



Dear One,

This is the February Newsletter – though it looks very different from other newsletters. I am skipping my opening article which gives a devotional thought to save space. We have lots of information we need to get to you immediately so we're sending this first class. We'll sprinkle a couple of devotional thoughts throughout the newsletter for those who've mentioned how much they like them. May you have a blessed February and be sure to read carefully so you don't miss out on any of the activities!



February 26

We've not had a picture directory at FUMC since Pastor Gary was here! If you count up, that's a long time ago. We're going to remedy that. We'll take individual and family portraits here at the church on Thursday, February 26th in the fellowship hall. Please sign up for your slot after worship or call in to let Judy know when you can come (she'll take your call Monday through Thursday, 9am-2pm). To make this successful, we need each one to have their picture taken.



Olan Mills is taking the portraits. You choose which pose goes into the directory. You will receive a free 8 x 10 photo and a directory if you have your picture taken. For those who have multiple generations, please schedule your photos together (one appointment after another) so you can have a full family picture taken too. Absolutely no one is obligated to purchase any pictures! You receive a free one and that can be it. If you'd *like* to purchase some pictures, Olan Mills is offering 20% of pricing in February. Senior citizens get an additional 10% off. Start practicing that smile and circle Feb 26th on your calendar!



The Responsibility of Giving

Suppose you have an important package to send to someone who needs it. You take it to an overnight delivery service. What would you think if, instead of delivering the package, the driver took it home? Then, when you confront him, he says, "If you didn't want me to keep it, why'd you give it to me in the first place?"

You'd say, "The package doesn't belong to you. Your job is to deliver it to the person who needs it." Just because God puts his money in our hands doesn't mean he intends for us to keep it.



Evangelism Goal

Everyone at FUMC is challenged to pray for at least one unchurched person for at least one minute every day at 1:00 pm. If you cannot possibly pray for one minute at 1:00 pm, you may want to choose another time. The important thing is to pray! After you've prayed for a person for a few weeks, consider inviting them to worship with you.



FUMC Shut-ins

Charles Harris – Hickory Creek Continuing Care, 51 East Fourth Street, The Plains, Ohio 45780
Eileen Burchfield, Charlotte Smathers – Logan Health Care, 300 Arlington Drive, Logan, 43138
Alberta Hellyer - Reflections, 2750 W Fair Ave, Apt 226, Lancaster, Ohio 43130
Lucille Steenrod, Ray (Doc) Howe, Crestviw Manor, 925 Becks Knob Road, Lancaster, 43130
Nellie Haynes – Brown Memorial, 158 E Mound St, Circleville, Ohio 43113
Dorothy Colwell, 1658 Connett, Nelsonville 45764

Mary Smith, 371 W Franklin, Nelsonville, 45764
Shirley Howard, 103 ½ St Charles St, Nelsonville 45764
Chuck Mohney, 96 Mill St, Nelsonville 45764
Nyoka Kennedy, 15530 SR 691, Nelsonville
Clara Mae Pitts, 504 W Washington St, Nelsonville
Ronnie Townsend, 187 Watkins St, Nelsonville 45764
Dan Cox, 8561 Victoria Meadow Lane, Reynoldsburg 43068
Geneva Johnson, 1021 Heatherfield Lane, San Jose, CA 95132
David Lovsey, 4369 Davis Road, Macon, GA 31217



Help the Pastor

As you probably know, the Ohio Legislature passed a bill a few years ago, prohibiting hospitals from providing lists of patients to anyone (including pastors). They no longer call a pastor when you are admitted to the hospital. If you're admitted to the hospital, please have a family member call the pastor (in most cases, a chaplain will call for you too).



There is no other way for the pastor to know you are in the hospital, unless you call. It is helpful as well to let the pastor know when you're released - a trip to a hospital following your release takes time away from helping someone else. If you go to a rehab center, the pastor will not know unless you call Rev Walters and let her know.

If you'd like the pastor to make a call (to your home), please mark the attendance pad or call the office to schedule.



Services for Shut-ins

Tapes of our morning worship services are available each week. They can be picked up on the vestibule table or delivered to shut-ins by Bill & Joan Cox. Call the office at 753-1939 to make arrangements or for more information.



It is safe to tell the pure in heart they will see God for only the pure in heart want to.

Ministry to a Soldier

Interested in helping a soldier be a bit less lonely? Check out www.mysoldier.com and make a difference in someone's life.

