

Mission Statement

The Mission - To love the people of the Nelsonville area into relationship with Jesus Christ and give away to the world what God has given us.

The vision - Imagine a ragtag collection of surrendered and transformed people who love God and others. They are mesmerized by the idea that this is not about them, but all about Jesus. They are transfixed by His story and His heart for their area. They are seedthrowers and firestarters, hope peddlers and disgrace-givers, risk-takers and dreamers, young and old. They link arms with anyone who tells the story of Jesus. They empower the poor, strengthen the weak, embrace the outcast, seek the lost. They serve together, play together, worship together, live life together. The Nelsonville area will change because God sent them. They are us.

PASTOR. Rev Karen K Walters

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Show You Believe By Belonging

Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples. John 13:35 (NLT)

The Bible says a Christian without a church home is like an organ without a body, a sheep without a flock, or a child without a family. It is an unnatural state. The Bible says, "You belong in God's household with every other Christian." (Ephesians 2:19b)

Today's culture of independent individualism has created many spiritual orphans — "bunny believers" who hop around from one church to another without any identity, accountability, or commitment. Many believe it is possible to be a "good Christian" without joining (or even attending) a local church, but God would strongly disagree.

The church is so significant that Jesus died on the cross for it. "Christ loved the church and gave his life for it." (Ephesians 5:25)

Except for a few important exceptions referring to all believers throughout history, almost every time the word *church* is used in the Bible it refers to a local, visible congregation.

The New Testament assumes membership in a local congregation. The only Christians not members of a local fellowship were those under church discipline who had been removed from the fellowship because of gross public sin. (1 Corinthians 5:1-13; Galatians 6:1-5)

The Bible offers many compelling reasons why you need to be committed and active in a local fellowship.

A church family identifies you as a genuine believer. I can't claim to be following Christ if I'm not committed to any specific group of disciples. Jesus said, "Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." (John 13:35)

When we come together in love as a church family from different backgrounds, race, and social status, it is a witness to the world. (Galatians 3:28, see also John 17:21)

If you know someone who does not have a church, please take the opportunity of Lent and Easter to invite them to join you.



The will of God will never take you where the grace of God cannot keep you. †

Set Clocks Forward!

March 14, Daylight Savings Time begins — and yes, it's the dreaded "Spring Forward" day when we lose an hour of sleep. Put a note on your fridge, a sticky on your alarm clock, or whatever you have to do to remember to set your clock Saturday night. While you're at it, don't forget your watch, the clocks on your microwave and DVD player, the clock in your car . . .



As you move your clocks ahead this year, you may find yourself wondering why and when we started “springing forward” and “falling back.” Daylight Saving Time was first instituted in the United States during World War I in an effort to save energy for war production by taking advantage of the later hours of daylight between April and October. During World War II the government again required the states to observe the time change.

Between the wars and after World War II, states and communities were given the choice to observe Daylight Saving Time or not. In 1966, Congress passed the Uniform Time Act, which standardized the length of Daylight Saving Time. Since then, Daylight Saving Time has been observed in most regions of the United States and Canada.

Since 2007, Daylight Saving Time has been four weeks longer due to the Energy Policy Act. The Act extended Daylight Saving Time by four weeks, hoping to take advantage of the available daylight to even further reducing energy consumption.

This year, Daylight Saving Time falls on Sunday, March 14, at 2:00 AM. So be certain to set your clock ahead one hour before you tuck in for the night, so you'll rise and shine to the correct time!

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Works? Works? A man gets to heaven by works? I would as soon think of climbing to the moon on a rope of sand! - George Whitefield

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Girl Scout Sunday

Juliette Low began the Girls Scouts, March 12, 1912, in Savannah, Georgia. Chronic ear infections as a child made one ear deaf. A grain of rice thrown at her wedding lodged in her other ear, which was punctured by the procedure to remove it. Juliette Low's father, a U.S. Army General, was previously a Civil War Confederate captain. In the Spanish-American War, Juliette Low and her mother organized a convalescent hospital for wounded soldiers returning from Cuba. After her husband's death in 1905, Juliette Low traveled to England where in 1911 she met Boar War hero Sir Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts. They were engaged to be married, but the wedding was cancelled. Returning to America, Juliette Low founded Girl Guides. Dying of breast cancer in 1927, she was buried in her uniform. The Girl Scout oath is “On my honor, I will try: to do my duty to God and my country, to help other people at all times, to obey the Girl Scout laws.”



