

## January 2012

Senior Pastor: Bradford G. Olson    Associate: Rick Tettau, Deacon  
Director of Christian Education: Jeanne Mills

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:30 & 11:00 (Traditional in Sanctuary)  
9:45 (Praise Celebration in Community Center)  
9:45 & 11:00 Sunday School

### Worship Notes

**January 1** – “To Fear or Not to Fear”, Matthew

2:13-15 – New Year’s Day  
One Service in Community Center, 10:30

Communion by Intinction  
Pastor Brad

**January 8**- “In the Beginning God”, Gen. 1-5  
Baptism of the Lord  
Sunday  
Pastor Brad

**January 15**- “Do I Love As God Loves”, Jonah  
4:1-11, Missionary Sunday  
Pastor Rick

**January 22** – Consultation Weekend

**January 29** - “Whatever It Takes” – I Corinthians 8:1-13  
Pastor Brad

### Sunday Participation

| Date    | Worship | S.S. |
|---------|---------|------|
| Dec. 4  | 257     | 100  |
| Dec. 11 | 294     | 85   |
| Dec. 18 | 315     | 93   |

### From Pastor Brad

It’s almost here! With the New Year comes a new opportunity! Are you ready for the Holy Spirit to do something we have never tried before? In an effort toward that end, the Bishop’s Consultation Team is going to be with us the weekend of January 20-22.

About a year and a half ago we were prayerfully selected by Bishop Bruce Ough to be one of 10 churches in the West Ohio Conference that he believes are ready for a breakthrough movement of the Holy Spirit. In the Spring of 2010, Rev. Dr. Joseph Bishman met with our Administrative Board to give us a preview. In the time since then, a leadership team from FCUM has been meeting regularly, a prayer team has been bathing the process and the church in prayer, and Pastor Brad has been meeting with the pastors of the other selected churches.

A key part of this process is the Consultation Weekend. A team of outside people with

experience working with other dynamic, growing churches will meet with leaders, staff, and representatives of our congregation on Friday, Jan. 20, and Saturday, Jan. 21.

On Sunday, Jan. 22, as part of morning Worship, these consultants will tell us what they have found. They will share with us 5 things that they believe we do really well, 5 things that they think we could be working on, and 5 prescriptions that they believe we need to accomplish to be more fruitful as a congregation.

Do we have to do what they say? We always have a choice. We will have a month following the Consultation Weekend to clarify, discuss, and decide what we think. Please share your thoughts with as many people as you can. One way we will do this is through a series of Town Hall type meetings. Then, we will have a Church Conference in late February to adopt or decline the prescriptions. The only catch is that the prescriptions need to be adopted completely, or not at all. We can't pick and choose what we like.

Are you intrigued? I'll confess to you that I am both excited and afraid. I'm excited by the possibility of what God might do, and afraid of what it might require of us. I hope that you will make every effort to be a part of this exciting opportunity to see what God has in store for his Faith Community in Xenia.

## **Martin Luther King Jr. Community Worship Service**

On behalf of the Xenia Area Association of Churches, you are invited to the annual Martin Luther King Jr. worship service on January 16 at 7 pm. The service will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church with Pastor Edgar Wallace preaching. This service remembers and celebrates the legacy of Dr. King, promotes a sense of unity in our community, and uplifts Jesus Christ as the source of our unity. All donations from the service will benefit the Red Cross Shelter in Xenia. In the past our Common Cup Churches have been supportive of this worship service. Two years ago Faith Community hosted the service. Last year Pastor Rex Robinson gave the message. Those who attend will be inspired and challenged to live out the principles that Dr. King exemplified through his teachings and example.

## **New Member Class**

There are a number of people who have recently expressed an interest in becoming members of Faith Community UMC. Are you among them? Have you been attending for awhile? Are you curious how we do that around here?

We usually have new member classes a couple of times a year. The next group is going to get together on Sunday, Feb. 5, for a light lunch around noon. Pastor Brad and Pastor Rick will be there to talk a little about the

Methodist movement in general, and Faith Community in particular. New Members will be received the following Sunday, Feb. 12, as part of worship. It would be helpful if you are interested to give the church office a call, 372-7601, so that we know how many to expect.

