

# The Window

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

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DECEMBER 2015

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## ***From Pastor Peg...***

Dear Friends,

Emmanuel. His name is called Emmanuel. When we contemplate the arrival of that little baby—again—we remember that He was, and is, God with us. That's what Emmanuel means: "God with us." That's good news.

For some people, the holidays are not very jolly. Some don't get along with relatives. Many people would like a Norma Rockwell painting sort of Christmas and don't believe it's possible in their family. Too many tensions, too much competition, too high expectations.

But "God with us" is good news.

For many people, holidays are sad. They are grieving recent losses, or years later still missing a spouse or child. Putting on a brave and happy face can be a struggle and take a lot of energy.

But "God with us" is good news.

For some people, the Christmas season is a dark night of the soul, bringing back guilt from the past and old feelings of inadequacy.

But "God with us" is GOOD NEWS.

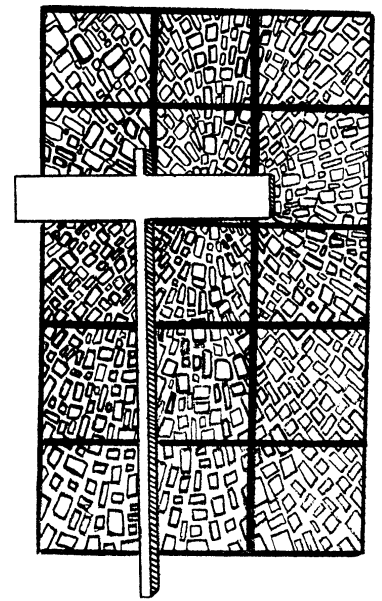
"God with us" is good news because among all the other reasons Jesus was born is one so simple and pure that it should be treasured. Jesus was born so you would never have to be alone at Christmas.

He was born so you would never have to face a dark night or a cold world or a lost cause alone. He was born so you would know there is someone who knows you inside and out. Someone who knows your fears and your sorrows. Someone who understands you and believes in you and dreams for you.

Let life do what it will. Let it take your dreams, your health, your loved ones. But don't let it ever

take from you the certainty that God is with you and will never forsake you.

Emmanuel—God with us. What wonderful news!



## ***Blue Christmas Worship Service***

In every church and community there are people who, for various reasons, simply cannot enter into the unbridled joy of the Christmas season. Some must deal with the recent or unexpected death of a loved one. Some are coping with the aftermath of divorce, job loss, sickness—many different unfortunate and tragic circumstances. Christmas parties and caroling are the last things some of us want.



The Blue Christmas service ministers to these persons, while still recognizing that part of the reason for Jesus' coming was to bring hope and comfort, heal the sick, seek the lost, restore the broken and the broken-hearted.

You are invited to a quiet, meditative worship service that makes time for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ at 3:00 on Sunday, December 13 at OUMC. Join us for a time of special music, scripture, stories, silent reflections, healing prayers and communion.



### **Our Sympathy to~~~**

The family and friends of Ontario UMC member, Evelyn Wagner.

Jackie and Mick Motley and family in the death of her cousin, Roger Wolford.

Lyn and Caitlyn Fisher and family in the death of their cousin, Paul Jones.

### **We Rejoice with~~~**

Ashley and Andy Orewiler in the Baptism of their daughter, Ellie May Orewiler, on November 15.

### **Celebration Days~~~**

#### ***Birthdays***

2 Connie Turnbaugh	14 Carolyn Keisser
3 Thurley Bittenbender	15 Victoria Cochran
7 Jean Wagenman	15 Bruce Smith
7 Jackie Motley	21 Natalie Stevens
8 Dottie Blaney	22 Carl Crider
9 Gloria Loughman	23 Brandon Grove
11 Zanna Bolen	25 Darlene Taylor
13 Connie Smith	28 John Cochran
13 Herald Carlson	29 Phyllis Zahn
13 Max Roth	31 Shirley Fisher

#### ***Anniversary***

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

*Congratulations on your special day!!*

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

### **Next Children's Clothing Sewing Project**

Due to the significant increase in postage necessary to ship our children's clothing to Haiti, we have decided to brighten the lives of children closer to home. We will be sending our clothing to Henderson Settlement/Red Bird Mission in Kentucky. Watch for upcoming announcements in the newsletter.

### **Thank You~~~**

I would like to thank everyone for the many cards that I have received over the past few months. There are no words to express how much your cards and prayers have meant during this difficult time. I am home with Mom and Dad and things are going very well. Thanks again. It is so awesome to be part of such a wonderful and caring congregation.

—Terri Rupe

Thank you so much, prayer warriors and members who surrounded my daughter, Lisa, with your prayers. She is recovering exceptionally well from her surgery. God is good—all the time.

—Jean Wagenman

To My Friends, Thanks to everyone who helped me celebrate my 90th birthday. It was certainly a surprise! I had no idea! Thanks to those who attended, those who gave me cards, those who thought about and prayed for me. I'm grateful. God bless you!

