

## August 2025

Rev. Jeff Bandy

937-372-7601 [office@fcum.org](mailto:office@fcum.org) [www.fcum.org](http://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
July 6	79	12
July 13	94	17
July 20	81	13

### From the Pastor

Well, July is behind us and August has begun. When I think about August, I automatically think about summer almost being over. I love the heat of the summer and I'm not ready for the temperatures and the hours of daylight to decrease. I know we still have a couple of months before fall gets here, so I will savor each day of warmth and sunshine that comes my way.

Just like temperatures and daylight change throughout the year, so do our daily life experiences. We never really know what each day will bring, but there is one constant in life that never changes, and that is Jesus. I know this to be true, but I was reminded of this truth during VBS this year. One of the verses we shared with the kids was *"come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."* (Matthew 11:28, NIV). Weariness can be the result of any number of life experiences, and everyone has different things that are burdensome to them. It doesn't matter what is the cause, we all experience these things at some point.

The lessons during VBS addressed four different areas of concern and in each area we were reminded, *"We can trust Jesus!"* The first area we talked about was related to when we aren't sure about something. It could be anything, like wondering what teachers we might have when school starts, or if our

job was secure, or what about having enough savings for retirement. Just remember, when we wonder, we can trust Jesus!

Second, we shared about even when there are lots of people around us, we can still feel alone or lonely. Sometimes we get too busy and as a result people in our lives get left out. Other times we withdraw from others because we are ashamed or embarrassed. Whatever creates our feeling of loneliness, we can begin to feel less alone when we think of Jesus, who is always with us. When we feel alone, we can trust Jesus! Third, we discussed what it is like when we feel powerless. This one struck close to my heart. It was during VBS when my two-week old grandson was in the hospital experiencing some unexpected medical concerns. Maybe you can think of times you experienced something like that. I was very concerned but there was nothing I could do to help him. I felt powerless. But, that really wasn't true, because I was able to pray to Jesus. When we feel powerless, we can trust Jesus! And finally, we know there are always times in our life when we need help from someone. Whether we are 6, 16, 26, 66 or 96, we need help sometimes. As Christians we are encouraged to keep our eyes and ears open to see who might need our help. And if we ever feel like we're not sure where help will come from, we can turn to Jesus. When we need help, we can trust Jesus!

So, with these inspiring lessons from VBS 2025, I want to encourage us all this month to keep our eyes on Jesus! We can trust him!

Grace and Peace, Pastor Jeff

## **Meet Bob Whipp**

Bob and Pam Whipp have lived in Greene County for several years. They moved here because they liked the more rural area and to be a little closer to their son who lives in Columbus. They have been members of Faith Community UMC for most of those years and began to take an active role in the church almost immediately after they joined. You will see Bob often as an usher on Sunday mornings, passing out the bulletins, taking the offering, and all the other responsibilities which go with the job. He is very active with the Methodist Men. In fact, he is one of those responsible for the annual garage sale which will be coming up in September. I know the men are hoping the members of the congregation will provide a wonderful supply of

things to sell and of course will encourage everyone they know to come and shop. Did you know the garage sale is not just an annual event, but large items such as furniture are accepted throughout the year? The men are willing to pick up any large items and then those can be sold on Marketplace. This way, there are additional funds available when the men select the charities which will benefit from the sales.

Bob retired a few years ago, after 40 years with the same company, and now his major “hobby” is helping at the church in various capacities. He also serves as Chairman of the Benevolence Committee. This committee accepts requests from those who are struggling to meet necessary payments such as utilities bills and/or rent. A request may be made to the church for assistance once a year. The committee will determine the amount which can be given to help the family in need. This is supported by an endowment begun many years ago.

The Whipps spend a great deal of time at the church, helping with various projects as needed. They will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in October 2027. – Joan Baxter

## **Stephen Ministry**

### **Position Open – Stephen Minister**

Think about difficult times you’ve experienced in your own life. All of us have those times – times when we could benefit from the support of a Christian friend. While we might be capable of going it alone, we don’t have to. Even if we have supportive family members and friends, it often helps to talk with someone who is not there to tell us what to do, but someone who will listen—someone whom we know will keep everything that takes place between us confidential. That’s what Stephen Ministry is all about.

This is not a casual ministry. It involves prayer, thought, consideration, study, flexibility, and commitment. Stephen Ministers are open to adjusting and adapting their caregiving to fit the needs of the care receiver.

