

# The North Star

Newsletter of the North Ontario Methodist Church



One of my fond memories of my dad is the day I was sitting in the back yard looking for a four-leaf clover. Dad came out of the house and asked me what I was doing. I told him, he bent down, and a few seconds later handed me a four-leaf clover. How he found it so quickly I will never know but I was too excited to ask at the time. I ran into the house, pressed the clover between two pieces of wax paper with an iron and placed it into my Bible. I was hoping this little extra “luck” would push my prayer into reality. Hey, don’t judge me, I was young. 😊

Throughout my life I have tried a key chain with a rabbit’s foot attached and avoiding walking under ladders, crossing paths with black cats and other simple means to increase the luck in my life. All the time forgetting all I needed was God.

I tried to teach my children all they needed in life was God. When they had big tests at school or other events, I would say, “I would tell you, ‘Good luck,’ but I know all you need is God. I wonder why we so blindly rely on forces other than God to push our dreams, wishes, and prayers into reality.

Do we give something up for Lent to please God? Or do we take the sacrifice to remember and draw near to the only source of fortune we need? It isn’t luck that makes God work, it isn’t even our own actions. God works all things for good for those who believe.

Where are you placing your belief? In luck? In outside forces? In the One who knows us better than we know ourselves? It is always a good thing to remember God wants what is best for us and cannot be pushed by outside forces. In receiving what is best we might experience a few “no(s)” or a few “not yet(s)” as answer to our prayers. Do not allow yourself to believe luck can make the no or the not yet into a better situation than God wants for you.

Place your belief on God alone and trust the answers.

Blessings,

*Pastor Linda*

The text 'IT'S NEVER LUCK IT'S ALWAYS GOD' is written in a bold, green, hand-drawn style font. The words are stacked vertically: 'IT'S' on the first line, 'NEVER' on the second, 'LUCK' on the third, 'IT'S ALWAYS' on the fourth, and 'GOD' on the fifth.

# CHURCH EVENTS, NOTES & REMINDERS



## MISSION TEAM UPDATE

- **Respite** – We continue to have a fairly large number of folks at meetings each week. Everyone enjoys the fellowship, crafts and music. We have 5 people on our waiting list. Wanda Klem is the point person for this program and can speak to specific details should you have any questions.
- **BBQ** – The Spring BBQ is scheduled for May 22<sup>nd</sup>. More details to follow as to how you can help make it a success!
- **Mission Trip** – See below.



## 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.



## FINANCE UPDATE

**Financial Data** – The weekly average tithing for January was \$4,685. Our tithing was very good due to a number of large checks received. We currently have \$6,850 in the General fund. Our year-to-date income was \$5,680 greater than the plan. Our year-to-date expenses were \$1,052, also greater than the plan.



## LOAN REPAYMENT UPDATE

Several years ago, we embarked on a journey we felt God was leading the members of this church to walk. The decision to move from the United Methodist Church to the Global Methodist Church came after much prayer and discernment. With this decision came some large obligations, one being financial. The members of our church and donations from the community helped us achieve our financial obligations in the time frame we were allotted. It is with great praise and gratitude to God that we announce these obligations have all been repaid.

## TRUSTEES

### TRUSTEES UPDATE

- Snow shoveling has been a group effort giving Barry a hand with the more than average snowfall.
- We have contacted Ron Mack for an estimate on some necessary tree removal. We will be meeting with him soon to discuss what needs to be done and to get an estimate.
- We have been working with SPRC to find a replacement for Barry as he is looking forward to retirement. If you see Barry please thank him for a job well done!
- The 45-year-old furnace that was just recently repaired is still working but the trustees feel that we need to consider a replacement before the next heating season.



## EDUCATION TEAM UPDATES

**There will be NO meeting in the month of March.**

We will resume meetings in April 2026

Enjoy the Lenten Devotionals that were distributed

## Respite

### RESPITE PROGRAM UPDATE

- Meetings will be on **March 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>** this month
- **We could use more MALE volunteers!** If you are interested in participating as a volunteer, please contact Wanda Klem.

## MARCH MINISTRY TEAMS & CHURCH COUNCIL

\*Questions should be addressed to the Team Leader.



1. Tuesday, 3/2/26  
3p Nurture Outreach – Classroom  
4p Worship – Classroom

Education – **NO MTG IN MARCH**

3. Tuesday, 3/10/26  
3p Finance – VandeVate Hall

4p Missions – VandeVate Hall

5p Trustees – VandeVate Hall

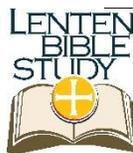


**Church Council:** Monday, 3/16/26 @ 6:30p - Classroom



## NURTURE OUTREACH TEAM UPDATE

- The Nurture Outreach Team would like to thank all that were able to contribute to our Warm Clothing Drive. The Open Door Mission for Men, Women & Children and the Come-Unity Center in Williamson will be blessed by all we have to bring them. This winter has certainly given cause for warm clothing!



## LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Join us on **Thursday's @ 10am**

**6-Week Lenten Bible Study** which began on February 26<sup>th</sup>

Based on **Parables of Jesus**



### REQUEST FOR PRAYERS

- ~ Richard Adams
- ~ Sue Backus, bad fall
- ~ Carol Beach
- ~ Delores Beckens
- ~ Missy Bergen
- ~ Beverly Brown
- ~ Michael Brown, Pastor Linda's uncle
- ~ Michael Buck, cancer
- ~ Bud Burdick
- ~ Brenda Burley
- ~ Barb Canan, health issues
- ~ Bob Canan, home recovery/rehab
- ~ Darlene Canan, strain of managing family challenges
- ~ 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
- ~ Bonne Ferry, recovery
- ~ Gene Fisher, Sanger's nephew
- ~ Janice Foulke
- ~ Kathy Furmage, Bergen Family member
- ~ Carol & Les Gillespie
- ~ Deb Grace, Alma's sister, recovering
- ~ Kay Graham, & Kirk as caregiver as they make new living arrangements.
- ~ 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
- ~ Jack Kelly, stroke recovery
- ~ Shirley Kuhn
- ~ Angela May, Barber's granddaughter
- ~ Ann, Martha McGlory's daughter
- ~ Lori Powers, recovery
- ~ Tracey Ridley, ALS diagnosis
- ~ Travis Schumacher, serious infection
- ~ Sandy Shenk & husband
- ~ Jamie Smith, brain aneurysm – Kristopher Thomas' best friend
- ~ Julie Sondervan
- ~ Ryan Sonnevile, thyroid cancer
- ~ Lillian Speakman
- ~ Stacey, Dawn Russell's daughter
- ~ John Stanton, ALS
- ~ Dave Stark, Joan as his caretaker
- ~ Mike Stengline
- ~ Giovanni & Nicole Vaccaro, Wendy's son, issues with pregnancy & baby
- ~ Jean Van Ingen
- ~ Jane Wage
- ~ Brett Wecker, hospital
- ~ Destiny Grace Whitnoble, Judy Porray's Granddaughter
- ~ Zebb, friend of Judy Porray, cancer



### FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS



- 2 Haak, Cheryl
- 8 Hastings, Doug
- 8 Ludington, Donna
- 10 Petty, Constance
- 11 Whitmire, Gerry
- 11 Hancock, Katherine
- 12 DENISON, RICHARD & BONNIE
- 14 McGlory, Martha
- 14 Upham, Doreen
- 15 Lyke, Joyce
- 17 Kushall, Shirley
- 20 Dyer, Nikki
- 23 Dunstan, Bennett (Jr)
- 24 Pickering, Abe



Birthdays: Upper/Lower Case  
ANNIVERSARIES: ALL CAPS

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### MARCH HOLIDAYS & SPECIAL DATES

- Mar 8<sup>th</sup> Daylight Savings Time Begins!
- Mar 15<sup>th</sup> Denison's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon Reception - VandeVate
- Mar 17<sup>th</sup> St. Patrick's Day
- Mar 20<sup>th</sup> Spring Begins!
- Mar 29<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday

NO SCHOOL: March 30<sup>th</sup> – April 3<sup>rd</sup>



### 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](http://www.13wham.com)  
**Radio Stations:** will decide on notifications

### BARRY'S RETIREMENT RECEPTION



**THANK YOU, BARRY,  
FOR YOUR YEARS OF  
SERVICE TO OUR CHURCH!**



## SPECIAL EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



### UPDATING CHURCH DIRECTORY

We will be updating the Church Directory and publishing it on **3-15-26**

If you would like to be **added** to the directory

~OR~

if you're already in the directory but would like to **update any of your information**, please fill out the form which is on the table in Motley Hall or call the office with your updates. Once updated, there will be printed copies available, or Wendy will gladly send an e-copy. **Thank you!**

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

#### 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Please join in celebration of **Rich & Bonnie Denison's 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary**.  
**Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**, Luncheon immediately following service in VandeVate Hall  
All the church family is invited to attend



### HOLY WEEK SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY – 3-29-26

10a Worship Service

GOOD FRIDAY – 4-3-26

3p Worship Service

EASTER SUNDAY – 4-5-26

8:30a Early Easter Worship Service

10a Easter Worship Service

# 2026 MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>10a Communion Celebration</b> <b>1</b>	 6:30 Boy Scouts - VVH <b>2</b>	3p Nurture Outreach – CR 4p Worship Team – CR <b>3</b>	10a Respite - VVH <b>4</b>	10a Lent Bible Study 2/6 <b>5</b>	 World Day of Prayer <b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>10a Worship</b>  <b>8</b> 2p Scout Ceremony – VVH D. Constable	6:30 Boy Scouts - VVH <b>9</b>	3p Finance Team – VVH 4p Mission Team – VVH 5p Trustees – CR <b>10</b>	 <b>11</b>	9a Garden Club - VVH 10a Lent Bible Study 3/6 <b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	 4p VandeVate Hall Reserved Denison's <b>14</b>
<b>10a Worship</b> 11:30a Lunch Reception Denison's 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniv Party - VVH  <b>15</b>	6:30p Boy Scouts - VVH 6:30p Church Council <b>16</b>	<b>St. Patrick's Day</b>  6:30p GS Leadership - VVH <b>17</b>	10a Respite - VVH <b>18</b>	10a Lent Bible Study 4/6 <b>19</b>	 <b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9a Heritage Square - VVH
<b>10a Worship</b> <b>22</b>	6:30 Boy Scouts - VVH <b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	 6:30p Pines BOD Mtg-VVH <b>25</b>	10a Lent Bible Study 5/6 <b>26</b> 7p BS Leadership - VVH	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>10a Worship</b>  Palm Sunday <b>29</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> <b>30</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> <b>31</b>	<b>HOLY WEEK</b>  <b>31</b>			VVH – VandeVate Hall CR - Classroom KR – Kid's Room



## North Ontario Methodist Church

7200 Ontario Center Road  
Ontario, NY 14519

[www.nom.church](http://www.nom.church)

### Administrative Assistant:

Wendy Pringle

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[nomcOffices@gmail.com](mailto:nomcOffices@gmail.com)

Office: 315-524-9509

### Church Office Hours:

Tue, Wed & Thu 10a – 2p

### Pastor:

Rev. Linda Haight

[pastorlinda11@gmail.com](mailto: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.