

March 23, 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
"If I Can Help Somebody" A. Bazel Androsso

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

**Call to Worship

If we indeed cry out for insight and raise our voice for understanding—

If we seek wisdom like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures—

Then will we understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

For the Lord gives wisdom, and from the Lord's mouth come knowledge and understanding.

The Lord stores up sound wisdom for the upright, and is a shield to those who walk blamelessly.

The Lord guards the paths of justice, and preserves the way of the faithful.

**Opening Hymn "This Is My Father's World" UMH #144

Opening Prayer (unison)

God of Wisdom, met us today where we need you the most. Open our minds to welcome new understanding. Open our eyes to see the world as you see it. And Open our hearts to be inspired by your prompting Spirit. May our worship bring us into your presence to know you and your way more fully. Amen.

Children's Moments

Parable #1 - The Sheep and the Goats Matthew 25:31-46 (NIV)

Prayer Hymn "Change My Heart" (see insert)

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.

Parable #2 - The Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37 (NIV)

Offering/Offertory

"Make Me a Servant"

Carol Stewart

Kelly Willard

UMH #95

**Doxology

**Prayer of Dedication

Faithful God, our guide and sustainer, as we offer these gifts, may they bear fruit for your kingdom. In this solemn season of Lent, we remember your call to repentance and renewal. Use these offerings to bring hope to those in need and light to those in darkness. May we live as your fruitful servants, trusting in your abundant mercy. In the name of Christ who calls us to new life, we pray. Amen.

Ministry of Music

"The King of Love"

Chancel Choir

Gordon Young

Parable #3 - The Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11-32 (NIV)

Sermon

"Jesus Spoke to Them in Parables"

Prayer of Confession & Words of Assurance

Holy God, we confess we have failed to live as your holy people. We have cared for ourselves at others' expense. We have not answered your calls for justice and peace. We have harmed the creation you entrusted to our care, and have ignored your image in our neighbors. In your mercy, forgive us. By your Holy Spirit, empower us to live as loyal subjects of your realm, and as more faithful followers of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

God has saved us from the power of darkness, bringing us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Believe the Good News: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**Closing Hymn

"Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word"

UMH #596

**Sending Forth

Choral Benediction

"Let Your Light So Shine"

Chancel Choir

John Yarrington

Postlude

"Make Me a Blessing"

Carol Stewart

George S. Schuler



The Altar Flowers are given by Dr. Richard and Tammy Byers
in honor of all the people who work in the church.

Parable #1 The Sheep and the Goats Matthew 25:31-46 (NIV)

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

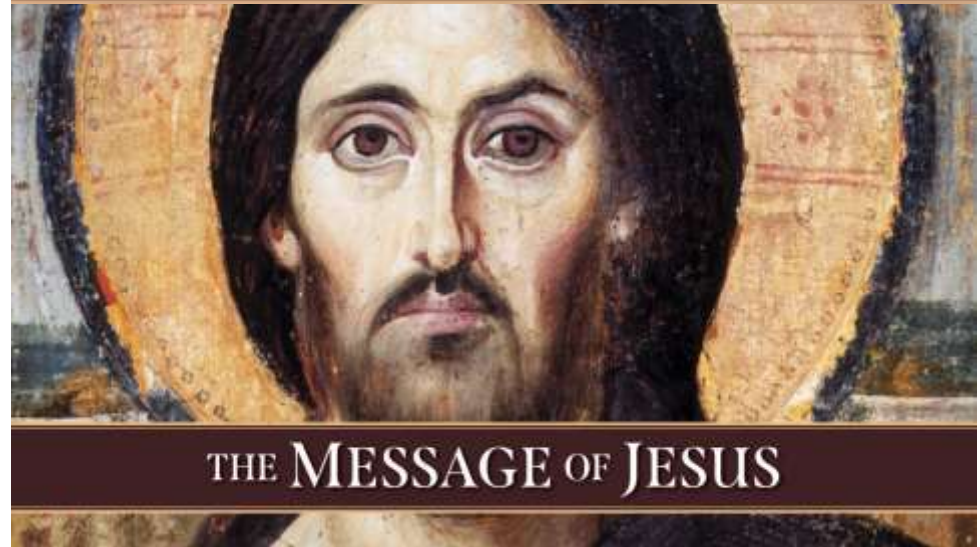
⁴¹ "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

