

August 17, 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
"The Joy of the Lord is My Strength" arr. by John Wilson

**Call to Worship

Children of God, for the sake of the joy, we gather to worship.

We gather to encounter grace and to grow in faith.

For the sake of the joy, we proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

We proclaim the love of God that surrounds us and forms us into a community marked by love for God, self, neighbor, and all creation.

For the sake of the joy, we respond with our lives.

We respond ready to embody our faith as agents of God.

**Opening Hymn "God of Love and God of Power" UMH #578

Opening Prayer (unison)

Come, Holy Spirit. Hear our prayers and songs of praise. We join voices from ancient times, that placed their trust in you in days of joy or pain. Inspire us in this hour, that we may never surrender to despair. Renew in us enduring faith, even as we join eternally in song. Amen.

Children's Moments

Prayer Hymn "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" (v.1,3) UMH #206

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

"Give Me That Old-Time Religion" Carol Stewart
Negro Spiritual

**Doxology UMH #95

**Prayer of Dedication

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Yet how good it is to see living acts of faith in Christ's church and its people. Bless, O Lord, the offerings we give, that others may know your love, and come to trust your provision and peace. Amen.

Ministry of Music Pam Colbrunn, Suzanne Bandy, Glen Shaw; vocal trio
"You Are Mine" Haas/Hays

Scripture Reading Hebrews 11:29-40 & 12:1-2

Sermon "Enduring Faith" Pastor Jeff Bandy

**Closing Hymn "Take Up Thy Cross" UMH #415

**Sending Forth

Postlude Carol Stewart
"O Jesus, I Have Promised " Arthur H. Mann/John Innes



The Altar flowers are given by Dorcas Circle in memory of Ann Ledbetter for her many years of service on the Executive Board of the United Methodist Women.

Gospel Reading - Hebrews 11:29-40 & 12:1-2 (CEB)

²⁹ By faith they crossed the Red Sea as if they were on dry land, but when the Egyptians tried it, they were drowned.

³⁰ By faith Jericho's walls fell after the people marched around them for seven days.

³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute wasn't killed with the disobedient because she welcomed the spies in peace.

³² What more can I say? I would run out of time if I told you about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. ³³ Through faith they conquered kingdoms, brought about justice, realized promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ put out raging fires, escaped from the edge of the sword, found strength in weakness, were mighty in war, and routed foreign armies. ³⁵ Women received back their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured and refused to be released so they could gain a better resurrection.

³⁶ But others experienced public shame by being taunted and whipped; they were even put in chains and in prison. ³⁷ They were stoned to death, they were cut in two, and they died by being murdered with swords. They went around wearing the skins of sheep and goats, needy, oppressed, and mistreated. ³⁸ The world didn't deserve them. They wandered around in deserts, mountains, caves, and holes in the ground.

³⁹ All these people didn't receive what was promised, though they were given approval for their faith. ⁴⁰ God provided something better for us so they wouldn't be made perfect without us.

Let's also run the race

12 So then, with endurance, let's also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let's throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up, ² and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith's pioneer and perfecter. He endured the cross, ignoring the shame, for the sake of the joy that was laid out in front of him, and sat down at the right side of God's throne.



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

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We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

Sunday, August 17, 2025 Worship Team

Ushers

Chad Mossing, Will Mossing
Rick Smith, Gerald Mahan

Greeters

Jim Osburn, Joyce Osburn

Liturgist

Julie Wickline

Organist

Carol Stewart



Monday 18	Men of Faith Boy Scouts	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	CC 16A FH 15A-B
Tuesday 19	Tuesday Bible Study Mission Outreach	10:00 am 3:30 pm	Parlor Parlor
Wednesday 20			
Thursday 21	Prayer Shawl Dist. Super. 1 on 1's Private Event Ad Board Council	11:00 am 1:00 pm 3:00 pm 6:30 pm	Parlor Parlor FH 15A-B Chapel
Friday 22			
Saturday 23	Double I Dinner	6:00 pm	FH A, Kitchen
Sunday 24	Sunday School Hospitality Time Worship Service	9:00 am 10:00 am 10:30 am	Rm 8, Parlor Narthex Sanctuary

Sunday School Studies

Double I will meet in Rm 8, Leader Lucy Parsons, for a detailed study of the "**Book of Amos**".

Open Doors will meet in the Parlor, Leader Sandy Pramer, study of "**Slaying the Giants in Your Life**" by **Dr. David Jeremiah**.

Next Sermon – Sunday, August 24

"Unshakable Faith"
Scripture Lesson

Rev. Jeff Bandy
Hebrews 12: 18-29 (CEB)

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.

August 17, 2025 Announcements

WOMEN UNITED CIRCLE AUGUST 18 MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

SHOES 4 THE SHOELESS: A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who purchased shoes, donated money or volunteered their time, we provided **145 pair of shoes** to our community! **A very special thank you to Sandy Pramer** for her countless hours organizing, shopping and coordinating this entire event.

