

## November 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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>S.S.</u>
September 22	86	18
September 29	80	24
October 6	72	85
October 13	75	18
October 20	84	18

## From the Pastor

Every year when November comes around, we start looking forward to Thanksgiving and even the Advent/Christmas season. In recent years retail stores begin marketing these seasons before Halloween has passed. Our culture wants to rush us into the holidays and we can lose track of our sense of peace, gratefulness, and joy that is the basis of our celebrations. In Christ we have every reason to give thanks. Romans 5: 1-5 reminds us, *“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”* Romans 5:1-5 NIV). *Let this passage shape your gratitude and peace within and your response of love and joy in the seasons of celebration ahead.*

I also want to share our new Bishop Hee-Soo Jung's invitation to join together for an inspiring day of prayer, worship, and learning on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, with the theme "Hearts Strangely Warmed". The day will begin at 10:00 a.m. at Worthington United Methodist Church located at 600 High St., in Worthington and will conclude by 3:30 p.m. The event centered around Romans 5:1-5, will focus on hope, endurance, and the transformative power of God's love. Attendees will explore how these principles align with the core mission of the United Methodist Church (UMC) to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The guest speaker for the day is Rev. Dr. Paul W. Chilcote, an award-winning author, Methodist historian, and renowned scholar in Wesleyan theology and Christian discipleship. Dr. Chilcote is a dear friend of Suzanne's and mine and was one of my seminary professors. I can't say enough about him and his family, so I encourage you to consider attending this special event.

The Day of Prayer will include opportunities for worship and celebrating our unity in The UMC. The registration fee is \$10 and includes lunch. Registration deadline is Monday, November 11. To register go to the conference website at this link: <https://www.westohioumc.org/news/bishop-jung-host-all-ohio-day-thanksgiving-and-uni-host-all-ohio-day-thanksgiving-and-unity-jung-host-all-ohio-day-thanksgiving-and-unity-nov-23>.

*Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Jeff*

## Stephen Ministry

### Seasons of Grief—Living with Loss During the Holidays

The crisp, cool, colorful days of autumn have arrived. Although it's one of the most beautiful times of the year, Christmas decorations appear in stores before we've had a chance to enjoy fall. For many, Halloween has now replaced Thanksgiving as the "kick-off" to an ever-lengthening marathon of holiday preparations and activities. Even during the best of times, the holidays can tax physical, emotional, and financial resources. A significant loss of any kind often adds another layer to the challenge. Unfortunately, withdrawing into a cave and

hibernating with bears until spring isn't a practical option. It isn't too early to begin planning and preparing if you or a loved one anticipates that this year's holidays will be difficult. Several opportunities are available to help those of us in this category experience peace, healing, and hope. Whether you personally are grieving at this time or not, Sarah Young offers the following in the October 17 entry in *Jesus Calling*, written as if Jesus himself is speaking to us:

“Anxiety is a result of envisioning the future without Me. So the best defense against worry is staying in communication with Me. When your thoughts turn to Me, you can think much more positively.

Remember to listen, as well as to speak, making your thoughts a dialogue with me.

If you must consider upcoming events, follow these rules: 1) Do not linger in the future because anxieties sprout up like mushrooms when you wander there. 2) Remember the promise of my continual Presence; Include Me in any imagery that comes to mind.” Seek it.

While this might be a HO HO NO!!! year, help is available. For additional information, contact Becky Cultice, 937-376-5747 or [culticer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:culticer@sbcglobal.net).

### **A Visit with Mike and Lynn Engle**

Of course you know the Engles. They have been members of Faith Community for about 35 years and are happy to serve the church and also the community. They spend a great deal of time at Faith Community and have taken on a wide variety of activities on behalf of the church. Mike has served as the Chairman of the Administrative Board and often assists with church Sunday service. He also often serves as usher on Sunday mornings and is an active member of the United Methodist Men. He spent 35 years in the U.S. Air Force and today is employed as a consultant for an aerospace company.

Lynn often shares stories with the children during the children's message and teaches children's Sunday school class as well. She retired from the Xenia school system as a librarian

which more than qualifies her to serve as librarian for the church that has a wide variety of Christian books available for perusal by the congregation. She says that one of her favorite projects is “Shoes for the Shoeless”. She is especially fond of Christmas hymns. Last year during Advent she provided great insight for those who were in attendance about the Messiah composer and the music itself, and those in attendance had the opportunity to sing along with a recorded choir. It was a very uplifting experience for all in attendance.

Originally from Indiana, they met while attending school in Terra Haute. Lynn says her favorite hobby is taking care of their four grandsons, five year old triplets and four year old Lincoln. She takes pleasure in teaching them new skills such as making pizza with their favorite toppings! Mike loves gardening and beautiful flowers are proof of that hobby. They are in the process of building a new house and hope to move in by Christmas.

- --Joan Baxter

## **A Voice for Environmental Stewardshp**

**November 2024**

### **We Are All Connected**

Every part of this Earth is sacred. Earth shining pine needle, every sandy shore. Every mist in the dark woods, every clearing and humming insect is holy. The rocky crest, the meadow, the beasts and all the people; all belong to the same family. Teach your children that the Earth is our Mother. Whatever befalls the Earth befalls the children of the Earth. We are part of the Earth and the Earth is part of us. The rivers are our brothers; they quench our thirst. The wind that gave our grandparents the rivers are our brothers; they quench our thirst. The perfumed flowers are our sisters; the air is precious, for all of us share the same breath. The wind that gave our grandparents breath also receives their last sigh. The wind gave our children the spirit of life. This we know, the earth does not belong to us. We belong to the Earth. This we know; all things are connected like the blood which unites on family. All things are connected.

