

The Window

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

NOVEMBER 2015

From Pastor Peg...

What's enough?

I've always had difficulty with this question. I tend to always want more.

How many Christmas presents are enough?
(Especially for grandchildren!)

How many flowers are enough in the garden?

How many Christmas lights on the tree?

How many dishes at the Thanksgiving table?

How many Christmas cards, how much jewelry,
how many pairs of shoes, how many tools?

Is there any extravagance you could add?

Perhaps if I asked the question differently, you would be better able to answer it. What is too much? There's a television program that I caught once or twice that shows the homes of hoarders and walks us through the efforts the team makes to help them hang on to less. We can easily identify that the people in those shows have too much stuff. But what about us? A couple years ago, I talked about my collection of yarn, and confessed the sin of excess before the entire congregation. I packed that yarn, had it transported to Galion when we moved, and unpacked it. It sat for months untouched.

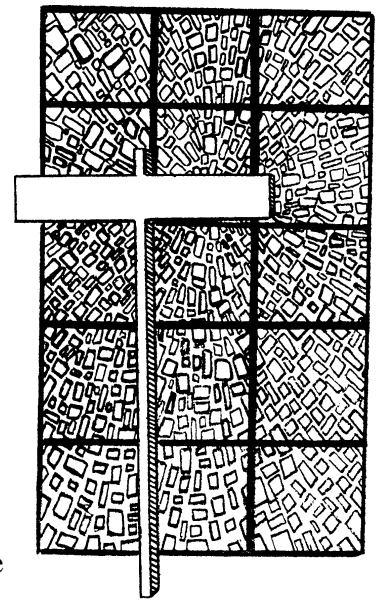
Sometimes our abundance of possessions becomes a burden, especially if those things require our time, attention and resources.

I became determined to deal with the yarn, and I did. I knitted and crocheted for months, then gave things away. I have a lot more clutter to eliminate in my life, but I've identified a method. Tackle one set of things at a time. Do something useful with them. Replace them with something of soul value. Generosity is something of soul value. Giving away things I made with the yarn was a joyful replacement for hoarding that yarn because I might need it some day.

This Thanksgiving, I invite you, as always, to give thanks for the things in your life. Then, I invite you to question how many of those things you really need. Would eliminating any of them be freeing for you spiritually? Is God challenging you to lead a simpler life?

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face. And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of his glory and grace.

Happy Thanksgiving,



OUMC Thanksgiving Dinner

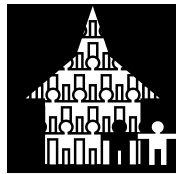
Thanksgiving dinner will again be held in Giffin Hall for those in the church who won't be having a family gathering that day. Turkey, gravy, drinks and table service will be provided. Sign-up in the centrum if you plan to attend and indicate what side dish you can add to the meal.

This is always a fun time of sharing a delicious meal and fellowship with church friends. So plan to join us instead of being alone on this special holiday.

Dinner starts at 1:00 pm on
Thanksgiving, November 26.



Our OUMC Family



Our Sympathy to~~~

Pastor Peg and Ash Welch and family in the death of her aunt, Marge Ekardt.

Congratulations to~~~

Karen and Bob Wagenhals in the birth of a granddaughter, Eloise Audrey Smith, born October 1 to Beth and Rich Smith in Altus, Oklahoma.

Joslyn Winkler and Matt Villilpando who were married September 26 in Door County, Wisconsin.

Celebration Days~~~ Birthdays

2 Chester Bryant	22 Cindie Phelps
4 Dale Smith	22 Roger Mowry
6 John Grove	23 Ginny Carlson
9 Ken Starbuck	23 Ed Beeman
10 Avalon Evans	28 Diana Garver
13 Kathleen Franta	28 Mick Motley
17 Cole Dille	29 Bob Eyerly
19 Leroy Santmyer	29 Aiden Metcalfe
21 Bob Wagenhals	30 Esther Case

Anniversary

17 Pat and Wayne Bell

Congratulations on your special day!!

