March Events...

Dover Players Community Theater Presents

A QUESTION OF GUILT
STATE V. DAVIS

Will he fry or will he fly?
Use your mind and CSI skills to WIN PRIZES
An original interactive jury trial murder mystery

Held at North Olmsted United Methodist Church
4600 Dover Center Rd, North Olmsted, OH 44070
Dates: Mar. 2-4, Mar. 9-11 and Mar. 16-18
Times: 8:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays
3:00 p.m. Sundays
Facebook: The Dover Players

DINNER AND THEATER SPECIAL EVENT- $13.00

MARCH 17TH - CHICKEN DINNER 5PM TO 7PM
SHOW AT 8PM

Before the Saturday, March 17 performance, the UMM is serving an Old Fashioned Chicken Dinner from 5 pm – 7 pm. Tickets on sale in fellowship hall or call the office at 440-779-6634

Youth Work Mission Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser
Sunday, March 25 8:30 to 10:15 am

Join us for breakfast on Palm Sunday and support our missionaries. They will be serving pancakes, French toast, hash browns, sausage, fruit, juice and coffee. All donations will support this year’s mission trip.

Good Friday Tennebrae & Communion Service
Friday, March 30
7:30 pm
The Daniel Plan is coming to NOUMC.

Are you overweight or underweight? Are you low-energy? Are you suffering from chronic health issues? Are you sometimes depressed, angry, or in a bad mood? Do you sometimes have problems with relationships? If your answer to any of these questions is “Yes,” The Daniel Plan is for you.

Rick Warren, Pastor of Saddleback Church and Author of The Purpose Driven Life, teamed up with Dr. Daniel Amen, the “Brain Doctor” of PBS fame, and Dr. Mark Hyman, the Chair of the Cleveland Clinic Functional Medicine Department, to develop The Daniel Plan. (The program takes its name from Daniel 1:8-15.) This is a six week program that concentrates on the five essentials of healthy living: Faith, Food, Fitness, Focus, and Friends.

I will be facilitating The Daniel Plan on Saturday mornings April 28th through June 2nd from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. Join us as together we undertake The Daniel Plan. I guarantee it will be a life-changing experience. Please sign up on the office door.

The cost for The Daniel Plan Study Guide is $8.00. I will order a Study Guide for everyone who signs up for The Daniel Plan. It is also highly recommended that you read The Daniel Plan: 40 Days to a Healthier Life book as we spend our six weeks together. If you check “Order a Book” on the signup sheet, and I will order a book for you in addition to the Study Guide – Cost for the Book is $15.00. You can also order the book on amazon.com; and, it is available for Kindle. (Note: The Study Guide is also available on Kindle; but you really need the Study Guide in hard-copy because there are sections to be filled-in during sessions and between sessions.)

Welcome our new Facility Manager—Judi Wagner!

Judi Wagner has been added to the NOUMC staff. She will be working in the office on Mondays and will handle the administrative tasks related to building maintenance, scheduling and supplies.

Judi and her husband Ron have been active members since 2012 and Judi is active in the UMW as well. She served as a Practice Support Specialist for Metro Health for 25 years and brings with her a knowledge of office systems and organizational skills.

Judi will be handling building scheduling, updating the calendar and ordering supplies. She will be in the office on Mondays from 10 am to 2 pm. Here is her contact info:

Judi Wagner
440-779-6634 ext. 15

Dinner and Theater Special Event—$13.00

NOUMC, in conjunction with Dover Players, will be producing an interactive, jury-trial murder mystery called A Question of Guilt the first three weekends in March; Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 3pm. Prizes will be awarded for the best sleuths. The play will be presented as dinner theater on March 17 at a cost of $ 13.00 with a chicken dinner being served from 5pm to 7pm followed by the play at 8pm. This is a great chance for outreach, showing off our facility and our welcoming attitude. For reservations for the dinner theater performance on March 17th, call (440) 779-6634. For reservations for the play only on any date, call (440) 782-0095.
On the first Friday of Lent, our Lenten Devotional asked, “What if we checked in with God as often as we check our cell phones? What if we prayed and reaffirmed our relationship with God every time we checked cell phones?” This question resonated with me, for this Lent I am personally seeking to grow closer in my relationship with the risen Christ, and I am praying that others in our congregation will do the same. (One of the purposes of our Lenten Devotional is to assist with this. If you don’t have a Lenten Devotional, you can pick one up at church or call the church office.)

