

Leadership Team

Fellowship/Community Team	Loges, Squires
Trustee Chair	Jacien Squires
Finance	Eric Brooks
Treasurer	Jacien Squires
FinSec	Amy Davis
Lay Member Conf	Donna Cunningham
Staff-Parish	Merv Davis
Chr Leadership Team	Susan Barber
Worship/Connection Team	
Mission/Commission Team	Shirley Wilson
Discipleship/Character Team	Larry Barber
Pastor	Rev Karen K Walters

First UMC

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**Living in the Same Box**

The Olympics happen again this August; here's a story from a long-ago Olympics...

It is 1936. American Jesse Owens seems sure to win the long-jump competition in the Olympic games. The previous year he had jumped 26 feet, 8 1/4 inches - a record that will stand for 25 years.

As he walks to the long-jump pit, however, Owens sees a tall, blue-eyed, blond German taking practice jumps in the 26-foot range. Owens feels nervous. He is acutely aware of the Nazis' desire to prove "Aryan superiority." And as a black son of a sharecropper, he knows what it is like to be made to feel inferior.

On his first jump, Owens inadvertently leaps from several inches beyond the takeoff board. Rattled, he fouls on his second attempt, too. One more foul and he will be eliminated.

At this point, the tall German introduces himself as Luz Long. "You should be able to qualify with your eyes closed!" he says to Owens, referring to his upcoming two jumps.

For the next few moments, the African American and the white Nazi chat together. Then Long makes a suggestion. Since the qualifying distance is only 23 feet, 5 1/2 inches, why not make a mark several inches before the takeoff board and jump from there, just to play it safe? Owens does and qualifies easily.

In the finals, Owens sets an Olympic record and earns the second of four gold medals. But who is the first person to congratulate him? Luz Long - in full view of Adolf Hitler.

Owens never again sees Long, who is later killed in World War II. "You could melt down all the medals and cups I have," Owens later writes, "and they wouldn't be enough to give a plate on the 24-carat friendship I felt for Luz Long."

Luz Long made his mark in world history and taught the rest of us a valuable lesson.

Someone else put it like this: "We can learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp... some are pretty... some are dull... some have weird names... and all are different colors... But they all have to learn to live in the same box."

*The gospel is like a lion: it doesn't need to be tamed – it needs to be turned loose!*

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### **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!

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### **Newsletter Articles**

Please turn your newsletter articles in to Judy Barber by August 21. Thanks for helping to make *The Common Line* more informative and helpful! If you are receiving the newsletter and no longer wish to, please email Rev Walters at [kwalters@woh.rr.com](mailto:kwalters@woh.rr.com). If you joined another church or want to move your membership, please contact Rev Walters.

Newsletter  
**DEADLINE**

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### **Thank you**

Thank you for everyone who helped with the ice cream social! It was a success because of each of you – the donated desserts, time volunteered and every person who came and ate ice cream that night. A special thank you to Pat Covert for doing the cooking and serving and to Larry and Susan Barber for making and serving the ice cream! Many folks had a good time (and some great food and ice cream too!)

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*One of the key things as far as joy is concerned is not living a selfish, self-centered life where we live our lives expecting someone else to do something for us.*

Joyce Meyer

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### **FUMC Shut-ins**

Charles Harris – Hickory Creek Continuing Care, 51 East Fourth Street, The Plains, Ohio 45780

Eileen Burchfield, Florence Forbes, Verna Lower, Charlotte Smathers – Logan Health Care, 300 Arlington Drive, Logan, 43138

Alberta Hellyer - Reflections, 2750 W Fair Ave, Apt 226, Lancaster, Ohio 43130

Nellie Haynes – Brown Memorial, 158 E Mound St, Circleville, Ohio 43113

Dorothy Colwell, 1658 Connett, Nelsonville 45764

Shirley Howard, 103 ½ St Charles St, Nelsonville 45764

Chuck Mohney, 96 Mill St, Nelsonville 45764

Clara Mae Pitts, 504 W Washington St, Nelsonville

Ronnie Townsend, 187 Watkins St, Nelsonville 45764

Dorothea Hoskins – 131 Rivers Edge Way, Gahanna, Ohio 43230

Dan Cox, 8561 Victoria Meadow Lane, Reynoldsburg 43068

Rev. Aaron Cunningham – 852 Thackston Drive, Spartanburg, SC 29302

Lucille Goss, 856 Southside River Road, McConnelsville 43756

Gilbert Stalder, 1729 Horsechestnut Court, Trinity, FL 34655

Ruth Higgins, 109 Mulberry Lane, Monacca, PA 15061

Geneva Johnson, 1021 Heatherfield Lane, San Jose, CA 95132

David Lovsey, 4369 Davis Road, Macon, GA 31217

Janie Ogg, 1675 Dunlawton Ave #242, Port Orange, FL 32127

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### **Acceptance**

The current theme for the United Methodist church is “Open hearts...Open minds... Open doors”. This reminds us to love and accept others just as Jesus did.

