

# March 16, 2025

Please take a moment to sign our attendance register located in each pew.

(\*\*Indicates, please stand as able)

Greeting/Life of the Church

Prelude Carol Stewart  
Philip P. Bliss  
"It Is Well With My Soul"

Introit Chancel Choir  
John Yarrington  
"Let the Words of My Mouth"

\*\*Call to Worship

Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

**Happy are those who keep God's decrees, who seek God with their whole heart.**

Make us understand the way of your precepts, O God, and we will meditate on your wondrous works.

**Put false ways far from us, O God, and graciously teach us your law.**

\*\*Opening Hymn "My Hope Is Built" (v. 1-3) UMH #368

Opening Prayer (unison)

**Mighty God, we come into your presence from many different places and situations. Light our way in this time of worship.**

**Calm our hearts, focus our thoughts, and strengthen our faith, as we pray and praise this day. Amen.**

Children's Moments

Prayer Hymn "Seek Ye First" UMH #405

Prayers of the Faithful & the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Offering/Offertory

"Search Me, O God"

Carol Stewart  
John McNeill

\*\*Doxology

UMH #95

\*\*Prayer of Dedication

**Loving God, our shelter and hope, as we walk through this holy season, we come to you with hearts open to your grace. Strengthen us to be a source of light and love in this world. Use these offerings to bring comfort to the weary and hope to the brokenhearted, just as you draw near to us in our struggles. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**

\*\*Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:1-16

L: The Word of God for the People of God.

**P: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Ministry of Music

"Prayer of My Heart"

Chancel Choir  
Lloyd Larson

Sermon "The World's Most Important Sermon"

Pastor Jeff Bandy

\*\*Closing Hymn "His Eye Is on the Sparrow"

(see insert)

\*\*Sending Forth

Choral Benediction

"Let Your Light So Shine"

Chancel Choir  
John Yarrington

Postlude

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

Carol Stewart  
Jill Jackson and Sy Miller



*The Altar Flowers are given by Bob & Amy Schalle  
in memory of family members who have passed.*

## Gospel Reading – Matthew 5:1-16 (CEB)

5 <sup>1</sup> Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up a mountain. He sat down and his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> He taught them, saying: <sup>3</sup> "Happy are people who are hopeless, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs. <sup>4</sup> "Happy are people who grieve, because they will be made glad. <sup>5</sup> "Happy are people who are humble, because they will inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup> "Happy are people who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, because they will be fed until they are full. <sup>7</sup> "Happy are people who show mercy, because they will receive mercy. <sup>8</sup> "Happy are people who have pure hearts, because they will see God. <sup>9</sup> "Happy are people who make peace, because they will be called God's children. <sup>10</sup> "Happy are people whose lives are harassed because they are righteous, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs. <sup>11</sup> "Happy are you when people insult you and harass you and speak all kinds of bad and false things about you, all because of me. <sup>12</sup> Be full of joy and be glad, because you have a great reward in heaven. In the same way, people harassed the prophets who came before you.

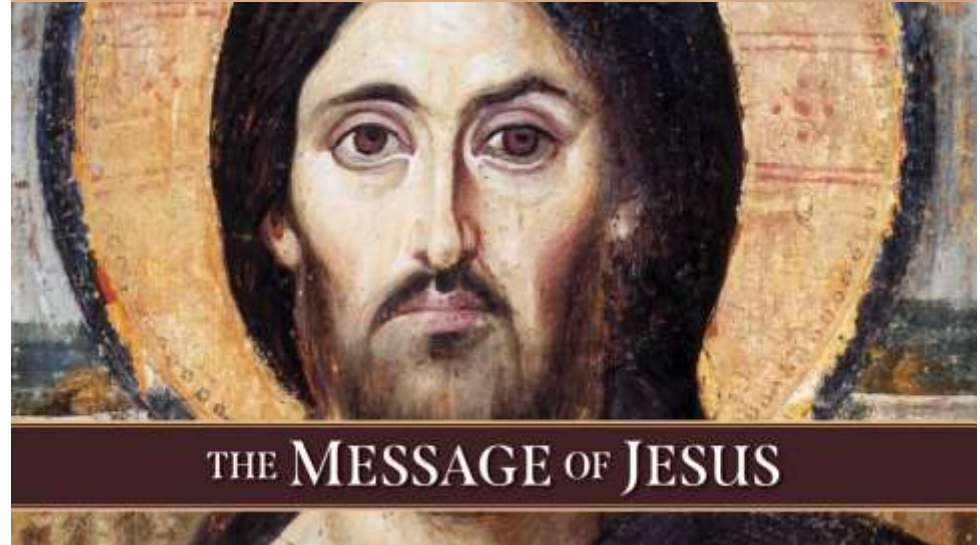
### Salt and light

<sup>13</sup> "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its saltiness, how will it become salty again? It's good for nothing except to be thrown away and trampled under people's feet. <sup>14</sup> You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can't be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand, and it shines on all who are in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven.

