

December Good News in Ono



**Ono United Methodist Church
9 Main Street
Ono . 17077
717.865.7469**

And from the overflow of his fullness we received grace heaped upon more grace!

Moses gave us the Law, but Jesus, the Anointed One,

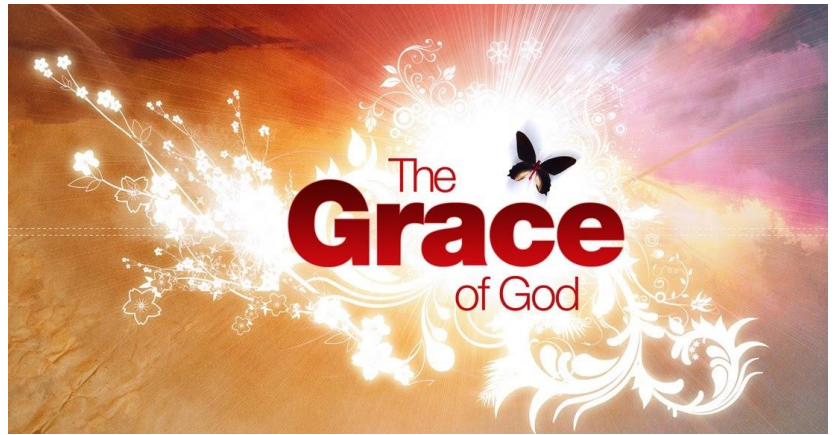
unveils truth wrapped in tender mercy.

No one ever before gazed upon the full splendor of God

*except his uniquely beloved Son,
who is cherished by the Father
and held close to his heart.*

Now that he has come to us, he has unfolded

the full explanation of who God truly is!



-John 1. 16- 18 (TPT)

The Christmas story is not simply the story of a child being born in a manger. The true miracle goes way beyond a virgin birth. It transcends the wonders of shepherds being the first eyewitnesses of Jesus. The Christmas story is the glorious reminder that God Himself came down to earth. The incarnation (God becoming flesh) is the greatest evidence of a theological truth I try to explain to everyone- God is pursuing you! He could've just stayed on His heavenly throne. Instead, He stepped down into this world for us! What a glorious message we have.

I appreciate the Passion Translation's verbiage, "Now that he has come to us, he has unfolded the full explanation of who God truly is!" I often hear people use the analogy of people of faith being blind touching a part of an elephant. That each group has a part of God, but no group has a full grasp. That analogy works until the incarnation. No doubt, God cannot be fully known or understood simply by us looking into the world. But, if God were to come down to us, then we could know Him fully, just as we are fully known (1 Corinthians 13. 12). The greatness of the Christmas story is that the full explanation of God has come to us!

So what is this fullness? John offers us this wonderful realization- the fullness of God reveals grace upon grace. In other words, grace that is far greater than our faults and failures. This is the fullness of the Gospel message- you can freely come to the throne of God not because you are deserving or have been good enough. You can freely come to the throne of God because God's grace is far greater than your faults and failures. And that message rings true for all people. It is a message that we are called to share with all people. This Christmas, let us make sure that our message to our families and friends is that the fullness of God has been revealed and that fullness reminds us that we are forgiven! That grace is greater and that we simply need to receive that gift of grace into our hearts. May the fullness of God uplift and fill you all this Christmas!

~Pastor Robb

Youth and Worship news by Jessica Grimes

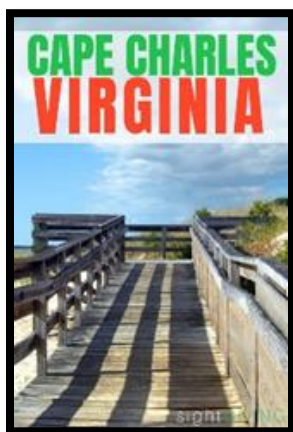


What a fun time we are having getting ready to share Christmas at Uncle Phil's Diner with you this month!!! Have you gotten your ticket reservations for Dec 9, 10 or 11?! Have you taken a step of faith and invited friends or family who could use a fun night out and a chance to be reminded about the true meaning of Christmas? Be sure to stop by the ticket table in the Narthex between worship services and pick up your tickets!

