

February 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

February 5
“Lift and live”; Mark 1:21-28

Communion in pews.
Superbowl Sunday.
Pastor Brad

February 12
Boy Scout Sunday.
Transfiguration Sunday.
Children’s Choir singing at 11
Pastor Rick

February 19
“What would you ask?”
Mark 9:2-9
Pastor Brad

February 22
Ash Wednesday
Pastor Rick

February 26
First Sunday in Lent.
“Who was there at the Cross?”
Pastor Brad

Sunday Participation

Date	Worship	S.S.
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Jan. 1	152	
Jan. 8	255	
Jan. 15	249	91
Jan. 22	202	38

From Pastor Brad

Acts 2 tells about an exciting time in the early church. The disciples were together praying, when all of a sudden the Holy Spirit came like the rush of a wind, people started sharing the Gospel in different languages, and hearts were being changed. Peter stood up and began to talk about what was going on. When he had finished talking, people asked him a very good question, “What shall we do (Acts 2:37)?”

These are also exciting times for Faith Community. We too have been praying. My prayer has been, “do it again Lord!” Already I think we can see signs that we are moving into a new phase of our life together as a congregation. We’re using some different words

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(Pastor Brad)

than we have used in the past; like consultation, prescriptions, focus group, and congregational meeting. We are asking, “What shall we do.”

A week or two ago we had a group of folks who have experience working with other growing, dynamic churches who shared with us 5 prescriptions for what they think we should be doing to be a more effective, fruitful church. I would have included them in this article, but I am writing this before it has happened. If you would like a copy of the prescriptions, you can either call the Church Office and have Shelly send them to you, or send me an e-mail at bgolson@aol.com, and I will get them to you. If you get my weekly e-mail, CommunitE, I have included them in that.

We now have a month to decide whether we are going to make the changes that have been prescribed. We will have Town Hall meetings for open discussion on:

- Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 6:30
- Saturday, Feb. 4, at 11:00
- Sunday, Feb. 12 at 2:00

We have tried to put them on a variety of dates and times to accommodate our many different schedules.

On Sunday, Feb. 26, 12:00 – 1:30 we will have a Church Conference to decide whether to approve the prescriptions. Our District Superintendent, Chris Heckaman, will preside. The only catch is that all 5 prescriptions need to be taken together, or not at all.

Faith Community has a long history of forward thinking. If we had not merged and moved in 1971, it would have been much more difficult to recover from the tornado. In 2000 we built the Community Center to better minister with the people of Xenia. I hope you will be a part of this exciting time of deciding what the Holy Spirit might be doing next in our Faith Community!



Easter is Coming!

In anticipation, there is a 40 day time of preparation that is called Lent. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. For many it is a time to reflect, do something differently, or to give something up. This year Ash Wednesday is on Feb. 22.

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(Ash Wednesday)

Please join us for a solemn service at 7 pm which will include the imposition of ashes, and the reminder that we came from the dust, and to the dust we shall return.

At 5:00 P.M. preceding the service, Common Cup will serve a special meal which will consist of a light dinner with no desserts in the spirit of the Lenten season which encourages self denial and reflection. There is no cost for the meal. We will accept donations with all proceeds going to the Fish Food Pantry in Xenia.

From Christian Education

Hello Everyone,

Can you believe we are starting the month of February? How are you doing with your New Year's resolutions? Are you trying something new? Are you out of your comfort zone? I am a little of both...I'm trying my best to be still, pray and listen more, be proactive, and to share Christ's love with everyday strangers.

Speaking of love, what is more appropriate than Valentine's Day! Several martyred saints in ancient Rome were named Valentinus. The name "Valentine" is derived from *valen*, meaning worthy, strong and powerful. I pray this is the kind of love we can all share.

So many activities are on the horizon at Faith Community. The Confirmation class will begin on the 5th. with Susan Fellie facilitating. Brad Olsen, Rick Tettau, and I, will assist with the class. Confirmation Day will be on Sunday, May 20th.

Scout Sunday on the 12th will honor Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts. Join and celebrate with our youth; the future of our church, city and country. The Cub Scouts are finishing the *God and Family* program which includes building a pizza. They start with the foundation (crust) of faith, and build through the toppings of gifts and talents, finishing with the cheese of the 10 commandments. Enjoy with them, their pizza of faith.

New Books are in the Adult Library! Seven books have been added including authors Beverly Lewis, Kenneth Osbeck, and Wanda Burnstetter. Enjoy reading stories about the Amish life to *Amazing Grace*.

Family Fun Night is back! Please join us on the 11th for Karaoke and games from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. The church will provide sloppy joes and drinks. Please bring finger foods to share and of

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(Christian Education)

course, your favorite games! Corn Hole and some board games will be furnished. Tell your friends and bring some attitude!

