



AGAPE Greek for "love without limits"

A Letter from Pastor Hoyte to Our Church Family

Friends:

Greetings as we begin a New Year for 2025! I trust that the Season of Advent, Christmas Eve, Christmas, and the following days of 2024 gifted you with joy and peace!

As we begin the New Year together it is important for you to know that after much prayer and discernment, I have decided to retire from full-time ordained ministry effective July 1, 2025. Some of you received the formal announcement of my retirement in worship on Sunday, December 29, 2024.

This decision was difficult for me as I have been truly blessed in my ministry with the people of North Olmsted UMC. I believe that we have been graced by the love and power of God and Jesus Christ in sustaining and advancing many ministries in the life of the church. I am honored to have journeyed with you since July 1, 2019. My, how time flies! I will be nearly 67 when I begin my retirement.

Even so, I look forward to the next six months of service with you, celebrating that at the end of that time I will have served 29 years in appointed ministry with six churches of the East Ohio Conference of the UMC.

As I reflect on my years of ministry, I am forever grateful for the many people who have influenced my call to team with and lead in parish ministry. I have been fortunate to have served in rural, suburban, and urban settings and to close my time as an Ordained Elder with the people of North Olmsted UMC. I love you and will always love you beyond words I can express.

Please be reassured of my commitment to serve as faithfully as possible with leadership in worship, pastoral care, and administration until my last day in ministry with you on June 30, 2025. Please also be reassured that our Staff Parish Relations Committee is working diligently with District Superintendents, Rev. Bruce Hitchcock and Rev. Angela Lewis, and Bishop Hee-Soo Jung's Cabinet in the decision-making and appointment process for your next pastor who will begin ministry with you on July 1, 2025.

God bless you and thank you for the joy of serving with you!

Pastor Hoyte

Worship Opportunities

Worship With Us In-Person and Online on Sundays at 10:30 am

| DATE | GREETER(S) | LITURGIST | USHER(S) |
|------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| January 5 | Barb Andrews | Greg Lavelle | Barb and Ron Clough |
| January 12 | Jean Scothon | Joel Chermonte | Judi Wagner |
| January 19 | John and Char Vas | John Vas | Sarah Jackson |
| January 26 | Jim and Ellie Yager | Alice Walsh | Liz Lavelle |

January Oxcart:Cereal



Please place in green box in Fellowship Hall.

*Thank you
for joining us*

From Judi Wagner

Thank you, church family, for your love and support. The love shown to our family at Ron's Celebration of Life service means more than you know to our family.

January Penny Sunday: UMCOR NC Hurricane Relief

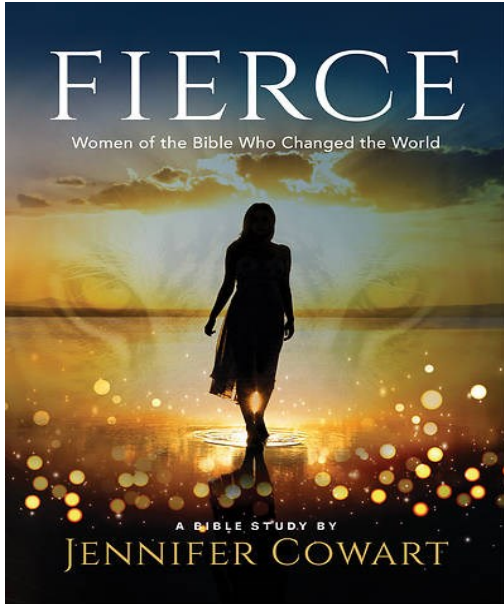
Historic rainfall, flooding, power outages and 140 mph winds plagued the Southeast, with the mountains of western North Carolina being particularly hard hit. According to The Associated Press, at least [179 people over six states were killed](#) as a result of the storm, which made landfall in the Big Bend area of the Florida Gulf Coast as a Category 4 storm on Sept. 26.

A view of Valle Crucis United Methodist Church in Valle Crucis, N.C., shows water over the stairs of the entryway after flooding caused by Hurricane Helene devastated western North Carolina and other parts of the southeastern United States last week. Bishop Ken Carter, who leads the Western North Carolina Conference, said it's estimated that more than half of the 44 counties in the annual conference have been affected. *Photo courtesy of the Western North Carolina Conference.*



Our Penny Sunday offering will be sent to UMCOR to help with this worthy cause.

Adult Sunday School Starts New Series



On January 12, the Adult Sunday School class, led by Claudia Taller, will begin a new 6-week series called "Fierce: Women of the Bible who Changed the World," through Amplify video. The video series is led by speaker and writer Jennifer Cowart. From Amplify: It's become trendy to use the word "fierce" when describing women at the top of their game, but women have been fiercely changing the world for thousands of years." We'll start with two midwives and end with exploring how Timothy's mother and grandmother changed the world. The series will also focus on Deborah, Nahman's slave girl, Tabitha, and the woman at the well. Can we be fierce? Many women in history have received little fanfare yet lived fiercely anyway. In this six-week study we will look at lesser-known female characters in the Bible and the ways they changed the world by living into God's calling. The study is for all of us, men included.

