

The North Star



Newsletter of the North Ontario Methodist Church

At this time of the year, everywhere you turn you see pumpkin spice scents and flavors. It seems to permeate every coffee shop, bakery, or candle aisle. I admit I love the scent but I'm not big on the flavor in certain things. My daughter-in-law (as I call her) laments the loss of the apple spice of past years. Until she started talking about it, I had forgotten apple spice was a thing and how it was as prevalent as pumpkin spice is today.

I wonder what other long-forgotten traditions have faded into the background, seldom contemplated. The changes which swirl around me just in my lifetime are daunting to consider. Not all changes are bad, but they all shape our reality. Some come slowly without notice, such as the changing of the scents of the season and some happen so quickly, we find ourselves unprepared, such as an accident or loss of a loved one.

Through it all though, our life continues. The only constant we can count on to never change is our God who is the same yesterday, today, and always just as Hebrews 13:8 reminds.

Now that's a message that needs to be shared in this world of constant flux. This is one way to share this message:

The Pumpkin Gospel

One day, the Gardener went out into his field and picked a special pumpkin. It was a bit dirty from laying in the garden, so he brought it inside and gently wiped it off. Now the pumpkin looked clean on the outside, but what about the inside?

The Gardener took a knife and cut open the top of the pumpkin. And what did He find? A bunch of slimy, yucky goo! The Gardener wanted His special pumpkin to be beautiful, so He carefully scraped out all of the goo inside until the pumpkin was as clean inside as it was on the outside!

But the Gardener still wasn't satisfied with the pumpkin. He decided it needed a face! So, He carefully cut out two eyes, a nose, and a big smiling mouth. Now the Gardener's special pumpkin looked clean AND happy.

But the Gardener still wasn't satisfied with the pumpkin. So, He put a light inside of it. The pumpkin glowed so beautifully! The Gardener's special project was complete.

When friends and neighbors saw the Gardener's special pumpkin, they marveled at how He took something ordinary from His garden, cleaned it inside and out, put His light inside, and made it something extraordinary!

We are like pumpkins and God is the Gardener. God creates us and cares for us.

Blessings,

Pastor Linda





CHURCH EVENTS, NOTES & REMINDERS



MISSION TEAM UPDATE

BBQ – BBQ will be on **October 10, 2025**. Our volunteers make this event possible. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board.

Respite – As we begin our 6th year, we continue to have a sizeable group at each meeting and all enjoy the fellowship.

Summer Picnic – We had great weather and a great time. Thanks to Bob Buck and his helpers for a nice event.

FINANCE UPDATE

Financial Data - Our weekly tithing for August was \$2,442. The General Fund increased to \$6,165, due to year-to-date income exceeding the plan by \$9,345. However, expenses were \$10,722 over the plan. Please review the charts on the bulletin board for tithing and financial performance.



EDUCATION TEAM UPDATES

- **Advent Study** – The Adult & Children's Advent studies will be announced the end of October.
- **Next Meeting** – 10/13/25 @ 6:30p.

TRUSTEES

TRUSTEES UPDATE

- The Parking Lot grass has been cleaned up. Thank you, Doug Hastings.
- The air conditioner unit for VandeVate hall has been replaced.
- We will be asking for help with the Fall Clean-up again this year. A list of projects we can use help with will be posted early in October. The list will be a little longer this year so if you can help, please sign up. Thanks in advance!

Respite

RESPITE PROGRAM UPDATE

Since 2019 we have hosted our Safe Haven Respite Program, and will be starting its 6th year in October. We started out with 8 participants and currently have 13 along with 2 spouses of former participants who choose to join us when we meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month.

We socialize with conversation and various activities. BINGO, balloon volleyball, and singing are some of our favorites. Life Span and the Alzheimer's Assn. support us with training.

Over the past 6 years, we have had a total of 38 participants, who have had some form of dementia. Those who have moved on reached a point in their journey where they needed more support than we are able to provide.

We are also fortunate to have 14 volunteers - most of whom are able to be with us each time we meet. It's important to note that our success is directly credited to our volunteers. Each offers love, respect, and their own special gifts to our participants and program. Proud to say that many of our volunteers are parishioners at NOMC.

