

October 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
August 24	74	15
August 31	76	16
September 7	114	28
September 14	76	27
September 21	85	28

From the Pastor

Earlier this year the Administrative Board spent a few months working on a revised vision and mission statement. I have shared it during worship in various ways and have referenced them as part of my sermons. Our vision statement, which is printed on the bulletin each week, is this: *Faith Community, a safe space for exploring faith and building community.* We made two distinct changes to our previous vision statement which was “*Sharing Faith, Building Community.*” The first is adding to our vision the intention of truly being a safe space for anyone who might experience our church in our building or anywhere else. Anyone we encounter should feel welcomed, seen, and accepted for who they are. We desire for all people to meet Jesus, so we aim to offer a space for anyone to do so. Second, we changed the language of “Sharing Faith” to “Exploring Faith.”

Just as we want to be a safe space to welcome people into community with us, we also want to provide a safe space to explore faith openly. Each one of us has a different story that brings us to faith in Jesus Christ. And we are all on a journey of maturing faith. To grow in our faith, we all need to have a mindset of exploration to encourage life-long engagement with the Lord and each other as we discover more and more of who we are in Christ.

To support this vision, we created this mission statement:
Faith Community's mission is to empower our community to meet, learn, worship, pray, and play together. When we reference our community here, we are using it in the broadest sense possible.

Community includes the members and friends of Faith Community, Xenia and surrounding cities, towns and villages, the United Methodist global connection, and any community we have the privilege of meeting. Obviously, our focus will be those closest to us, but we have to keep in mind our overall United Methodist mission which is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Even though Jesus Christ is not mentioned specifically in our Faith Community mission statement, Christ is the center of everything we do. We exist, because we are a church, where Jesus Christ is the head of the church and we are the body through whom he works by the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit. May we, Faith Community UMC, be active in our mission to fulfill our vision.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Jeff

Environmental Stewardship October 2025

Please go with me back to December 24, 1968. On that day William Anders was in the crew of the lunar orbiter Apollo 8. He took a photograph of the Earth, just rising above the horizon of the moon's surface. It was a half Earth like we see a half moon at night. This was the first color picture of the Earth from space. It was so striking that it was given the name, Earthrise. A well-known nature photographer, named Galen Rowell, described the photograph as "the most influential environmental photograph ever taken." What did Rowell mean by the statement? Earthrise was the first color photograph of our beautiful Earth, showing our planet being illuminated by the Sun. It showed the beautiful blue oceans, the brown and green continents, and the distinct patterns of the clouds in our atmosphere. Many beautiful pictures of our Earth have been taken since then, revealing many more features of our planet. Our planet is much, much more than a blue marble in our solar system. It is the only planet that supports LIFE as we know it. There are millions of species of amazing plants and animals on Earth that make us the LIVING PLANET that we are. So far, even with all our robotic vehicles on the surface of Mars, have no evidence of life. Our spacecraft that are traveling to other planets and photographing

them at “close range” are finding no other planet that even comes close to the living planet we live on. We are even looking at the MOONS of other planets in our solar system in order to see if they might have some chance of supporting subsurface life of some form.

All this is to say that there is NO PLANET “8” for us. If we humans make our living planet unliveable by ignoring climate change and global warming, and ignore the ALARMING reduction of species because of our destructive, human activities, WE humans will be solely responsible for making Earth much less of a living planet. This is NOT an alarmist prediction. More and more climate scientists, ecologists and biologists are saying we are heading in that direction. THIS IS NO WAY TO TREAT OUR MOTHER EARTH! I am sure that GOD IS NOT PLEASED. – Rev. Alan D. Barone, B.A. sci. edu, Div., Ohio Certified Vol. Naturalist

Mary & Martha Gathering

“For what we claim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake.” Join our October 13 Mary & Martha gathering at 6 PM for a very special presentation by a representative of Operation Christmas Child. Boxes will be distributed with a list of items to pack for the children. These boxes are disbursed to over 170 countries! If you cannot make the gathering, please reach out to Laurie Krakowiak at 937-694-8114 for more information.

United Methodist Women

Women United Circle will meet on Monday, October 20 at 1:00 pm in the parlor. All women are invited to attend.

Dorcas Circle will meet Tuesday, October 21, 1-3pm in the Parlor.

