

Announcements for Sunday, December 6, 2020

Christmas Flower Sale

Orders due tomorrow, December 7

The youth are accepting orders for Poinsettias and Christmas Cacti that will be placed on the altar and photographed and integrated into our virtual Christmas Eve service. Arrangements will be made for you to pick up your flowers early so that you can enjoy them in your home on Christmas. Pick-up dates and times will be posted later when that information is available. The order form can be found on the website. *Send the form with your check to the church office, attention Wendy Cooper or email Wendy at sundayschool@noumc.org.*

Adult Sunday School Advent Study

Sundays, 9:45 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.

Advent Worship Gets Creative!

As we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ this Advent season, we need your help! Because of the rising COVID numbers we will not be able to worship in person, in our church building, throughout the coming Advent/Christmas season. So, 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*.

If you are interested in participating in any of these events, please email Rev. Alice at alice@baywalsh.com for more details.

Coloring Through Advent

Last week you should have received and were invited to color the first Advent coloring page, "Hope," representing the hope we have in Jesus. This week's coloring page is "Peace," and it represents the peace we have in our hearts when we put our trust in Jesus. 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.

Adopt-a-Family

Thanks to all of you who chose to purchase an Adopt-a-Family gift! If you chose a tag from the board, visit <https://www.amazon.com/registries/custom/13WDOTUD015Z8/guest-view>. This is the list of what Oxcart Pantry has selected from Amazon as possible items to satisfy the requests.

We felt that most of the selections on Amazon were more expensive than what you could purchase on your own, however, so you have two options. If you like the choice Oxcart Pantry made, you can order it on Amazon by clicking the link above and mailing the item from Amazon directly to Oxcart Pantry (choose the option: City of North Olmsted's Gift Registry Address). The advantage to this option is that you don't have to leave home, and volunteers at Oxcart Pantry will do the wrapping and sorting for you.

Option 2 is that you can purchase your items on your own, wrap them, put the paper slip on the package, and take them to the church at one of the following times, when we will have an Outreach member there to accept them. (Please note: donations for the Hats and Mittens Collection will also be collected at these times.)

Saturday, December 12, Noon – 2 pm;

Sunday, December 13, Noon – 2 pm

Wednesday, December 16, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

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

Hats and Mittens Collection

Drop-off dates and times for donations are the same as the Adopt-a-Family Dates

We are collecting hats and mittens for youth and adults again this year. Instead of decorating the Hat and Mitten Tree in Fellowship Hall, the Outreach Committee invites you to drop off donations during the dates indicated in the Adopt-a-Family announcement. Last year the items went to Front Steps (previously called Transitional Housing), Laura's Home, and the North Olmsted Food Pantry.

Blue Christmas Worship

Tuesday, December 15, 7 pm, link will be available online at www.noumc.org

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.

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.

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.

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!](#)

Upcoming Meetings

Anti-Racism Discussion Group: Tuesday, December 8, 10:30 am, Zoom

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

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

Our Guiding Principles

- We appreciate and invest in our youth.
- We actively serve our neighbors in the North Olmsted community and the wider world.
- We provide varied opportunities for people to grow in their faith.
- We welcome and nurture a diverse congregation who become extended family.
- We foster lasting personal relationships, which are especially important in a digital world.

*Our Faithful
Journey*

