

The North Star

Newsletter of the North Ontario Methodist Church

January
2026

In just a few short days we will turn the page on the calendar to another new year. This is the time of year many look towards making resolutions. The top resolutions being: Saving money, eating healthier, exercising more, losing weight, spending more time with family or friends, quit smoking, drinking less, reduce spending, spend less time on social media, and other meaningful actions to improve our lives.

As the years march ahead, I am getting more disillusioned with the idea of starting with a new slate each time we begin a new year. Each year I resolve to be a new me; less stress, less weight, more God, more compassion. Yet, every year I carry over the pain, sorrow, heartache, stress of the last year. I find my resolve waivers within a few short weeks as I go about my routine, not changing.

This pattern has me pondering what exactly it will take to give me a new slate, make me a new person, help me to overcome some pitfalls in my life. The only thing that has ever promised me a clean slate is scripture. 2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

In 2026 let us all start out on a clean slate by relying on Christ to make us new. This New Year may our focus be on the promises of Christ and on Christ's riches blessings. Christ has proven over and over again, he has the power to change us, make us new, and make us whole. Instead, of relying on ourselves and the promises we make to ourselves may we instead set our sights on allowing Christ to change us from the inside out.

May 2026 bring on the best changes in your life so far as you set your sights on allowing Christ to work his blessing within you.

Happy New Year!!

Blessings,
Pastor Linda


Happy New Year

CHURCH EVENTS, NOTES & REMINDERS



MISSION TEAM UPDATE

Respite – We continue to have a good number of folks at each meeting and all seem to enjoy the fellowship. Occasional, we will see a new face to see what we are all about. We still have several on our waiting list.

Advent Calendar for Food Pantry – Boxes will be received on **January 11th** during worship service.

TRUSTEES

TRUSTEES UPDATE

- Rockview Landscaping has been doing a nice job snow plowing, so far. If you see any issues, please let us know.
- Furnace Maintenance will be done this month.
- As a reminder – any non-NOMC groups wanting to use our facilities for meetings require Trustee prior approval.

Respite

RESPITE PROGRAM UPDATE

- Meeting on **January 7th & January 21st** this month
- Please keep participants, and their families in your prayers.
- We have a waiting list of an additional 4 participants.
- **We could use more MALE volunteers!** If you are interested in participating as a volunteer, please contact Wanda Klem.

JANUARY MINISTRY TEAMS & CHURCH COUNCIL

*Questions should be addressed to the Team Leader.



1. **Tuesday, 1/6/26**
3p Nurture Outreach – Classroom
4p Worship – Classroom
2. **Monday, 1/12/26**
6:30p Education – Classroom
3. **Tuesday, 1/13/26**
3p Finance – VandeVate Hall
4p Missions – VandeVate Hall
5p Trustees – VandeVate Hall



Church Council: **Monday, 1/19/26 @ 6:30p** - Classroom



BIG THANK YOU FROM PASTOR LINDA

So thankful for all the Christmas gifts, cards, love, and support from our church family.
I feel extremely blessed!!



FINANCE UPDATE

Financial Data – The weekly average tithing for Nov. was \$2,656. The General Fund is at \$2,550 which is the low. The year-to-date income is \$11,615 greater than the plan. The year-to-date expenses are \$16,261 great than the plan. Though our tithing has been very good, our expenses have been very high, thus the low amount in the General Fund.

Stewardship Drive - You may still bring or mail your pledge cards to the church office. **Let us know if you need a pledge card**

EDUCATION TEAM UPDATES

Updates to come in February Newsletter.



NURTURE OUTREACH TEAM UPDATE

There will be a meeting to discuss 2026 events – which updates will be provided in weekly announcements and in the February Newsletter.



WINTER BIBLE STUDY



Our 4-Week Winter Bible Study will BEGIN on **Thursday, January 22nd @ 10am.**
(Held in VandeVate Hall unless otherwise posted)
Based on book: "Engaging with God's Word"
by Ryan Lokkesome



ONTARIO FOOD PANTRY ADVENT GIVING

2025 ADVENT GIVING CALENDAR

Bag or box due at church by **January 11, 2026**

Thank you for helping to restock the Food Pantry.



