

The North Star

Newsletter of the North Ontario Methodist Church



Within all my preparations to have children I never counted on the calendar when their actual birth date would be. I forgot to calculate the nine months after conception to the actual birthday. Thus, both of my boys were born in December. Mike Jr was born December 10th and Ryan was born December 26th (but that was his fault because he decided not to wait until his due date of January 13th). So, in the mix of holiday events, decorating, baking, and entertaining we would have to pause to celebrate birthdays.

Mike Jr, being the true extrovert he was, had to have epic parties and yes, I encouraged it. One year there were 17 teenage boys in my home. Did I mention Michael loved sleepovers? In places, these boys were stacked three deep, sleeping on any flat surface they could find in the house. Each year brought more boys and more ruckus.

Knowing teenage boys could be rowdy, I would always wait until after Michael's party to get the house in order for Christmas (I find myself still thinking I need to wait before preparing for Christmas). I would also wait to decorate to give Michael the sense that, although Christmas took over the lives of others, we, as a family, were going to pause and celebrate his birthday first. After the party the tree would be set up, the Nativities would come out and the Christmas cookie baking would begin. (I knew if any cookies had been in the house, the teenagers would have devoured them.) The preparation for Christmas began. This would still give us a few weeks before Christmas day arrived to enjoy the transformation from the dull ordinary life, we lead to a house filled with light and sweet smells.

When Ryan was born, my dilemma began. There was no way I could "undo" the Christmas decorations to make sure that Ryan felt the same pause in the family for his birthday. We were a party family and would often not wrap up our Christmas Day celebrations until after midnight. Often, Christmas started for us very early, after a long night of Christmas Eve partying with family and ending with the church's 11pm service. There was no way I could undecorate the house before Ryan's birthday arrived a few short hours later.

Ryan, being the true introvert he was, only wanted to celebrate with a few close friends anyways but unfortunately those few close friends were often either traveling for the holidays or committed to a family holiday event. So, we would pack the family up, leave all the decorations behind and plan a trip somewhere for a few days or a week.

After living this scenario for years, I realized we shouldn't pause Christmas or "undo" Christmas decorations to feel special. God broke through into our lives while we were going about our ordinary celebrations. God broke through into our lives in the form of a baby to shake up our ordinary lives and help us to celebrate our milestone with him in our midst. God broke through when we least expected it, when life was just chugging along, to make way for us to reconnect with him.

This Advent and Christmas season, I pray God breaks through and makes you feel special, celebrated, and loved. Whether the house is decorated or not, whether the lights are twinkling or dimmed, whether the cookies are baked or forgotten, I pray God breaks through and makes you feel special. His Son came to walk among us, to celebrate with us, to redeem us, therefore, pause and feel the joy, hope, and love which God sent with his Son, Jesus. Amen.

Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Pastor Linda

CHURCH EVENTS, NOTES & REMINDERS



MISSION TEAM UPDATE

Family Promise of Wayne Co. - Still helping others with the 4 apartments.

Respite – We continue to have a good number of folks at each meeting and all seem to enjoy the fellowship, which includes balloon volleyball, singing good old songs and bingo. There are new people who have joined the program in the last month.



FINANCE UPDATE

Financial Data– The average weekly tithing for October was \$2958. The General Fund balance was \$7574. Our year-to-date income was \$4377 greater than the plan. Our year-to-date expenses were \$9936 greater than the plan. Please take a moment to review the charts posted on the bulletin board opposite the offices.

Respite

RESPITE PROGRAM UPDATE

- Please keep participants, and their families in your prayers.
- If you're interested in participating as a volunteer, please contact Wanda Klem.

TRUSTEES

TRUSTEES UPDATE

- Thanks to all involved for the help with the Fall clean-up
- We will be implementing ideas suggested by Detective Aunkst and Sgt. Yates, during their visit and Active Shooter Training, regarding church safety. Some suggestions can be done quickly, others may take some time and resources but will be discussed at our next trustee meeting.
- A contractor friend of Roger Hansen met with us to discuss a railing for the steps to the altar. He is checking into materials that are available and will be getting back to us with suggestions/recommendations. We hope to get materials on hand soon so we can start the shower upgrade at the parsonage as soon as we can coordinate schedules.
- New Emergency Exit Lights have been installed in the building.



