

September 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 3	89	15
August 10	99	19
August 17	91	16

From the Pastor

September is the month of new beginnings for schools, sports, company initiatives, and church ministries. For the past several years there has been an outreach ministry group that provides all the materials needed for a Back to Church campaign, trying to get people to come back to church after many being away for the summer. The reality is ministry never stops. However, ministries do experience change and sometimes they come to an end for various reasons. We often get caught up in what things used to be and have a difficult time imagining what new things could come. With the many recent changes in the UMC and the overall culture around the church, the conference leadership has encouraged us to consider new possibilities that could be on the horizon. For inspiration we turn to the prophet Isaiah's message to the Hebrew people who were in exile missing their past security in their homeland, encouraging, *"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland."* (Isaiah 43: 18-19, NIV). God meets us where we are and wants to create a new thing in us and through us as we are willing.

In response, the leadership here at Faith Community has been praying and discerning a vision that includes enhancing our experience with one another within the church walls and reaching out beyond our walls to meet our community where they are to explore

faith and build community. You may have seen announcements already, but I wanted to mention it here in the newsletter too. We are

searching for a director of music to direct our chancel choir and guide our music offerings in Sunday worship, special services, and perhaps new music ministry opportunities. Also, we are seeking a director of outreach to connect our community in ways that fulfill Faith Community's mission to *empower our community to meet, learn, worship, pray, and play together. Please join us in praying for the right candidates to be led to us as we look forward to see what new thing the Lord is doing in Xenia and our surrounding community. Also, be praying about how we will be partnering with the Lord.*

*Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jeff*

Building a Wall

Luke M. Snell

Nehemiah 2:17-18 (NIV) ¹⁷ Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace." I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work. Why do we want to build a wall? Is it to keep the bad people out, to keep people in, or to confirm that this area is mine? When I was younger, I installed fencing. Some people install a fence for security, such as around a swimming pool. Others would install a fence to keep people out, i.e., to keep children confined to their backyard. Yet others would install a fence to show everybody this is my property! The similarity between fencing and a wall is striking. A wall can also be installed for several reasons. All agree that a broken fence or wall is useless and an eyesore. Nehemiah faced this: a broken wall that was useless (did not keep people out) and even worse than an eyesore—a disgrace. Although he was not trained as a builder (he was a cupbearer to the king), he felt the hand of God to do something about the broken walls in Jerusalem. Nehemiah did not go off "halfcocked." He persuaded the king to support the project and helped him secure the necessary materials

before rebuilding the wall. He knew that there would be neighbors who would oppose them from rebuilding the wall. So, his first step was to get the Israelites to commit to rebuilding the wall for their protection and to demonstrate that God's hand was at work in this project. God uses some unusual people to do seemingly impossible tasks. Due to its complexity, an experienced builder may not have even attempted this rebuilding project. When He put this project on Nehemiah's heart, God saw that he would properly plan and mobilize the people to make it a priority; he would not let obstacles or opposition stop the rebuilding of the wall. So, should we be surprised when God leads us to do something we are not trained to do? This could be as simple as befriending someone different than us or saying yes to a project in our community or church. Whatever God leads you to do, he can help you build or rebuild what is needed.



Nehemiah directed the rebuilding of the wall.

Mary & Martha

An heirloom is a treasured item with sentimental value, passed down through generations in a family. At our next Mary & Martha gathering on September 8, we'd love for you to bring an heirloom and share its story with us. To ensure everyone has a chance to speak, we kindly ask that each person keep their sharing to one minute. We look forward to hearing your stories. As always, bring a dish to pass, perhaps from a recipe that has been passed down through generations. We will again meet in the Community Center from 6pm-8pm. If you have questions, call Laurie Krakowiak at 937-694-8114 or the church office 937-372-7601.

We look forward to hearing your stories! As always, bring a dish to pass, maybe from a recipe that has been passed down through generations.

Thanks

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” At the heart of who we are is community. It’s about bringing people together from all walks of life and being in community with one another. Thank you for partnering with us to help serve our community meal. We trust you were as blessed by the experience as we were by your service and sacrifice.

Sincerely, One Bistro



The Open Doors Sunday School Class has been sponsoring a meal every year for the last 4 years which entails donating \$250 to partially cover the cost of the meal and also having 8-10 volunteers work for about 3 ½ hours on that night, greeting, seating, serving and cleaning up. Perhaps other groups at FCUM would want to consider the same or other similarly related projects.

To those involved with or that contributed to the Faith Community United Methodist Church Scholarship, thank you. You have made a very generous and inconceivably meaningful contribution towards my future. I thank the Lord every day for putting me into

such a supportive community and I'm excited to return on breaks to tell you guys how school is going. Thanks!

