

# Agape

Greek for "Love without Limits"



A Publication of North Olmsted United Methodist Church Vol. 51 Issue 9 November 2017

## Inside this issue:

News & Notes	2
Reverend's Remarks	3
Education	4
Advent Adult Class	5
Outreach	6
Stephen Ministry, UMW	7
Worship, Thank You Notes	8
Birthdays & Anniversaries	9
Prayer Concerns	10
Calendar	11
Community Meal	12

## November Events



**North Olmsted United  
Methodist Men's Annual  
TURKEY DINNER  
Saturday, November 4th  
5:00 - 7:00 PM**

Traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

**Ticket Prices:** Adults \$14  
Seniors \$12  
Children (6-12) \$5  
Under 5 - FREE



Tickets available after worship.  
You may also call the office for  
reservations at 440-779-6634.



## 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 Director: Gabriela Martinez  
Stephen Ministry: Janis Jarvis  
Nursery Caregiver: Claire Taller



**United Methodist Women's  
Fall Rummage Sale  
Saturday, Nov. 11, 2017  
9 am to 3 pm**

Clothing, household goods, books,  
toys, collectibles and bargains galore!  
Lunch and Bake Sale too!



## News and Notes from NOUMC



**Join us for worship on Sunday, November 12th at 10:30 a.m.!**  
**An original Christian musical featuring members of NOUMC**  
**will be performed in place of the sermon.**

On November 12<sup>th</sup>, as a part of our outreach, we are putting on an original Christian mini-musical open to public during the worship service. We would like to have an over-abundant pot luck afterward to feed the five to five thousand outsiders who may show up. If everyone brings just a bit more than usual for the potluck, we should be fine for the food. We do need set-up and clean-up people. If you can volunteer for either contact the church office.



### **November 5th** **Pancake** **Breakfast!**

**Doors open at**  
**8:30 a.m.**

Join our **Youth Work Mission Team** on Sunday, November 5 for breakfast! The youth will be manning the kitchen before the 10:30 service. Doors open at 8:30 am.

The missionaries will be serving pancakes and other breakfast favorites!! Please plan to attend. There will be a free will offering - all proceeds will benefit the 2018 Youth Work Mission Trip.



Adult Council is being resurrected and is planning activities for the next six months and beyond. If you like being with our church community and doing some fun stuff and you like coming up with great ideas and promoting them, please consider joining Adult Council. Some of the things we're thinking about are Christmas caroling, attending a concert or an art event followed by dinner, a road rally, progressive dinner, bowling, baking night, and game night. If you would like to be part of Adult Council, please see Claudia or contact the church office.

We hope to meet in the next couple of weeks.

# The River of Life...

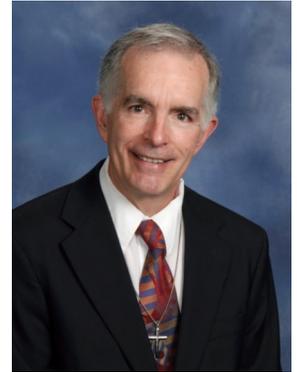
Rev. Mark Steiger

By now, most of the people reading this have heard a lot about “Our Faithful Journey.” “Our Faithful Journey” is the title of our long range plan; and it was the theme for this year’s stewardship campaign. Indeed each of us as individuals and collectively as a church is on a journey, a journey with Christ and a journey through life. Last year, our church celebrated the first fifty years of its journey, and we are now busy plotting the course for the coming years.

I have sometimes compared our journey through life with a trip down a river. Rivers are special to me. I’ve been blessed to be able to travel many of the major rivers of this country. River valleys are often beautiful with quaint little riverfront towns along the way. But, like life, the river’s water can be smooth and quiet, gently moving down stream; or it can be angry, with rapids and waterfalls and hidden rocks offering peril for the unwary traveler. And like life, the water can change quickly from calm and peaceful to angry and violent. The same is true for the life of our community, nation, and world – at times it’s calm and peaceful; and, at other times, it turns chaotic.

Currently, we are experiencing especially turbulent times. The political situation in our country is more fractured than I can ever remember. The international situation is truly frightening, with a breakdown of diplomacy, military build-ups, and threats of war. In our homeland, we are experiencing outbreaks of racism, mass shootings, and horrific violence like we have not seen in decades. Add to that natural disasters – hurricanes, wildfires, earthquakes. Indeed these are turbulent times; and these are the times into which the church is called.

