

# The Window

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

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JANUARY 2021

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## **From Pastor Chris...**

*Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. Psalm 119:105, NIV*

I am writing this article for our January newsletter half-way through December, and what I keep hearing about the year 2020 is "I will be glad when it is over." If you are reading this article, the year 2020 has perhaps ended, or it only has a few more days.

Have you started thinking about your journey into 2021 what the new year has to offer? Perhaps, you are seeking a lifestyle change that could involve retirement, travel, graduation, or a new career? Many people cannot wait for society to open up again, so they can socialize and entertain. Of course, the question on everyone's mind is, "when will Covid-19 end or be greatly curtailed?"

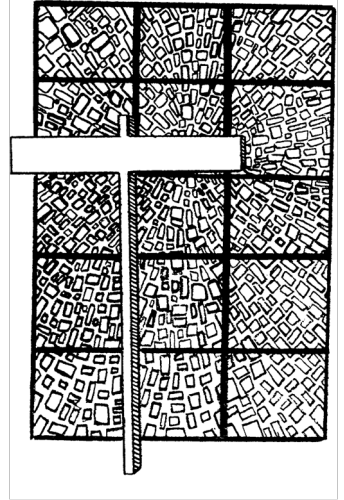
I mentioned briefly during Advent that a friend of mine had shared with me a statement that a pastor made that she listened to online, and I'll paraphrase, "the Bible is not just a group of books making up the Bible, but it is a story. It is not just their story, but, our story." The Bible is a story about our redemption - the plan of God that involved sending Jesus Christ into the world to save us. Beginning January 17, I want to start a sermon series entitled, "Their Journey is Our Journey."

The sermon series will look at hardships the Israelites encountered on their journey to the promised land how we also deal with those same issues in the 21st century. Our life is a journey toward perfection or holiness. I'm not talking about "being perfect" but rather, going on to perfection as described by John Wesley. What that means is allowing the Holy Spirit to change you so your life will reflect Christ and your journey will be easier on this earth. It doesn't matter how old or how young you are. The sermon series will be beneficial for you.

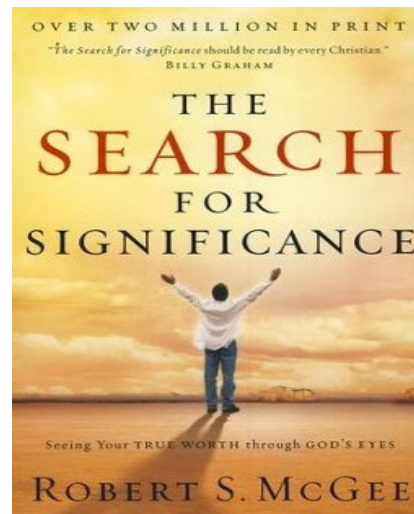
As we look to the New Year and what God has

for us, let's relinquish those issues in our life that have caused us to wonder in the wilderness instead of enjoying the very best that God has for us. The Israelites wandered for 40 years, and only two men from that generation experienced the promises that God had for them. Please join us online or in-person (if our county is red) for this life-changing series of our journey to change in 2021.

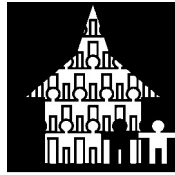
May our Savior, Jesus Christ, bless you and keep you.



**Our new Bible Study will begin on Tuesday, January 12th at 6 pm. I hope to off the study in person and also by zoom. I have used this book throughout my life and you will enjoy reading it. The name of the book is "The Search for Significance" written by Robert S. McGee. Please call the church office or send an email if you would like us to order a copy for you.**



## Our OUMC Family



### Our condolences to~~~

The family and friends of Avalon Evans.

The family and friends of Dave Leyerle, long time band director at Ontario High School.

### Our congratulations to~~~

### Celebration Days~~~

#### **Birthdays**

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

#### **Anniversaries**

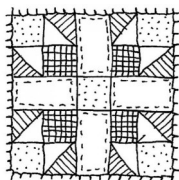
11 Joe & Connie Stuckert

*Congratulations on your special day!!*

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

### 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.



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

## THANK YOU ~~~~

### REMEMBERING AVALON

Avalon Evans always had a ready smile and willing heart and hands. I will remember her best for accompanying our men's singing group and quartets. She practiced with us before choir practice or after church, while we were nondescript and after Joe Stuckert came up with Godward as our name. She handled old songs and new music with equal enthusiasm, and offered reliable advice, suggestions and "critical" encouragement readily. She played for us at worship services, on occasional summer Sunday mornings at local Methodist churches and for a short concert we put together of secular and sacred songs in Giffin Hall one evening. I will miss her "Oh hi, Tim" but remember her example always.

