

Announcements for Sunday, December 13, 2020

Blue Christmas Worship

To worship with us on Tuesday, December 15 at 7 pm, visit: <https://youtu.be/w1C3f25bzxs>

All are welcome to this gentle and contemplative virtual worship service, designed for those who are carrying pain or loss during this season of celebration. Following worship, at about 7:40 pm, you are welcome to join us on Zoom for a time of fellowship. God wants to renew our lives this Christmas season, bringing hope to us in the areas of our deepest need, bringing peace to us in the midst of our darkest confusion. If you, or someone you know, are remembering a loss or going through a season of pain, you are invited to join us this Christmas for a time of comfort and rest.

Rev. Alice Walsh is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83899434125?pwd=VXFESFJmOFIORCtUOHxV0VlQ0lQdz09>

Meeting ID: 838 9943 4125 Passcode: 086284

Adopt-a-Family

Drop off gifts today: Sunday, December 13, Noon – 2 pm or Wednesday, December 16, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Thanks to all of you who chose to purchase an Adopt-a-Family gift! If you chose a tag from the board and decided to purchase the item on your own from a different store other than Amazon, be sure to wrap your gift, attach the tag to the package, and take them to the church at one of the times listed above when we will have an Outreach Committee member there to accept them. ***(Please note: donations for the Hats and Mittens Collection will also be collected at these times.)***

If you have any questions, please contact Barb Andrews at grandrews@roadrunner.com or 440.779.1157.

Support Oxcart Pantry

Next Sunday, December 20 is Penny Sunday

December's Penny Sunday offering will go to purchase laundry detergent and cleaning supplies for Oxcart Pantry. *Make checks payable to North Olmsted United Methodist Church and write **December Penny Sunday** in the memo. Send checks to the church office, attention Ed Brewster, Financial Secretary.*

Christmas Flowers

Pick up your flower order at the church on Friday, December 18, 1 pm - 3 pm

Thank you for your order of Christmas flowers and for supporting our Sunday School Africa University Mission Project! Flowers are ordered and will be delivered on December 17, and Wendy will arrange them on the altar and photograph them. The flowers will be available for pick up beginning on Friday afternoon from 1 pm - 3 pm. If that time does not work for you, please contact Wendy at sundayschool@noumc.org to make arrangements for pick-up over the weekend.

Adult Council Christmas Fellowship

Saturday, December 19, 6:30 pm, on Zoom

Dress up for the holidays and share Christmas memories and your holiday decorations. Look for people's posts of holiday decorations on our Facebook page the week before. RSVP to Claudia at claudia.taller@yahoo.com.

A Note from Ed Brewster, Financial Secretary

Thank you all for your continued support of our mission of NOUMC. As we close out the 2020 year, if you need to know your current giving record, you may email or call my cell and leave a message. For those that would like to see about making a donation through your bank bill pay service, send me an email, and I will assist you with setting that up. Most banks provide this for free. For those that already have done this, please ensure that you use your church number (1-100) for the account line in the bill pay section. This helps me with accounting and keeping track of all donations. You may also send one or two checks for multiple donations. Just add a sticky note or little note and let me know how you want the donation divided. I will be sending out an email soon, asking for the number of envelopes you would like for 2021. Some of you already received envelopes. You can ask for additional ones at any time. Given the current circumstances, you may just mail a check or use a current or old envelope to send in a donation. As always, if you have a cash donation, please indicate who it is from for my records.

Thank you, God bless, and stay safe. Ed Brewster 440-785-7319 or ebrews@gmail.com

January Agape Deadline

Tuesday, December 15

Thank you for emailing articles and January meeting dates to Megan at office@noumc.org no later than December 15. You can also send articles to the church office, attention Megan Howe.

Advent and Christmas Worship Gets Creative!

We would like to invite you to share worship with us in creative ways! Here are a few ideas:

1. Create your own Advent wreath at home and **Take a Photo** to share in our worship service.
2. Unpack the Nativity scene from your attic or basement and set it up in a prominent place in your home. **Take a Photo** of it to share in our worship services!
3. Do your own "Hanging of the Greens" event in your home, complete with trees, garlands, nativities, and candles. **Take a Photo** to share.
4. Stand in front of your newly decorated tree and **Share a Short Video** of "What Christmas Means to Me This Year". These short video clips will personalize our worship as we "see" the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love of Christ in the Advent season in our church family's faces!
5. And finally...for the Grand Finale!!! Grab a candle, stand in front of your tree, nativity, fireplace, etc., and **Make a Video** of your family sharing the lighting of the candles (much as we do at the church on

Christmas Eve). These videos will be put together in a slide show to be shared at our Christmas Eve service during the singing of *Silent Night*.

Email Rev. Alice at alice@baywalsh.com for more details.

Coloring Through Advent

This week's coloring page is Joy, and it represents the joy we feel as we anticipate Christmas and the joy we feel in knowing that we belong to Jesus and in anticipating His return! When you are done coloring your pages, please be sure to get your masterpieces back to Wendy by either placing them in the box located outside the back door of the church, or by emailing them to sundayschool@noumc.org. Photos of your coloring pages may be included in our online services during the month of December.

Adult Sunday School Advent Study

Sundays, 9:30 am, on Zoom

In *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent*, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the story of the birth of Jesus. Join us as we trace the Christmas narrative through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi. These stories open conversations around connections of the Gospel stories to the Old Testament, the role of women in first-century Jewish culture, the importance of Mary's visitation and the revolutionary implications of Mary's Magnificat, the census and the stable, and the star of Bethlehem and the flight to Egypt. *If you are interested in participating, email Craig Mueller at cpa.mueller@sbcglobal.net and he will email you the Zoom link for this Advent Study group.*

Online Sunday School for the Season of Advent

Elementary and Middle Sunday School students, please join us each week on our Friends of NOUMC Facebook page as we continue to study God's Word! Each week, a video Bible lesson is posted on the Facebook page, and links to activity sheets are posted in the comments. High School and Young Adults are welcome to click on a weekly devotion with thoughts and questions to ponder. Our lessons and devotions are currently focusing on the Advent season and the birth of Jesus Christ! Weekly lessons are posted by Saturday evening on our [Friends of NOUMC Facebook page!](#)

We will still need teachers once we do return to in-person classes, so if you are interested in teaching, contact Wendy at sundayschool@noumc.org.

Upcoming Meetings

Adopt-a-Family Gift Drop-Off: Sunday, December 13, 12 pm – 2 pm, church building

Adopt-a-Family Gift Drop-Off: Wednesday, December 16, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm, church building

Administrative Board: Wednesday, December 16, 6:30 pm, Zoom

Christmas Flower Pick-Up: Friday, December 18, 1 pm – 3 pm, church building