I truly believe the church is called to help God’s people, to help our leaders, to help our nations navigate through the turbulent waters, to avoid the hidden rocks, and to find the peace on the other side of the rapids. I believe the church is called to set an example, to provide the leadership, to call for an end to the violence, the hatred, the bigotry. Only the church has the strength and power to truly counter hatred with love; and that is “Our Faithful Journey.”



We are a small church. We will not change the world by ourselves. But we can make a huge difference in the lives of our members and in the North Olmsted Community; and, when that happens, others will look at what we’ve done and join the journey. That’s my prayer. Indeed, I am praying for our church and “Our Faithful Journey.” I am also praying that “Our Faithful Journey” will extend beyond the bounds of our church and our community. I’m praying that other churches and organizations will join in the journey, for through sharing the love of Christ, we can make a difference in the world.

Thank you for joining me on “Our Faithful Journey.” May God bless our journey, as we give God all the praise and all the glory.

See you in church,

*Rev. Mark*

## Our Faithful Journey



## 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.

# Christian Education

by Wendy Cooper

## Thank you!

Our youth would like to thank all who purchased yummy Monkey Bread on Sunday, October 15th! They raised **\$246.00** from the sale. This was the kid's first fundraiser of the year for their **Sunday School Hurricane Relief Mission Project**, and this money will be donated through UMCOR to help those left in desperate need in the wake of recent hurricanes.

## Sunday School Mission Project: Hurricane Relief

Since August 25th, the United States has been hit by 4 devastating and catastrophic hurricanes:

**Hurricane Harvey** made landfall on August 25th near Rockport Texas as a category 4 hurricane. It stalled out over southeastern Texas, and over a 4-day period, dropped 51.88 inches of rain



which caused catastrophic flooding. More than 30,000 people have been displaced from their homes. Harvey was the wettest tropical cyclone on record on the US Mainland and was the worst disaster in Texas history.

Economic losses are estimated between \$70-200 billion. At least 90 US deaths are contributed to Harvey. Recovery is expected to take many years.



**Hurricane Irma** passed by Puerto Rico, causing 30 foot waves, flooding and power loss before it made landfall at Cudjoe Key in the Florida Keys

on September 10th. Irma skimmed the western edge of Florida and then crossed over the state of Florida north into southwest Georgia. Irma was a category 4 hurricane that caused 90 US deaths and approximately \$50 billion in damages, including massive power outages and flooding. Because of Irma, Disneyland and the other major parks in Florida were forced to close for several days...only the 5th time in the park's history.

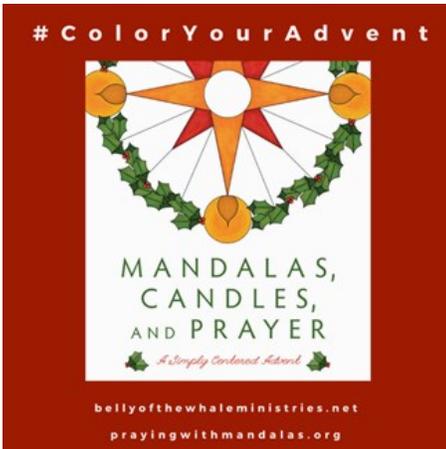
**Hurricane Maria** struck Puerto Rico on September 20th as a category 4 hurricane. This storm has devastated the small island, causing catastrophic damage and flooding, destruction of the power grid, fuel shortages, and has displaced millions. To date, 3.4 million residents are without electricity, and they expect to be without power for at least four to six months. 95% of the population is without cell service, and less than half of the population has access to potable water. Maria has caused at least 48 deaths and 117 people are missing in Puerto Rico.

**Hurricane Nate** made landfall on October 7th near the mouth of the Mississippi River in Louisiana. Though only a category 1 hurricane, Nate was responsible for storm surge that caused flooding of the ground floor of coastal casinos and buildings, along with rip currents, and beach erosion. Two US deaths are contributed to Hurricane Nate.

Our youth have decided that our mission project this year will be Hurricane Relief. We will be holding several fundraisers throughout the year, and all of the money that they raise will be donated to help those whose lives have been devastated by one or more of these hurricanes. The money will be sent to **UMCOR**, the **United Methodist Committee On Relief**. UMCOR is the humanitarian and development arm of the UMC, and it works globally to alleviate human suffering and to bring hope and healing to those in desperate need. UMCOR exists to assist United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need through programs of relief, rehabilitation, and service. It addresses issues of displaced persons, hunger and poverty, disaster response, and disaster risk reduction. I will have more information about UMCOR in future articles, but for more information, please go to [UMCOR.com](http://UMCOR.com). We thank you for your support in this mission, and for helping our youth learn how to become disciples of Christ!