If anyone would like to join our team, speak to one of us. We would love to have more friends share our joy!



NURTURE OUTREACH UPDATE

- **Food Pantry Collection:** We collect items for the Ontario Food Pantry each week for a monthly delivery. Your donations are very much appreciated.
- **Operation Christmas Child:** We are collecting monetary donations for help with paying for the postage. Boxes will be packed through the end of October.



HOLIDAY BAZAAR/NEXT TO NEW SALE & LUNCHEON

- This year's bazaar is quickly approaching!
- **Friday, Oct 24th and Saturday, Oct 25th**
- We can always use extra hands for set up, clean up, and of serving at the luncheon – so please consider volunteering so we can make this the most successful event yet!
- **Donations can be dropped off between 10/12 – 10/19**
- See page 4 for detailed information.

OCTOBER MINISTRY TEAMS & CHURCH COUNCIL

*Questions should be addressed to the Team Leader.



1. **Tuesday, 10/7/25**
3p Nurture Outreach Mtg – VVH
4p Worship Team Mtg – Classroom
2. **Monday, 10/13/25**
6:30p Education – Classroom
3. **Tuesday, 10/14/25**
3p Finance – VandeVate Hall
4p Missions – VandeVate Hall
6p Trustees - Classroom



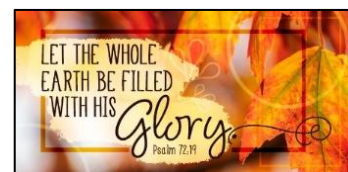
Church Council: **Monday, 10/20/25 @ 6:30p - Classroom**



2026 GOD'S CREATION CALENDARS

On sale now for \$10.00.

This is the same beautiful calendar we sell every year. It's available now and at the bazaar. See Darlene Canan or Dawn Thomas if you would like one.





REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS

~ Richard Adams
 ~ Sue Backus
 ~ Barb, Judy Porray's SIL
 ~ Missy Bergen
 ~ Beverly Brown
 ~ Michael Buck, Mary Lou's son
 ~ Brenda Burley
 ~ Sherry Carr's father, health issues
 ~ Georgia Christ, health issues
 ~ Gwen Coleman, health issues
 ~ Audrey Collins, friend of S. Calus
 ~ Linda Cone, health issues
 ~ Frank Cornelius, brain cancer
 ~ Pastor Darrel, hospice
 ~ Nancy DeMagistris, Joyce Lyke's SIL
 ~ Kenny DiRenzo, Sue Smith's nephew
 ~ Deb Dowd, recovery from surgery
 ~ Mary Earlandt
 ~ Bob Eaton
 ~ Janice Foulke
 ~ Carol & Les Gillespie
 ~ Kay Graham
 ~ Kirk Graham, Kay as caregiver
 ~ Donna Greene, Gene Bergen's MIL
 ~ Suzanne Gresens, Missie Bergen's Niece
 ~ Cheryl Haak, leg issues
 ~ Sharon Hastings, medical tests

~ Diane Howell, recovery from surgery
 ~ Gale Howell, & family caregivers
 ~ Ann Insalaco
 ~ Jill Jones, knee replacement
 ~ Judy (with Respite), injury from fall
 ~ Shirley Kuhn, in medical rehab
 ~ Barb Martin, car accident recovery
 ~ Angela May, Barber's granddaughter,
 ~ Andrew, Martha McGlory's
 grandson in Hospice
 ~ Ann, Martha McGlory's daughter
 ~ Doug Poorman, car accident
 ~ Judy Porray, car accident
 ~ Lori Powers
 ~ Sandy Shenk & husband
 ~ Julie Sondervan
 ~ Lillian Speakman
 ~ Stacey, Dawn Russell's daughter
 ~ John Stanton, ALS
 ~ Dave Stark, Joan as his caretaker
 ~ Mike Stengline
 ~ Dawn Straub, heart issues
 ~ Amy Thormahlen, Haak's daughter
 ~ Jean Van Ingen
 ~ Jane Wage
 ~ Destiny Grace Whitnoble,
 Judy Porray's Granddaughter
 ~ Zebb, friend of Judy Porray, cancer

