

**AGAPE****Greek for “love without limits”**

Celebrating Black History Month in East Ohio: **A Month of Learning, Reflection, and Action**

February is Black History Month, a time to honor the contributions of Black Americans, reflect on our shared history, and engage in the ongoing work of racial justice. You are invited to join pastors, congregations, and faith communities across the East Ohio Conference throughout the month of February as we focus on four themes designed to educate and resource our ministry together. As United Methodists, we affirm our commitment to stand against racism. Each Monday in February we will focus on a specific aspect of Black history and racial justice, sharing videos, articles, and action steps to help congregations meaningfully participate.

February 3 (Week 1) – What is the Black College Fund, Why Does it Matter?

We'll begin our observance of Black History Month by highlighting the long-standing support The United Methodist Church has shown for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) through the Black College Fund. These institutions have shaped generations of Black leaders, pastors, and changemakers. Each week of the month on the homepage of the Conference website, www.eocumc.com, we will feature a different video showcasing past addresses from Black College Fund ambassadors to sessions of Annual Conference.

Worship Opportunities

Worship With Us In-Person and Online on Sundays at 10:30 am

DATE	GREETER(S)	LITURGIST	USHER(S)
February 2	Jean Scothon	Barb Clough	Barb and Ron Clough
February 9	Barb Andrews	Michelle Wolter	Judi Wagner
February 16	Sarah Jackson	Floyd Andrews	Sarah Jackson
February 23	John and Char Vas	John Wolter	Liz Lavelle

February Oxcart:Soups



This month we will be collecting packaged or canned soups and stews. Please place them in the green box in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you, Shaker's Market Place!

Thank you to Shaker's for their generous contribution to our January Free Community Meal! Shaker's is located in Olmsted Township. Stop in and say "Hi" and "Thank you!" if you are in the neighborhood!

February Penny Sunday: Nehemiah Bread on Bridge Meal

During the past year our church family contributed in multiple ways to serving the transformational work of Cleveland's Nehemiah Mission. NOUMC's support of Nehemiah Mission included serving meals to individuals with significant need, raising funds to purchase a commercial refrigerator and professional cleaning of the dining room and kitchen, and most recently, our church family filled numerous suitcases to the brim with warm clothing. Both the suitcases and the clothing are greatly valued by those who often live outside the comforts of a home. In addition, thanks to donations from our UMM and UWF groups we purchased Christmas gifts for seven immigrant children residing at Nehemiah with enough funds remaining to deliver birthday gifts to these youngsters throughout the year. Our hearts are filled with gratitude for your abundant generosity and sustained contributions!



February's Penny Sunday collection will be singularly directed to supporting NOUMC's efforts to fund a Nehemiah meal every other month. Although the church budget has targeted funds to assist this ministry, we are hopeful that this

special Penny Sunday collection will provide budgetary relief as we seek to serve and feed others beyond our church family.

“Soup-er Bowl” of Caring

On February 9th, our Christian Education and Youth Ministry Team will help fight hunger and poverty, joining a national effort to refocus Super Bowl weekend into a weekend of sharing God's love with our neighbors in need, by participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring. This effort helps us to be mindful of those who are without even a bowl of soup to eat as we enjoy our Super Bowl celebrations. During worship on February 9th, large soup pots will be on the table in Fellowship Hall for you to drop your donation in. Or you may send checks in to the church office, to the attention of Wendy Cooper. Please make checks payable to NOUMC and write Souper Bowl of Caring in the memo. This year's donations will be sent to the North Olmsted Food Pantry. Please consider donating to help us make a difference in our community!

Christian Education Upcoming Activities

Save The Dates:

Passover Seder Meal: Friday March 28th @ 6:00. You are invited to celebrate Lent with us as we prepare and serve a traditional Seder meal, and learn the meaning and symbolism behind each dish. You are welcome to come and enjoy the evening, or you will have an opportunity to help by choosing a dish to prepare and bring for the meal.

Tetelestai: We will be going on another adventure to see Cleveland's Passion Play performance, a musical portrayal of the trial, execution, and resurrection of Jesus at the end of March!