Many in our congregation have commented on one of my favorite benedictions:

May the living Christ go with you.
May He go behind you to encourage you,
beside you to befriend you,
above you to watch over you,
within you to give you strength,
and before you to show you the way.

I don’t know the source of this. I learned it from a friend and former pastor in the 1980’s. I do know that it is based on Saint Patrick’s Breastplate, a prayer attributed to Saint Patrick in the fifth century. But, whatever its source, I find that this blessing exemplifies our relationship with Christ. To be a Christian means walking with Christ in love and service. It means drawing our strength from Christ, and it means letting Christ guide our path through life. Yes, I believe that Christ is always with us. I also know that, all too often we are totally unaware of Christ’s presence in our lives; and we fail to draw on Christ’s strength, love, and guidance. Each of us can become more aware of that presence. Each of us can grow closer to the living Christ through Bible Study, through worship and sacrament, and most importantly through prayer.

As our Lenten Devotional suggests, prayers don’t need to be “long winded.” We don’t need to sit down and pray for 30 minutes. It’s more important that we pray often than that we pray long. Every time you check your cell phone, check in with God. Every time you stop at a traffic light, check in with God. Every time you meet a stranger, check in with God. Every time your life situation changes, check in with God.

This Lent, let us all become more aware that the living Christ does indeed walk with us; and let us follow as Christ shows us “the way.”

See you in church,

Rev. Mark
THANK YOU!!!!!

Sub Sale: The kids raised $175.00, which will be donated to UMCOR as part of their Sunday School Hurricane Relief Mission Project! Thank you for your purchase and also to Jean and James who came to help us construct the subs!

Souper Bowl of Caring: The youth would also like to thank the congregation for their very generous donations last Sunday to their Souper Bowl of Caring fundraiser. A total of $256.00 was received, and 100% of that will be sent directly to the North Olmsted Oxcart Food Pantry.

Socks: Finally, thank you for your wonderful sock donations! Thanks to your help, the youth were able to send 607 pairs of socks to the City Mission where they will be very much appreciated by all who so desperately need them! Thanks also to Michelle Wolter who offered to take the boxes to the City Mission for us!

EASTER FLOWER SALE
The youth will be selling Easter Lilies, Hyacinths, Martha Washington Geraniums, Pansies and Tulips to be placed on the altar for our Easter morning services. Proceeds of the sale will be going towards the Sunday School Hurricane Relief Mission Project. Order forms will be in Fellowship Hall beginning on February 25th, and orders will be due on March 18th. Please give your order to Wendy or Sharon, place them in the purple box in the sanctuary or call the church office to place your order.

Son-fest Is Coming: Summer 2018!
Instead of Vacation Bible School...this year we are going to try something new and different! Son-fest will be a one-day summer carnival-type celebration geared towards families that the entire community can enjoy! The purpose of Son-fest will be to demonstrate that NOUMC is thriving and that Jesus Christ meets the needs of our community through our church and our members. The fest will be held on a Saturday on August 11. A preliminary planning meeting was held on February 15th and a lot of great ideas were tossed around. Please see the Son-fest board in Fellowship Hall to sign up for a committee or two. We will need everyone's help to pull this together! In signing up for a committee, all who are on that committee will be in charge of meeting and working together to accomplish that committee's goals. Our next Son-Fest Meeting will be on March 11th after worship. Please join us! If you have any questions please see me!

New Sunday School Service Project:
Children's Clothing for the Twice Blessed Store!
The youth are working on another service project! They will be collecting new and gently used children's clothing. The clothing must be seasonal (spring and summer clothing please!) and clean without stains, holes or odors. The clothing will be donated to the Twice Blessed Store at the Nehemiah Mission which is run by Rocky River UMC. We are asking that all clothing items be in by April 22nd. Twice Blessed is a Free Store Ministry that provides clothing, household items, shoes, blankets and other items FREE to anyone who comes in their door. The store is open to shoppers every Saturday from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Because the ministry focuses on worship and helping people meet Jesus Christ in the midst of their stories, they provide a worship service at 9:30 AM before shopping begins. By supporting the Twice Blessed Store with their latest service project, our youth will be learning what it means to be disciples of Christ (Romans Ch. 12: We are to live a life of service!)

