

# Agape

Greek for "Love without Limits"



A Publication of North Olmsted United Methodist Church Vol. 51 Issue 7 September 2017

## Inside this issue:

News & Notes	2
Reverend's Remarks	3
Education	4
Outreach	5
Prayer Concerns	6
Calendar	7
Community Meal	8



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK



## Church Staff

Reverend Mark L. Steiger  
440-779-6634, ext. 16

Admin. Assistant: Sharon Werner  
440-779-6634, ext. 10

Christian Education: Wendy Cooper  
440-779-6634, ext. 13

Organist: Marlene Dirksen

Choir

Stephen Ministry: Janis Jarvis  
440-779-6634, ext. 12

Nursery Caregiver: Claire Taller



## Rally Day! Sunday, September 10th!

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 10:00 a.m. Fellowship with coffee & doughnuts
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- Noon - 2 p.m. Pulled Pork BBQ Dinner

Our Elementary and Young Adult classes will be starting the new Sunday School year off right with a Rally Day Celebration on September 10th at 9:00 a.m. We will have some fun and food together before we settle into our new curriculum for the year. All kids are welcome to join us ... and to bring a friend or two!

Adult Sunday School will also meet at 9:00 am on September 10th. All are welcome.

The Choir is back after their summer break and will lift our hearts with song in worship services beginning on Sept. 10.

## NORTH OLMSTED UNITED METHODIST MEN



### BAR-B-QUE DINNER

Sunday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> Noon - 2:00 PM

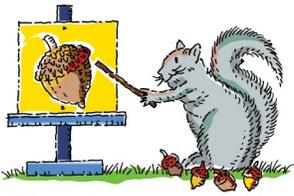
Pulled Pork/Cole Slaw/Chips  
Baked Beans/Rolls/Dessert/Beverage

Dinner \$10 Pulled Pork \$10 lb. Dine In or Carry Out

Tickets on sale after worship!

## News and Notes from NOUMC

### Strategic Plan To Be Unveiled!

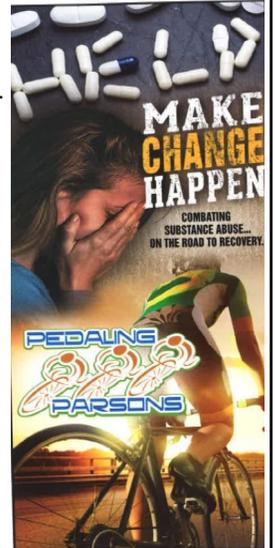


The Long Range Planning team will present the Strategic Plan they have developed for NOUMC at a special Administrative Board meeting on Tuesday, September 5 at 6:30 pm. It is very important that we have every committee represented so all Ad Board members should plan to attend or send a representative from their committee.

Thank you to all who participated in the feed back sessions for the Long Range Planning group! We truly value all of your suggestions and viewpoints. Watch for the October *Agape* as LRP will unveil the new name of the planning group and their vision for NOUMC.

### The Pedaling Parsons Ride to Combat Substance Abuse

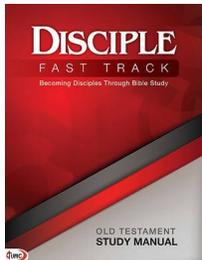
Many of you know that Rev. Mark is an avid cyclist and a member of the Pedaling Parsons. The Pedaling Parsons is a group of mostly Methodist pastors and laypersons who take several long distance bike rides each year to raise awareness and funds for various mission projects. This year, the Pedaling Parsons are “teaming up” with OhioGuidestone to fight the rising challenges of opiate addiction and substance abuse.



OhioGuidestone provides a wrap around model to support victims of addiction and their families, while providing both inpatient and outpatient treatment to the addicted. Pedaling Parsons Brochures are by the calendar in the Administrative Hall. To support this important cause, simply write a check to NOUMC and put Pedaling Parsons in the memo line. (Note: All contributions will go directly to this cause. The cost of the rides are paid by the registration fees charged to the ride participants.) Thank you for your support.

### Bible Study Planned for Fall...

Rev. Mark will be offering a twelve week Bible Study this fall – a study of the Old Testament. This will be a slightly abbreviated version of Disciple Bible Study with new material and new videos. Classes will be on Tuesday evenings beginning September 19<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. If you have always wanted to know more about the Bible or if you just want to review your understanding, this class is for you. Cost is \$20 to cover the cost of the book and materials. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the office door or call the office ASAP so we can order materials. (Note: A twelve week study of the New Testament will be offered in the Spring.)



