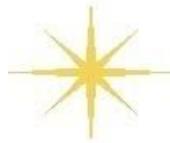


The North Star



Newsletter of the North Ontario Methodist Church

February

2026

I was talking with a friend the other day about New Year's Resolutions and I told her, "I do not make them anymore because it is June before I realize we are in a new year." I know this may sound strange because I have already gotten used to writing 2026 when I need to use a date. My reality is: one year ends in the busy season of Advent and then the Christmas season ushers in the New Year. Then the busy days of Epiphany come upon us. We step into the busy season of Lent and then Easter. After the Easter Season, we look towards Mother's Day and Father's Day and (oops!) I realize it is June and I'm left wondering where the time has gone.

Don't for a moment believe this phenomenon of "losing my years" just started recently and can be attributed to some ailment, because this has been happening most of my life. I remember about 25 years ago, I was standing in a store as a much younger me, trying to remember everything I needed to purchase when my phone rang. My dear friend was on the other end and asked me if I was okay. I responded with hesitation as I answered in the affirmative. "Why do you ask?" She kind of stretched out the word 'well' and went on to explain I had forgotten her birthday. I denied forgetting and reminded her it was on June 20th to which she responded, "Linda, it's July 2nd." I had not forgotten when her birthday was, but I did forget what day I was participating in. I learned two things from this encounter. The first being to set reminders on my phone (thank God for google calendar) and the second was how hopeless I was in paying attention to little details. (She has forgiven me!)

I know for myself I need to spend more time in appreciation of the moments within my days, not just recognizing what day it is, but. I may not be able to give you the date and time when you ask but I pray I can set aside my own schedule and just be in the moment with you.

I believe this is what the season of Lent is trying to teach us as well; to be in the moment with Jesus. To consider Jesus' sacrifice and embrace the wonderment and joy of Easter. To truly spend time with God to clean out our own schedules so we can be fully present and fully appreciative of what the cross accomplished for us.

Don't rush through these next few months. Don't ignore Lent. Instead, spend time this Lent being present with God so we may be able to better rejoice at Easter. "I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete (John 15:11.)"

Blessings,

Pastor Linda





CHURCH EVENTS, NOTES & REMINDERS



MISSION TEAM

MISSION TEAM UPDATE

Respite – We continue to have a good number of folks at each meeting and all seem to enjoy the fellowship. We have 5 folks on our waiting list. Wanda can speak of the behind the scene activities. She often gets calls asking for either help or advice and sometimes directs folks to other respite sites.

Mission Team – Please see Page 3 for Mission Team Inquiry

TRUSTEES

TRUSTEES UPDATE

- The Entrance door near the music room will be unlocked Sunday mornings until 9:55 during the winter months, so the parking close to the building can be used without having to walk as far on the sometimes-slippery parking lot.
- We welcomed 2 new Trustees in January: Jeff Klem and Spencer Dunstan
- The church bell pulley system has been repaired so hopefully the bell will be in working order for years to come.
- The oldest of our 3 furnaces failed but is up and running now. The furnace is 45 years old, so we can't expect it to last a lot longer.

Respite

RESPITE PROGRAM UPDATE

- Meetings on **February 4th & 18th** this month
- Mark & Linda Wise will be visiting on **Feb 18th** to play banjo for the group.
- We could use more MALE volunteers!** If you are interested in participating as a volunteer, please contact Wanda Klem.



WINTER BIBLE STUDY

Our 4-Week Winter Bible Study will continue thru **February 12th**
LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Our 6-Week Lenten Bible Study will begin on **February 19th**
Based on Parables of Jesus

February MINISTRY TEAMS & CHURCH COUNCIL

*Questions should be addressed to the Team Leader.



1. Tuesday, 2/3/26

3p Nurture Outreach – Classroom
4p Worship – Classroom

2. Monday, 2/9/26

6:30p Education – Classroom

3. Tuesday, 2/10/26

3p Finance – VandeVate Hall
4p Missions – VandeVate Hall
5p Trustees – VandeVate Hall



Church Council: Monday, 2/16/26 @ 6:30p - Classroom

FINANCE UPDATE

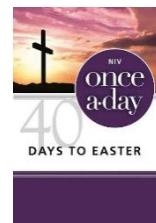
Financial Data – Financial Data – The weekly average tithing for Dec. was \$3,789. We have \$2,267 in the General fund. Our year-to-date 2025 income was \$18,411 greater than the plan. Our year-to-date 2025 expenses were \$18,743 greater than the plan. Though our tithing has been very good, our expenses have been very high. Thus, the reason for the small amount in our General Fund.



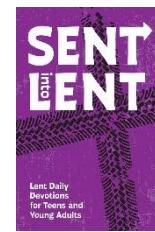
Education News

EDUCATION TEAM UPDATES

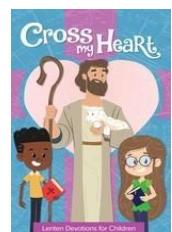
LENT: Ash Wednesday is Feb. 18th & Easter is April 5th
These Lenten studies books will be distributed after church on 2/8 and 2/15.