I would like to close this letter with the question...What is love? Is it parents watching their sleeping child, the first breeze of Spring, or is it an unforgettable meeting of two souls? The Bible is full of stories about love. Moses speaks of God's love for us in Deuteronomy 7:13, and Jesus tells us to "Love each other as I have loved you." I feel Romans 5:5 catches the essence of love... "God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit." I pray each of us can share with those around us the love with which God has filled our hearts. Happy Valentines Day!

In Christ, Jeanne Mills

New Member Class

We have had a number of people who have recently expressed an interest in becoming members of Faith Community. Are you among them? Have you been attending for a while? 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, February 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, February 12 as part of worship. If you are interested, it would be helpful to give the church office a call, 372-7601, so that we know how many to expect.



Stephen Ministry

Be a Sorrow Bearer in the New Year

In the devotional book *Seize the Day with*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Charles Ringma shares this quote from Bonhoeffer: "The disciple-community does not shake off sorrow as though it were of no concern of its own, but willingly bears it."

Stephen Ministers are sorrow bearers. They are not sorrow

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(Stephen Ministry)

fixers, sorrow brighteners, or sorrow deniers. The come alongside a hurting person to listen, care, support, pray, empathize, encourage—to bear another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2). And through their sorrow-bearing, God brings about real, lasting healing.

An effective sorrow-bearer remains connected to Jesus who “took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows” (Isaiah 53:4). Jesus, incarnate in you, empowers you to be a sorrow-bearer. He makes sorrow bearing possible—and powerful.

Whether or not you are involved in Stephen Ministry, you probably won't have to look hard for opportunities to be a sorrow-bearer, because they'll come looking for you. Welcome them. By sharing people's burdens so that God's healing love can flow through you to those who are hurting, you'll make a real difference in people's lives—and your own life will be immensely enriched as well.

The above correspondence was shared by Rev. David A. Paap, program director of Stephen Ministries, St. Louis.

If you would like more information about Stephen Ministry, contact Brenda Boroff at 453-2485.

FYI: The next training class for Stephen Ministers will begin in September. This year's classes will be held during the daytime. Additional details will be available in the coming months. In the Meantime prayerfully consider whether or not God is calling you to be a part of this important ministry.

Staff Appreciation

Each year in February we honor and recognize FCUM's office staff and this month we are highlighting FCUM's Office Manager Shelly Bullen and Church Treasurer Scott House. Recently they've been realigning the financial processes to efficiently maintain the day-to-day business operations of the Church and will soon be upgrading to a new church management software program called Servant Keeper. The new system is user friendly and will enable easy analysis of budgets as well as generate reports, track membership, attendance, contributions, and calendar scheduling. Their tasks behind the scenes are not highly visible to the congregation, so please continue to support and encourage them in making the church operations a smooth and seamless experience for all staff members, volunteers, and the congregation. Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Confirmation

Are you in the 7th grade or older? Are you interested in knowing more about the faith and joining the church? A group of us is going to get together to find out more about what is involved on Sunday, February 5 at 4 P.M. We'll be done by kick-off time. It will be more fun if you are there!

Educational Assistance

For graduating high school seniors educational assistance may be available to those who are contemplating entering a college or technical school in the Fall of 2012. Faith Community's Educational Assistance grants are a **one-time only** award for graduating high school seniors. Guidelines and application forms are available in the community center, narthex, and the church office. The deadline for the completed applications is April 15, 2012.

United Methodist Men

Next meeting, Monday February 27, 6:30-9 PM, Room 15A

Habitat for Humanities Project

Recently Ron Rodenroth, Habitat volunteer coordinator spoke to the United Methodist Men. The FCUMM have agreed to help on the third Saturday of each month with the Xenia Habitat for Humanities house being built on E. Third Street. If you are interested in helping, call Bill Brown (Brownie) at 372-7373. We urge younger men of our church to help out with this project.

Challenge

During a recent sermon at Spring Valley UMC by FCUMM's new President, Tim Holly, this was his challenge to their members. It should be the challenge for members of Faith Community as well, as follows:

New Year's Resolutions:

1. We will let go of excuses when we are called to help. We will answer "Yes, what can I do?"
2. We will care about the needs of others: our neighbors, our friends, those in our congregation.
3. We will work together for the advancement of the Kingdom of God in Xenia Faith Community UMC.
4. We will think about what would happen if the church pulled together as ONE.

(UMMM)

Love Packages Mission Project Update

Last summer the FCUMM initiated a new mission project for our church. It's called **Love Packages**, a Ministry aimed at putting used Christian literature and bibles into the hands of people around the world. This is an ecumenical Ministry. Churches throughout the USA are collecting old bibles, used Sunday school, Bible school materials, daily devotionals, Christian books, cassettes, CDs, videos, DVDs, or magazines. These materials are collected from our church by Wayne Thomas of Faith Alive Church in Springboro. He then takes all the materials collected from the Miami Valley area churches, transports them to the central processing center in Butler, Illinois where volunteers sort and pack the materials into containers to be shipped to third world countries. Missionaries around the world can use these to teach God's Word and build His kingdom.

