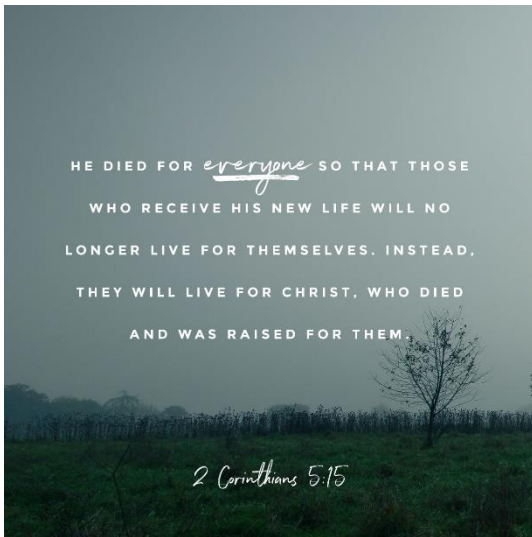




Good News in Ono

February 2021

Ono United Methodist Church | 9 Main Street, Ono 17077 | 717.865.7469



If we are crazy, it's for God's sake. If we are rational, it's for your sake. The love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: one died for the sake of all; therefore, all died. He died for the sake of all so that those who are alive should live not for themselves but for the one who died for them and was raised.

2 Corinthians 5:13- 15 (CEB)

We are called to be controlled by the love of Christ! What a challenging proposition! For Paul, it means he is unconcerned with what people think about his appearance or style- he is even willing to be crazy for God's benefit! His main focus is not on what he desires, but in persuading others to come into the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. I would

argue that that is the ultimate showing of God's love- *for God so loved the world that He gave us His only begotten Son...* (John 3. 16a). Jesus' love was so profound that He died for all. That means every single human being has access through His sacrifice. It is our responsibility to live out these lives of love so that others might know the love of Jesus.

This love is radically different from the love that the world experiences. Humans do not willingly lie down their lives for others easily. Jesus references that concept in His conversation on the good shepherd. *A good shepherd will sacrifice for his sheep, but the hired hand will run away* (John 10. 11-12). Paul reiterates this when saying that *we will not easily lay down our lives for a righteous man, maybe a good man, but Jesus died for the unrighteous* (Romans 5. 6-7). This is the love we are called to have for humanity! We are called to be willing to sacrifice our own desires and comfort in order to proclaim the love of Christ- after all Christ did so for us even while we were still far from Him!

Paul concludes 2 Corinthians 5 by explaining that this means we have been given a ministry of reconciliation. Just as God has reconciled us through Christ, we are called to offer that reconciliation to others. It is a profound challenge! If we count people's faults and failures against them, then we are failing in the message of reconciliation! After all, God has chosen not to count our faults and failures against us and we received that news with great joy and excitement (or we should have!). Now the ball is in our court. If we are the new Creation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5. 17), then our hearts must be filled with His love.

I can only imagine what this world would look like if the Ekklessia was controlled by the love of Christ. Bitterness, envy, strife and anger would be gone. Peace, grace, mercy, love and joy would abound. The love of Christ is a powerful weapon- perhaps I recognize it most because it is what entrances me- that Jesus would place people in my life who loved me where I was. People who choose to overlook my anger, foul mouth and generally miserable attitude to express that Jesus loved even me. I knew my un-worth... they didn't have to tell me that. I knew my active ignoring of God's presence in the world... they didn't have to tell me that. I didn't realize the overwhelming power of God's love and grace- I needed that! Ono UMC, let us be the radical lovers of the people of Northern Lebanon! Let us not worry about their faults, instead let us focus on God's love for them and allow us to be the ones that proclaim that love to a people in need of being reconciled to God.

Pastor Robb

Ono Youth – February 2021

This month we have been doing a study in youth group called CrossFit: Gaining Spiritual Strength. After the past year I felt like we could all use some renewed spiritual strength, so we have been challenged to do the “exercise” it takes to get fit spiritually and feel the burn of going beyond our comfort zone and learning to be flexible in our approach and attitude to others by choosing love first.

Also, we have been doing a weekly family challenge during the month of January. Each week a new challenge is presented and if the family completes the challenge that week they are entered into a drawing to win a free pizza dinner that week! Challenges were to talk together and compile your top 5 most inspiring bible stories, do a family activity together like a hike, walk, bike ride, etc., and lastly as a family choose someone to bless with a random act of kindness. Congratulations to our winning families, The Murrays, The Seiberts, and The Atkins! (see the pictures below)



We are grateful to our youth for putting 25 Holiday Care kits that were delivered to Mission Central this month. These kits filled with lots of personal care items will be distributed to local people in need in the coming months.