## NEW!!! Adult Sunday School Offering for Advent



“This Advent, may we slow down in prayerful anticipation of the Light of the world that is born in our hearts.”

- from the Introduction

Beginning Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Rev. Alice Walsh will be leading a 4-week Advent Sunday School class for adults. Together we will celebrate this holy season by learning, and experiencing, contemplative prayer through art. We will be using this new book written by Rev. Sharon Seyfarth Garner (a dear clergy friend of both Rev. Alice and Rev. Mark from our own local North Coast District of the United Methodist Church.)

Hear these words from the back cover of the book:

Did you know that coloring can be a form of prayer? The spiritual practices of coloring mandalas (circular designs), lighting candles, and praying will help you focus on God and experience hope, love, joy, and peace throughout the Advent season. Each week we will focus on an Advent theme and form a prayer:

- Week One: HOPE (and the Ignatian Examen)
- Week Two: LOVE (and Intercessory Prayer)
- Week Three: JOY (and Lectio Divina)
- Week Four: PEACE (and Centering Prayer)

Please contact the church office to sign up for this class so that we may order the proper number of books.

Hope you can join me as we enter the celebration of Advent together.

Blessings,  
Rev. Alice

## Drink In, Pour Out - Yoga for Wellness, Yoga for ALL

Claudia Taller

After a short break during which I considered what works best for church members and visitors, I've decided to continue the classes at 6:30 PM every **first and third Wednesday** of the month at NOUMC. After yoga, we'll take time for some tea and catching up with themed discussions. Here's the schedule over the next two months:

- 11/1 -- Linking Breath with Motion, Mindful Yoga with Chair Options
- 11/15 -- Yoga for Restoration with Hip Openers and Chair Options
- 11/29 -- Saluting the Sun, Breaking down Sun Salutations, with Chair Options



Proceeds from your \$10 support NOUMC outreach ministries.  
If you know someone who might be interested, please pass this information along.

# Outreach Committee

Barb Andrews & Sue Shellhouse-Strichko

## Stocking Shopping List

(Starred items are especially needed)

- Christmas stockings\*
- shampoo\*
- conditioner\*
- wrapped candy\*
- deodorant\*
- toothpaste\*
- toothbrush\*
- soap\*
- skin cream/lotion
- lip balm
- combs
- razors
- nail clippers
- nail files
- pens & pencils
- small gift items for all ages such as:**
  - toy cars & trucks
  - small stuffed animals
  - small dolls
  - hair items
  - small coloring books
  - puzzle books
  - crayons
  - jewelry
  - cosmetics



We will once again be putting together **Christmas Stockings for Oxcart Pantry**. This will give some more people who will not be getting Adopt-A-Family gifts, a little extra for Christmas. There is a list of suggested items here, but you can use your imagination for items to be included. We do try to put basic toiletry articles in all the stockings, as well as candy and gifts. We make generic stockings for men, women, boys, and girls, but remember items need to fit into the stockings. The stockings have been a hit since a couple of people have called Georgia to ask if they would be available again. It's too bad that you all can't see what a reception your donations receive.

We made our goal and then some in October. 95 cans of meat and fish made their way to the pantry. These are always welcome items there. We are now working on Thanksgiving baskets. Our church was assigned canned sweet potatoes and boxed stuffing. I think if you wanted to add marshmallows and/or brown sugar, that would be okay, too. Georgia said they expect to be giving out dinners to 225 families this year. Sure sounds like a lot.

Although the pantry doesn't really expect anything from us in December, we have traditionally collected cleaning items, with the emphasis on laundry detergent. The detergent is an item that we often hear asked for by clients who come to pick up bags each month.



## Oxcart Pantry Items

November (due 11/12) -  
Canned Sweet Potatoes  
& Stuffing

December -  
Cleaning Products & Laundry  
Detergent

Finally, we will once again be participating in the Adopt-A-Family program. The letters are going out right about now, so we will try to have the requested items on the board as soon as possible. You can take one or more items, wrap them, and then put the part of the slip with the family number and person on it on the gift. You really do come through every year--for that matter every month to help our neighbors in need.

**Thank You** for your donations of hats, mittens, scarves and gloves for our Mitten Tree! They will be given to Brookside Center and OhioGuidestone to keep those in need warm this winter.

## Clipped Coupons for the Military

We are still collecting clipped coupons for military families to use at the PX. Place them in the envelope under the Outreach bulletin board (by the nursery).



## November Penny Sunday

Our Penny Sunday Collection on November 19th will be used to purchase additional items to fill the Christmas Stockings.