The overall total distribution of this organization is as follows:

Country	Packages	Pounds
Columbia	100	4
Ghana	80,000	3,350
Guatemala	80,000	2,984
India	440,000	18,089
Jamaica	40,000	1,488
Kenya	120,000	4,386
Liberia	40,000	1,325
Nigeria	200,000	7,575
Philippines	200,000	7,979
South Africa	240,000	9,388
Tanzania	245,000	8,893
Thailand	40,000	1,330
Trinidad	40,000	1,725
Ukraine	822	29
Zambia	330	7
Totals	1,766,252/883 tons	65,552

Volunteers throughout the year 1,616

This seems a good time to encourage members (following Christmas) to look through your shelves for books, and materials listed above that you are not using and bring them to Faith Community's drop off tub found in the Community Center, to the right just under the coat racks. It's marked **Love Packages**. Common Cup Churches are encouraged to participate in this mission project. To date we have called Mr. Thomas for four (4) pick ups. Praise God many people in these third world countries are being saved through our efforts. In His Service- John W. Sherer-372-2204.

United Methodist Women

Dorcas: No meeting in February

Priscilla: Monday, February 20, 7 PM- Parlor

Mary Rebecca: No meeting in February

Lydia: Wednesday, February 8, 7-8:45 PM-Parlor



Women's Prayer Breakfast Saturday, March 17

The Priscilla Circle invites all women to attend the Women's Prayer Breakfast. Breakfast begins at

9:30AM on Saturday, March 17, 2012. Pastor Rick

Tettau will present highlights of his trip to Germany where he saw the Oberammergau Passion Play. Tickets will be available for a donation of \$5.00 at church before and after services and at Common Cup.

Higher Education

Remember those students who have returned to college after the Christmas break. If you know of anyone who will be graduating from high school or college this spring, please contact Laurie Krakowiak, 694-8114.

Prayers and Sympathy

to Ed & Margaret Stidham on the death of Ed's brother **Robert Stidham**. Address: 930 Oakdale Dr., Xenia;

and to the family of Alton Heitman on his death. Address: Jim Heitman 1300 Wilmington Rd., Cedarville, 45314.

Baptism

Carey Hope Wheeler was baptized December 30, 2011 in the chapel. She is the daughter of James & Janet Wheeler, and sister of Cassie & Kylee Wheeler.



Library News

What's new in the library? I have added many books to the library in the last few weeks. First I donated all my gardening books that I have collected in the last 15 years. They include growing flowers, vegetables, trees; plus landscaping your yard. There are about 35 books to keep you busy reading for some time. They will answer many of your gardening questions. You can find them on the first row of the west wall.

The bookstore had a going out of business sale. I bought 15 books at 15% off. All were by our favorite authors – Brunstetter, Wanda, A Cousin's Promise & Sarah's Choice; Gabhart, Ann, The Blessed & The Seeker; Fisher, Suzanne W., The Choice; Hatcher, Robin Lee, A Vote of Confidence & Return to Me; Kingsbury, Karen, Learning; Morris, Gilbert, The Golden Angel, The Gentle Rebel, The Gallant Outlaw, The Silver Star; Hoff, B J, Rachel's Secret.

--George Knight

Thank You

I want thank Pastor Brad and Pastor Rick and others for visiting me in hospital, for the cards, and for the prayers during my stay in GMH. They mean so much.
Sally Brown

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Little did I know when Ted and I joined Faith Community United Methodist that it would lead to an 18 year career as an employee of Faith Community, first as the Children's Choir Director then the Director of Christian Education and finally adding the Director of the Preschool position. I would like to thank the United Methodist Women for honoring me on UMW Sunday. I am deeply touched that you would take time out of your service to honor me. I will treasure your kind words and the beautiful plaque. To the Congregation, thank you very much for your generous love offering, phone calls, words of

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(Thank You)

*encouragement and cards. The love that you have shown me as I change careers means more to me than words can ever express. Staff Parish Relations Committee the reception was certainly appreciated, thank you very much. Faith Community is my church and the members I consider family. My children were baptized and confirmed at Faith Community. Even as I move on in my choice of careers, I will continue to be an active member of Faith Community. God Bless you all.
Love, Lee A. Rose*

**DEADLINE FOR MARCH FAITH LINKS:
Monday, February 13**

CHURCH CLOSING DUE TO WINTER WEATHER:

If Xenia Community Schools are closed due to winter weather, Faith Community United Methodist will also be closed. We will post the closing on channel 2, 7 and 22. Please check one of these stations before heading out during any winter weather. Our main concern is your safety.

**Please continue to support FISH Food Pantry. The need is greater than ever! Do you know that FISH stands for FRIEND I SHALL HELP? Please help us to keep the food coming into the pantry by dropping it in the containers in the church narthex. We are rotating hungry families through the doors of the pantry every three weeks and that means a lot of food. Also, if you would like to help us work at the pantry, contact me at 767-1654 Thanks for all you are doing. Mary J Short
Thank you for your generosity.**

