

The Common Line

Seasons Come and Go

We recognize many seasons through which our lives travel. Some are of our own design, while others are planned for us. Sports, wildlife, planting, falling leaves, and daylight savings time are seasonal moves and activities. These seasons establish patterns that give shape to our schedules and plans. They evoke a variety of emotional and spiritual responses in us, some of them positive and others not so much.

1] Frustration and Longing – You can't stop time. It keeps rolling on. Frequently I am in conversation with someone and the issue of how quickly life moves ahead is stated with surprise. It brings a kind of frustration because there are those occasions when we would like to hit the pause button and hold onto some special moments a bit longer. I believe this frustration is built in to life to turn us to God and make us long for a world where time is no longer a limitation. In that world, with the eternal Christ, we will never run out of time, never be frustrated by the shortness of our joy and satisfaction.

2] Hope and Confidence – Therefore, these repeated movements through the seasons should remind us of the hope we have in Christ. Time and history are headed in a specific and meaningful direction. There is a goal to history. Time is not spiraling out of control. It is measured by God and is marching toward the completion of His purpose.

3] Marking Time as Believers – Many of the seasons we experience and celebrate are ways that we are marking time. We recognize that time is a gift from God and time is in His capable hands. So each day, through prayer and the renewal of your faith, celebrate His presence as a way of life. Each week, celebrate the Sabbath to praise Him and remind ourselves that He is Lord of all. And very soon, we celebrate Advent and the beginning of the New Year—another cycle that points us in the direction of Christ's eternal reign, already begun in His incarnation, death, and resurrection.

Sincerely,
Steve



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Psalm 9:1

I will give
thanks to you,
Lord, with all my
heart; I will tell
of all your
wonderful
deeds.



FOR THE TRUTH
FOR THE WORLD
FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

Remembering the Saints

At worship on All Saints Day Sunday, November 3, we remembered and celebrated the saints, who from their labors now rest. They left us in the past year and we remembered and celebrated the gifts they have been to the world.

Kathryn McCoy

Beverlee French

Adela Loge

Edmund Loge

Joseph Pidcock

Butch Skidmore

Chelsie Knopp

Donna Cunningham

Sprucing Up

Our church parking lot is one of the ways we greet visitors and the community. The Leadership Team orchestrated clearing overgrown bushes and weeds and the installation of a new welcome sign. Flowering trees will be added on the Canal St. side.

Welcome

PARKING
FOR
FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

Preparing for Christ Child

Join our church family to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. We'll gather with refreshments after church on November 24.

Volunteers Needed for North Pole Carols on the Square, Dec. 6

The Buckeye Ministerial Association invites you to share your faith on Nelsonville's Public Square, Friday, December 6 at 6 p.m. for the opening of North Pole Nelsonville with carol singing and holiday lights. This is a holiday event for all ages. Church choir members and church members who love to sing are needed to lead the public singing familiar Christmas carols. No practice needed. Other church volunteers are needed to distribute candles, song books and refreshments to the crowd. Volunteers arrive at 5:25 at the fountain. Please let the church office know if you can help or talk to Patsy Clark, Jacci Clark or Mary K. Walsh. The event is sponsored by Buckeye Ministerial Association with organizing assistance from FUMC.



Church and school choirs and the public sing at Carols on the Square organized by the Buckeye Ministerial Association with leadership from FUMC. Everyone received a book of carols and a candle.



Photo by Morristowne Photography

Fran Bissell is a volunteer at Timothy House in Athens. At FUMC Nelsonville, she teaches Sunday School and Bible School, sings with Praise Singers and Choir and visits the home-bound. Fran teaches Spanish K-8 at Logan Christian School and at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School in Wellston. Fran and her husband Andrew Bissell live in Nelsonville. For more information about Timothy House, talk to Fran or contact the shelter, known as the Good Works Timothy House at 740.594.3333 or visit the website www.good-works.net Good Works is a mission of FUMC.

Good Works By Fran Bissell

Good Works is a Christian community organization consisting of staff and volunteers who express their love for God by showing love to our neighbors who are experiencing poverty and/ or homelessness. This is accomplished through a variety of initiatives but the one with which I am currently volunteering is called the Timothy House. Located on the west side of Athens, the Timothy House serves men, women, and families from Athens and eight surrounding counties who find themselves in the situation of having nowhere safe to stay. I first began working at the Timothy House as an intern in the fall of 2012 and found myself surprised by how comfortable I felt spending time there. Right away many of my assumptions about why a person might become homeless were not true. Not everyone who becomes homeless has a mental illness or struggles with an addiction. Many work or are looking for work and many have family members who care for them but are just not financially able to provide them with shelter. For the past seven years I have worked alongside many other staff and volunteers at the Timothy House who, together, have strived to create an environment that is safe, stable, clean and homelike for everyone who lives and spends time there.

Currently, as a weekend volunteer, I spend four hours one Saturday a month supervising the happenings of the house—which, on a Saturday morning, isn't a whole lot. Often, it looks like being available to chat as people wake up over a cup of coffee and an impromptu breakfast. Then, I might help the resident whose chore is cleaning up the

kitchen wash and put away dishes. If there are kids currently living in the house, I might offer to play a board game while their mother folds their laundry. Or, I might find myself privileged to hear some stories from a veteran who is quietly reading the newspaper in the living room. There are a few tasks to be performed which required some training—handing out residents' medication bags, putting away donations, and answering the phone and/ or door (neither of which tend to be very busy on the weekend). But, mostly, volunteering at the Timothy House just means being present with people who are often overlooked or rejected by society. It means taking the time and becoming vulnerable enough to realize that they are not that different from you.

During my last volunteering shift I was saying goodbye to two women who I had connected with over the topics of gardening, extreme sports, and art and I thanked them for their conversation. One of them turned to me and said, "Thank you for your humanity." Not every shift ends like this, but regardless, by spending time with people in the situation of homelessness we can acknowledge their dignity and supreme value as children made in the image of God. In Good Works' perspective, success for residents' of the Timothy House is on a continuum. One night of good sleep after a good meal and loving hospitality can be called a success. But, what might be deemed even more of a victory, would be if an individual came to the Timothy House and not only received shelter but experienced the love of God and left the house connected to a local community of believers where he or she could both receive and give. This is where the church comes in.



Fran Bissell, back row right, with Timothy House staff.

Our Staff—

Pastor: Steve McGuire

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Lay Leader: Steve Cox

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Custodian: Brian Bailey

Education Director: Ainsley Kuhn

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[@fumcnelsonville](https://www.instagram.com/fumcnelsonville)

Other Events and Announcements

Sunday School every Sunday at 9 AM

Worship services every Sunday at 10 AM

Anchored Youth Group every Sunday at 5 PM

AA every Monday and Thursday at 8 PM

Leadership Team Meeting November 20th at 6 PM

Holy Communion every first Sunday of the month

- The Office will be closed November 28th for Thanksgiving
- Please visit our website to view our calendar. Check out upcoming events, office closures, and more.

Cub Scouts Schedule

Wolf: Sundays at 4PM; Dee Dee Loge (740) 707-5318

Bear: Mondays at 6PM; Ryan Harris (937) 902-9609

Webelos 1: Every other Tuesday at 6PM; Zach Odenthal (740) 707-7035

Webelos 2: Sundays at 6PM; Zach Odenthal (740) 707-7035

*If you have any questions about Cub Scouts, you can always contact Dee Dee or Dave Loge (740) 707-1630

**Thanksgiving,
after all, is a
word of action.**

**—W.J.
Cameron**

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