

Agape

Greek for "Love without Limits"



A Publication of North Olmsted United Methodist Church

Vol. 52 Issue 8

October 2018

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North Olmsted UMC

United Methodist Women's Annual

Church Mouse



Craft Fair

Saturday,

October 13

9 am - 3 pm

Over 20 local crafters

Food

Bake Sale

Free Admission



4600 Dover Center Road, North Olmsted, OH 44070

Opportunities to Give at North Olmsted UMC

World Communion Sunday

October 7

On World Communion Sunday, we gather together and celebrate the God-given potential in all of us! Through the years, countless gifted people have been marginalized because of ethnicity, financial hardship, or other biases.

On World Communion Sunday, we celebrate our unity as a church, regardless of these differences! We imitate Jesus' affirmation of each and every single one of us.

World Communion Sunday is one of six special offering Sundays in the life of the United Methodist Church. On this day, your generous gift goes to support national and international students who rely on scholarships to pursue graduate-level education. Make checks payable to North Olmsted UMC and write *World Communion Sunday* on the memo line. Please give generously.



 Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church*

www.umciving.org/WCS

Helping the Victims of Hurricane Florence

Penny Sunday: October 21

As this newsletter goes to print, many in the Southeastern United States are reeling from the results of Hurricane Florence, and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is there to help, providing emergency aid and longer term help with relocation, rebuilding, and restoration efforts.



UMCOR is a General Committee of the United Methodist Church charged with spreading God's love in a very real way when disaster strikes.

As a result of Hurricane Florence, the NOUMC Outreach Committee has committed all the funds from our October Penny Sunday (October 21) to UMCOR for Hurricane Relief. 100% of all funds donated to UMCOR go directly to relief. (The agency's administrative costs are covered by our church apportionments.) Please come to church on October 21 prepared to give to this important cause. (Of course, you do not need to wait until Penny Sunday. You can make a contribution at any time by writing a check to NOUMC and putting *UMCOR* or *Hurricane Relief* on the memo line.) Thank you in advance for your caring and support of those in need.

Thinking about Stewardship

As we enter the Fall season, it is a pleasure to welcome Craig Mueller as our 2018 Stewardship Chairman. This year's Stewardship Campaign will again focus on "Our Guiding Principles" as we continue *Our Faithful Journey* with Christ. We look forward to Craig's leadership as we consider the gifts that God has given us and our call to use those gifts in love and service. Thank you to Craig and to all for your continued generosity.

Separation of Church and State...Really?

Rev. Mark Steiger

Friends, as I write this column, election day is drawing ever closer; and I cannot let election day come and go without reflecting on our role in the election process as Christians. We have all heard about the constitutional, governmental, and ethical issues of “separation of church and state,” and I fully support all laws to prevent discrimination based on religious preference. I also don’t think our government should be supporting any particular religious view or opinion to the exclusion of others.

Still, I tell you, there is no such thing as a part-time Christian. It seems that all too often, Christians seek to “draw a line” between issues of the Gospel and issues of secular society; and that’s where I say, “There is no separation.” We are either followers of Jesus Christ, or we are not. I fail to understand how our leaders in government on both sides of the aisle can claim to be “good church-going Christians” and repeatedly pass laws and endorse budgets that have severe detrimental effect on the poor, the needy, the least, and the lost in our society. I fail to understand how our leaders can withhold aid to people in dire need around the world because they feel it would be more beneficial to provide tax cuts to the wealthy. I understand the principles of “trickle down economics.” I also understand that they have been proven not to work. I understand that politicians need to make compromises, sometimes painful compromises, in order to move important legislation through the process. And so, I try

not to be “too hard on” our elected officials; but I tell you: our senators and representatives cannot check their Christian beliefs and values at the door when they enter the house or senate chamber.



And this brings me to the personal side of this column. Just as our representatives cannot and should not check their Christianity at the doors of their chambers, neither can we check our Christianity at the door when we enter the voting booth. I cannot and I will not attempt to tell you what candidates best exemplify the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I suspect we might have some disagreement on that, and that’s okay. But I will tell you that I believe, when you cast your vote on November 6, paramount in your decision-making should be what candidate will best exemplify the Good News of God’s amazing love for all people.

And so I close by asking each of you to please vote on November 6, and as you vote, please keep in mind God’s call to righteousness and justice, love and peace.

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.

Sunday School Classes

Weekly at 9 am

On September 9, we kicked off a brand new school year with a Rally Day celebration in our Elementary, Middle, and Young Adult classes. The kids gathered to play some games, spend some time chatting and catching up, and eat a yummy breakfast of cereal, fruit, and juice. We also talked about our new mission project. We had a lot of fun!



Elementary Class: For children age 3 - Grade 4. This class is once again taught by Sarah Jackson. Sarah has made up her own curriculum this year, and it promises to be a fun and exciting class!

