

Leadership Team

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

First UMC

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**Did You Hear the Latest Scoop?**

*"And this is my prayer, that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight." Philippians 1:9 (NIV)*

When we hear of another person's struggle is our first desire to more closely examine ourselves or more closely scrutinize this other person? It's a question worth considering. It's a question worth holding up to Biblical truth.

At another church, I had a situation where a father was cheating on his wife. The whole church seemed to know it. Except for his wife. Lots of people contacted me about the situation. I could place them in three categories:

The first category of e-mails I received used such hateful remarks it hurt my head. Seriously, my heart was racing like a good cardio workout. It was dripping with judgment, condemnation, and venomous words like "shameful" and "hate."

The second category of e-mails I received was a "Christian" call to action. It was strong and slightly demanding that I do something harsh about this situation. You know, rain down a little hell fire and brimstone in an effort to correct the actions of this man. All in "love" of course.

The third category was completely different. And sadly, only comprised one email. It still expressed concern for the situation, and rightly so. However, in complete humility the writer stated she was using this situation as a call to pray for this man's life, and as a call to action to examine her own.

She said as she watched this man flaunting his relationship at work and at the mall, she saw things that bothered her about this man who came to our church at least occasionally. So, she asked herself some very tough questions about her own life - her own marriage - her own attitude about the importance she places on God. And she found *herself* falling short. With great honesty and courage, she set



aside her judgments of another, and got down on her knees.

I do believe with all my heart that there is a place for Christian accountability. I believe it is biblical and necessary. However, making judgmental remarks, rolling our eyes, belittling someone when we certainly do not know all the facts is neither biblical or necessary.

It's sin.

It's totally missing the mark of what God has called His people to be and to do.

If the actions and attitudes of another person hurt our heart and rub our soul the wrong way -- be it a neighbor or someone on the cover of a tabloid -- I pray we handle it with the grace and dignity Jesus enables us to have. "And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment" (Phil. 1:9).

And may we always remember the person in question is loved by God. He may not love their actions and He most certainly doesn't love anyone's sin, but the person, He loves.

They are loved. We are loved.

Totally and immensely, unfathomably and remarkably, beautifully and abundantly loved.



*Progress in holiness can best be measured not by the length of time we spend in prayer, not by the number of times we go to church, not by the amount of money we contribute to God's work, not by the range and depth of our knowledge of the Bible, but rather by the quality of our personal relationships.*

*Stephen F. Winward*



### **Sunday School**

Remember Sunday School is at 10am on Sundays. There is no Children's Sunday School on July 26.



### **Town Meeting**

Are you concerned about the number of folks in our town – many of them teenagers – who are addicted to drugs and alcohol – especially heroin? Are you at a loss when you watch drug deals occur within yards of your home? Do you fear for your children and grandchildren? Maybe you don't live next to a place where drugs are sold, but you care about your community. If so, please make time in your busy calendar for a Town Meeting which be held at the Catholic Hall (East end of Washington Street) on Thursday, July 30@ 7pm.



### **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.



*Christians should never fail to sense the operation of an angelic glory. It forever eclipses the world of demonic powers, as the sun does a candle's light.*

*- Billy Graham*



### **FUMC Shut-ins**

Shirley Howard, Bob Wilson, Eileen Burchfield, Charlotte Smathers – Logan Health Care, 300 Arlington Drive, Logan, 43138  
Lucille Steenrod, Crestview Manor, 925 Becks Knob Road, Lancaster, 43130

Dorothy Colwell, 1658 Connett, Nelsonville 45764

Chuck Mohney, 96 Mill St, Nelsonville 45764



### **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.



*Only he who can say, 'The Lord is the strength of my life' can say, 'Of whom shall I be afraid?'*

*- Alexander MacLaren*



### 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.



### Office Hours

The office hours are Monday-Thursday, 9am-2pm. 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.



*One filled with joy preaches without preaching.*

*- Mother Teresa*



### 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 or greeter for the 9am service? You can sign up to serve behind the welcome center.



### Newsletter Articles

Please turn your newsletter articles in to Judy Barber by July 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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).