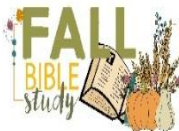


OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS

2 Judy McMillan
 3 PETTY, GERALD & CONSTANCE
 4 Petty, Gerald
 4 HANCOCK, STEVEN & TAMMI
 5 Landrigan, James
 7 Gillespie, Les
 7 Knapp, Eric
 7 KLEM, JEFFREY & WANDA
 8 Powers, Johnathan
 10 Sanger, Ian
 10 Poorman, Doug
 10 CONE, LINDA & GLEN
 20 Michielsen, Arlene
 23 Hancock, Kaidan L.
 24 CHELINI, CHRIS & LISA
 24 Dunstan, Jessica
 25 Wage, Jane
 25 Quigley, Michelle
 26 Scott, Daniel
 27 Buck, Bob
 28 Garland, Rebecca
 28 GOODENOUGH, JERRY & MICHELE
 30 Faulks, Ted



Birthdays: Upper/Lower Case
 ANNIVERSARIES: ALL CAPS



FALL BIBLE STUDY

Our Fall Bible Study is based on:
Ephesians – Experience God's Power
 By, Sarah K. Howley
 Thursdays @ 10am – VandeVate Hall,
 unless otherwise advised.



UPCOMING EVENTS AT HERITAGE SQUARE

HISTORY OF ONTARIO & HERITAGE SQUARE

Registration requested

Oct 4th 10 am – 11:30 am

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### FALL LEAVES TRAIN RIDE

#### ARCADIA/ATTICA

Oct 15<sup>th</sup> – \$60/pp – Tickets online  
 Bus departs Heritage Square @ 10 am  
 and returns @ 6 pm

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HALLOWEEN HAPPENING

Oct 18th ~ 2 pm – 4 pm

\$5 per car

Come dressed in costume to trick or treat!

For more info, see our bulletin board and/or visit:
www.heritagesquaremuseum.com



IMPORTANT DATES

HOLIDAYS & SPECIAL DATES

Oct 5th World Communion Sunday
 Oct 10th Fall BBQ
 Oct 12th Pastor Appreciation Sunday
 Oct 24th 25th Holiday Bazaar & Luncheon

No School Oct 10th & Oct 13th



NOMC DRIVE-THRU FALL BBQ DINNER

Fall BBQ on October 10, 2025 ~ 4:00p - Gone

We will need assistance to make it a success.
 There are signup sheets on the bulletin board.
 Please consider helping!



Home for the Holidays

**"The Brick Church" Bazaar
North Ontario Methodist Church
7200 Ontario Center Road
Ontario, NY 14519
(315) 524 - 9509**



**Friday, October 24th - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 25th - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**Dine In & Take Out Lunch
available on Friday & Saturday
11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**



Crafts, Baked Goods, & "Next to New" Items

Home for the Holidays Bazaar "Next to New" Sale

Mark your calendars and save the dates October 24th and October 25th for NOMC's "Next to New...New to You" Sale!! This sale will be the perfect time and place for you to find that special treasure! In order for this sale to be a success, we will need many kinds of items to sell, such as: small appliances, kitchen utensils, pots and pans, dishes and silverware, children's toys and puzzles, holiday decorations, and anything else you have been wanting to get rid of, but didn't know how or where to do so. Over the next couple of weeks please go through your basement, attic, garage, etc. and bring your items so they might become someone else's treasure at the "Next to New...New to You" Sale.

Note: We will not be accepting books or clothing donations.

For those of you who wish to donate, please make note that we are asking that all items be **clean and priced** prior to being donated. Having items ready to be placed on the tables will cut down on the amount of set up time needed and is greatly appreciated.

Donations can be dropped off at church (signs will be posted for specific locations) between **October 12th – October 19th**, during regular church office hours Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., and after church service on Sundays.

Please note that we will not be accepting any donations after Sunday, October 19th.

As always, we are looking forward to our "Next to New...New to You" Sale, and hope you will participate through your donations, purchases, and attendance.

**Come one, come all to the Home for the Holidays Bazaar
on Friday, October 24th and Saturday, October 25th**



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



VIEWING WORSHIP SERVICE ONLINE or RADIO

Options:

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

OR

View Online through our Facebook page.

