



Greek for “Love without Limits”

New Adult Sunday School Series Begins October 29th

“Don’t Look Back” by Will Willimon is a 3 session series which will be taught by Craig Mueller beginning Sunday, October 29th at 9 am in the choir room. In this series, Will Willimon will talk about the split of the United Methodist Church and encourage congregations to move forward.

Session 1: This video gives congregations permission to turn their attention away from denominational squabbles and toward a deeper understanding of their God-given purpose.

Session 2: This video reminds us of Jesus’s instructions to us, his congregation. We are to go out in mission! Will explains how congregations can interrupt our tendency to look inward, and instead focus on our purpose, our mission.

Session 3: Will proposes questions and ideas for congregations to consider and discuss which lead to understanding and agreement about what can be next for our church and its community.



<p>Pastor: Hoyte Wilhelm hoytewilhelm@gmail.com cell: 330-428-1545</p>	<p>Christian Ed. & Youth Director: Wendy Cooper sundayschool@noumc.org</p>	<p>Organist: Javier Gonzalez Jglez_2001@yahoo.es</p>
<p>Administrative Assistant: Terri Wilhelm office@noumc.org</p>	<p>Social Media: Hanna Moore social@noumc.org</p>	<p>Music Director: Gabriela Martinez gabrielamarmar@aol.com</p>
	<p>Financial Secretary: Ron Clough finance@noumc.org</p>	

Worship Opportunities

Worship With Us In-Person and Online

Sundays at 10:30 am

DATE	GREETER(S)	LITURGIST	USHER(S)
November 5	Jim and Ellie Yager	John Wolter	Judi Wagner
November 12	Sarah Jackson	John Vas	Sarah Jackson Sydney Scothon
November 19	Jean Scothon	Joel Chermonte	Beth Cruz
November 26	Sarah Jackson	Ed Brewster	Barb and Ron Clough

Oxcart Pantry Donation List



Stocking Donation List



Boxed/Bagged Stuffing Mix
 Cranberry Sauce
 Gravy (Jar/Can/Packets)
 Boxed Cake Mixes
 Boxed Cookie Mixes
 Boxed Brownie Mixes
 Other Boxed Dessert Items
 Canned Sweet Potatoes
 Mashed Potatoes (Boxed/Packets)

Wrapped Candy
 Shampoo and Conditioner
 Toothpaste and Toothbrushes
 Deodorant and Razors
 Nail Clippers and Files
 Small Coloring Books and Crayons
 Skin Cream/Lotion and Soap and Razors
 Puzzle Books and Pens/Pencils
 Lip Balm and Cosmetics/Razors
 Jewelry
 Toy Cars/Trucks/Small Stuffed Animals
 Small Dolls

Missions News

From Barb Andrews:

I hope you have discovered that the green donation cart for Oxcart Pantry donations is now close to the door. Donations have been significantly down while the cart was out of sight under the stairs. Last month's donations numbered only 21. I hope the new location will help to remind you what is needed. The Thanksgiving items went over at the end of October. You will not need to remember what the items are for November. We will be collecting the same items for Christmas bags of food.

Also, please note that there is a box for Christmas stockings items. If you're new to this collection or need a brush up, we will be filling Christmas stockings with toiletry and personal items and then adding fun items for children and adults which will add a little fun to the stockings. Check out some of the suggestions listed on Page 2, but you can add your own ideas. Just remember they need to fit in the stockings.

If you are not in a shopping mood, you can put a donation in the November Penny Sunday collection. Let's hope Javier's Penny Sunday rendition puts you into a giving mode.

We will also be getting our adopt-a-family info, hopefully soon. The stockings and the families' due dates will be posted as soon as we get them. Just keep an eye on the easel in Fellowship Hall for the Wish Lists. Take a slip off the board, pick up the item or items, wrap the gift, and put it under the tree in the sanctuary.

Our charitable donations are much appreciated.

UWF Updates

Thanks to all who helped with the craft show. We couldn't do it without some of your help in setting up and closing down, the bakers who outdid themselves this year, the donations to the craft table and especially the UWF members who put a lot of time and effort into putting it together. A special thanks to our coordinator, Judi Wagner.

Now comes the fun part. We have money to give away. The meeting to do that is scheduled for November 15. If your group has a need that you may have decided to not add to the church budget but feel it would add to your committee's work or if you have seen something, as an individual, that would add to our church in general, please tell us what it is and how much you need and put the info in the UWF/UMW box or give it to a UWF member. We keep some money to get us through the start of the year but we give away the rest, mostly to the church, but some to mainly local charities. If you have a pet charity, you can let us know that, too. We don't guarantee you will get all you ask for, but we do a pretty good job of meeting your requests.