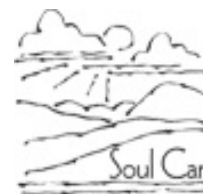
*The weaker we feel, the harder we lean. And the harder we lean, the stronger we grow spiritually, even while our bodies waste away.*

*- J.I. Packer*



### 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.



*Kindness is Christianity with working clothes on.*



## Bible Study

There is a Bible Study sponsored by Virgil and Nina McKnight every Wednesday night at 6:00. The study is a video course which is led by Les Feldick. All are welcome to join in the fellowship and the opportunity to learn from God's Word. The class meets in the chapel.



## Stimulus Conference

The Foothills District of the United Methodist Church will be hosting a "Stimulus Conference- Promoting New Ideas in Southeast Ohio" in order to challenge individuals and churches in Appalachian Ohio to dream beyond some "traditional" ideas of ministry. It will be held on July 12<sup>th</sup> at The Plains United Methodist Church in The Plains. We will gather at 2:00 p.m. and offer five different topics:

- 1) Economic Development (How to use the assets we have to provide for future sustainability?)
- 2) Social Service Partnerships (How to network with others in your community in order to use your resources wisely?)
- 3) Parish Health Ministry (How to be more proactive in helping people live healthier lives?)
- 4) Local Food Support (How to sustain more local food production as well as creative ideas to help those struggling with poverty?)
- 5) Grant Writing (How to apply to the District and Conference for needed funds as you pursue new avenues of ministry?)

We will gather for an opening time from 2:00-2:15 p.m. and then allow people to go to one of the five sessions being offered. We will have a brief refreshment break from 3:15-3:30 p.m. and then allow people to choose a different session to go to from 3:30-4:30 p.m. This will allow everyone to attend two different classes and go home with much to think about, things to apply in their local area and with new networks in order to



dream together. We will conclude with a de-briefing time from 4:30-4:45 p.m. See you there!



*God is God. Because He is God, He is worthy of my trust and obedience. I will find rest nowhere but in His holy will, a will that is unspeakably beyond my largest notions of what He is up to.*

*- Elisabeth Elliot*



## Mission Needs

At Good Works, we try to do A LOT of creative things to help people. Several years ago, we invented the **TRANSFORMATION STATION** to help people in rural Athens County who are struggling with poverty to get a car. We don't give them away and we don't sell them. We offer people who need cars an opportunity to serve others in need and in exchange for their volunteer service they get points and can trade their points in for a car. Because of the generosity of so many people, we have been able to provide 50 cars to families.

We are seeking used cars in good condition. Good Works is seeking the donation of good working cars to help people who are struggling with poverty here in Athens County. Do you know someone who might consider donating a car to Good Works? Good Works is a 501 (c) 3 private non-profit organization and all donations are tax-deductible according to IRS guidelines.



We have 108 people on the waiting list right now who are willing to volunteer their time and use their skills to help others in our community. But we need cars.

Good Works can be reached at 594-9000.



## Chronic Disease Self-Management Classes

Do you or someone you care for have diabetes, arthritis, depression, lupus, fibromyalgia, or other ongoing health condition?

Learning to manage chronic illness is the key to improving your health and quality of life.

Healthy U is a 6 week long program that meets once per week for about 2 hours. Benefits for participants include decreased pain, increased energy, reduced healthcare costs, and increased quality of life.

The class is free and open to anyone who has or cares for someone who has a chronic illness. Bring a friend or family member!

Tuesdays, 6:00-8:30pm

Begins: June 30th (final class, August 4<sup>th</sup>)

Location: Grosvenor Hall, Ohio University

Cost: FREE

Registration: Please contact Louise at 740-592-4431 ext. 226 to reserve your spot for this free class.



*God is so big He can cover the whole world with his Love and so small He can curl up inside your heart. - June Masters Bacher*



## 2 Chronicles 7:14

There are signs popping up in people's yards that say, "America, prayer is our only hope" with 2 Chron. 7:14 underneath. We certainly need God's help!

