

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 grace-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

FIRST UMC
205 West Columbus Street, Nelsonville, Ohio 45764
740/753-1939 - church
740/753-1930 - fax
fumcNelsonville@sbcglobal.net
www.fumcNelsonville.org



Christ calls us to be disciples and to make disciples. The definition of a church is a disciple-making center! In order for us to hone that focus, the May-June newsletter is as much about discipleship as it is church news. May God bless you as you continue on your journey of discipleship!



Molded into Godly Character

Put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:24

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Your character is essentially the sum of your habits; it is how you habitually act. The Bible says, "Put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness" (Ephesians 4:24).

God uses his Word, people, and circumstances to mold us. All three are indispensable for character development. God's Word provides the truth we need to grow, God's people provide the support we need to grow, and circumstances provide the environment to practice Christlikeness.

If you study and apply God's Word, connect regularly with other believers, and learn to trust God in difficult circumstances, I guarantee you will become more like Jesus.

Many people assume all that is needed for spiritual growth is Bible study and prayer. But some issues in life will never be changed by Bible study or prayer alone. God uses people. He usually prefers to work through people rather than perform miracles, so that we will depend on each other for fellowship. He wants us to grow together.

In many religions, the people considered to be the most spiritually mature and holy are those who isolate themselves from others in mountaintop monasteries, uninfected by contact with other people. But this is a gross

Four icons of hands in various positions (clasped, holding, reaching, cupping) next to the text: 'Conduct yourselves... so that... they may see your honorable deeds and glorify God. 1 Peter 2:12'

misunderstanding. Spiritual maturity is not a solitary, individual pursuit! You cannot grow to Christlikeness in isolation. You must be around other people and interact with them. You need to be a part of a church and community.

Why? Because true spiritual maturity is all about learning to love like Jesus, and you can't practice being like Jesus without being in relationship with other people. Remember, it's all about love – loving God and loving others.



Parade of the Hills

We do not have anyone to chair our Parade of the Hills food booth. If you are willing to serve in this capacity, please step forward as soon as possible. Unless someone is willing to chair the event, it will not happen this year.



Spiritual Growth Is Not a Private Matter

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT)

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Some of us hesitate to commit ourselves to developing an intentional plan of growth that requires accountability or relationship with others because we believe spiritual growth is a personal and private matter. We choose to believe each person develops in his or her own way at his or her own rate.

This is an aberration from the truth. The idolatry of individualism has influenced even the way we think about spiritual growth. So much of the teaching on spiritual formation is self-centered and self-focused without any reference to our relationship to other Christians. This is completely unbiblical and ignores much of the New



Testament. The truth is that Christians need relationships to grow. We don't grow in isolation from others. We develop in the context of fellowship.

Over and over again in the New Testament we find this basic truth: Believers need relationships with each other to grow! Hebrews 10:24-25 says, "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another ..." (NIV). God intends for us to grow up in a family.



Operation Street Smart

Operation Street Smart is Thursday, June 24th @ Trimble High School, 6-9 pm. This is an excellent program for parents to familiarize themselves with information, trends, terminology, paraphernalia and physiological effects of the drugs found in this area. Do not miss this opportunity to learn how to protect your children!



Becoming Like Jesus Is a Slow Process

This will continue until we are . . . mature, just as Christ is, and we will be completely like him. Ephesians 4:13 (CEV)

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You are a work in progress. Your spiritual transformation in developing the character of Jesus will take the rest of your life, and even then it won't be completed here on earth. It will only be finished when you get to heaven or when Jesus returns. Becoming like Christ is a long, slow process of growth. Spiritual maturity is neither instant nor automatic; it is a gradual, progressive development that will take the rest of your life.

At that point, whatever unfinished work on your character is left will be wrapped up. The Bible says that when we are finally able to see Jesus perfectly, we will become perfectly like him: "We can't even imagine what we will be like when Christ returns. But we do

know that when he comes we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is." (1 John 3:2 NLT)

Much confusion in the Christian life comes from ignoring the simple truth that God is far more interested in building your character than he is anything else. We worry when God seems silent on specific issues such as "What career should I choose?" The truth is, there are many different careers that could be in God's will for your life. What God cares about most is that whatever you do, you do in a Christlike manner. (1 Corinthians 10:31; 1 Corinthians 16:14; Colossians 3:17, 23)

God is far more interested in who you are than in what you do. We are human beings, not human doings. God is much more concerned about your character than your career, because you will take your character into eternity, but not your career.

