

The Common Line

Nelsonville First Responders Come When Needed

In this year of appreciating the sacrifices of first responders and those on the front line continuing to serve when the threat of COVID is behind each door and around every corner, the firefighters of the Nelsonville Division of Fire never hesitated to hold their annual Christmas Basket Program in its 72nd year. It's just their nature to go in where others may not go.

Fire Chief Harry Barber knows well the importance of this project. As a boy he helped his father, also named Harry Barber, as the department organized this community service providing needy families a basket of food for the holidays. Just before Christmas each year, up to two hundred families, receive a turkey or chicken, fixings for a holiday dinner and some extras that may include gloves and blankets. Harry describes the history, "the project began in 1948 and early on, in addition to firefighter involvement, it was affiliated with the Parade of the Hills. Over the years the Nelsonville department joined forces with York Township Fire Department to broaden our reach. We raise money all year with breakfasts, the 'boot drive' and other projects. Residents complete a form to verify local residency and so that we have their addresses because we deliver the food in person the week before Christmas. We shop locally. On-duty and off-duty firefighters plus local police and City employees assemble what are actually boxes today."

In addition to our church donation for the project, Church treasurer Steve Perry delivered a second check to treat our neighborhood firefighters for their wonderful community service. When asked what that treat will be, Chief Barber said, "It will probably be pizza!"



Local firefighters annually help those in need.

FUMC's donation and many more fill the fire station with food for holiday baskets.



FOR THE TRUTH
FOR THE WORLD
FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

First Responders

Pastor Dave's Message

Children's Church

Change for Babies

Roof Project

In Memory and In Honor

Pandemic Story

Kid's Corner

Don't BE
afraid;
JUST
Believe
Mark 5:36

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DAVE

The Ever-Changing Seasons of Life

One of the things I love about living in Ohio is the changing of the seasons. From the summer sun, to the colors of fall, to the winter snow, to the new life of spring ... I love the changing of the seasons. They bring a cadence of certainty and consistency to a world that can seem so random. And while I certainly have my favorites, each season has its own beauty and purpose, in which we can vividly see the hand of God at work.

And I think that's true not only in the four calendar seasons, but also in the many seasons that we experience in our own personal journey of life, as we move from childhood to becoming an adult. There are seasons of joy and sadness, seasons of new life and death, seasons of struggle and blessing, and seasons of want and prosperity. As the writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us ... to everything there is a season ... and a time for every purpose under heaven.

With that in mind, I think there are a couple of important things to be reminded of in this reality. The first is the inevitability of change. Nothing in life stays the same. Now that can be good news or bad news. Good news if we don't like the circumstances that we find ourselves in ... and bad news if we really like our current situation. But life is a journey ... and moves forward whether we like it or not. Nothing in life ever stays the same. Change is inevitable.

A second thing to be reminded of in regard to the changing seasons of life is that regardless of the season that we find ourselves in, God is there and at work on our behalf. Whether it be the cold wind of winter or the warm sun of summer, God is there. Whether it be the birth of a child or the death of a loved one, God is there. In the uncertainty of sickness or the celebration of healing, God is there. His faithfulness can be a welcomed companion in whatever season we may be experiencing.

And one final thought on the ever-changing seasons of life: Amid all the inevitable changes that we experience, there is one unchanging constant running through it all. God is Good! God never changes! His Love never changes! His Word never changes! And His Over-all Plan for our life never changes!

No matter who we are, where we've come from, or what we may have done, God's love for us remains sure and certain. That will never change. Amid an uncertain world, God's word remains constant. His promises to us stand strong and sure. And God's plan for each of our lives ... for us to live life full and blessed ... never changes. He is always at work for our good!

So no matter what season of life you may find yourself in today, know that your journey isn't complete. God has more in store for you. He hasn't given up on you. His plan for your life isn't complete. Don't give up. And don't give in. Keep moving forward along the journey, knowing that God is traveling with you through every season of your life!

On the Journey with You ... Pastor Dave

Children's Church Theme Love Your Neighbor

Children and their families gathered in the church parking lot on January 24 for a walk in the neighborhood. The destination was nearby Crabtree Memorial Field where Ainsley Kuhn, Trisha Dean and Adam Carlson led "children's church."

Ainsley's message of "love your neighbor" asked children to practice that by sending a Valentine to someone who is missed at church. Trisha built on her Children's Moment from the previous week by showing children how to create a kindness craft for someone to tell them they are loved. Adam played guitar and led the group singing "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" and "This Little Light of Mine." Children received take-home bags of crafts and a surprise.

Demonstrating the "love they neighbor" theme, the group picked up litter and placed it in trash cans as they left the park. Hand sanitizer was shared!



Families walk to Children's Church.



Noah, Dee Dee and Reese Loge bundle up at Crabtree Memorial Field.



Somewhere under that mask is Adam Carlson leading songs.

Your spare change
can save a life!