One of the most fun parts of this show is introducing this group of teens to the 1950's era... vinyl records and record players with a DJ,

greased back hair, leather jackets and poodle skirts and phones connected to a wall??!!! A lot has certainly changed since those days! But one thing remains a constant and unchanged – and that is our Savior Jesus and his love for us! That is the message we hope to share as we present Christmas At Uncle Phil's Diner!

High School Youth Summer Mission Trip to Cape Charles, VA – We are excited to announce our plans for a summer mission trip on *June 26 – July 1st*. This part of the Eastern Shore is where Luke Wentling is serving with Young Life. We will be helping a local church there provide a summer camp called, Splash Camp, for the kids of the



community who cannot afford daycare. In the morning we will be running a VBS program for them and in the afternoon planning field trips to take them on each day. In addition, we will be sending out work groups to the community to assist some of the needy people in the area with home projects.



Youth Winter Retreat

— Both the high school and middle school teens will be going on a winter retreat at High Point Camp on *Feb 4-6, 2022*. Early bird registration is due by December 20 to get a \$15 discount and a free t-shirt. Phil Von will be the guest speaker this year and the camp has lots of fun things planned for the youth all weekend long.

Worship News:

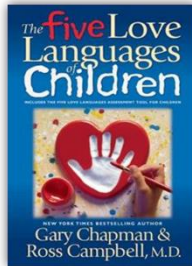
The Ono Christmas Choir will be sharing with both our worship services a collection of songs on December 19th. We pray the music will bring your joy and hope as we worship Jesus as the Light of the World!

Ono Children's Ministry

We are planning a Bowling Christmas party in December for all the kiddos and parents. Keep a look out for more details within the next week.



Sunday School Class for Parents



We are almost done with our Book on the 5 love Languages. Our next course will be on Marriage (I will be supplying boxing gloves if needed Ha,Ha).

We are hard at work on the new kid's ministry room!

Only Authorized individuals



with Hard Hats may enter!!

The Men's group will be meeting December 8th (6:00 pm) at Moose's resturant for a time of fellowship. Come join us!

Please sign up and support the kids, youth and adults at Uncle Phils Diner.

We are looking for Kid's Church Teachers!!!!

Thank You all for Your support!

Happy Thanksgiving!!!!

Bible Translation Survey

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

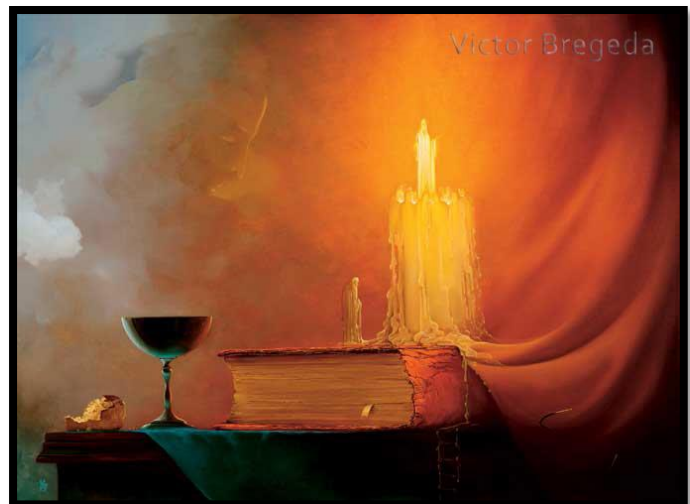
One of the things I like to do to empower my understanding of the Bible is to read different translations. You may have noticed that I have switched translations I use in service as well. This year, I would like your input into which translation to use in service. I have narrowed it down to four. **The New King James Version (NKJV)** was first published in 1982. The aim of its translators was to update the vocabulary and grammar of the King James Version, while preserving the classic style and literary beauty of the original 1769 edition of the King James Version. Many of my seminary professors were involved in this translation. **The New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)** was published in 1989. The New Revised Standard Version is the version most commonly preferred by biblical scholars. This is due to its basis on what are often considered the oldest and best manuscripts, and its strict adherence to word-for-word translation. This is the translation that I used throughout seminary. **The Message (MSG)** was a modern translation by Eugene Peterson who wanted to make the Bible more understandable for his daughters. I have highly recommended this version to new Bible readers for his very understandable use of English to convey theological concepts. **The Passion Translation (TPT)** was published in 2017. I have never read this translation, but it is designed to be an easy to understand translation that "unlocks the passion of God's fiery heart." So what do you say Ono? What translation shall lead our worship throughout 2022. Text or email me to vote for the **NKJV, NRSV, MSG, or TPT**. Regardless of translation, we know that God's enduring word will guide our worship always! ~Pastor Robb email - robbfaller@gmail.com phone/text - 484-686-1778