Adults



Teens



Children

Contact Wanda Klem (585)330-7907 if you won't be there on those dates but would like to receive one.



NURTURE OUTREACH TEAM UPDATE

The Nurture Outreach Team is sponsoring a Warm Clothing Drive during the months of January & February, to be shared with the Open Door Mission for Men, Women and Children and the Come-Unity Center in Williamson.

The list of needed items is listed on Page 4 & the bulletin board.

A collection area is set up in Motley Hall.

Please direct questions to Dawn Thomas or Judy McMillan



Lent
BEGINS

PLEASE JOIN US! ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

We will be having our Ash Wednesday Service on,
Wednesday, February 18th @ 6pm

Please join us in the Sanctuary
as we begin
the Lenten Season!

Prayer

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS

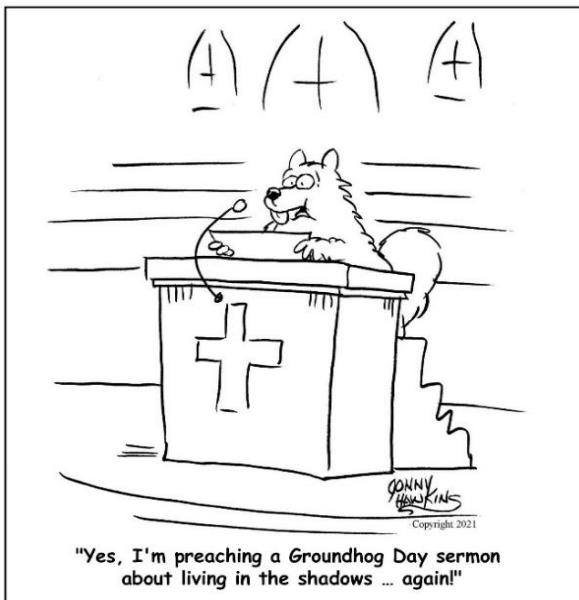
~ Richard Adams
 ~ Jim Airy, in hospital
 ~ Sue Backus, bad fall
 ~ Barb, Judy Porray's SIL
 ~ Carol Beach, recovery
 ~ Delores Beckens
 ~ Missy Bergen
 ~ Beverly Brown
 ~ Michael Buck, cancer progressing
 ~ Bud Burdick
 ~ Brenda Burley
 ~ Bob Canan, shoulder surgery, and Darlene & Barb as caretakers
 ~ Judy Chamberlain, medical issues
 ~ Georgia Christ & family
 ~ Gwen Coleman, health issues
 ~ Frank Cornelius, brain cancer
 ~ Nancy DeMagistris, Joyce Lyke's SIL
 ~ Kenny DiRenzo, Sue Smith's nephew
 ~ Mary Earlandt
 ~ Bob Eaton
 ~ Bonnie Ferry, surgery
 ~ Gene Fisher, Sanger's nephew
 ~ Janice Foulke
 ~ Kathy Furmage, Bergen Family member
 ~ Carol & Les Gillespie
 ~ Kay Graham, Kirk as caregiver
 ~ Nancy Granger, and husband, Alan

~ Donna Greene, Gene Bergen's MIL
 ~ Suzanne Gresens, M. Bergen's Niece
 ~ Mike & Rebekah Haight, pregnancy issues
 ~ Diane Howell
 ~ Gale Howell, & family caregivers
 ~ Ann Insalaco
 ~ Shirley Kuhn
 ~ Angela May, Barber's granddaughter
 ~ Ann, Martha McGlory's daughter
 ~ Lori Powers, recovery
 ~ Tracey Ridley, ALS diagnosis
 ~ Wayne Schultz, J. Hansen's cousin
 ~ Sandy Shenk & husband
 ~ Julie Sondervan
 ~ Ryan Sonneville, thyroid cancer
 ~ Lillian Speakman
 ~ Stacey, Dawn Russell's daughter
 ~ John Stanton, ALS
 ~ Dave Stark, Joan as his caretaker
 ~ Mike Stengline
 ~ Jean Van Ingen
 ~ Jane Wage
 ~ Brett Weeker, in clinical trial
 ~ Destiny Grace Whitnable, Judy Porray's Granddaughter
 ~ Zebb, friend of Judy Porray, cancer



MISSION TEAM INQUIRY

The Mission Team would like to know who is interested in a trip to volunteer at Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, Pa. Please let Bob (585-690-6767 or Mary Lou Buck (315-524-8953) know if you are interested and your availability this year. We will then make plans accordingly. We usually work 3 days and go to the Sight and Sound theater one day, but this is flexible.



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

FEBRUARY HOLIDAYS & SPECIAL DATES

Feb 2nd Groundhog Day
 Feb 14th Valentine's Day
 Feb 15th Transfiguration Sunday
 Gillespie's 60th Anniversary Reception - VandeVate Hall
 Feb 16th President's Day
 Feb 18th Ash Wednesday & Service
 Feb 22nd Coffee Hour for Barry Cooke
 Thank You - VandeVate Hall

NO SCHOOL: February 16th – 20th



ONTARIO FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Please remember that we continue to support the Ontario Food Pantry throughout the year. Please bring your non-perishable contributions. The bin is in Motley Hall
 Your donations are appreciated!



