

Nehemiah Mission News

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Greetings from the Staff & Board of The Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland!

We are approaching a wonderful... and trying... time of our year. Thanksgiving is just a few days away, Advent begins December 1, and then, the Big Day... Christmas. We will be busy; we might even find ourselves distracted, either by the calling of the church year, by the calling of our children and other relatives, or by the constantly churning events of the world in which we live. I get it. However, I want us to keep our eyes and our hearts focused on our vocation. In our country, we generally only use the word vocation to mean our job, our career. But the meaning of this word is much wider and deeper than that. Our vocation is what we are "called" to. Honestly, some of us actually find this central element of ourselves to be a distraction. We are constantly aware that there is something deeper in our hearts and minds than simply our job or even our family or church. We may hear a deep calling within it that is drawing us forward, often to that which we do not yet understand or see clearly.

The staff and board of The Nehemiah Mission have heard and felt that call, a calling to minister to our international newcomer families who find no room at the inn other than Nehemiah Mission. A calling to consistently provide encouragement, a listening heart, a meal, clothing and so much more to the many people in our neighborhood, the corner of West 65th St and Bridge Avenue in the west side of Cleveland. Moreover, many members of our East Ohio United Methodist churches have found a calling in giving their time, talents, and presence at Nehemiah Mission. I can assure you that all these-- staff, board, and volunteers-- continue to be blessed in ways none of us could have foreseen, even as we have become a blessing to others.

The Rule of Saint Benedict begins with this calling: 'Listen, my child, with the ear of your heart...' Benedict knew that deep within us, in that place we refer to as our 'heart', there is a calling, a vocation just waiting for us to seek. Blessed ones, in this busy season, all of us at The Nehemiah Mission wish you and yours the deep, deep peace of Christ. And, we ask you to listen in your hearts to that still small voice that may be calling you to a vocation of caring by service at The Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland. If you hear it, if you feel it, give us a call and we would be delighted to hear your story of call.

+Peace and all good,
Br. Harry N. Finkbone, OSL, ObISB
Executive Director, *ad interim*



CONNECT WITH US!





GIVING TUESDAY

December 3, 2024



The Nehemiah Mission of
Cleveland



6515 Bridge Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44102
www.nehemiahmission.org



Join us in helping build a
brighter future for our
community



Small acts of kindness
can create big change



Help us meet our
\$5,000 anonymous
donor match

**Giving
Tuesday
Matching
Donation**

DONATE NOW



**HELP US REACH OUR
GOAL OF \$10,000!**

An anonymous donor has
offered to match donations
made to the Nehemiah Mission
received on or before Giving
Tuesday -- help us reach our
goal by December 3!

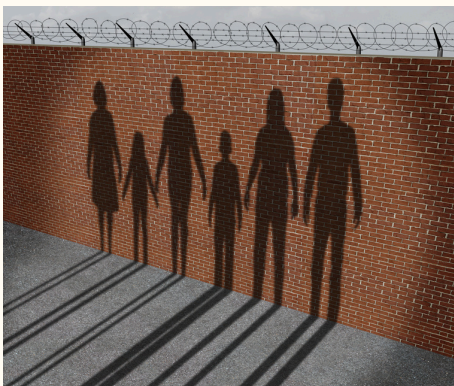
What's Happening at The Mission?

Housing International Newcomers

We are a shelter and safety source for international newcomers. Over the past few months, we have hosted families who have migrated from around the world, including Nicaragua, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mexico, and Colombia. We partner with AMIS (Americans Making Immigrants Safe) and ReSource Cleveland to help our guests integrate into the community, find jobs, ensure children are enrolled in school, learn English, and thrive again.

Neighbor Night

We host a monthly meeting of community members who are invested in improving our diverse neighborhood. Northwest Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation works toward affordable housing, improving housing quality, promoting upward economic mobility.



What can you do to help?

Donations of clothing, toiletries, and personal hygiene items would be most useful. Often, individuals and families come to the United States with little or no possessions.

