

Old North Church

For King and Kingdom

2023-2024 Annual Report



For King and Kingdom

In Mark 1, Jesus burst onto the scene with a paradigm-shifting proclamation. He was proclaiming the Gospel of God and saying, *“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”*

The Kingdom of God has arrived, and Jesus is the King of that Kingdom.

This truth informs the identity, motivations, and activities of all those who put their faith in Jesus Christ. In a very real way, **everything we do at Old North is for King and the Kingdom.**

We serve to glorify the King.

We work for the advancement of His Kingdom.

The following pages give just a glimpse into how that has happened in the past year. God’s Kingdom is expanding in our very midst. Old North Church has been so blessed to see the mighty works of the Lord in the lives of Men and Women, Boys and Girls and we look forward to seeing how he’ll use us *for King and Kingdom* in the year ahead.



A note from Pastor Nick



Living for **the King** and the advancement of **His Kingdom** provides the greatest *purpose*, the most profound *joy*, and the most accurate *perspective* of reality that a person can have. Due to the fact the Kingdom of God continues to advance in the Kingdom of Darkness that is in the world, living for the King and the Kingdom can also lead to struggle and toil as we go against the grain of the culture.

This past year we have experienced both at Old North. We have seen this *purpose, joy, and perspective* come to the fore as God has made hearts alive toward Him. One of the things I love about our church is that God is doing this across the generations:

From those who are in the 4th quarter of life and are now putting their faith in Jesus for the first time, or those senior saints who have followed him for years but still have a deep desire to learn, grow, and be faithful...

To those high school students who sit in the front row and listen to every word of the sermon because they want to hear from the Lord...

To the couple who takes a night out of their busy week to attend a growth group...

To the one who commits to pray diligently for the salvation of those who are rebelling against the King...

To the one who strives to figure out how to live faithfully in an ever-complex world, with mixed politics, technology, and financial implications.

The list goes on. And the King is brought much glory and his followers much joy as we strive, pursue obedience, exercise faith, share the gospel, and toil in this world. In these things, the Kingdom expands.

Friends, let's keep following this King together, in this time and this place with this church family. As we do, we will continue to see amazing growth and opportunity for our good and His glory.

For King and Kingdom,
You are Loved,



ONC Leaders



CHRIS DROMBETTA

EXECUTIVE PASTOR

“I love the way that the book of Acts resounds with the repeating chorus, “the word of God increased and multiplied.” In God’s kindness, this is exactly the kind of growth that we’ve seen at Old North over the last year. From conversions to baptisms, new members to thriving ministries, God is at work in our church and we praise him for that. I’d also like to thank our incredible staff for their efforts in ministering to our congregation. Your character, diligence, faithfulness, hard work, and commitment to teaching God’s word are a deep encouragement to so many!”



RICK ENLOW

PASTOR OF CARE AND CONNECTION

“We had a record number of newcomers this past year! Many that have come through GTK and Membership Matters are now members. Our greeters, ushers, Connection Center workers, coffee hospitality team, and the after-service prayer team who volunteer on Sundays have been doing a fantastic job. The Care Ministry has also partnered with Oasis and Women's Ministry to visit our dear shut-ins. Care Night has been instrumental in ministering to hurting people through GriefShare and DivorceCare. God has been so faithful in seeing our people through the challenges of life.”



DAN OSBORN

PASTOR OF ADULT MINISTRY

“Every week, in homes and in the halls of Old North Church, hundreds of men and women from Old North spend significant time with one another gathered around the Word of God. To me, that is one of the most thrilling aspects of the work that God is allowing us to witness and experience! Additionally, this year we also witnessed hundreds of the men of Old North gathering to share breakfasts together as well as meeting weekly with other men to read and study the book of Romans! God is truly growing Old North in our love for one another as He increases our love for His Word and His Work!”



