

ONO United Methodist Church 717-865-7469



By: Pastor Robb

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people. It educates us so that we can live sensible, ethical, and godly lives right now by rejecting ungodly lives and the desires of this world. At the same time, we wait for the blessed hope and the glorious appearance of our great God and savior Jesus Christ. He gave himself for us in order to rescue us from every kind of lawless behavior, and cleanse a special people for himself who are eager to do good actions.

-Titus 2. 11- 14 (CEB)

Lent is my favorite season on the Christian calendar. It is supposed to be a time of reflection, prayer and self-denial. It lasts 40 days in commemoration of the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert (among other 40-day events). Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, a solemn reminder that we were created from dust and our physical bodies will return to dust. Lent reminds us of our need for God's grace and the wonder of receiving that great grace on Easter Sunday. It should be a wonderful time of reflection that empowers our spiritual growth. Personally, I love the old Lenten hymns that are full of profound theological depth that decry our desperate need for a Savior and the glorious recognition that our Savior has come!

The Northern Lebanon cluster of United Methodist Churches has undergone great transitions in the past 2 years. Other than Bellegrove, every church has welcomed or will welcome a new pastor! In this transition, I am excited to be providing leadership to this group. Therefore, we are changing how we are meeting for Lent. The last Sunday of 2017, Luke Wentling referenced Revelation 3. 15- 17 when stating that the biggest concern the church should have is complacency. He is in good company! John Wesley said

"I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this undoubtedly will be the case unless they hold fast both the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which they first set out." This fear was within Paul in 2 Timothy 3. 5! The Church needs to be excited for God! I see such great things at Ono and I am trusting we can fan the flames of God's presence across Northern Lebanon this Lent!

Therefore, I want to invite all of you to participate in a Lenten journey as a family. We will not be doing our typical Wednesday night programs. Instead, we will meet at different Northern Lebanon churches for a pot-luck meal at 6pm followed by programs for each age group at 7pm. Our topics will be unified so that the adults can have conversations with their children about them. We will be talking about being hot in our spiritual relationship with God. It all begins Ash Wednesday when we will be challenged to have an honest assessment of our relationship. I am certain the Church in Laodicea thought all was good, but Revelation reminds them that they had become complacent. Sometimes we need to take a serious and deep reflection on where our hearts are before God. We will close with the imposition of ashes. A great and tangible reminder to us that we are mortals. This life is short and temporary, but if our hearts are right with God, that His grace can transform this body of dust into the glory of a resurrected body! I hope to see each of you there as we grow individually, as families and as Churches that don't simply profess God's power, but are made hot by His Holy Spirit within us!



ONO YOUTH

By: Jessica Grimes

I spent most of December praying for God's direction for our youth ministry in 2018. Last year we used, the Change, as our theme for the year and I was asking God what is next for the new year ahead? Christmas came and went and I still had nothing...certainly God has a plan for our teens and our ministry for 2018, but what is it? Then on December 31, Luke Wentling spoke for young adult Sunday and something he said hit me like a ton of bricks! "It is the complacency of the church (Christians...me...you) that will kill the church." Ouch! My mind went immediately to this scripture in Revelation 3, "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm – neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth." Being complacent means to feel so satisfied with your own situation/abilities that you feel you do not need to try any harder. Being complacent is having a lukewarm faith. This was God's word to me for our teens for 2018. We want to challenge our youth to be HOT in their faith. I shared this idea with our teens at Sweet hour of Prayer and they turned it into an acronym. H – first, we need to be honest about our own temperature. Are we hot or cold or lukewarm? O – next we need to be obedient to what God is calling us to do, be, and say! T – stands for teens (obviously!) We don't want our lukewarm faith to be the reason the church doesn't thrive – we want our faith to be H.O.T. in 2018!

Upcoming Important Youth Dates

Feb 9-11, 2018 Middle School Retreat at Refreshing Mt Camp Guest - Speaker Josiah DeRoos

Feb 11, 2018 - Mission Team Homemade Potpie Dinner 5:30pm - By Reservation Only!

