



Greek for “Love without Limits”

Come, Let Us Adore Him! (from Pastor Hoyte)

The Season of Advent is one of the highlights of the Christian Year. With this season, we will experience again the story of Jesus and the church that emerges, of which we are a part. Sometimes people think that we need to find a new way of telling this story and to do something completely fresh and unique. There is certainly space for that, but tradition and remembering the songs and stories from our beginnings can be a powerful invitation to grow as disciples as we grow closer to Christ.

And so, you are invited to join your church community in experiencing the *Preparations* and the *Passion* of Advent so that you might embrace the *Presence* and *Promise* of Christ who comes in *Joy and Light*. Through it all, we will gather to worship. Come, let us adore him!

First Sunday of Advent: *Preparations: December 1, 2024: Jeremiah 33:14-16, Luke 21:25-36*

Second Sunday of Advent: *Passion: December 8, 2024: Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 3:1-6*

Third Sunday of Advent: *Presence: December 15, 2024: Isaiah 12:2-6, Luke 3:7-18*

Fourth Sunday of Advent: *Promise: December 22, 2024: Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1: 26-38, 39-45*

Christmas Eve: *Joy and Light: December 24, 2024: Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 2:1-20*

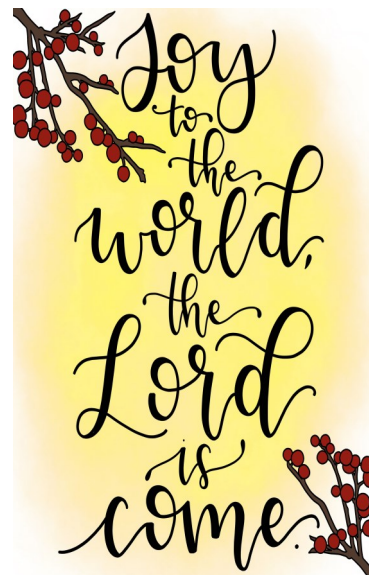
*Share the joy of the season
with us!*

CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
Tuesday, December 24 · 7 pm



*North Olmsted
United Methodist Church*

The Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm, Pastor
4600 Dover Center Road, North Olmsted
440.779.6634 + www.noumc.org



Do you have a favorite Christmas Carol that you would like to have sung during the Season of Advent and Christmas Eve? Submit your request (first-come-first served) to Pastor Hoyte at hoytewilhelm@gmail.com. Fun!

Worship Opportunities

Worship With Us In-Person and Online

DATE	GREETER(S)	LITURGIST	USHER(S)
December 1	John and Char Vas	Ed Brewster	Judi Wagner
December 8	Jean Scothon	Joel Chermonte	Sarah Jackson
December 15	Jim and Ellie Yager	Greg Lavelle	Liz Lavelle
December 22	Sarah Jackson	John Vas	Barb and Ron Clough
December 24	Barb Andrews	Alice Walsh	Judi Wagner
December 29	Jean Scothon	Barb Clough	Sarah Jackson

December Oxcart Stockings



Stocking Donation List

- 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

December Penny Sunday

Flat Rock Homes, Flat Rock Care Center, and Flat Rock Community Services in Flatrock, Ohio, serve people with intellectual and development disabilities. The organization provides residential care at Flat Rock Care Center and serves individuals through FRCS adult programs, community service homes, and employment services. Flat Rock's motto is "Restoring Hope. Transforming Lives. Living Faith." The website tells stories of the miracles that God grants daily at Flat Rock Homes—take a look at www.flatrockhomes.org. Our church has been supporting this nonprofit for many years, because it does good work.

December Oxcart Donations

We will be collecting cleaning items this month. Laundry detergent is especially needed. Please place items in the green box in Fellowship Hall.

Christmas At First



Join us on another adventure as we travel to First Baptist of Elyria and experience the wonder of the Christmas season with an evening of music, drama! Christmas At First is a free indoor performance of the Christmas story featuring a live nativity. Please plan on joining us at this family friendly event which will include cookies and crafts for the kids. Let's **meet** as a group at First Baptist of Elyria on Saturday, December 14th at 6 PM! Please see Wendy for more information, or email her at sundayschool@noumc.org. Sign up sheets will be available in Fellowship Hall.