Community Egg Hunt: We will be holding our annual egg hunt on the front lawn on Saturday, April 12th! We will be asking for donations of small candies, plastic eggs, and volunteers!

Please see future bulletins, the Agape, and Facebook for further details as they become available! Please see Wendy if you would like to get involved!

Free Community Meal Cooks Still Needed

Volunteers are needed to cook for our monthly community meal. If you or your group would like to provide a wholesome meal for our neighbors in need, please consider volunteering to cook one meal. We currently need to fill April-October and December.

The meal is served the last Thursday of each month (except December) to approximately 50 guests. The church provides a budget of \$150 in support of the meal. Several volunteers aid in set up, serving, and cleanup the day of the meal. A document will be provided to help you plan and shop for the meal including some sample menus. If you would like more information, please feel free to contact Chris Byrns at (440) 732-5431, Barb Linton or Joel Chermonte.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Condolences to the family of Jim Sainsbury, on his passing	Janis J.'s brother, Kirk	Todd & Carolyn W., lifted by Barb A.
Condolences to the family of Joan Thomas, on her passing	Selene, lifted by Carole A.	Carolyn B. and her friend
Condolences to the family of Joan Holder, on her passing	Vicki & family, daughter of Rae & Walt S.	Lois D.
Nadine B., lifted by Alice W.	Joy & Rocky, lifted by Paul & Claudia T.	Daniel C., lifted by Joel & Deb C.
Paul T.'s mother, Alice	Curtis, lifted by Reba Y.	Ray S.
Chris & Ava K., lifted by Jean S.	Cindy, Reba Y.'s sister-in-law	John, lifted by Mary B.
Donna R., sister of Bob & Carol N.	Bev C., Deb C.'s mother	Keith A.
Jan C.	Carl, friend of Joel & Deb C.	Barbara B.
Kelly P.	Sally C.	Randall S.
Carol N.	Sarah J.'s brother, Billy	Karen & Tom H., lifted by Jeff R.
Jennifer G.	Susan L.	Will S.
Dave S., Jan C.'s brother-in-law	Matt & Debby, lifted by Janis J.	Judy L.
Martha, lifted by Janis J.	Nate R.	Tammy M.'s friend Kate's father
Bunny, Liz L.'s cousin	Pat, CJ C.'s mother	Bill & Marilyn R.
Doris, friend of Sally C.	Michael M., nephew of Jan C.	Ken G., lifted by Barb B.
Becky & Dee lifted by Claudia T.	Phil T., lifted by Carolyn B.	Judi W.



FEBRUARY

Birthdays and Anniversaries

3	Ron Stroup	13	Andrew Sabin	23	Sydney Scothon
8	Rachael Berry	13	Gary & Jean Scothon	25	Carolyn Bernard
9	Ron Clough	14	Carol Weinert	25	Judy Sainsbury
11	Colette Pattison	20	Joanne Krueger	28	Philip Wolter
12	Jim & Judy Sainsbury	21	Terri Wilhelm	29	Ron & Lisa D. Stroup
12	Beth Cruz				

UWF News—From Barb Andrews

We have one confirmed date for your calendar if you like to plan ahead. The Church Mouse Craft Show will be held on October 11. Plan now to attend for great food, wonderful crafts, and Fellowship with the crafters and UWF members.

You know that we use most of our profits during the year to help in-church committees' needs and UMC missions and local charities. We appreciate all you do to help us get that profit and hope you enjoy taking part in the activities we sponsor. At our last meeting of the year we gave some of that money to the following: Flat Rock, Westside Community House, Ohio Guidestone, The Lorain Men's Shelter, the North Olmsted Community Fund, the Pastor's discretionary fund, the monthly community dinner, grief books, piano tuning and the Oxcart Pantry. Earlier in the year we gave money to our Nehemiah Mission group so they could purchase Christmas presents for the immigrant children housed at Nehemiah until they can get permanent housing. I learned that after purchasing the gifts, the group had money left that they figured on using for gifts during this year. A few days before the gift giving, a new family from Africa came in, and there was enough money to give the four children gifts. Thank you.