MEN OF FAITH: The Men of Faith will meet on **Monday, Aug. 18 at 6:00pm in CC 16A-B** (Burgers and Dogs will be grilled). Our guest speaker will be Stephen Taylor, Director of Bridges of Hope to explain their program and discuss our partnership with the garden (located behind Bridges). We plan to provide over 2000 pounds of fresh vegetables to local pantries. We would like to invite anyone on **Tuesday mornings at 9:00 at the garden** to harvest vegetables. We will also discuss our Garage Sale which is our major fundraiser and through these donations and sales, the Garage sale provides funds to over 12 local organizations twice a year.

BLOOD DRIVE: We will have a blood drive in the Community Center on **Monday, Aug. 25, 2:00pm to 6:00pm**. So far, we only have **12 people** signed up out of 40 available appointments. You can make a reservation for your preferred appointment time to donate by going to www.donortime.com or (937) 461-3220. Remember that your donation can save as many as **THREE LIVES!**

MEN OF FAITH COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE: Get ready to shop on **Friday, Sep. 5 from 6:00-8:00pm** and **Saturday, Sep. 6 from 9:00am-Noon**. This is a community event that allows one to clear out their household of no longer needed items and shop for new needs over the same weekend. It's a 2 pronged blessing! If you have furniture or large items to be picked up early, please call Bob Whipp at (937) 668-3137. Items can be dropped off Thursday, Sep. 4 from noon to 8:00pm and Friday, Sep. 5 from 9:00am-noon. PLEASE contact Bob Whipp if you are available to volunteer for pricing and stocking tables on Thursday and Friday.

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. Join us for a day of exploration as we delve into our human desires and uncover the distinction between self-confidence and self-worth. This mini-retreat will be held on **Saturday, Sep. 13, 9:00am-3:00pm in FCC** and 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. **Deadline to register is Sunday, Aug. 31;** forms are in the narthex and office. For further information, please contact the church office at (937) 372-7601.

SOMETHING TO CONSIDER: If you have thought about becoming a Stephen Minister or are curious about just what that may involve, any of our Stephen Leaders will be happy to talk with you about what has been a life-changing experience for each of us. **A new training class will be starting in September.** To learn more, contact Judy Mahan, 937-416-4015; Lynn Engle, 937-409-0667; Mike Engle, 937-409-6610; or Becky Cultice, 937-768-8086.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR CHOIR VOICES: Could you be someone we are looking for? All you need is a voice and the HEART to praise the Lord with a joyful song. We practice on Wednesdays at 7:30pm and warm up ½ hour before church service on Sunday. At this time we sing on average two Sunday's a month. Come join us on **Wednesday, Sep. 3 at 7:30pm** for our first rehearsal. If you have any questions contact Glen Shaw at (937) 789-3400.



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Jobs Available at Faith Community

• **Director of Music:** As we look to the future we want to hire a director of music to not only lead the choir – but provide direction for our worship experience on Sunday mornings and special services. The ideal candidate will be knowledgeable and skilled in both traditional worship music as well as contemporary worship music. The ideal candidate will possess strong leadership skills, a deep understanding of choral direction, and church music department management.

• **Director of Outreach:** The ideal candidate will engage the congregation and the wider community through service opportunities, community partnerships, and events that build connections. This person will coordinate and lead a team of volunteers in implementing educational and social activities, programs that will meet the needs of the families of the church as well as families of the Greater Xenia community.

Contact Pastor Jeff Bandy at pastorjeff@fcum.org for a full job description, information on applying, or to answer any questions.

Shawnee Elementary Mentoring

In a school just a few blocks from our church, 90% of the students are eligible for the free lunch program, 12% are homeless and a large percentage of children come from a single parent home. Suddenly, out of necessity and compassion, the school is more than an educational institution.

• It is the only full meal a child may get. • It is the only source of love and support for some children. • It is the only source of encouragement for a child.

Today's teachers are more than teachers and are sometimes overwhelmed with baggage that many children bring into the classroom. For their sake and the child's sake, they need a helping hand. Last year we became a part of a mentor program at Shawnee Elementary that is working to help students while giving teachers time to focus on educating. It is woefully short of volunteers. We are looking for volunteers for just one hour a week who can support the current mentor program. Like in our Vacation Bible School many children are impacted by the attention of a compassionate adult. Please pray and consider being a mentor volunteer. Fill out the form on the table in the narthex and place in the provided basket or church office. We will get back to you with more information.

Card Shower

A card shower is being planned for Karen Turner whose birthday is August 29th. Karen has been a faithful member of this church for many years and now has some serious health issues. Since she is now in North Carolina I am sure she would be happy to hear from her Faith Community friends on her birthday. Her new address is 635 Myers Mill Rd, Statesville, NC. 28625. Please help us surprise Karen on her birthday.

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