#### WELCOME VISITORS!

If you are visiting with us today, we welcome you and hope you will come back and worship with us again soon. We would love to get to know you, please take a moment to provide your information in the attendance register located in each pew.

## The World's Most Important Sermon



### Rev. Jeff Bandy

Office Hours M, T, TH 9:00am-3:00pm & by Appt.

Office: (937) 372-7601 ext. 13

[pastorjeff@fcum.org](mailto:pastorjeff@fcum.org) ♦ [www.fcum.org](http://www.fcum.org)

Like and Follow us on Facebook @ FCUM.Xenia

**We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation**

### March 16, 2025 - Worship Team

Ushers	Doug Wickline, Bruce Spitler, Don Wolf, Bob Whipp
Greeters	Bill Sykes, Carol Sykes
Liturgist	Julie Wickline
Organist	Carol Stewart
Chancel Choir Director	Melody Kelley
Handbell Choir Director	Jim McPeck

# MARCH

Monday 17	Women United	1:00 pm	Parlor
	Men of Faith	6:00 pm	CC 16A-B
	Special Olympics Basketball	6:45 pm	FCC
	Boy Scouts	7:00 pm	FH 15C
	Cub Scouts	7:00 pm	FH 15A-B
Tuesday 18	Tuesday Bible Study	10:00 am	Parlor
	Winter Guard Practice	3:30 pm	FCC
	Girl Scouts	6:00 pm	FH 15 A,B,C, CC 16A
Wednesday 19	Handbell Practice	6:15 pm	Music Room
	Chancel Choir Practice	7:30 pm	Sanctuary/Chapel
Thursday 20	Prayer Shawl	11:00 am	Parlor
	Magic Volleyball Practice	6:00 pm	FCC
	Ad Board Council	6:30 pm	FH 15C
Friday 21	Winter Guard Practice	3:30 pm	FCC
Saturday 22			
Sunday 23	Sunday School	9:00 am	Rm 8,11,CC16A, Parlor
	Hospitality Time	10:00 am	Narthex
	Worship Service	10:30 am	Sanctuary

## Sunday School Studies

**Double I** will meet in Rm 8, Leader Alan Barone, study "The Message of Jesus" by Adam Hamilton.

**Open Doors** will meet in the Parlor, Leader Sandy Pramer, study "The Message of Jesus" by Adam Hamilton.

**Grades 6-12** will meet in CC 16A-B, Leaders Vic Hess, Erika Stone and Joyce Smith.

**Preschool – Grade 5** will meet in Rm 11 under the leadership of Kiley Fleming and Karen Mossing for Bible Stories and activities to reinforce the Bible Story of the day.

## Next Sermon - Sunday, March 23

"Jesus Spoke to Them in Parables"  
Gospel Lesson

Rev. Jeff Bandy  
Luke 15: 11-32 (NIV)

## March 16, 2025 Announcements

**WOMEN'S GROUPS:** WOMEN UNITED CIRCLE will meet on **Monday, Mar. 17 at 1:00pm** in the Parlor. DORCAS CIRCLE will not meet in March.

**MEN OF FAITH:** The Men of Faith will meet on **Monday, Mar. 17 at 6:00pm in CC 16A.** All men are invited to join us. Dinner will be served. We will have social time during the meal followed by a Bible devotional. After a presentation on planning, we will then plan our 2025 projects. Watch your email for more information.

**UMCOR SUNDAY, MAR 30:** The UMCOR Sunday offering underwrites UMCOR's administrative costs. This offering allows UMCOR to use 100% of all funds given to humanitarian response and recovery efforts directly to communities in need. These gifts ensure UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters around the world and as a source of hope and healing for those left most vulnerable.

**XENIA HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ ENSEMBLE:** Come one, come all, for this extra special evening sponsored by the Mary & Martha Gathering and the United Methodist Men of Faith. Our very own Xenia High School Jazz Ensemble has agreed, AGAIN, to share their musical talents for a toe-tapping, joy-inspired evening of entertainment on **Monday, Apr. 7 at 6:00pm in FCC.** All women, men and children are welcome to join us for this open event. Potluck, as always, will be provided by the women – with a return of our signature church ham loafs! Let's show our support for these talented young people in our neighborhood while reminding ourselves of the loving community here at FCUM! Questions, call Laurie Krakowiak at 937-694-8114 or the church office at 937-372-7601.