Camp Info Is Here!
Camp information is here and brochures can be found in Fellowship Hall. Please see me for any additional information.
Welcome Our New Youth Director

Youth Council is happy to announce the hiring of our new Youth Leader, Katie Chapman. Katie and her family now live in Olmsted Township after living in several different places while husband, Bob, was in the United States Navy. They have two children, Makena (12) and Morgan (10).

Katie spent about 5 years as a preschool teacher. Her hobbies include kayaking and camping as well as being a Cheer Mom (helping girls on a competitive cheerleading squad).

Her enthusiasm, friendliness, and energy are great assets for her new role as our youth leader. She has many creative ideas and is eager to implement them.

The next Youth Council meeting is scheduled for March 4th, right after church service.

I would like to start off by saying thank you to everyone for your warm welcome and support as I begin my journey as NOUMC’s Youth Leader. I am extremely excited to get started and increase participation in our youth program. If you have grandchildren, nieces, nephews, neighbors, etc. that may be interested in participating in our youth groups, please forward me their contact information and I will add them to our mailing list. We have a lot of exciting events planned but we need more bodies to make them successful.

I’d like to share a little bit about myself, so you can get to know me a little better. I was born in Chardon, Ohio and raised in Berea. I have been married to my husband, Bobby, since August of 2002 and I am the proud mommy of Makena (12) and Morgan (10). We are a PROUD United States Navy family. We have been stationed in Jacksonville, FL where Makena was born, The Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD where Morgan was born and finally Virginia Beach, VA. Bobby served just shy of 16 years, when he was medically retired after being diagnosed with adult onset Type 1 Diabetes. After months of job searching, we decided to return home to Ohio where he was offered a job at United Rentals. I was a Lead Preschool Teacher at Courthouse Christian Preschool at the time and I absolutely LOVED my job. It was very hard to leave after being there for 5 1/2 years. I decided to take some time off once we moved back and focus on getting my family settled into our new routine. A year and half later, here I am and I couldn’t be more excited to be back doing what I love, working with children. My hobbies include traveling, kayaking, camping, being a “cheer mom” and anything Disney related. I have 3 fur babies at home, Olaf, Rory and Grader (all dogs). I think I have rambled on about myself enough. Please know that my door is always open and I am here for our youth in any way needed. You can reach me by email at youth@noumc.org (I check my email frequently) or by phone at 440-779-6634 ext. 14. Thank you again for your support and welcoming myself and my girls to the church.

Blessings,
Katie Chapman
A Big Thank You from our Youth!!

Our 2018 Youth Work Mission Soup and Chili Cook-Off was a huge success. We served 5 different types of chili and 3 different soups. Wendy Cooper took home the trophy for her winning chili recipe and Zoe Bridges took home the trophy for her winning chocolate soup recipe. I’ve been told that this was our biggest turn out yet, so thank you from the bottoms of our hearts. We raised over $200 to help our youth attend this year’s mission trip.

A special thank you to our cooks– Mike Moore, Andy Moore, Michelle Wolter, Jean Scothen, Wendy Cooper, Katie Chapman and Zoe Bridges. Thanks also to our servers - Sydney Scothon, Amy Cooper, Mikenzie Dennis and Makena Chapman.

Everyone’s chili and soups were delicious. A special thank you to Tammy Moore for setting this event up and to Jean Scothon for keeping the kitchen running smoothly. We could not have done it without either of you.
A few weeks ago, Reverend Mark's sermon was about touching. You certainly did that by making Christmas brighter for some of your neighbors when you reached out to them. Please take time to read the thank you letters elsewhere in the Agape. Although we only received notes from two of our families, I'm sure that the others were also as impressed with your generosity. And for the first time ever, we received a thank you note for a Christmas stocking. I know we have had verbal “Thanks” when the patrons have seen the stockings (or baskets) on the cart holding their monthly food donation, but the written note was an added extra.

