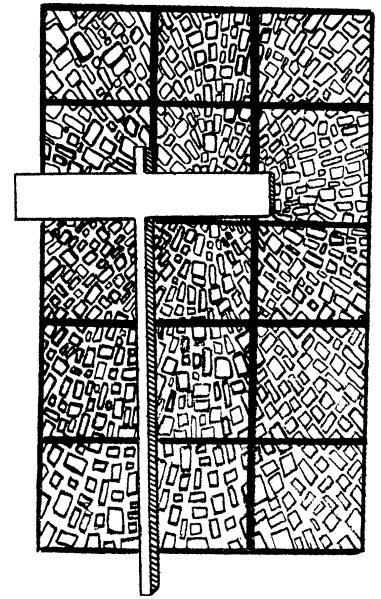


The Window

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

MARCH 2015



From Pastor Peg...

Recently, our Staff Parish Committee met to begin completing some required paperwork. It consists of several forms which evaluate both me, and our work together. It's good to take inventory every now and then, to assess one's work and progress. It's important to inventory our spiritual growth as well. That's why Lent is one of my favorite seasons in the church year. This period before Easter is familiar to people for "giving something up." Yet, there's so much more.

Lent can be a season which challenges us to make a fearless inventory of our spiritual lives, a list of assets and deficiencies, and an action plan for the future.

Susannah Wesley did that with each of her seventeen children every week. She spent an hour with each one, asking, "How is it with your soul?" She would then test them on the memory verses she had assigned the week before, and encourage them in their prayer lives. She was concerned more about her children's eternal lives than their temporal ones.

So is God. Imagine if we were required to spend an hour each week at God's knee accounting for our spiritual lives. What would the questions be?

"What have you done in the past week to make me better known? What have you done to deny me? How has your life reflected my presence in the world? Do people know you are a disciple by your speech habits? How about the way you treat others or the way you treat yourself? Are you living like an heir to my kingdom? If not, why not?"

If not, why not? That's a great Lenten question.

One day I was chatting with some retired ministers and raised the question of church attendance. "Why are there so many people who call themselves Christians but don't regularly worship God?" I asked.

One of them answered simply and with great clarity. "They are careless," he said. Only later did I realize what a profound answer that was. Careless. In that context, it meant "they care less about worshipping God than about something else they want to do."

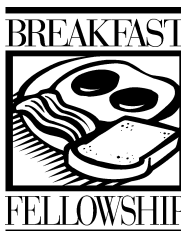
If not, why not? Because we're careless. Fixing the problems in our spiritual lives is as simple as figuring out what it is we care more about than God, and setting priorities.

During Lent, as the SPRC assesses your pastor, why not assess your spiritual priorities? I invite you to join me in setting new priorities.

If so, why? Because we love God enough.

Grace and Eggs Breakfast

Grace and Eggs is still the best bargain around and a great place for fellowship! Even though profits have declined due to increasing grocery costs, the G & E crew still offers a full menu of eggs to order, bacon, sausage, homemade coffee cakes, weekly specials, hot and cold cereals and more.



Start your week off with good food and good fellowship beginning at 8:30 every Sunday morning, and support this special ministry that provides funding for youth mission trips as well as other events. You'll be glad you did!

Our OUMC Family



Our Sympathy to ~~

Don Yeager and Suzie and Ron Smith and family in the death of their wife and mother, Mary Lou Yeager.

Glenna Smith and family in the death of her husband, Larry Smith.

John and Sharon Miller and family in the death of his brother, Jerry Miller.

Darlene and Doug Taylor and Nancy Suter and family in the death of their brother, Chris Suter.

Wilma Palmer, Connie Smith, Gary Palmer and family in the death of their nephew and cousin, Donald Chambers.

Celebration Days~~~ Blessings on your special day!

Birthdays:

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

Anniversaries:

4 Janet and Larry Bixler

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

Parking Lot Procedures

While winter weather keeps us under its thumb, be aware that the parking lot can be an even more hazardous place for those with walking difficulties.

We ask you to drop off passengers needing help at the covered north entrance, take as much time as necessary to assist them into the building, then park in a regular space. This reserves the limited number of handicapped spaces for our folks who use canes or walkers, or have trouble getting around, but drive themselves to church. We admire their determination and want to make their trek to the building as short and safe as possible. Thanks for your cooperation.

Thank You~~~

Thank you to my church family and friends for all the lovely cards and meals during the difficult time of Dave's passing. Especially, thank you to Ron and Pam Dille and Pastor Peg and Karen Wagenhals on being there within 30 minutes or less for me, insisting I take my meds, drink water and stayed with me for quite awhile through the initial shock. I have felt your love and prayers around me. Again, thank you all. —Esther Case

Thank you to everyone for the card from the church when my husband, John, died. It was appreciated very much. Many thanks to all of you.

—Pauline Runyon

Thank you, church family! I was blessed to receive cards, calls, emails, texts and meals (yummy meals) following my most recent surgery. Our church family is the best! Thank you, again!

—Melinda Shaum

We wanted to drop a line to tell you Thank You for all that you do for our family. We very much appreciate what the church does for us! God bless you all. —The McCristall Family

The Missions Committee thanks everyone who made items for the Sweet Treats Sale February 22. Also, we appreciate everyone who bought items. Your generosity is awesome.