One of the comments that we hear more than any other when care receivers talk about their relationship with their Stephen Ministers is, “No matter what, I know I can count on him/her to show up, to be there for me.” Sometimes just knowing that the support is there is enough. In our training we talk

about becoming the hands and feet of Jesus—of offering a cup of cold water. These powerful images serve as a reminder that while we are the caregivers, Christ is the Caregiver. Prayer is a huge piece of every aspect of our ministry. When we prayerfully turn over the situation to God, He provides the resources that we do not have. We are never alone in the process. We have our pastor, Stephen Leaders, the benefit of the Greater Dayton Stephen Ministry Network, and the resources of Stephen Ministries, St. Louis.

As you assess your spiritual gifts and recognize those of others, consider becoming a Stephen Minister yourself or encouraging those who have qualities that seem compatible with Christian caregiving to explore the possibility of becoming Stephen Ministers. A new training class will begin in September.

Caring laypeople bear a powerful witness to the love and compassion of Christ through their compassionate intersection with those who are hurting. To learn more, contact any of our Stephen Leaders: Lynn & Mike Engle, Judy Mahan, or Becky Cul-tice.

## **Mary & Martha Gathering**

Please join us Monday, August 11, from 6pm-8pm in the Community Center for another FUN Mary & Martha gathering! We are excited to announce that Dennis will be back to lead us in a rousing time of square dancing, so be sure to wear your most creative and comfortable western outfit! And be sure to bring your most creative and comfort food to share for dinner! Questions – call Laurie Krakowiak @937-694-8114 or the church office @937-372-7601.

**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, September 13, 9:00am-3:00pm in FCC**. The day will 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.

Registration forms are available in the narthex and in the office. **Deadline to register is Sunday, August 31.** If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the church office at (937) 372-7601.

## **United Methodist Women**

**Women United Circle** will meet on Monday, August 18 at 1:00 P.M. in the parlor. All women are invited to attend.

**Dorcas Circle** will meet on Tuesday, August 12 at 1:00 P.M. In the parlor

**Save the Date**

**Autumn Blessings Brunch**

**September 20, 2025, 11:00 A.M.**

**Sponsored by Dorcas Circle. Watch for details.**

## **United Methodist Men of Faith Community Garage Sale**

Get ready to shop on **Friday, September 5, 6-8pm** and **Saturday, September 6, 9am-Noon.** 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, September 5 from noon to 8:00pm and Friday, September 7 from 9:00-noon. Contact Bob Whipp if you are available to volunteer for pricing and stocking tables on Thursday and Friday.

## **A Voice for Environmental Stewardship August 2025**

Almost all of my monthly articles have focused on the science of environmental stewardship and our responsibility to take care of our environment. I have not addressed the spirituality of environmental stewardship. Prayer is a major part of our spirituality. Our spirituality connects us with God, our inner being, others and with nature. In our church we have many areas where we can apply the practice of prayer: a prayer chain, a

prayer tree where we have our private prayer requests hanging in little envelopes, prayer in worship, in our Sunday classes, during our administrative meetings and during our personal daily devotions. We pray for many things, but generally we do not think of praying for our stewardship of our Earth's environment. Somehow, for many of us, it doesn't seem like it is in the realm of our spiritual concerns, but from my perspective as a practicing Christian, a student of science, and a naturalist, it is a major concern. With the many things that are happening to the Earth, many are caused by human activity. Climate change and global warming are being fueled by our addiction to burning of fossil fuels in our vehicles, our current agricultural practices, our choice of food and our never-ending demand for more and more material goods.

These are spiritual concerns because they are directly connected to the daily choices that we make, and our daily choices are connected to our spirituality. Our prayer concerns are connected to our own actions and the actions of our leaders. There are consequences that stem from our behaviors and our behaviors affect our relationship with God.

**PLEASE PRAY WITH ME.** Loving, generous and concerned God, help me to be more conscious of what I do every day and how it affects the health of our beautiful Earth, the wellbeing of other humans and all the other species that live on the Earth with us. Help me to change my actions and inactions so that I may be a **BLESSING** to our Creator and to our beautiful Earth. **AMEN.**

Rev. Alan D. Barone, B.A. in science education, M.Div.,  
Ohio certified Volunteer Naturalist

## **Prayer Shawl Ministry Update**

The Faith Community Prayer Shawl Ministry is part of the outreach, prayers, and ministry that began through a divine nudge after the death of Betty Merrill's husband Howard. Over the years, Betty and her son Mark have made and distributed hundreds of prayer shawls and lap robes. Since early August 2018, several of us have met on Thursdays from 11:30-12:30 in the parlor to knit, crochet, or quilt. No prior knowledge is necessary. What began as a group of two has grown and there's al-

ways room for more. If that time frame doesn't work for you, you can work on your own too.