Unfortunately our winter retreat at Camp Orchard Hill in February has been canceled because of the continued restrictions and guidelines with the pandemic. We are hopeful that sometime this year we will be able to go on a retreat of some kind for our teens to have a weekend away to grow closer to God and one another.

SUPERBOWL SUNDAY, Feb 7, 2021: ALL are invited to join the youth group at Northern Lebanon High School at 2pm for a fun time of touch football before the Superbowl game. Don't want to play?...Cheerleaders are welcome, of course!



Ono Children's Ministry

I hope everyone is having a GOOD New Year so far.

Kids4Jesus

Wednesday Nights (7-8pm)

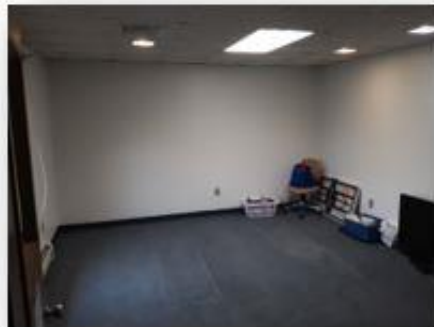
Check out the Kid's Kubbies!



The kiddos will have their own mailbox (basket) to check everytime they come to church. This is a place where the church can support the kiddos through letters, cards, special gifts, surprises etc.

New Kid's Ministry room (Kid's Korner)

The Start



Finished Product



We are working on the new kid's ministry room. This will be a very colorful room where the kid's ministry can do puppet shows, games, Bible lessons and many more fun and exciting things. We are very excited to see the progress and the end product.

Many Blessings Mr. K/

Honoring Love – Jack & Dottie Allison Will Celebrate 69 Years of Marriage



This year, on June 28th, 2021, my grandparents, Alfred C. (Jack) and Dorothy (Dottie) Allison, will be celebrating their 69th wedding anniversary. The way he tells it, Poppy (Jack) was a young lad in attendance at her grandmother's home sale when he first took notice of my grandmother. She was almost three years his junior, but he says he knew even then that she was someone special. They officially met a few years later in high school, but their courtship did not begin until after graduation. They became reacquainted while they were both working for The Hershey Company – her in Kisses, him in wrapping – and he'd give her rides home at the end of the day. Here began a four-year courtship, which ended with the two of them visiting a small jeweler in his home to purchase a ring. Their wedding two years later was simple, accompanied by only a best man and a maid of honor; they were wed by their high school history teacher, the Rev. O.D.E Pottieger, in Terre Hill, Lancaster County. Following the ceremony, they enjoyed a small luncheon in the mother and father of the groom's living room. They first settled in the small upstairs apartment behind Dorothy's older sister's house and lived there for two years, welcoming the birth of their first child. They eventually moved into the Allison family farmhouse for about three years, where their second child was born, and while they were building their home at 10 Sealer Creek Rd. Once settled into their new home, they would have one more child and over the years nurture and entertain not only their own children and six grandchildren, but also an entire community of family and friends. (I'd wager there are few people in the surrounding Ono community, or connected to an Anspach or Allison relative, who aren't familiar with the Allison's pool or Dottie's pizza).

Throughout their marriage they both had careers – Jack served in the Army National Guard from 1948 to 1984 and worked as the Business Manager at Northern Lebanon School District, and Dottie worked as a secretary for her brother at Anspach Autos and then as a beloved Library Aide at East Hanover Elementary School from 1971 until they decided to retire from the district together in 1991. They said retiring together was a choice they made so they could start spending more time traveling with friends and enjoying their grandchildren.

When I asked them to sit down with me and share some of the things that they believe had made their long marriage a successful one, Poppy's first words were, "I had the best wife in the world." He might be right – in my opinion, my grandmother is a saint, but I needed a few more words of wisdom. The things that my grandparents found important in life, particularly after retirement, were family, friendships, and their faith: "When you know what you value, and put your trust in the Lord, the decisions are easier to make," says my Gramma. One of the things we talked about was how important it is to have supportive people in your life. My grandparents had their "gang" of couple friends with whom they frequently traveled and went out to dinner every Friday night, so having other couples to connect and spend time with made the list. Another ingredient in their recipe for success was volunteering together; while my grandparents also maintained separate volunteer interests in the greater community, they also believed it was important to be active together in the church - Gramma in the library, and Poppy on the finance committee, teaching Sunday School, singing in the choir together, hosting meals in their home, and in many other ways over the years. The most valuable thing a couple can do together, they say, is to pray together. For as long as I can remember – and they still do it daily – my grandparents eat breakfast together, share a devotion, and pray together. The final words of wisdom to round out the list are these: treat each other the way you would treat a friend or company; be polite and use manners toward each other; find a way toward forgiveness. My grandparents would like it to be known that they truly credit their marriage to God, and they fully give Him the praise for always lifting them up and carrying them through the difficult times in life. And so they both agree and emphasize that the most important piece of advice they have to offer for those hoping to make their relationships last is to "prayer together and trust in the Lord."