# Stephen Ministry

by Sarah Jackson



Feelings during a personal time of crisis, be it the loss of just about anything from house keys to a loved one, anger, loneliness, guilt, can be overwhelming, even paralyzing when you think you are alone. Stephen Ministry does not solve your concerns, but gives you a caring individual so you are not alone.

One example is about a lady I go to visit. She has family and they do visit and take care of her. They have busy lives, so when they visit they like to get things done. Those things need to be done and she appreciates it. She is lonesome though and would just like to have someone to play a game with her or sit and chat about the news and life. I do that. Sometimes I feel like I am wasting time that I should be washing her floors or dishes. Then I remembered the story about Mary and Martha. One was busy preparing for guests and the other just sitting and listening to Jesus. Jesus said that was good. So I sit and I care.



## United Methodist Women By Barb Andrews, UMW President

Thanks to everyone who helped in any way with the craft fair. It was one of our best ever since we cleared about \$1100. We're still waiting on advertising bills, but the profit was our highest ever.

Now it's time to stop basking in that result and look forward to the rummage sale. We will really need your help for this project. We will be doing a little preparations on Wednesday morning, the 8th, starting at 10:00. The real work, however, starts on Thursday, the 9th, starting at 9:00. We will get pizza when the Thursday morning bowlers show up and continue into the early afternoon. At least we hope it won't be too long into the afternoon. Friday morning we will finish sorting and pricing, again starting at 9:00. We will welcome any helpers, including males, especially on Thursday morning when we will be doing a fair amount of heavy lifting. Then, come over to check out the treasures or just have lunch with us. We will once more have a bake table, so those items are welcome, too. When we get to the end of the day, we would love to have help getting things cleaned up and put away. We will once more buy stock from any of the work mission people who come around 3:00 pm.



**Fall  
Rummage  
Sale  
Sat. Nov. 11  
9 am to 3 pm**

All the money we manage to get throughout the year either goes to the UMW budget and mainly to church projects and other charities. The day we give that money away is November 29th. If your committee has a need or desire that either isn't covered by the church's budget or would leave more money in that budget if we covered some of the cost, please write out a request with what you want and how much you need. The same goes for anyone who sees something around the church that you think would benefit from our donation. We don't guarantee that we can completely fill all requests, but we do try.

It's not all work for us this season, however. We will be making our annual trip to the Lodi Outlet Mall on Wednesday, November 15th, leaving the church around 9:00. We say it's for Christmas shopping, but it's really another excuse for lunch. If you'd like to join us, let Barb Andrews know so we have enough drivers. Then we will have our annual Christmas lunch (what else?) on December 6th. The place and time will be in a future bulletin. Again, it would help if we knew numbers to make reservations, but with all the help you give us, you're all honorary members.

# An Opportunity To Serve

One of the most significant opportunities to serve the church is to serve as an usher. The role of usher is central to the worship experience. Their responsibilities include:

- Turning the lights and sound system on
- Passing out attendance pads during the prelude and getting a head count
- Collecting the offering
- Dimming the lights during the sermon & prayer
- Helping with the Communion Service



Each Sunday we need a head usher and 3 others to assist with the offering. The worship committee will offer usher training and it takes less than a half hour. There will be a sign-up slip in the bulletin in the coming weeks. If you are willing to serve, and we hope you are, simply fill out the slip and place it in the offering plate or drop it off in the office.

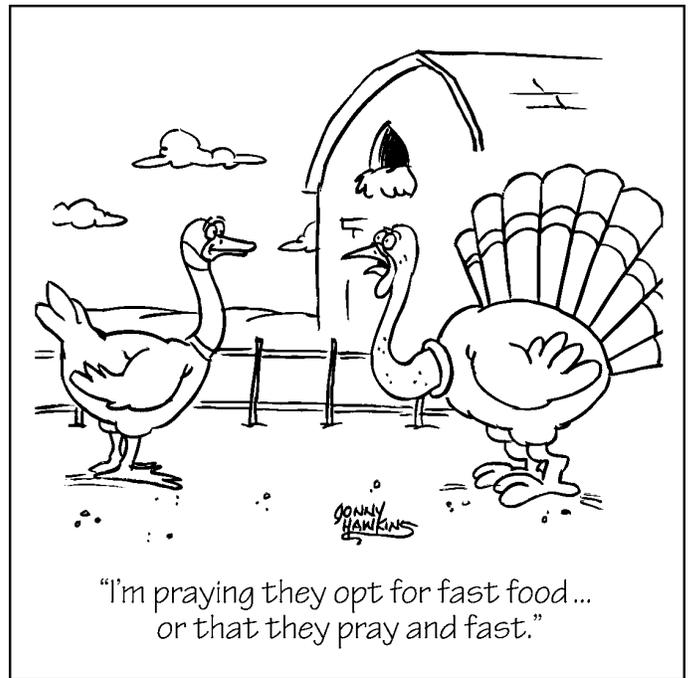
Joel  
Worship Committee Chair

## Newsletter DEADLINE

Items for December issue are due by 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 22.