Girl Scout Sunday is observed the Sunday closest to March 12 – this year that's March 14.

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Spiritual Maturity Shows Up In Relationships

As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.
Ephesians 4:16b

A church family helps you develop spiritual muscle. You will never grow to maturity just by attending worship services and being a passive spectator. Only participation in the full life of a local church builds spiritual muscle.

The Bible says, “As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.”



Over fifty times in the New Testament the phrase “one another” or “each other” is used. We are commanded to love each other, pray for each other, encourage each other, admonish each other, greet each other, serve each other, teach each other, accept each other, honor each other, bear each other's burdens, forgive each other, submit to each other, be devoted to each other, and many other mutual tasks. This is biblical membership!



These are your “family responsibilities” that God expects you to fulfill through a local fellowship. Who are you doing these with?

It may seem easier to be holy when no one else is around to frustrate your preferences, but that is a false, untested holiness. Isolation breeds deceitfulness; it is easy to fool ourselves into thinking we are mature if there is no one to challenge us.

Real maturity shows up in relationships.

We need more than the Bible in order to grow; we need other believers. We grow faster and stronger by learning from each other and being accountable to each other. When others share what God is teaching them, I learn and grow, too.

We cannot fool God. It is impossible to put something over on Someone who is omniscient. We can fool all of the people some of the time and some of the people all of the time. But not God. Jesus says, “Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them” (Matthew 6:1).

It is easy for us to fall into the trap of living our Christian lives for the sake of other Christians. We should be living it for the sake of our relationship with the Lord. We may find ourselves going to church, singing the songs, and going through the motions but spending no time cultivating a personal relationship with the Lord. Such a relationship does not come easily. It requires commitment and time.

But we must not fool ourselves, either. The Lord does not want merely our church attendance or other external actions. He wants us!

This is why the first symptom of spiritual decline is usually inconsistent attendance at worship services and other gatherings of believers. Whenever we become careless about fellowship, everything else begins to slide, too.

The Bible says, “Love your spiritual family.” (1 Peter 2:17b)

Membership in the family of God is neither inconsequential nor something to be casually ignored. The church is God's agenda for the world. Jesus said, “I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.” (Matthew 16:18)



Donna Cunningham, celebrates her 80th birthday March 13th. Several have asked where to send a card ... her address is:

Donna Cunningham, 315 Savana Plains Drive, Spartanburg, SC 29307



God has two dwellings; one in heaven, and the other in a meek and thankful heart.

- Izaak Walton



Terrorist Groups Operating in Churches

Latest news reports are that five terrorist cell groups have been operating in many of our churches. They have been identified as: Bin Sleepin, Bin Arguin, Bin Fightin, Bin Complainin, and Bin Missin. Their leader, Osama Bin Lucifer, trained these groups to destroy the Body of Christ. The plan is to come into the church disguised as Christians and to work within the church to discourage, disrupt, and destroy.

However, there have been reports of a sixth group. A tiny cell known by the name Bin Prayin is actually the only effective counter terrorism force in the church. Unlike other terrorist cells, the Bin Prayin team does not blend in with whatever comes along.

Bin Prayin does whatever is needed to uplift and encourage the Body of Christ. We have noticed that the Bin Prayin cell group has different characteristics than the others. They have Bin Watchin, Bin Waitin, Bin Fastin, and Bin Longin for their Master, Jesus Christ to return.

Which cell group do you belong to? you better get busy, cuz our country needs all the prayers you can pack in a day, not just when you are in church.