You certainly took up the challenge when we asked you to increase our monthly donations to 80 items. In February we took 126 cans of soup to the Oxcart Pantry. We're well on our way to reaching our goal in March. We're bringing in peanut butter, due on March 11, after which we will be working on canned vegetables, due April 8. Thanks for all you do.

It's time to be thinking about bringing in items for the Easter Baskets. If you're new to this project, it is like the Christmas stockings except we provide Easter baskets for Oxcart Pantry patrons. In the baskets we put some necessary items (mainly toiletry articles) and a few fun items. Located on this page are some ideas you might consider putting into the box in Fellowship Hall. You can use your own imagination for items, just remembering they need to fit in the baskets.

If you'd rather we did the shopping for you, you can put a little something extra in the Penny Sunday collection on March 18 which will be used to buy additional items for the baskets. The youth will help fill the baskets on Palm Sunday so they can be delivered that week. Once again Fairview Grace UMC is joining with us in this project, and we are certainly grateful for their help.

Military Coupons

We are still collecting coupons for military families to use at the PX. These coupons help them stretch their budget and they greatly appreciate them! Please clip the coupons before bringing them in and place them in the envelope under the Outreach bulletin board (by the nursery). Thanks for your help with this mission project.
Adult Council is planning some fun events for our church family. Here is what is coming up …..

March 6--Adult Council is organizing a group viewing of the Million Dollar Quartet musical at Lorain County Community College. "Million Dollar Quartet" is a recording of an impromptu jam session involving Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, and Johnny Cash made on December 4, 1956, at the Sun Record Studios in Memphis, Tennessee. The Tony® Award-winning smash hit Broadway musical inspired by the true story features rock hits like “Blue Suede Shoes,” “Fever,” “That's All Right,” “Great Balls of Fire,” “Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On,” “Hound Dog” and more. The Stocker Box Office has put a block of 20 tickets for us under NOUMC. Tickets are $40 & if you pick them up at the box office the day of the concert, there's no service charge. Box office is open Mon.-Fri 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. The phone number is 440-366-4040. The date and time of the musical is March 6th at 7:30. Sign up sheet is on the office door.

March 11--Adult Council members will meet right after church to plan fun outings. If you have ideas to share or like bringing people together, this is a good committee for you to be part of. There's a sign up sheet on the table outside the sanctuary to add your name to the list.

April 22 -- Bring a bag lunch or snacks and hike right after church in the Rocky River Reservation. Carpool or meet us at the Nature Center in North Olmsted, just a short drive from church, for a walk along the wetlands and through the birch forests as the Earth wakes up from its winter sleep. Sign up sheet will be on the office door starting the second weekend in April--we don't want to miss you!

United Methodist Women

USO COOKIES

Due April 8th

This is the last of our taking-it-easy months. You'll be hearing more about our April activities in the next Agape, but I'll mention just a couple here. First of all, we will be providing cookies for USO once again. This ecumenical project will have the cookies due April 8 to be delivered on the 9th. More details next month.

Dean's plant orders will soon be available in future bulletins and the April Agape. Orders will be due in mid April and delivery and pickup will be on May 12 just in time for Mothers' Day!

Finally, our always impatiently-awaited-for spring rummage sale is April 21. Details on how you can help will be in the next Agape, but we do want you to know there is room in the attic at the top of the stairs. If you can keep your goodies at home until the week of the sale, it would definitely help us. We have less room than ever, so your help would be appreciated.
Thank-you.....

Such a simple word;
It's often under-rated. 
And yet, in truth,
It's always good
To feel appreciated.
So here's
my chance
to say it!
It's absolutely true......

Christmas was SO SPECIAL &
we owe it all to YOU!
2017

(See enclosed letter/photo)

To All who Participated in 
adopting family #23:

We thank you from our
hearts for sharing your
love & good will this Christmas
with us!

A very special thank-you,
as warm as it can be.
To express appreciation
to you — from grateful me!
ALL OUR WEE's &

Hannah
60 yr old female, 72 yr old male

Phillip
43 yr old female, 5 yr old

Nicole
43 yr old female, 5 yr old

Steve
52 yr old male

Lauren
32 yr old female

R. Claire (bear)
2 yr old female

Heartfelt Thank You's to the Christmas Angel(s) who poured out their love and goodwill this Christmas to Family #23. We couldn't let your hard work and contributions go unnoticed or fail to show our gratitude.

