

The Window

The Ontario United Methodist Church
We Care as Christ Cares

JANUARY 2020

From Pastor Chris...

"But forget all that - it is nothing compared to what I am going to do, for I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. Isaiah 43:18-19, NLT.

Have you ever found yourself wishing the present year would end? Perhaps, it was a year that you experienced many health issues or your family experienced a loss through divorce or death. Often times financial crisis' strike throughout the year and we cannot wait for the calendar to read January 1st. I know I've been there.

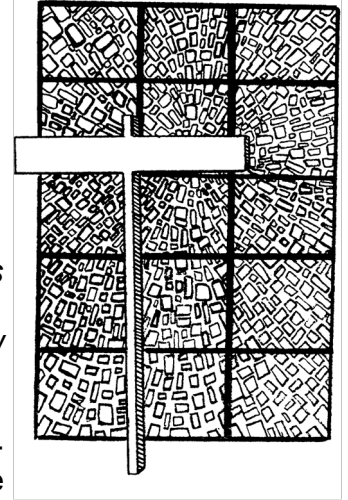
A good question all of us need to ask and answer is, "how do any of our circumstances change when we wake up and it's January 1st? They really don't, except, we are filled with "hope" because it is a new year. We can really never forget the past, but by looking to Christ (rather than the calendar) for the new year we begin to see changes taking place in our lives. Hebrews 11:1, NLT reveals that *Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.*

I can remember one New Year's Eve; I was watching a Christian movie and one line in that movie spoke to my heart. Here is what was said, "That God fulfills [God's] promises one day at a time." I have often thought about that as each year passes. Often in the morning I sit quietly before God and ask, "What are you going to change or heal in my life today?" Healing and change in my own life has come one day at a time. *Ecclesiastes 3:11 says he has made everything beautiful in its time.*

This year instead of making a resolution that most of us break by the end of the first week, commit your life and upcoming year to Jesus Christ. Allow Christ to recreate and change you for his good purpose. Hold fast to this last Scripture from 2 Corinthians 5:17, *"Therefore, if*

anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!" I like the way the New Living Translation interprets it, *This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone' a new life has begun!*

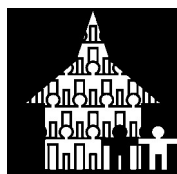
Please try to join us January 5th for our first service together as we commit our year and life to Jesus Christ, and as I speak on *The Epiphany - The Realization of Who Christ Is!* We will also celebrate communion together for the first time in 2020.



YOUTH NEWS

Hello a;;!! The OUMC MYF has a regular meeting scheduled for January 5, 2020 from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm in Giffin Hall. We also have two special events coming up. The first is the Mid-Ohio District YMCA Night, which will be held on January 19, from 6:00 - 8:00 pm at the Mansfield YMCA; the price will be \$5.00 per person. The second event is Winter Jam, a Christian music event held specifically for youth groups, which will be held on February 22 at the Schottenstein Center in Columbus; the price will be \$15.00 per person at the door, no tickets required. If you or your youth are interested in either event, please contact me at rickysammartino@gmail.com, or talk to Pastor Chris. Emergency medical forms will need to be filled out for each child prior to either event, so please contact Ricky in advance. Happy New Year!!

Our OUMC Family



Our condolences to ~~~

The family and friends of David Lawrence.

Celebration Days~~~

Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 4 Gary Woodard | 20 Fred Zahn |
| 6 Betty Miller | 21 Ron Ridenour |
| 6 George Diez | 25 Alison Bolen |
| 7 Jack Elliott | 28 Connie Stuckert |
| 7 Keith Kisling | 29 Shirley DeWitt |
| 9 Meda Giffin | 29 Bridgette Diez |
| 10 Millie Keith | 29 Krista Grove |
| 11 Sue Kisling | 30 Emily Toth |
| 16 Matt Dille | 30 Steven Toth |
| | 31 Carol Roberts |

Anniversaries

- 11 Joe & Connie Stuckert

Congratulations on your special day!!

Leave your birthday and anniversary dates at the Welcome Center to be included in Celebration Day lists.

BIBLE QUIZ

According to Matthew, who was present at Jesus' baptism? (Choose as many as apply.)

- A. John the Baptist
- B. The Spirit of God
- C. Jesus' mother, Mary
- D. His first disciples

Answer: A and B (See Matthew 3:13-17.)

AT HOME WITH GOD

Of all persons, The Christian should be best prepared for whatever the New year brings. ...In Christ he has disposed of a thousand enemies that other men must face alone and unprepared. He can face his tomorrow cheerful and unafraid because yesterday he turned his feet into the ways of peace and today he lives in God. The man who has made God his dwelling place will always have a safe habitation.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

THANK YOU ~~~

Dear OUMC Church family,
Thank you for the generous Christmas gift this year. I appreciate you all for remembering me during this holiday season. May God bless each and every one of you during 2020.
Thank you, Debby Grove

Thanks to OUMC church family for the prayers, calls, and visits while I was ill. Thanks to Pastor Chris for the visits and to the people who brought food.
Pam Boals

I just wanted to express my thankfulness for the many cards and gifts I received not only during Christmas, but since my arrival July 1st of this year. Words cannot express my gratitude for each and everyone of you. My heart overflows with thanksgiving. Please be praying for our church and what God would have us to do together in the future.
God bless you,
Pastor Chris Bell

My heartfelt thanks to Pastors Chris and Karen for their calls and to my Ontario Church family for their prayers, cards and visits. May you have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Prudy Love

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, visits, cards and food (especially the chocolate bars, you know who you are) that was brought to my house during my recent illness. Everything was really appreciated. Thanks again.
Ruth Hatfield

JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER TO PICK UP YOUR OFFERING ENVELOPES ON THE WELCOME TABLE IN THE CENTRUM.

