

## May 3, 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 Handbell Choir  
"Standin' in the Need of Prayer" arr. by Valerie W. Stephenson

\*\*Call to Worship  
Come to Christ, our cornerstone.  
**Christ has called us here.**

Trust in God, our firm foundation.  
**God is with us here.**

Rest in the Spirit, our peace beyond peace.  
**May the Spirit guide our way.**

\*\*Opening Hymn "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" UMH #400

Opening Prayer (unison)  
**O God of all creation, become for us once again the solid foundation upon which we build our daily lives. We join in worship this first day of the week, to align our lives to the strong teaching and life of Jesus Christ, our Cornerstone. Receive our praise and thanksgiving as expressions of faith and love. We come to you, O Lord, as people who desire to learn and serve like Christ. We are ready to receive your blessing and direction today. Amen.**

Children's Moments

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 "How Firm a Foundation" Carol Stewart  
J.F. Wade

\*\*Doxology UMH #95

\*\*Prayer of Dedication  
**Gracious God, Through Jesus, you show us the way, the truth, and the life—calling us to deeper trust, wider welcome, and greater works of grace. As we bring our gifts, we step into that life, choosing generosity over fear and hope over judgment. Use these offerings, and use us, to make your dwelling places visible in our community, in our compassion, in our courage. In Christ's name, Amen.**

Ministry of Music Handbell Choir  
"Blessed Assurance" arr. by Cynthia Dobrinski

Scripture Reading 1 Peter 2: 1-10

Sermon Pastor Jeff Bandy  
"Becoming an Engaged Church: Becoming Living Stones"

Installation of Stephen Ministers

Sacrament of Holy Communion

\*\*Closing Hymn "The Gift of Love" UMH #408

\*\*Sending Forth

Postlude Carol Stewart  
"The Solid Rock" William B. Bradbury/Don Hustad



*Altar Flowers are given by Julie Wickline  
in honor of Doug Wickline's birthday.*

*Altar Flowers are given by the Stephen Ministry Class of 2026  
in honor of their teachers: Becky Cultice and Judy Mahan.*

## Gospel Reading – 1 Peter 2: 1-10 (CEB)

### Your identity as believers

**2** Therefore, get rid of all ill will and all deceit, pretense, envy, and slander. **2** Instead, like a newborn baby, desire the pure milk of the word. Nourished by it, you will grow into salvation, **3** since you have tasted that the Lord is good.

**4** Now you are coming to him as to a living stone. Even though this stone was rejected by humans, from God's perspective it is chosen, valuable. **5** You yourselves are being built like living stones into a spiritual temple. You are being made into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6** Thus it is written in scripture, *Look! I am laying a cornerstone in Zion, chosen, valuable. The person who believes in him will never be shamed.* **7** So God honors you who believe. For those who refuse to believe, though, the stone the builders tossed aside has become the capstone. **8** This is a stone that makes people stumble and a rock that makes them fall. Because they refuse to believe in the word, they stumble. Indeed, this is the end to which they were appointed. **9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people who are God's own possession. You have become this people so that you may speak of the wonderful acts of the one who called you out of darkness into his amazing light. **10** Once you weren't a people, but now you are God's people. Once you hadn't received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

#### 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)


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**We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation**

### May 3, 2026 - Worship Team

Ushers	Eric Fleming, Mike Tittle, Butch Smith, Micah Fleming
Greeters	Glen Shaw, Carol Shaw
Liturgist	Suzanne Bandy
Organist	Carol Stewart
Director of Music	Teri Gray
Handbell Choir Director	Jim McPeck