### New Member Class (or What's Unique to United Methodism?)

We will be holding a “New Member Class” after church (approximately Noon to 1:00 p.m.) on October 1, 8, and 15. This is for those interested in Membership in NOUMC, but also for those who would like to know more about the United Methodist Church. The Class Schedule is as follows:



- October 1<sup>st</sup> The History of the United Methodist Church
- October 8<sup>th</sup> The Theology of the United Methodist Church
- October 15<sup>th</sup> The Governing Structure and Social Principles of the United Methodist Church

All are welcome at these classes; but please sign up on the Office Door so we are sure to have enough material.

## When in Our Music...

Rev. Mark Steiger

As we head into a new program year, one of the things to which I look forward is the restart of our choir program. One of my favorite hymns is “When in Our Music God Is Glorified,” and music has a special relationship to worship. First, music is a gift from God. Music is a part of every culture on the planet. Music is part of our humanness. While there is a small percentage of humans that psychologists label as amusics, most people are innately musical. Young babies will move to a rhythm; and a fetus in the womb will respond positively to quiet melody. Music not only has a calming influence on people suffering from anxiety, research has shown that music therapy can have a significant positive effect on recovery in stroke victims. Brain scans show that certain areas of the brain are actually enhanced (grow larger) when people are exposed to music over an extended period of time. Indeed, music is a gift from God.

But there is a “flip side” to this equation, for we musical humans are called to glorify God through our music. We use music in worship to praise God, to sing of our joys, and to lament our sorrows. We use music in worship to express emotions when words just “don’t seem to be enough.” When I dedicate our Sunday morning monetary offering, I sometimes pray that we give back to God a small portion of what God has given us. The same is true of our music. We offer back to God the gift of music with which God has so graciously blessed us.

We, at North Olmsted UMC are especially blessed to have the music staff that we have. Every Sunday, Marlene does an outstanding job as our organist – playing several hymns

and responses, prelude, offertory, postlude, and choir accompaniment. And Gabriela leads our chancel choir and bell choir, turning a real mix of untrained voices and uncoordinated hands into beautiful sounds. These people spend many hours choosing music, studying music, practicing, and conducting rehearsals – all to further our worship to the glory of God.

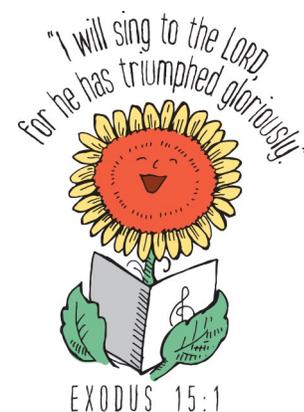
And still, our music program would not be complete without the dedication of our volunteers – members of the choir and bell choir. These people give up one or two evenings every week, and are in church every Sunday to glorify God through the gift of music.

Yes, I look forward to the beginning of choir season. I give thanks to God for the gift of music and for the opportunity to glorify God through music; and I give thanks for all the people who come together to bring that gift to our church. “May God give us faith to sing always Alleluia.”

See you in church.

**Rev. Mark**

P.S. If you would like to join in glorifying God through the gift of music, please see Gabriela or myself.



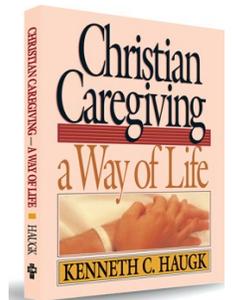


## Join Us As We Kick Off The New School Year!

Our Elementary and Young Adult classes will be starting the new Sunday School year off right with a Rally Day Celebration on September 10th at 9:00 AM. We will have some fun and food together before we settle into our new curriculum for the year. **All kids are welcome to join us...and to bring a friend or two!**

### Adult Sunday School & Christian Caregiving Class

Craig Mueller will be leading the traditional class in the Choir Room again this year. The class will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Sept. 10th to discuss plans for the coming year. The Stephen Ministers will be taking over his class beginning on Sept. 17 so that they can lead some sessions based on the book "Christian Caregiving: A Way Of Life." by Kenneth C. Haug. *(This class is not a Stephen Ministry training class and is open to all)* Cost for the study book is \$15.00 for a new copy (used copies are less). For more info, see a Stephen Minister, call the church office at 440-779-6634 or see the sign-up on the office door.