NOUMC Financial Snapshot

Thanks for your continued generosity and faithfulness in supporting the financial needs of NOUMC. Through September, the church's regular giving was about \$17,400 less than was budgeted. Note that full financial statements for the first three quarters of 2023 are available in the office for anyone who wants to see them.

The budget process for 2024 is currently underway. More information about next year's financial plans will be provided in next month's Agape.

Financial Snapshot
North Olmsted United Methodist Church
For the year to date through September 30, 2023

	January thru September 2023		
	YTD	YTD	Variance
<i><u>Regular Operations</u></i>			
Regular Giving	\$ 151,363	\$ 168,750	\$ (17,387)
Operating Expenses	187,395	195,230	(7,835)
Excess (Deficit)	\$ (36,032)	\$ (26,480)	\$ (9,553)
<i><u>Ministries funded through targeted donations</u></i> (not included in operations)			
Donations	\$ 16,236		
Disbursements	\$ 20,328		
<i><u>Cash Balance</u></i>			
Unrestricted (for operations)	\$ 25,380		
Restricted (for targeted ministries)	27,962		
	\$ 53,342		



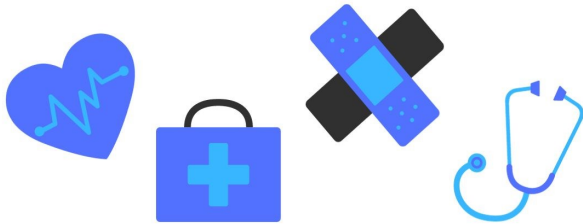
From Sydney Scothton's Family:



Thank you to all who made the service for Jesse Brooks on October 22nd a wonderful celebration of his life. We especially want to thank Pastor Hoyte, John Wolter, and the Nurture Committee for all the time and effort that went into a very meaningful celebration of Jesse's life.

Sydney would also like to thank all our church friends for their cards, prayers and well wishes.

Hospice Program Hosted By NOUMC



CARING FOR OUR LOVED ONES (YOU ARE NOT ALONE)

Understanding Hospice,
Palliative Care and Advanced
Directives

DECEMBER 9TH, 2PM

MAUREEN SHANNON, PROVIDER RELATIONS
FOR
HOSPICE OF THE WESTERN RESERVE
PRESENTER

NORTH OLMSTED
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
4600 DOVER CENTER ROAD
NORTH OLMSTED, OH 44070

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PASTOR HOYTE WILHELM,
CAREGIVER REV. MARK STEIGER AND
HOSPICE VOLUNTEER JOEL CHERMONTE

Please Note: In our commitment to care for one another, we are asking that you communicate with us, and do not attend any church events if you have any reason to be concerned about exposure to COVID. If you find you are sick or have tested positive after attending a church event, please tell us so that we can carefully and confidentially make others who were attending aware so they can quarantine or take necessary precautions. Thank you for being respectful of our extended family of faith.

Lay Leadership Team

We celebrate a new and developing Lay Leadership Team at NOUMC! What is it? The Lay Leadership Team works with the pastor and laity to sustain and advance the ministries of the church. The Team works with councils, committees, and groups to fulfill its local mission of: Feeding the Community: Body, Mind, and Spirit and the connectional mission to: Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.

One of the team's strengths is that the church will no longer need to rely on one Lay Leader which often "spreads a person thin" with their time, energy, and passions for service in ministry. With that in mind, please keep the members of the Team in your prayers and support them as they serve in partnership with you.

This is the representation of the Lay Leadership Team serving in the following areas:

Church Council: Barb Clough and Lay Delegate to Annual Conference (position open, why not you?)

Council on Ministries: Jean Scothon

Finance Committee: Mike Moore

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC):

Jean Scothon and Lay Delegate to Annual Conference (position open, why not you?)