Middle School Class: For children in grades 5 & 6. We use *Spark Classroom* Curriculum by Sparkhouse. The kids use Spark Bibles as well as activities, games, and crafts to explore the Bible stories and learn how to relate them to their own lives.

Young Adult Class: For grades 7 up to young adults. This class meets upstairs and uses *Fathom* curriculum by Youth Ministry Partners. Each lesson will focus on one passage and then relate that to the larger context of God's story, and how that story is meant to be theirs.

Traditional Adult Class: Taught by Craig Mueller in the Choir room. He is starting off the year with "Top 10 United Methodist Beliefs."



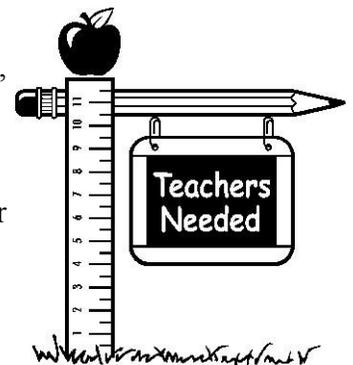
Happy Halloween!

Sunday, October 28

Our Sunday School classes will be celebrating Halloween with treats in their classrooms on Sunday, October 28! Kids are welcome to come in costume.

Sunday School Teachers Needed

We are still in great need of Sunday School teachers, especially in the Middle School class! If you have any interest in teaching any one of these classes, or if you have any questions, please see Wendy Cooper for information. Our goal is to have several teachers so that no one has to teach every week. You can sign up on the sheet in the classroom for the dates and class you would like to teach.



Check out the Youth News Flyer, and Pass it Along!

Check out the Youth News insert in this issue of the Agape. Use the insert as a way to invite a young person in your life to join us at North Olmsted UMC! See Katie Chapman if you want more information.

Sunday School Mission Project

by Wendy Cooper

4 Paws For Ability

Mission Project 2018-2019

As I was pondering ideas for this year's mission project, Craig said to me, "Wouldn't it be nice to be able to provide a service dog to a child who needs one and can't afford one?" What a great idea! I knew the kids would love to do that. In my research, I found 4 Paws For Ability. 4 Paws is much like Guiding Eyes for the Blind. They have puppy raisers who train the puppies in obedience, manners, and socialization before they send them on for their advanced training to become service dogs. 4 Paws, however, trains dogs specifically to be received by either children or by veterans and service men and women who are suffering from the effects of being in combat. Each dog is trained for a different, specific need, including autism, diabetes, Fetal alcohol syndrome, seizure disorder, Downs Syndrome, ADHD, the mobility impaired, hearing impaired, and visually impaired.



4 Paws was founded in 1998 by a young woman named Karen Shirk who tried for several years to obtain a service dog but was continually turned away. The agencies told her she was too disabled to receive a service dog. Karen dreamed of a place where applicants for service dogs were not judged by and turned away because of the severity of their disability.

It costs between \$40,000 and \$60,000 to raise and properly train a service dog. While 4 Paws provides service dogs for significantly less than it costs to train and raise them, the families are still required to pay a portion of that cost. A \$40,000 dog might cost a family around \$17,000. Knowing that this is still an unobtainable goal for many families, 4 Paws helps the families to fund raise by setting up "Make A Dream Come True" pages for them, which help the families spread the word of their needs by informing others of how they can help raise the money to obtain a service dog. I will be telling you more about this wonderful organization over the next several months, but if you'd like to learn more now and see some of the inspirational stories of children who have had their lives turned around by receiving a service dog, please go to the 4 Paws For Ability You-Tube Channel.

The Bible tells us to *bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ* (Galatians 6:2). This year, our youth are going to help a child "bear their burden." Although we will not be able to raise the entire amount of money it takes to obtain a puppy, we will be able to help one child get a little bit closer to their goal. In the spring, 4 Paws will be notifying us of a child who we will be sponsoring. We will be raising funds this year specifically for this child to receive his or her dog!

Fundraisers!

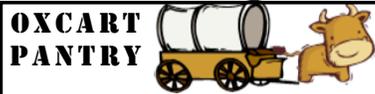
Monkey Bread Sale on Sunday, November 4



Throughout the year, the youth will be holding fundraisers to raise money to donate to 4 Paws. We ask that you keep our mission project and our child and his or her dog in your prayers, and that you stay tuned for further information and updates on how you can help our youth. Be sure to keep your eyes out for our very first fundraiser... **monkey bread!** We will be making and selling monkey bread on **November 4**. We will be taking orders this time so hopefully everyone will get some! Look for order forms in Fellowship Hall in October.

Outreach Committee

by Barb Andrews



Oxcart Pantry Collection

Once again, you outdid yourselves. We collected 107 cans and packages of soup for the Oxcart Pantry.