—Wilma Palmer and Family

Dear Friends, Thank you to all of you for the Pastor's Appreciation gift. My husband and I will have a lovely date at the Skyway Restaurant. Your thoughtfulness is very touching. Gratefully yours,

—Pastor Peg

### **2016 Flower Calendar**



The 2016 Flower Calendar is now on the centrum bulletin board. Select a Sunday to present flowers to remember or honor a loved one, or to celebrate a special occasion. They are automatically delivered to the church; and you'll be billed directly by the florist (Janet's Floral Design). You only need to contact them if you want specific details for the arrangement.

Please include all information you wish to have printed in the bulletin when you sign-up.

### **Poinsettias**

Orders will be accepted through December 6 for poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary on Sunday, December 20 through Christmas Eve. Use order forms from the bulletin, or call the church office. They are \$9.75 each and can be in memory or honor of a loved one.



<h1 style="text-align: center;">DECEMBER 2015</h1> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Christmas is not so much about opening our presents as opening our hearts." (Janice Maeditere)</i></p>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 11:00am All Staff Mtg 3:30pm Bible Study 5:30pm Supper 6:15pm Prayer Cir	<b>2</b> 12:00pm Silvers Meal 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Choir	<b>3</b> 11:00am Bulletin items due	<b>4</b> 4:00pm Swim Team Meal	<b>5</b> 9:00am Private Event, Giffin Hall 4:00pm Point of Grace Meal
<b>6</b> 9:00am Confirm CI	<b>7</b> 9:00am Quilters 5:00pm EOC Bd of Ministry 7:00pm Trustees	<b>8</b> 9:00am EOC Bd of Ministry 3:30pm Bible Study 5:30pm Supper 6:15pm Prayer Cir 6:45pm Bible Study	<b>9</b> 6:00pm Bells Choir 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Choir	<b>10</b> 11:00am Bulletin items due 12:00pm Private Event, Giffin Hall 7:00pm Scout Ldrs	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 10:00am Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army 12:00 Private Event Giffin Hall
<b>13</b> 9:00am Confirm CI 3:00pm Blue Christmas Service	<b>14</b> 7:00pm Hymnal Class	<b>15</b> 3:30pm Bible Study 5:30pm Supper 6:15pm Prayer Cir 6:45pm Bible Study	<b>16</b> 12:00pm Silvers Meal 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:00pm Pack 170 7:00pm Choir	<b>17</b> 11:00am Bulletin items due	<b>18</b> 4:00pm Swim Team Meal	<b>19</b> 12:00 Private Event Giffin Hall
<b>20</b> 9:00am Confirm CI 12:30pm PB & J Party  <i>January Newsletter items due</i>	<b>21</b> 9:00 am Quilters	<b>22</b> 5:30pm Supper 6:15pm Prayer Cir	<b>23</b> 11:00am Bulletin items due 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Choir	<b>24</b> Office Closed 12:00pm Private Evt 7:00pm Service 	<b>25 Christmas</b> 	<b>26</b>  <b>* NO * Recycling Trailer this month</b>
<b>27</b> 9:00am Confirm CI	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 11:00am Bulletin items due	<b>31</b> <b>New Year's Eve</b>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The church office will be closed beginning Christmas Eve day until Monday, January 4. Phone messages will be returned when the office opens. In case of emergencies, call Pastor Peg at 419-777-7264.</i></p>						
<b>EVERY SUNDAY</b> ~ Grace & Eggs @ 8:30 am.....Kingdom Kids & Adult Classes @ 9:15am.....Worship @ 10:15 am, followed by Fellowship						

The Window  
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## December



### **The Mitten Tree**

Stop by the Mitten Tree and take a snowflake with the age and gender of one of our PB & J children. Buy a hat and mittens or gloves for that child and return them in a gallon-sized plastic bag by December 13. The gifts will be distributed at a cookie and hot chocolate gathering here 12:30 Sunday, December 20.

If you'd like to help furnish cookies for this event, let a member of the Missions Committee know.

We will also accept hats, gloves, socks, underwear and scarves for other children in need in our community.

### **Advent Study**

*"While We Wait—Living the Questions of Advent"* looks at some biblical figures we don't always focus on during Advent and explores questions they asked that resonate with contemporary Christians during this season.

Join Pastor Peg in this Advent study Tuesday evenings December 1, 8 and 15 at 3:30 or 6:45 pm, after the fellowship meal and prayer time. Study books are \$15 each and are available in the centrum.

### **Other Opportunities to Serve**

\* Contribute to the children's coin collection to buy animals through Heifer Project International each Sunday in Advent.

\* Help with the December 5 Point of Grace dinner

\* Ring the Salvation Army bell on December 12

***Christmas Eve Worship***  
*Join us at 7:00 pm on December 24<sup>th</sup>  
for our annual traditional  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.  
Bring your family and  
friends to this special  
service of candlelight,  
carols and lessons.  
You will be blessed.*