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

Thank You~~~

To all the prayer warriors and church members, I want to say thank you so much for all your prayers and cards following my knee replacement surgery. I am coming along pretty well, but could still use a few prayers for continued healing and pain relief.

—Sharon Urschel

Thank you to everyone for the many prayers and cards during my surgery and recovery. I am feeling better and looking forward to being back at church as soon as my skin grafts heal.

—Ada Bryant

Dear Friends, Thanks so much. The OUMC card which many of you signed has arrived in today's mail, and we are very grateful. Considering the extensive nature of her surgery, Liz is doing quite well, and I am very proud of her. We are so grateful for the undergirding support of those we love in the congregations we have served. Love and blessings,

—Dick Parks

Thank you to my church family for coming to my birthday celebration, sending cards and calling. It was a wonderful party—so it's not too bad getting older. A special "Thank You" to Shirley Wright for being such a great help.

—Lois Crider and Family

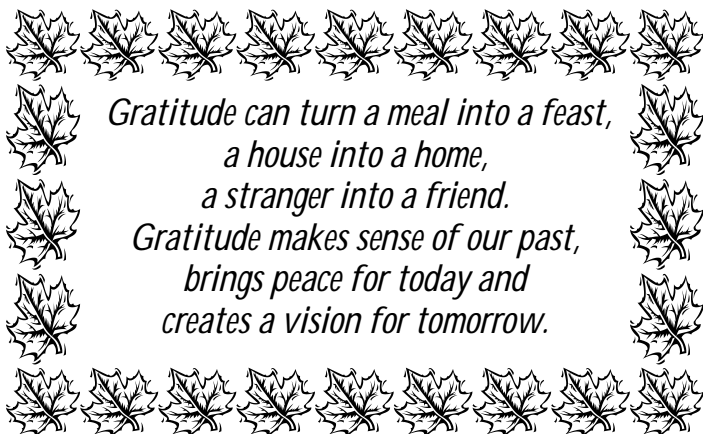
Welcome New Members~~~

Gloria & Terry Loughman (142 Fairlawn Ave, 44903) Gloria and Terry are former members. Gloria served for several years as a local pastor in the UM Church, and she is Dick Franta's cousin. Terry keeps busy with the Fun Center Chordsmen barbershop singers.

Bette Smith (191 Hampton Road, Lexington 44904) Bette enjoys crocheting and computers, and has joined our handbell choir. She is Linda Stout's sister.

Linda Stout (191 Hampton Road, Lexington 44904) Linda likes to paint with oils and play cards. She and her sister Bette have begun visiting shut-ins together as part of our homebound ministry.

Ralph Wells (23 Chambers Road, Ontario 44906) Ralph has lots of interests, including electronics, photography and computers, which has prompted him to become involved in helping in the sound booth with worship power point presentations.



Thanksgiving Food Drive

Our Salvation Army Thanksgiving Food Drive runs through Sunday, November 22. Please bring nonperishable items for a delicious Thanksgiving meal and place them in the marked boxes in the hallway leading to Giffin Hall.



Suggestions include canned fruits and vegetables including yams, corn, and cranberry sauce, instant mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing mix, soups, ready-to-use pumpkin pie filling, etc.

Cash gifts are also appreciated to purchase turkeys and other perishables. Make checks payable to Ontario UMC and write "Salvation Army" in the memo line.

Your Opinion Is Requested



The Finance Committee of OUMC is investigating the possibility of adding direct deposit to the services we provide to our members. We'd like your help in deciding whether this would be useful to enough of our members to make it worthwhile.

This kind of service allows you to tell your bank to automatically send your contribution to the church's bank. You can authorize the amount and the frequency.

If you'd be interested in this kind of service, please call the office or contact Mick Motley or Wayne Motley. You can talk with either of them if you have questions, also.