Monday 4	Life Line Screening	9:00 am	FCC
	Prayer Ministry Partners	5:15 pm	Parlor
	Special Olympics Volleyball	6:45 pm	FCC
	Stephen Ministry	7:00 pm	OFFSITE
	Boy Scouts	7:00 pm	FH 15C
	Cub Scouts	7:00 pm	FH 15A-B
Tuesday 5	Walking	9:00 am	FCC
	Tuesday Bible Study	10:00 am	Parlor
	Congregational & Community Engagement	5:30 pm	PARSONAGE
	Girl Scouts	6:00 pm	FCC
	Trustees	6:30 pm	Parlor
Wednesday 6	Handbell Choir Practice	6:15 pm	Music Room
	Chancel Choir Practice	7:30 pm	Chapel/Sanctuary
Thursday 7	Walking	9:00 am	FCC
	Prayer Shawl	10:00 am	Library
	Woman's Club of Xenia	2:00 pm	Parlor
	Magic Volleyball Practice	6:00 pm	FCC
Friday 8			
Saturday 9			
Sunday 10 	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

**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 **"The History and Archaeology of the Bible" by Jean-Pierre Isbouts, DLitt**

**Grades 6-12** will meet in CC 16A, Leader Amy Cyr.

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

## May 3, 2026 Announcements

**MAY IS NATIONAL STROKE AWARENESS MONTH:** A stroke occurs every 40 seconds and yet up to 80% of strokes can be prevented. This is why we are hosting Life Line Screening on **Monday, May 4, 9:00am-5:00pm in FCC.** To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-324-9458 promo code **HABC001** or go to [www.LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC](http://www.LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC) or text the word **CIRCLE** to 216-279-1607. Pre-registration is required. Screenings are fast, painless and affordable.

**BRING YOUR COINS NEXT WEEK:** Coins for missions Sunday is **Sunday, May 10.** 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, May 11, 6:00-8:00pm in FCC.** In honor of Mother's Day, we ask you to reflect on a memory to share of your mother, for example, a thankless task she did daily or something that shaped your life; or you can share a favorite item that you use, for example, comfy socks. As always, bring a favorite dish to share. If you need childcare or have any questions call Laurie Krakowiak at (937) 694-8114 or the church office at (937) 372-7601.

**FAITH COMMUNITY POTLUCK:** You're invited to a church-wide Potluck on **Sunday, May 17, 11:30am-2:00pm in FH 15A-B,** immediately following the worship service. Engagement is all about connection, and we can't think of a better way to build relationships than gathering together over a shared meal. Hosted by the Congregational & Community Engagement Team, this gathering is part of our "Becoming an Engaged Church" series and is designed to help us connect more deeply as a community. In addition to sharing a meal, we'll participate in a few guided activities—including an "Asset Mapping" exercise—to better understand the gifts, strengths, and needs within our church and community. Bring a dish to share and a heart ready to connect. Please sign up in the narthex after worship so we can plan accordingly. All are welcome—we can't wait to see you there!!

**WOMEN'S GROUPS:** WOMEN UNITED CIRCLE will meet on **Monday, May 18 at 1:00pm in the Parlor.** All women are invited to attend. Thanks to everyone who purchased carnations for Mother's Day. DORCAS CIRCLE will meet on **Tuesday, May 19 at 1:00pm in the Parlor.**

**MEN OF FAITH:** All Christian men are invited to join us **on Monday, May 18 at 6:00pm in CC 16A.** With warmer weather we will be having burgers and dogs off the grill. Please bring a side dish to share. We will have a short Bible devotional from the book "God calls you to more". After the meeting we will have fellowship with board games and popcorn. Bring the game that you like to play with others. Look for reminder emails from [ballcardkirk@gmail.com](mailto:ballcardkirk@gmail.com) or ask to be added to the listing. The Garden of Sharing will be planted this month, your help to tend to the field is needed.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** This year Vacation Bible School will be held **on Saturday, Jun. 13, 9:30am-2:30pm.** The theme will be Faith that Floats and we need lots of volunteers to help... in person help, prayer warriors, & people to cut out or sort papers. Please see Carla Skaggs if you can help out with VBS.

### Next Sermon – Mother's Day - Sunday, May 10

Sermon


Guest Speaker: Suzanne Bandy

"Becoming an Engaged Church: Rebuilding Our Spiritual House"

Scripture Lesson

Ezra 3: 8-13 (NLT)



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