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### **Summer Sunday School**

Contrary to popular belief, the church does not close during the summer. We have worship each week at 10:30 am and we have Sunday School at 9:15 for children, youth and older adults. We remind children to read during the summer so skills don't slip; remember worship attendance, Bible reading and prayer keep our discipleship growing.

Summer  
Sunday  
School

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*Seems that God is looking for more ways to get us home than for ways to keep us out. I challenge you to find one soul who came to God seeking grace and did not find it.*

Max Lucado

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### Aaron Cunningham Updates

If you're wanting to keep up to date on Aaron's progress, go to [www.caringbridge.org](http://www.caringbridge.org) and sign into the web site by using his name, Aaron Cunningham except that you have to use all lower case, all one word (aaroncunningham). Thanks for you prayers and concern! This allows everyone to check on updates whenever they are praying. If you don't have a computer, you can always check in the church office.

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### 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'd like the pastor to make a call, please mark the attendance pad or call the office to schedule.

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*God Bless America,*

*Land that I love.*

*Stand beside her, and guide her*

*Thru the night with a light from above.*

*From the mountains, to the prairies,*

*To the oceans, white with foam*

*God bless America, My home sweet home.*

*– God Bless America, Irving Berlin*

### Services

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.

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### Health and Wholeness Ministry

In the gospels, we find Jesus working to heal people – not just their souls – but the whole person. In an effort to do what Jesus would do, FUMC has a health ministry to address the body part of the equation.



You are invited to stop by on Sunday mornings and have your blood pressure or blood sugar taken. The RNs in our congregation are working together to provide this ministry. They will give you a book

in which to keep track of all findings to share with your physician. They will also share resources to help you become more healthy – tips to lower blood sugar or cholesterol or blood pressure or even how to eat more healthy.

Stop by and see what they can do for you and if you're a registered nurse, please talk to Debbie Cox or Shirley Wilson about how you can help.



### In our Prayers

We need to hold in our prayers:

Bill Wend

Nick Pidcock

Mary Ellen Hurd

Denny Myers

Pete Barnhart

Bill Whitlatch

Gina D'Andrea

Ann and Ruth McKinley

Sean Conner

Mike Koval

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### Congrats to Linda McKinley

Linda McKinley has decided to "retire" from First UMC. We will hold a party to celebrate her years of faithful service to FUMC on

August 31 following worship. There will be a potluck (plates, cups drinks supplied). Please put this on your calendar now to make this a special day for Linda.

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### Gus Macker

The annual Gus Macker 3 on 3 tournament is July 26-27 in Nelsonville. The event is larger than last year which means the city will need to close more of Columbus Street to accommodate the extra basketball courts. Columbus Street will be closed just a few doors east of the church. On Sunday morning, we'll have worship at the regular time of 10:30 am. You're encouraged to park at the Rocky store which has graciously agreed to share their lot with us that day. The church van will make continuous runs between the Rocky parking lot and the church (as well as after church to get you back to your car). We are expecting guests for worship from the tournament as well as a baptism that morning so we really need folks to leave as many spaces as possible for the guests. *That doesn't mean stay home!* You will get to the church just a couple minutes after you would if you park at the church. It's also an excellent opportunity to share some fellowship after worship as you're returned to your car.

If you live in Nelsonville, call the church and make arrangements for the van to pick you up at your home! Please call by noon Thursday so a schedule can be made.

At 8:00 am on Sunday, there is a worship service for the Gus Macker participants but area Christians are encouraged to attend as well. It will be on the square. ★

*If you get busy serving God, you're too busy to sin.* – Chuck Baker

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### Vacation Bible School

Are you ready for a Beach Party? Gear up for a fun-filled VBS Day Camp where we will be "Surfin' through the Scriptures" with fun, food and music. Mark your calendars for Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup> where we will be teaming up with the Nelsonville First Presbyterian Church to bring God's Word to the youth in our community. If you are



interested in volunteering your time to help, whether it's in Cool Crafts, Tidal Wave Music, Surf's Up Snacks or a Leader for a class, we'd love to have you! Contact Trisha Dean at 753-9036 to sign up for a totally awesome day!

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Dear Church Family,

After many enjoyable years of service as your organist, I find it necessary to resign. The primary reason for this decision is obviously the high and ever-rising cost of gasoline. My current car gets 25 miles to the gallon and I am having to drive 400 miles during the weeks we have choir. With gas currently at \$4.00, fuel alone is costing me \$64 weekly and I am making \$70. This does not count the wear and tear on my or the car. I have tried to put up with such a tight squeeze, hoping something would improve. It's not anyone's fault. It's just a bad situation that has developed. The last Sunday in August (August 31, 2008) will be my last Sunday. I sincerely want to thank everyone for their kindness during my time here. Each member was always very supportive and that has made it hard for me to finally reach this decision. Thanks gain. I love you all.

Sincerely, Linda S. McKinley

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the get well cards and get well wishes, prayers and support during my recovery from my broken leg. I am home and doing well.

Blessings, Marge Ashworth

FUMC

Thank you for the love, cards, prayers and expressions of care at the death of my mother, Mary Jane Dean. I appreciate all the notes, flowers and visits during her illness and the funeral.

Thank you, Earich Dean

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