

The Window

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

DECEMBER 2020

From Pastor Chris...

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. While there were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. Luke 2:4; 6-7

Shortly after Thanksgiving, many of us start decorating our homes for Christmas, myself included; but I have already decided that I am going to cut back on decorations. I will not be entertaining like I usually do, so I will not put up as many decorations. I may decorate with a few nativity scenes and wreaths.

I know many of you are perhaps sad because you should not have your large family gathering that has brought such joy and fulfilment in previous years, or perhaps, you are one of those people who travel at Christmas time, and there will be no trip this year. Maybe you have even said to yourself it is not going to be much of a Christmas this year.

I remember the first few Christmases after my mom died and how difficult it was to get through the season. Change does that to us. But maybe this would be a good time to get back to the simplicity of Christmas with the simple scene of Mary, Joseph and Jesus. Isn't that who was present for the birth of Christ? What was it that Mary and Joseph shared that day? Why did God chose us to be the parents of the God of the universe? At some point, it had to cross their minds. Who are we: a simple carpenter and his young wife from Nazareth (a city that was not held in high esteem). There was nothing glamorous about the birth of Jesus Christ. He did not have a kingly garment to wear, but simple clothes, nor was he placed in a crib fit for a King, but rather a feeding trough.

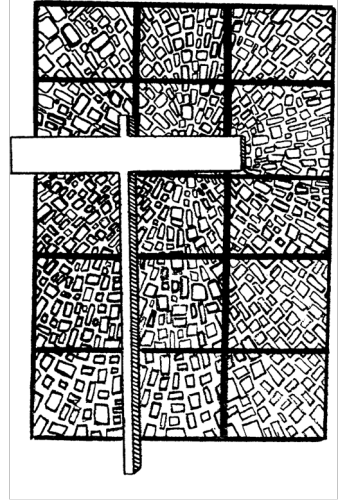
I don't think there is anything simpler than that first Christmas day, but the impact that day has had on humanity will continue until the end of the age.

The Christmas story amazes me because the living God chose to be born and to live among us and then to die for our sins. Have you ever asked God, why do you care so much? I have. I

know all the right answers because of God's great love for the world (John 3:16); but, my mind has trouble comprehending a love so deep, wide, vast, and long (Ephesians 3:18). But still, I cannot understand the depth of God's love for us. A love that never stops giving!

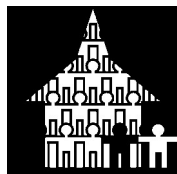
I will miss my usual Christmas, but really nothing has changed. We are celebrating the simplicity of that day 2,000 years ago when our Savior and Lord was born to set us free. With that in mind, the celebration of Christmas can never be shut-down, quarantined or masked! God's love just keep giving!

God's blessings to you,



This year we are offering two services for Christmas Eve due to the gathering restrictions caused by Covid 19. The services will be at 4:00 pm and 6:30 pm in which this service will be livestreamed. We are asking our church family to make reservations so we can keep track of the number we will have in each worship service. There will be some seats available to accommodate people from our community. Please call the church office, email the office or sign up at the Welcome Center. Thank you.

Our OUMC Family



Our condolences to~~~

The family and friends of Donna Hounshell.

The family and friends of Dean Crawford, Laurie Kehres' father.

Our congratulations to~~~

Celebration Days~~~

Birthdays

2 Connie Turnbaugh	13 Herald Carlson
7 Jean Wagenman	15 Vic Cochran
7 Jackie Motley	15 Bruce Smith
8 Dottie Blaney	21 Natalie Stevens
9 Gloria Loughman	22 Carl Crider
11 Zanna Bolen	23 Brandon Grove
11 Gere Wagner	25 Kyle Wills
13 Connie Smith	28 John Cochran
13 Max Roth	

Anniversaries

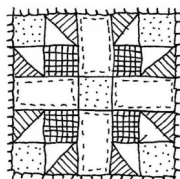
9 Ken & Karin Starbuck
22 Ron & Alice Seifley
23 Dick & Leatha Franta

Congratulations on your special day!!

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

CAN YOU LEND A HAND?

The OUMC sewing group had been making quilt tops for the Flying Horse Camp for the last three years, but like many other things, this year is different. We will not be meeting on Thursday mornings, instead we have quilt top kits. These are very simple 57 x 67 quilt tops. If you can help by sewing one or more of these quilt tops, please contact Jackie Motley at 419-529-6184 or Pat Storms at 419-545-4432. Thank you.