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"Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings." (Wm. Ward)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Daylight Savings Time ends 9:00am Confirm Cl All Saints Day	2 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Missions	3 11:00am All Staff Mtg 3:30pm Bible Study 5:30pm Supper 6:15pm Prayer Cir 6:45pm Bible Study	4 12:00pm Silvers Meal 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Choir	5 11:00am Bulletin items due 7:00pm Study	6 Office Closed	7 Harmony House Sleep Out for the Homeless
8 9:00am Confirm Cl	9 6:30pm Condo Mtg 7:00pm Trustees	10 3:30pm Bible Study 5:30pm Supper 6:15pm Prayer Cir 6:45pm Bible Study	11 6:00pm Bells 7:00pm Choir  Veterans Day	12 11:00am Bulletin items due 6:00pm Love INC Dinner, Giffin Hall 7:00pm Study	13 Office Closed	14 Private Event, Giffin Hall
15 9:00am Confirm Cl Fellowship Meal December Newsletter items due	16 9:00am Quilters 6:00pm Finance 7:00pm Admin Council	17 3:30pm Bible Study 5:30pm Supper 6:15pm Prayer Cir 6:45pm Bible Study	18 12:00pm Silvers Meal 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Choir	19 11:00am Bulletin items due 7:00pm Study 7:00pm Scout Ldrs	20 Office Closed	21
22 9:00am Confirm Cl Church Decorating after Worship	23	24 3:30pm Bible Study 5:30pm Supper 6:15pm Prayer Cir 6:45pm Bible Study 7:00pm Book Club*	25 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Choir	26  Thanksgiving	27 Office Closed	28 * NO * Recycling Trailer this month
29 9:00am Confirm Cl 2:00pm Piano Recital First Sunday in Advent	30	*The OUMC Book Club will meet on Nov. 24 due to Thanksgiving. This month's selection is "The 13th Gift" by Joanne Huist Smith. Everyone is welcome to join them in the library.				

EVERY SUNDAY ~ Grace & Eggs @ 8:30 am.....Kingdom Kids & Adult Classes @ 9:15am.....Worship @ 10:15 am, followed by Fellowship



The Mitten Tree

This year's Mitten Tree will benefit our Peanut Butter & Jelly families. The tree will be decorated with paper mittens that bear the age and gender of one of our PB & J children. Please take a one of the decorations and purchase mittens or gloves and a hat that would be appropriate for that child. Put these items in a plastic gallon-size bag and place the bag under the Mitten Tree by December 13 so that they can be distributed before Christmas.

Ring the Salvation Army Bell

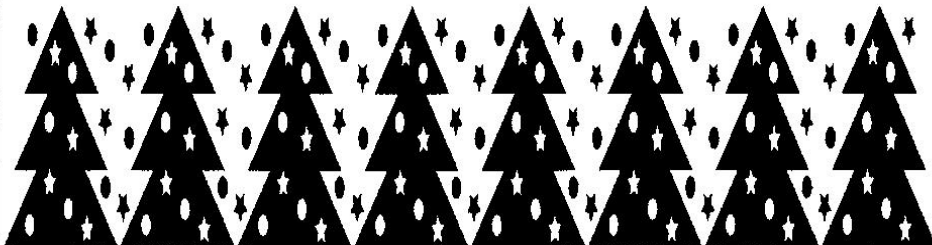
Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 12 from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm when we'll be ringing the bell for the Salvation Army at Kroger's on Park Avenue West. Watch for a sign-up sheet.


Heifer Project Collection

Bring a pocketful of change with you the four Sundays in Advent (November 29, December 6, 13 and 20). The children will be collecting change for Heifer Project so they can purchase animals for poor people in other countries to support their families. This program helps people help themselves and share with others.

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes

Although we won't be actively participating in this program this year, if this is something you enjoy doing you can fill a shoe box and drop it off at the Free Methodist Church, 2200 Bedford Blvd. Call them at 419-747-3204 for more information.





