

Welcome to North Olmsted United Methodist Church!

Announcements for Sunday, May 12, 2024

Attention Graduates

If you are a recent graduate (high school, college, technical school, online degree...etc.), we need your information by May 15th so we can honor you during worship! We will need your name, school, degree, and what you will be doing next. Please send all of your details to Wendy, sundayschool@noumc.org. We will be recognizing your achievements during worship on June 9th!

Nehemiah Spaghetti Dinner



Would you like to eat and donate to Nehemiah Mission? Rockport UMC will have a spaghetti dinner on May 18th from 4-8 pm and proceeds will be donated to Nehemiah Mission! The church is located at 3301 Wooster Rd. in Rocky River. They are doing pre-orders: call the church office to place your pre-order at 440-331-9433.

MEALS: Adult Meal (2 Meatballs) - \$15
Child Meal (1 Meatball) - \$10

QUARTS: Spaghetti Sauce - \$10
Meatballs in Sauce (4) - \$12
Meatballs (7) - \$12

Help Tend Our Gardens

Love to help but not sure what to do? Now is the time the daffodil leaves can be cut to the ground. If you see something that looks like a dandelion in the flower bed - it does not belong. The small bed in the parking lot can use some TLC too. Thank you. – Char Vas

General Conference Changes UMC Systems, Policies and Practices

(from GCORR Equity Monitoring Report No. 9

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/gc2020-daily-christian-advocate>)

The power of words that stigmatize, marginalize, and diminish the full humanity of people can never be underestimated. When words are codified into rules, policies, and practices of discrimination, harm prevails over love. Equity is about creating access. Actions of the General Conference on May 1, 2024 changed systems, policies and practices that had excluded an entire group of people since 1972.

Within the history of our beloved Church are examples of codified exclusion of groups of people

viewed as too dangerous, sinful, weak, impure, broken, unworthy, and/or defective to be fully included in the ministries, leadership, and membership of the denomination. Racism, xenophobia, sexism, and homophobia mark our evolution as a denomination. We acknowledge Indigenous women, children, and men; captured/enslaved African women, children, and men; African Americans; immigrants from many lands; women; and LGBTQIA+ individuals who have been deeply harmed by the Church. Our denomination has evolved to acknowledge active participation in racism,

colonialism, xenophobia, sexism, and homophobia, sometimes with apology and repentance, sometimes not. (continued on next page)

During Wednesday's Plenary session, an historic event occurred in the quiet act of approving Consent Calendar A05 by a vote of 692-51 (93%). Among the items in the calendar was one that finally removed the "incompatible with Christian Teaching" language used against LGBTQIA+ people for 52 years. Then the quiet moment erupted into song and celebration. As delegates voted on this impactful legislation, it likely brought about what psychologists refer to as cognitive dissonance, when a person or group holds two seemingly opposing ideas at the same time. When the consent calendar was overwhelmingly approved, removing the incompatibility language from the Book of Discipline, there were moments of deep release and acknowledgment that after 52 years, new freedom is now possible, particularly for the United States and European regions of the UMC. This is one of the ideas in cognitive dissonance. The other is our desire is to maintain a vibrant and genuine relationship among regions worldwide.

The 93% affirmation is clear and required votes from all across the worldwide conferences present. Yet, we do not know yet how the decision to remove the language will be received in some Central Conferences and Annual Conferences when delegates and bishops return home. Maintaining unity and strong genuine relationships requires that we understand that regions may process the understanding and impact of the decisions at a different pace over time.

As these discussions and those on the projected changes to the pension program for clergy from the United States, we have observed a greater diversity of delegates coming forward to speak to the issues. This is an encouraging sign.

Bishop David Wilson, Great Plains Episcopal Area, and first Indigenous (Choctaw Nation and Cherokee heritage) Bishop of The United Methodist Church, challenged delegates to make decisions with a mindfulness of how those choices will affect the next seven generations, not on self-interest. Last evening we rejoiced in the installation of Bishop Tracy Smith Malone as the first Black woman President of the Council of Bishops. A new day has dawned. Then, as delegates and observers departed the building, a rainbow appeared over the Convention Center, giving hope in the promise of calm after a storm. It prompted one observer to post a devotional scripture on social media:

"By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." (Luke 1:78-79 NRSV)



This Week's Happenings

Bible Study: Tuesday, May 14, 7:30pm, Conversation Café

Christian Ed: Wednesday, May 15, 7pm, Classroom 7

Bell Choir: Thursday, May 16, 6pm, Choir Room

Chancel Choir: Thursday, May 16, 7pm, Choir Room

Sunday School: Sunday, May 19, 9am, Choir Room

Day of Pentecost/Penny Sunday: Sunday, May 19, 10:30am, Sanctuary

Chair Yoga: Sunday, May 19, 11:30am, Fellowship Hall

