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Sharing Faith, Building Community



*Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

100 Country Club Drive, Xenia, Ohio 45385-1630 ♦ (937) 372-7601 ♦ Fax: (937) 372-7198 ♦ Email: [office@fcum.org](mailto:office@fcum.org) ♦ Web: [www.fcum.org](http://www.fcum.org)

# Faith Links

February 2025



## February 2025

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>
December 22	82	23
December 29	89	28
January 5	74	20
January 12	88	30
January 19	83	32

### From the Pastor

And just like that, we are in the second month of the New Year! As we enter February, there are several things that come to mind for me. First, we are in the last month of winter and on Groundhog's Day we will find out how soon spring will arrive. Of course, February 14<sup>th</sup> is Valentine's Day, so don't forget to appreciate those closest to you. In honor of our first president, George Washington's Birthday, since 1968, many have the day off work, including the staff at Faith Community, for President's Day. Don't get overwhelmed by the sales ads that are sure to come. Also, February has become known as Black History Month, which was chosen since President Lincoln had signed the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 1865. February in the church can also be a month when the season of Lent begins. However, Lent doesn't start until March 5<sup>th</sup> in 2025. This year all of February is within what is called Ordinary Time on the Christian calendar. Christmas



and Epiphany have concluded and we anticipate the season of Lent and Easter ahead.

So during this month of ordinariness, I want to encourage you to meditate on the words of the psalmist who wrote, *"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."* (Psalm 46:10, NIV). God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is the only one to be exalted and is the one who gives us peace, simply by knowing who we are as children of God who can be still in the protection of the love and mercy of the Almighty. Make it a habit to be still and know.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jeff

### **Meet the Prayer Chain Team**

Rosie and Steve Mackey have been members of Faith Community UMC for quite a number of years.

When Wayne Cook, the previous prayer warrior moved away, Rosie stepped up to the plate and continued what has been one of the most important needs.

Currently, there are about 150 individuals who are on the prayer team, responding to requests far and wide. Of course, there are many who are not members of Faith Community. They are Christians who are willing to take time out each day to pray for others. Requests cover a variety of needs. No request is too small or too large for this group of prayers.

Steve is a retired pathologist and regularly sings in the choir, and for the many years I have known him, never forgets to share a big smile with everyone he greets.

Rosie has taught in elementary schools and the Career Center. She has also taught Sunday school. Currently she is tutoring students after school at St. Brigid, in addition to volunteering at the Fish Food Pantry.

They consider themselves natives of Xenia; however, neither was born here.

Rosie also was a member of the Benevolence Committee serving the needy.

Thanks to Rosi and Steve for all they do for the church and the community.

—Joan Baxter

## **A Home for Environmental Stewardship**

### **There Is No Planet "B"**

*As I was reading the October 2023 issue of the Scientific American Magazine, I was struck by the lead article by Sarah Scoles. "Will Humans Ever Live in Space?" I answered that question with a question of my own. Why would we ever want to live in space? Even the hugely popular science fiction television and movie series "Star Trek" did not suggest that we should find other planets to colonize, but it only proposed that we could explore the universe in order to find other planetary civilizations that exist now or that existed in the past.*

The author noted the many dangers that humans would face trying to inhabit another planet, considering that humans evolved with conditions that exist NOW on Earth, that have enabled the human race, all our animals and plants to thrive. The extreme unlikelihood of ever finding a planet with our atmospheric composition, temperature range, protection from radiation and gravity would be virtually impossible to duplicate. The attempt to even find a "planet B" in my opinion is an **EXTREME COP OUT**.

**COP OUT** is a very appropriate term here because we have a God-given responsibility to protect our Mother Earth from the irresponsibility, negligence, greed, ignorance and hubris of the worst of human instincts. We have known for many decades what our unchecked human activity is doing to our atmosphere, our oceans, our freshwater and our land. Climate scientists have warned since the 1970's that burning fossil fuels for energy is polluting our atmosphere, warming our oceans, changing our climate and destroying our precious bio-diversity.



Instead of looking for a planet B to destroy, we need to change our spiritual relationship to our own planet and treat our Mother Earth with RESPECT. We need to change our values and behavior and treat our planet "A" with the respect that we treat our own homes. God expects no less of US!

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

### **Stephen Ministry**

As Stephen Ministers, we are always looking for resources. One that has been around for many years and is tried and true is CaringBridge. At some point in our lives, most of us deal with a serious illness whether it's ours or a loved one's. CaringBridge is the first and most widely used global communication platform for supporting health journeys. It is dedicated to helping family and friends communicate and support caregivers, as well as the loved ones they are caring for.

One of the challenges during a time like this is providing updates to family and friends who care and want to help.