USHER'S NEEDED:

We are inviting you to become part of our team of ushers. Men and women are welcome. Please join this wonderful ministry at our church and become part of our usher team that serves Christ at OUMC. Please see Ken Starbuck.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Please sign up at the welcome center desk if you are interested in joining our next new member class. This class is a great way to learn more about God and one another. Date and time to be determined according to your schedule.
Pastor Chris

MISSION NEWS

SOUP SUPPER

Again this year, the Missions Committee will be having a Soup Supper and invite the community. It will be Saturday, January 18th from 5 - 7 PM. The menu will include a variety of soups, hot dogs, vegetables, cookies and a beverage for a donation of \$5.00. The money will be used for programs at church. Please watch for sign up sheets; so we have help with soups, cookies or working.

SOCIETY OF ST ANDREWS BANKS

The banks need to be turned in by Sunday, January 5th. The money will be sent to the Conference. The Missions Committee would like to thank all who supported this special project. Our church has helped to supply hundreds of servings of fruits and vegetables to people in need.

THANK YOU

It is always such a blessing to see how well this church supports the extra giving opportunities during the Advent Season. The "change" you donated to the Heifer project help families get animals that provide them with food. Money to Harmony House supports the homeless in our community. Design Outreach give water pumps to people in the world who don't have available sources of water. Providing a safe home, training and support for special needs people is the goal of Flat Rock Homes. Kentucky coal country is home to Henderson Settlement which trains people to help themselves improve their lives. Fly Horse Farm offers a camping experience for children with special needs, Your donations have made a difference to all of these organizations and you are appreciated.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will be meeting January 23rd at 7:00 pm to discuss the book "Shepherd's Abiding by Ian Karon. Hope you can come.

JANUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 HAPPY NEW YEAR CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	2 9:00 Quilting Group	3	4
5 9:15 Adult SS 10:15 Worship 6:00 Youth Group	6 11:00 Small Staff Mrg 7 pm Missions Mtg	7	8 Noon Silvers Meal 7 pm Choir	9 9:00 Quilting Group 5:30 Grandparents	10	11
12 9:15 Adult SS 10:15 Worship	13 11 All Staff Mtg 7 Trustees	14 Noon Retired Pastors Lunch 6 Bible Study	15 6 Cub Scouts 7 Choir	16 9 Quilting Group	17 5 Swim Team Meal	18 9-12 Pack Mtg Raingutter Regatta 5 - 7 Missions Soup Supper
19 9:15 Adult SS 10:15 Worship Fellowship Meal after Worship Youth YMCA Lock in	20 Noon Private Event Giffin Hall 6 Finance Mtg 7 Adm Council	21 6 Bible Study	22 7 Choir	23 9 Quilting Group 5:30 Book Club	24 5 Swim Team Meal	25 Recycle Trailer In parking lot
26 9:15 Adult SS 10:15 Worship	27	28 6 Bible Study	29 7 Choir	30 9 Quilting Group	31 5 Swim Team Meal	

The Window
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BIBLE STUDY

It's still not too late to sign up for our Bible study beginning Tuesday, January 14th at 6:00 pm. We will be learning together about the Old Testament. You will behold for yourself God's grace, love and action at work through this treasured portion of our Bible. Please call the church office and let us know if you need a ride or help ordering the study guide. See you there.
Pastor Chris

BEGIN ANEW

Every morning lean thine arms awhile
Upon the windowsill of heaven
And gaze upon thy Lord.
Then, with the vision in thy heart,
Turn strong to meet thy day.
— Thomas Blake

HOW TO FIND PEACE

Blessed are the single-hearted, for they shall enjoy much peace. If you refuse to be hurried and pressed, if you stay your soul on God, nothing can keep you from that clearness of spirit which is life and peace. In that stillness you will know what his will is.
—Amy Carmichael

CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS CROSS ON THE ROCK

The rock is often used as a symbol of the Lord, our strength and firm foundation. A cross rising from the rock echoes many Bible verses that proclaim Christ as the rock of salvation; for example, "He alone is my rock and my salvation..." (Psalm 62:2, ESV).

SERMON SERIES

Coming in January, Pastor Chris and Pastor Karen will begin a series beginning January 19th. January 19th - Join us for the "Rule of Christ." How to deal with conflict not only in church but also in your daily lives. What does Jesus have to say about conflict?
January 26th - Forgiveness; accepting Christ's forgiveness and forgiving ourselves.
February 2nd - Forgiveness; forgiving others. Communion will be served that day.
Please come and join us,

NEW YEAR

With a new beginning and fresh start,
Full of inspiration and positive thoughts,
Let's begin this year with an optimistic thought.