NURTURE OUTREACH TEAM UPDATE

- Team will have a meeting at **Noon, Tuesday, Dec. 10th**
- Making plans for a Warm Clothing/Blanket Drive in January. More info to follow next month.
- Please help support our STAR giving project. Thanks to Nancy Haak for being our spokeswomen on this project.



EDUCATION TEAM UPDATES

- There will be an Education Team meeting on **Monday, 12/9 at 6:30p** in the Sunday school room near music room, to map out a basic plan for 2025.
- If you haven't gotten your copy, any remaining Advent materials are on the table in Motley Hall. Direct questions to Wanda Klem.
- We've decided to show the Christmas Movie either during a Christmas in July event, or during Advent 2025.



FAMILY PROMISE

- Family Promise of Wayne County depends on donations to assist families in crisis and dealing with homelessness.
- Please see bulletin board for list of needed items.
- If you have any things you would like to donate to Family Promise, call their office (315) 665-0037 to arrange for a time to drop them off at: 3 Holley St, Lyons, NY.

DECEMBER MINISTRY TEAMS & CHURCH COUNCIL

*Questions should be addressed to the Team Leader.

There will be NO meetings this month due to the holiday schedules, **unless otherwise stated**. Meetings will resume in January, 2025





REQUEST FOR PRAYERS

- ~ Richard Adams
- ~ Connor Aman, baby is now home!
- ~ Sue Backus
- ~ Barb, Judy Porray's SIL
- ~ Missy Bergen
- ~ Mary Lou Buck, health concerns
- ~ Michael Buck, Mary Lou's son
- ~ Brenda Burley, Healing from fall
- ~ Roger Campbell, health issues
- ~ Sherry Carr's father, Health Issues
- ~ Chris Chelini, recovery
- ~ Georgia Christ, Health Issues
- ~ Christie, Ginny Eaton's niece
- ~ Gwen Coleman, Health Issues
- ~ Debbie, friend of Ginny Eaton's
- ~ Nancy DeMagistris, Joyce Lyke's SIL
- ~ Rich Denison, Healing
- ~ Stephanie Derse, brain tumor
- ~ Paul Dickinson, Lori Power's dad
- ~ Spencer Dunstan, Jackie's son ~
- ~ Mary Earlandt, Health Issues
- ~ Bob Eaton
- ~ Janice Foulke, Health diagnosis
- ~ Carol Gillespie
- ~ Les Gillespie
- ~ Louie Grace, Alma's husband
- ~ Kirk Graham, Kay as caregiver
- ~ Suzanne Gresens

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- ~ Debbie Grohman
- ~ Linda Haight, back issues
- ~ Hank, friend of Tucker Eaton
- ~ Gale Howell, & family caregivers
- ~ Sandy Hussey
- ~ Ann Insalaco
- ~ Shirley Kuhn
- ~ Logan Loveless, Judy Porray's Grandson
- ~ Jim Makins
- ~ Andrew, Martha McGlory's grandson, ongoing health issues
- ~ Ann, Martha McGlory's daughter
- ~ Pam Peck, recovery
- ~ Lori Powers, medical concerns
- ~ Wayne Schultz, Jackie's cousin
- ~ Julie Sondervan
- ~ Stacey, Dawn Russell's daughter recovering from car accident
- ~ Dave Stark, Joan as his caretaker
- ~ Mike Stengline, burn recovery
- ~ Dawn Straub, heart issues
- ~ Dawn Thomas, Healing
- ~ Jean Van Ingen
- ~ Jane Wage
- ~ Destiny Grace Whitnable, Judy Porray's Granddaughter



DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

- 1 Goodenough, Sarah
- 1 Neyhart, Edna
- 2 CANAN, ROBERT & BARBARA
- 6 Kuhn, Shirley
- 8 Canan, Robert
- 10 Brantley, Ryan
- 17 Pickering, Fred
- 19 Thomas, Kristopher
- 20 Morrison, Janet
- 22 Stramonine, Leora
- 23 Jasak, Madeline
- 27 Earlandt, Mary
- 28 Jones, Joshua
- 29 Calus, Jenifer
- 29 McMILLAN, LARRY & JUDY



Birthdays: Upper/Lower Case
ANNIVERSARIES: ALL CAPS

IMPORTANT DATES

HOLIDAYS & SPECIAL DATES

- Dec 1st Advent Begins
- Canan's 70th Anniversary Reception
- Dec 8th Caroling & Sing-a-long & Cookie Reception
- Christmas Star Gifts due at church
- Dec 24th Christmas Eve Worship
- Dec 25th CHRISTMAS DAY
- Dec 31st New Year's Eve