THANK YOU ~~~~

Members of Ontario United Methodist Church, The Springfield Township Fire and EMS Department would like to express their gratitude and sincere appreciation for the wonderful "Gift Cards" that you provided for the Warrior Pizza and Drive In. After a long day of "Saving Lives" it will be a real treat to all of us to be able to sit down around the fire department table and enjoy a nice meal together.

It is so nice to have the community acknowledge the dedication and loyalty that we have for each and every one of you. Again, thank you so much for making this possible.

Chief Matthew Care & The Springfield Fire & EMS Dept.

Dear Friends,

We want to thank you for the gifts that we have received for the Teach-Reach-Bless Campaign from your church. We very much appreciate this support. The need for additional on campus housing for female students is critical. This campaign will enable us to provide housing for 90 female students. We appreciate the fact that you have joined in our effort to improve the education and wellness of women today for a better Africa tomorrow.

Bill McFadden and Maggie Jackson

POINSETTIAS

If you would like to order a memorial poinsettia in honor of a loved one to decorate our altar area prior to Christmas, order forms will be available on the ushers table in the back of the sanctuary. Payment is due at the time of order. Please turn all orders no later than Wednesday, December 3rd to the church office. Thank you,

The Springfield Township Fire Department will be having a New Toy Drive from now until December 10, 2020. Distribution of the toys will be handed out to the children's adult on December 15th, at the Ontario City Building located at Marshall Park. They are asking for referrals of children and families in need along with any new toy donation the congregation would be able to help with. Toy drop-offs will be at either one of our fire stations at 3700 Park Ave West, or 400 S. Lex-Springmill Rd. If you have any questions please call Josh Bradley at 419-529-4416 Thank you for your help.

MISSION NEWS

SALVATION ARMY

Thanks to everyone who brought in food to be given to the Salvation Army for Thanksgiving baskets. We had lots of food loaded in Mary Ann Stotts van that was delivered on Monday, November 16th. The Salvation Army was very appreciative of our donations. We will continue to collect food for Salvation Army until March when we will start collecting for Peanut Butter and Jelly.

Thank you God for sending Your Son on one glorious night to be born a virgin, to live a perfect life and to die on the cross for my sins. Thank you that he rose from the dead three days later and that this Christmas and every Christmas we can celebrate the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Amen.

PECANS

Again this year Mary Ann Stotts will be ordering pecans to sell for \$10.00 per pound. If you are interested, please talk to Mary Ann.

ADVENT BOOKLETS ONLINE

Because the Society of St. Andrew has run out of Advent booklets this year, you may sign up to get them online by going to EndHunger.org/advent. It is easy to do. You will get them daily.

GIVING TREE

Again this year we will give everyone a chance to make a special Christmas offering to several organization by having envelopes available on the Giving Christmas tree. The organizations will be Harmony House, Design Outreach, Flying Horse Farm, Love, Inc. Flat Rock Homes, and Henderson Settlement. This will begin on the first Sunday in Advent.

Due to Covid 19, the passing of Christmas cards in Giffin Hall will not take place.

December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 ₆ Bible Study	2	3	4	5
6 _{10:15} Worship	7 _{12:30} All Staff Meeting	8 ₆ Bible Study	9	10	11	12
13 _{10:15} Worship	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 _{10:15} Worship	21	22	23	24 _{Worship 4:00 Worship 6:30}	25 _{MERRY CHRISTMAS Church office closed}	26 _{No Recycling}
27 _{10:15} Worship	28	29	30	31		

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December

SEASONS OF HOPE

The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity - hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory - because at the Father's will Jesus Christ became poor, and was born in a stable so that 30 years later he might hang on a cross.
—J. I. Packer

BIBLE QUIZ

Which of the four Gospels name(s) Bethlehem as the place of Jesus' birth?

- A. Only Luke
- B. Matthew and Luke
- C. Mark and John
- D. All four

Answer: B (See Matthew 2:1, Luke 2:1-7.)

“Father, today we celebrate the reality of your presence in our lives. We celebrate Your birth, Your life, Your death, and Your resurrection. And as we celebrate, Lord, help us to be “God with skin on” to those in need around us. Open our eyes and let us see them as you see them! We love you. Happy Birthday Jesus! In Jesus name. Amen.”

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

Christmas Acrostic

By: Johnnie DesRochers

- C** is for the Child born that night to be our light.
- H** is for holy is His name.
- R** is for rejoice with gladness & joy.
- I** is for Immanuel, God with us.
- S** is for the star that led the Wise men to Him.
- T** is for the truth & grace that was sent our way.
- M** is for Mother Mary laying Him in swaddling clothes in the manger.
- A** is for angels singing songs of joy.
- S** is for salvation.