Mission News—From Barb Andrews

Georgia was very happy to see 61 cleaning items--mostly laundry detergent, as requested. I'm sure many of the clients at the Oxcart Pantry were also happy. This month Georgia has suggested the Pantry could use canned and/or packaged soup and stews. These items can be good fillers when you're on a tight budget. Thanks for helping your neighbors.

Financial News from our Treasurer, Andy Walsh

NOUMC has a generous congregation. Through its regular giving, the congregation donated approximately \$209,000 to support the mission of NOUMC during the year. In addition to its regular giving, the congregation also donated approximately \$13,000 to specifically targeted global and local ministries. \$2,600 was earned in rental income for the year. A one-time special donation of \$50,000 was received this year, with \$25,000 recorded in operations and \$25,000 recorded as a targeted donation in the church's Capital and Building Fund. Because the total amounts received this year exceeded expectations, the planned withdrawal from endowment funds was considered unnecessary.

Total expenses were close to the amount projected in the 2024 budget. Expenses for snow removal and salting the parking lot during the winter were about \$2,000 more than anticipated, and utilities were under budget by a similar amount. It is worth noting that the church paid a significantly reduced portion (25%) of its shared ministries apportionments for 2024.

The church expended approximately \$15,600 from its Capital Building Fund in 2024. The most significant of those investments included \$10,000 to replace aging windows in the sanctuary, \$4,100 to remove and trim trees damaged during the August storms, and \$1,300 for a new water heater.

The church's endowment funds grew in value by approximately \$14,700 (6.6%) during the year. Based on a recommendation from the Finance Committee and approved by the Church Council, the church's two endowment funds were combined in May.

The full set of financial statements for 2024 are available in the office.

		Full Year 2024		
		<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Variance</i>
Financial Snapshot				
North Olmsted United Methodist Church				
For the year ended December 31, 2024				
<u>Revenue and Expenses</u>				
Regular giving and special income	\$	238,568	\$ 219,500	\$ 19,068
Operating Expenses		229,481	229,925	(444)
	\$	9,087	\$ (10,425)	\$ 19,512
<u>Ministries funded through targeted donations (not included in operations)</u>				
Donations	\$	52,895		
Disbursements	\$	32,440		
<u>Cash Balance</u>				
Unrestricted (for operations)	\$	45,178		
Restricted (for targeted ministries)		47,648		
	\$	92,826		

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 2pm Girl Scouts	3 8:30pm AA	4 12pm Nehemiah Meal 7pm Scouts 7:30pm BS	5 10am UWF 7pm Worship Team 8pm AA	6 11am Bible Study 6pm Bells 7pm Choir	7	8 8:30am UMM Breakfast
9 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30 Birthday Reception	10 8:30pm AA	11 7pm Scouts 7:30pm Bible Study	12 8pm AA	13 11am Bible Study 6pm Bells 7pm Choir	14	15
16 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 2pm Girl Scouts	17 8:30pm AA	18 1pm Book Bank 7pm Scouts 7:30pm Bible Study	19 6:30pm Joint Council 8pm AA	20 11am BS 6pm Bells 7pm Choir	21	22
23 9am SS 10:30am Worship 11:30am Chair Yoga	24 8:30pm AA	25 7pm Scouts 7:30pm Bible Study	26 8pm AA	27 11am BS 4:30pm Community Meal 6pm Bells 7pm Choir	28	

For the most up-to-date calendar, visit www.noumc.org.

Please contact the church office (office@noumc.org or 440.779.6634) to add your meeting or gathering, virtual or in-person, to the church calendar.

North Olmsted United Methodist Church
4600 Dover Center Road
North Olmsted, Ohio 44070



Return Address Requested

Our Guiding Principles

- We appreciate, invite and welcome people of all ages.
- 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.

Free Community Meal (In-Person Only)

Thursday, February 27, 2024

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Fellowship Hall

Roast Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, Salad, Drink and Dessert

The Free Community Meal is a mission of North Olmsted United Methodist Church. All meals are funded by donations, and the dinners are prepared and served by volunteers. Menus may change because of donated food or food pricing. Additional volunteers are always welcome! If you would like more information, please contact us at 440-779-6634. *We are an accessible facility.*

A sign-up sheet for help with set-up, serving, and clean-up will be in Fellowship Hall. For more information, contact Chris Byrns at 440-732-5431.