Tom & Marge Riley's grandson's address is: GySgt Riley, MJ 1st PLT, TASK FORCE MP's, 1st BN, 12th MAR, D Company, Unit 44121, FPO, AP 96607-4121



Important Dates

Groundhog Day — February 2 – had enough winter??
Boy Scout Sunday — February 8
Lincoln's Birthday – February 12
Valentine's Day — February 14

Presidents' Day — February 16 – no mail delivery/bank service
Washington's Birthday – February 22



Bring a Friend

Been to worship lately? The weather has gotten some of us out of the habit. Here's



a quick catch-up on what's going on at First...



At 9am we have a traditional service. That means it looks a lot like what “church” has always looked like. We sing traditional hymns, the choir sings a number, there’s a children’s church, candles are lit – church much like it’s been done since the 1950s. This service appeals to those who are listeners.

At 10am we have Sunday School. The Queen Esther Class always welcomes new members (a class for women) as does the men’s class which meets in the chapel. We have classes for kids - nursery through high school too. We have a class for adults and are hoping to start a young adult class soon.

At 11am we have a worship service in the fellowship hall. It’s more informal – we join hands to pray and children are present. Music has various formats from a soft rock beat and we’ve even done bluegrass! This service has video and other media presentations for those who are more visual than aural.



If you’ve been missing through the winter, get back into the groove – we miss you and God misses you!



Office Hours

The office hours are Monday-Thursday, 9am-2pm. It is our policy to close the office if school is closed (we want Judy to be safe!) and she has the option of coming in late when school is delayed. So in general terms, the school schedule is our schedule :) The pastor is in the office each day but attends many community meetings, performs funerals, visits shut-ins, etc. If you’d like to speak to her, call the office and if she’s not in, Mrs. Barber will have her call or make an appointment for a talk.



Heart Healthy Month

The Health Ministry Team of Nelsonville has asked each church to focus on heart health during February. On February 1, each one is asked to wear red as a reminder heart attacks occur to women (as well as men). On Feb 8 we’ll emphasize “get moving” toward heart health. Feb 15 we’ll do blood pressure screenings. We’ve set the goal of taking the blood pressure of everyone in Nelsonville that weekend to show how important it is. Plan to have yours taken before or after worship at the Care Corner. Feb 22 we’ll have some heart healthy recipes available for you to take home and try out. For most people, some really small, unnoticeable changes make a huge difference in your heart health. So start with a baby step!



Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is February 25th. We’ll have a solemn service of ashes which includes confession of sins and communion at 7pm. Please plan now to attend.



Financial Peace

The next Financial Peace class begins February 1. You can still join the class. If you need financial peace in your life, check it out Sundays at 2pm.



Sign Up!

Are you willing to provide flowers for the sanctuary? Please indicate that by signing the flower chart. Live fresh flowers enhance our worship and we appreciate having them. Check out the chart to see which dates are available. Want to serve as an usher for the 9am service? You can sign up to serve.

Newsletter Articles

Please turn your newsletter articles in to Judy Barber by February 24. Thanks for helping to make *The Common Line* more informative and helpful! If you have information people need, be SURE to get it to Judy (schedules for service, etc).



Benefit Bank

First UMC is now a site for the Ohio Benefit Bank. That means folks can make an appointment to come in and find out what state assistance your family qualifies to receive. It provides all the forms you need to submit to the state to receive assistance if you qualify. Programs for which we can provide information include: children's health care insurance, home energy assistance, child care assistance, food stamps, tax assistance. In 2006, Ohio Benefit Bank helped more than 19,000 families claim more than \$20 million in tax credits and benefits. If you know someone who could benefit from this program, please have them call the church office. We feel this will be a nice compliment to the Caring Ministry we've been providing for the last year.



Now Hiring

The US Census Bureau is now hiring people to assist with the 2010 census. If you are interested in working for the regional office, call 866/861-2010 or go to census.gov. Hiring starts Fall 2008. Pay is \$8.25-12.50/hour for a clerk. Field staff (those who go out and collect the data) receive from \$11.50 to 19.50/hour. There are different positions with pay amounts that match up with the skills required.



Care Corner

Check out the Care Corner while at worship! On the Canal Street side you'll find blood pressures, blood glucose checks and an opportunity to sign cards to those are under the weather. You can sign a card – or – pick one out just from you! Be sure to stop over and send your Christian greetings to those in our congregation who need an encouraging word.



If you can find someone who knows more than God knows, has better credentials than God's, has done more for you than God has done, cares for you more than God cares or has a better plan for your life than God does, then sure—you should pay attention when that person criticizes you for living a godly life or for trying to do God's will. Otherwise, forget about the criticism and focus on pleasing the one whose ideas and opinions matter the most

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