Our nation is/has been on the slippery slope for a long time. If you look around you will find corruption, greed, moral decay, and a steady move away from the things that made us great. The principles upon which this nation was founded are no longer our backbone. However, we can reverse this trend.

2 Chron. 7:14 says: If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.



New Classes Begin



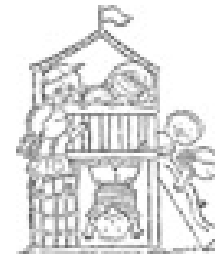
I am convinced that we must pray for our nation and its leaders and ask for forgiveness. So I ask you to join me in this plea to our Lord.

Let me just add a quote from Ronald Reagan "If we ever forget that we are one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under." Most people have forgotten that we are one nation under God! Let us as Christians stand up and remind people of this.



## Help Needed

Buchtel is building a playground and we need you! Our community's children deserve a safe, clean and fun place to play and adults need an enjoyable place to gather. You can make a difference in our community with your skills and talents!



We need volunteers on July 11 to build a new playground at the Buchtel Community Park located behind Bud's One Stop Convenience Store on St. Rt. 78. Please consider joining in this effort to make a positive impact on our community.

Build Day Schedule – Saturday, July 11

8 am – Breakfast and Registration

8:30 am – Welcome and Instructions

11:30 am – Lunch is served

2:30 pm – Dedication Ceremony

Additional Information

- Youth activities for children, so bring your kids!
- No construction skills are necessary, all you need is a willingness to have fun and meet new people!
- Build will happen rain or shine.
- Wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty.
- Tools, sunscreen and water will be provided.



*Nothing sets a person so much out of the devil's reach as humility.*

*- Jonathan Edwards*

## Save the Date!

The date for our 2009 VBS is set for Friday, August 7th. To help cut down on expenses, we need donations of pretzels, peanuts, sunflower seeds, m&m's, string cheese, graham crackers and fresh fruit.



Also, any camping materials we could borrow to go along with our camping theme would really help! We'll use them Friday and you can take them home Sunday after church (Aug 9).



## Fall Lay Speaking Classes Scheduled

There will be three opportunities this fall for persons to participate in Lay Speaking Ministries classes. All three classes will be held at the Bremen United Methodist Church in Fairfield County. The Basic class and one Advanced Class – "Leading In Prayer", will be held on Friday, October 9 from 6:00-10:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 10, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. A second Advanced Class – "Preaching" will be held on Saturday, October 10 and Saturday, October 17.



Persons wishing to become Local Church Lay Speakers must take the Basic Class. Local Church Lay Speakers who wish to become Certified Speakers or Certified Speakers who need recertification in 2009 must take one of the Advanced classes. Information on the steps to become a Lay Speaker may be found on the district website at [www.foothillsdistrict.org](http://www.foothillsdistrict.org). If you have any questions, please contact the Foothills District Office.



*Sin is like quicksand: Your own efforts only make you sink deeper. Only an outside hand can pull you out.*



## Parade of the Hills Preparation

You were so generous in signing up for leadership and helpers that I'm feeling quite comfortable with our huge POH project. I still need a chairperson to cook chicken (it will be purchased for you) and some helpers to pick it off the bone for the noodles. Call Judy at the church if you would like to do either. Please put August 19, 20, and 21 on your calendar because we will need volunteers on the serving table and we MUST HAVE those delicious First Church desserts!!! Thanks – Donna



## Gus Macker Information

The Annual Gus Macker Tournament will be July 25-26. The church will have a food booth in the parking lot again this year and we need your help to make it a success! We need folks to volunteer to serve food and to donate cookies and brownies to sell. Please sign up to help.



We are holding one service that day at 9:00. Parking will be limited as most of Columbus Street will be closed. There is no children's Sunday School that day.



## Re-Dedication of Purpose

FUMC will hold a church-wide meeting on Friday, July 17 @ 6pm. Dinner is provided but you're asked to bring a dessert to share.



This is an opportunity to come together and work toward rededicating ourselves toward refocusing on making disciples. Begin praying about where God is calling you to serve.

