

The Window

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

FEBRUARY 2021

From Pastor Chris...

You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. Isaiah 58:4b

A few weeks ago, we celebrated Christmas, the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Now it is February, and we will gather for our Ash Wednesday service and the imposition of ashes. The service will be in person and also live-streamed via Facebook. The weeks between Ash Wednesday and Easter or Resurrection Sunday is a time many Christians may decide to give up something, and to spend extra time in prayer and meditation of Scriptures. I would like to ask if you would be willing to join in and all-church fast if your health permits. It is not a hard request - spend some extra time praying on Thursday mornings and give up breakfast, and end your morning fast by praying for our country at noon.

Whenever I fast, I take some time to read through Isaiah 58. I encourage each one of you to begin to read through this chapter of only 14 verses that illustrate for us what "true fasting" is all about. I have reached a better understanding of fasting and prayer in my own life when I read Isaiah 58; it has shown me that I have perhaps, not treated people as justly as I should, or my motive has been wrong. I ask God to forgive me and help me. God is not condemning me, but rather is showing me that if I want "my voice to be heard on high" that there are areas in my own life that need to change.

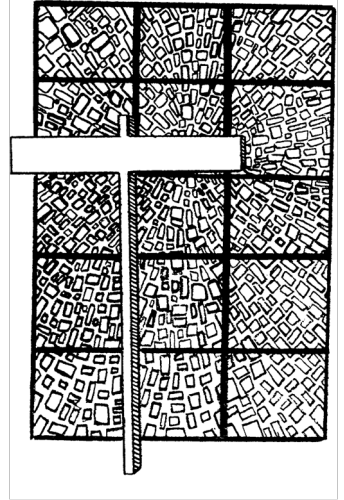
I have used the spiritual disciplines of prayer and fasting throughout my life, and I can attest that I have had numerous answered prayers through the use of these disciplines. But sometimes, the prayer has not been answered the way I pray it. However, God grants me the grace to live with the situation, which in the Apostle Paul's opinion is far greater. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12 the following...*I will boast all*

the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. Paul continues and says this: *That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties.* Please understand, Paul is not say he "enjoys suffering". No one enjoys suffering; but rather, "I will suffer so I can see the power of Christ working in my life."

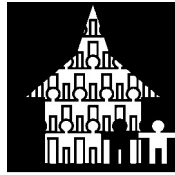
The Spiritual disciplines of prayer and fasting are used throughout the Old and New Testament. In the Old Testament "sackcloth and ashes are also used" (Is 58:5), Sackcloth and ashes, illustrate humility in one's life - coming before God in a humble and contrite way; however, God is not interested or impressed by this outward display of humility but in our heart (1 Sam. 16:7).

When we fast and pray, we are not trying to manipulate God (like we could) or even wanting our will done, but rather we are praying for "God's will be to done on this earth as it is in heaven" (Mt 6:10). When we fast and pray, we are saying, I trust and believe in you to work this situation out on my behalf, and I am humbling myself before you because you alone can only work in my life. As I look back on my life and see God's plan unfold and prayers answered, I have found that during those desperate times in my life that is when I have turned to prayer and fasting, but John Wesley the found of the Methodist Church fasted regularly each week, and I belief that is a good way to approach fasting. My grandmother used to fast one breakfast each week for a ministry that she supported. When I was younger, and I was fasting and praying, it seemed like my prayers were just not being answered, and I asked God, "do you even hear me," and through Scripture, God gave me this answer.

Cont'd on page 2



Our OUMC Family



Our condolences to~~~

The family and friends of Peg Lust, Nan Shaw and Diana Garver's mother.

The family and friends of Pauline Theaker and George Jeftinich.

The family and friends of Ruth Moody.

The friends and family of Miriam Wagenhals.

The family and friends of Geretha Barndollar.

Our congratulations to~~~

Celebration Days~~~

Birthdays

1 Rick Shaw	13 Brianne Dille
2 Mildred Mandley	15 Jeanne Flanagan
2 Janis Hoover	15 Mary Ann Stotts
4 Lester Auck	15 Dick Franta
7 Wayne Motley	16 Jim Shaum
8 Toni Smith	18 Jill Kaber
8 Tom Blaney	19 Frank DeWitt
9 Reta Kirsh	22 Caitlyn Fisher
10 Janet Bixler	25 Nolan Bunker
11 Larry Bixler	26 Zachary Smith
13 Marcy Roth	27 Sue Wills

Anniversaries

4 Dale & Toni Smith
12 Tom & Bev Bence

Congratulations on your special day!!

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

Continued from Page 1

"Do not be afraid, Daniel. 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)

God is faithful!

Pastor Chris

There will be an in-person Ash Wednesday Service on February 17th starting at 7:00 pm. This service will also be livestreamed on the church's Facebook page. If you are planning on watching the livestream, ashes will be available for you to pick up on February 14th and use on Ash Wednesday.

THANK YOU ~~~

Carl Crider would like to thank the Ontario United Methodist Church members for the birthday well wishes. He had a great birthday!!