MARTY SWEENEY

PASTOR OF MINISTRY TRAINING

“As our church continues to grow, we face expanding pressures to develop leaders for every part of our ministry, but we also need to maintain the essential element of remaining faithful to God, in life and in doctrine, in character and conviction. As such, we continue to train all of God's people as everyday Word workers so as to see more 'laborers for the harvest' (Matt 9:37-38). We seek to deploy faithful men and women for our apprenticeship program (MAPs), Growth Groups, Sunday School, one-to-one bible reading, and evangelistic witness to the world - the people of God competently working for the glory of God.”



KYLE HOFFSMITH

PASTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRY

“God has worked beyond what we could have imagined in students this year through the teaching of His Word at weekly gatherings and expanded efforts in school outreach and discipleship. Our high school ministry's theme this year is “Every Student. Every School.” because we believe that if the gospel is good news, then every student in every school should know it. True Gospel growth has taken place in our students and families as we have taught students the Bible, trained them how to think as Christians in our culture, and enjoyed lots of time together.”



JOSIAH RIOS

ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY

“It is always a joy to see young hearts respond to God's truth at work in their lives. One tangible expression of this in our middle schoolers is through our time of worship through music on Sunday mornings. We intentionally choose songs that they will sing in main service, and if you've ever walked by our room on a Sunday morning, you can hear them singing loud and clear. This robust year of ministry has also seen more students earning Burton Bucks as they plan ahead for summer camp, renewed efforts in Bible study clubs at local schools, further memorization and study of the gospel explanation Two Ways to Live, and more inroads through our events like the annual Nerf War, Mission Impossible, and First Fridays.”



REGGIE SEUTIA

PASTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

“Gratitude warms my heart as I reflect on all that God did this year through our music ministry. Every time we gather, I am encouraged by a church that increasingly claps for joy, lifts hands in Jesus’ name, bows in sorrow, laments in tears, and sings whole-heartedly for His steadfast love in the morning and His faithfulness by night. In His kindness, God has added people and ministry opportunities across all areas of ministry including band, tech, students, kids and more. May the Lord continue to grow us in breadth and depth, only if it serves the purpose of building up the body of Christ.”



BRUCE CHIMANI

ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF COLLEGE AND YOUNG ADULTS

“One of my favorite things we have embarked on this year is Street Talk – a weekly effort to engage and evangelize the campus of YSU. The Lord has been so kind in how we have seen our students growing confident in sharing the gospel, but also how we have had some genuine fruit from these efforts! So thankful our church sees value in discipling college students - God is blessing this work!”



JOANNA MUNOZ

KIDS MINISTRY DIRECTOR

“This past year was a year of transition in the ONC kids’ wing! Miss Betsy retired from many faithful years as director and passed the baton. Kids Ministry has a fantastic team of volunteers which allowed the shift in leadership to proceed seamlessly. With an average of 200 children on Sundays and 160 on Wednesdays, this team of volunteers is vital! I’m so thankful for the teachers and helpers who serve the parents and children of ONC. Another addition has been the remodeling project. We hope the fresh, new look will allow parents and children to feel welcome as they enter the door. We’re also looking forward to starting a new curriculum this fall.”