## **A Note from Christian Education**

Happy New Year! What an amazing time of the year. New...unblemished, fresh and original; these words come to mind when I think of new beginnings. Sometimes, though, I can also use words like unsure and frightened to describe a new beginning or my emotions when something is new. Dr. Martin Luther King had many new experiences when he was changing views on civil rights. Some of his experiences were good like his 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech, and winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Unfortunately, some of his experiences were bad, such as being criticized and jailed. One attribute Dr. King had was his faith in God. Isn't it wonderful God gives us his love and direction. He tells us not to be afraid, and sent the Holy Spirit to guide us. Just as Dr. King looked to God for direction and strength, we can too. As Xenia prepares for the snow and cold, I'm thinking of Summer and Vacation Bible School! I am so surprised at the many choices of curriculum to choose from. One thing I know for certain is the need for volunteers! If you can

help or have helped in the past please contact me. I will thank you in advance!! On Friday nights in January and most of February, Faith Community will host Cub Scouts with a God and Family program. These boys will build a pizza starting with the crust of faith, add the sauce, the toppings of talents and so on. Please welcome our guests and look forward to seeing their pizzas on display.

Sunday, New Year's Day, there will be one church service at 10:30. After the Especially for Children time, the children will have a lesson and activity. The Art Club will take a break through the Winter and start again in Spring. The Well is meeting on Wednesday nights in room 12 at 6:30. If you are in K-5<sup>th</sup> grade, come on down to the Well.

I pray that the New Year with new experiences will be a time we will look to God for guidance and our faith will make us strong.

In Christ,  
Jeanne Mills

## **Take 10 Challenge**

Interfaith Hospitality Network in Greene County serves local families who are homeless by providing transitional housing, job placement training, and child care. Families live in the Schneider House of Hope located at 114 South Detroit Street in Xenia. This facility accommodates about 25 people each night. Every person who uses IHN facilities is free of drugs,

has a clean criminal record, and agrees to abide by housing rules.

IHN is asking local churches to partner with them. Each church is asked to “Take 10” nights during the year. These nights are scheduled at the convenience of our volunteers. On these nights the church is asked to provide an evening meal which serves 25 and an overnight host. Overnight hosts have a private bed and bath. They are asked to arrive at 7 PM and leave at 7 AM the next morning.

Faith Community is excited to participate in the “Take 10” challenge. Leanna Anzek and Pastor Rick will record the nights that our church provides a meal and an overnight host. Please let us know if you sign up. If you are able to provide a meal but cannot stay overnight, IHN does have the flexibility to work with you. The same holds true if you can stay overnight but cannot provide a meal.

To schedule your volunteer service, please contact Katrina Bailey at 372-0705. Leanna and I would be delighted to talk with you more about this vital ministry.

### **Shoes 4 the Shoeless – Training Meeting Jan. 8, 1 PM**

We will meet in room 6 for a conversation with the Shoes 4 the Shoeless Leadership Team. They will enable us to become the Shoes 4 the Shoeless Xenia branch, so that when a need arises in our community, par-

ents can bring their children to the church to receive a new pair of shoes, new socks, new underwear, and a New Testament.

Discussion topics include how to shop for shoes and socks, organizing our storage closet, packing boxes, getting referrals, measuring and trying on shoes with the kids, keeping track of inventory and money, and fundraising. This is an open meeting for anybody who feels called to support this vital ministry in our community.

Thank you for your support.

### **2012 West Ohio Cooperative School of Christian Mission**

*“Exciting mission studies, great music, multicultural and intergenerational fellowship, enrichment, passionate worship, interaction with Persons in Mission, crafts, movies, mission projects, beautiful surroundings, private rooms, good food and lots of ice cream are just some of the features that make the cooperative School of Christian Mission a great experience for people of all ages. Make this the year you bring family and friends to Ohio Northern University and join in.”*

Faith Community is planning to send a group of people to the School of Christian Mission next summer. Brochures about the school are available in the narthex. The school takes place the week of July 9-14 with a four day weekend and one day option. This is an excellent oppor-

tunity to spend some time immersed in mission education and a great way to have fun together. For more information, please contact Ruthanne Lamb, Susan Fellie, or Pastor Rick.