Decking the Halls

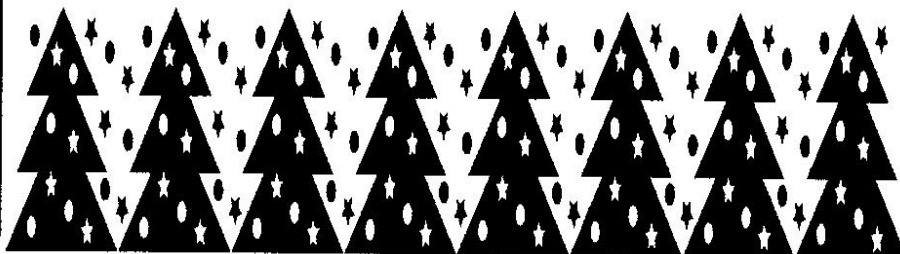
Ontario UMC has a long history of being beautifully decorated for the Christmas season. A number of our members traditionally enjoy decorating certain areas of the church, and as with many jobs, many hands make light work! Please plan to stay after worship on Sunday, November 22 to lend a hand and enjoy the fellowship! The decorations, which are stored at the church, will be made readily available, and within 1-2 hours the church will be transformed!

Advent Books and Banks

The Missions Committee is again offering Advent devotional booklets that give suggestions for saving your change for the Society of St. Andrew. This is a mission of the United Methodist Church that sends volunteers out to glean fields for produce such as potatoes, corn, apples, carrots, etc., and then ships this food to community food banks across the US to provide fresh produce to the hungry. Look for the display on November 22, just in time for the first Sunday of Advent—November 29.

Poinsettias

A favorite tradition at OUMC is the addition of poinsettias to our sanctuary decorations on the Sunday before Christmas thru Christmas Eve. You're invited to purchase poinsettias, either in memory of in honor of a loved one, as part of the beautiful display. Watch for envelopes to place your order that will be in bulletins in late November/early December.

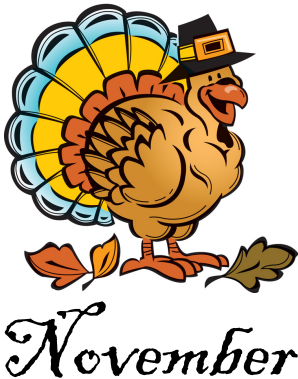


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Ontario United Methodist Church
3540 Park Avenue West
Ontario, OH 44906-1055
Address Correction Requested

Non-Profit Org.
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Mansfield, OH
Permit No. 2

Dated Material—Please deliver promptly



Sleep Out for the Homeless

The annual Sleep Out for the Homeless will be Friday, November 6 at the Ontario Walmart, from 10:00 am until 10:00 am Saturday, November 7. All of the money collected at the doors will go to help Harmony House, the local homeless shelter that serves men, women and children in our community. They'll also be collecting blankets, new or gently used pillows, toilet paper, paper towels, bath towels, cleaning supplies and personal care items.

If you or an organization you're a member of would like to help collect donations, please see Pat Bell or call Vicki Kane at 419-522-2283.

Please Contact the Church Office to....

- Get a name tag
- Request offering envelopes
- Receive large print copies of the newsletter
- Update address, phone or email information
- Let us know of someone who is hospitalized, ill, or has become homebound

Call the church at 419-529-4345 during office hours (9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Monday thru Thursday), or leave a voice mail message outside of office hours, or email us at: ontariomethodist@gmail.com

Dinner at Point of Grace

The Missions Committee is again serving dinner for the hungry at Point of Grace Church on Saturday, December 5. Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve the meal there from 4:00 to 6:30 pm, and also folks to donate brownies for their ever-popular brownie/ice cream dessert. Watch for sign-up sheets.

New Church Directories Available

The latest edition of the church directory is now available. You can stop by the church during office hours to pick up a copy, or get one on Sunday when you come to worship. Mailing costs prevent us from sending them to each household, but if you live out of the area or are homebound and would like a copy mailed to you, simply contact the office.

Have you been wondering who that person who sits across the sanctuary from you on Sunday is? There are lots of new faces since we published a pictorial directory, but that will change in the next year. In anticipation of our 100th anniversary in 2017, plans are in the works to have a new pictorial directory done, so watch for information about this in the coming months.