

May 2025

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
March 23	82	23
March 30	80	23
April 6	81	27
April 13	97	28
April 20	135	Egg Hunt

From the Pastor

Well, we made it through the April showers, and now we begin to enjoy the real fruit of spring as we turn the calendar to May. Spring naturally feels like a fresh start or a new beginning. It is with this feeling that the Faith Community leadership has been looking to our future of producing fruit for the kingdom of God. The focus has been on reaching our communities with the understanding that so many are tossed around by the challenges of life without faith in Jesus Christ, our rock and our refuge. We are inspired by this psalm of David which encourages, *"The LORD is a safe place for the oppressed – a safe place in difficult times. Those who know your name trust you because you have not abandoned any who seek you, LORD."* (Psalm 9:9-10 CEB). With a heart for our communities, we have adjusted our current vision of *"Sharing Faith, Building Community"* to be *"Faith Community a Safe Space for Exploring Faith and Building Community."* We hope to be a church where anyone will feel safe to ex-

plore their faith with us at any point in their journey. We also hope to offer genuine fellowship in various ways to meet people where they are, to walk with them as we build a community based on the love of Jesus.

As our guide to make this a reality, our mission is *“to empower our community to meet, learn, worship, pray, and play together.”*

May the ministries of Faith Community, current and new, be fruitful as we seek to fulfill our mission and vision in the name of Jesus Christ.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jeff

A Chat With Carol Stewart

Carol Stewart is our church organist/pianist. She provides music for the worship services, accompanies the choir and also any special music that is presented. She learned to play at an early age, since both of her parents were accomplished musicians. Her father taught music at Cedarville College as well as serving as a church organist. She was five years old and playing the keyboard when her father invited her to sit next to him while he played the church organ. Soon he was suggesting that she play the left hand notes while he played the right and then reverse. Soon she played the keyboard while he played the pedals. When she was nine, she played the church organ alone, providing all the music for the congregation.

She has played for several churches including Grace Baptist in Cedarville, and the Presbyterian Church for about 20 years before coming to Faith Community UMC. She said her parents were very strict about practicing. Her two brothers and sister all played various instruments, and it was not unusual to hear them filling the house with various songs all at the same time in various rooms. In fact, two of the four are music majors. Her father was so strict about practicing that when she was a college student, a young man asked her for

a date. She told her father she had been invited to go out and he asked if she had done her several hours of practice that day. She admitted that she had not done the requisite time, so he informed her that she could not go on the date!

Carol graduated from Cedarville University with a degree in music education and made good use of her talent by teaching private piano lessons at a Xenia music store. This is where she first met Pam Colbrunn whose daughter was one of her students. Imagine her surprise when she accepted the job at Faith Community, to get re-acquainted. Another surprise when she came to Faith was seeing Flo Harner, whom she knew as “Miss Davis”, the music teacher at her school when she was in 6th and 7th grade. In addition to piano and organ she played flute during her junior and high school years. However, she had to get braces and had to put the flute away for a while until the braces were gone. She did pick it up again and had the pleasure of playing first chair flute for Ray Foster’s Concert Band (another connection to Faith UMC).

Carol is the mother of three children, all of who live in nearby communities and, true to family interests, are musical. She has been a widow for several years.

Some of the congregation may remember when she had a battle with cancer. She decided to move to her widowed brother’s home so they could take care of each other. During that battle, she was recovering in the hospital when the new Faith Community pastor paid a visit. That “new” pastor was none other than Jeff Bandy. They chatted a bit when she asked if he had grown up in Cedarville. The name was so familiar to her, but he assured her he had grown up in Enon. If you remember, her first teaching job was at the elementary school in Enon. They talked a bit more and realized they had known each other many years ago. She was his second grade teacher! Another *Déjà vu*!

Carol is not only an accomplished musician; she is a delightful person to know. Our church is fortunate to have her as part of our congregation. — Joan Baxter

Stephen Ministry

Many have described the characteristics of a Stephen Minister, none better than Henri Nouen, a renowned Catholic theologian and author, who is known for his insightful quotes on faith, spirituality and human connection.

Recently I encountered one such quote that reminds me of the role of a “Stephen Minister.” Where “friend” appears, substitute “Stephen Minister.” When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives means the most to us, we often find that it is those who instead of giving advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain. rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a warm and tender hand. The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing, and face us with the reality of our powerlessness, that is a friend who cares.

If you or someone you know is going through a difficult time, having a Stephen Minister may be just what will make all the difference. To learn more, contact Becky Cultice @ 937-376-5747.