Kelan Cramer

Dear Friends at Faith,

Your continued support of the Greee County FISH Pantry is appreciated more than you know. To the womens circle and the daily vacation school, your recent donation of \$1,355 comes at a most needed time. In addition to providing food for our neighbors who are struggling with food insecurity, we also need to keep the building open. Utility bills and unexpected repairs to our cooler have stretched our budget. On behalf of the entire Board, I sincerely thank you! — Jean Ali, Board Chair

Dear Friends,

Thank you for hosting the District Meet & Greet at your church. We are thankful for your hospitality and willingness to open your church home to us. Blessings and prayers as you continue sharing the love of Christ in your community.

Wes and Diana

UMW

Women United Circle will meet on Monday, September 15 at 1:00 pm in the parlor. All women are invited to attend. As our mission project this year at our last meeting we voted to donate \$500 to Greene County Fish Food Pantry to use for the purchase of turkeys for Thanksgiving. Thanks to all who purchased Mother's Day carnations to make this possible.

Dorcas Circle will sponsor an Autumn Blessings Brunch on September 20, 11 am in our church's Community Center. Barbara Mills is guest speaker and proceeds from tickets (\$10) will be donated to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. For more information about tickets and/or reservations, please contact Betsy Murray at 937-768-1143. Reservations are needed by September 14.

UMM 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 9:00pm 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.

Festival of Sharing

Three kits are needed 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.

Shawnee Elementary Mentoring

In a school just a few blocks from our church, 90% of the students are eligible for a 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 and 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 vol-

unteers 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.

Stephen Ministry

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 Cutice, 937-768-8086.

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 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 the families of the Greater Xenia community.

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

We Are Looking For Choir Voices

Could you be someone we're 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 Sundays a month. Come Join us on Wednesday, September 3 at 7:30pm. If you have any questions, contact Glen Shaw (937)789-3400.

Passings

Faith Community extends prayers and condolences to families and friends of Alice Adkins, Saundra Cowens, and Joe Larcomb on their passings.

October Faith Links articles are due September 15.



FCUM
July 2025 Financials

Monthly Income	\$ 57,729		YTD Income	\$ 209,547	
Monthly Expenses	\$ 29,230		YTD Expenses	\$ 217,917	
Difference	\$ 28,499	49.37%	Difference	\$ (8,370)	-3.99%

September 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 LABOR DAY Office Closed 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 7-8:45pm-Stephen Ministry-Library	2 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 6:30-8:30pm-Trustees-Parlor	3 6:15-7:15pm-Bell Choir Practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary	4 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 2-3:45pm-Women's Club of Xenia-Parlor	5 6-8pm-UMM Garage Sale-FCC & FH 15 A-C & Youth 16 A-C	6 9-12pm-UMM Garage Sale-FCC & FH 15 A-C & Youth 16 A-C
7 9-10am-Sunday School-CC 16A, Rm. 8, 11, Parlor 10-10:30am-Hospitality Time-Narthex 10:30-11:30am-Worship-Sanctuary	8 6-8pm-Mary & Martha-FCC 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	9 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor	10 6:15-7:15pm-Bell Choir Practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary	11 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 6:30-8:30pm-Scouting America Sycamore District, Tecumseh Council	12	13 9-3pm-Mary & Martha Women's Day Retreat-FH A-B
14 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Hospitality Time-Narthex 10:30-11:30am-Worship Services-Sanctuary	15 1-3pm-Women United-Parlor 6-8:30pm-Men of Faith-16 A-B 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C Oct. Faith Links articles due	16 10-11:30am-Bible Study-Parlor 1-3pm-Dorcas Circle-Parlor	17 6:15-7:15pm-Bell Choir Practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary	18 9-4pm Pastor Retreat 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor 5:30-8pm-Private Event-FCC 6:30-8:30pm-Ad Board-FH Rm 15C	19 9am-4pm-Pastor Retreat	20 9am-4pm-Pastor Retreat 11-12:30pm-Dorcas Autumn Blessings Brunch-FCC, Kitchen
21 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Hospitality Time-Narthex 10:30-11:30am-Worship Services-Sanctuary.	22 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C 7-8:30pm-SPRC-Library	23 10-11:30 Bible Study-Parlor 10am-5pm-DS 1 On 1 Interviews-Parlor-Narthex	24 6:15-7:15pm-Bell Choir Practice-Music Room 7:30-9pm-Choir Practice-Sanctuary	25 11-12pm-Prayer Shawl-Parlor	26	27 6-8pm-Double I-15A& Kitchen
28 9-10am-Sunday School 10-10:30am-Hospitality Time-Narthex 10:30-11:30am-Sanctuary	29 7-8:30pm-Boy Scouts-15C	30 10-11:30 Bible Study-Parlor				