Good News in Ono

April 2019

Ono United Methodist Church | 9 Main Street, Ono 17077  717.865.7469
When they told Mordecai Esther’s words, he had them respond to Esther: “Don’t think for one minute that, unlike all the other Jews, you’ll come out of this alive simply because you are in the palace. In fact, if you don’t speak up at this very important time, relief and rescue will appear for the Jews from another place, but you and your family will die. But who knows? Maybe it was for a moment like this that you came to be part of the royal family.”

-Esther 4. 12- 14 (CEB)

Uncertain times are not unique to us. The Bible has a lot of uncertain times. Abraham is not told where the land he is promised would be. Joseph was sold into slavery and imprisoned. Moses’ mother had to hide her child and then trust him to the Nile River. Joshua had to enter a land that had already been established with a group of people who had gown up wandering in the wilderness. King David’s family fell apart as did his kingdom. The people of Israel were displaced into Babylon. The early Church was disrupted by political attacks. Through it all, God’s presence remained steadfast. Even though the people did not know what was going to happen next, they consistently decided to seek to follow God in the midst of uncertainty.

In Esther, the Jews were at risk because of a man named Haman decided to destroy the Jews in the kingdom. He came up with a clever ploy and made it impossible for Jews to remain faithful to God. He trusted that his wisdom would prevail and that Jews would remain steadfast- a testimony to how others saw their commitment to God! When Esther was made aware of the plot, she was understandably nervous- she did not have power or authority. It was her uncle, Mordecai, who made the famous statement, “Maybe it was for a moment like this...” The statement intrigues me. He does not speak from a position of extreme confidence. He merely thinks it is possible. He does not get rid of the possibility that Esther and the Jews could be destroyed either! Think this is unique in Scripture? Nope! Meshach, Shadrach and Abednigo do not assume God will save them- just that He could (Daniel 3. 17- 18). For them, it is more important to simply follow God regardless of the consequences! This rings true in the New Testament as well. Peter and John decide they need to follow God even under threat (Acts 4. 19- 20). The early Church is full of stories of people who were punished as a part of their faithful response to God.

What is the point? It is simple. In uncertain times, we still seek to follow and serve God. We do not do this because there is a promise that we will not suffer in the midst of this service. We do not serve God because of some sort of expectation of reward or protection. We serve God because it is the right thing to do. The early Church was well respected because people knew they cared about those around them. Even though they were oppressed and persecuted, they kept up loving and caring for each other and their communities. They did this because above all things faithful service is our expression of genuine faith. For Daniel, Meshach, Shadrach and Abednigo, it meant not bowing before the king. For Esther, it meant going to the king for assistance. For Peter, John and Paul, it meant preaching the good news of Jesus Christ even if beatings and imprisonment were possible. For us, it is seeking how we can’t serve God while maintaining the safety of the community. It means not allowing physical distance to disturb our spiritual connection. It means trusting God in the midst of an uncertain future. Wherever you are now, let’s be the Church for the world! Let’s be that stabilizing force that reminds everyone that God is still in control- even in such times as these!

Pastor Robb
This past month has proven to be new and uncharted territory for everyone with Covid19 taking our country by storm. We have new words in our vocabulary like social distancing and Zoom youth group. And students have been asked to “do” school at home and online. Being quarantined in our homes has challenged all of us in new ways. BUT God...says and put it on our hearts for the year, “This is the day the Lord has made, we WILL rejoice and be glad in it...” even in the midst of the craziness of life right now!

Our youth groups on Zoom have been such a blessing to me. It is so wonderful to see your faces and hear your voices. I pray our times virtually will encourage you and continue to help you grow in your faith. Like we have talked about, let us focus on the things we can control and do our best with those things and let God handle the things out of our control. Let us try to be Warriors not Worriers!

So much of what we had planned for the near future is really up in the air at this point like Youth Sunday and the Philly mission trip. As I find out info about those things, I will pass things on to you as well. Until then, I challenge you to use this time to invest in your relationship with God with devotions, worship and prayer. God will work all things for good and in His timing...our job is to trust Him and be obedient to what He calls each of us to do!

As things go on longer than we expected, please let me know if you or your family needs anything. Being isolated can make us struggle emotionally as well. If you ever need someone to just talk to and listen, you can always call me or we can set up a socially distant visit. You are loved by our awesome God and by me!

Jess Grimes
Praying that everyone is staying healthy and Safe! Life can change quickly. But one thing never changes and that is the love that God has for us.

I can see God working through all of this even in my family. One of the ways is by making videos (devotions) for the kiddos on the church’s YouTube channel.

We have a crazy guy with clown hair and a few guests who visit him from time to time.

We have been talking about what to do when you have questions, who fights our battles and what to do when we are scared. Make sure to check it out.

We even added bloopers to the end! It’s healthy to have a good laugh! Believe me you will laugh.

Remember that God is our solid foundation!

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Praying for you, Kerry and Melissa Ollar
Easter Word Search

Angel  Cross  Crown of Thorns  Easter  Empty Tomb  Good Friday
Holy  Hope  Jesus  King  Love  Mary
Messiah  Resurrection  Risen  Sacrifice  Salvation  Sunday
Savior  Third Day
When Lent began, our Altar Team was inspired to line the hallway with scripture that led us thru Jesus’s journey to the cross. We thought you would enjoy seeing them again.

The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

John 12: 12,13 The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. 13 They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"
Christ condemned to the cross

Luke 23:20,21 Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. 21 But they kept shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”
The Crucifixion of Christ

Luke 23:33,34 33 When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. 34 Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”[c] And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.
The Crucifixion of Christ

Luke 23:33,34 33 When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. 34 Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”[c] And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.
They laid Christ in the tomb

Luke 23:52,53  
52 Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus’ body. 53 Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid.
They laid Christ in the tomb

Matthew 28:5,6  
5 The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.
Jesus, lifted in the clouds

Acts 1:9 ⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

Thank you Tanya High, for sharing your beautiful talent!
Backpacks of Hope update:

We won’t be collecting anything during April. We do however, ask that you keep all of Lebanon County foster kids and those connected to their care in your prayers. Thank you!

Brochures for Gretna Glen Camp and Retreat Center are available on the table by the Library and in the narthex. Ono Church will pay ½ of your child’s camp cost, up to $200.00. If you register your child online, please remember to give the paperwork to the office to receive the credit. We need a copy of the paper showing the camper’s name, name of camp and the cost of the camp.
**Volleyball is in the air!**

Any Youth - minimum age: entering grade 7 in the fall and adults interested in playing on a team may see or phone Mike Edris at 717-460-4063

Games are played on Thursdays

---

**Hospital Admissions:**

Please inform the church office when you or a loved one becomes a patient in the hospital or other health care facility. The federal HIPPA regulations do not permit health care providers to release personal information without your expressed permission. Not all health care facilities have chaplains on staff to contact us about your admissions. A phone call to the church office at 717-865-7469 will help us to respond to you with pastoral care.
News letter submissions

deadline: 3rd Sunday ea. Month

Please email to Dee Faller - deefaller@gmail.com