Tim Strunk

### ROCK OF AGES

On walks, I enjoy searching for heart-shaped rocks. One day in 2020, I spotted a broken heart, which seemed fitting as illness, racism and suffering dominated the headlines. I thought of Psalm 34:18, NIV: "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

Humans can be hard-hearted - pointing fingers, assuming the worst and failing to extend compassion. We often reject people who look, think or act differently from us. All these things break hearts, including God's. Only with his help can we rise above hatred, learn to listen more than we speak, and express kindness, empathy and a willingness to learn.

Jesus, be our rock as we face life's brokenness. Stay near and start the healing. Amen.

—Julie Lee

### Prayer For The New Year

Heavenly Father, we thank You  
for the year that has passed and  
the many blessings You have  
showered us in time.

We beg your pardon in our  
many failings and trespasses  
and we pray that the coming  
year be a more fruitful one.

We earnestly pray for the gift of  
the Holy Spirit and we call upon  
our Lord Jesus Christ for His  
intercessions. His guidance and  
His light to shine our path.

## MISSION NEWS SALVATION ARMY

We will continue to collect food items for the Salvation Army thru February. Any non-perishable item would be acceptable. Richland County does have people who can use the help.

## HARMONAY HOUSE

Last year when the shut down began, we were collecting toilet paper for Harmony House. They can always use toilet paper, personal care items like hand soap, tooth brushes, tooth paste, towels, wash cloths, shampoo, cleaning supplies and paper towels. There is a tub in the East hallway for your donations.

## BOOK CLUB

The book club will be reading the "Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck before our meeting on January 16th at 7:00 pm.

## THANKS!

The Missions Committee would like to thank everyone who gave donations to the Agencies of the Giving Tree: Harmony House, Henderson Settlement, Flat Rock Homes, Design Outreach, LOVE Inc., and Flying Horse Ranch. Your donations help people that you personally can't reach. Blessings.

## CHILI COOKOFF

Libby Clark was looking forward to defending her First Place finish last year, but due to the virus, the Chili Cookoff will not be happening this year. Let us pray that we will soon be offering dinners in Giffin Hall.

"The earth has music for those who listen."

"Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future."

# January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Church Office Closed Happy New Year	2
3 10:15 Worship	4	5	6 4:00 Good News Zoom	7 4:00 Good News	8	9
10 10:15 Worship 5:00 Youth Group In-person or Zoom	11	12 6:00 Bible Study	13 4:00 Good New Zoom	14 4 Good News	15	16
17 10:15 Worship	18	19 6:00 Bible Study	20 4 Good News Zoom	21 4 Good News	22	23
24 10:15 Worship 5:00 Youth Group In-person/Zoom	25	26 6:00 Bible Study	27 4 Good News Zoom	28 4 Good News 7:00 Book Club	29	30 Recycle Trailer Here
31 10:15 Worship						

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### **BIBLE QUIZ**

In the story of the Magi, what word is used to give a sense of Jesus' age when the wise men visited? What does it tell us?

- A. "baby"; Jesus was still a newborn in a manger
- B. "child"; when the wise men visited, Jesus had grown past infancy
- C. "youth"; Jesus was probably between 10 and 14
- D. No word is used to suggest Jesus' age at the time of the wise men's visit.

Answer: B (See Matthew 2:1-12.)

### **THE MAGI'S STORY - AND OURS**

The story of the Magi is our story. God has used his supernatural means to draw us unto himself...On one glorious day, when we were exhausted and wearied in our sin, God led us to gaze upon Jesus just as the Magi did. We see the glory of God manifested through Jesus Christ in the internal work of the Holy Spirit. We see our utter sinfulness and God's abounding grace offered in the Messiah. We are filled with joy as this grace sinks into our hearts. We fall down on our knees and confess our need of this Messiah. We worship him and offer up our lives as our greatest offering to him. Then we continue

Cont'd

On in our lives, carrying the truth about the Messiah.

—Travis Cunningham

### **LIVE IN THE LIGHT**

Often we want to be able to see into the future. We say, "How ill next year be for me? Where will I be five or ten years from now?" There are no answers to these questions. Mostly we have just enough light to see the next step—what we have to do in the coming hour or the following day.

The art of living is to enjoy what we can see and not complain about what remains in the dark.

When we are able to take the next step with the trust that we will have enough light or the step that follows, we can walk through the life with joy and be surprised at how far we go. Let's rejoice in the little light we carry and not ask for the great beam that would take all our shadows away.