SPRC Approves Prayer List Guidelines

The Staff Parish Relations Committee met recently to discuss and adopt a clear plan for prayer requests in the bulletin and Agape. Current requests will remain for a month unless the office is notified otherwise.

Beginning January 1, 2025, each new prayer or condolence request will be listed in the bulletin and Agape for one month only, unless a new request is emailed to the office at office@noumc.org when the month ends.



Wanake Summer Camp 2025 at a Glance!

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
|  | <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">June 15-20, 2025—Week 1</p> <p>Wanake Adventures (Grades 1-12) Wanake Encounter Day Camp (Grades 1-6) Discover Camp! (Grades 1-6) Sun-Tues or W-F Animal Friends (Grades 3-5) Pool Daze (Grades 6-8) Leader in Training (LIT) (Grades 10-12)</p> | <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">June 22-27, 2025—Week 2</p> <p>Wanake Adventures (Grades 1-12) Pool Pizzazz (Grades 4-6) BFF Critter-Edition (Grades 6-8)</p> | <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">June 29-July 4, 2025—Week 3</p> <p>Wanake Adventures (Grades 1-12) Wanake Encounter Day Camp (Grades 1-6) Discover Camp! (Grades 1-6) Sun-T Wanake Expedition (Grades 7-9) W-Fri Moonlight Madness (Grades 7-9)</p> |
|  | <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">July 6-11, 2025—Week 4</p> <p>Wanake Adventures (Grades 1-12) Discover Camp! (Grades 1-6) Sun-Tues or W-F Animal Friends (Grades 3-5) Wilderness Escape (Grades 6-8) Wet & Wild (Grades 9-12)</p> | <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">July 20-25, 2025—Week 6</p> <p>Wanake Adventures (Grades 1-12) Animal Friends (Grades 3-5) Pool Daze (Grades 6-8) Leaders as Buddies (Grades 10-12) Special Persons Camp (Adults)</p> | <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">July 27-August 1, 2025—Week 7</p> <p>Wanake Adventures (Grades 1-12) Wanake Encounter Day Camp (Grades 1-6) Discover Camp! (Grades 1-6) Sun-Tues or W-F Pool Pizzazz (Grades 4-6) BFF Critter-Edition (Grades 6-8) Fishing Camp (Grades 9-12)</p> |
|  | <p style="margin: 0;">Registration for Summer Camp 2025 Opens December 26, 2024!</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: 1.2em;">Be one of the first 10 to register and WIN A PRIZE!</p> | | |
| <p style="margin: 0;">Learn More! Scan here!</p>  | | | |

PRAYER REQUESTS

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Karen & Tom H., lifted by Jeff R. | Judy, lifted by Brenda F. | Todd & Carolyn W., lifted by Barb A. |
| Janis J.'s brother, Kirk | Selene, lifted by Carole A. | Carolyn B. |
| Judi W. | Vicki & family, daughter of Rae & Walt S. | Lois D. |
| Nadine B., lifted by Alice W. | 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. | Bev C., Deb C.'s mother | Keith A. |
| Jan C. | Carl, friend of Joel & Deb C. | Barbara B. |
| Kelly P. | 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. |
| Martha, lifted by Janis J. | Nate R. | Tammy M.'s friend Kate's father |
| Bunny, Liz L.'s cousin | Pat, CJ C.'s mother | Joan T. |
| Doris, friend of Sally C. | Michael M., nephew of Jan C. | Ken G., lifted by Barb B. |
| Becky & Dee lifted by Claudia T. | Phil T., lifted by Carolyn B. | Jim S. |



JANUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

| | | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|--------------------|----|------------------------|
| 2 | Elizabeth Sullivan | 15 | Barbara Linton | 26 | John and Judy Solt |
| 4 | Brenda Forsberg | 18 | Nancy Kinzy | 28 | Janis Jarvis |
| 4 | Benjamin Tidmore | 19 | Christine Mincik | 30 | Dave and Gwen Hinckley |
| 7 | James Bridges | 20 | Joel Chermonte | 31 | Emily Cooper |
| 10 | Morgan Chapman | 25 | Bob and Carol Nupp | 31 | Darlene Owings |
| 13 | Leighton Maculewicz | | | | |

UWF News—From Barb Andrews

No news except we will have our first business meeting of the year on January 8th at 10:00. The UWF members thank you for your support and wish you a HAPPY 2025!

