

February 1, 2026

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
"They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" Peter Scholtes/Mark Hays

Special Introit "Spirit of the Living God" Teri Gray, vocal solo

**Call to Worship

What does the Lord require of us?

To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

With what shall we come before the Lord?

With speech that is gentle, and words that build up.

How shall we live our faith?

With actions that bring peace, and works that lift up the lowly.

Come and worship God in spirit and in truth.

**Opening Hymn

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" UMH #381 (v. 1,2,3)

Opening Prayer (unison)

The hills hear your voice, O Lord. The mountains quake before you. As we call on your name, help us walk in the ways of righteousness and speak in tones of peace. As we seek to be blameless and do what is right, may our hearts be free from guile and deceit, that we be known as peace makers, the blessed children of God. Amen.

Children's Moments

Prayer Hymn "Let There Be Peace on Earth" UMH #431

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

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" Carol Stewart
Johann Sebastian

**Doxology

UMH #95

**Prayer of Dedication

Source of justice and mercy, work through this offering to bring your gifts to the world: righteousness and peace, love and kindness, hope and joy. May our gifts truly express our gratitude for your many blessings for our church and for your children everywhere. Amen.

Special Music

Teri Gray, vocal solo
"Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone" Chris Tomlin

Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 12:6-10

Sermon

"A Paradox" Rev. James (Wes) Souders

Sacrament of Holy Communion

**Closing Hymn

"Blessed Assurance" UMH #369

**Sending Forth

Postlude

Carol Stewart
"Lord, I Want to be a Christian" Afro-American Spiritual/Diane Bish



The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God.

Scripture Reading – 2 Corinthians 12:6-10 (NIV)

⁶ Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say, ⁷ or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰ That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

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.

A Paradox



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

February 1, 2026 - Worship Team

Guest Pastor	District Superintendent Rev. James (Wes) Souders
Ushers	Micah Fleming, Eric Fleming, Jim Osburn, Jake Van Schagen
Greeter	Kirk Henning, Jane Henning
Liturgist	Julie Wickline
Organist	Carol Stewart
Director of Music	Teri Gray
Handbell Choir Director	Jim McPeck



Monday 2	Special Olympics Basketball Cub Scouts Boy Scouts Stephen Ministry	6:45 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	FCC FH 15A-B FH 15C Offsite
Tuesday 3	Walking Tuesday Bible Study Stephen Ministry Training Winter Guard Practice Magic Volleyball Practice Girl Scouts Trustees	9:00 am 10:00 am 1:00 pm 3:30 pm 6:00 pm 6:00 pm 6:30 pm	FCC Parlor Library FCC FCC FH 15 A,B,C, CC 16A Parlor
Wednesday 3	Handbell Choir Practice Chancel Choir Practice	6:15 pm 7:30 pm	Music Room Chapel/Sanctuary
Thursday 4	Walking Prayer Shawl Woman's Club of Xenia Magic Volleyball Practice	9:00 am 11:00 am 1:30 pm 6:00 pm	FCC Parlor Parlor FCC
Friday 5			
Saturday 6			
Sunday 7	Sunday School Hospitality Time Worship Service	9:00 am 10:00 am 10:30 am	Rm 6, 11, Library, Parlor Narthex Sanctuary

Sunday School Studies

Double I will meet in the Library, Leader Lucy Parsons, study of "**New Testament Characters**" by **Carolyn Nystrom**.

Open Doors will meet in the Parlor, Leader Sandy Pramer, study of "**History of the Bible**" by **John Barton**.

Grades 6-12 will meet in Rm 6.

Preschool – Grade 5 will meet in Rm 11 under the leadership of Kiley Fleming and Karen Mousing for Bible Stories and activities to reinforce the Bible Story of the day.

Next Sermon – Sunday, February 8

"A Call to Action"
Gospel Lesson

Rev. Ann Marie Carley
Matthew 5: 13-20 (The Message)

February 1, 2026 Announcements

VACATION: Pray for safe travels for Pastor Jeff and Suzanne Bandy, they will be on vacation **Friday, Jan. 30 – Sunday, Feb. 8.**

BRING YOUR COINS NEXT WEEK: Coins for missions Sunday is **Sunday, Feb. 8.** Coins will go to the following Ministries supported by the FCUMC mission and outreach team: Bridges of Hope, Fish Pantry and Family Promise.

MARY & MARTHA GATHERING: Please join us on **Monday, Feb. 9, 6:00-8:00pm in FCC.** We will be focusing on all things HEART! Wear something comfortable and bring your light energy! As always, bring a dish to share—one that you really LOVE! If you need childcare or have any questions call Laurie Krakowiak at (937) 694-8114 or the church office at (937) 372-7601.

WOMEN'S GROUPS: WOMEN UNITED CIRCLE will not meet in February. DORCAS CIRCLE will not meet in February.

MEN OF FAITH: We will meet on **Monday, Feb. 16 at 6:00 pm in CC 16A-B.** All men are invited to join us. Dinner will be served. We will have social time during the meal followed by a short Bible devotional. Guest speaker will be Josh Cernetic from the Greene County Living Well Clinic on Monroe Dr. We need more to men attending this great group. Again, this small group of men had an outstanding 2025 with local donations and bountiful fresh vegetables to local food pantries. Please join the group for spiritual refreshment and help this active group when you can. 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.

HELP NEEDED: If anyone is looking for something to do outside on a nice day in January, February or March, there are numerous leaves and sticks/limbs which will need to be cleaned up. There are always limbs and sticks along the bike path and in the front yard. Leaves are mainly along the exit driveway and in front of the fellowship hall and music room. Your help will be appreciated!

LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO STAY ACTIVE?: The Community Center is now open for walkers on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00-11:00am. Enjoy a safe, indoor place to walk and keep moving!

CLOSING DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER: If the church is going to be closed during the week or for Sunday Worship Services it will be listed on WHIO (TV7, 1290AM/95.7FM), WDTN (TV2,CW26), WKEF/WRG (ABC22/FOX45) and our Facebook page www.facebook.com/FCUM.Xenia.

WOULD YOU LIKE US TO PRAY FOR YOU OR YOUR LOVED ONE? To place a prayer request you can go to our website (fcum.org) and click on the Prayer Request link. Fill out the form with your name and email address, complete the request section with the information you would like us to pray about and then click on SEND MESSAGE. All requests are confidential and will be on our prayer list for seven days. If you feel your request was answered, please let us know by using the prayer request form. We want to thank God for answering your request. You may also email prayerchain@fcum.org. If you don't have access to the internet, phone requests can be made by calling Rosi Mackey at (937) 902-9022.



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