BETH HARRELL

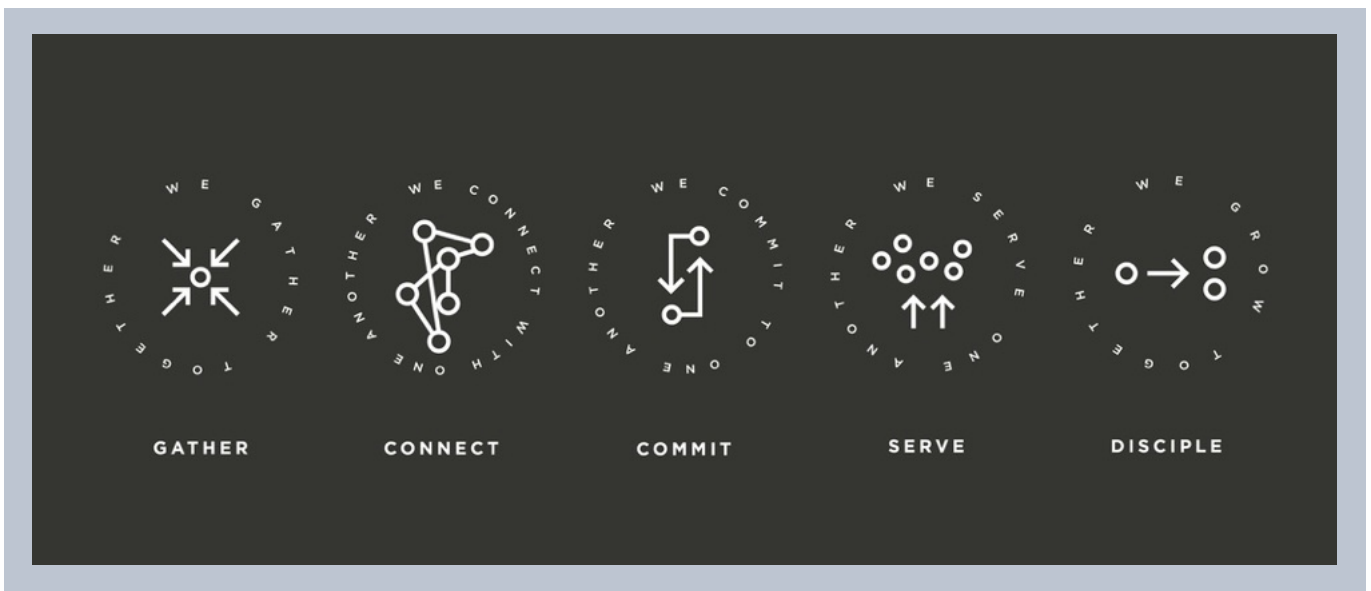
WOMEN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR

"I have been so encouraged by the number of new faces in our building and by the renewed desire of long time attenders to grow in their relationship with Christ. I sense a sincere desire in our women to present their faith in a way that can help to make sense of the world. In God's kindness, our Bible Studies, Good Food meetings, Fellowship Gatherings, and Christmas Brunch worked towards that goal...to affirm God's great truths and to let our light shine before others."

Discipleship Pathway

Discipleship is part of the core of our identity at Old North. We define discipleship as growth toward Christian maturity in conviction, character, and competency through a deepening relationship with God's word and God's people.

We've created a simple discipleship pathway that will help you make progress as a follower of Jesus. We invite you to both explore and participate in this pathway!



Who We Are

Old North Church's vision is to be a Christ-centered, multi-generational community of disciple-making disciples. Our core values are **Biblical preaching & teaching, intentional & personal discipleship, and healthy children & families.**



An important part of Old North's DNA is training. We believe that many aspects of Christian growth are both caught and taught and that replication happens as the people of God are well trained for the work of God. We are intentional about raising up more Gospel workers for this region through our training programs.

It is our desire to help you grow in the most significant relationship you can have in this life, a relationship with Jesus Christ.





2023/2024 Highlights

The Church-wide **“Share the Gospel”** training sought to produce informed and courageous disciples passing on the Good News to Friends, Neighbors, and Co-Workers.

The **“Get to Know”** and **“Membership Matters”** processes were refined, resulting in a clearer pathway to commitment and further building up people in their faith and participation in the life of Old North.

Growth in Radio – As “Opening the Bible” transitioned to **“A Better Word”** we continued to engage people throughout the region and beyond with the message of the Bible. More and more are accessing the website and downloading episodes throughout the week for their edification.

Growth Groups continue to grow and our locations continue to expand and **pepper the region** as people commit to encouraging each other, learning together, and challenging each other in the community.

Our **Student and College Ministries** continue to expand in engaging a wide variety of students from different backgrounds. Young people are putting their faith in Jesus and committing to follow Him with their lives!

