


GOOD NEWS IN ONO DECEMBER 2023



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Live in this way, knowing that you were not liberated by perishable things like silver or gold from the empty lifestyle you inherited from your ancestors. Instead, you were liberated by the precious blood of Christ, like that of a flawless, spotless lamb. Christ was chosen before the creation of the world but was only revealed at the end of time. This was done for you, who through Christ are faithful to the God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory. So now, your faith and hope should rest in God.

-1 Peter 1. 18- 21 (CEB)

I think the Christian faith is scandalous. The idea that God would be willing to sacrifice His Son should astonish us. The very concept that Jesus was chosen before the Creation of the world should make us wonder about the greatness of God's wisdom. Even before the fall of humanity from God's presence, God knew they would need a Savior. He didn't hesitate to create even though God knew that there would be problems. Instead, God had a plan that was greater than our faults. His plan was to descend into the very creation that had failed! The Creator became the Created! Perhaps this is the most scandalous concept within our faith.

Christmas tends to focus a lot on very worldly concepts. We can deny it all we want, but gifts and consumerism dominate our culture and even our own experiences in December. If we removed that part of the season, it wouldn't even feel like Christmas- even though we have multiple movies and books to try to change that perspective. We love the lights, the music, even the smells of the season! Hallmark has made a whole industry of the romanticism of the season! The sweet image of a newborn child and a doting mother and father (or as one of our children said "stepfather") are in our homes, stores, towns, altar tables, etc. In the midst of it all, it is easy to miss the scandal of the season, but it is this scandal that really has changed history and our lives.

God became flesh. The very author of life became a part of life. It truly is hard to comprehend! How can the all-powerful become the powerless? Why would God risk it all for a creation that had, and frequently still is, rejecting Him? *God is love (1 John 4. 8).* This is the grand explanation. Love is willing to take risks to enable the people around them. God's love was so great that He created knowing that creation would rebel. He created knowing that the solution would cost Him dearly. All this was done for you! God's love for you was so great that this grand and glorious plan went into action. This is why faith is not about us, but simply our trust in the one who set it all in motion.

So Christmas has become a season of great joy and gift giving for a reason. It is all in celebration of God's amazing love and grace. As we go through this season of gift giving, song singing, family gatherings and traditions, may we always remember that it is all because of the great gift of God's own presence taking human form. Jesus lived so that we could be set free from this world and enter into God's Kingdom. We could not be liberated by perishable things- so God did what seems impossible. Let us thank God with our lives throughout this season by putting our faith and hope in Jesus Christ.

Pastor Robb

JESS GRIMES – YOUTH AND WORSHIP MINISTRY

The youth had their first every *FRIENDSGIVING* dinner on November 23. Each youth brought something to share “potluck” style. We had a terrific dinner with parmesan chicken, green bean casserole, sweet potatoe casserole and LOTS of desserts and sweets. We shared things we were thankful for and then went on a turkey hunt throughout the church...luckily all 14 turkeys were found and Thanksgiving was saved!



The Ono youth and kids joined up for Operation Christmas Child shopping and shoebox packing on Wednesday November 8. They began by “shopping” through all the donations given from the church and then we took a quick trip to the Dollar Store together to buy a few special items for their boxes. We came back to church to fill the boxes and ended the evening with a time of prayer over the boxes.

The Ono Youth would like to invite you to join us for an Advent Prayer Odyssey experience on Wednesday December 6 and 13th from 6:30 – 8pm. This drop in (15- 20 min) prayer experience will take place in the fellowship hall where you will walk through stations and encounter prayer in a unique way.

ADVENT PRAYER ODYSSEY

You will walk through the story of Advent from Malachi to Revelations. This prayer experience is for all ages and for believers and non-believers, so bring a friend and take a few moments this advent to let God speak to you through prayer!

DECEMBER KID MINISTRY

JOIN US FOR MANY FUN ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH!

DECEMBER 3RD @6:30- KIDS FELLOWSHIP

6TH @6:30- KIDS 4 JESUS/
KIDS PRAISE PRACTICE

10TH @10:30- KIDS PRAISE SINGING
DURING 1030 SERVICE

10TH @6:30- CHRISTMAS PARTY
SNACKS, GAMES, CRAFTS
(SEE INVITATION FOR MORE INFORMATION)

13TH @6:30- PRAYER ODYSSEY
(SEE FLYER FOR MORE INFORMATION)

17TH @6:30- PEIRCING WORD CHRISTMAS
PRODUCTION
(SEE FLYER FOR MORE INFORMATION)

20TH @6:30- CHRISTMAS CAROLING

24TH @5:00- CHRISTMAS EVE
KID-FOCUSED SERVICE





**Dec. 9th, at 1pm
TILL THEY ARE GONE!**

AT JONESTOWN UMC
SPREAD THE NEWS!

Thank you everyone!

**The gift bags were
warmly received with
many thanks!**

Questions? Give Becky Moyer a call at 717-512-6439. She'll be happy to speak with you!



BACKPACKS OF HOPE

IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME!

November was a busy month for us. We've reorganized our space and passed quite a lot of your donations on to Lebanon County Children/Youth and to The Lebanon Valley Domestic Violence Intervention Office. If you know of anyone needing help, please give them this number: (717) 273-7190

Thank you – for all you give to this ministry.