Submitted by a member



Kroger Plus Card

The Kroger Plus Card you have probably had for years will not only give you discounts on food and gasoline purchases but can also give a cash reward to the First UMC of up to 5% of your purchases and it costs you nothing.

All you have to do is register your Kroger Plus card with First UMC. It's simple and takes just a few minutes.

How to connect your Kroger Plus Card to First UMC:

Be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy and your internet connected. If you not yet have a Kroger Plus card, they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger.

Connect to KrogerCommunityRewards.com

Click *sign up today*

Enter your zip code and click on *Select* to choose closest store

Enter your your email address, create a password and click on CONFIRM and AGREE to terms and conditions

A message will be sent to your email. Go there and click on the link. Click on MY ACCOUNT and enter email address and password.

Click on EDIT KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS INFO

Enter your Kroger Plus Card Number (save)

Enter **84923** for Nelsonville First UMC and CONFIRM

When you go back to the dashboard, check for Nelsonville First UMC on the right side of the info page.



Now each time you swipe your card, First UMC will receive a donation. Some churches have raised as much as \$10,000/year through this program so thank you for supporting your church in this way!

If you have trouble with this, come in to the office and we'll help you register your card (be sure to bring it with you!)



God commands you to pray, but he forbids you to worry.

- St. John Vianney



Caring Corner

The Caring Corner touches many lives. It's how First shows the love and care of Christ to others. Birthday, get well, sympathy and thinking of you cards are always needed and stamps are welcome too. Also, please remember to sign cards on Sunday morning. Cards are sent each week to those we want to remind of God's love or those who are celebrating. We get messages back about how much the cards and prayers have meant to those who receive them.

We also prepare and deliver casseroles to those who are experiencing crisis. If you'd like to be part of preparing casseroles, contact Amy McCulloch (753-2524). The following items are needed:

- * Uncooked macaroni, rice, wide egg noodles, shells
- * Cream of celery, chicken and mushroom soup
- * Frozen vegetables: broccoli, green beans, peas, spinach and corn
- * Shredded cheese, bread crumbs, Parmesan cheese
- * Foil pans

We also deliver prayer shawls, quilt or hats if you make those. The 11:00 service folks prayer over those before they're delivered.



Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when you'd have preferred to talk.
- Doug Larson



Easter Flowers

Lilies, tulips, hyacinths to make our sanctuary beautiful for Easter are available for \$12.50. Orders must be in by March 21st – they will be ordered at 9am on March 22. Order forms are available in the bulletin - please attach your check. The flowers are coming from Nelsonville Country Peddler.



In Our Prayers

Our sympathy goes to Christy Houchard who's husband died last week in California while at work. Some of you may know her as Christy McKnight (Virgil and Nina's daughter). If you'd like to send a card, her address is...

Christy Houchard
2917 Ferry Road
Bellbrook, Ohio 45305



You are younger today than you ever will be again. Make use of it for the sake of tomorrow.



Fruitful Congregation

The church comes together on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm to pray, read scripture and seek God's will to make First UMC a Fruitful Congregation. We've talked about the difference between a Faithful and Fruitful Congregation and agreed we wanted to be Biblical - Fruitful. We voted to become a Joshua Church which



means becoming Fruitful. Now we have to find the best strategies to make that happen. If you're interested in the future of First, feel free to join us.



Preconceived notions are the locks on the door to wisdom.



Bible Study on Wednesday

On Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm there's a Bible study where the focus is on how to grow spiritually – regardless where you're starting, there's room for growth. We're talking about the steps it takes for you and the Holy Spirit to create the you God created you to be. All are welcome!



If you really do put a small value upon yourself, rest assured that the world will not raise your price.



Queen Esther

The Queen Esther class will meet on Tuesday, April 6 at 5:00 pm. The hostesses are Shirley Fink and Roberta Bunting. Traveling prizes supplied by Ann Hartman and Joan Cox.