A Voice for Environmental Stewardship

April is Earth Month

On Sunday, April 27 we had our tree seedling distribution, as you know. Why do I do that for the congregation of Faith Community United Methodist Church? The simple reason is that I love doing it! Trees are the most effective way that the Earth has for capturing carbon dioxide, which is the **CHIEF CULPRIT** in our atmosphere for storing heat and increasing the temperature of the Earth.

As you probably remember from high school biology, all green plants engage in photosynthesis. They absorb carbon dioxide and they produce oxygen as a bi-product of the process. Without plants producing oxygen, we and all animals would not have oxygen to breathe and would not exist on Earth.

If you received tree seedlings on April 27, be sure to plant them as soon as possible! Earth needs as many trees as we can plant in her, our MOTHER EARTH.

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

Mary & Martha Gathering

A BIG thank you to all who came out to hear the High School jazz band hosted by the Mary & Martha gathering and the United Methodist Men. There were so many moving parts that needed to come together to make this community event happen and it was a HUGE success! The next Mary & Martha gathering will be held MONDAY, MAY 12, 6-8pm in the Community Center. In honor of all WOMEN, we will offer fun and enjoyable activities (hint, bring your purse) including some pampering! If you choose to, please wear purple that represents women empowerment!

Bring a dish to pass or a recipe of a woman who inspires you! If you don't have time to prepare something, please don't let this stop you from coming. Questions, call Laurie Krakowiak at 937-694-8114.

United Methodist Women

Women United will meet on Monday, May 19 at 1:30 P.M. in the parlor. All women are welcome to attend.

Thank you to everyone who supported our circle in the sale of carnations for Mother's Day. The money will be used for our mission projects.

Dorcas will meet on Tuesday, May 13, 2-4pm in Room 15A,B.

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. Very soon we will need some help clearing land! Find your pioneer spirit and get ready to volunteer you or your family.

Garage Sale Donations Wanted. Our garage sale fundraiser will continue with a focus on selling large items through Facebook Marketplace. If you have furniture or appliances to donate, please contact Bob Whipp at (937) 668-3137, Your contributions support our mission and make a real impact!

Men of Faith Monthly Meeting. Mark your calendars! The men will meet on Monday, May 19th, at 6 P.M. in Room 16A&B of the Community Center. All men are welcome to join us for:

***Delicious Dinner – Stay Tuned for a Surprise Meal,**

***Fellowship and meaningful connections. – We will continue with the third of a three-month series on planning.**

***Inspiring Bible Devotional to nourish the spirit. Look for more details in your email soon. Can't wait to see you there!**

Devotionals at Legacy Assisted Living

Devotionals are conducted by area churches (mostly ministers) each week at Legacy. I do the devotional every time there is a 5th Sunday. As an engineer, I try to bring technical topics from the Bible. Usually these are topics they have never heard before. They are sweet people; many have attended church their entire life. Now the church services have to be brought to them. This is just one of the ways Faith Community UMC is reaching out and making a difference to a community. These people love the Lord and are thankful that they are not forgotten. Let's keep them in our prayers. Here is a sample devotional shared in April:

Cleansing Water

Water is one of the most interesting materials in the world; in fact we would not be here on earth without water – we depend on it. Civilizations emerged where there was water to drink, to support our agricultural development, for transportation and to keep us clean. One of the important aspects of water is its ability to clean or wash away dirt. You may remember the ritual “Saturday Night Bath”. Mom thought it was important for us to be clean before putting on our Sunday best as we prepared to go to church. Unlike some other cultures, the Jews felt it was important and had developed rituals with exact procedures on how to wash, especially to have clean hands and feet. Some of these are:

12 Samuel 25:41- An honored person offers to wash feet as a sign of humility. Psalm 51:7- Wash me and I will be whiter than snow. Ezekiel 36:25- I will sprinkle clean water on you and you will be clean. John 13:14 – Now that I your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you should wash one another’s feet”.

You may have attended a foot washing ceremony. Many churches will schedule a foot washing service on Maundy Thursday as part of the Holy Week Rituals. It can be quite a meaningful service that follows the example given by Jesus. If this is simply another service that we feel we must attend because the church has scheduled it, it will have lost its meaning. Jesus summed this up in Luke 11:38-39- But the Pharisee was surprised when he noticed that Jesus did not first wash before the meal. Then the Lord said to him “Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness.”