Contact Robyn for specific needs: nehmission@gmail.com or call 216-961-6968

You can also make a [financial contribution](#) to help this ministry!

Mission in Action



Bread on Bridge

CONNECTING WITH OUR NEIGHBORS AND COMMUNITY

Join us for a community meal each Tuesday at 2:00 PM

Want to help? Click below to sign up!

[VOLUNTEER NOW](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)

[PROVIDE A MEAL](#)



Bible Study

TUESDAYS AT 1PM

All are welcome to join us for Bible study before Bread on Bridge



Food Distribution

STARTING IN DECEMBER

The Luke 3:11 Food Truck will have a pop-up distribution of hot chocolate, coffee, tea, and pastries



Men's Prayer Group

WEDNESDAYS AT 11AM

Join us for conversation around spiritual formation and Christian character

Food Pantry



The Matilde Davila Emergency Pantry is an emergency pantry for individuals who find themselves in immediate need of food and personal hygiene assistance. Support the Pantry by donating personal hygiene products and pop-top canned goods such as chicken, tuna, soups, vegetables, peanut butter, and jams or jellies. We do not accept boxed foods or junk foods.

Meet the Board of Directors



Craig Kotnik is the President of the Board at Nehemiah Mission and a member of Brecksville UMC for over 30 years serving on many committees, traveling on youth mission trips, and playing guitar in the worship band. He has volunteered at the Mission for many years, helping with maintenance, administration and Bread on Bridge. Craig is a Industrial Engineer and presently the President of WLS Stamping Company. He and his wife Mary both grew up in Parma and have two adult daughters.



Secretary of the Nehemiah Mission Board, **Molly Simmons**, is a life-long member of Pleasant Hills UMC, where she shares her musical gifts, works with children in the nursery, and leads the worship committee. She works as the Director of Student Affairs at CWRU School of Medicine. Molly and her husband Mike live in Strongsville with their three cats.



Board member and East Ohio UMC Connectional Ministry Director of Missions and Community Engagement, **Kathy Dickriede** is committed to seeing the Nehemiah Mission live into its potential meeting the needs of the international newcomers in Cleveland. Kathy is an ordained deacon who is married to Danny and mom to Murphy and dogs Hunter and Maizie. Kathy likes to quilt, camp, run, cook, read, exercise, and garden.



Br. Harry N. Finkbone, OSB, OBlSB is the interim Executive Director of Nehemiah Mission and a retired United Methodist pastor. He is a certified spiritual director from the Ignatian Spirituality Institute (John Carroll University), a member of the Order of Saint Luke, and an Oblate of Mt. Saint Benedict Monastery in Erie, PA. Pastor Harry is a member of the Fellowship of United Methodist Spiritual Directors & Retreat Leaders, Spiritual Directors International, and a leader in the Fellowship of East Ohio UMC Spiritual Directors. He is married to May Ann, a retired operating room RN. They have two children and two granddaughters.



Board member **Keith McGregor** is a long-time member of Bay UMC where he has served on several committees, including serving as technology coordinator and historian for the church. In addition to regularly volunteering at Nehemiah Mission, he is a trustee at Knickerbocker Senior Living and served on the board, was a driver, and cook for Westlake Meals on Wheels. Keith and his wife Diane live in Westlake and have five children and 11 grandchildren.



Board member **Katelynn Gurbach** serves on the East Ohio Conference Board of Missions (Chair) and is a member of the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission of the North Central Jurisdiction. Katelynn has extensive volunteer experience with organizations throughout Greater Cleveland. She works as a Program Manager in the non-profit space but has a background in education, recruitment and talent management, and business development. She resides in Wickliffe with her three cats and one dog.



Marla Knight is a Board Member of the Nehemiah Mission and a preschool special education teacher. She is a member of Brecksville UMC, where she is co-chair of the Missions and Engagement Team, serves on the Joyful Gathering Team, and sings with Choir and Worship Band. Marla is married to Mike and they have a daughter and a son.