Our **Regional Training Events** had record attendance as more pastors and ministry workers desire to develop greater skills for the Gospel work.

A refresh of **Men’s Ministry** through Men’s breakfast events and Men’s Bible Reading Groups.

Above all, God continued to save more people and grow more Christians in faith and obedience to Him!

2024/2025 Initiatives

Complete a parking lot expansion that will allow us to serve our congregation better.

Continue raising up of **new leaders** across the ministries of the church as ministries expand.

Onboard two new **Ministry Apprentices** to begin in May of 2024.

Continued refocus and reorganization of the **Family Ministry Team** (Children and Student Ministries) to create a clearer more streamlined pathway for Christian discipleship from birth to High School graduation.

Identify and train more **Deacons** to meet the ongoing practical needs of the church.

As the church continues to grow in size and complexity, ensuring that we **maintain biblical and theological fidelity** and Word-centered ministry while **maximizing opportunities** to serve as many people as we can with our resources that result in sustainable growth.

Commission and send **Sean and Ashley Reimer** and their family to their work as Medical Missionaries in Zambia.

Equip and Encourage our church family to navigate the political culture during this election year and strive to be a **good example** of how Christians engage during politically divisive times.



ONC Elders



TODD DAVIS
Elder (2020-2026)



NICK GATZKE
Senior Pastor & Elder



MARK LEGER
Elder (2021-2024)



RICH MORROW
Elder *(2021-2024)



JASON NORBO
Elder (2022-2025)



MIKE SHEVOCK
Elder (2023-2026)



PAUL SLATER
Chairman (2022-2025)



BEAU TIGER
Vice-Chairman (2023-2026)



*voting on second term

Elder Candidates



CLAY CAMPFIELD

Has attended ONC: 55 years

Family: wife Lana

Service: Adult Sunday school teacher and tech team. Over the years he has served as a trustee and was an elder for 6 years (2017-2023).

Favorite verse: 1 Thes 5:16-18 and Col 3:1-17

Favorite thing about ONC: “This is my family... where I am nourished and matured in my confession as a follower of Jesus. Also the confidence of knowing that the true gospel from scripture is preached, prayed, sung, shared and taught here.”

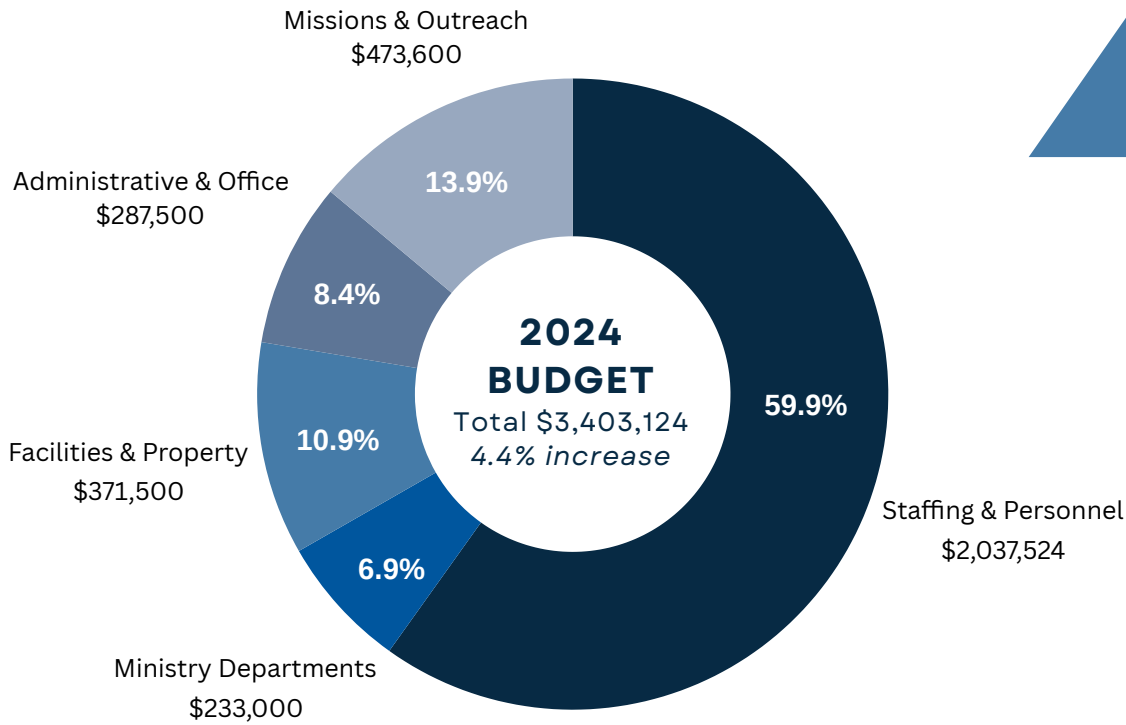
Where do you work or what type of industry do you work in?
The Kufleitner Automotive Group in Boardman