Communicating can be exhausting, especially when the same information needs to be shared over and over. An account can be set up that is free, safe, and private. A personal website address (URL) and password are provided to those the patient or family chooses. Updates on the individual's condition can be posted and those who have access to the website can share messages of support. Facing health challenges can be overwhelming, isolating, and lonely. Asking for help isn't easy; something that is difficult for most to acknowledge. CaringBridge sites can make it easier at a time when most of us could use it. Hopefully, this is not a resource that you need now. If you ever do, though, remember that it's available.

You might even want to check out the website, [www.caring-bridge.org](http://www.caring-bridge.org). The resource tab has information that is helpful on a variety of topics. In addition to specific types of illnesses, there are other topics covered, i.e. prayer, grief, caregiving, journaling, etc. The subtopics include "expert advice,"

“inspiration and “stories”. Some recent articles include: “6 Tips for Overcoming Sandwich Generation Burnout,” “How to Ask for Help Without Asking for Help”, and “How to Support a Friend with Cancer Long-Distance. Some recent articles include: “6 Tips for Overcoming Sandwich Generation Burnout,” “How to Ask for Help Without Asking for Help,” and “How to Support a Friend with Cancer Long-Distance.”

No one has to go through a health journey alone. Resources like CaringBridge are invaluable. Our Stephen Ministers are also available to walk alongside for as long as needed whether it's supporting a family member or the person experiencing the health challenges. To learn more, contact Becky Cultice, 937-376-5747 or [culticer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:culticer@sbcglobal.net)

### **United Methodist Women**

**Women United will not meet in February.  
Dorcas Circle will not meet in February and March.**

### **United Methodist Men of Faith Exciting Updates for 2025!**

**Join the Garden Project!** We're excited to continue the *Garden Project* in 2025, with plans to expand the garden area. We invite all members, especially families, to lend a hand in this rewarding mission. Volunteering just an hour or two to till, weed, or harvest can make a big difference. Stay tuned for updates on how you can get involved and help us grow.

**Garage Sale Donations wanted:** Our garage fundraiser will continue with a focus on selling large items through Facebook Marketplace. If you have furniture or appliances to donate,



**Men of Faith Monthly Meeting:** Monday, February 17 at 6PM in Room 16A and B of the Community Center. All men are invited to join us for:

**\*Delicious Dinner** featuring *Melva Hess's famous Lasagna!* **\*Fellowship and meaningful connections.**  
**\*Inspiring Bible Devotional** to nourish the spirit. Look for more details in your email soon. We can't wait to see you there!

### **Mary & Martha**

Join us for a "GALENTINE'S DAY" celebration at the February Mary & Martha gathering, Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 pm in the Community Center. This will be a time to uplift one another and a time to celebrate all female friendships! Please bring a dish to share that you "LOVE"! If you need childcare, RSVP to 937-694-8114 and if you have any questions, please contact either Laurie Krakowiak at 937-694-8114 or the church office at 937-372-7601.

### **Mary & Martha Women's Mini-Retreat**

When Moses encounters God for the first time, he asks, "Who am I...? This profound question resonates with each of us as we grapple with our own sense of value and worth. This mini-retreat will be held on **Saturday, March 15, 9am-3pm, FCC**. The day will include a continental breakfast, music, a creative project, lunch, and scripture reflection. The cost is \$25 per person and reservations are required. Open to all women regardless of any church affiliation. Registration forms are available in the narthex and the office. **Deadline to register is Saturday, March 1.** For further information, please contact the church office at 937-372-7601.

## **Passings**

Prayers and sympathy are extended to family of Roy Colbrunn on his death, to John Finlay on the death of his sister, Jane Horner, and to the family of Charles Manley on his death.

## **Thank You**

*Thank you our dear church family for your outpouring of love in the recent death of our beloved Harry.*

*Thank you, Pastor Jeff, for your many warm visits with Harry prior to his passing and for the strength, love and compassion you gave our family.*

*Thanks to all of you for attending the funeral service and the wonderful cards you shared with us of your memories with Harry.*

*Many thanks to Margaret and Joyce and the many helpers for the delicious meal you so graciously prepared for us. We are forever blessed and grateful.*

*Alice Osman and family*

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*We would like to express our appreciation of your kind donation to our shelter.*

*Donnellan Shelter Staff, Brent Robinson, Director*

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*Dear Friends,*

*With gratitude, we acknowledge your gift to the Glen Helen Association in honor of DeeDee and Alan Barone. Thanks to your support we will be able to keep our trails safe and open, care for sick, injured, and orphaned birds of prey, and educate students in conservation. — Susan Smith for the Glen Helen Association*



**Closing Due to Inclement Weather:** If the church is going to be closed during the week or for Sunday Worship Services it will be listed on WHIO (TV, 1290AM/95.7FM) WDTN (TV2 CW26), WKEF/WRGT (ABC)FOX45) and Facebook.[www.facebook.com/FCUM.Xenia.com/FCUM](http://www.facebook.com/FCUM.Xenia.com/FCUM).