Co-Lay Leaders for Laity Sunday: John and Michelle Wolter

Lay Leader Report for Charge Conference:
Barb Clough

Three-person Sub-Team Meeting with Pastor:
Barb Clough, Jean Scothon, and John Wolter

Lay Leadership Team: all serve as a support group to the Nominations Committee

Ministry in Action at NOUMC: Pastor's Report to Charge Conference

Jesus commissioned his Disciples in post-resurrection and commissions us with the words: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)

NOUMC continues to live in ministry in action with Jesus' words as we move through and beyond the pandemic and into the emergence of a new United Methodist Church. We are moving forward with faithfulness and hopefulness with commitments from people to serve actively in discipleship with specific areas of ministry. NOUMC continues to be faithful in providing opportunities for people to grow in faith, invest in youth (and people of all ages), serve neighbors, celebrate diversity, and foster personal relationships that embody "Our Guiding Principles" with the church's strategic plan of "Our Faithful Journey" and, specifically, with priorities this year to: build a culture of invitation, expand faith development opportunities for adults, and reinvigorate social activities.

Specifically, I share and celebrate in thankfulness the following discipleship ministries of the church:

"All Invite—Year of Invitation" Ministry Theme 2022-2023 and beyond—living into teaming-ministry with church leaders, the congregation, and District and Conference leaders to experience visible examples of the "All Invite—Year of Invitation" ministry theme for 2022-23 and beyond by members inviting others to worship, fellowship, small group activities, and by exploring the development of partnerships with UMC churches in near proximity to NOUMC.

Financial Management and Stewardship—developing effective teaming leadership with the Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and Finance Committee to sharpen understandings of accounting and reporting of revenue and expenses of the church, and to encourage ongoing financial stewardship with the congregation; we experienced faithful response from the congregation with the Operating and Capital Stewardship Campaign conducted in the Spring of 2022-Fall of 2023 (e.g. gutters and siding repairs and resurfacing of the parking lot in work with the Trustees which has been substantial in completing functionality goals and the cosmetic appearance of the building and grounds.)

Governance Structure—continuing to implement a new governance structure to enhance the effectiveness of planning, organizing, communicating, and offering ministries of the local church through two main leadership bodies: Church Council and Council on Ministries.

Outreach Ministries—continuing active commitments with feeding and clothing ministries (e.g. Oxcart Food Pantry, Lorain Men's Shelter, and Nehemiah Mission), presence with laity serving at the Kids' Book Bank in Cleveland, and financial gifts for local, regional, and worldwide missions made possible through "Penny Sunday" offerings and support for UMCOR.

Ministry in Action at NOUMC: Pastor's Report to Charge Conference (cont.)

Monthly Meals—maintaining commitment to offer a monthly Free Community Meal to the community through well-cooked meals and welcoming conversations with guests seeking a church home or information about the ministries of the church.

Caring Ministries—developing complementary work of the pastor and laity (e.g. Nurture Ministry Team) with visits, phone calls, personal greeting cards, email messages, listening presence, prayer, and life-stage planning workshops with members and non-members of the church.

Three Ways to Worship on Sunday Mornings—In-person, Livestreamed, and Recorded—advancing teaming ministry with the pastor, technically and artistically gifted laity, organist, choir director, liturgists, and musicians of the church.

Technology—expanding ways to use new equipment for audio, video, and wireless capabilities in the sanctuary and throughout the building through consultation and leadership with a talented Technology Team.

Zoom Connections and In-person Gatherings—offering in-person and computer-based options for people to participate in administrative meetings, fellowship gatherings, mission activities, study groups (e.g. Advent and Lenten studies, racial and social justice learning andharing), informal support groups, Adult Sunday School, one-to-one support and care.

Electronic Communications—ongoing work with the staff and laity to create new features and updated information on the Website, Facebook page, weekly e-newsletter, and monthly newsletter

Pastor Hoyte

Christmas Flowers



Worship Team will be taking orders for Poinsettias and Christmas Cacti to be placed on the altar for our Christmas Eve services. Order forms will be available in Fellowship Hall beginning on November 12th, and there is one included in this Agape issue on Page 9. Please place your order and payment into the purple box, or send them to Wendy's attention at the church. You may also call the church office to place your order, or email Wendy at sundayschool@noumc.org. Poinsettias are available in Red, White, Pink, Variegated, or Burgundy. All plants are in 6 1/2" pots, and sell for \$10.00. Proceeds from the sale will support our Altar and Arts Team. Deadline to order is Sunday December 3rd.

Lay Leadership Team Member Report to Charge Conference

The theme for North Olmsted UMC this year is a continuation of last year's theme "All Invite – Year of Invitation." We began to gain traction during 2022 and the first half of 2023 with our idea of asking our current members to invite at least one person to our church service or to one of our events/ service projects/activities. *Our goals for this year to fulfill our mission to make disciples of Christ to transform our world are:

1. Short-term: Continue to focus intentionally on our "Year of Invitation" by having all NOUMC members commit to inviting at least one person to an event during the year;
2. Short-term: Offer more Christian Education offerings for adults and create new service opportunities and more small group activities for our adult congregation;
3. Long-term: Continue to offer educational opportunities in addressing matters of racial justice, diversity, social justice, and respect for and sensitivity to LGBTQI persons;
4. Long-term: Offer education on topics important to our aging congregation.

