Endangered Species Act in 1973. It seeks to protect our endangered species. In the U.S. many notable animals have been saved from extinction including: the California condor, the bald eagle, the grizzly bear, the humpback whale, and many species of birds, have recovered under the Endangered Species Act.

Many countries that have unique animals within their borders also have conservation laws that are protecting their unique animals. Gorillas, amazing African elephants, and various species of the rhinoceros are also endangered. Poachers kill rhinos for their horns which are sold and used in traditional Chinese medicine.

God has given us this amazing planet teeming with life of all kinds. **IN FACT, ALL ANIMALS AND PLANTS WERE THRIVING ON EARTH LONG BEFORE HOMO SAPIENS CAME ON THE SCENE.** The least we can do is **CHERISH and PROTECT THE CREATURES THAT SHARE OUR PLANET WITH US.**

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

Faith Community College Crew

Fall officially begins on Friday which means all our students are knee deep in class work. We want to stay in touch with our college students to encourage them in their academics and in their faith. We will be sending cards and snack packages throughout the year. Please look for cards in the narthex to sign for our college kids. There will also be bins to place snacks, ie chips, crackers, granola bars etc. Gift cards or monetary gifts will allow us to purchase items for the kits.

Thanks so much for your support, caring and prayers for our Faith Community college crew. If you have a college student in your family please notify the church office by email @fcum.org or phone 937-372-7601 with their name and university address. We want to make sure we have all of our students' information.

Mary & Martha

We are SUPER EXCITED to announce that the next Mary & Martha gathering will be a 1st YEAR CELEBRATION and we are making this BIG!!. With balloons, photo opportunities, BINGO games, gifts and much more! Bring yourself and a friend Monday, October 14 from 6 to 8 pm at the Community Center. Continuing with our theme, bring your favorite birthday meal dish/side to share; we will provide the desserts. If you need chldcare, RSVP to 937-694-8114 or Barbara Mills at 937-414-4108

UMW

Women United will meet on Monday, October 21 at 1:00 P.M. in the Parlor.

At our August meeting we decided to make a \$500 donation to the Greene County Fish Food Pantry.

Dorcas will meet Tuesday, October 22 at 1:00 PM in Room 15 A-B.

United Methodist Men of Faith

The men will meet on Monday, October 21 at 6 PM in Room 16A & B Community Center. All men are invited to join us. Pizza and pop will be provided. 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.

This years Garage Sale was a success!

Sales were In excess of \$5,400 (we are still counting), 35% higher than last year’s event. The Men of Faith are so thankful for the support from the members of our congregation who assisted with their time and donations of items. Now, we focus our time on distributing all of this money to local Xenia charities, as we do each year. We will report on that periodically to the congregation. Thanks to Bob Whipp for coordinating the many facets of this project.

—Vic Hess, Secretary

Meet the Former Choir Director

Glen Shaw has been directing the Faith Community Choir (on and off) since he filled In for Gary Patterson in 1979. He recalls when the congregation was much larger, and the choir numbered forty-five voices.

Glen and his wife Carol are the parents of two sons and boast that they have three beautiful granddaughters as well.

The family moved to Greene County in 1975, joined our church in 1976, and Glen began singing with the choir. Now and again, during the summer months when the choir does not perform he will provide special music for the pleasure of the congregation.

He has always been involved in music, having taught at OVCH (Ohio Veterans Childrens Home), in Xenia elementary schools, Warner Junior High School, and Xenia High School, where he assisted Ray Foster.

Glen has several interesting hobbies among which is hunting. He enjoys being outdoors where he can commune with nature. Along with some friends, he enjoys on a regular basis the sport of shooting clay pigeons. Also, he meets two days a week with friends at the Adult Recreation Center to shoot pool.

Fifteen years ago Glen formed the Community Christmas Concert Band and invited a group of musician friends to participate in this concert. They were most willing to come together for weeks of practice and then the performance because they all share a mutual love of music and enjoy being with a diverse group of musical friends. This year will be the fourteenth annual presentation. (Covid had prevented a concert one year). Rehearsing will begin about the first week in November. Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 8 at 3:00 pm. The concert is open to the public and of course, free of charge.

—Joan Baxter

Casserole Care-A-Van

Do you know of someone connected to our church who could benefit from our Casserole Care-a-van providing them with a few meals? If so, get with me so that I can let you know the information that I will need to get this set up with our amazing Casserole Care-a-van volunteers.

Julie Wickline (937)207-8289.

Passings

Prayers and Condolences are extended to the families and friends of:

Deloris Mays, August 28

Bonnie Weimer, September 11

Margaret Mercer, September 14

FCUM
August 2024 Financials

Monthly Income	\$18,989		YTD Income	\$212,194	
Monthly Expenses	\$ (7,288)		YTD Expenses	\$237,491	
Difference	\$26,277	138.38%	Difference	\$ (25,297)	-11.92%

**Deadline for submitting articles for
November Faith Links: October 18**



HAPPY AUTUMN

October 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 6-8:30pm GirlScouts-15A,B,C,16A-B 6:30-8:30pm-Trustees-Parlor 3:30-4:30pm-Mission/Outreach Planning-Parlor	2 6:15-7:15pm-Bells Practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary/Chapel	3 11am-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 2-3:45pm-Woman's Club of Xenia-Parlor 6:30-9pm-Stephen Ministry Training-Library	4	5
6 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30-Hospitality 10:30-11:30-Worship-Sanctuary	7 7-8:45pm-Stephen Ministry-Library 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	8 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor	9 5-6pm-Worship Design Team-Pastor's Office 6:15-7:15pm-Bells Practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary/Chapel	10 11am-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6:30-9pm-Stephen Ministry Training-Library 8-8:30pm-Christian Ed. Meeting-Rm. 8	11	12
13 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30-Hospitality 10:30-11:30-Worship-Sanctuary	14 6-8pm-Mary & Martha-FCC/Kitchen 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	15 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 1-3pm-Dorcas-Room 15 A-B 3:30-4:30-Mission Outreach-Parlor 6-8:30pm-Girl Scouts-15A,B,C,16A-B	16 6:15-7:15pm-Bells Practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary/Chapel	17 11am-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6:30-9pm- Stephen Ministry Training-Library	18	19 1-4pm-Girl Scouts Badge Event-15AB
20 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30-Hospitality 10:30-11:30-Worship-Sanctuary	21 1:30-3pm-Women United-Parlor 6-8:30pm-Men of Faith-16A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	22 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor	23 6:15-7:15pm-Bells Practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary/Chapel	24 11am-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6-7:30pm-XHS Sr. Dinner-FCC & Kitchen 6:30-9pm-Stephen Ministry Training-Library	25	26 6-8pm-Double I-15A & Kitchen
27 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30-Hospitality 10:30-11:30-Worship-Sanctuary	28 6-7:30pm-SPRC- Library 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	29 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor	30 6:15-7:15pm-Bells Practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary/Chapel	31 Halloween 11am-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6:30-9pm-Stephen Ministry Training-Library		