Change for Babies

For years the FUMC congregation has annually collected change in baby bottles for Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) of Athens County. Debbie Cox has continued to champion this cause. Her teaching role at Ohio University School of Nursing is a natural connection. Debbie observed, "I have found it to be a great resource for teen moms and single moms from our Nelsonville community in need of diapers, supplies, education and positive support." She also shared that talks are underway between PRC and FUMC regarding the possibility of additional partnership opportunities.

The local group is part of a national not-for-profit organization providing life-affirming care to individuals and families, offering parenting education, infant and toddler supplies, pregnancy tests, miscarriage support, STI testing and treatment and supportive services. These services are free of charge, non-judgmental and confidential.

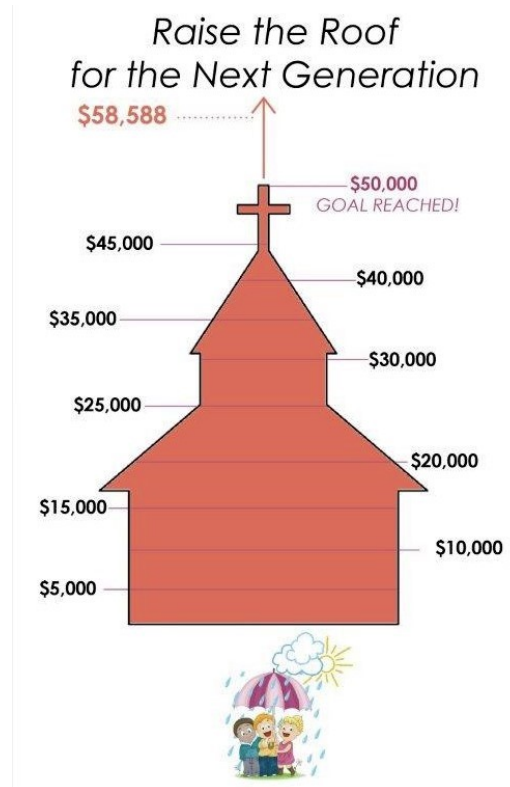
If you picked up a baby bottle at church in January, please return it this month filled with cash or a check. Don't have a baby bottle? Your check mailed to or dropped off at church with Pregnancy Resource Center in the memo line will allow your donation to be combined with others at church. A check for those combined donations will be sent by FUMC to the Center. You may also give directly to the organization, online at <https://bit.ly/prcgive>

Roof Project and Capital Fund

Many people contributed to the FUMC Raise the Roof Campaign beginning with some in our congregation who saw water dripping in our sanctuary and made the earliest contributions before the campaign even began.

In addition to our members and former members, others who led the cause during the 2020 campaign included our youth who organized the chili cook-off, the POTH noodle team who served hundreds of people last fall and our generous visitors who worshiped with us while their churches were closed due to COVID.

Friends in the Nelsonville community also donated as did the UMC Foothills District and the Nelsonville Community Foundation Fund, each offering \$5,000 for the cause. The gifts kept coming allowing us to make organ and drywall repairs needed as a result of the leaking roof.



If you donated and did not designate your gift in honor or memory of someone, you may do so. Or if we missed listing the names you offered on the following page, please let the church office know. A list will also be included in the March newsletter.

Our Sympathy To --

The family and friends of Janalie Steenrod Weller of Nelsonville who passed away January 13, 2021.

Our Lenten Journey

Ash Wednesday service will be February 17 at 7 pm both in person and online. Please note the dates for celebrating Palm Sunday, March 28, and Easter, April 4.

Giving Envelopes

The enclosed envelope is a reminder that expenses and the work of the church go on. Thank you for giving and serving in whatever way you can.

Gifts in Memory and Honor

Roof campaign gifts that were given in memory and in honor of someone are listed below. For those, and all gifts, including some that were anonymous, we thank you.

In Memory

*Roberta Bunting in memory of her husband
Robert J. Bunting*

*Roberta Bunting in memory of her parents
Emerson and Vivian Barstow*

*Jeff Carter in memory of his Father Rev.
William M. Carter*

*Herbert and Claire Carson in memory of Mike
and Barbara Manning*

*Herbert and Claire Carson in memory of
Herman and Mary Carson*

Joan Cox in memory of Scot Smathers

Sally Dishong in memory of Katie McCoy

Shirley Fink in memory of James T. Larimer

*Nancy Kurtz in memory of her sister
Dottie Hoskins*

*Nancy Kurts in memory of Dick and Clinton
Spence Hoskins*

*Jim McCumber in memory of his wife
Janet McCumber*

*Audrey Smathers in memory of her husband
Scot Smathers*

*Billy and Lynn Starkey in memory of their
grand children Angie Douglas and Eric
Douglas*