Holy Communion

Sunday, December 5th

And so,
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.



Thank you, Mary College, for your dedication of 10 years in serving as a leader for drop off at Ono church for OCC



Thank you, to all who brought in shoe boxes to share, to all those who helped thru out collection week, to all those who have prayed and are praying for the little hands that will receive these shoe boxes. Would you continue in prayer, asking God if this is an area of ministry for you to be involved in?

If you have any questions, please contact Mary College. She will be happy to share her years of knowledge and wisdom with you!

Mary College (r) and Joan Sallada (l) during the 2021 recent relay center.

From Mary: *It was blessing and joy to serve for 10 years.*

In those 10 years 34,669 shoe box gifts have passed through our church, blessing 34, 669 children somewhere in the world.

Thank you, everyone, for your help in making this possible!!

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief)

UMCOR is still working to assist refugees from Afghanistan through Church World Service. If you would like to donate specifically to that cause, you can use a special offering envelope and place Afghanistan on the envelope or check.



Thank you for participating in this years Giving Tree Ministry! Please be sure to bring your "angels" gift in and leave it under the tree in the Narthex by Dec. 12th. Be sure to include your tag for identification.

We receive the list through Children and Youth Services, Lebanon Co. This ministry was started by Ruth Jones any years ago. For any questions, please contact Barb Blauch or Laurie Shuey. Thanks!

Sunday Morning Adult Groups gathering at 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.



Class led by Dave Hahnen in Rooms 22/24

Class led by Kerry Ollar meets in Room 27

Discussion class in Fellowship Hall

"The Chosen" video, ladies discussion group in East End Fellowship Hall, led by Dee Faller, begins on Dec. 5th, starts at 9:15 sharp, the first week.

SUNDAY and WEDNESDAY
EVENING GROUPS will be taking a break in December (still meeting Dec. 1st)
We'll see you in January!!

Have you moved or gotten a new phone number? Please let the office know of any changes to your information by calling 717-865-7469 or email at onochurch@gmail.com

Thank you!





Thank you Diane and Charlie Miller for hosting such a fun night of Trivia!

Update on the Gospel Center – Local Ministry to our community

On Saturday, October 23, a group from Ono was blessed to once again share worship and a meal with the folks at the Gospel Center. After a long hiatus due to COVID-19, the Gospel Center began serving the Saturday evening free meal again in October. Our great team at Ono was excited to resume this ministry. Stay tuned for our next date in the New Year. There are many ways you can share in this ministry – donations of food, money or gift cards, bake a dessert, help to serve the meal, share a musical talent during the worship service or share a testimony. Please contact Jeannette Shuey at 717-644-1831 if interested.



YOGA

It's back!

Join us Monday evenings.

5:45-6:45 p.m.

Any and all levels welcome!



Sounds of The Season

**Christmas
Cantata
Rehearsal**

**Thursday's @
7:15pm**

Merry Christmas Church! As the snow prepares to fall, the trees prepare to rest and we look forward to celebrating God's greatest gift... we think of the simple things this time of year.

Encouraging us to dwell quietly and peacefully.

May you have peace in your hearts and homes this Christmas season as you prepare for His arrival!

Pastor Robb and Dee

Christmas blessings!



John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.

I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."