Ballot Information

Only members of Old North Church are able to vote. Ballots are available during the Annual Meeting on 4/21 at 6pm

By the Numbers



14%

INCREASE IN SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

2023 FINANCIAL NUMBERS

- **Budget** - \$3,261,000
- **General Fund Giving*** - \$3,300,000
- **General Fund Expenses*** - \$3,100,000
- **Active Giving Households** - 736
- **Active Online Givers** - 309
- **New Givers** - 42

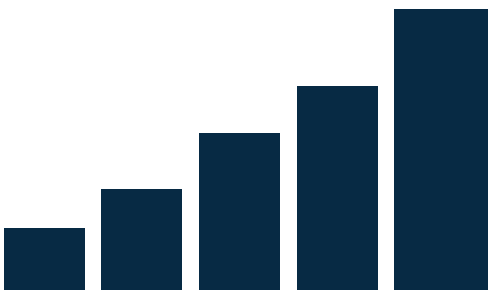
*projected

ATTENDANCE

- **Sunday Average** - 1594
- **Midweek Average** - 696
- **Christmas Eve** - 2438
- **Easter** - 2,613

CELEBRATIONS

- **Baptisms** - 21
- **New Members** - 73
- **Total Members** - 686



Sermon Series



PEOPLE WHO PRAY

One of our biggest struggles as we go through life is *self-dependence*. But, if God is the all-powerful God of the Universe and we need him for all things, we grow in a healthy sense of *dependence* upon him. *Prayer is our expression of that dependence* and it is vital for all those who desire to follow Jesus with their lives.



THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Jesus came to usher in the Kingdom of God and call all people to repent and believe and thus follow the King. We spent most of the year in this gospel growing in our understanding of how God's Kingdom is completely different than the Kingdoms of the world and how we can live the life of Faith as members of His Kingdom.



THE CHRISTMAS KING

In God's divine plan, he foretold of the coming of the savior long before his arrival. The Messiah wouldn't just save, he would also rule. He would be a king. Psalms 2, 24, 72, 110 pointed us the birth of the Christmas King.



Volunteer Highlights



BRIAN BENYO JR.

Brian has been attending Old North for 3 years and is engaged to marry Natalie Dunlap on May 25 of this year. He serves as an usher, leads a men's small group Bible study, volunteers with TWIST (our young adults group), is a Wednesday night youth group leader for high school boys, and leads a high school 1 on 1 Bible study.

Brian enjoys helping people cultivate a desire for theology, particularly the younger generation as they struggle against a culture of aimlessness and despair. He strives to point them to Christ as the answer to facing life's questions and struggles.



