

# March 15, 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  
"Open the Eyes of My Heart" Paul Baloché/Mark Hayes

\*\*Call to Worship

Come into the light of God.

**Christ's brightness will guide our way.**

Come into the wisdom of God.

**The Spirit's insight will reveal new truths.**

Come into the praise of God,

**Worship opens new doors in our hearts.**

\*\*Opening Hymn "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" UMH #158

Opening Prayer (unison)

**Lord of light and love, your Spirit enlivens our spirits, even as your kingdom draws us to you. May we be born from above, that our souls might ascend to your realm and taste the joy of eternal life in your name. For you sent your Son into our world, not to condemn the world, but that all who enter into his light we might have life, and have it abundantly. Amen.**

Special Music Erika Stone, vocal solo  
"Make Ready" by Erika Stone

Children's Moments

Prayer Hymn "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" UMH #138 (v 1,2,6)

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  
"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" Helen H. Lemmel/Melody Bober

\*\*Doxology "What Gift Can We Bring" UMH #87 (v1)

\*\*Prayer of Dedication

**All-seeing God, you see the gifts we have given and the offering we are giving: our treasure and our time, our service and our lives. Bless our lives and our gifts, that they might become points of light to bring all of creation closer to you and to your love. Amen.**

\*\*Gospel Reading John 3:1-8

Ministry of Music Chancel Choir  
"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" arr. by Mark Hayes

Sermon Pastor Jeff Bandy  
"Removing Barriers to Engagement: Fear of Appearing Ignorant"

\*\*Closing Hymn "Spirit Song" UMH #347

\*\*Sending Forth

Postlude Carol Stewart  
"I Stand Amazed in the Presence" Charles H. Gabriel



*The Altar flowers are given by Doug & Julie Wickline  
in honor of their grandchildren, Annie, Jaxon, Barrett, and Gabe.*

## Gospel Reading – John 3:1-8 (NIV)

### Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

**3** Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. **2** He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

**3** Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

**4** “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

**5** Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. **6** Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. **7** You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ **8** The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

#### 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.



#### Rev. Jeff Bandy

Office Hours M, T, TH 9:00am-3:00pm & by Appt.

Office: (937) 372-7601 ext. 13

[pastorjeff@fcum.org](mailto:pastorjeff@fcum.org) ♦ [www.fcum.org](http://www.fcum.org)

Like and Follow us on Facebook @ FCUM.Xenia

**We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation**

### March 15, 2026 - Worship Team

Ushers

Doug Wickline, Bruce Spitler,  
Don Wolf, Bob Whipp

Greeters

Janet Adkins, Laura Roby

Liturgist

Micah Fleming, Will Mossing

Organist

Carol Stewart

Director of Music

Teri Gray

Handbell Choir Director

Jim McPeck



Monday 16	Women United Circle	1:00 pm	Parlor
	Men of Faith	6:00 pm	CC 16A
	Spec. Olympics Volleyball	6:45 pm	FCC
	Boy Scouts	7:00 pm	FH 15C
	Cub Scouts	7:00 pm	FH 15A-B
Tuesday 17	Walking	9:00 am	FCC
	Tuesday Bible Study	10:00 am	Parlor
	Winter Guard Practice	3:30 pm	FCC
	Girl Scouts	6:00 pm	FH 15A,B,C, CC 16A
	Handbell Choir Practice	6:15 pm	Music Room
Wednesday 18	Chancel Choir Practice	7:30 pm	Chapel/Sanctuary
	Walking	9:00 am	FCC
Thursday 19	Private Event	10:00 am	Library
	Prayer Shawl	11:00 am	Parlor
	Magic Volleyball Practice	6:00 pm	FCC
	Ad Board Council	6:30 pm	FH 15C
	Friday 20		
Saturday 21			
Sunday 22	Sunday School	9:00 am	Rm 11, 15C, 16A, Parlor
	Hospitality Time	10:00 am	Narthex
	Worship Service	10:30 am	Sanctuary

### Sunday School Studies

**Lenten Study** will meet in FH 15C, Leader Suzanne Bandy, study of **"Removing Barriers to Engagement"**. All are welcome; Double I will join this study.

**Open Doors** will meet in the Parlor, Leader Sandy Pramer, study of **"The History and Archaeology of the Bible"** by Jean-Pierre Isbouts, DLitt

**Grades 6-12** will meet in CC 16A, Leader Carla Skaggs.

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

### Next Sermon – Sunday, March 22

"Removing Barriers to Engagement: Fear of Plopping" Suzanne Bandy  
Gospel Lesson Matthew 15: 21-28 (NRSVUE)

## March 15, 2026 Announcements

**TODAY IS UMCOR SUNDAY:** This offering underwrites UMCOR's administrative costs. This offering allows UMCOR to use 100% of all funds given to humanitarian response and recovery efforts directly to communities in need. These gifts ensure UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters around the world and as a source of hope and healing for those left most vulnerable. Please write UMCOR on your check and/or envelope.

**FUN AT FAITH:** Please join us for Fun at Faith night **TODAY, Sunday, Mar. 15, 5:00-7:00pm in FCC**. Come celebrate March Madness Faith Community style. Sloppy Joes & drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share. We hope to see you there!

**WOMEN'S GROUPS:** WOMEN UNITED CIRCLE will meet on **Monday, Mar. 16 at 1:00pm in the Parlor**. DORCAS CIRCLE will not meet in March.

**MEN OF FAITH:** We will meet on **Monday, Mar. 16 at 6:00 pm in CC 16A-B** (3rd Monday each month). All Christian men are invited to join. Dinner will be served. We will have social time during the meal followed by a short Bible devotional from the book "God calls you to more". After the meeting we will have fellowship over games and popcorn. Bring the game that you like to play with others.

**JACKSON AREA MINISTRIES SEED PROGRAM:** The "JAM" program provides garden plants and seeds for the residents in need so they can provide veggies and fruits for their family. Please mark checks J.A.M. project and place in the offering plate or drop seed packets into the basket in the narthex through **Sunday, Mar. 29**.

**LENTEN OFFERING:** During the season of Lent through **Easter Sunday, Apr. 5**, we will be collecting a special offering to support the Mongolia Mission Initiative. Throughout the year we will continue our support to Mongolia.

**EASTER SUNDAY:** Please join us for an Easter Celebration **Sunday, Apr. 5**. We will have Hospitality time 9:30–10:30am in the Fellowship Hall, at 10:00am there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the kids and Worship service will begin at 10:30am. (There will be no Sunday School classes.)

**EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE:** Guidelines and application forms are available in the narthex and church office. Please complete and return to the office by **Thursday, Apr. 16**.

**VERSITI BLOOD DRIVE:** We will have a blood drive in the Community Center on **Monday, Apr. 20, 2:00pm to 6:00pm**. You can make an appointment to donate by going to [www.VersitiDayton.org](http://www.VersitiDayton.org) or call 800-388-GIVE (4483). A light meal will be provided for all donors. Remember that your donation can save as many as THREE lives!

**VIOLENCE FREE FUTURES IS HOLDING A CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS 5K HERE AT FAITH COMMUNITY:** Join us on **Saturday, April 25, 9:00-11:00am** and dress up as your favorite superhero and run, walk, or stroll in our Superhero 5K. This family-friendly event is perfect for all ages and even welcomes your furry friends. The cost is \$30 and you can register at <https://runsignup.com/Race/OH/Xenia/SuperheroCAPE5kWalkRun>. We will have prizes for best costume for individual and team! Race or Sponsorship Inquiries: Heather Culbreath (937) 376-8526.



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