

The Window

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

MARCH 2020

From Pastor Chris...

*"By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to **share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption cause by human desires.**" 1 Peter 1:3-4, NLT*

A couple months ago I was given a magazine from Asbury Seminary. On the front of the magazine was this caption, "The Means of Grace." The seminary has devoted the entire year to the theme "Means of Grace". According to the article "Means of Grace" can simply be defined as the ways "that enable us to incorporate the life of Christ within us on a daily basis." There really isn't a concrete list of ways to incorporate Christ into your lives on a daily basis, but some of the more common ways are: prayer, Bible study, fasting, and doing good works for Christ. All means of grace have one common purpose to "produce spiritual fruit" in our lives or to change us into the image of Jesus Christ.

The article also said, *"When we pray, read the Bible, or receive Holy Communion, or meet with friends for spiritual conversation, Wesley believes we are making ourselves available for God to pour out [God's] grace in our lives."*

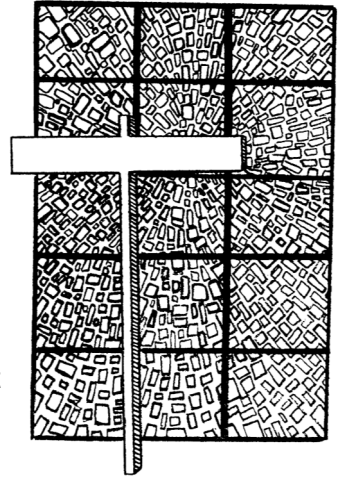
I find it exciting and humbling that the God of the universe cares so much about us, that through Christ Jesus we do not have to remain the way we are. 2 Corinthians 3:18 reveals...*and the Lord - who is the Spirit - makes us more and more like [Christ] as we are changed into his glorious image.* Many years ago I heard a story about a famous painter who befriended a small boy who lived next door to him. On many occasions the young boy would go and visit the painter. One day when the little boy went next door to see his friend, the painter's wife said he was ill and could not see him. Many days passed, and the painter never recov-

ered from his illness but passed away.

The little boy missed the painter, so he asked the painter's wife if he could have a few of the painter's paint brushes. He went back to his home and started to paint, but soon realized he could not paint like the painter. The reason being, of course, that the talent or gift didn't come from the brushes, but from the spirit of the painter.

So it is true of the means of grace working in our lives. From the article, John Wesley warns, that these means through which God speaks into our lives, if employed improperly, actually endanger our faith. We may begin to see "these channels as ends not as means, we're focusing on the means and not the grace." Just like the little boy was focusing on the "brush" and not the "painter." Our focus must be on the grace given to us from our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Blessings,



YOUTH NEWS

Youth group will meet from 6:00 to 8:00 pm on Sunday, March 1, and Sunday, March 29th. There will be a district Dodgeball Tournament. Ask Ricky Sammartino for details.

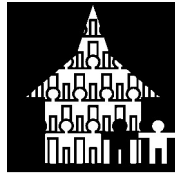
GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

St. Paul United Methodist Church will once again be starting a weekly Grief Support Group on March 16, 2020 which will end on June 8th. For more information and registration please call Mary at 419-845-3195 or Peg at 330-550-4743. Information is on the bulletin board.

"May you have warm words on a cold evening, a full moon on a dark night, and the road downhill all the way to your door."

—Irish blessing

Our OUMC Family



Our condolences to ~~~

The family and friends of Mike Schaub. Mike and his wife were involved with the PB&J ministry.

The family and friends of Tara Sauer, Jenny Motley's niece.

The family and friends of Donna Kalb, Debby Grove's step-mother.

Congratulations to ~~~

John Grove on his retirement from Farm Credit Services after 41 years of service.

Celebration Days~~~

Birthdays

3 Amy Bryan	20 Peg Welch
5 Willie Keisser	20 Wyatt Dille
5 Todd Dille	22 Dawn Turpin
8 Pam Boals	22 Bonnie Fisher
8 Jake Townley	23 Meghan Dille
8 Tony Smith	24 Harry Frietchen
18 Greg Wills	30 Chuck Sherer
	31 Robey Bolen

Anniversaries

4 Larry & Janet Bixler

Congratulations on your special day!!

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

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL

IHS

This sacred monogram originally appeared as "IHC," the first three letters of "IHCOYC," the Greek word for Jesus. Over time the Greek "C" was replaced by the Latin "S" to become "HIS." There are many interpretations given to the letters "HIS," including the Latin "Iesus Hominum Salvator" (Jesus, Savior of Men) and the English "I (Christ) Have Suffered."

THANK YOU ~~~

A big THANK YOU to everyone that donated or purchased goodies from our Valentine bake sale. We Collected approximately \$340 that will go towards our Peanut Butter and Jelly ministries.

To all my friends and family at OUMC, I got great news the other day from my oncologist. The mass is almost completely resolved from my lungs and liver. I have my last round of chemo next week, and then immunotherapy indefinitely. It is amazing. I couldn't have done it without help from my family and all your prayers, well wishes and cards. I am also grateful you've been there for Mom and Dad. I know how hard it must have been for them.

Amy Cunningham

ONTARIO TEEN GETS OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARD.