Men of Faith

The men will meet on Monday October 20 at 6pm in CC 16A. All men are invited to join us. Dinner from the grill will be served. We will have social time during the meal followed by a short Bible devotional. This month we will have fellow Faith United Member, Bill Sykes, present valuable information on men’s health. He would like to offer us all information on male breast

cancer and signs to look for on prevention. Although only 1% of breast cancer occurs in males, it is normally diagnosed between 60-70. This should be very interesting from his firsthand knowledge.

Our Garden of sharing is slowing down with the change to Fall. We will again exceed 2000# of fresh vegetables for local food pantries. Please don't forget that you can still donate large items to be sold by the garage sale group headed by Bob Whipp. Watch your email for more information. The email will come from ballcardkirk@gmail.com, so look in your spam if you don't see anything by Saturday, October 18th evening.

GREAT RESULTS! This year's Garage Sale was a huge success. Sales were in excess of \$7400 (\$2000 higher than last year!) The Men of Faith are so thankful for the support from the members of our congregation who assisted with their time and donations of items. Now, we focus our time on distributing all of this money to local Xenia charities, as we do each year. We will report on that periodically to the congregation. Thanks to Bob Whipp for coordinating the many facets of this project.

Stephen Ministry

Showing Up Matters

Reaching out to someone during a time of need can seem daunting. Here are some suggestions that might help ease any discomfort you may have about what to do and how to do it. Remember a time when you faced a loss, a serious illness, exhaustion, crisis, or a tragedy. What did you need? What was helpful? What was not? Chances are, you needed support. Handling day-to-day life tasks is almost impossible. Knowing someone cares and is offering tangible support means everything. Providing a meal is a symbolic gesture of our willingness to show others that we care. As you know, one of the ways we at Faith support one another is through our Casserole Care-A-Van (contact person: (Julie Wickline 937-207-8289). Cooking is a gift that many of our members have and enjoy sharing. Others are willing to take meals but are unsure about how it will be received. Will they like the meal? Will there be enough food? Too much? Will it stay hot enough? Have they just had what I'm bringing? Will it travel well? Will I get it there on time? Guess

what. The person who is on the receiving end is likely just to be grateful for your willingness to help and relieved that the evening meal is one less thing that they have to juggle. My guess is that if you asked the recipient later, they won't remember the details of the meal you brought, but they will remember that you showed up. According to the *Journal of Experimenal Psychology*, we shouldn't worry about the things that we might be concerned about since receivers tend to concentrate on the emotions behind the act of kindness and aren't critiquing the specifics. Those who care cannot go through the experience for another, but they can show love and support by doing things that relieve the ones who are going through a rough time. Everyday tasks like cooking, walking the dog, grocery shopping, and running "mom's taxi" are the kind of things we can do so the person struggling can focus on the more pressing issues at hand. An unexpected card or note is yet another way we can show we care. A single act of kindness can go a long way in helping someone feel cared for. People will remember you showed up for them in their time of need.

Stephen Ministers are available to walk alongside individuals during difficult times in their lives. To learn more, contact Becky Cultice, 937-376-5747 or culticer@sbcglobal.net.

On Sunday, October 12th, the Greater Dayton Stephen Ministry Network is sponsoring a presentation by Kim Vesey, recently retired Director of Hospice of Dayton. Kim is a certified Hospice and Palliative Care nurse, certified Thanatologist (study of death and grief), author of seven children's books on grief, and a TEDX speaker. This free presentation, open to all, will be from 2:30-4:30 at Fairhaven Church, 637 E. Whipp Road, Centerville. To learn more, contact Becky Cultice at culticer@sbcglobal.net or 937-376-5747.

The United Methodist Foundation of West Ohio has added a new feature on its website; www.umfwestohio.org. *The Plan Your Philanthropy* page on the site now features the option to make a free basic will via an online platform made available from Crescendo. It's estimated that 70% of people don't have a will, which can cost descendants more in the long run through the probate process. Cost and access to help are typically identified as the primary barriers. This resource allows anyone how to make a simple will for free and put their estate plans in order and their minds at ease. Create an account and follow the detailed instructions.

Users will be able to download their will to share with loved ones. For more information, contact the Foundation at 333-223-9257.

Thank You

Thank you for the wonderful dinner and your time that you were able to supply to our family and friends. Mother would have been pleased!

Always – Diane Adkins-Speakman

Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered.

The Alice Adkins Family

Thank you for all that you did for us during our time of loss.

Judy, Jill & Joanna Larcomb

*Dorcas Circle extends a huge thank you to all who attended the **Autumn Blessings Brunch** and to Barbara Mills for sharing stories and information about Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Our profits and donations will be donated to the **Greene County Imagination Library fund**.*

Memorial Service

Mary Carol Short passed away on 9/11/25. A memorial service will be held at Faith Community. The date and time are to be determined. We will pass along the information once it is scheduled.