## **The Gospel of Mark For Teens**

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to a new bible study on Wednesday nights in Room 6 throughout the month of January. The goal of this class is to interact with bible stories through role play. Youth and leaders will take on the roles of those in the bible story. This will help us see the bible stories through the eyes of the people in the story. By placing ourselves in the story, the hope is that we can better understand what was really happening to the people as they encountered Jesus. This can help us know if the people in the story were struggling with the same questions, felt the same things, or wondered about God in the same way as we do today. The underlying goals of the class are to get to know the youth and to have fun learning about our faith. This class will challenge the youth to read the entire Gospel of Mark and to use their learning to make a presentation in worship at some point in the future. It would be a

good preparatory class to take for those youth considering Confirmation in February. Each class will conclude with prayer. To sign up for this course please contact Susan Fellie or Pastor Rick.

## **Higher Education**

Please remember our kids as they go back to school starting new quarters or semesters, If you know of anybody graduating from college or high school this spring, please contact Laurie Krakowiak at 694-8114.

## **Fish Food Pantry Needs Your Help**

Although the holidays have come to an end, FISH still needs your help. The need is greater than ever. Please help by bringing your non-perishable food items to church and placing them in the narthex. Thank you.



## **Stephen Ministry Help Me to Believe in Beginnings**

God of history and of my heart

So much has happened to me during these whirlwind days

I've known death and birth;

I've been brave and scared;

I've hurt, I've helped;

I've been honest, I've lied;

I've destroyed, I've created;

I've been with people, I've been lonely;

I've been loyal, I've be-  
trayed;  
I've decided, I've waffled;  
I've laughed, and I've cried.  
You know my frail heart and  
my frayed history—  
And now another day begins.  
O God, help me to believe in  
beginnings  
And in my beginning again,  
No matter how often I've  
failed before. . .  
Help me to be a beginning  
for others,  
To be a singer to the  
songless,  
A storyteller to the aimless,  
A befriender of the friend-  
less;  
To become a beginning of  
hope for the despairing,  
  
Of assurance for the doubt-  
ing,  
Of reconciliation for the di-  
vided;  
To become a beginning of  
freedom for the oppressed,  
Of comfort for the sorrow-  
ing,  
Of friendship for the forgot-  
ten'  
To become a beginning of  
beauty for the forlorn,  
Of sweetness for the soured,  
Of gentleness for the angry,  
Of wholeness for the  
broken,  
Of peace for the frightened  
and violent of the earth.  
Help me to believe in begin-  
nings,  
To make a beginning,

To be a beginning,  
So that I may not just grow  
old, but grow new,  
Each day of this wild amaz-  
ing life you call me to live  
With the passion of Jesus  
Christ.

*(From Guerillas of Grace: Prayers  
for the Battle, by Ted Loder, 1984)*

## **The Shepherding Program**

Please pray for our home-  
bound. We are still seeking  
volunteers who would like to  
make visitations. Please con-  
tact Laurie Krakowiak at  
694-8114 if you are inter-  
ested. Thank you!

### ***Thank You***

*Dear Pastor Olson and  
Congregation of FCUM,  
I have been home from the  
hospital since November 15  
and doing fine. Your pray-  
ers, cards, kind words, con-  
cern, and visits were a big  
help. Thank you.*

*Sincerely – Jim Wickline*

## **United Methodist Wo- men**

**Dorcas**: No meeting in  
January or February

**Priscilla**: Monday, January  
16, 6 PM at Perkins

**Mary Rebecca**: No meeting  
in January or February

**Lydia**: Wednesday, January  
11, 7-8:45 PM-Parlor

**United Methodist Men**  
Monday, January 30, 6:30-9  
PM-15A

**Prayers and  
Sympathy**

to Bonnie Weimer and family on the death of her mother-in-law, **Margaret Weimer**; Bonnie's address: 3214 Orchard Grove Rd., Sabina, OH 45169.

**OOPS!** In December's Faith Links John and Carolyn Bailey's names were omitted from the thank you for "hanging of the greens." Our apologies.

**Library News**

**What's New In the Library?** "The Help" by Kathryn Stockett. This is a fictional account of the Black maids in white people's homes in Jackson, Mississippi in the early 1960's. The story is about a young writer who convinces some Black maids to tell their stories about their experiences working for their white employers. She tells them she plans to have the stories published in her book "The Help." This book is poignant, funny, and an eye-opener.



**50<sup>th</sup> Wedding  
Anniversary Open  
House  
Bob and Donna Mc-  
Colaugh  
Saturday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>,  
4-7 PM,  
McColaugh Funeral Home**



**Deadline for February Faith Links:  
Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>**