Their own wedding may have been simple, and they don't recall having a first dance together, but Jack and Dottie have attended a few weddings in recent years where they have participated in a special dance for married couples. In this dance, all married couples are invited onto the dance floor, and during the song couples are eliminated by the least to greatest number of years they have been married; each time, my grandparents are the last couple standing. To me this is a testament, not only to the fact that they have been blessed with good health and longevity together, but to two people who have understood that their nearly seven decades of marriage together – from the greatest joys to the deepest pains – has been about love as an action, love as a choice, and a love wrapped up in every real and raw emotion we as humans are capable of feeling. At the end of each day, they continue to choose each other.

To close, if there was one thing I would wish to express to them, it is deep gratitude. Thank you for the choice you have made to love each other – in the easy times and the hard ones – because your marriage built a legacy: your family. We may be dispersed far and wide, but you have set a foundation, grounded us to a home, to each other, to love.

-Abigail King, proud granddaughter





Northern Lebanon United Methodist Cluster
2021 Lenten Series

As we prepare for the season of Lent, our local pastors have assembled and will be presenting their messages of ***“NEW BEGINNINGS”*** each Wednesday during Lent beginning with Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17th thru Wednesday, March 24th.

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All services will be live at Ono United Methodist Church
(we will be social distancing between family groups
and ask that you wear a mask)

and

Live streamed on **NLUMChurch**
(which is our cluster youtube channel)

at

7:00pm

A special thanks to all who have helped with the Blessings of Hope Food Distributions. To date a total of 42,000 lbs. of food has been given to people in our community.



Northern Lebanon UMC Food Distribution

**Saturday, Feb 27th
1pm**

While supplies last

**Ono UMC
Ono, Pa**

[1 Thessalonians 1:3](#)

3 We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.



2/2	Brandt Seyfert	2/17	Betty Felty – 87 th !
2/2	Austin Atkins	2/18	Furman Parker – 88 th !
2/3	Sok Chea Pho	2/18	Kaleb Pinegar
2/3	Fred Staley	2/19	Dustin Blauch
2/4	John Bomgardner	2/19	Dennis Funck
2/4	Amanda Walker	2/19	Emilee Frazier
2/5	Kaleb Longenecker	2/21	Dennis Grubb
2/7	Brenna Rollman	2/23	Sara Artley
2/7	Drew Meyer	2/24	Brant Barr
2/10	Dewey Dove	2/24	Emily Shuey
2/12	Jack Allison – 91 st !!	2/26	Randy Condran
2/12	Emory Helsel, Jr.	2/27	Kylie Ollar
2/12	Nancy Strickler	2/28	JoLynn Brummer
2/13	Josh Moyer	2/28	Cathy Boyanowski
2/13	Muriah Pennycoff	2/28	Lee Eisenhour
2/14	Gavin Rollman	2/28	Preston LaPorte
2/15	Ben Boyanowski	2/29	Luke Wentling
2/15	Joel Seibert		
2/16	Lenny Leibold – 82 nd !		



6 Simple Ways to Count Joy When Life Is Difficult

by: Micah Maddox Joy. We all want it, but it sure does seem like some people get extra doses and others are left on the grouchy list just waiting for their big breakthrough. When life is filled with discouragement and tough times, it makes it even more difficult. When we look at the Bible and find joy, it's often seated with suffering, sorrow, or trials of some kind. We see Paul in prison singing his way through. We see Daniel in the heat of the moment praying his way through morning, noon, and night. How can we count joy like James speaks of even in

trials and temptation? Is it really even possible? The Bible gives us a good idea of the answer, and I want to share some of the verses that give us a reason and way to count joy no matter what we are going through.

1. Count Joy When You Breathe *"Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it" (Isaiah 42:5).* Remember where your breath comes from. There is no life without God first giving it. When we take a step back even in the face of difficult circumstances, we still have the gift of breath. It's a gift to inhale and exhale. Counting joy may seem difficult when you are facing struggles that literally take your breath away. But after the tears are dried up for the day and you rest your head on your pillow, your body does the work for you of breathing in and out. God designed us to continue breathing even when we aren't aware of it. And for that, I can claim joy for the breath God gives day by day.

2. Count Joy When You Speak *"Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak" (Exodus 4:12).* Moses struggled just like we do with not knowing what to say. This was true before he even had to go and do as God commanded. But God promised to give Him words and He did. We have the same opportunity today to receive the blessing of the words God wants us to speak. Our words are so powerful. Our voices matter. The words we say leave marks and last in hearts longer than the moment they are spoken. Joy and words can walk together when we are in tune with the Lord. When we aren't, there's harshness, pain, and strife. Your voice is a gift. Praise God for the voice you have even when you don't know what to say. Let God give you words. Those words will bring joy to both yourself and the listener.