*Goals are congruent with the work of the SPRC, Church Council, and Council on Ministries of NOUMC.

We have kept many of our tried and true service projects and activities that have been a success for our church. One of these projects is our free monthly Community Meal, in partnership with two local Catholic churches. We transitioned from our pandemic-era drive-through take-out meals back to our in-person sit down meals in our Fellowship hall. Initially, our numbers dropped, but now we are back to serving large groups of people. Other service projects include our monthly collection for our local food pantry, monthly Penny Sunday offerings supporting a wide variety of needs in our community and world, continuation of our Racial Justice and Kindness group, yearly school supply collection, monthly volunteering at the Cleveland Kids Book Bank, Hat & Mitten tree collection and many others. We continue to offer our Sunday services in-person, live-streamed and as recordings.

We have added new activities and services to help reach out to our local community. Our Fellowship Committee (previously titled Adult Council) coordinated a Salad & Ice Cream Sundae/Sunday after church, a Music at the Miller Nature Center group, a Shakespeare in the Park in Bay Village group, a nature walk at the Miller Nature Center – all events allowed us to invite others. Our new Intergenerational VBS – grandparents and grandkids learned and had fun together. It was something new, but we'll do it again next year! Our trustees continue to do updates to our facilities to make our church an inviting place for the community.

Our choir director and new organist are fantastic and our choir is growing. We now have Fall Bible studies in process – Seamless Bible Study weekly in the evening and Matchless Bible Study weekly in the morning, along with our Sunday Bible class that meets before our church service. Our Mission Committee has planned our first service project with Nehemiah Mission scheduled for September 26th - a group from our church will be preparing and serving a meal to Nehemiah community members. Our Fellowship Committee will be starting a Dining Around the World A-Z in November to

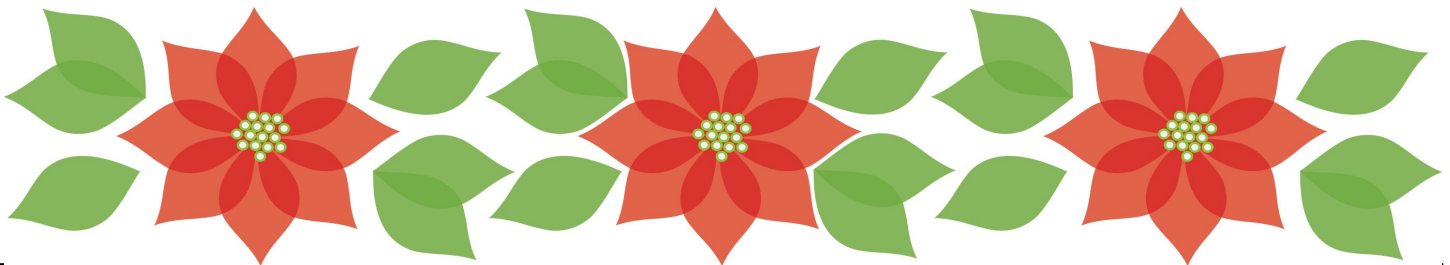
Lay Leadership Team Member Report to Charge Conference (cont.)

begin introducing our members to the foods and culture of countries around the world – first up will be Afghanistan. Our goal is to enjoy good food, invite people of all ages to join us, and help to “create compassion and understanding – which helps the world heal.”*

Our goal with our theme of “All Invite” is to make North Olmsted UMC a place (in concert with East Ohio Conference’s mission) where disciples of Jesus Christ are created, encouraged, supported and grow in their endeavors to transform the world.

Submitted by Barb Clough, Lay Leadership Team Member

*Sasha Martin, “Global Table Adventure – Welcome”; Copyright 2023 Global Table Adventure; globaltableadventure.com



Poinsettia Orders 2023

All proceeds to benefit Altar and Arts Committee

*Make checks payable to NOUMC and write **Christmas flowers** in the memo.*

Please email orders to sundayschool@noumc.org or mail to the church office, to the attention of Wendy Cooper, by December 3rd.