*Katharine Walsh in memory of Evelyn
Williams*

*Mary K. Walsh in memory of Clifford and
Evelyn Williams*

*Mary K. Walsh in memory of Pearl and
Edward Williams*

*Mary K. Walsh in memory of Nelson and
Attie Skinner*

*Mary K Walsh in memory of Betty and
Calvin Eugene Devol*

Mary K. Walsh in memory of Scot Smathers

*Myrtle Wharton in memory of her husband
Dale Wharton*

*Dave and Dee Dee Loge in memory of
Joseph Pidcock*

*Dave and Dee Dee Loge in memory of
Ed and Adela Loge*

James McCoy in memory of Kathryn McCoy

In Honor

*Karen Pidcock in honor of Dee Dee and
Dave Loge*

Katharine Walsh in honor of Mary K Walsh

*FUMC Leadership Team in honor of the
ordination of Rev. Ann Marie King Carley*

A 1918 Pandemic Story

by Mary K. Williams Walsh

When my father, Clifford Williams, was five years old, he had to care for his mother and father who were in bed, sick with the flu in the 1918 pandemic. They lived in the southeast Ohio coal town of Jobs. He told me the neighbors put food on their porch which he brought in and gave to his parents. I remember Daddy saying he had to "bank" the fire at bedtime in the potbelly coal stove. That stove is in our den today, a room which we call the "shanty room" as a reminder of the origin of the stove.



His parents survived and Daddy didn't get sick. What I wish I had asked him was, how did he feel, what did he think, was he scared? I can imagine Grandpa Ed telling him that he needed to be a good little soldier and take care of things for a while, and reminding him how to "bank" the fire. That was probably all the advice he needed from a father he trusted and loved so much.

I hope these thoughts offer encouragement in these times when we've come so far and need to go a little longer. In the town of Jobs, the Methodist Church was the center of the community, and like us today, their church and faith in the heavenly Father pulled them through.

Jobs, pronounced like the book in the Bible, was located a few miles up Route 78 from Nelsonville, before Murray City. It was named for the owner of the William Jobs Coal Company, later owned by the Sunday Creek Coal Company. It was known at the time as home of the largest drift mine in the world. Four passenger trains a day served the community bringing miners to work. So central to the community was the Methodist Church, that one story told of families gathering there on Christmas to distribute gifts to their children. The church, visible on left in picture above, existed long after the town was gone. In later years Roy Bookman held services there, followed by Paul and Rita Taylor who kept it alive into the 21st century as a promise Rita made to her mother to take care of the Jobs church.

Edward and Pearl Williams and their son Clifford moved from Jobs to Nelsonville in the early 1920s. They became members of Nelsonville's former Methodist church where Ed helped with projects such as moving all the pews at the Jefferson St. church to accommodate new carpet. Cliff worked many hours with Dale Wharton under that church to keep the old furnace running. Cliff's wife Evelyn Skinner Williams was in charge of the nursery. Pearl and her Sunday School and Circle friends served countless dinners and held rummage sales to raise money for the new church. Another loyal FUMC member from Jobs was Tommy Williams. Can you name others?



Why Did God Make Mosquitoes?

Memory Verse:

The heavens are yours and yours also the earth; you founded the world and all that is in it. (Psalm 89:11)

Think about some of the wonderful things God has made. Look at a globe or map. When God made our world, He said that every part of it was good. Because God made our world, He understands it perfectly. He can see the whole earth. We see only a little part of the world at a time. But God sees the biggest elephants and the tiniest bugs, all over the world!

What are some creatures that God can see right now in our world? What can God see in the jungle? What can God see in the ocean? God not only sees all the creatures of the world, he has a plan for each one!

What kind of jobs did God give cows? Why do you think God made dogs? Now for a tricky one... what job do you think God gave the mosquito?

Mosquitoes are pretty pesky to us. But even the mosquitoes have a place in the world God made. *For one thing, they provide food for bats and birds!* From the little tiny mosquito to the tallest giraffe, God has a plan for every creature in the world!

Activity:

Draw a picture of your favorite animal. Tell someone at home about the plan that God made for that animal. For example, families from all over the world eat eggs from chickens and ducks. God gave us animals that can provide nutrition.

Prayer:

God has a plan for every single thing he made- even mosquitos! Put your hands on your map or globe and thank God for our wonderful world.

Creator God, thank you for this world and the people we love. Amen.

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Other Events and Announcements

Please Note: In-person events other than worship are currently on hold.

- Worship Services every Sunday at 10:00 AM and on Facebook Live
- Adult Sunday School 8:30 AM
- Anchored Youth Group every Sunday at 5:00 PM
- Alcoholics Anonymous every Monday and Thursday at 8:00 PM
- Leadership Team Meeting—February 3, 2021 at 6:00 PM
- Holy Communion every first Sunday of the month

The Leadership Team continues to monitor COVID levels. Any changes in programming including in-person worship will be posted on the website, Facebook, FUMC office phone message and will be sent via email to those for whom we have email addresses. We are also seeking additional greeters for Sunday mornings to help meet COVID protocols and give a warm welcome to all. Let the church office know if you are interested in helping or need more information.

Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts

If you have questions about Scouts, contact Dave Loge (740) 707-1630 or Jeremy Boggs (740) 856-2795 or Dee Dee Loge (740) 707-5318.

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