⁴⁴ "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

⁴⁵ "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' ⁴⁶ "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Parables 2 & 3 - see insert

Jesus Spoke to Them in Parables



Rev. Jeff Bandy

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

Office: (937) 372-7601 ext. 13

pastorjeff@fcum.org ♦ www.fcum.org

Like and Follow us on Facebook @ FCUM.Xenia

We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

March 23, 2025 - Worship Team

Ushers	Doug Wickline, Bruce Spittler, Don Wolf, Bob Whipp
Greeters	Debbie Spittler
Liturgist	Chad Mossing
Organist	Carol Stewart
Chancel Choir Director	Melody Kelley
Handbell Choir Director	Jim McPeck



Monday 24	Boy Scouts	7:00 pm	FH 15C
	Cub Scouts	7:00 pm	FH 15A-B
	SPRC	7:30 pm	Library
Tuesday 25	Tuesday Bible Study	10:00 am	Parlor
	Winter Guard Practice	3:30 pm	FCC
Wednesday 26	Handbell Practice	6:15 pm	Music Room
	Chancel Choir Practice	7:30 pm	Sanctuary/Chapel
Thursday 27	Prayer Shawl	11:00 am	Parlor
	Magic Volleyball Practice	6:00 pm	FCC
Friday 28	Winter Guard Practice	3:30 pm	FCC
Saturday 29	Double I Dinner	6:00 pm	FH 15A, Kitchen
Sunday 30	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 Lucy Parsons, 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 Mousing for Bible Stories and activities to reinforce the Bible Story of the day.

Next Sermon - Sunday, March 30

"Who Do YOU Say That I Am"
Gospel Lesson

Suzanne Bandy
John 15: 1-5 (NIV)

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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.

March 23, 2025 Announcements

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.**

EASTER FLOWERS: It is time to order your Tulips or Lilies for Easter Sunday. The flowers truly beautify the church for all the worshipers. Order forms will be available in the narthex and the church office, please place the order form and payment in the offering plate or return to the church office by **Monday, Apr. 14.** You can order tulips or lilies and the cost is \$11.00 per plant. Make checks payable to Faith Community UMC and mark your check "Easter Flowers" in the memo line.

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.**

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.

VIOLENCE FREE FUTURES IS HOLDING A CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS 5K HERE AT FAITH COMMUNITY: Join us on **Saturday, April 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 or 937-376-8526, ext. 112. Sponsorship packets are on the table in the narthex.



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Parable #2 - The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37 (NIV)

²⁵ On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

²⁶ "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

²⁷ He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

²⁸ "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

³⁰ In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.

³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

³⁶ "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

³⁷ The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Parable #3 - The Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11-32 (NIV)

¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹ "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

²⁸ "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders.

Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

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Over —→

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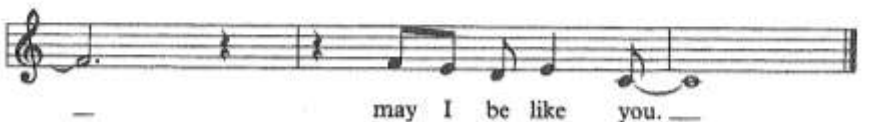
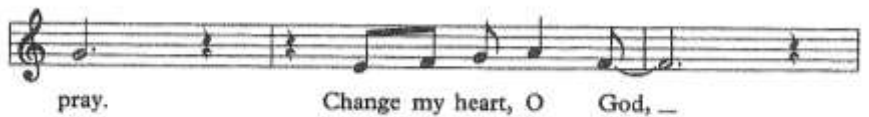
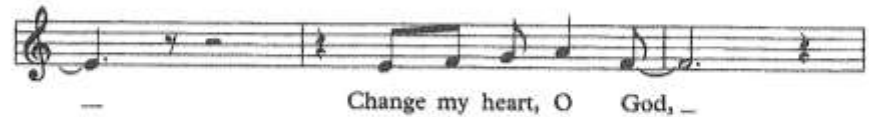
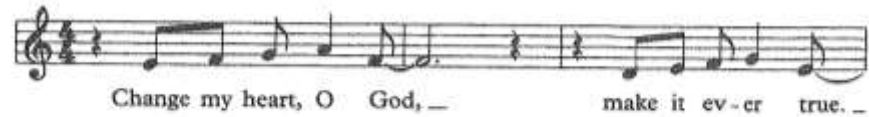
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Change My Heart, O God 2152



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