McKenna Stoffer plans one day to perform on Broadway or be part of national theater tours. This month, the Ontario High school junior, who currently attends Pioneer Performing Arts, competed with a theater competition team from Huron called Caryl Crane Youth Theatre at the Junior Theatre Festival in Atlanta, Georgia. She said she auditioned to be part of the group.

Out of 6,500 participants under the age of 18 competing at this festival during the MLK weekend, McKenna was one of about 15 young people awarded Outstanding Performance by an Individual. She was also selected as All-Star Performer. After high school McKenna plans to major in musical theater at college and spends her free time outside of music and theater reading romantic teen fiction books and doing dot-to-dot books. McKenna is the great-grand daughter of Bob & Louise Stoffer.

PRAYER AND FASTING

As a church let's spend extra time in prayer and fasting on Saturday morning if possible, to see God at work in our lives. During this time, let one of your prayer concerns be for our denomination.

"Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them Daniel 10:12, NIV.

"Wherever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your own sunshine."

—Anthony J. D'Angelo

MISSION NEWS

PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY

Please begin your search of your grocery store ads for items on the shopping list for PB&J. The last two weeks Kroger had a deal for peanut butter, tuna and Hamburger Helper. We know that you can't spend your grocery money totally on PB&J, but one or two items does make a difference. The shelves are bare now.

TOILET PAPER DRIVE

During the month of March, we will be collecting toilet paper for Harmony House. This is an item that is always in short supply at the homeless shelter which can house over 50 men, women and children at a time. Our collection are will be on the West Hall. Let's see what a mountain we can build!

CHILI COOK-OFF

First place went to Libby Clark, 2nd place to Jeff Davis, 3rd place to Bill Franta and People's Choice to Jenny Motley. Thanks to all. We collected 571.00 for the Women's Dormitory.

SWEETS SALE

The amount of items we got for the Sweets Sale was tremendous. It looks like the Missions Committee should start and exercise class! Through your donations and generous giving, we collected \$344.00 which will go to PB&J.

BOOK CLUB

Book Club will meet on March 26th at 7 PM.

March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1</i> 9:15 Adult SS 10:15 Worship 6:00 Youth Group	<i>2</i> 7:00 Missions	<i>3</i> 6:00 Bible Study	<i>4</i> Noon Silver's Meal 6:00 Cub Scouts 7:00 Choir	<i>5</i> 9:00 Quilt Group	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>8</i> 9:15 Adult SS 10:15 Worship	<i>9</i> 11:00 All Staff Mtg 7:00 Trustees	<i>10</i> Noon Retired Pastor's Lunch 6:00 Bible Study	<i>11</i> 7:00 Choir	<i>12</i> 9:00 Quilt Group 5:30 Grandparents	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>15</i> 9:15 Adult SS 10:15 Worship Fellowship Meal Youth Dodgeball Tourn	<i>16</i> 11:30 Friends of Harmony House 6:00 Finance 7:00 Ad Council	<i>17</i> 6:15 Bible Study	<i>18</i> 6:00 Cub Scouts 7:00 Choir	<i>19</i> 9:00 Quilt Group	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> 10:00 Cub Scout Pinewood Derby
<i>22</i> 9:15 Adult SS 10:15 Worship	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> No Bible Study	<i>25</i> 7 pm Choir	<i>26</i> 9:00 Quilt Group 7:00 Book Club	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> Recycle Trailer Here
<i>29</i> 9:15 Adult SS 10:15 Worship 6:00 Youth Group	<i>30</i> DCom Meeting 9-11:30 am	<i>31</i> 6:15 Bible Study				

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A LENTEN HISTORY LESSON

Though the date of Easter varies, the majority of the Lenten season occurs during March. In fact, the word Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon words *lenctentid* (meaning “March”) and *lencten* (meaning “spring”).

The first reference to Lent dates back to 325 AD, in one of the 20 canons decreed at the council of Nicaea. By the eighth century, Christians started observing Lent, and a 10th-century monk named Aelfric connected the use of ashes and the “the Lenten fast” to the pre-Easter period.

Lent lasts 40 days to represent Jesus’ time in the wilderness, when he was tempted by the devil. The six Sundays that occur between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday aren’t counted as part of Lent; instead, as the traditional day of worship, they’re considered ‘mini-Easters.’

PADDLING THROUGH LENT

Lent is a time for restoring balance to our lives. The Eskimos practice balance as they venture into freezing Arctic waters in little boats. If you’ve ever paddled a kayak, you know how easy they are to tip. Thankfully, kayaks are just as easy to turn back upright.

That isn’t a bad image for Lent - or for life as a whole. Whatever spiritual disciplines we adopt, if we succumb to temptation, it’s no biggie. One of the lessons of Lent is that, as long as we’re traveling light, it takes only a quick twist of the paddle to right us. That paddle twist might take the form of a quick but heartfelt prayer: “Jesus, set me straight again!” Or it might mean some extra time set aside for quiet meditation with God. Don’t get worried if your spiritual discipline fails now and then. Just let Jesus help you get upright once more, and keep paddling.

—Carlos Wilton

When the spring sun starts shining
Flowers are in bloom again
Gentle rain waters the land
The nature wakes up from winter sleep
Birds start to tweet and sing
Finally it’s spring!

By Sylwia

HAPPY SPRING!!