NO SCHOOL: Dec 23, 2024 – Jan 3, 2025



CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE

Join us for this year's
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Tuesday, 12/24, at 7pm



CANAN'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION

The congregation is invited to join us on **December 1st** for a **70th Anniversary Reception for Bob & Barb Canan!!**
Join in the festivities immediately following worship,
in VandeVate Hall



2025 GOD'S CREATION CALENDARS

There are still a few available for just \$10.00.
See Darlene Canan to purchase on Sunday mornings



CHRISTMAS CAROLING & SINGALONG

Join us as we host a
Christmas Caroling Singalong for all in the community.
Festivities begin in the church Sanctuary on
Sunday afternoon, December 8th at 3pm
We will conclude with a Cookie Reception in VandeVate Hall



A HUGE THANK YOU FROM DARLENE CANAN!!

To all those who helped with our bazaar and luncheon as well as the Election Day bake sale. We could not have done it without your support. The proceeds from both events will be shared with various charities.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



CHRISTMAS SHARING STAR PROGRAM



The Christmas Sharing Program packages are **due Sunday, December 8th**

Thank you to all who generously have taken the stars for this program!
Your help with this program is most appreciated!! Direct questions to: Nancy Haak



ADVENT GIVING CALENDAR

Please see list below regarding this year's Advent Giving Calendar
This is to support the Ontario Food Pantry. **Donations due here on Sunday, January 5, 2025**
Give what you can ~ All donations are greatly appreciated

2024 ADVENT GIVING CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BAG OR BOX

When completed, bring the bag or box to church on **January 5, 2025**
Donated items will be delivered to the Ontario Food Pantry

- December 1 - canned vegetable
- December 2 - ketchup
- December 3 - powdered milk
- December 4 - roll of paper towels
- December 5 - box of cereal
- December 6 - peanut butter
- December 7 - stuffing mix
- December 8 - instant potatoes
- December 9 - macaroni and cheese
- December 10 - canned fruit
- December 11 - apple juice
- December 12 - canned tuna
- December 13 - prepared pudding cups
- December 14 - jar of applesauce
- December 15 - roll of toilet paper
- December 16 - gelatin (Jell-O)
- December 17 - mayonnaise
- December 18 - package of rice
- December 19 - box of crackers
- December 20 - oatmeal
- December 21 - package of pasta
- December 22 - spaghetti sauce
- December 23 – box of facial tissues
- December 24 – item of your choice
- December 25 – roll of paper towels

Donate as much as you would like and feel free to substitute another grocery item if you prefer.

Thank you for helping to restock the Food Pantry.

DECEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
10a Communion Celebration 1 11:30a Canan's 70 th Anniversary Recep. VandeVate Hall Food Pantry Collection Advent Begins	 6:30p Boy Scouts VVH	3 10a Respite - VVH 	4 10a Respite - VVH	5 9a Garden Club - VVH	 6	7
10a Worship 3p Caroling & Sing-a-long - Sanctuary Cookie Reception - VVH 2 nd Sunday of Advent	6:30p Boy Scouts VVH	10 	11 10a Respite - VVH	12 7p BS Leadership-VVH	13	 14
10a Worship 3 rd Sunday of Advent	 6:30p Boy Scouts VVH	17 6:30p G.S Unit Mtg- VVH 7p Christmas Eve Worship	18 10a Respite - VVH	19	 20	21
10a Worship 4 th Sunday of Advent	6:30p Boy Scouts VVH	24 	25 	26	27	 28
10a Worship	6:30p Boy Scouts VVH	31  New Year's Eve				



North Ontario Methodist Church

7200 Ontario Center Road
Ontario, NY 14519

www.nom.church

Administrative Assistant:

Wendy Pringle

noumc1@yahoo.com

nomcOffices@gmail.com

Office: 315-524-9509

Church Office Hours:

Tue, Wed & Thu 10a – 2p

Pastor:

Rev. Linda Haight

pastorlinda11@gmail.com

585-330-0618



North Ontario Methodist Church exists to:

Spread the Gospel in our community and elsewhere as we share
Christ's hope and love with the world.

Global Methodist Church Vision:

Worship Passionately, Love Extravagantly, Witness Boldly



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Options:

You can remain in cars and listen in parking lot,
Radio channel 101.9 FM

OR

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