3. Count Joy When You See *"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help" (Psalm 121:1).* Just as we can count joy by our breath and words, we can count joy by sight. The things we see each day and the people we pass can impact us greatly when we are aware of them. It's choosing to see the sunrise and set. It's noticing the little ways God shows up for you. It's being aware when God sends someone your way. When we open our eyes to see all God has for us, joy is always a result.

4. Count Joy When You Hear *"I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears" (Psalm 34:4).* Listen. Do you hear that? There are so many noises all around us each day, it is easy to drown out the still small voice of God. But if you've heard from God, you know very well the joy it brings your heart. The best way I love to hear from God is through the Bible. I simply open it and ask Him to speak to my heart. I read until He speaks. Then I stop and listen. This practice of communing with God brings me joy. And it can bring you joy too. It's a daily joy I get to count to open God's Word.

5. Count Joy When You Walk *"Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him" (Genesis 5:24).* Every day we have the opportunity to rise up and walk. I love this verse because we don't know too much about Enoch except that he did walk with God. Whether you are simply walking to the mailbox to see what came in the mail today, or taking a long power walk to get your blood pumping, this is a great time to count joy and walk with God. I actually take a short daily walk around lunch time just to remind myself I can get my heart to beat a little faster and breathe a little harder. It's a great reminder to find joy in the mundane moments of the day. To notice the fresh air, the sky, the trees. Whatever it takes for you to remember God and that there is always a reason to be joyful.

6. Count Joy When You Face a Trial *"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds" (James 1:2).* I saved this one for last because it seems the most difficult. Can we really count joy when we are facing trials? I believe we absolutely can. But only if we are willing to count joy in the ways and for the reasons mentioned above. Without being thankful for the life and breath God has given us, we will surely live discouraged without true joy. Without recognizing God's creation and the way it looks, and sounds, we won't truly be able to grasp the goodness of God. In His grace He makes the sun shine every day. He makes the moon come out and brighten the night sky. He gives power to wind and waves, but also holds the power to calm them. God isn't waiting to steal your joy by letting you walk through trials. He's still there with you in them. His sun is still in the sky. His light is still shining brightly. His hope is still alive. And His help is absolutely available to you. There is always a reason and a way to count joy. Take a deep breath. Look around. Listen. And maybe even take a walk.

2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS January thru June

January

3 Sunday
Communion
11 Monday
7:00 PM Trustee's
18 Monday
7:00 PM Finance Committee
19 Tuesday
7:00 PM Education Commission
7:00 PM Outreach Committee
26 Tuesday
7:00 PM Administrative Council

February

2 Tuesday
6:00 PM HIS Servants
7 Sunday
Communion
8 Monday
7:00 PM Trustees
9 Tuesday
7:00 PM Worship Commission
14 Sunday
7:00 PM Hollywood Squares
15 Monday
7:00 PM Treasurers
17 Wednesday
Ash Wednesday
7:00 PM Lenten Service at Ono
21 Sunday
First Sunday of Lent
24 Wednesday
7:00 PM Lenten Service at Ono
28 Sunday
Second Sunday of Lent

March

7 Sunday
Third Sunday of Lent
Communion
8 Monday
7:00 PM Trustees
10 Wednesday
7:00 PM Lenten Service at Ono
14 Sunday
Fourth Sunday in Lent
15 Monday
7:00 PM Treasurers
17 Wednesday
7:00 PM Lenten Service at Ono
21 Sunday
Fifth Sunday in Lent
23 Tuesday
7:00 PM Administrative Council
24 Wednesday
7:00 PM Lenten Service at Ono

28 Sunday
Palm Sunday

April

2 Friday
Good Friday
7:00 PM Good Friday Service
4 Sunday
Easter Sunday
6:30 AM Sunrise Service
6 Tuesday
7:00 PM Worship Commission
12 Monday
7:00 PM Trustees
7:00 PM Mission Commission
19 Monday
7:00 PM Finance Committee
20 Tuesday
7:00 PM Education Commission
26 Monday
6:30 PM Preschool Father's Night
27 Tuesday
7:00 PM Outreach Committee

May

2 Sunday
Communion
9 Sunday
Mother's Day
10 Monday
7:00 PM Trustee's
17 Monday
7:00 PM Treasurer's Meet
23 Sunday
Day of Pentecost
25 Tuesday
7:00 PM Administrative Council
31 Monday
Memorial Day

June

6 Sunday
Communion
14 Monday
7:00 PM Trustees
20 Sunday
Father's Day
21 Monday
7:00 PM Treasurers Meet