Our God is the same God, whose compassion is the same for all for we did not weave the Web of Life. We are merely a strand in it.

Whatever we do to the Web, we do to ourselves. Let us give thanks for the Web and the circle that connects us. Thanks be to God, the God of All. (Inspired by Chief Seattle, Native American, 19<sup>th</sup> Century)

Rev. Alan Barone, M.Div., Ohio Certified  
Volunteer Naturalist

### **United Methodist Women**

Women United will meet on Monday, November 18 1-3 P.M in the Parlor. Dorcas Cicle will meet on Tuesday, November 19, 1-3 P.M. in 15A-B.

### **United Methodist Men of Faith**

We will meet on Monday, November 18, 6 PM in Room 16A & B in the 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 elect officers for 2025 as well as review the multiple charities we support financially. You can find more information in our Men of Faith pamphlet in the Narthex.

The Men of Faith Community once again had a successful garden at the Bridges of Hope property. They were very kind to provide us with 50 x 90 feet of space. In return, we supplied them with some of the produce. We took all produce to either the Fish food Pantry, Bridges of Hope, or Family Promises (IHN). The following represents the donations:

Tomatoes – 1,191 lbs.  
Corn – 34 dozen or 204 lbs  
Melons – 431 lbs.  
Peppers and Zucchini – 158 lbs  
TOTAL – 1,984 lbs

We want to thank all the men who helped as follows: John Sherer, coordinator, A.J. Trent, Vic Hess, Jim Penny, Bob Whipp and John Grayson. We also thank Dr. Robert Dillaplain for his financial support to buy the seeds.

(Report by John Sherer, Coordinator)

## Mary & Martha

As the weather gets chilly, who doesn't love a good bowl of chili? We would like to invite you to our next Mary & Martha gathering, November 11 from 6 to 8 pm in the Community Center for a chili cook-off. So bring your favorite chili for a *Flaming Hot Time!* For those who are unable to make a chili, please bring a salad and/or dessert to share. If you need child-care, RSVP to 937-694-8114 and if you have any questions, please contact either Laurie Krakowiak at 937-8114 or Barbara Mills at 937-414-4108.

## Fired Bricks

*Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. As people moved eastward they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth." Genesis 11:1-5*

As a child I can remember seeing flannel graph lessons about the folly of trying to build a tower to the heavens. I was living in a small rural village where the tallest building was probably 3 stories high so this caught my attention and my imagination. Maybe this was the seed that led me to become a Civil Engineer. Some theologians think this is an Old Testament parable to illustrate what happens when your goal is just to make a name for yourself. When this is your only goal your

worst fear will likely happen. In this story, the people were scattered and became so confused they could not talk to each other.

The story about the tower and fired brick can also be an excellent example of how we can get off track and lose sight of what we should be doing. The fired bricks are about 20 times stronger than the sundried bricks. It allowed them to build strong walls and big buildings. They could have used this “new technology” to improve their society. Instead they decided to show off their technology just to prove how smart they were.

In their zeal to show off, the builders of the Tower of Babel made several mistakes. They exceeded the height that was practical for bricks construction and they used an inferior mortar: tar. God stopped the work; their goal was not accomplished and their worst fears happened. Each person depending on our background may get a different meaning from this simple story and that is okay.

When I was a child, I saw this story as an explanation of why we have so many different languages. As I got older, I saw the story as what can happen if I did something just to show off. It could result in disaster. As an engineer, I saw the story as an example of what can happen when we use the wrong materials and wrong procedures. We will never be able to complete the project.

That’s the beauty of Scripture. It can speak to each individual, plus have a different meaning when you re-read it.

–Luke M. Snell, P.E., FACI, Honorary Member – ACI Concrete Consultant

### **FCUM Missions Committee**

Come enjoy a complete ham loaf dinner with homemade desserts (Dine in or carry out.) Saturday, November 2, 4:30-6:30pm. Donations will benefit the Greene County FISH Food Pantry. For reservations, please contact Betsy Murray at (937 768-1143).

## St. Paul's Christmas Tree

Faith Community will again be sharing Christmas joy with the children at St. Paul's after school program. The children will be able to visit a special shop to choose gifts to give to their families on Christmas. Please consider spreading God's love by choosing an ornament from the tree in the narthex, and selecting a small gift (\$5-\$10) and returning gifts unwrapped by Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Look for the tree in the narthex or community center.

## Thank You

*The family of William (Bill) Turner would like to thank everyone for the many prayers, kindness, and encouraging words on Bill's passing.*

***Deadline for December  
Faith Links Articles: November 18***



**Have a blessed Thanksgiving.**

### FCUM

#### September 2024 Financials

Monthly Income	\$ 23,637		YTD Income	\$ 235,831	
Monthly Expenses	\$ 25,964		YTD Expenses	\$ 263,305	
Difference	\$ (2,327)	-9.84%	Difference	\$ (27,473)	-11.65%



## October 2024

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