Nurture Team News

The Nurture Team is coordinating a Christmas cookie Sunday on December 8th. Instead of donuts, we'll have cookies available before and after church. We would like eight volunteer bakers--there's a sign up sheet in fellowship hall. Happy baking, happy munching!

On October 22, 2024, the Nurture Ministry Team hosted a Senior Center information session at the church. Outreach Coordinator and Social Worker Erica Miller provided information about activities, services available to people over the age of 55, meals on wheels, transportation, and Medicare information assistance to our group. She left a Medicare 101 booklet and information on Medicare and Medicaid enrollment, senior transportation, fitness, and community meals available in the area. A copy of this information is hanging on the bulletin board next to the choir room. In addition, she left a sample event and meal calendars. Note that a Medicare specialist is on hand if you need assistance with open enrollment. You can reach out to Erica at (440) 777-8100. Sign up to receive a monthly email that lists activities and updates on the Senior Center Website and emails will be sent directly to you from Tiffany Hunt, Senior Center Administrator. There's a ton of information on the website. The Senior Center is located at 28114 Lorain Road, and anyone over the age of 55 is invited to be part of the community.

Mission Ministry Team News

SUITCASES FOR NEHEMIAH MISSION

As the Christmas season approaches, The Mission Ministry Team plans to deliver gently used suitcases or large duffle bags (especially those with wheels) to Nehemiah Mission. If you have a suitcase or duffle bag to donate, please bring it to the church and place it in the Conversation Café by Sunday, December 15th. We also plan to fill a suitcase with new winter hats, scarves, gloves/mittens and socks to donate to Nehemiah Mission. A suitcase will be placed in Fellowship Hall to collect your contributions. Thank you for help with this vital ministry.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Those affected by gun violence and homelessness	Judy, lifted by Brenda F.	Todd & Carolyn W., lifted by Barb A.
Those suffering from mental illness and addiction	Selene, lifted by Carole A.	Carolyn B.
Judi W.	Vicki & family, daughter of Rae & Walt S.	Lois D.
Pat, CJ C.'s mother	Joy & Rocky, lifted by Paul & Claudia T.	Daniel C., lifted by Joel & Deb C.
Paul T.'s mother, Alice	Curtis, lifted by Reba Y.	Ray S.
Chris & Ava K., lifted by Jean S.	Cindy, Reba Y.'s sister-in-law	John, lifted by Mary B.
Donna R., sister of Bob & Carol N.	Family of Sally C.'s son-in-law	Keith A.
Jan C.	Carl, friend of Joel & Deb C.	Barbara B.
Bill and Marilyn R.	David N., JoAnn's husband	Randall S.
Brenda F.'s niece, Michelle	Sarah J.'s brother, Billy	Joan H.
Jennifer G.	Susan L.	Will S.
Dave S., Jan C.'s brother-in-law	Matt & Debby, lifted by Janis J.	Judy L.
Mario, Community Meals Pianist	Nate R.	Tammy M.'s friend Kate's father
Bunny, Liz L.'s cousin	Family of Irina M.	Joan T.
Doris, friend of Sally C.	Michael M., nephew of Jan C.	Bev C., Deb C.'s mother

Church Family News



3	Barbara Schultz	15	Floyd Andrews	27	Christopher Homola
4	Bill Cauley	16	Phoebe Tidmore	29	John Wolter
5	Kelly Jona	17	Barb Clough	29	Liz Lavelle
10	John Solt	18	Hanna Moore	29	James & Anita Bridges
11	Barbara Schurr	19	Lois Dow	31	Jim & Ellie Yager
13	Ray Plogger	24	Jean Scothon		

UWF News—From Barb Andrews

Check out the craft cart and the cards by the water cooler. We have added some new items and Christmas cards for you to get some decorating ideas and gifts for this year. The cards are a donation from Sharon, and we give her our thanks. Payment can be left in the box attached to the cart.

