

The North Star

Newsletter of the North Ontario Methodist Church



Have you ever played the game “Jenga?” This game begins with a tower built by layering 3 blocks in each row, alternating their direction each layer. Then, each player takes a turn removing blocks from the middle layers of the tower, carefully placing each block on top the same way you built the tower. The player who topples the tower loses!

Some of us have played this game while washing dishes and stacking them in the dish drainer. To see how far we can stack the dishes before they all topple over. Some of us even play this game in life, trying to stack our ‘to do’ list so high without having them topple over. Pulling that one ‘to do’ item from the stack without the rest toppling to the floor.

Here it is only February and I am already holding my breath as I pull each ‘to do’ item from my list of many. I figure this could be a messy game if I keep playing by the rules of Jenga but what if I changed the rules?

A few years ago, for Christmas I was given a hand towel with the manger scene on it and the words, “He started with a stable foundation.” Yes, I keep this hanging up year-round in my home office and read it again the other day. Which got me to thinking about the game Jenga. The blocks topple in this game because you compromise the foundation to stack more on top.

What if you kept the stable foundation and gave some of your ‘to do’ list to God? I learned early in ministry that I am not God. Thankfully. I do not have to do it all, the only thing I must keep up on is building a strong relationship and foundation with Jesus Christ and the rest will fall where they are supposed to fall.

John Wesley was known to get up an hour earlier than his day was to begin just to pray. When asked if he did this even on his busiest days he offered, “On the busy days, I get up two hours early.” Mr. Wesley knew the importance of a strong foundation to begin his day.

If you find yourself playing the real game of Jenga, enjoy and let the block fall where they may but if this concept is creeping into your life, stop what you are doing and build a firm foundation with Jesus. Everything is so much easier when you have a stable place to stand when life starts to topple. Remember your foundation is important, start building it today.

Blessings,

Pastor Linda

CHURCH EVENTS, NOTES & REMINDERS



MISSION TEAM UPDATE

Respite – We continue to have a good number of participants along with a waiting list of folks that would like to join in. However, we need more volunteers. Please consider helping.
Chicken BBQ – The dates for our 2025 Chicken BBQ's will be Friday, May 30th and Friday, September 26th.

TRUSTEES

TRUSTEES UPDATE

- The railings at the parsonage have been repaired/replaced.
- Walk-in Shower upgrade at the parsonage is complete.
- A new railing for the steps to the altar will be happening soon.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2025

Co-Chairs: Joe Stramonine and Doug Hastings

Secretary: Nancy Haak

Treasurer: Russ Waeghe

- We welcome Matthew Chelini, a new member on our team
- We thank Jeff Klem, Missie Bergen, and Jim Makins for their contributions to our team as their terms expire.

Respite

RESPITE PROGRAM UPDATE

- We would benefit from more volunteers as there are more participants in need of joining. If you're interested in participating as a volunteer, please contact Wanda Klem.
- Our next program dates are, **Wed., February 5th & 19th**
- Please keep participants, and their families in your prayers

FEBRUARY MINISTRY TEAMS & CHURCH COUNCIL

*Questions should be addressed to the Team Leader.



1. **Tuesday, 2/4/25**
3p Nurture Outreach Mtg – VandeVate Hall
4p Worship – Classroom
2. **Monday, 2/10/25**
6:30p Education – Classroom
3. **Tuesday, 2/11/25**
3p Finance – VandeVate Hall
4p Missions – VandeVate Hall
6p Trustees – Classroom



Church Council: Monday, 1/20/25 @ 6:30p - Classroom



FINANCE UPDATE

Financial Data–. The weekly average tithing for December was \$3,196. In December our General Operating Fund had \$5,358. Our year-to-date income was \$1,171 less than the plan. Our year-to-date expenses \$438 less than the plan. Please take a moment to review the charts posted on the bulletin board opposite the offices

January's Update will be posted on bulletin board soon.

Stewardship Sunday - Letters should have been received in January for Stewardship Sunday on **February 16, 2025**. The congregation is being encouraged to give more, even \$5 more each week would make a difference! Questions can be directed to either Rich Denison or Barb Sanger.

Financial Wellness Update - Due to large expenses in January, our current general operating fund has about \$4,500. This fund should average a monthly balance of \$12,000 to maintain payment of monthly expenses. Please carefully consider your gifts and offerings for the upcoming year



EDUCATION TEAM UPDATES

- Lenten resources have been chosen and will be distributed the last week of February.
- There are 3 graduates this year: Tucker, Abe, and Riley. Celebration will be either June 22nd or June 29th.



NURTURE OUTREACH TEAM UPDATE

- No new event this month
- **Team meetings will be held at 3pm on the 1st Tuesday of the month.**
- We are still supporting Family Promise of Wayne County
- Please direct questions to Dawn Thomas, the new chairperson.

FAMILY PROMISE

- If you have any things you would like to donate to Family Promise of Wayne County, call their office (315) 665-0037 to arrange for a time to drop them off at: 3 Holley St, Lyons, NY.





REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS

- ~ Richard Adams
- ~ Sue Backus
- ~ Barb, Judy Porray's SIL
- ~ Bill Beach, Carol's BIL in rehab
- ~ Missy Bergen
- ~ Brian, Bob Buck's friend, health issues
- ~ Beverly Brown, in hospital
- ~ 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
- ~ Stephanie Derse, brain tumor
- ~ Paul Dickinson, Lori Power's dad
- ~ Pat Esley, Health issues & Mary as Caregiver
- ~ Mary Earlandt, Health Issues
- ~ Bob Eaton
- ~ Haley Flower, whose dad passed
- ~ Janice Foulke, Health diagnosis
- ~ Carol Gillespie
- ~ Les Gillespie
- ~ Mike Goodenough, surgery
- ~ Louie Grace, Alma's husband
- ~ Kirk Graham, Kay as caregiver
- ~ Donna Greene, health issues

- ~ Suzanne Gresens, Missie Bergen's Niece
- ~ Debbie Grohman
- ~ Pastor Linda, possible back surgery
- ~ Hanna, in ICU, and her mom
- ~ Havier, who had a stroke, and his wife Myra as caretaker
- ~ Gale Howell, & family caregivers
- ~ Ann Insalaco
- ~ Shirley Kuhn
- ~ Logan Loveless, J Porray's Grandson
- ~ Jim Makins
- ~ Andrew, Martha McGlory's grandson, ongoing health issues
- ~ Ann, Martha McGlory's daughter
- ~ Judy Porray's cousin's grandchild
- ~ Lori Powers, medical concerns
- ~ Barb Sanger, healing well, no surgery needed!
- ~ Wayne Schultz, Jackie's cousin
- ~ Julie Sondervan
- ~ Stacey, Dawn Russell's daughter
- ~ Dave Stark, Joan as his caretaker
- ~ Mike Stengline, burn recovery
- ~ Dawn Straub, heart issues
- ~ Jean Van Ingen
- ~ Rhonda Waeghe, health issues
- ~ Jane Wage
- ~ Whitnabe Family, difficulties Judy Porray's family
- ~ Zeb, Judy Porray's student



FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

- 5 Nancy Haak
- 9 Jones, Deana
- 14 Bergen, Arlena (Missie)
- 16 Klem, Jeff
- 19 GILLESPIE, LESTER & CAROL
- 20 Duffy, Bryan

Birthdays: Upper/Lower Case
ANNIVERSARIES: ALL CAPS



IMPORTANT DATES

HOLIDAYS & SPECIAL DATES

- Feb 2nd Ground Hog Day! (No Shadow Allowed)
- Feb 9th Alzheimer's Assoc. Class after service
- Feb 14th Valentine's Day
- Feb 16th Stewardship Sunday
- Feb 17th President's Day

NO SCHOOL: February 7th & 17th - 21st

Bible Study



BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Linda is teaching a Bible Study based on the Book of Psalms - **Thursdays @ 10am**
The classes are held in VandeVate Hall, unless otherwise notified.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Please remember your pledge cards on
Sunday, February 16th



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



2025 WARM CLOTHING DRIVE

Thank you for helping with this Outreach project.
It was a great success and the House of Mercy
is very grateful for our efforts!!

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION®

SPECIAL CLASS FROM ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

Please join us on **Sunday, February 9th** for a special presentation called
"Healthy Living for Your Body & Brain"
by Penny Gugino, with the Alzheimer's Association.
Class is free and everyone is welcome!
**We will be meeting in VandeVate Hall
immediately following Sunday worship.**



ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY GAME EVENT

Join us on **Friday, March 14th @ 7:05pm**
for this year's NOMC's group event
as the **Rochester Amerks** take on the **Providence Bruins**
Tickets will be \$23/pp with a group of 10 or more.
Otherwise, tickets will be \$29/pp
Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.
For questions, call Bob Buck @ 585-690-6767



MEN'S CHRISTIAN RETREAT

There will be a Christian Men's Retreat on **March 14-15, 2025**
at Letourneau Christian Center.
If interested, please see the bulletin board.
The office has extra forms to use.









WEATHER & EMERGENCY CANCELLATION NOTIFICATIONS

We will post cancellations on our
Facebook Page and our **NOMC website www.nom.church** updated.
You can also find them, **Online: www.13wham.com** and some **Radio Stations**

FEBRUARY

2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
VVH – VandeVorte Hall CR - Classroom KR – Kid’s Room						1
10a Communion Celebration 2 Food Pantry Collection  Groundhog Day	3 6:30p Boy Scouts - VVH	4 3p N/O Mtg – VVH 4p Worship Mtg - VVH	5 10a Respite – VVH 6:30p Pines of Peace Board Mtg. - CR	6 10a Bible Study -VVH	7 NO SCHOOL	8
10a Worship 11a Alzheimer’s Assoc Class - VVH	10  Love is patient, Love is kind. 6:30p Educ. Team – CR 6:30 Boy Scouts - VVH	11 3p Finance Mtg – VVH 4p Mission Team – VVH 6p Trustees - VVH	12  Happy Valentine's Day!	13 9a Garden Club-VVH 10a Bible Study -CR	14  Happy Valentine's Day!	15 9a-11a Heritage Sq Mtg - VVH
10a Worship Stewardship Sunday	17 6:30p church council-CR 6:30p Boy Scouts – VVH Presidents Day	18 	19 10a Respite – VVH NO SCHOOL	20 10a Bible Study -VVH	21	22
10a Worship	24 6:30 Boy Scouts - VVH	25 6:30 GS Svc Unit Mtg VVH	26  YOU ARE LOVED	27 10a Bible Study -VVH 7p BS Leadership-VVH	28	



North Ontario Methodist Church

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Wendy Pringle

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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:

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Radio channel 101.9 FM

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