Mission News—From Barb Andrews

We did even better on Christmas dinner items than for Thanksgiving. There were 75 items taken to the Pantry. The green bin is already filling up with cleaning items, mostly laundry detergents as requested for the December collection. We'll be collecting cereal in January. And two plus cars took over items for the Adopt-A-Family as well as 60 Christmas stockings. A special thanks to the Girl Scouts for making filling those stockings such a fun activity. Once more, you have made Christmas a little better for many North Olmsted families.

Cooks Needed for Community Meal (from Chris Byrns)

Dear Church,

We need volunteers to cook for our monthly community meal. If you or your group would like to provide a wholesome meal for our neighbors in need, please consider volunteering to cook one meal.

The meal is served the last Thursday of each month (except December) to approximately 50 guests. The church provides a budget of \$150 in support of the meal. Several volunteers aid in set up, serving, and cleanup the day of the meal. A document will be provided to help you plan and shop for the meal including some sample menus. If you would like more information, please feel free to contact Chris Byrns at (440) 732-5431, Barb Linton or Joel Chermonte.

Adult Bible Study: “Better—A Study of Hebrews” by Jen Wilkin

Join us as we start off the new year with a new Bible Study! We will be doing a verse-by-verse study of the book of Hebrews. We will explore how God provided "something better" for us than our rituals and practices: His Son, Jesus Christ...who came to fulfill all of God's promises. In Christ alone we can place our hope and trust, and in Him alone we can find salvation. Tuesday evening classes begin on January 7th at 7:30 PM, and Thursday morning classes will begin on January 9th at 11:00 AM. This is a 10-week study, and cost of the study booklet is \$20. A signup sheet will be available in Fellowship Hall. See Wendy with any questions.

“Soup-er Bowl” of Caring

On February 9th, our Christian Education and Youth Ministry Team will help fight hunger and poverty, joining a national effort to refocus Super Bowl weekend into a weekend of sharing God's love with our neighbors in need, by participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring. This effort helps us to be mindful of those who are without even a bowl of soup to eat as we enjoy our Super Bowl celebrations. During worship on February 9th, large soup pots will be on the table in Fellowship Hall for you to drop your donation in. Or you may send checks in to the church office, to the attention of Wendy Cooper. Please make checks payable to NOUMC and write Souper Bowl of Caring in the memo. This year's donations will be sent to the North Olmsted Food Pantry. Please consider donating to help us make a difference in our community!

| | January thru November 2024 | | |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | Actual | Budget | Variance |
| Financial Snapshot | | | |
| North Olmsted United Methodist Church | | | |
| For the year ended December 31, 2024 | | | |
| <u>Revenue and Expenses</u> | | | |
| Regular giving and special income | \$ 221,552 | \$ 202,792 | \$ 18,760 |
| Operating Expenses | 207,804 | 210,495 | (2,691) |
| | <u>\$ 13,748</u> | <u>\$ (7,703)</u> | <u>\$ 21,451</u> |
| <u>Ministries funded through targeted donations (not included in operations)</u> | | | |
| Donations | <u>\$ 52,815</u> | | |
| Disbursements | <u>\$ 32,338</u> | | |
| <u>Cash Balance</u> | | | |
| Unrestricted (for operations) | \$ 54,563 | | |
| Restricted (for targeted ministries) | 55,688 | | |
| | <u>\$ 110,251</u> | | |

NOUMC
Financial Snapshot

January 2025

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----------------|---|--|--|-----|------------------------------------|
| | | 1 8pm AA | 2 6pm Bells 7pm Choir | 3 | 4 | |
| 5 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 1pm Girl Scouts | 6 8:30pm AA | 7 7pm Scouts 7:30pm Bible Study | 8 6:30pm Christian Ed Meeting 8pm AA | 9 10am Strategy Meeting 11am Bible Study 6pm Bells 7pm Choir | 10 | 11 8:30am UMM Breakfast |
| 12 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 2pm Girl Scouts | 13 8:30pm AA | 14 7pm Scouts 7:30pm Bible Study | 15 Agape Deadline 8pm AA | 16 11am BS 6pm Bells 6:30pm Lay Leadership 7pm Choir | 17 | 18 |
| 19 9am SS 10:30am Worship 11:30am Race Card 1pm Girl Scouts | 20 8:30pm AA | 21 1pm Book Bank 7pm Scouts 7:30pm Bible Study | 22 7pm Church Council 8pm AA | 23 11am Bible Study 6pm Bells 7pm Choir | 24 | 25 12pm Private Party Rental FH |
| 26 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30 Chair Yoga 2pm Girl Scouts | 27 8:30pm AA | 28 7pm Scouts 7:30pm Bible Study | 29 8pm AA | 30 11am BS 4:30pm Community Meal 6pm Bells 7pm Choir | 31 | |

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, 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 Meal (In-Person Only)

Thursday, January 30, 2024

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Fellowship Hall

Pot Roast, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Applesauce, and Cookies

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.