Item	Due
Canned Fruit	Oct. 14
Dressing & Sweet Potatoes	Nov. 11

Thank you for your generosity!

Our current collection item is canned fruit. Donations of canned peaches, pears, applesauce, jelly, fruit cocktail, mandarin oranges (sugar-free, natural juices, or low sugar) can be placed in the bin in the Sanctuary. These are due on October 14.

In November, the Oxcart Pantry will be giving out Thanksgiving baskets. North Olmsted UMC is collecting sweet potatoes and dressing for the baskets. These items are due November 11 for delivery the following day. Also, remember that we will be collecting cleaning items with the emphasis on laundry detergent in December. We often receive thank you notes from Georgia thanking us for all we do for our neighbors; one is included in the thank you notes section of this newsletter.

Mitten Tree

October 7 - November 11

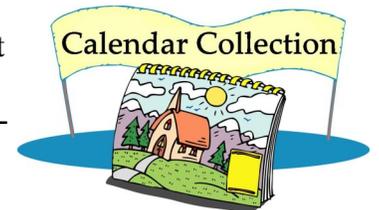
The mitten tree will be returning outside the Sanctuary. We appreciate any donations you can contribute. Thank you for your generosity!



Calendar Collection

Beginning September 30

We are also collecting extra 2019 calendars that you may receive in the mail. They will be donated to Laura's Home and the Cleveland Juvenile Detention Center. Look for the collection box in Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your donations.



Military Coupon Collection

Ongoing Mission Project

We continue to collect coupons for military families to use at the PX. These coupons help families to stretch their budgets and are greatly appreciated. *Please clip the coupons before bringing them. It is not necessary to sort them.* Place them in the envelope under the Outreach bulletin board by the nursery. Thanks for your ongoing support of this missionary project.

United Methodist Men

by Rev. Mark

UMM Nativity Scenes

The United Methodist Men are building Nativity Scenes for yard display again this year. They have built ten scenes and have sold seven. **Three are still available.** If you would like a nativity scene for your yard, please see Craig Mueller. **Cost is \$75.00 – first come, first serve.** (The men will not be building any more Nativity Scenes this year, so get your order in early.)

Adult Council

by Claudia Taller

Singer, Songwriter, Performer Jeff Varga in Concert

Friday, October 12 at 8 pm

Let's go out and hear some music at the Cirigliano Studio Theatre at Stocker Center, LCCC. Jeff Varga's show begins at 8 pm; Josh and Guylene will be there at 7:30 pm to hold seats. Tickets are \$20. Please obtain your own tickets for unassigned seating at https://www.lorainccc.edu/stocker/lccc_events/. You can find the sign-up sheet on the office door; let us know if you are going so we can meet up with you.

Thank You Notes

Thank you from Oxcart Pantry

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the wonderful collection of pasta sauce and canned meats! Also, thank you for the generous donation of toilet paper. You continue to make such a difference in our community! Your generous donation to the Oxcart Pantry enables us to help residents in need in North Olmsted. Thank you for your kindness!
Sincerely, Georgia Wilder

Thank you from Guiding Eyes for the Blind

Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$40. Our puppies are raised for guide work to give the visually impaired independence. We are so appreciative of your support of our mission.

Thank you again for your kindness,

Leslie Stephens

Region Puppy Program Manager

Thank you from the United Methodist Committee on Relief

Dear Friends in Mission:

Thank you for partnering with UMCOR. Through your gift, you are helping to provide humanitarian relief when war, conflict, or natural disaster disrupts life to such an extent that communities are unable to recover on their own. Thank you for your donation in July to the Disaster Response in the amount of \$233.65. This gift will bring hope to those who need it most.

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the warm welcome and the hospitality that you offered me when I worshipped with you at the beginning of September. It was such a joy to have the opportunity to meet so many of you. I feel very blessed to be on staff at North Olmsted UMC. Thank you for welcoming me into your community!
Peace, Megan Howe

Thank You!

Ray & Diane Plogger for putting the Sanctuary back together while it was being painted.

Makena Chapman for helping in the Nursery.

United Methodist Women

by Barb Andrews

We are heading into our busy time of the year. Besides helping with some office items, we have been working on crafts.

The **Church Mouse Craft Fair** is October 13. If you'd like to help out any time from 9 am to 3 pm that day, check with a UMW member. This event really doesn't require as much help as the rummage sale, but we really need your attendance that day. Come over and do some shopping, have lunch with us, and help out at 3 pm to get Fellowship Hall back into working order for church the next day. We will have a bake sale on our craft table, so you can help out by donating baked goods. As usual, we will purchase stock from any of the youth or adult work mission members who show up to help with clean up at 3 pm. See you there.



Also, the **Fall Rummage Sale** is November 3, and that is an event we need lots of help for. We will give you more information on how you can help in the November Agape. You can also be thinking about how you'd like to donate our money at the end of November.