There is something for everyone this winter at Ono Church! Prayerfully consider which small group, class or gathering you would like to be a part of for learning, growing and fellowship!

Do you feel led to start a new small group?! Contact Pastor Robb and he will help you get started!

Sundays @ 6:30pm

Adult Bible Study (Leader: Pastor Robb)
Youth Groups (Gr 6-12th)
Kid's Fellowship (K- 5th)

Wednesdays(every other week) at 1pm

Adult Small Group (Leader Dave Hahnlen)

Wednesdays at 6:30pm

Youth Sweet Hour of Prayer/Production Team (1st wed. of the month)
Youth Production Team (the rest of the month)
Kids 4 Jesus (K – 5th)
Adult Bible Study (Leader: Pastor Robb)

Thursdays (1st & 3rd of the month) at 9:30-11am

Ladies Sharing Small Group

Thursdays at pm 6:00-7:00pm

Women's small group with Leann Snyder

**Are you feeling led to begin a new small group?
Call Pastor Robb to get it started!**



Monday Christmas
YOGA

6:00pm in fellowship hall



12/1 Lois Gingrich 87th

12/1 Roseann Nace

12/1 Julie Schriver

12/2 Darryl Moyer

12/4 Tammy Blauch

12/5 Derek Blauch

12/5 Mark Boyanowski

12/5 Greg Staley

12/6 Jeanne Hauck 87th

12/7 Dawn Fessler

12/7 Jo Miller

12/7 Joan Sallada

12/7 Donna Smith

12/8 Holden Zeigler

12/9 London Mclean

12/9 Natalie Piotrowski

12/9 Gene Strickler

12/10 Brad High

12/10 Sean Murry

12/10 Natalie Rudy

12/11 Molly High

12/12 Haley Blair

12/12 Melody Fessler

12/12 Michael George

12/13 Robb Faller

12/14 Hannah Andino

12/14 Mary College

12/15 Kalyn Harmon

12/15 Marina Weidman

12/16 Brooklyn Meyer

12/16 Reid Shuey

12/19 Heather Blauch

12/20 Carter Steiner

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

12/30 Mason Shuey

12/31 Gene Ditzler



Christmas

Cantata 2023!

Dec. 17th

8:00am &

10:30am

*All gifts for the Angels on the Giving Tree are due on Sunday, Dec. 10th!
Through the Giving Tree you are blessing an at- risk child or teen through
Lebanon County Children and Youth services.*



*Be sure to wrap your gift and securely attach the
angel tag to your gift. If there is more than one
package with your tag#, please put the tag#
number on each package or place on/in a gift
bag.*

*Thanks so much for your generosity and helping
to brighten a child's day!*



Spiritual Exercise this Advent

1. Find a quiet, solitary place and spend some quiet time in prayer this week, creating silence amidst the busyness of the season. Ask the Lord to help you make space for him and to be patient with that space and quiet in this special time of waiting before Christmas.

2. In your prayers, consider the people in your life who need help in preparing for Christ's birth, or for His presence at all in their lives. Maybe it's already obvious who needs help. If not, ask the Lord to reveal to you the individuals and interactions where you can be the best witness and listener... who needs your time, patience and gentleness... who needs help to celebrate the good in their lives?

3. Ask Jesus to give you holy boldness in your life, that you could be more like John the Baptist – the voice for God's Word. Where are you too timid? Where do you miss opportunities to speak Christ's liberating Word into the world and into the hearts and minds of those you encounter? Resolve to listen to Him and be open to how you might do a better job at this, using your own unique gifts.

Fr. VanHeusen

December at The Gospel Center:

A group from Ono shares worship and a meal with the folks at the Gospel Center in Lebanon Co. Decemblers date is Saturday the 16th. 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 Shue at 717-644-1831 or Kim Moyer at 717-926-5077. ***Thank you!***



DECEMBER | 7TH

6:30PM

@ ONO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY PIERCING WORD

FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENTS FOLLOWING THE PROGRAM!

INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS AND FAMILIES!





The Ono UMC Christmas Post Office:

As a service to the Church, the Ono Youth Group and helpers will be busy little elves working hard together to sort all the Christmas greeting cards you would like to send to other Ono church members!

Please note: Please mail your cards to our shut-ins through your regular mail delivery.

You can mail your Christmas greetings in the **blue mailboxes** that will be at each entrance, beginning on Dec. 3rd thru Dec. 31st. Remember to check your mail each week! We pray that the "Post Office" will be one small way for us all to love one another better this Christmas season!



Holy Communion
Sundy, Dec. 1st



Everyone is invited to join in the singing!

Wednesday, December 20th @ 6:30pm

AND

**Saturday, December 23rd – meet at 12pm at the Church
to carol in Lebanon**





Sunday, December 24th, 2023

8:00am - *Traditional Worship Service*

9:30am - *Sunday School*

10:30am - *Praise and Worship Service*

5:00pm - *Kids-focused Service*

7:00pm - *Family Service*

10:00pm - *Service with Communion*

So many opportunities to
celebrate Jesus with our
Families and Friends!