KATHY EPP

Kathy and her husband Gerhard have been attending Old North with their family since the fall of 2013. Together they have 4 children and a daughter-in-law. Kathy currently serves as a mentor mom in our MOPS program, sings in the choir, is a discussion group leader for the Women's Ministry Good Food events and helps with Christmas decorating throughout the building. In the past, Kathy has volunteered in the nursery and has helped make food for funeral luncheons.

She says that she loves being able to serve those in our church. It has been a wonderful way to get to know and connect with others on a more personal level in a church of this size.



DENISE TAYLOR

Denise and her husband Bill have been attending Old North Church for 23 years. She presently volunteers on Sunday mornings as a greeter, is part of the card ministry for shut-ins, and accompanies her husband once a month to pick up food for the rescue mission. In the past, she has volunteered in kid's ministry.

Denise says the biggest blessing for her as a volunteer is the fact that just by a friendly smile, a warm hello, or an encouraging card, you can share the love of Christ with others!

*Did you know that about **319** people **volunteer** at Old North weekly?*



Opportunities to Serve

We would love for you to serve! If you have an interest in any of the following ministries please reach out to the contact below:

- **Care, Connection & Shut-in Visitation** - Rick Enlow: renlow@oldnorthchurch.org
- **Greeters & Hospitality** - Bill Padisak: zenbb7@yahoo.com
- **Connection Center** - Sue Miller: tedandsuemiller@zoominternet.net
- **Growth Group Leaders** - Dan Osborn: dosborn@oldnorthchurch.org
- **Tech Team** - Bill Schotten: bschotten@oldnorthchurch.org
- **Music Ministry** - Reggie Seutia: rseutia@oldnorthchurch.org
- **Kids Ministry** - Joanna Munoz: jmunoz@oldnorthchurch.org
- **Christmas Decorating Team** - Rebecca Halcomb: rhalcomb@oldnorthchurch.org
- **Choir Members** - Darla Funk: redpenguin@zoominternet.net



Mission Highlights

*Did you know Old North supports
29 missionary partners?*



DREW ROBERTSON

MIDDLE EAST - Drew Robertson serves as the Movement Leader Catalyst for the Great Sea Initiative in Converge International Ministries. Drew works to equip, train, and mobilize gospel workers and churches in the Middle East and North Africa. He is presently working with local ministry leaders to provide the Arab-speaking world with gospel-centered resources in the Middle East and beyond.



KEVIN MCKAY

PROVIDENCE, RI - Kevin McKay is lead pastor at Grace Harbor Church which serves the Lord in Providence, Rhode Island, a greatly unreached city and part of the country at large. Grace Harbor is currently running a campaign to fund the purchase and renovation of a new church building in Providence to reach more for Christ in their city.

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!
Psalm 96:3



BROWN HORSE PROJECTS

HAITI - Brown Horse Projects seeks to bring healing and restoration to people in need through the proclamation of the gospel and providing strategic medical care. The ministry currently operates from a clinic in Haiti, a country experiencing incredible darkness and unrest at this time. The ministry also runs mobile clinics in the Dominican Republic throughout the year.



DREW BROWN

COSTA RICA - The Browns' primary ministry is teaching at Seminario ESEPA in San José, Costa Rica. The evangelical church continues to grow in Costa Rica, and the demand for training for pastors and Christian leaders with a solid Biblical education is immense. They are currently serving through World Venture.



JENN HYLTON

PARIS, FRANCE - Jenn's primary ministry in Paris is church planting alongside local pastors, at a 7-year-old church that currently meets in a cinema. Ministry involves engaging and training all church members in service, leading small group Bible studies, and 1:1 women's ministry around the Word. Jenn also serves as a leader for TEAM (The Evangelical Alliance Mission) preparing and coaching new missionaries coming to Europe.



Ministry Apprenticeship Program (MAPs)

The Ministry Apprenticeship Program at Old North (MAPs) is a vital aspect of support for the gospel both here and beyond Canfield. God wants us to participate in the raising up of gospel workers (Matt 9:37-38) for every sphere of life - pastors, campus workers, missionaries, and more.