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Size	Color	Price	Quantity	Total
6 ½ Inch	Red Poinsettia	\$10.00	_____	_____
6 ½ Inch	White Poinsettia	\$10.00	_____	_____
6 ½ Inch	Pink Poinsettia	\$10.00	_____	_____
6 ½ Inch	Marbled Poinsettia	\$10.00	_____	_____
6 ½ Inch	Variegated Poinsettia	\$10.00	_____	_____
6 Inch	Christmas Cactus	\$10.00	_____	_____
	Total:		_____	_____
			Paid _____	Owe _____

In Honor ___ Memory ___ of/from: (Please check the right box and print your dedication.)

New Bible Study for Advent

Tuesday Evening/ Thursday Morning Adult Bible Study: Advent

For some, Christmas is a time of excitement, celebration, and quality time with loved ones. For others, it's full of loneliness, grief, and loss. No matter what this season holds for you, the promise of Christmas will bring you a lifetime of hope. As we journey through our Advent study, we will be reminded that Christmas is about more than a pretty tree with presents piled up underneath it. Christmas begins what Easter celebrates: the child in the cradle who goes on to become the King on the cross. Because of Bethlehem, we have a place on earth and a Savior in heaven. Come join us as we study "Because of Bethlehem," by Max Lucado. Revive your wonder in the promise of Christmas! Tuesday evening classes will begin on November 28th at 7 PM and end on December 19th, and Thursday morning classes will begin on November 30th at 11 AM and will end on December 21st. There will be 4 sessions. Cost of the participation booklet is \$9. If you would like to join us, please see Wendy or email at sundayschool@noumc.org. There will also be a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall on the sign-in table.

Intergenerational Advent Celebration

Your Christian Education team would like to invite you to bring your younger children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, or any young children in your care to come celebrate Advent with us! Spend some fun one-on-one time with the young people in your life as you hear the story of Christmas, learn about Advent, engage in a craft, play a game, and enjoy a yummy snack together! This will be a hands-on experience, and adults should plan to stay the entire time. Our Intergenerational Advent Celebration will take place on December 3rd from 12:30-2:30. All are welcome! If you would like to participate, or if you know someone who would, please see Wendy or contact her at sundayschool@noumc.org.

Newsletter Update



In an effort to cut down budgeting costs, we would like to know if you would still like a paper copy of the newsletter to be mailed to you, or if it would be possible to add you to the email list. Please email office@noumc.org and let us know. Thanks so much!

Dining Around the World Dinner Announced

The Fellowship Committee is starting a new opportunity to get together - Dining Around the World A-Z! It's a chance to get together with church members, bring a friend, try new dishes, and learn about the people and countries of the world. Bring your sense of adventure! A sign-up sheet will be in Fellowship hall.

Dining Around the World A-Z!

Featured Country: Afghanistan
When: Saturday, November 18th
Time: 5:30 pm
Where: NOUMC Fellowship hall

NOUMC Fellowship Concert

Are you ready for some Christmas music? Join NOUMC Fellowship as we travel to Rocky River to listen to the West Shore Chorale and our own Andy Walsh! SAVE THE DATE ~ DETAILS TO COME. **Andy may get us discounted tickets.

Joyful Voices, Jubilant Sounds!

[Sunday, December 3, 2023, 7:30 PM](#)

Rocky River United Methodist Church
19414 Detroit Rd, Rocky River, OH

**Tickets \$20 - All Students Free

The West Shore Chorale is a non-profit arts organization, dedicated to enriching lives through the beauty and power of choral music.

Christmas Card Making



Saturday, December 2, 9 am - 3 pm, Fellowship Hall

Sign up by November 27

Join Sharon Werner and Sandra Andrews on Saturday, December 2 and create some hand made Christmas cards. Cards cost \$2 each and you will need double sided tape (can be purchased at the event). We will also have potluck brunch so bring something yummy to share. The deadline to sign up is November 27. If you can't make it that day you can also order a kit with cards that you just assemble and mail. Please email Sharon for photos of the cards being offered and an order form.

