

August 24, 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 Solid Rock" William B. Bradbury/Don Hustad

**Call to Worship

Where can we stand when God is shaking the earth?

We will stand on the promises of God.

Where can we find support when our foundations fail?

We will lean on the everlasting arms of God.

Where can we find salvation in times like these?

We will look to Jesus and to his covenant of life.

Let us worship the God of our salvation.

**Opening Hymn

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" (v. 1,2,3,5) UMH #139

Opening Prayer (unison)

Eternal God, you knew us before we were conceived. You called us as your own while we were still in our mothers' wombs.

Keep watch over us, we pray, for we long to return to your ways. Restore our confidence in times of doubt, for we yearn to be the people you would have us be. Grant us the confidence to go forth unafraid, that we might bless the world through your presence in our lives. Amen.

Children's Moments

Prayer Hymn "Lord, Speak to Me" (v. 1,2,5) UMH #463

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 Carol Stewart
"My Anchor Holds" Daniel B. Towner

**Doxology UMH #95

**Prayer of Dedication

God of power and might, in times of trial, you are our fortress and our refuge. In thanksgiving and praise for your wonderful gifts, we offer you our tithes and offerings, that others might know the strength of your unshakable kingdom. Amen.

Ministry of Music Carol Stewart
"His Eye Is on the Sparrow" Charles H. Gabriel/Marilynn Ham

Scripture Reading Hebrews 12:18-29

Sermon "Unshakable Faith" Pastor Jeff Bandy

**Closing Hymn "Stand Up and Bless the Lord" UMH #662

**Sending Forth

Postlude Carol Stewart
"Standing on the Promises" R. Kelso Carter



*The Altar flowers are given by Janet Schellin
in memory of her parents, Herbert and Helen Now.*

Gospel Reading - Hebrews 12:18-29 (CEB)

Priestly service in heavenly Jerusalem

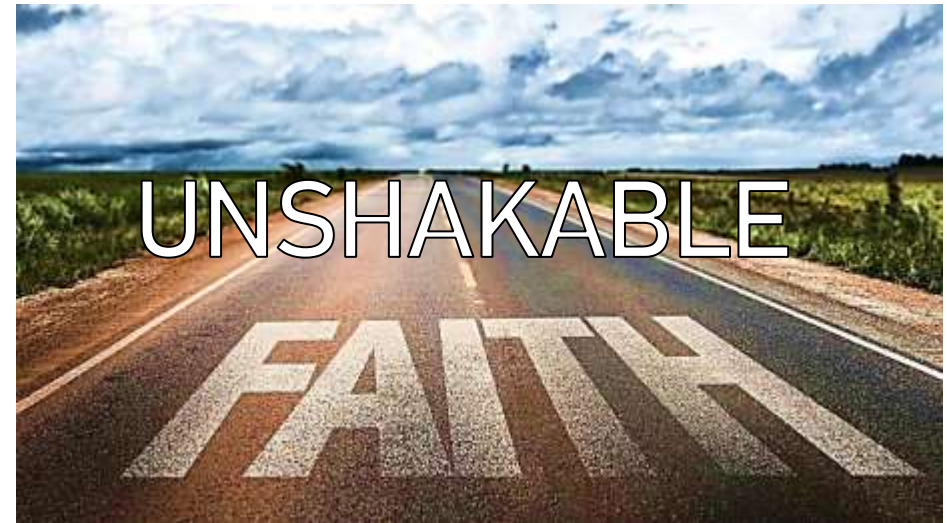
¹⁸ You haven't drawn near to something that can be touched: a burning fire, darkness, shadow, a whirlwind, ¹⁹ a blast of a trumpet, and a sound of words that made the ones who heard it beg that there wouldn't be one more word. ²⁰ They couldn't stand the command, *If even a wild animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned.* ²¹ The sight was so frightening that Moses said, "I'm terrified and shaking!"

²² But you have drawn near to Mount Zion, the city of the living God, heavenly Jerusalem, to countless angels in a festival gathering, ²³ to the assembly of God's firstborn children who are registered in heaven, to God the judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous who have been made perfect, ²⁴ to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks better than Abel's blood.

²⁵ See to it that you don't resist the one who is speaking. If the people didn't escape when they refused to listen to the one who warned them on earth, how will we escape if we reject the one who is warning from heaven? ²⁶ His voice shook the earth then, but now he has made a promise: *Still once more I will shake not only the earth but heaven also.* ²⁷ The words "still once more" reveal the removal of what is shaken—the things that are part of this creation—so that what isn't shaken will remain. ²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that can't be shaken, let's continue to express our gratitude. With this gratitude, let's serve in a way that is pleasing to God with respect and awe, ²⁹ because our God really is a consuming fire.

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.



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 24, 2025 Worship Team

Ushers

Chad Mossing, Will Mossing
Rick Smith, Gerald Mahan

Greeters

Gerald Mahan, Judy Mahan

Liturgist

Sandy Pramer

Organist

Carol Stewart



Monday 25	Versiti Blood Drive SPRC Boy Scouts	2:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	FCC Library CC 16A
Tuesday 26	Tuesday Bible Study	10:00 am	Parlor
Wednesday 27	Handbell Choir Practice	6:15 pm	Music Room
Thursday 28	Prayer Shawl	11:00 am	Parlor
Friday 29			
Saturday 30			
Sunday 31	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 31

"Acts of Faith"
Scripture Lesson

Rev. Jeff Bandy
Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16 (CEB)

Join Us In Celebration

During worship service on **Sunday, Sep. 7**, we will have the privilege of sharing the Sacrament of Christian Baptism with Sara Gardner, Logan Gardner, Dessa Retherford and Kelan Cramer. Then, along with those baptized, we will also receive into membership: Jack Westfall, Janet Westfall, Tracy Bradford, and Deborah Swigart.

August 24, 2025 Announcements

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 **14 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!** A light meal will be provided for all donors.

AUTUMN'S BLESSINGS BRUNCH: Dorcas Circle will be hosting a brunch on **Saturday, Sep. 20 at 11:00am** for a \$10 donation. Barbara Mills will be the Guest Speaker on Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. **Tickets will be sold in the narthex on Sunday, Aug. 31, Sep. 7 and Sep 14.** If you have any questions, please contact Betsy Murray (937) 768-1143.

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.

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.

FESTIVAL OF SHARING NEEDS 3 KITS THIS YEAR: Please consider filling a "kids" kit by filling a cloth bag with school supplies, or fill a 1 gallon bag with "hygiene" or "period" supplies. Last year, many of the kits were delivered following Hurricane Helene providing much needed supplies and a "gift of hope" after a disaster. Look for the kit lists and bags on the table in the narthex. Please return filled bags by **Sunday, September 21**. If you have any questions, please contact Betsy Murray (937) 768-1143.



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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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