By bringing young men and women in to be part of our church family, we want them to understand and experience the training DNA that we want all Christians to know and experience.

By investing in these young people, we are investing in the gospel work that we fervently want to foster everywhere in Canfield, the Mahoning Valley and indeed the whole world.

Welcome our newest Apprentices



Jake Pitzer



John Morton

Both John and Jake are current members of Old North. Jake is a newlywed to Samantha and they live in Canfield. John is married to Tracy and they live in Austintown with their four children. We rejoice that God is raising up laborers for the harvest in our midst and ask that you pray for them and their families as they begin their apprenticeships in May.



Current Apprentice Updates



Justin Knight

One thing you learned in the last year of the program?

In the last year of the program, I've learned a lot about how to teach. I've been able to teach a Sunday morning class, a Wednesday Night class, and a CORE group with Pastor Marty. It's been particularly challenging and growing to learn how to prepare for class, teach the material, and then to facilitate discussion around those ideas.

What's next?

Gaby and I are expecting a baby boy in April and have decided to stay in the area. This summer I will begin full-time school online, working on my MDIV from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. I am also grateful to be able to stay on staff in a part-time role as a Pastoral Assistant, where I can continue being trained. We are so thankful for Old North and for the opportunity to stick around.



Olivia Batton

One thing you learned in the last year of the program?

One of the things that I have learned from and admired at ONC is the amount of time, energy, and resources that the staff puts into their people. I have grown in my understanding of how to care for people and how to teach them God's Word. It is so encouraging to observe and be part of a staff where the environment is Word centric and focused on helping our people mature in Christ.

What's next?

I am excited for another year in MAPs. In this upcoming year, I will begin making a plan with my fiancé, Stone Elias, about what will be next. As of now, I am wanting to serve the Lord in some capacity with college students or women in a local church. I am also considering some sort of formal training in a Bible college or seminary.



ONC Staff



JUSTIN KNIGHT
Ministry Apprentice



OLIVIA BATTON
Ministry Apprentice



JOANNA MUNOZ
Kids Ministry Director



SARAH DELISIO
Kids Ministry Assistant



BETH HARRELL
Women's Ministry Director



REBECCA HALCOMB
Office Administrator



FRAN SHEVOCK
Office Assistant



KARLA UEHLINGER
Finance Administrator



BILL SCHOTTEN
Technical Ministry Director

ONC Staff



MATT KUEBLER
Production Assistant



EMMA GLAESER
Facilities Administrator



LIA LEVITSKI
Custodian



FRED COULTER
Custodian



GARY GONGAWARE
Groundskeeper



ERIC WEEDEN
Custodian

NOT PICTURED:
KRISTI HAMPSON
Custodian



Outdoor Service



Equipped YOUTH CONFERENCE



A Better Word



Sunday at 11am on Sirius XM
Family Talk (Channel 131)

Sunday at 12:30pm & weekdays at
10:00pm on WCRF Moody Radio
Cleveland (103.3 FM)

www.abetterword.org

Hebrews 12:24–25 says,

“You have come...to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood **that speaks a better word** than the blood of Abel. See that you do not refuse him who is speaking.”

The Lord continues to grow the impact of *A Better Word* across Ohio and beyond. Our Sunday Broadcasts on WCRF and Sirius XM Family Talk 131 and our nightly broadcasts on WCRF share the messages that we are receiving on Sundays with thousands more. Beyond that, our nearly 3,000 downloads a month of the podcast extend the reach even further.

Jesus gives us a Better Word than the culture around us.
He gives us a Better Word than the philosophies of our time.
He gives us a Better word than self-help inspiration.

In the year ahead we will explore how to extend that Better Word to even more people.

Thank you for your support and prayers!





OLD NORTH CHURCH

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330.533.6848



oldnorthchurch.org



The vision of Old North Church is to be a Christ-centered, multigenerational community of disciple-making disciples.