IN ONO

March 2018

ONO United Methodist Church

717-865-7469

While Jesus was in Jerusalem for the Passover Festival, many believed in his name because they saw the miraculous signs that he did. But Jesus didn't trust himself to them because he knew all people. He didn't need anyone to tell him about human nature, for he knew what human nature was.

-John 2. 23- 25 (CEB)

One of my favorite parts about reading the Bible is how often something appears new to me. A few days ago, I was reading the Common English Bible on the elliptical and came across this verse. While I am sure I have read it in the past, it struck me anew. Perhaps it is my Lenten mind that is thinking of the faults and failures of people (especially my own). I had never really thought of the fact that Jesus fully understands human nature. He did not need a class in psychology. He did not need to do research. Instead, Jesus, being both fully human and fully divine, understood far greater than people what their nature was.

First, human nature is very temperamental. Notice this passage begins with many people believed because of the signs he did. In other words, Jesus did miracles, people were amazed and people desired to "follow" him. Jesus knew that in a few short years, this crowd that would follow him amazed by His miracles would forsake Him at the cross. What kind of testimony would that be about Him. No, Jesus could not trust himself to these people, because they were yet unredeemed. Their "faith" was not in His actual presence or words, but their "faith" was in the miracles that He performed. As long as Jesus kept performing, they would keep following. Jesus was not about to entrust His testimony with such fickle people.

The next scene brings great light to the situation. Nicodemus, a teacher of the law, comes to talk to Jesus. This is where Jesus will tell him that you must be born again *(John 3. 3)*. This baffles Nicodemus. Nicodemus was so focused on human realities that he could not comprehend what Jesus was referring to. Jesus understood that the key to faith is denying our human nature and being born anew with the Holy Spirit. This contrast is striking. Jesus does not want the testimony of those who simply stood in awe of the miracles. He wants the testimony of lives that have been born anew into His presence. Jesus did not come into the world to perform. Jesus came into the world that we could be transformed and inherit everlasting life *(John 3. 16)*.

Lent is a great time to remind ourselves that we need to deny our earthly natures daily and take up our crosses and follow Christ *(Luke 9. 23)*. The real miracle of faith is that God changes hearts and minds. Jesus does not want followers who simply want to be in awe of performances. Jesus wants followers who have committed their lives to being renewed by Him! This is why Paul reminds us that we need to be transformed by the renewing of our minds *(Romans 12. 2)*. Faith is not about empowering our earthly nature, it is about casting it off and embracing our new
nature in Christ. It is only then that we can testify about Jesus. Let us testify about His transforming grace this Lenten season!

YOUTH MINISTRY

February was retreat month for Ono…What a joy to share weekends away with our middle and high schoolers at Refreshing Mt. Camp. We were very blessed by our guest speakers, Josiah DeRoos and Paul Ryan. Our high schoolers were especially blessed to use the *new* **CHURCH MINIBUS** for it's inaugural trip! <u>*God is good*</u> and is at work in the heart of our teens!

The youth mission team is so thankful for all who came to the Valentine Pot Pie Dinner. We raised *$1375.00* towards the expenses of our mission trip to Appalachia in July. ***Thank you everyone!***

On Easter weekend the team will be making yummy Easter candies. They will be available at the Good Friday service, the Egg Hunt and during Easter morning worship! (Donations Accepted)

Don't forget to consider having a **<u>HOTHANDS</u>** service team come and help out at your house if needed! *(See bulletin board for more details!)*

Ono Children's Ministry

We had a great turnout for the Kids Retreat. 31 children had a great weekend having fun while praising God. I would like to say *"Thank you"* to all the people that helped make the Kids Retreat awesome!

Kids 4 Jesus and **Children's Fellowship** are going strong. We have started the Lenten Season, and this will continue through most of March with the Theme of **"Hot & Hot"**

VBS is planned for the *third full week in June* and we have started looking for a Theme. If you are interested in helping, please come see me or contact me at kmkollar@comcast.net or 717-228-9719.

Don't forget my Kiddos... You need to memorize the **Fruit of the Spirit** by the end of May if you would like to see me dress in a funny outfit in front of the church on a Sunday morning. I know you can do it! We will See!

Thank You

Mr. K

Our 2018 Lenten Pot Luck Dinner
HOT - HOT gatherings!

If you haven't joined us for our Wednesday evening gathering, it's not too late to come! No need to tell anyone, just come! Adults, teens, kids and little ones, everyone is invited!!

Feb. 28 - 6pm at Trinity UMC
Bring a side or a main dish

March 7 - 6pm at Fredericksburg UMC
Bring a side or a main dish

March 14 - 6pm at Jonestown UMC
Bring a side or a main dish

March 21 - 6pm at Ono UMC
Bring a dessert!
This is our final gathering! Don't miss it!

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Easter Flowers

Order form coming soon!

ono Easter Egg Hunt

Sat. March 31@ 10:a.m.

Egg filling night- March 19@ 6:30p.m.

ono Art Ministry

2018 Art Show

Tuesday, March 27th

6:30pm - 8:30pm *Won't you Join us!*

-ONO PreSchool-

A fun place where children learn through Play!

We are a faith based, early childhood program right here in our church!

Mon., Wed. & Fri. a.m.

(4yr. olds going into Kdg. the following year.)

Tues., & Thurs. a.m. or Mon. & Wed. p.m.

(3yr. olds & 4yr. olds.)

A.M. classes meet 9:00a.m.- 11:30a.m.
P.M. classes meet 12:30-3:00p.m.

3 day class - $110.00 month
2 day class - $75.00

Call Miss Jean or Miss Loretta at 717-865-1333 for more information!