Being clean is important and everyone appreciates when you take the time to become clean and have washed. Jesus used this situation as an example for us that being clean on the inside with a pure heart that He can provide is much more important than washing your hands simply because it is a ritual.- Luke Snell

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

Thanks

J.A.M. Gardening Project: A huge thank you to all who brought in seed packages and those who donated cash and checks to help purchase tomato plants, seed potatoes and supplies needed to continue with the J.A.M. gardening project in Southern Ohio. We

collected 96 seed packages and \$296 in cash and checks.

Tree Seedling Distribution: We would like to thank Rev. Alan Barone for his generosity and thoughtfulness. In April, he blessed our congregation with Colorado Blue Spruce, White Dogwood, Tulip Poplar, Red Bud and Red Maple tree seedlings and also wildflower seed packets.

Church Hawaiian Meal

We have been blessed to have Sandy Pramer’s brother-in-law, Hank Okuma, prepare a Hawaiian meal for our entire church family. Come and join us for a fun and delicious meal on Saturday, June 28, 4:30-6:30pm in FH 15AC.

If you would like to attend, there will be a signup sheet in the narthex (with the menu) to help him know how many to prepare for. The meal is his gift to us, but donations will be accepted to help him cover costs. Dust off that Hawaiian shirt hanging in the back of your closet or just come as you are and join us for a real Hawaiian treat. If you have questions, see Sandy Pramer.

Passings

Faith Community offers condolences to Pastor Jeff and Suzanne on the recent death of Lynn Everett, mother of Suzanne; to friends and family of Kelly Jean Varvel on her passing and to family and friends of Ann Ledetter on her passing.

FCUM
March 2025 Financials

Monthly Income	\$ 19,845		YTD Income	\$ 85,993	
Monthly Expenses	\$ 30,706		YTD Expenses	\$ 90,972	
Difference	\$(10,862)	-54.73%	Difference	\$ (4,979)	-5.79%

Deadline for submitting June Faith Links Articles: May 18

May 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 11am-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 1:30-4pm-Women's Club of Xenia-Parlor 6-7:30pm-Girls' Volleyball Practice-FCC	2	3
4 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Hospitality Time-Narthex 10:30-11:30am-Worship Services-Sanctuary 11:45-1pm-Scholarship Interview-Parlor	5 9-4pm-Lifeline Screening- FCC 6:45-8pm-Spec. Olympics-FCC 7-8:45pm-Stephen Ministry-Library 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 7-8pm-Cub Scouts-FH-AB	6 10-11:30am-Tuesday Bible Study-Parlor 6-8:30pm-Girl Scouts-FH-15A,B,C&CC16A-B 6:30-8:30pm-Trustees-Parlor	7 6:15-7:15- Bells practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary/Chapel	8 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6-7:30pm-Girls' Volleyball Practice-FCC 6:30-8:30pm-Boy Scouts District Leaders-FH 15A-B	9	10
11 Mother's Day 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Hospitality Time-Narthex 10:30-11:30am-Worship Services-Sanctuary	12 6-8pm-Mary & Martha-FCC 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 7-8pm-Cub Scouts-FH 15A-B	13 10-11:30 Bible Study-Parlor 2-4pm- Dorcas Circle-15- A-B	14 6:15-7:15pm-Bells Practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary/Chapel	15 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6:30-8:30pm-Ad Board Council-FH-15C	16	17
18 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Hospitality Time-Narthex 10:30-11:30am-Worship Services-Sanc.	19 1-3pm-Women United-Parlor 6-8:30pm-Men of Faith 16A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 7-8pm-Cub Scouts-15AB 6:45-8pm-Special Olymp Volleyball-FCC	20 10-11:30 Bible Study-Parlor 6-8:30pm-Girl Scouts-FH-15A,B,C&CC16A-B	21 6:15-7:15 pm-Bells-Practice- Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary/Chapel 5:30-8:30-Magic Volleyball Banquet-FCC	22 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor	23	24 5-9pm-Double I-15A
25 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Hospitality Time-Narthex 10:30am-11:30am Sanctuary	26 Memorial Day 7-8:30pm-SPRC Meeting library	27 10-11:30am - Bible Study-Parlor All Day-Annual Conference -Capital University, Bexley, OH	28 All Day-Annual Conference 6:15-7:15pm-Bells Practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary/Chapel	29 All Day-Annual Conference 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl Parlor	30 All Day-Annual Conference 6pm-8am-Girl Scouts Overnight-FCC	31 All Day-Annual Conference Girl Scouts Overnight