WEATHER & EMERGENCY CANCELLATION NOTIFICATIONS

We will post cancellations on our Facebook Page and will keep our NOMC website updated. For Cancellation Notifications you can also find them on:
Bulletin Board: See flyer on bulletin board
Online: www.13wham.com
Radio Stations: will decide on notifications

SPECIAL EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



CHEERS TO 60 YEARS!

Please join in celebration of Carol & Les Gillespie's 60th Wedding Anniversary.

Sunday, February 15th, following service, VandeVate Hall
RSVP to Lisa Chelini @ 585-354-9402 by Feb. 8th



COFFEE HOUR & THANK YOU TO BARRY

Please join us for cake and punch on **Sunday, February 22nd**, following service, to say **thank-you to our custodian Barry**.

Barry has decided to retire and will be greatly missed



NURTURE OUTREACH - 2026 WARM CLOTHING DRIVE

The Nurture/Outreach will be sponsoring a Warm Clothing Drive during the months of January and February. The items we collect will be shared with the Open Door Mission for Men, Women and Children and the Come-Unity Center in Williamson.

Items that are needed: Women's clothing including undergarments, boots and shoes.

Men's clothing, boots, and shoes. Children's clothing, boots, and shoes.

Outerwear for Men, Women and Children – scarves, hats, mittens, gloves. Warm blankets, throws, etc.

There will be a collection area in Motley Hall.

If you have any questions, please see Dawn Thomas or Judy McMillan.

We appreciate your support and generosity of our warm clothing drive.

PINES OF PEACE FUNDRAISER

12 Months of Flowers

Fundraiser to benefit the Pines of Peace Comfort Care Home!



January 16 to February 6, 2026

Each \$50 card allows the holder to receive a wrapped bouquet (\$15 Value) once a month for 12 months at Kittelberger's store 263 North Avenue, Webster, NY 14580.

Valid for 12 months from first use or 18 months from issue date whichever comes first. Redeem once per month in store only (original card required). No deliveries. Missed months cannot be made up. No cash value. Lost, stolen, or damaged cards will not be replaced.

Purchase Online pinesofpeace.org or call (315) 524-2388
Check or Credit Card. Once payment is received cards will be mailed to the purchaser or can pick up at the Pines on agreed upon time.

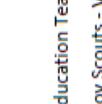
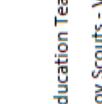
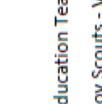
One bouquet a month for a year!

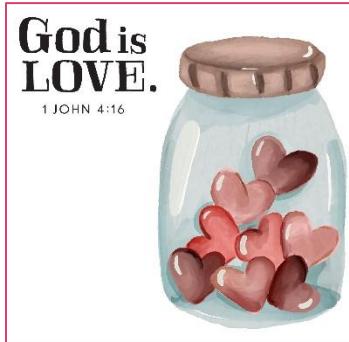
Great gift idea!

\$180 value for \$50



A vertical banner for February. On the left, a snowman with a black bow tie and a carrot nose is surrounded by three pink hearts. To the right, the word "FEBRUARY" is written in large, bold, pink, hatched letters.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
10a Communion Celebration  6:30p Boy Scouts - VVH	2 3p Nurture Outreach - CR 4p Worship Team - CR	3 10a Respite - VVH	4 10a Bible Study - VVH 3 of 4	5 10a Bible Study - VVH 3 of 4	6 10a Bible Study - VVH 3 of 4	7
10a Worship  6:30p Education Team CR 6:30p Boy Scouts - VVH	9 3p Finance Team - VVH 4p Mission Team - VVH 5p Trustees - CR 6:30p GS Leadership - VVH	10 3p Finance Team - VVH 4p Mission Team - VVH 5p Trustees - CR 6:30p GS Leadership - VVH	11 9a Garden Club - VVH 10a Bible Study - CR 4 of 4	12 9a Garden Club - VVH 10a Bible Study - CR 4 of 4	13  Valentine's Day	14
10a Worship  6:30p Church Council	16 11:30a Gillespie 60 th Anniv. Reception - VVH	17 10a Respite - VVH	18 Ash Wednesday 10a Lent Bible Study 1 of 6 NO SCHOOL	19 10a Lent Bible Study 1 of 6	20  Love is patient, Love is kind.	21 9a Heritage Sq. Mtg - VVH 5p VVH Reserved for Setup
10a Worship  6:30p Boy Scouts - VVH	22 11:30a Coffee Hour - VVH Thank You Reception for Barry Cooke, Custodian	23 24	25 6p Ash Wednesday Svc Lent Begins 	26 10a Lent Bible Study 2 of 6	27 7p B.S. Leadership - VVH	28



North Ontario Methodist Church

7200 Ontario Center Road
Ontario, NY 14519

www.nom.church

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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.