**We have something for everyone...  
come join us and plan to stay after worship for the  
United Methodist Men's annual Pulled Pork BBQ!**

### Volunteer To Teach!

September is here and Sunday School classes will be starting up! **We are always looking for people who would like to teach!** This year we will have an Elementary Class and a Young Adult Class. I would like to have enough teachers that our Young Adult class can be taught on a rotation basis, so that no one ends up having to teach every week and you can pick and choose what weeks work best for you. **We are always ready to welcome more teachers into our rotation, so if you have an interest in teaching Sunday School, please see me and we will fit you into the schedule!**

# Outreach Committee

Barb Andrews & Sue Shellhouse Strichko

NOUMC is a truly generous community! In July, 94 cans of fruit went to the Oxcart Pantry and in August, 103 cans of vegetables were delivered to the pantry. In addition, you contributed almost \$200 and numerous items for the school supplies drive. Because the collection box kept overflowing, we made three deliveries of supplies to the pantry. Georgia Wilder, the pantry director, thought they would supply over 50 filled backpacks to North Olmsted students and have supplies left over to help others who did not receive a whole backpack. Can you imagine how important this help is for students who would not be able to get these items on their own?

We are currently collecting pasta sauce for the pantry, due Sept. 10. Beginning on Sept. 17th, we will be collecting canned meats and fish.

We have two other projects we are currently working on...

<u>Oxcart Pantry Items</u>	
Pasta Sauce	Due Sept. 10
Canned Meat & Fish	Due Oct. 8

- **Teacher Encouragement Packets for Stepstone Academy.** Items are due Sept. 3

- **Supplies for Medical Mission to Haiti**

Dr. Lenore Jarvis, daughter of David and Janis will be going with a team of doctors to Haiti to provide much needed medical care. She will be taking a suitcase of supplies to give to those in need. If you would like to contribute items, here is a list of needed items:



- Powdered Infant Formula
- Disposal Diapers—size small,
- Onesies and infant clothes (gently used is okay)
- shampoo,
- bar soap,
- toothbrush,
- toothpaste

**Thanks to everyone for what you do to help our neighbors, both near and far!**

## September Penny Sunday for “Laura’s Home”

Barb Andrews

Around thirty years ago a poor Methodist Church asked a not-quite-as-poor Methodist Church for help to help pay for one night per month for a supper kitchen. The latter church (NOUMC) decided it couldn't afford the \$125 from their budget, but a few people had the faith to believe the money could be raised by our members outside the budget, and the East Glenville Supper Kitchen project was started. But sending money was not enough, and so for one evening a month a group of volunteers also went to help with the meal.

When East Glenville closed, there was a desire to continue the project. It was found that Laura's Home would love to have help with one of their meals, so the project went on. Laura's

Home is a home for women and children, some battered, some homeless, some just not able to earn enough money to support themselves and/or their children. It is run by the City Mission.

Please, remember that thirty years ago, it took \$125 to feed around 80 to 100 people most months. Today, through careful shopping, planning, and culinary know-how the same amount of clients are served for less than the \$125. Once again, however, this is all done because of contributions from church members and groups.

If you'd like to help, please consider putting a little extra into this month's Penny Sunday or at any time of the year, write a check, put *Laura's Home* at the bottom, and put it in the collection plate any Sunday morning.

## Stephen Ministry

By Sarah Jackson

When Claudia Taller, Judy Frazier, and I trained for Stephen Ministry, we did so with members of other churches. It is great to get to know new people! One of those churches has a much larger congregation and has many groups and activities. I thought, "How lucky!" you know, the grass is greener story...then as they talked I realized they did not know everyone in their church. When my brain is working properly, I know everyone's name in our congregation, and I think most people know me. More importantly I think everyone cares like family here. The Stephen Ministry training has given me tools for understanding how to be more helpful in my caring.



*Do you ever feel uncomfortable sharing your faith or comforting a friend? Consider joining our Adult Sunday School discussion of Kenneth Haug's book; Christian Caregiving - A Way of Life. This is not a Stephen Ministry Training course but it can help you learn to listen carefully to people and speak words of comfort, encouragement and hope. Sessions will begin on Sept. 17th in the Adult Sunday School class held in the choir room. Study guides are available. See a Stephen Minister or contact the church office for additional information.*

## United Methodist Women By Barb Andrews, UMW President



Sorry to say, it looks like summer is over. We will be having our first business meeting of the fall at 10:00 a.m. on September 2.

We will try to come up with a date for our annual trip to Amish country. Check the bulletin for the date and plan on joining us.

We are planning for the Church Mouse Craft Show on October 14. All our tables are rented and the crafters will have a unique and varied selection of items for sale. We will also serve lunch and have a bake sale.

There is still room in the attic for your rummage, but if you can keep your items at home until the week of the sale, that would help. The date for that is November 11.

More information will be coming up about both these major projects of the UMW. And don't forget to be thinking of ways for us to spend our money in November.

