

February 8, 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
"O Come, Little Children" Johann Schultz/Michael Helman

**Call to Worship

People of God, why are you here?

We gather to worship with our hearts and our lives.

People of God, who do you worship?

We worship God, who loves us and teaches us to love.

People of God, how do you worship?

We worship God by breaking the bonds of injustice and freeing the oppressed.

People of God, come, let us worship God, whose glory surrounds us!

May our worship demonstrate God's glory in our neighborhood, community, and the whole earth.

**Opening Hymn "Onward, Christian Soldiers" UMH #575 (v.1,3,5)

Opening Prayer (unison)

God of compassion and justice, the worship you choose for us is to loose the bonds of injustice, to let the oppressed go free, to share bread with the hungry, to shelter the homeless poor.

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn and your healing shall spring up quickly. So, in praise and wonder, we come to worship you not just with our words but with our hearts and our lives. Glory and honor be to you, O God, Creator of a new heaven and a new earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Children's Moments

Scripture Reading Isaiah 58:1-12

Prayer Hymn "Seek Ye First" UMH #405

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
"Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service" Ronald. A Nelson

**Doxology UMH #95

**Prayer of Dedication

Liberating God, You call us to a fast not of silence, but of service; not of hiding, but of healing. You ask that our worship be more than words, that our offerings be more than ritual. Receive these gifts as signs of our willingness to share bread with the hungry, to break chains of injustice, to repair what is broken. May our generosity reflect your mercy and our living mirror your love. Use us and these gifts, so that light might rise in the darkness and hope take root where despair has reigned. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen

**Gospel Reading Matthew 5:13-20 (The Message)

Ministry of Music Handbell Choir
"For the Beauty of the Earth" Conrad Kocher/Kevin McChesney

Sermon "A Call to Action" Rev. Ann Marie Carley

**Closing Hymn "This Little Light of Mine" UMH #585

**Sending Forth

Postlude Carol Stewart
"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" Kathleen Thomerson



*The Altar flowers are given by Dessa Retherford
in memory of her grandmother, Clara Little.*



Monday 9	Mary & Martha Gathering Cub Scouts Boy Scouts	6:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	FCC FH 15A-B FH 15C
Tuesday 10	Walking Tuesday Bible Study Stephen Ministry Training Winter Guard Practice Magic Volleyball Practice Girl Scouts Leaders	9:00 am 10:00 am 1:00 pm 3:30 pm 6:00 pm 6:00 pm	FCC Parlor Library FCC FCC FH 15C
Wednesday 11	Handbell Choir Practice Chancel Choir Practice	6:15 pm 7:30 pm	Music Room Chapel/Sanctuary
Thursday 12	Walking Prayer Shawl Magic Volleyball Practice Scouts Dist. Leaders	9:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 6:30 pm	FCC Library Parlor FH 15A-B
Friday 13			
Saturday 14			
Sunday 15	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, Leader Amy Cyr.

Preschool – Grade 5 will meet in Rm 11 under the leadership of Kiley Fleming and

Next Sermon – Sunday, February 15

"Glory Revealed" Guest Speaker, Suzanne Bandy
 Scripture Lessons Matthew 17: 1-9, 2 Peter 1: 16-19 (NIV)



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 8, 2026 - Worship Team

Guest Pastor

Director of Engagement with
Children, Youth and Young Adults
Rev. Ann Marie Carley

Ushers

Micah Fleming, Eric Fleming,
Jim Osburn, Jake Van Schagen

Greeters

Laura Roby, Becky Cultice

Liturgist

Micah Fleming, Will Mossing

Organist

Carol Stewart

Director of Music

Teri Gray

Handbell Choir Director

Jim McPeck

Scripture Reading – Isaiah 58:1-12 (The Message)

Your Prayers Won't Get Off the Ground

58 ¹⁻³ "Shout! A full-throated shout! Hold nothing back—a trumpet-blast shout! Tell my people what's wrong with their lives, face my family Jacob with their sins! They're busy, busy, busy at worship, and love studying all about me. To all appearances they're a nation of right-living people—law-abiding, God-honoring. They ask me, 'What's the right thing to do?' and love having me on their side. But they also complain, 'Why do we fast and you don't look our way? Why do we humble ourselves and you don't even notice?' ³⁻⁵ "Well, here's why: "The bottom line on your 'fast days' is profit. You drive your employees much too hard. You fast, but at the same time you bicker and fight. You fast, but you swing a mean fist. The kind of fasting you do won't get your prayers off the ground. Do you think this is the kind of fast day I'm after: a day to show off humility? To put on a pious long face and parade around solemnly in black? Do you call *that* fasting, a fast day that I, GOD, would like?