Advent 2021

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|---------------------------------|---|
| <i>November 28th</i> | – <i>Prepare, John the Baptist</i> |
| <i>December 5th</i> | – <i>Expectation, Mary and the Angel</i> |
| <i>December 12th</i> | – <i>Excitement, The Shepherds and the Angels</i> |
| <i>December 19th</i> | – <i>An Invitation, an Innkeeper</i> |
| <i>December 24th</i> | – <i>He is coming! Our Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace</i> |
| <i>December 25th</i> | – <i>He is here!</i> |
| <i>December 26th</i> | – <i>The Wise Men arrive</i> |

As we journey thru Advent this year, the Altar team invites you to join us in the journey of *God's beautiful story*, displayed in the Narthex. A precious opportunity to involve our little ones in the mysteries of *our faith story*! God is always Good!



4 Ways to Authentically Live for Jesus

author: **Clarence L. Haynes Jr.**

The word Christian is an interesting word that derived not from Jesus, but from the people in Antioch, where the followers of Christ were first called Christians. Part of the reason they were called Christians is because they lived in such a way that represented Christ well. It is easy to conclude that these folks reminded people of Jesus by the way they lived.

As we fast forward two thousand years, how can we apply this to our lives? What are some ways that we can authentically live for Jesus so that when people see us, they will be reminded of him? There are many places in the Bible you can turn to address this issue, but I want to use Philippians 2 as my text to help us more authentically live for Jesus.

1. Seek to Unite the Body, not Divide It

"Therefore, if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind" ([Philippians 2:1-2](#)).

I want to cut right to the heart of what Paul is saying. If you belong to Christ, you belong to me. People who are looking to live for Jesus are uniters, not dividers. There is a sad reality in the church today; it is badly divided. We have gone so far as to put qualifiers on our unity, none of which are Biblical in any fashion. Notice what Paul used as the markers of agreement amongst Christians.

- Being united with Christ
- Finding comfort in his love
- Sharing in the Spirit

Compare that to the markers we use today

- Do you support the political party I support?
- Do you agree with my opinion on this issue or not?
- How do you feel about vaccines and masks anyway?

If we are going to live for Jesus truly and authentically, then we must unite people around Biblical truth and not divide them based on social issues. Someone I have never spoken to or met before reached out to me and

asked me three questions. My opinion about the vaccine, my opinion about the president, and what is my faith? He was using these questions to try to establish the foundation of a relationship. If I agreed with his stance, relationship was possible, if I didn't it was not.

May I ask you a simple question? What do those things have to do with being united with Christ, finding comfort in his love, and sharing in his Spirit? Nothing. If you are going to live for Jesus, you must push past all these things and help fellow believers unite around the truth of Scripture, not be divided by anything else.

2. Stop Thinking Only of Yourself

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others" ([Philippians 2:3-4](#)).

This verse reminds us that we should not do anything in which we position ourselves as the center of attention. Another way to think about it is the world does not revolve around you. Maybe it's just me, but I feel like this principle has gotten lost somewhere. If you think about everything Jesus did, he did it because he put our interests above his own. Just the fact that he came and suffered for our sins is proof enough that he was putting our interests ahead of his own. When will we get back to the place where we care about how what we do impacts other people?

In sales and marketing there is something called a WIIFM statement. WIIFM stands for What's In It For Me? Too often this is the mindset we have taken with the way we live. We view everything through the lens of how it affects me, which is in direct opposition to how Jesus lived.

How does this play out in real life? A good question to ask yourself is this, how does what I am about to say or do impact the people around me? By doing this, I am not only thinking about myself, I am thinking about the community I am surrounded by and engaged in. When you value others above yourself you are living an authentic Christian life and you begin to remind people of Jesus.

If you are going to really live for Jesus then your attention and focus must shift from WIIFM to WIIFT, What's In It For Them.

3. Live Humbly and Be Obedient to God's Word

"And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!" ([Philippians 2:8](#)).

Living authentically for Jesus is going to require that you take the low road sometimes. It will mean that you don't always have to be right and prove to everyone that you are right. It will mean that sometimes you will be silent in the face of opposition and use wisdom in knowing when to speak. It means you don't use material blessings to show off God's goodness when you are just bragging about the things you have. Humility means it is not all about you. God's glory becomes more important than your fame. It also means that you recognize that you are not better than others, but the difference in you is Christ and you make him the star of the show.