Chemo hats have now been added to items that are available to share with someone who is going through a challenging time. Joyous moments can be celebrated as well as difficult ones. Giving and receiving any of these items has tremendous potential to open doors of communication, reinforce relations, and invite understanding and healing. It can be a tangible symbol of love when words can't be found to adequately express feelings. Shawl recipients often sense that there is hope for tomorrow, that they are completely alone, and that someone cares enough to reach out and let them know. For additional information about this ministry, contact Judy Mahan (937-372-5711).

### **Shoes 4 the Shoeless**

The children will come in for sizing on **Saturday, August 2, 9:30-10:30am** and return on **Saturday, August 16, 9:30-10:30am** to pick up their new shoes. This gives our congregation a chance to get involved by purchasing the shoes. We will have a "shoe tree" in the narthex **Sunday, August 3** and any shoes purchased can be brought to church on **Sunday, August 10**. If you would like to volunteer on either of those Saturdays or have questions, please call Sandy Pramer at (937) 307-3619. (SEE INSERT)

### **Thanks**

We want to thank everyone who made our VBS a great experience for those who attended, as well as our staff. The support, including: financial contributions, decorating, bringing in baked goods, helping with registration, opening VBS every day with our students, preparing snacks, planning and organizing games and recreation, planning and teaching our students about the aurora borealis and the earth's magnetism, preparing and teaching the Bible lessons, teaching the students all the songs and motions, and directing crafts, was simply amazing. We are especially proud of and grateful to our youth helpers. It is a

huge undertaking that requires many hands. We are grateful for all that was done to make it an experience where each child learned that they could trust Jesus.

—Betsy and Joyce

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SPRC and the Faith Community congregation would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation to Melody Kelley for her tenure over the past two years as choir director at FCUM.

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Dear Faith Community,

Thank you for your continued generous support. Your donation will be used to buy food as the FISH Pantry works to help feed Greene County neighbors. Your gift surely makes a positive impact on these familie’s lives. The FISH Board and the many volunteers thank you in their mission.

**New Member Class**

If you are interested in membership at Faith Community, you are invited to attend a one day orientation class on Sunday, August 3, 1:30-5:00pm in the parlor. Please call the office or email Pastor Jeff at [PastorJeff@fcum.org](mailto:PastorJeff@fcum.org) to sign up so that we can prepare the materials.

**Please Note:** The church will be closed August 4-6 due to parking lot paving (weather permitting).

FCUM

June 2025 Financials

Monthly Income	\$ 22,446		YTD Income	\$ 152,028	
Monthly Expenses	\$ 33,816		YTD Expenses	\$ 188,687	
Difference	\$ (11,371)	-50.66%	Difference	\$ (36,659)	-24.11%



## August 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	<b>2</b> 9:30-10:30pm-Shoes 4 Shoeless sizing
<b>3</b> 9-10am-Sunday School-CC 16A, Rm. 8, 11, Parlor 10-10:30am-Hospitality Time-Narthex 10:30-11:30am- Worship-Sanctuary	<b>4</b> <b>9am-3pm-PARKING LOT &amp; OFFICE CLOSED</b>  7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts- Will meet offsite	<b>5</b> <b>9am-3pm-PARKING LOT &amp; OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>6</b> <b>9am-3pm-PARKING LOT &amp; OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>7</b> 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Hospitality Time-Narthex 10:30-11:30am- Wor- ship Services-Sanctu- ary	<b>11</b>  6-8pm-Mary & Martha Gathering-FCC/Kitchen  7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts- 15C	<b>12</b> 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor  1-3pm-Dorcas Circle- Parlor	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor  7-8:30pm-Christian Ed Meeting-room 8	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  9:30-10:30am-Shoes 4 Shoeless pick up- FCC
<b>17</b> 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Hospitality Time-Narthex 10:30-11:30am-Wor- ship Services- Sanctuary.	<b>18</b> 1pm-3pm-Women United-Parlor 6-8:30pm-Men of Faith-16AB 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	<b>19</b> 10-11:30 Bible Study- Parlor  3:30-4:30pm-Mission/ Outreach Team	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor  3-8pm-Private Event- 15 A-B  6:30-8:30pm-Ad Board-15C	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  6-8pm-Double I-15A& Kitchen
<b>24</b> 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Hospitality Time-Narthex <b>10:30-11:30am-</b> <b>Sanctuary</b> <b>31</b> <b>See above</b>	<b>25</b> 2-6pm-Blood Drive-FCC  7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 7-8:30pm-SPRC Meet- ing-library	<b>26</b> 10-11:30 Bible Study- Parlor	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