**Nursery Worker Needed:** SPRC is seeking candidates interested in filling the Sunday morning Nursery worker position. Candidates must be 18 or older and must have a background check as well as receive Safe Sanctuary training. The nursery worker is expected to be available Sundays from 8:45-11:45am. If you are interested or have any questions, please talk to Chad Mossing or Pastor Jeff or send an email to [pastorjeff@fcum.org](mailto:pastorjeff@fcum.org).

**FCUM**

**December 2024 Financials**

Monthly Income	\$ 22,883		YTD Income	\$ 301,534	
Monthly Expenses	\$ 34,487		YTD Expenses	\$ 362,741	
Difference	\$(11,604)	-50.71%	Difference	\$ (61,208)	-20.30%

**Deadline for submitting March Faith Links Articles: February 14**

## February 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b> 4-6pm-Cub Scout Pinewood Derby A&B
<b>2</b> 9:00-10:00am- Sunday School 10-10:30am- Hospitality Time- Narthex 10:30-11:30am- Worship	<b>3</b> 7-8:45pm-Stephen Ministry-Library 7-8 pm-Cub Scouts-FH 15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts- 15-C	<b>4</b> 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 3:30-5:30-Winter Guard-FCC 6-8:45pm-Girl Scouts 3:30-4:30- Mission/Outreach- Parlor 6-7:30-Girls Volleyball- FCC	<b>5</b> 6:15-7:15pm-Bells Prac- tice-Music Rm.  7:30-9pm-Choir Practice Sanctuary	<b>6</b> 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl- Parlor 1:30-4pm-Women's Club of Xenia-Parlor  6-7:30-Girls Volleyball- FCC	<b>7</b> 3:30-5:30-Winter Guard- FCC	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:00-10:00am- Sunday School 10-10:30am- Hospitality Time- Narthex 10:30-11:30am- Worship	<b>10</b> 6-8pm-Mary&Martha- FCC 7-8 pm-Cub Scouts-FH 15 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts- 15C	<b>11</b> 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 3:30-5:30-Winter Guard-FC 6-:30pm-Girls Volley- ball-FCC 6:15-8:45-G.S. Leader Meeting-15-C	<b>12</b> 6:15-7:15-Bells Prac- tice-Music Room  7:30-9pm-Choir Practice Sanctuary	<b>13</b> 11am-12-Prayer Shawl- Parlor 6-7:30pm-Magic Volleyball practice-FCC 7-8:30pm-Christian Ed Meeting-Room	<b>14 Valentine's Day</b>  <b>Deadline-articles for March Faith Links</b>  3:30-5:30-Winter Guard- FCC	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:00-10:00am- Sunday School 10-10:30am- Hospitality Time- Narthex 10:30-11:30am- Worship	<b>17 Presidents' Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  6-8:30pm- Men of Faith 16A-B 7-8 pm- Cub Scouts- 15A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts- 15C	<b>18</b> 10--11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 3:30-5:30-Winter Guard-FCC 3:30-4:30-Mission outreach-Parlor 6-8:30pm-Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm-Magic Volleyball practice-FCC	<b>19</b> 6:15-7:15-Bells Prac- tice-Music Room  7:30-9pm-Choir Practice Sanctuary	<b>20</b> 11am-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor  6-7:30 pm-Volleyball Practice-FCC  6:30-8:30-Ad Board FH 15C	<b>21</b> 3:30-5:30-Winter Guard- FCC	<b>22</b> 10am-3pm-Day of District Gatherings - Monroe UMC  6-8pm-Double I-15A
<b>23</b> 9:00-10:00am- Sunday School 10-10:30am- Hospitality Time- Narthex 10:30-11:30am- Worship	<b>24</b> 7-8pm-Cub Scouts 15C 7-8:30pm-SPRC-Lib. 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts- 15A-B	<b>25</b> 10am--11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 6-7:30 pm-Volleyball Practice-FCC 3:30-5:30-Winter Guard-FCC	<b>26</b> 6:15-7:15-Bells Prac- tice-Music Room  7:30-9pm-Choir Practice Sanctuary	<b>27</b> 11am-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor  6-7:30 pm-Volleyball Practice-FCC	<b>28</b> 3:30-5:30-Winter Guard- FCC	