**JACKSON AREA MINISTRIES SEED PROGRAM:** The "JAM" program provides garden plants and seeds for the residents in need so they can provide veggies and fruits for their family. Please consider making a donation (mark checks J.A.M. project) and place in the offering plate or drop seed packets into the basket in the narthex through **Sunday, Apr. 13.**

**LENTEN OFFERING FOR VBS:** During the season of Lent through **Easter Sunday, Apr. 20,** the church will be collecting a special offering to support Vacation Bible School. Your gift will help provide for children participating in this year's program. The cost is appx. \$30 per child and our goal is to raise \$3000. VBS Offering Envelopes will be available on the table in the narthex or in the office. Please mark your check VBS. Thank you for your prayers and support as we prepare to explore God's goodness.

**EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE:** Guidelines and application forms are available in the narthex and church office. This year assistance will be offered to graduating high school seniors who are contemplating entering a college or technical school in the fall of 2025 as well as to upper classmen currently enrolled in college. These forms must be completed and returned to the church office by **Sunday, Apr. 20.**

**VIOLENCE FREE FUTURES IS HOLDING A CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS 5K HERE AT FAITH COMMUNITY:** Join us on **Saturday, Apr. 26, 9:00-11:00am** for an exciting and meaningful event to raise awareness for Child Abuse Awareness Month! Dress up as your favorite superhero and run, walk, or stroll in our Superhero 5K. This family-friendly event is perfect for all ages and even welcomes your furry friends. Let's come together as a community to support a great cause and have a blast while doing it. The cost is \$30 and you can register at <https://runsignup.com/Race/OH/Xenia/SuperheroCAPE5kWalkRun>. Don't forget to bring your superhero spirit! Race or Sponsorship Inquiries: Heather Culbreath [Heather.Culbreath@violencefreefutures.org](mailto:Heather.Culbreath@violencefreefutures.org) or 937-376-8526, ext. 112. Sponsorship packets are on the table in the narthex.



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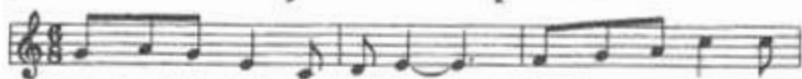
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2146 His Eye Is on the Sparrow



1. Why should I feel dis-cour-aged? Why should the shad-ows  
 2. "Let not your heart be trou-bled," his ten-der word I  
 3. When-ev-er I am tempt-ed, when-ev-er clouds a-



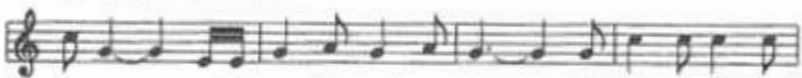
come? Why should my heart be lone-ly  
 hear, and rest-ing on his good-ness,  
 rise, when song gives place to sigh-ing,



and long for heaven and home, When Je-sus is my  
 I lose my doubts and fears; though by the path he  
 when hope with-in me dies, I draw the clo-ser



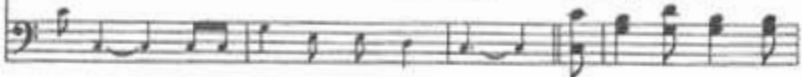
por-tion? My con-stant friend is he:  
 lead-eth but one step I may see: } His eye is on the  
 to him, from care he sets me free: }



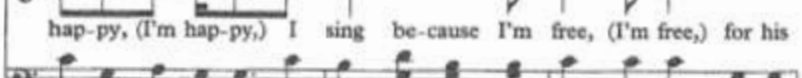
spar-row, and I know he watch-es me; his eye is on the



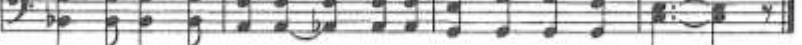
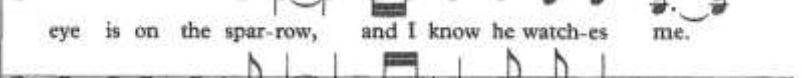
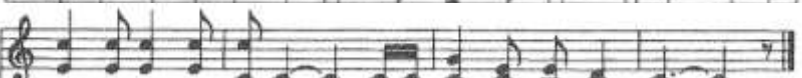
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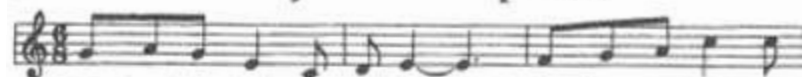
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WORDS: Civilla Martin (Luke 12:6-7; John 14:1)  
 MUSIC: Charles H. Gabriel

SPARROW  
 Irregular with Refrain

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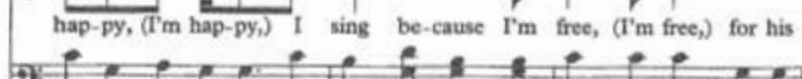
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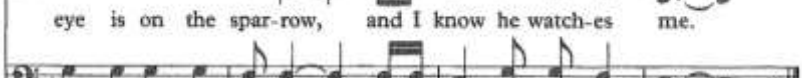
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