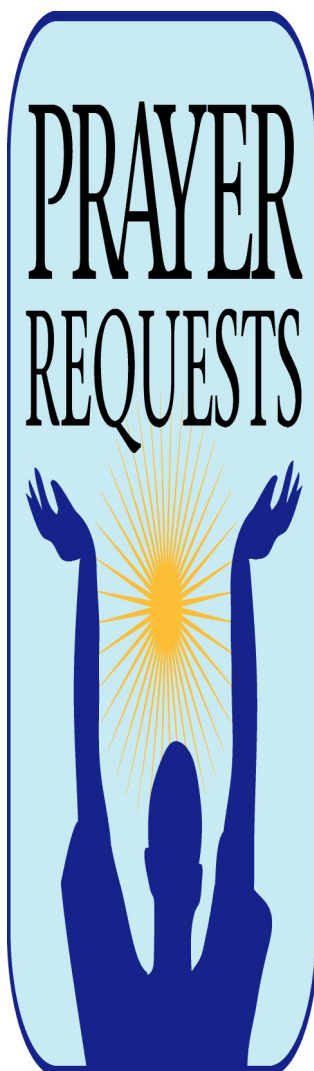
Church Family News

8	Andrew Walsh	20	Andrew Homola
11	Chris & Karen Davy	23	Rick Asp
12	Jacob Hotz	24	Ron Wagner
14	Andy Moore	25	Judie & Mike Flynn
15	Greg Lavelle	29	Mike & Chris Byrns
17	Sophia Anderson	29	Ray Burnett
18	Michelle Wolter	29	Madison Stroup
18	Paul & Claudia Taller	29	(Honorary) Frank & Sandi O'Dell

NOVEMBER



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Those affected by gun violence and homelessness	Judy, lifted by Brenda F.	Ron W.
Victims of Maui wildfires and natural disasters and First Responders	Selene, lifted by Carole A	Nancy D.
Those suffering from mental illness and addiction	Bunny, Liz L.'s cousin	Lois D.
Beth Nagy and son-in-law of Ron & Barb C.	Joy & Rocky, lifted by Paul & Claudia T.	Anita B.
Tammy M.'s Dad's recovery	Curtis, lifted by Reba Y.	Ray S.
Marianne, lifted by Janis J.	Judy L.	Jane P.
Alice W.'s Dad's surgeries and recovery	David & Steve, lifted by Mary Ellen M.	Keith A.
Terry, Kathy & Deb, lifted by Paul and Claudia T.	Doug, friend of Joel & Deb C.	Barbara B.
Ryan and family, lifted by Ron and Barb C.	David Noss, JoAnne's husband	Susan L.
Carole B.'s niece and family	Bill & Marilyn Ransom	Our Church

November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10am UWF 7pm Joint Council 8pm AA	2 11am Bible Study 7pm Choir	3	4
5 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship/All Saints Day	6 6pm GS 6pm Finance 8:30pm AA	7 7pm Scouts	8 8pm AA	9 11am Bible Study 7pm Choir	10	11 8:30am UMM Breakfast
12 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 3-4:30pm GS	13 6pm Girl Scouts 8:30pm AA	14 1-3 Book Bank 7pm Scouts	15 8pm AA	16 7pm Choir	17	18 5:30pm Dining Around the World
19 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship/Penny Sunday	20 6pm Girl Scouts 8:30pm AA	21 7pm Scouts	22 8pm AA	23 Thanksgiving Office Colsed	24 11am Sandi O'Dell Celebration of Life	25
26 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 3-4:30pm GS	27 6pm Girl Scouts 8:30pm AA	28 7pm Scouts 7pm Advent Study	29 8pm AA	30 11am Advent Study 7 pm Choir		

For the most up-to-date calendar, visit www.noumc.org.

Please contact the church office (office@noumc.org or 440.779.6634) to add your meeting or gathering, virtual or in-person, to the church calendar.

North Olmsted United Methodist Church
4600 Dover Center Road
North Olmsted, Ohio 44070

RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED



Our Guiding Principles

- We appreciate and invest in our youth.
- We actively serve our neighbors in the North Olmsted community and the wider world.
- We provide varied opportunities for people to grow in their faith.
- We welcome and nurture a diverse congregation who become extended family.
- We foster lasting personal relationships, which are especially important in a digital world.

Free Holiday Community Meal (In-Person Only)

Thursday, December 7, 2023

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Fellowship Hall

Menu: Roast Pork, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy,
Green Beans, Dessert and Drink

The Free Community Meal is a mission of North Olmsted United Methodist Church with assistance from our friends at St. Richard and St. Clarence Catholic Churches and others in the community. All meals are funded by donations, and the dinners are prepared and served by volunteers. Menus may change because of donated food or food pricing. Additional volunteers are always welcome! If you would like more information,

A sign-up sheet for help with set-up, serving, and clean-up will be in Fellowship Hall in April. For more information, contact Barb Linton at blintonofnr@aol.com.