Our Christmas luncheon will be on December 11 at Matteos. If you would like to join us, let Barb Andrews or Bev Hixon know, so we can update reservation numbers. We will take the rest of the month off and meet again on January 8.

Mission News—From Barb Andrews

Once more you came through with 69 Thanksgiving items, and there will be more of that same type of food for the Christmas bags at the Oxcart Pantry. These items will be collected until November 30. **Our December collection will be our usual cleaning items with a special emphasis on laundry detergent,** which is always an item that is asked for by the clients.

We are also collecting items for the Christmas stockings. They include toiletry articles, stockings, small gifts, and candy. A more detailed list is included in this Agape and in the weekly reminders. We will collect these items until December 8. A special thank you goes out to the members of the mission team, the UWF, and the Girl Scouts, who will be filling the stockings on December 8. We have wonderful volunteers.

As I am writing this, we have not received our Adopt-A-Family's information, but hopefully, the easel will be filled by the time you read this. A reminder---take 1 or more slips from the easel, purchase the gift, wrap it and put the part of the slip that has the family number, sex, and age on the package. The gifts can be left under, beside, or near the tree in the sanctuary.

For all you do for your neighbors in North Olmsted, here's a big THANK YOU!



Blue Christmas Invite from Rev. Alice Walsh
December 17th @ 7pm

There are seasons in our lives when the days before us look differently than we had hoped...or had expected... when uncertainty abounds. These seasons of grief creep around the corner and grip us in the deepest parts of our humanity, sometimes surprising us, sometimes feeling like our worst fears are coming to reality.

I believe that is why the Christian church has given us the gift of Advent. In these seasons of life we need a time to remember and reflect on Jesus as our HOPE, our PEACE, our JOY, our LOVE, and our LIGHT.

If you, or others you know are remembering a loss or going through a season of pain, I invite you to join us in-person or online at www.noumc.org for a service of comfort and hope.

NOUMC Financial Snapshot

North Olmsted United Methodist Church			
For the year ended December 31, 2024			
		January thru October 2024	
	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Variance</i>
<u>Revenue and Expenses</u>			
Regular giving and special income	\$ 199,688	\$ 167,083	\$ 32,605
Operating Expenses	190,007	191,068	(1,061)
	\$ 9,681	\$ (23,985)	\$ 33,666
<u>Ministries funded through targeted donations</u>			
Donations	\$ 50,624		
Disbursements	\$ 22,203		
<u>Cash Balance</u>			
Unrestricted (for operations)	\$ 51,939		
Restricted (for targeted ministries)	55,688		
	\$ 107,627		

December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	2 8:30pm AA	3 12pm Nehemiah Meal 7pm Scouts	4 10am UWF 8pm AA	5 4:30pm Com.munity Meal 6pm Bells 7pm Choir	6	7
8 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 2pm Girl Scouts	9 8:30pm AA	10 7pm Scouts	11 12pm? UWF Lunch 8pm AA	12 6pm Bells 7pm Choir	13	14 8:30am UMM Breakfast 11am COL Ron Wagner 6pm Christmas at First
15 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	16 8:30pm AA	17 1pm Book Bank 7pm Blue Christmas	18 8pm AA	19 6pm Bells 7pm Choir	20	21
22 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 3pm Girl Scouts	23 8:30pm AA	24 7pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas	26	27	28
29 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30 Chair Yoga	30 8:30pm AA	31 New Year's Eve				

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 invite and welcome people of all ages.
- 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 Community Holiday Meal (In-Person Only)

Thursday, December 5, 2024

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Fellowship Hall

**Roast Pork, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans,
Drinks and Dessert**

The Free Community Meal is a mission of North Olmsted United Methodist Church. 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, please contact us at 440-779-6634. *We are an accessible facility.*

A sign-up sheet for help with set-up, serving, and clean-up will be in Fellowship Hall. For more information, contact Chris Byrns at 440-732-5431.