I have to enclose a photo of what our living room looked like this Christmas to illustrate what an amazing sight it was! WOW...This is AMAZING! That's all I could say. My son said, "Do you mean that people who don't even know us bought all of this for us?!" He said that it was hard to believe. I told him it was unbelievable but it was true. God truly sent us Christmas ANGELS this year. What a refreshing view of the people that surround us.

Our entire family was encouraged & their spirits lifted. It was evident that someone took a lot of time to wrap all those gifts & someone gave great care & effort (time, patience, money & thoughtfulness) to select and buy gifts for seven people! Your generosity surpassed anything we could ever have hoped for or expected.

Let me share with you some of the joy that you helped to create for my family this year. For instance, the squeals of joy from the baby when she opened her Duplos train/numbers blocks and from the 16 year old when she opened a makeup bag full of goodies that teenagers love. All of the hats, gloves, scarves, boots & socks, the soft, warm blankets and the beautiful comforter set made such an impact throughout the “deep freeze” we’ve had since Christmas! What a welcome relief to receive & have everything we need! May I also share with you some of the remarks that were made while everyone opened their gifts: all of the “Alrights!”, “Yes! Yes! Yes!” “Oh my goodness!”, “That’s what I’m talkin’ bout!”, “I know this was expensive!”, “Oh, thank God!” and “Thank you whoever you are”.

This Christmas was a time of renewal for myself.....renewed hope, renewed faith, renewed joy and gratitude for so many blessings that we received throughout the year. It was also a time of renewed courage to face the year ahead. I thank you again for making a difference to all of us. I pray that God will Bless you in ways that will bring you great joy, too!
March 18 - VOTER REGISTRATION Sunday

North Olmsted United Methodist Church
Before Church Service 9-10:30 am
After Church Service 11:30-12:30 pm

PROTECT YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE!
Take 2 minutes! INVITE YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS and NEIGHBORS!

Has it been a LONG TIME SINCE YOU VOTED? Have you MOVED OR CHANGED YOUR NAME since you voted? 17 year olds can vote for candidates in the primary only if they will be 18 on or before Nov 6th.

YOU MAY GO TO THE POLLS AND NOT BE ALLOWED TO VOTE because your voter registration is not up to date.

Take a few minutes, be sure your voter registration is up to date. Friendly, helpful League of Women Voters volunteers can look up your voter registration on computers and help you change your address to your current address so you can vote in the May 8th primary.

You won't be able to decide who your party's candidates should be for Governor, Senator, Congressman & Judge. You won't be able to vote on important issues like the North Olmsted Recreation Center Bond Issue.

Volunteers can also help you apply for a vote by mail application so you can avoid going out in bad weather and waiting to vote in long lines at the polls. YOU MUST APPLY FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT AT EVERY ELECTION.

Grumble, complain, protest, but VOTE --IT IS THE ONLY THING THAT COUNTS. That is how you make a difference!
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<td>3 pm Dover Players</td>
<td>5:30 pm Work Mission</td>
<td>7 pm Choir Practice</td>
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<td>7:30 Bells</td>
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<td>Palm Sunday</td>
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<td>8:30-Pancake Breakfast</td>
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<td>9 am - Sunday School</td>
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<td>Holy Week</td>
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<td>4:30—6 pm Community Meal</td>
<td>7:30 pm Tennebrae Service</td>
<td>9:30-10:30 am Fitness Class</td>
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<td>7 pm Choir Practice</td>
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<td><strong>Office Hours:</strong></td>
<td>Mon.– Wed. 10 am - 2 pm</td>
<td>Thursdays - 2 to 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Mon. - 1 to 3 pm, Thurs. - Noon to 3 pm</td>
<td>Youths Director– Mon. &amp; Thurs. 11 to 2:30 pm</td>
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March Free Community Meal

Thursday, March 29, 2018  4:30 to 6:00 pm

Chef Joel will be back in the kitchen and preparing a delicious ham dinner with sides, desserts and beverages.

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