The Bible warns, "Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. . . . Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you." (Romans 12:2 MSG)

You must make a counterculture decision to focus on becoming more like Jesus. Otherwise, other forces like peers, parents, co-workers, and culture will try to mold you into their image. Sadly, a quick review of many popular Christian books reveals that many believers have abandoned living for God's great purposes and settled for personal fulfillment and emotional stability. That is narcissism, not discipleship.

Jesus did not die on the cross just so we could live comfortable, well-adjusted lives. His purpose is far deeper: he wants to make us like himself before he takes us to heaven. This is our greatest privilege, our immediate responsibility, and our ultimate destiny.



Mother's Day

Mothers' Day was first held in Boston in 1872 at the suggestion of Julia Ward Howe, writer of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." But it was Anna Jarvis, daughter of a Methodist minister in Grafton, West Virginia, who made it a national event.



During the Civil War, Anna's mother organized Mothers' Day Work Clubs to care for wounded soldiers, both Union and Confederate, raised money for medicine, inspected bottled milk, improved sanitation and hired women to care for families where mothers suffered from tuberculosis. In her honor, Anna Jarvis persuaded her church to set aside the 2nd Sunday in May, the anniversary of her mother's death, as a day to appreciate all mothers. Encouraged by the reception, Anna organized it in Philadelphia, then began a letter-writing campaign to ministers, businessmen and politicians to establish a national Mothers' Day. In response, on May 9, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the first National Mothers' Day as a "public expression of...love and reverence for the mothers of our country." In his Mother's Day Proclamation, 1986, President Ronald Reagan said: "A Jewish saying sums it up: 'God could not be everywhere-so He created mothers.'"

We will honor all women at our Women of God Banquet on Sunday, May 2 @ 6.



One verse in every six in the first three Gospels relates either directly or indirectly to money. Sixteen of our Lord's forty-four parables deal with the use or misuse of money. A loving, joyful, liberal giving to the Lords work is an acid test of a spiritual heart, pleasing to God.

- William Allen



Free Health Screenings

On Friday, May 21, 2010 at the Athens Community Center (E. State Street), 9:00AM—12:00 PM there will be screenings including: Glaucoma, Blood Pressure, Glucose, Cholesterol, Hearing, and Get Up & Go Screens.



Total Cholesterol and glucose can be non-fasting. Lipid Panel (cholesterol, triglyceride, HDL, LDL) need to fast 9-12 hours. Information on nutrition, diabetes, and other health issues will be available as well as individual discussions with health specialists. Chair massages also available.



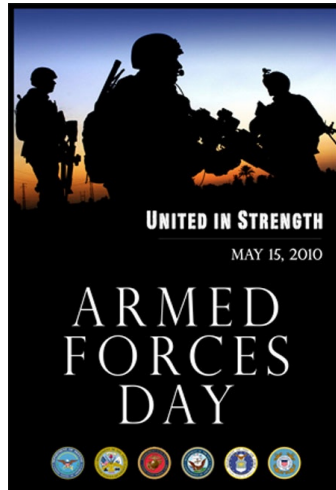
Obedience to the call of Christ nearly always costs everything to two people- the one who is called, and the one who loves that one.

- Oswald Chambers



Armed Forces Day

In the United States, Armed Forces Day is celebrated on the third Saturday in May. The day was created in 1949 to honor Americans serving in the five U.S. military branches – the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard – following the consolidation of the military services in the Department of Defense. It was intended to replace the separate Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard Days. This year Armed Forces Day is May 15. Please thank someone who is or has been in the armed forces!



God's Spirit Is Working in You

God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey him and the power to do what pleases him. Philippians 2:13 (NLT)

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You cannot reproduce the character of Jesus on your own strength. New Year's resolutions, willpower, and best intentions are not enough. Only the Holy Spirit has the power to make the changes God wants to make in our lives. It is the Holy Spirit's job to produce Christlike character in you.

The Bible says, "As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more." (2 Corinthians 3:18 NLT) This process of changing us to be more like Jesus is called sanctification.