Feb 23-24, 2018 – High School Retreat at Refreshing Mt Camp Guest - Speaker Paul Ryan



Also check out the Summer Team to Appalachia. Team members are available to serve you as needs come up...snow removal, cleaning windows, housework, food prep, yard work, etc. If you would desire to <u>"employ"</u> a small team of youth workers,

please contact Jess Grimes at 717-877-0506.

Ono Children's Ministry



We will be having a kid's Retreat (2nd through 5th graders) at Camp Barachel in Lickdale from *February 16th through the 18th*. Our theme is on the Colors of the Olympic rings and the meanings. Can you name all five colors? We are expecting lives to be changes during this time.

<u>Kids 4 Jesus</u> (Wednesday nights) The kids are going to see if they are producing bad fruit or good fruit in their lives. We are going to challenge them to *produce good fruit*. We are going to go through all nine fruits of the spirits through the Winter. We will be having a contest to see who can memorize *all nine* by the end.

We will be starting a new curriculum in February called **High Voltage** in kid's church. This will bring new and exciting ways for the children to learn the truth about God and how we are supposed to live our lives according to the Bible.

Thank you and please keep the children in your prayers.

Mr. K

Colors of the Olympic rings (Blue, Black, Red, Yellow and Green)



Your invited to join us as we create beautiful Button Art

on

Tuesday, Feb. 13 @ 6:30pm (please note the date change)



Do you have your *grandmother's* old buttons?

Bring them and we'll help you create a beautiful heirloom!

Don't have any buttons? *No problem* ...we do!

Each project will be \$10.00 for supplies and light refreshments.

Please sign up in the Narthex.



Our local churches will be gathering together each
Wednesday evening during Lent 2018!
We will begin each evening with a Pot-Luck Dinner followed by a time of music
and a time of group study. Our groups are:
Adult, Teen, Elementary and Infant & Pre-school Care!
We do hope that you will include the 6 week evening gathering in your family
plans as you celebrate Lent this year.

<u>Date</u>	Hosting Church	Topic of Study
Feb. 14	Jonestown UMC	Honesty
Feb. 21	Ono UMC	Obedience
Feb. 28	Trinity-Lickdale UMC	Togetherness
March 7	Fredericksburg UMC	Hearing
March 14	Jonestown UMC	Obsessed
March 21	Ono UMC	T ransformed

<u>Each Hosting Church</u> shall provide the table settings, drinks, condiments, dessert and infant/pre-school child care.

Each Guest Church, please bring a covered dish to share of your choice!

We look forward to getting to know each other and our neighbors!

This is a wonderful time to invite others to join us.

Meal served at 6:00pm Transition at 6:45pm Group Gatherings at 7:00pm.

Also during Lent 2018...



During the Lenten season, some people give up chocolate, soda, meat, etc... this Lent, we are extending a challenge to our church family to give up some of your "stuff". This can be a great family event involving everyone in the family. Think of it also as a great, early spring housecleaning and cleanup!

On each of the 40 days of Lent,

take something from your home, office or garage and put it in a bag.

On Sundays, bring your bags to church and put them in the totes in the narthex. Your "stuff" will be sorted and donated to local charitable and service agencies. A list of some of the agencies and acceptable items are listed in your Sunday bulletin. You can also, visit their websites!

(please note: This is not meant to be a garbage or collection.)

Sorry, but no tv's or furniture. New and lightly used items are welcome. Questions? Call, text or email Laurie Shuey at 717-865-3288, 717-926-5544 or LMShuey18@yahoo.com

aster cantata!



Calling the young...the not so young...and the in between!
We would like to have an intergenerational choir this year!!!
The cantata we are doing is short, simple and easy for any age or experience to learn! Choir members – bring a friend or family member Thursdays at 7pm! Hope to see you there!!!

A note from our Trustees:

We would like to take this time to reflect on some of the improvements and repairs that took place during the past year.

- : Replacing the carpet in the youth wing.
- : Moving the light switches for the sanctuary into the control booth.
- : Landscaping at the east entrance of the parking lot.

Of course, there are always repairs that arise that are taken care of as soon as possible. If anyone has any ideas of thought for improvements and repairs, please pass them along to any trustee member so it can be presented to the committee for consideration.

We would like to thank everyone for their help and support to keep the Lord's house presentable and in good repair.

Jim Bragg