

# Welcome to North Olmsted United Methodist Church!

## Announcements for Sunday, December 12, 2021

### Adopt-a-Family

*Wrapped Gifts due today*

Today is the last day to place the wrapped gifts with tags attached under the tree in the Sanctuary. Thank you!

### Blue Christmas Worship Service

*Monday, December 13, 7 pm, Sanctuary & Online at <https://youtu.be/vh14kp32eoA>*

The holiday season can be especially difficult for some of us, a painful reminder of what has been lost or of what has never been. God wants to renew our lives this Christmas season, bringing hope to us in the areas of our deepest need. All are invited to join us for a Blue Christmas worship service, a quiet service filled with peace, hope, prayer, music, and candlelight. Invite others and join us as we re-affirm together our faith in God's presence, even in the darkest and loneliest seasons of our lives.

### Support the General Commission on Race and Religion

*Next Sunday, December 19 is Penny Sunday*

This month's Penny Sunday collection is going to the General Commission on Race and Religion. The Racial Justice Group has been utilizing their podcasts and information online for over a year.

GCORR was formed in 1968 by the church to keep "The United Methodist Church accountable in its commitment to reject the sin of racism in every aspect of the life of the church." Racism is their primary focus, which also includes poverty, gender discrimination, and more.

GCORR is at a critical turning point. The reality is that GCORR has been underfunded for years. Cutbacks have come when many local congregations are recommitting to confronting racism and most need institutional support.

With God's help and your generosity, we are calling in a future where GCORR becomes self-sustaining, with a wider reach and an exponentially greater impact than ever before. Visit <https://www.gcorr.org> or <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/commissions-umw-adapt-to-new-budget-realities> for more information.

*Make checks payable to NOUMC and write December Penny Sunday in the memo. Send checks to the church office, attention Ron Clough, Financial Secretary. For those worshipping in person, a special offering basket will be made available.*

### January Agape Deadline

*Wednesday, December 15*

Thank you for emailing January articles and meeting dates to [office@noumc.org](mailto:office@noumc.org) by December 15. You can also put articles in the Administrative Assistant's mailbox outside the church office.

### Serve in Worship on Christmas Eve

*Friday, December 24, 7 pm*

Help us lead worship and offer hospitality on Christmas Eve by serving as liturgist, usher, or greeter! If you can serve, please email [office@noumc.org](mailto:office@noumc.org).

## Advent Activities

Be sure to watch our Friends of NOUMC Facebook page for Advent activities throughout the month of December.

1. We will "light" the Advent candle each week, with a weekly devotion.
2. Luke Challenge: Our challenge to read one chapter of Luke each night in December continues! There are 24 chapters, so by Christmas Eve, we will have read through the entire account of Jesus' life, and we will wake up Christmas morning knowing Who and why we celebrate! Wendy will post a weekly wrap up and devotion, and we are invited to join in on the discussion.

## Donate 2022 Calendars

*Through January 16*

Do you have extra 2022 calendars? We will donate them to a local organization in need. The calendar collection box is in Fellowship Hall to the left of the Sanctuary doors. Thank you for your donations.

***Looking Ahead: The hats and mittens collection will run from January 2 – January 30***

## Oxcart Pantry Collection

*Collecting cleaning supplies, especially laundry detergent, until Sunday, January 2*

Please put all donations in the Oxcart Pantry container in Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your generosity!

## Christmas Eve Worship Service

*Friday, December 24, 7 pm, Sanctuary and Online*

Worship with us on Friday, December 24 as we celebrate God's presence with us in Jesus Christ. The service will include beautiful music, a message of hope, and the traditional sharing of candlelight.

## This Week's Gatherings, Meetings, and Small Groups

Bell Choir Rehearsal: Monday, December 13, 11 am, Choir Room

Racial Justice Group: Monday, December 13, 12 pm – 1 pm (*over lunch break*), on Zoom, contact Janis for link

Blue Christmas Worship Service: Monday, December 13, 7 pm, Sanctuary and Online

Adult Fellowship Holiday Hits Concert: Tuesday, December 14, 7:30 pm, LCCC Stocker Arts Center

Choir Rehearsal: Thursday, December 16, 7 pm, Sanctuary

Adult Sunday School Advent Study: Sunday, December 19, 9 am, Choir Room

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent: Sunday, December 19, 10:30 am, Sanctuary & Online

### 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