Mention the "power of the Holy Spirit," and many people think of miraculous demonstrations and intense emotions. But most of the time the Holy Spirit's power is released in your life in quiet, unassuming ways that you aren't even aware of or feel. He often nudges us with "a gentle whisper." (1 Kings 19:12 NIV)

Christlikeness is not produced by imitation, but by inhabitation. We allow Christ to live through us. "For this is the secret: Christ lives in you." (Colossians 1:27 NLT)

How does this happen in real life? Through the choices we make. We choose to do the right thing in situations and then trust God's Spirit to give us his power, love, faith, and wisdom to do it. Since God's Spirit lives inside of us, these things are always available for the asking.



National Day of Prayer

President Washington declared a National Day of Prayer, as did President John Adams when France threatened war, President Madison during the War of 1812, President Tyler when the previous president died, and President Taylor during a cholera epidemic.

President Buchanan proclaimed a Day of Prayer to avert civil strife, as did President Lincoln during the Civil War, President Johnson when Lincoln was shot. In 1952, President Truman made the National Day of Prayer an annual event, stating: "In times of national crisis when we are striving to strengthen the foundations of peace...we stand in special need of Divine support." President Reagan made it the first Thursday in May, stating: "Americans in every generation have turned to their Maker in prayer...We have acknowledged both our dependence on Almighty God and the help He offers us as individuals and as a Nation... I call upon the citizens of our great Nation to gather together on that day in homes and places of worship to pray."



The depths of our spirituality does not depend upon changing the things we do, but in doing for God what we ordinarily do for ourselves.

- Brother Lawrence



Full Time Child Care Specialist Needed

Nelsonville family of one toddler and two school-aged children seeking an in-home Child Care Specialist to begin August 1st. Hours: Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Qualifications: Female with previous child care/ child rearing experience. High school diploma required. Must

be over 18 years old and hold a valid Ohio Driver License and proof of current vehicle insurance coverage. Resume, completed application, criminal background check and driving record required. References will be checked. One year renewable contract with an initial 90 day probationary period. Pay starting at \$700/ month based on experience with opportunities for growth. To

apply, send your request for an application to nelsonvillechildcare@hotmail.com or call (214) 514-5926



The Lord said, "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 I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

– 2 Chronicles 7:14



Congrats to Our Honor Society Students!

We congratulate our students who will be inducted into the National Honor Society: Maribeth Holtel, Caleb Covert, Casey Cox. Good work - we're proud of you!



If sinners be dammed, at least let them leap to Hell over our bodies. If they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees. Let no one go there unwarned and unprayed for.



- C.H. Spurgeon



Pray for Our Leaders

Have we lost our way in this nation? Do we yearn for a time when God was our first thought instead of our last resort or a name only used when angry and frustrated? Is there way back to the God of our heritage?

Yes. Prayer was, is and always will be the key. As the people of God, we have the ability to bring the power of God into the daily life of our nation. God stands ready to hear our cries and to give relief. It must never be forgotten that our God rules this world. He is not an absentee Father. His hand is always on the controls of human affairs.

Pray for wisdom and divine leadership for those in leadership and the advisors of our leaders. Be bold. Pray.

Leaders

President..... Barack Obama
 Vice President..... Joseph Biden
 Secretary of :
 State..... Hillary Clinton
 Defense..... Robert Gates

Treasury. Timothy Geitner
 Agriculture. Thomas Vilsack
 Commerce. Gary Locke
 Labor. Hilda Solis
 Transportation. Raymond Lahood
 Energy. Steve Chu
 Education. Arne Duncan
 Veterans Affairs. Eric Shinseki
 Health, Human Services. Kathleen Sebelius
 Housing, Urban Development. Shaun Donovan
 Homeland Security. Janet Napolitano
 Attorney General. Eric Holder
 National Security Advisor. James Jones
 Dir National Intelligence. Adam Blair
 Interior. Kenneth Salazar

Armed Forces

US Supreme Court: Chief Justice John Roberts,
 Samuel Alito, Clarence Thomas, Antonin
 Scalia, Steven Breyer, Ruth Ginsburg,
 Anthony Kennedy, John Stevens, Sonia Sotomayor

US Senators: George Voinovich, Sherrod Brown

US Representative: Zach Space

Governor of Ohio: Ted Strickland

Lt Governor of Ohio: Lee Fisher

State Senator: John Carey, Jimmy Stewart, Tim Schaffer (depending
 where you live)

State Representative: Clyde Evans, Dan Dodd, Debbie Phillips
 (depending where you live)

Nelsonville City:

City Manager: Joseph Scherer

President of Council: Kevin Dotson

Council: Fred Holmes, Greg Smith, Eddie VanBibber, Mark Hall,

Cory Taylor, Bill Theisen,

Solicitor: Garry Hunter

Clerk: Susan Harmony



Auditor: Sue Powell

Treasurer: Dorothy Gettle

Firefighters, Police

School Board, Administration, Teachers



Prayer for the Nation

Lord, We are thankful for the abundant blessings You have bestowed on American. Our forefathers looked to You as protector, provider, and promise of hope. We have wandered from that firm foundation in you. May we repent for turning our backs on Your faithfulness.