It's not all work, however. We will take our annual trip to **Amish Country** on October 17. We have decided to head to Geauga County this year. If you'd like to join us that day, let Sharon or Barb Andrews know so that we have enough drivers. It's always a fun day.

Lunch with Friends

Our group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 11:30 am. Watch the bulletin for the location. Please join us for a couple hours of food and fellowship. It really helps if we know how many are coming so we can have enough chairs. To reserve your seat, call and leave a message with Carole Bettinger. (If you forget to call, come anyway!)



Worship Support

Date	Greeter	Reader	Usher(s)	Acolyte
Oct. 7	Greeters needed, please sign up	Ed Brewster	Beth Cruz	Amy Cooper
Oct. 14		Janis Jarvis	Barb & Ron Clough	Morgan Chapman
Oct. 21		Zoe Bridges	David Jarvis	Sydney Busser
Oct. 28		Greg Lavelle	Paul Taller	Mikenzie Dennis

Oberammergau Passion Play

September 2020

Rev. Mark and Ginny are headed back to Germany September 21-29, 2020, this time to see the Oberammergau Passion Play, and you are invited to join them. The Passion Play has taken place every ten years since 1634, and depicts the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Over 2,000 Oberammergau villagers will participate in the 2020 play, almost half the town. Educational Opportunities has built a wonderful "Alpine Odyssey" tour of Southern Germany and Austria around the play including visits to some fantastic castles and churches and trips to Salzburg and Innsbruck. Exciting tour extensions to Switzerland or Italy are also offered. Brochures are available on the bulletin board by the choir room or in the church office. For more information see Rev. Mark.

October 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30 pm Scouts 7 pm Dover Players 7 pm Bell Choir 8:30 pm AA	2 11 am AA 7 pm Daniel Plan 7 pm Girl Scouts of North Olmsted	3 10 am UMW 7 pm Dover Players 8:30 pm AA	4 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Dover Players	5	6 8:30 am UMM at Falls Family Restaurant 8:30 am - 1 pm Stephen Ministry (John Knox) 9:30 am Fitness Class (FH)
7 <i>World Communion Sunday</i> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 6 pm Scouts	8 6:30 pm Scouts 7 pm Dover Players 7 pm Bell Choir 8:30 pm AA	9 11 am AA 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry 7 pm Daniel Plan	10 10 am UMW 7 pm Dover Players 8:30 pm AA	11 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Dover Players	12 8 pm Jeff Varga Concert	13 9 am - 3 pm UMW Craft Fair 8:30 am - 1 pm Stephen Ministry (John Knox)
14 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	15 6:30 pm Scouts 7 pm Dover Players 7 pm Bell Choir 8:30 pm AA	16 11 am AA 7 pm Daniel Plan	17 10 am UMW 7 pm Dover Players 8:30 pm AA	18 11:30 am Lunch with Friends 7 pm Choir 7 pm Dover Players	19	20 8:30 am - 1 pm Stephen Ministry (NOUMC) 9:30 am Fitness Class
21 <i>Penny Sunday</i> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 6 pm Scouts	22 6:30 pm Scouts 7 pm Dover Players 7 pm Bell choir 8:30 pm AA	23 11 am AA 1 - 3 pm Alzheimer's Association	24 10 am UMW 7 pm Dover Players 8:30 pm AA	25 4:30 - 6 pm Community Meal 7 pm Choir 7 pm Dover Players	26	27 8:30 am - 1 pm Stephen Ministry (John Knox) 9:30 am Fitness Class 4 - 6 pm Kids Club Halloween Party 5:30 - 9:30 pm Youth Halloween Outing
28 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	29 6:30 pm Scouts 7 pm Dover Players 7 pm Bell Choir 8:30 pm AA	30 11 am AA	31 10 am UMW 7 pm Dover Players 8:30 pm AA			

Office Hours:

Mondays - Wednesdays 10 am to 2 pm, Thursdays 1 to 5 pm

Christian Education Office Hours:

Mondays 1 to 3 pm, Thursdays 12 to 3 pm

Youth Director Office Hours:

Mondays & Thursdays 11 am to 2:30 pm

North Olmsted UMC 4600 Dover Center Rd. North Olmsted, OH 44070
 Phone 440-779-6634 + Fax 440-779-0903 + office@noumc.org

**NORTH OLMSTED
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**



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

4600 Dover Center Rd.
North Olmsted, Ohio 44070

Agape Newsletter

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Free Community Meal



Community Meal

Thursday, October 25

Serving 4:30 to 6 pm

sloppy joes, macaroni and cheese,
celery and carrots with ranch dip,
a pickle, dessert, and beverages

Held at North Olmsted United Methodist Church
4600 Dover Center Road, North Olmsted, Ohio 44070
440-779-6634 + www.noumc.org

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. Menus 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 an accessible facility.