Thank you Ontario UMC Family for your Christmas card and gift card. I appreciate them and you. May God guide, strengthen, encourage and cause you to flourish in His Kingdom daily and throughout the New Year.

Love, Bernice Holeman

Thank you so much for the thoughts and prayers, phone calls, cards and food after my hip surgery in December. It was all greatly appreciated. So grateful to be a part of such a caring congregation. Jackie Motley

Ron & I would like to thank all the prayer warriors for the prayers. We needed and appreciated them. Also, thanks for all the cards, calls and food we received during our difficulties. You are all a blessing of angels in disguise. Man thanks again to all. God is good all the time. Ron & Marge Ridenour

Thank you for the generous Christmas gift from the congregation of Ontario United Methodist Church. This was very much appreciated. I enjoy being your secretary/treasurer and appreciate all you do for me. Have a very blessed 2021!! God is very good to all of us.

Debby Grove

I want to thank all of you for the gifts, cards and kind words during the Christmas season and also for your patience and prayers as we navigate through this pandemic. You are all the best!

Pastor Chris

Thanks so much for your cards and prayers during my surgery and recovery. I am fine now. A special thanks to Pastor Chris and Pastor Karen for their calls and caring prayers. We are so blessed to have both pastors with our church.

Stay healthy, stay safe and take care.

God Bless,

Madeline Sauer

MISSION NEWS DESIGN OUTREACH

There is a push in Malawi by Design Outreach to build a headquarters there for support of the deep water pumps being installed. On Sunday, February 28th, the Missions Committee is offering chili from the AWARD winning Chili Cook-off last year. Libby is giving us her secret recipe at great personal sacrifice.

Orders need to be placed by phone or email before February 21st to the church. The chili will be available in quart and pint containers for a DONATION. Pick up will be after church at the north door until 1 pm on February 28th.

SWEETEST SUNDAY

Sadly, the sale of sweets near Valentines has to be cancelled this year. This money raised normally goes to Peanut Butter & Jelly; so a special donation for this summer's program would be appreciated.

THE DICK PARKS MEMORIAL RACE FOR THE ROCK (FLAT ROCK HOMES)

The Race to raise needed funds will be held in May. Our church has been asked to help sponsor this event. The Missions Committee has voted to do this. We will let you know when the race will happen. It will be done virtually except for some of the residence. Keep this wonderful mission in your prayers.

The Missions Committee is so thankful for your support of our Giving Tree agencies. God does take care of those in need with our help.

“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.” – Philippians 4:19

February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 6:00 Bible Study	3 4:00 Zoom Good News	4 4:00 Good News	5	6
7 10:15 Worship	8	9 6:00 Bible Study	10 4:00 Zoom Good News	11 4:00 Good News	12	13
14 10:15 Worship 5:00 Youth Group	15	16 6:00 Bible Study	17 4:00 Zoom Good News 7:00 Ash Wednesday	18 4:00 Good News	19	20
21 10:15 Worship	22 11:30 All Staff Meeting	23 6:00 Bible Study	24 4:00 Zoom Good News	25 4:00 Good News 7:00 Book Club	26	27
28 10:15 Worship Youth Group Pick up soup orders until 1:00 pm						

The Window
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3540 Park Avenue West
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BIBLE QUIZ

What was the name of Moses' wife?

- A. Miriam
- B. Jochebed
- C. Zipporah
- D. Leah

Answer: C (See Exodus 2:21.)

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL FOUNTAIN

A fountain, or well, symbolizes Jesus, our living water. Jesus told the Samaritan woman at the well that everyone who drinks the water he gives will never thirst again. It "will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life," Jesus said (see John 4:14, NRSV).

"Love is our true destiny. We do not find the meaning of life by ourselves alone; we find it in one another."
—Thomas Merton

"I would permit no man, no matter what his color might be, to narrow and degrade my soul by making me hate him."
—Booker T. Washington

A DAILY PRAYER

Whatever happens today, dear Lord, help us remember that you are present. If we find ourselves in the shadows of disappointment or rejection or pain, let us see your comforting light. If we're in the radiant light of success or acceptance or wholeness, may we acknowledge your providence and grace. Wherever we are, grant us the assurance of your nearness. Amen

THE PARABLE OF THE LOST RING

Only three years after Paula and Joe Walter married, her wedding ring was lost as she played catch with their son. Naturally, she was heartbroken. Over the years, whenever family and friends gathered in the back yard, she urged everyone to look for the ring - but to no avail. Because the yard borders on woods, Paula feared the ring had flown into the trees, never to be seen again. But just before the couple's 40th anniversary, landscapers hired to do work in the yard brought her a surprise: They'd found the ring - right where Paula had been playing with her child so long ago! Like the woman in Jesus' parable who finally found her lost coin (Luke 15:8-10,) Paula rejoiced. God too searches until every person who has strayed or been flung away from the faith is found. Sometimes the place we rediscover faith is right where we've looked before.