

# The Window

*The Ontario United Methodist Church  
We Care as Christ Cares*

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**December 2017**

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## **From Pastor Peg...**

Dear Friends,

*"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." Charles Dickens*

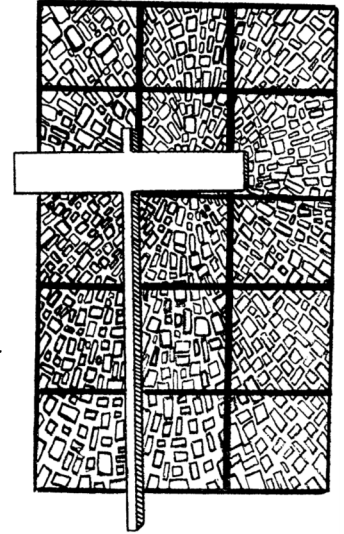
That's how this year seems, as we approach Christmas. It's the best of times as I walk through the corridors listening to the sounds of Christmas—music from the choir and instrumentalists practicing for programs of the Christmas season. It's the worst of times as we receive request after request for assistance from needy families.

Thanks to your generosity, many families have received the groceries needed to cook Thanksgiving dinner. Thanks to your giving, hungry people receive a hand up (not a hand out) when they face crises. Thanks to you, the comfortless will be comforted, the hungry fed, and the homeless housed, if only for a night. I feel it's the best of times because I have something to give, and the worst of times because I haven't enough to cover all the needs. Jesus said, "The poor are always with you." I believe he meant that we should do what we can, and trust God to care of the rest. And so we do. Together we do so much more than any one of us can do separately. A great sense of accomplishment and pride wells up in me as I see what God is inspiring us to accomplish in this wondrous season through the work of organizations like the Salvation Army, Harmony House, and St. Andrews. With God's help, we can turn the worst of times into the best of times, as we experience the power of the Holy Spirit transforming lives. This year, the warm things from the Mitten Tree will go to Stingel Elementary as part of our adoption of the schools.

There are several opportunities coming soon to experience the joy of the Christmas season. On December 3rd, Bishop Tracy Malone will share with us a challenge for our next hundred years. On December 10th, the choir will go caroling to shut-ins and nursing homes and invite

anyone who would like to go with them. Then, on Christmas Eve, we will have two opportunities for worship. At 10:15, we will have a communion and carols service in Giffin Hall. At 8 pm, the choir will lead us through the Christmas story, again, for the first time, and we'll have that holy moment when we sing Silent Night with candles lifted high.

Do you know anyone who is experiencing the worst of times? If so, give them your comfort, but also the joy of your Jesus. Invite them to worship with you. Invite them to meet your Jesus and develop a relationship with God. It's never too late to transform the worst of times in to the best. God bless us, every one.



## **YOUTH NEWS**

In December the youth are going to go caroling, help serve in worship, and have a Christmas party. Stay tuned to your email and the youth bulletin board for more information.

## **LIBRARY NEWS**

Thanks to a generous donation of books from Dawn and Rick Turpin, we have some new books in our library. There are also some new books that have been added to the free book rack. If you get bored and don't like to go out in the cold and snow, the library has a fairly large selection of jigsaw puzzles. Please be sure to leave the sign out cards when you borrow books from the library. I am finding books without cards that were returned to the rack. Books can be borrowed for one month. Thanks for your help in keeping the library going smoothly and have a very Merry Christmas season this year!