

---

# *Good News in Ono*

---



---

*CHRIST IN THE CHAOS*

---

**December**2020

*Brothers and sisters, we have confidence that we can enter the holy of holies by means of Jesus' blood, through a new and living way that he opened up for us through the curtain, which is his body, and we have a great high priest over God's house.*



*Therefore, let's draw near with a genuine heart with the certainty that our faith gives us, since our hearts are sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies are washed with pure water. Let's hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, because the one who made the promises is reliable.*

*And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds. Don't stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near.*

**-Hebrews 10. 19- 25 (CEB)**

**Hope** is a wonderful gift for humanity. In and of itself, hope can encourage and lift us up for the time being. However, misplaced hope will eventually disappoint. If you misplace your hope enough, you will become downtrodden or depressed. Too often I see people misplace their hope. They hope that a child will make better life decisions. They hope that a parent will finally give them the unconditional love they desire. When the people fail, they become destitute and begin to lose a sense of hope. Eventually, they can become hopeless- a horrific place for any human being to be!

The Christmas season is a season of hope. I hear people say that a lot. Hope that the family will get together and not argue. Hope for gifts and food and joy abound. All of these things that are hoped for give a wonderful sense of joy to the season. I think humanity needs that- especially right before the drab and dreariness of winter fully sets in during January and February. It is a wonderful reprieve of a difficult weather season for those of us located in the North. As Christians, however, I pray that this season presents a greater hope than that.

The hope of Christ is not season dependent. It is not dependent on getting our way or worldly success. The author of Hebrews reminds us that we can hold onto the hope of Christ without wavering- not because we are good or strong enough. No, hope that depends on humans is fraught with failure. Instead, our hope can be unwavering because God is reliable. If you set your hope on something unreliable, then you will experience the pain of false hope. However, our message is to set your hope on the one person who has proven himself to be reliable- Jesus Christ.

This Christmas season, let us be sure that our hope and faith are placed in the one true God who does not disappoint. While times might be frustrating, we know the end of the story! Because of Jesus, we can boldly approach God's throne of grace. We can have confidence that the end of our story will be in God's glorious presence in Heaven. It is a hope that endures and it is a hope that is intended to be shared! Let us not waver in this hope as our Lord is unwavering! Let us share this hope during all seasons so that those around us may come into God's presence!

*Pastor Robb*



## Newsletter – December 2020

I can hardly believe we are at the end of another year...and what a year it has been! Certainly this year has tested all of us in new ways but I pray that our faith has remained strong in our God who never changes and who keeps His promises!

Our youth group has been meeting again in the fellowship hall and we are working through a Christmas Playlist series that takes familiar Christmas songs and uses them to teach us about our faith. Also we have asked each youth family to pack/prepare a Holiday Care Kit for Mission Central. These kits include personal care items that will be given out to needy children and families in our area.



We are hopeful to be able to attend a winter retreat at Camp Orchard Hill, February 26-28 2021. This year the theme is Undivided – Give me an undivided heart that I may fear Your name. Psalm 86:11. We will be taking our middle schooler and high schoolers to this combined retreat this year. The camp has been very thoughtful and careful to adapt safety guidelines for COVID-19 to keep campers safe. And they are offering refunds for groups/individuals should anyone be sick or uncomfortable attending. So...register your teens today for this life changing weekend away! Please call Jess G. if you have any questions!

Due to current circumstances, the Ono Youth Group will NOT be offering the free Christmas Post Office this year. We are sad to not offer this service this year but we hope you understand!

-Jess Grimes

# ***Ono Children's Ministry***

## ***Kids4Jesus***

*Wednesday Nights (7-8pm)*

*We will be having Kid4Jesus in December except for the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.*

### ***Kid-Friendly Christmas Eve service for Families***



***12/24/2020 (5-5:30)***

*This is a service that will be directed toward the kiddos in the Sanctuary. Please bring a mask to wear during the service. We will also be live streaming the service on our Youtube channel.*

***Thank you all who helped with the Thanksgiving Turkey Boxes.***



*We delivered 31 Boxes and had a great time finding the turkeys a new home.*

***We would like to thank everyone for the prayers and support. Hoping everyone has a Merry Christmas!!!!***



These folks are celebrating 80+ years of life: Lois Gingrich; Jeanne Hauck; Florence Tashima; and Louise Soliday (80<sup>th</sup>). Happy, Happy Birthday!!

12/1 Lois Gingrich	12/13 Robb Faller
12/1 Roseann Nace	12/13 Jim Meyer
12/1 Julie Schriver	12/14 Hannah Andino
12/2 Darryl Moyer	12/14 Mary College
12/3 Kevin Pinegar	12/14 Peggy Heisler
12/4 Tammy Blauch	12/15 Kalyn Harmon
12/4 George Miller	12/16 Brooklyn Meyer
12/5 Derek Blauch	12/16 Reid Shuey
12/5 Mark Boyanowski	12/19 Heather Blauch
12/5 Gary Smith	12/22 Sam Kolacek
12/5 Greg Staley	12/22 Julianna Meyer
12/6 Jeanne Hauck	12/22 Larry Richard
12/7 Dawn Fessler	12/22 Sherry Wiest
12/7 Jo Miller	12/23 Staci Murray
12/7 Joan Sallada	12/23 Donell Rittle
12/7 Donna Smith	12/24 Tyler Lentz
12/8 Holden Zeigler	12/24 Jenna Murray
12/9 Melissa Ollar	12/26 Leelon Knauff
12/9 Natalie Piotrowski	12/26 Jaxon Mount
12/9 Gene Strickler	12/27 Katie Bleiler
12/10 Brad High	12/27 Mikayla Shuey
12/10 Sean Murry	12/27 Louise Soliday
12/12 Haley Blair	12/30 Mason Shuey
12/12 Melody Fessler	12/31 Gene Ditzler
12/12 Michael George	12/31 Glenn Moyer