## Save Around Coupon Books - \$25

**Save Around Coupon Books.** The 2017 edition has a local and a national coupon section. Books are available in fellowship hall and the church office.



"I'm praying they opt for fast food... or that they pray and fast."



## Christ Our Feast

Christ is not only a remedy for your weariness and trouble, but he will give you an abundance of the contrary, joy and delight. They who come to Christ do not only come to a resting place after they have been wandering in a wilderness, but they come to a banqueting house where they may rest, and where they may feast. They may cease from their former troubles and toils, and they may enter upon a course of delights and spiritual joys.

—Jonathan Edwards

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

# November



## Office Hours:

Monday–Wed. 10 am - 2 pm  
Thursdays - 2 to 5:30 pm

## Christian Ed Office Hours:

Mondays - 1 to 3 pm  
Thursdays - Noon to 3 pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Sunday, Oct. 29</b> <i>Reformation Sunday</i> 9 am - Sunday School (Halloween Party) 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am-Fellowship	<b>30</b>  7:30 Bells 8:30 AA	<b>31</b> 11am AA  7 pm Bible Study	<b>Nov. 1</b> 10 am-UMW  6:30 Yoga  8:30 AA	<b>2</b>    7pm Choir Practice	<b>3</b>      	<b>4</b> 8:30 am UMM Breakfast -Canary's 9:30-10:30 am Fitness Class 9:30-11:30 Charge Conf. at Strongsville UMC <b>UMM Turkey Dinner 5-7 pm</b>
<b>Sunday, Nov. 5</b> <i>Daylight Savings Ends</i> <i>All Saints Sunday</i> 8:30 am - Pancake Breakfast 9 am - Sunday School 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am-Fellowship 6:30-8 pm - Scouts	<b>6</b>  7:30 Bells 8:30 AA	<b>7</b> 11am AA 6– 7 Daisy Scouts  7 pm Bible Study	<b>8</b> 10 am-UMW   8:30 AA	<b>9</b> 9 am Rummage Sorting  7pm Choir Practice	<b>10</b> 9 am Rummage Pricing	<b>11</b> 9 am-3 pm UMW Rummage Sale
<b>Sunday, Nov. 12</b> 9 am - Sunday School 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Worship & Musical 11:30 am-Fellowship & Potluck 1:30-6 Private Rental	<b>13</b>  7:30 Bells 8:30 AA	<b>14</b> 11am AA  7 pm Bible Study	<b>15</b> 10 am-UMW  6:30 Yoga  8:30 AA	<b>16</b> 10- 2 St. Richard's Faithful Friends  7pm Choir Practice	<b>17</b>      	<b>18</b> 9:30-10:30 am Fitness Class   1-6 pm Rental - Delfing Shower
<b>Sunday, Nov. 19</b> <i>Penny Sunday</i> 9 am - Sunday School 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am-Fellowship 2-5 Private Rental 5:30 Work Mission 6:30—8 pm Scouts	<b>20</b>  7:30 Bells 8:30 AA	<b>21</b> 11am AA 6– 7 Daisy Scouts  7 pm Bible Study	<b>22</b> 10 am UMW  6:30 Yoga  8:30 AA	<b>23</b>  Happy Thanksgiving 	<b>24</b>      	<b>25</b> 9:30-10:30 am Fitness Class
<b>Sunday, Nov. 26</b> 9 am - Sunday School 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am-Fellowship	<b>27</b>  7:30 Bells 8:30 AA	<b>28</b> 11am AA 1 pm Alz. Assoc. 7 pm Bible Study	<b>29</b> 10 am-UMW  6:30 Yoga  8:30 AA	<b>30</b>    7pm Choir Practice	<b>Dec. 1</b>      	<b>2</b> 8:30 am UMM Breakfast at Canary's 9 am - 2 pm Stamp Social 9:30-10:30 am Fitness Class

**NORTH OLMSTED  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**



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

4600 Dover Center Rd.  
North Olmsted, Ohio 44070

November  
Agape Newsletter

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**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*