We pray this great nation will be restored by your forgiveness.

You have given us freedom to worship You in spirit and in truth as your Holy Word instructs. May our lives honor You in word and deed. May our nation acknowledge that all that is good comes from You.

I pray for those who govern that they will humble themselves and seek your guidance so that everything we do will shine the light of your glory in a darkened world. Amen



Women of God Banquet

There will be a banquet to honor all women on Sunday, 2nd @ 6pm. The men will serve the banquet. The entertainment will be Mary Ann Rosser (Wesleyan Church). The menu is a choice of salad, choice of bread, Pork loin with orange sauce, cheesy potatoes, peas or lasagne and assorted desserts. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for kids. Please purchase your tickets before April 28 so we can adequately plan for the event. Bring a friend for fellowship and some Christian music.



Lower your expectations of earth. This isn't heaven, so don't expect it to be.

- Max Lucado



Communion

Our Communion Stewards for May are Mary Ann Simms and Sharon Perry. Communion is on Pentecost (May 23); serving in June are David and DeeDee Loge. In June Communion will be June 13. Thank you!



Some people complain because God put thorns on roses, while others praise Him for putting roses among thorns.



Annual Conference

June 6-10, 2010 folks from all over West Ohio will gather for Annual Conference at Lakeside. Please the decisions made there will be God's will. You can following the annual conference proceedings on-line - much of it broadcast live. Go to the West Ohio website (westohioum.org) for links.



When you see Gods hands in everything, it is easy to leave everything in Gods hands.



Men's Picnic

There will be a Men's Picnic on Sunday, June 13 @ 6pm. The menu is: Hamburgers and hot dogs, potato salad and baked beans, corn on the cob, cupcakes. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for kids. This is a great opportunity to bring a male friend to church to share in fellowship and fun!



If man is man and God is God, to live without prayer is not merely an awful thing: it is an infinitely foolish thing.

- Phillips Brooks



Fruitful Congregation



Our church is working on becoming a Fruitful Congregation. We've discussed the difference between a *faithful* and a *fruitful* congregation and after a study of scripture determined god calls us to not simply be faithful but more than that – fruitful. We're to reproduce Christians. We're to grow disciples. We meet monthly to discover what God is calling Nelsonville: First to do to be a fruitful congregation. We're taking a break in June and July and will next meet on August 3 @ 6 pm. Please prayerfully join in the conversation!



It does not take a perfect church to introduce a man to the perfect Christ.

- Richard Woodsome



Gus Macker

Gus Macker is coming again to Nelsonville. This year's event is July 24-25. Nelsonville: First has been hosting a food booth at this event. If you're willing to help out this year, please let the office know. We need to have 3-4 people at each shift.



The Bible is to us what the star was to the wise men; but if we spend all our time in gazing upon it, observing its motions, and admiring its splendor, without being led to Christ by it, the use of it will be lost on us.

- Thomas Adams

Congratulations to our Graduates!

Derek Arnold, Conner Bunting, Kelly Cox, Joe Frazier, James Holtel, Misty McClain, Mallory Simms, and Dillon Stalling are graduating from high school and Andy Barber is receiving his MBA from Ohio University this year. We are very proud of our graduates and wish to show our appreciation of your hard work toward accomplishing your goals by presenting you with a gift on Sunday, May 23rd. All graduates present will be honored (not just those listed here) so bring a graduate and help us celebrate!



I devoted myself to study and to explore... all that is done under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 1:13



The opposite of joy is not sorrow. It is unbelief.



Summer Office Hours

Our summer office hours will begin June 1st. We are closed for Memorial Day and then will open up at 9am on June 1st. Throughout the summer, office hours will be Tuesday and Wednesday. 9-2.



School Start

We will hold our back to school event on August 10. This is before Parade of the Hills. Please begin stocking up on school clothes and



supplies to donate to those who desperately need them!



Pentecost is May 23rd – wear red!
Trinity Sunday is May 30