# *December Spotlight:*

## *Jeanine Houff*



*For 25 years Ono Preschool has been blessed to have the talents of "Miss" Jeanine Houff as one of our teachers. With much regret and sadness on her part and our preschool staff and children, we are announcing her retirement. "Miss" Jeanine has loved all our students, getting to know them and their families. She has added creativity to our curriculum and laughter to our classroom. We will especially miss her musical talent and how she would often answer the children with a song.*

# Operation Christmas Child



2020

*Even though collection week was a bit different this year, we are so thankful for all those that packed a box and for all those that helped collect over 3,000 shoe boxes!*

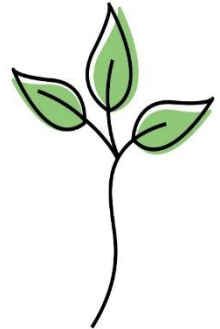
Since 2009, more than 23 million children who have received a shoebox gift have participated in The Greatest Journey—a 12-lesson discipleship program. Children learn from trained, local volunteers what it means to follow Jesus and share their faith with friends and family.

---

We continue to be in need of P.J.'s, so if you run into a sale, please keep us in mind!

*Thank you!*

BACKPACKS OF HOPE



---

**Adult Bible Study**  
**7pm**  
**in the Sanctuary**

---

**Kids4Jesus**  
**7pm**  
**In Fellowship Hall**

ONO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
The 2020 Advent Celebration of

# “CHRIST IN THE CHAOS”

Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> thru Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>

A Christmas visual experience!

The whole church family is invited to bring a piece of your outdoor Christmas decorations to the front lawn, in front of the outside cross. We want to encourage you to be creative and have fun!

Our hope is, that as we go thru this year’s advent season, you and yours will help the display grow into something beautiful! No matter how chaotic it may look...

**Christ will be at the center of it all!!**

*No need to make an appointment, just bring your outdoor decorations, find a spot in the designated decorating area and have fun!*

*If you have any questions, please give Dee a call at 484-620-6726.*

---

We will all have a story about how 2020 has changed life as we know it, won't we? Some stories of seeing God moving in our hearts and home, some of more difficult moments, when we were challenged to let go or hold on tight. Though the story of 2020 hasn't finished yet; we want to invite you to join us in an online, church wide devotional to “do This Christmas differently”. Walk with us as we explore:



**Worshipping Fully - Spending Less - Giving More - Loving All**

A 2020 Advent Devotion - “Advent Conspiracy”

<https://adventconspiracy.org/devotional1/>



# Christmas 2020 Holy Days

## Sunday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent

- 8am Traditional Worship
- 9:30 Modified Sunday School
- 10:30 Contemporary Worship
- 7pm Youth Group

## Sunday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent

- 8am Traditional Worship w Communion
- 9:30 Modified Sunday School
- 10:30 Contemporary Worship w Communion
- 7pm Youth Group

## Sunday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent

- 8am Traditional Worship
- 9:30 Modified Sunday School
- 10:30 Contemporary Worship
- 7pm Youth Group

## Sunday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

- 8am Traditional Worship
- 9:30 Modified Sunday School
- 10:30 Contemporary Worship
- 6:30pm Christmas Caroling

## Wednesday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>

- 7pm Blue Christmas Service

*A tender evening, for those who are feeling a bit fragile during the holidays.*

## Thursday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>

- 5pm A Kid Friendly Christmas Eve Service
- 7pm Family Worship Service w Candle Lighting
- 10pm Christmas Communion Service

## Friday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>

**Happy Birthday Jesus! Isaiah 9:6**

*For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*



*Join us for Christmas Peace Yoga / 6pm thru December.*

(we meet in Fellowship Hall – bring a mat, water and your mask.)

---

---

## **FIRST FRIDAY**

***5 PM – 8 PM***

### **Downtown Lebanon**

Lebanon County's final *First Friday* of 2020. Enjoy live music, art and great food

---



**SATURDAY, Dec. 5th**

**9 AM – 12 PM**

### **8th Annual Lebanon Christkindle Market**

Coleman Memorial Park, 1400 W. Maple St., Lebanon, PA

# *A Prayer for the Pandemic*

(by Decon Jeff Austin, Diocese LaCrosse)

May we who are merely inconvenienced,  
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who  
must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their  
schools close remember those children who will go hungry with no  
school meals.

May we who have to cancel our trips remember those with no place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic  
market remember those who have not market at all.

May we who settle in for quarantine at home remember those who have  
no home.

As fear grips our country let us choose love. During this time when we  
cannot physically wrap our arms around each other let us yet find ways  
to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbor. Through Jesus Christ,  
whose arms of love embrace us all.

Amen

(submitted for the newsletter by Rev. Larry Richard)