# Save the Dates!



**Church Mouse Craft Fair**  
**Saturday, October 14th, 2017**  
**9 am to 3 pm**



**Saturday, November 11, 2017**  
**9 am to 3 pm**  
**Lunch & Bake Sale too!**

**North Olmsted UMC**  
4600 Dover Center Rd.  
North Olmsted, Oh 44070  
Phone 440-779-6634  
Fax 440-779-0903

**Office Hours:**

Tuesday–Wed. 10 am - 3 pm

Thursdays - 10 to 5 pm

**Christian Ed Office Hours:**

Mondays - 1 to 3 pm

Thursdays - Noon to 3 pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Sunday, August 27</b> 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am-Fellowship Noon - Potluck	<b>28</b> 8:30 AA	<b>29</b> 11am AA 1-3 pm Alz. Assoc.	<b>30</b> 10 am-UMW 8:30 AA	<b>31</b> 4:30-6 pm Free Community Meal	<b>Sept. 1</b>	<b>2</b> 8:30 am UMM Breakfast at Canary's 9-10 am Fitness Class
<b>Sunday, Sept. 3</b> <i>Communion Sunday</i> 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am-Fellowship <i>Last Sunday of Summer Schedule</i>	<b>4</b>  Office Closed 8:30 AA	<b>5</b> 11am AA 6:30 pm Ad Board Meet- ing	<b>6</b> 10 am-UMW 8:30 AA	<b>7</b> 7 pm Choir Practice	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9-10 am Fitness Class
<b>Sunday, Sept. 10</b> <i>Rally Day - Sunday</i> <i>School resumes</i> 9 am - Sunday School 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am-Fellowship <b>Noon—2 pm UMM BBQ</b>	<b>11</b> 8:30 AA	<b>12</b> 11am AA 1 pm Nominating Committee	<b>13</b> 10 am-UMW 8:30 AA	<b>14</b> 10- 2 St. Richard's Faithful Friends 6 pm Worship Committee 7 pm Choir Practice	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9-10 am Fitness Class
<b>Sunday, Sept. 17</b> <i>Penny Sunday</i> 9 am - Sunday School 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am-Fellowship Noon—Outreach Meeting	<b>18</b> 7:30 Bells 8:30 AA	<b>19</b> 11am AA 7 pm Bible Study	<b>20</b> 10 am UMW 8:30 AA	<b>21</b> 7 pm Choir Practice	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9-10 am Fitness Class
<b>Sunday, Sept. 24</b> 9 am - Sunday School 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am-Fellowship Noon - Ad Board Meeting	<b>25</b> 7:30 Bells 8:30 AA	<b>26</b> 11am AA 1 pm Alz. Assoc. 7 pm Bible Study	<b>27</b> 10 am-UMW 8:30 AA	<b>28</b> 4:30-6 pm Community Meal 7 pm Choir Practice	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9-10 am Fitness Class
<b>Sunday, Oct. 1</b> <i>Communion Sunday</i> 9 am - Sunday School 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am-Fellowship Noon - New Member Class	<b>Oct. 2</b> 7:30 Bells 8:30 AA	<b>Oct. 3</b> 11am AA 7 pm Bible Study	<b>Oct. 4</b> 10 am-UMW 8:30 AA	<b>Oct. 5</b> 7 pm Choir Practice	<b>Oct. 6</b>	<b>Oct. 7</b> 8:30 am UMM Breakfast at Canary's 9-10 am Fitness Class

**NORTH OLMSTED  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**



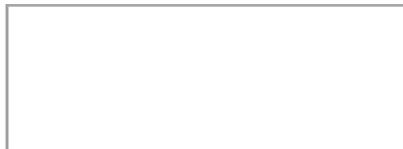
**FEEDING OUR COMMUNITY -  
BODY and SOUL I**

4600 Dover Center Rd.  
North Olmsted, Ohio 44070

September  
Agape Newsletter

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## **NORTH OLMSTED UNITED METHODIST'S FREE COMMUNITY MEAL**

**Thursday, September 28, 2017**

**Serving 4:30 - 6:00 pm**

We will be serving cheeseburger stroganoff,  
tossed salad, bread & butter, lemonade, coffee,  
tea and assorted desserts.

Please join us!



**Held at North Olmsted United Methodist Church  
4600 Dover Center Rd., North Olmsted, Ohio 44070 440-779-6634**

The Free Community Meal is a mission of North Olmsted United Methodist Church with assistance from our friends at St. Richard and St. Clarence Catholic Churches and others in the community. All meals are funded by donations and the dinners are prepared and served by volunteers. Menu's 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 a handicap accessible facility*