Missions

Save the Date: Missions will be hosting their second annual Ham Loaf Dinner, November 8, 4:30-6:30 pm, Dine in or carry out. Watch for more details in the upcoming bulletins and newsletter.

Festival of Sharing

We have finished another successful year. With your help and generosity, our church family prepared 122 kits this year. THANKS!

Casserole Care-A-Van

Do you know of someone connected to our church who could benefit from our Casserole Care-a-van providing them with a few meals? If so, get with me so that I can let you know the information that I will need to get this set up with our amazing Casserole Care-a-van volunteers.

Julie Wickline, (937) 207-8289

Get Connected

As we begin preparing for our church conference, please consider how you might get involved with the work and ministry of the church. Please reference the current lists of committees (located on the Ad Board Council News bulletin board) And let Pastor Jeff know where you would be interested to serve beginning in 2026.

Love Packages

We are collecting Bibles, Reference Material, Books, Magazines, Daily Devotionals, Sunday School Materials, CDs, DVDs, BluRay, Bible games, Biblical puzzles – anything that helps teach the gospel, especially to children. You can bring your items to the office or leave them in the blue bin in the Narthex by the Education Wing.

Shawnee Elementary Mentoring

We are still looking for volunteers to lend a helping hand at Shawnee Elementary School for just one hour a week where they are woefully short of volunteers who can support the current mentor program. As 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.

Lions Club Donations

We are still collecting Eye Glasses, Glasses Cases, Hearing Aids, and Cell Phones for the Lions Club. Please put them in the drawer marked Lions Club in the plastic storage cabinet in the narthex. If you have any questions, please call Michelle Surgenor (937) 818-3096.

Deadline for submitting Faith Links November Articles is October 20

FCUM

August 2025 Financials

Monthly Income	\$22,997		YTD Income	\$ 232,544	
Monthly Expenses	\$28,495		YTD Expenses	\$ 246,287	
Difference	\$ (5,497)	-23.90%	Difference	\$ (13,743)	-5.91%

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



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October 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6:15-7:15pm-Bell Choir Practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary	2 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 12-3:34 pm-Women's Club of Xenia-Parlor	3	4
5 9-10am-Sunday School-CC 16A, Rm. 8, 11, Parlor 10-10:30am-Hospitality Time-Narthex 10:30-11:30am-Worship-Sanctuary	6 7-8:45pm-Stephen-Ministry-Library 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 7-8pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B	7 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 1-3:30pm-Stephen Ministry Training-Lib. 6-8:00pm-Girl Scouts-15A,B,C&16AB 6:30-8pm-Trustees-Par.	8 6:15-7:15pm-Bell Choir Practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary	9 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6:30-8:30pm-Scouting America Sycamore District, Tecumseh Council 11-12pm-Christian Ed-room 8	10	11
12 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Hospitality Time-Narthex 10:30-11:30am-Worship Services-Sanctuary	13 Columbus Day 6-8pm-Mary & Martha-FCC, Kitchen 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 7-8pm-Cub Scouts-15 A-B	14 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 1-3:30pm-Stephen Ministry Training-Library	15 6:15-7:15pm-Bell Choir Practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary	16 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6:30-8:30pm-Ad Board-FH Rm 15C	17	18
19 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Hospitality Time-Narthex 10:30-11:30am-Worship Services-Sanctuary	20 1-3pm-Women United-Parlor 6-8:30pm-Men of Faith-16A-B 7-8pm-Cub Scouts-A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	21 10-11:30 Bible Study-Parlor 1-3:30pm-Stephen Ministry Training-Parlor 1-3pm-Dorcas-Parlor 3:30-4:30-Mission/Outreach-Parlor 6-8pm-Girl Scouts-15A,B,C&CC16A-B	22 6:15-7:15pm-Bell Choir Practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary	23 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6-7:30pm-Private Event-FCC	24	25 6-8pm-Double I-15A& Kitchen
26 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Hospitality Time-Narthex 10:30-11:30am-Sanctuary	27 7-8pm Cub Scouts-15A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 7-8:30pm-SPRC-Library	28 10-11:30 Bible Study-Parlor 1-3:30pm-Stephen Ministry Training-Library	29 6:15-7:15pm-Bell Choir Practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary	30 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor	31 Halloween	