Good news! We received word that Henderson Settlement, one of our missions in Kentucky, was able to get the much-needed van through the Campbell's brand labels that you've help collect. It takes over 1,000,000 labels! Thanks for your help, and keep those labels coming - vans wear out and new ones are needed to replace them. God bless us all.

Please Keep Us Updated

If you change your phone number or no longer have a land line, be sure the office has your updated contact information so we can call you if needed, and can be sure that you receive information sent out on the Call-em-All System.

Likewise, please let the church office know of any address changes as soon as they are available to you in order to save us return postage costs and to avoid delays in receiving mail from the church.

Dinner at Point of Grace

There's a sign-up sheet for those who can bake brownies for the Point of Grace meal on Saturday, March 7. They should be delivered to OUMC by noon on Friday, March 6.

Ten people are needed at 4:00 pm at Point of Grace on March 7 to help prepare and serve the meal. Prayerfully consider these opportunities.



Attention High School Seniors

The link below contains information about all available East Ohio Conference scholarships, grants and loans:
www.eocumc.com/scholarships/index.html

Palm Sunday Special Music Presentation

Our Palm Sunday worship will feature a special presentation by the OUMC choir, taking us from Palm Sunday thru Good Friday with music, readings and slides that recall the events of Holy Week.

Peanut Butter & Jelly collection

We continue preparing for this summer's PB & J program by stocking our pantry early. During March, please help by bringing in dry pasta, spaghetti and noodles, macaroni & cheese, and canned pastas, like Chef-Boy-ar-Dee products.

MARCH 2015

A good way to forget your troubles is to help others out of theirs.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:20am Godward 9:40am Choir	2 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Missions, Church & Society	3 11:00am All-Staff Mtg 3:30pm Bible Study 5:30pm Fell Meal 6:15pm Prayer Cir 6:45pm Bible Study	4 12:00pm Silvers Meal 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Choir	5 11:00am Bulletin items due 7:00pm Wolf Den	6	7 Missions Comm. Hosts Meal at Point of Grace
8 9:20am Godward 9:40am Choir	9 7:00pm Staff-Parish Relations Comm	10 3:30pm Bible Study 5:30pm Fell Meal 6:15pm Prayer Cir 6:45pm Bible Study	11 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Choir 7:00pm Boy Scout Leaders	12 11:00am Bulletin items due 6:00pm B Scout Recognition Dinner	13	14
15 9:20am Godward 9:40am Choir April Newsletter Items due	16 6:00 pm Finance 7:00 pm Ad Council	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>  3:30pm Bible Study 5:30pm Fell Meal 6:15pm Prayer Cir 6:45pm Bible Study	18 12:00pm Silvers Meal 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Choir	19 11:00am Bulletin items due 7:00pm Scout Ldrs	20	21
22 9:20am Godward 9:40am Choir	23	24 3:30pm Bible Study 5:30pm Fell Meal 6:15pm Prayer Cir 6:45pm Bible Study	25 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Choir	26 11:00am Bulletin items due 7:00pm Book Club "The Invention of Wings" by Sue Monk Kidd	27 Harmony House Soup Supper, Silent Auction & Bake Sale 5:00-7:00 pm	28 Recycling Trailer here thru Sunday
29 9:20am Choir 	30	31	 Worship at 7:00 pm - Thursday, April 2, 2015 We will remember Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples, and his new commandment: "Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you should love one another."			

EVERY SUNDAY ~ Grace & Eags @ 8:30...Kinadom Kids @ 9:00...Adult Sunday School @ 9:15...Worship @ 10:15. followed by Fellowship Time

The Window

– Ontario United Methodist Church
3540 Park Avenue West
Ontario, OH 44906-1055
Address Correction Requested

Dated Material—Please deliver promptly

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Mansfield, OH
Permit No. 2



HARMONY HOUSE SOUP SUPPER SILENT AUCTION BAKE SALE

It's time for this annual event supporting
Harmony House, the area homeless shelter,

**FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2015
5:00 to 7:00 PM**

**Please support this event by making soups and
cookies, volunteering to serve and clean-up,
and by donating auction items.**

**Auction items are to be given to
Pat Bell or Shirley Wright no later than
Friday, March 20.**

*Last minute auction donations
can't be accommodated by the auction
coordinator, and will not be displayed.*



We send a weekly mailing to our homebound
members that includes a short meditation.
A recent one seemed especially meaningful
at this Lenten season:

While praying one day, a woman asked,
"Who are you, Lord?"

The Lord answered, "I am."

"But who is I am?" she asked.

And the Lord replied,

"I am Love. I am Peace.

I am Grace. I am Joy.

I am the Way, the Truth and the Light.

I am the Comforter. I am strength.

I am Safety. I am Power.

I am the Creator.

I am the Beginning and the End.

I am the Most High."

The woman, now with tears in her eyes,
looked toward heaven and said, "Now, I
understand. But Lord, who am I?"

Then God wiped the tears from her eyes,
and whispered, "You are mine."

—Timothy Merrill