Palm Sunday

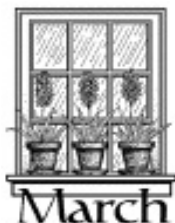
First will celebrate Palm Sunday on March 28. Come get a palm branch and celebrate Jesus. We'll remember Jesus' sacrifice for us that Sunday as well.



Before we can see the cross as something done for us, we have to see it has something done by us. †
—John Stott

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!



Liturgists

March 7th - Marianna Holtel
March 14th - Merv Davis
March 21st - Amy Davis
March 28th - Steve Cox
April 4th - Micah Covert
April 11th - Marianna Holtel
April 18th - Merv Davis
April 25th - Amy Davis
Thanks for your service!

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Nursery Schedule

March 7th - Trisha Dean
March 14th - Sandy Covert
March 21st - Heather Campbell
March 28th - Trisha Dean
April 4th - Sandy Covert
April 11th - Heather Campbell
April 18th - Trisha Dean
April 25th - Sandy Covert
Thank you for serving!



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Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire? Corrie Ten Boom

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Choir



The choir practices on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am. This means no trips in bad weather, fewer trips mean gas savings and we heat the building one less time (the sanctuary is very large and hard to heat) and we have everyone present for practice! Please join the choir on Sunday mornings!

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I do not at all understand the mystery of grace--only that it meets us where we are but does not leave us where it found us. -Anne Lamott

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Good Friday Service



The Community Good Friday service will be held on Friday, April 2nd at 7:00 pm at Nelsonville Church of the Epiphany (the opposite end of Columbus Street from our church). Rev. Bill McCleery will bring the message. We're asked to take some sort of finger food. Please set aside time on your calendar to thank God for the sacrifice of His Son for your sins.

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Maundy Thursday Service

We will hold a Maundy Thursday service at First on Thursday, April 1st at 7:00 pm. We will have a communion service as well remember all the events of Holy Week in an attitude of thankfulness. Consider bringing a friend with you to this service.



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My personal joy is not someone else's responsibility; it is my responsibility Joyce Meyer

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FUMC Shut-ins

Mary Margaret Tomlinson, Charlotte Smathers – Logan Health Care, 300 Arlington Drive, Logan, Ohio 43138
 Dorothy Colwell, 1658 Connett, Nelsonville 45764
 Chuck Mohney, 96 Mill St, Nelsonville 45764
 Clara Mae Pitts, 504 W Washington St, Nelsonville
 Ronnie Townsend, 187 Watkins St, Nelsonville 45764
 Steve Yinger, 3555 Matheney Road, Nelsonville
 Lucille Goss, 856 Southside River Road, McConnelsville 43756
 Geneva Johnson, 1021 Heatherfield Lane, San Jose, CA 95132

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Enthusiasm is as good thing in the church as fire is in a cookstove.
 Billy Sunday

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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 too.



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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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Kids' Sun School
 Sunday School is meeting at 9:00 am. For those who've requested there be something available at 10:00 as well, we've started a new curriculum called Live Big – Live Your Belief in God. Kate Moran is teaching this class for kids through middle school.

Think. Speak. Relate.
Act. Dance. Create.
Write. Draw. Imagine.
Sing. Shout. Laugh.
Stretch. Sail. Soar.
Run. Jump. Fly.

†

Holy Week Schedule:

Palm Sunday Services @ 9 and 11

Maundy Thursday Service with Communion @ 7

Good Friday Service @ 7pm @ Church of the Epiphany Episcopalian Church

Easter Sunday :

Easter Celebration @ 9

Breakfast @ 10

Easter Celebration @ 11



April 1



April 2

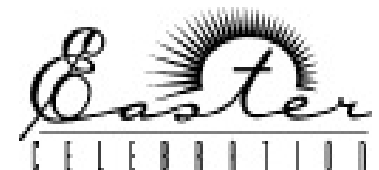
HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE



March 28



April 4

*Why do you look for the living
among the dead?*



First United Methodist Church
205 West Columbus Street
Nelsonville, Ohio 45764-0037
The Common Line
March 2010

Return Service Requested