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENT

Our custodian, Barry, has decided to retire. He has been a pleasure to work with and will be missed. If you haven't had the opportunity to meet Barry, you will have a chance soon. Plans are being made to thank him at a reception following worship on a date to be determined. If you would like to contribute for a gift, we will be collecting for the next few Sundays. There will be an offering plate in Motley Hall following the service. Thank you, Darlene Canan

IMPORTANT DATES

JANUARY HOLIDAYS & SPECIAL DATES

- Jan 1st** NEW YEAR'S DAY!!
- Jan 4th** Epiphany Sunday
- Jan 11th** Baptism of the Lord
Advent Giving Calendar
Donations for Food Pantry due
- Jan 19th** MLK, Jr. Birthday
- Jan 22nd** New Bible Study Begins

NO SCHOOL: January 19th



REQUEST FOR PRAYERS

~ Richard Adams
 ~ Sue Backus, bad fall
 ~ Barb, Judy Porray's SIL
 ~ Delores Beckens, in hospital
 ~ Missy Bergen
 ~ Beverly Brown
 ~ Michael Buck
 ~ Bud Burdick
 ~ Brenda Burley
 ~ Barb Canan, fell last week
 ~ Georgia Christ & family
 ~ Gwen Coleman, health issues
 ~ Frank Cornelius, brain cancer
 ~ Rayna Crowder, Denison's Granddaughter
 ~ Nancy DeMagistris, Joyce Lyke's SIL
 ~ Kenny DiRenzo, Sue Smith's nephew
 ~ Mary Earlandt
 ~ Bob Eaton
 ~ 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, Missie Bergen's Niece
 ~ Diane Howell, recovery from surgery
 ~ Gale Howell, & family caregivers
 ~ Ann Insalaco
 ~ Shirley Kuhn
 ~ Angela May, Barber's granddaughter, Lung cancer surgery
 ~ Ann, Martha McGlory's daughter
 ~ Lori Powers, rehab & PT for broken leg
 ~ Wayne Schultz, J. Hansen's cousin
 ~ Sandy Shenk & husband
 ~ Julie Sondervan
 ~ Ryan Sonnevill, thyroid cancer
 ~ Lillian Speakman
 ~ Stacey, Dawn Russell's daughter
 ~ John Stanton, ALS
 ~ Dave Stark, Joan as his caretaker
 ~ Mike Stengline
 ~ Dawn Straub, heart issues
 ~ Jean Van Ingen
 ~ Jane Wage
 ~ Destiny Grace Whitnoble, Judy Porray's Granddaughter
 ~ Zebb, friend of Judy Porray, cancer










JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

3 Scott, Jay
 3 Grace, Alma
 6 Saeli (Bergen), Stephanie
 6 Pickering, Elizabeth (Libby)
 9 Duffy, Tommy
 11 Denison, Richard
 17 Douglas, Jacqueline
 18 Smith, Lynae
 19 Foulke, Eric
 21 Robert (Bob) Lootens
 22 HUSTON, JANET & VAN
 23 Huston, Janet
 26 SONDERVAN, RITA & MARTIN

Birthdays: Upper/Lower Case
 ANNIVERSARIES: ALL CAPS



2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
VVH – VandeVate Hall CR – Classroom KR – Kid's Room		Start the New Year with <i>Prayer</i>		New Year's Day 1  No School	2 No School	3 
Epiphany Sunday 4 10a Communion Celebration 	5 6:30 Boy Scouts - VVH	Epiphany 6 3p Nurture Outreach – CR 4p Worship Team – CR 6:30p GS Leadership - VVH	7 10a Respite - VVH	8 9a Garden Club - VVH	9	10
Baptism of the Lord 11 10a Worship Advent Baskets for Ontario Food Pantry Drop Off	12 6:30p Education Team - CR 6:30 Boy Scouts - VVH	13 3p Finance Team – VVH 4p Mission Team – VVH 5p Trustees – CR	14 	15 6:30p Heritage Sq. - VVH	16	17
18 10a Worship	MLK Jr. Day 19 6:30p Church Council - CR 6:30 Boy Scouts - VVH No School	20 3p – GS Cookie Mtg - VVH	21 10a Respite - VVH	22 10a Bible Study - VVH 7p – BS Leadership - VVH	23	24
25 10a Worship 	26 6:30 Boy Scouts - VVH	27	28 	29 10a Bible Study - VVH	30	31 Warm Hearts 



North Ontario Methodist Church

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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.