To live in obedience means that God's word becomes the deciding factor in your life. An authentic Christian life is one that is lived in alignment with what God's word says. The beauty of God's word is that it is unchanging. It does not shift with societal changes. When you think about it, humility and obedience go hand in hand. You cannot live a life of obedience without humility.

If you are going to live for Jesus, be humble, be obedient, and live surrendered to what God wants you to do. Let the motto of your life become not my will, but yours be done. When you do this, you are now living for Jesus.

4. Stop Complaining and Arguing

"Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, 'children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.' Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky" ([Philippians 2:14-15](#)).

In everything that you do, one thing that is clear is your attitude about it matters. How you do something and the way you approach it speaks volumes to those around you. Consider these questions for a moment:

How do you respond when the job does something you don't agree with?

How do you respond when you are asked to do something you don't like?

How do you respond when things don't go the way you expected?

I could ask more questions, but I think you get the point. The attitude you bring to every situation can show the world who you belong to. People who grumble, argue, and complain simply don't remind the world of Jesus.

It is interesting in this verse in Philippians that Paul says when you stop doing this you will shine like stars among this warped and crooked generation. The reason you will shine is because you will behave in a manner that looks totally different than those in the world. If you haven't been paying attention, there are a lot of people grumbling, complaining, and arguing out there. If you want to live like Jesus, don't be one of them. The moment you disengage from that type of activity, you put your light in position to shine.

Sadly, the opposite is also true; when you do engage, then whatever light is in you gets snuffed out. You can choose how you want to live, but if you want to live like Jesus, grumbling and arguing is certainly not the way to do it.

I hope you see the challenge that is before us in living like Jesus. Ultimately, we are either going to look and live like him, or we are not. There is no middle ground. For all of us there are some things we need to work on, but I pray this would be the motivating factor. The world needs Jesus, and you can play a role in that. By putting your life and light on display you become a beacon that points people back to Jesus. If we can win some to Christ by authentically living for him, then whatever it costs it will be worth it all.

Clarence L. Haynes Jr. is a speaker, Bible teacher, and co-founder of The Bible Study Club. He is the author of *The Pursuit of Purpose* which will help you understand how God leads you into his will. He has also just released his new book *The Pursuit of Victory: How To Conquer Your Greatest Challenges and Win In Your Christian Life*. Do you want to go deeper in your walk with the Lord but can't seem to overcome the stuff that keeps getting in the way? This book will teach you how to put the pieces together so you can live a victorious Christian life and finally become the man or woman of God that you truly desire to be. To learn more about his ministry please visit clarencehaynes.com.

December Birthdays

12/1 Lois Gingrich – 85th

12/1 Roseann Nace

12/1 Julie Schriver

12/2 Darryl Moyer

12/4 Tammy Blauch

12/4 George Miller – 86th

12/5 Derek Blauch

12/5 Mark Boyanowski

12/5 Gary Smith

12/5 Greg Staley

12/6 Jeanne Hauck – 85th

12/7 Dawn Fessler

12/7 Jo Miller

12/7 Joan Sallada

12/7 Donna Smith

12/8 Holden Zeigler

12/9 Melissa Ollar

12/9 Natalie Piotrowski

12/9 Gene Strickler

12/10 Brad High

12/10 Sean Murry

12/10 Florence Tashima – 89th

12/12 Haley Blair

12/12 Melody Fessler

12/12 Michael George

12/13 Robb Faller

12/13 Jim Meyer

12/14 Hannah Andino

12/14 Mary College

12/15 Kalyn Harmon

12/16 Brooklyn Meyer

12/16 Reid Shuey

12/19 Heather Blauch

12/22 Sam Kolacek

12/22 Julianna Meyer

12/22 Larry Richard

12/22 Sherry Wiest

12/23 Staci Murray

12/23 Donell Rittle

12/24 Tyler Lentz

12/24 Jenna Murray

12/26 Leelon Knauff

12/26 Jaxon Mount

12/27 Katie Bleiler

12/27 Mikayla Shuey

12/27 Louise Soliday -81st

12/30 Mason Shuey

12/31 Gene Ditzler