⁶⁻⁹ "This is the kind of fast day I'm after: to break the chains of injustice, get rid of exploitation in the workplace, free the oppressed, cancel debts. What I'm interested in seeing you do is: sharing your food with the hungry, inviting the homeless poor into your homes, putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad, being available to your own families. Do this and the lights will turn on, and your lives will turn around at once. Your righteousness will pave your way. The GOD of glory will secure your passage. Then when you pray, GOD will answer. You'll call out for help and I'll say, 'Here I am.'

A Full Life in the Emptiest of Places

⁹⁻¹² "If you get rid of unfair practices, quit blaming victims, quit gossiping about other people's sins, If you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out, Your lives will begin to glow in the darkness, your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight. I will always show you where to go. I'll give you a full life in the emptiest of places—firm muscles, strong bones. You'll be like a well-watered garden, a gurgling spring that never runs dry. You'll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew, rebuild the foundations from out of your past. You'll be known as those who can fix anything, restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate, make the community livable again.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 5:13-20 (The Message)

Salt and Light

¹³ "Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.

¹⁴⁻¹⁶ "Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ "Don't suppose for a minute that I have come to demolish the Scriptures—either God's Law or the Prophets. I'm not here to demolish but to complete. I am going to put it all together, pull it all together in a vast panorama. God's Law is more real and lasting than the stars in the sky and the ground at your feet. Long after stars burn out and earth wears out, God's Law will be alive and working.

¹⁹⁻²⁰ "Trivialize even the smallest item in God's Law and you will only have trivialized yourself. But take it seriously, show the way for others, and you will find honor in the kingdom. Unless you do far better than the Pharisees in the matters of right living, you won't know the first thing about entering the kingdom.

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.

Scripture Reading – Isaiah 58:1-12 (The Message)

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February 8, 2026 Announcements

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

TODAY IS COINS FOR MISSIONS SUNDAY: Coins will go to the following Ministries supported by the Mission & Outreach team: Bridges of Hope, Fish Pantry and Family Promise.

ADVENT CONTRIBUTIONS: Thank you to everyone who gave so generously to our Christmas offering. We were able to donate \$5622.21 to our Local Benevolence Fund and \$6,287.50 to the Mongolia Mission Initiative. Throughout the year we will be continuing our support to Mongolia and if you would like to learn more about this important cause, please see their December Newsletter in the white binder on the table in the narthex.

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.

DAY OF CARING PANCAKE BRUNCH: Come join us for Pancakes, Sausage, Donut, fruit and a drink all for \$7 (\$5 60+ and 12/under) on **Sunday, Feb. 22, 9:00am-12:30pm at Xenia Adult Recreation Center, 338 South Progress Drive.**

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: We will have Children's Church immediately following the Children's Moments during regular Worship Service. Jane Henning will teach on the 2nd Sunday and Carla Skaggs will teach on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE: Guidelines and application forms are available in the narthex and church office. This year assistance will be offered to graduating high school seniors who are contemplating entering a college or technical school in the fall of 2026 as well as to upper classmen currently enrolled in college. These forms must be completed and returned to the church office by **Thursday, Apr.16.**

SUNDAY MORNING HOSPITALITY TIME: We need people to bring snacks on Sunday mornings (store bought items are fine). There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Elaine Grayson, (937) 376-4884.

WE HAVE OPENINGS FOR ALTAR FLOWERS: Your gift of Altar flowers enhances the worship service and reflects the beauty of God's World. If you have any questions please call the office or Joyce Smith (937) 372-6576.

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