

Agape

Greek for "Love without Limits"



North Olmsted United Methodist Church

Vol. 53 Issue 4

May 2019

Inside this issue:

Reverend's Remarks	2
Christian Education	3
Youth News, Fellowship	4
Adult Council, UMW	5
Outreach	6
May Calendar	7
Community Meal	8

Church Staff

Reverend Mark L. Steiger
msteiger@noumc.org
440-779-6634, ext. 16

Administrative Assistant: Megan Howe
office@noumc.org
440-779-6634, ext. 10

Christian Education: Wendy Cooper
sundayschool@noumc.org
440-779-6634, ext. 13

Youth Director: Katie Chapman
youth@noumc.org
440-779-6634, ext. 14

Organist: Marlene Dirksen
mkdpteach@sbcglobal.net

Choir Director: Gabriela Martinez
gabrielamarmar@aol.com

Youth Work Mission Trip to Detroit, Michigan

July 7 - 13

A partnership of North Olmsted United Methodist Church
and Westlake United Methodist Church.

We will work with Cass Community Center in Detroit, Michigan.

This trip is open to adults
and to all youth who will have completed 6th grade and older.

Youth Work Mission Fundraiser

Saturday, May 18, 5 pm - 8 pm



Back by popular demand, it's the return of the Dover Center Diner!

Enjoy music and diner food from the '50s!

Invite your family and friends!

Advance tickets are \$10.

Tickets can be purchased by visiting the work mission stock table.

For more information, contact Katie Chapman or Tammy Moore.

May Penny Sunday Offering

Sunday, May 19

The May Penny Sunday offering will also benefit Youth Work Mission.

Thank you for your generosity and support!



Helping “4 Paws” Help Others

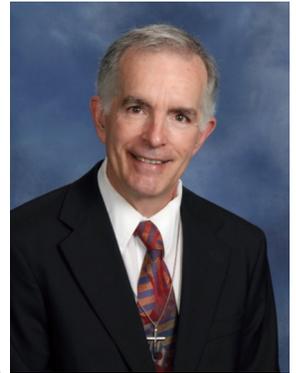
Rev. Mark Steiger

Every year our Children and Youth Sunday School classes choose a mission for which to raise money. I’m pleased to say they have always selected wonderful, meaningful, and worthwhile projects. They have raised money to provide safe drinking water to a water-starved village. They have raised money for guide dogs for the blind. They have raised money to support children in underprivileged situations. These are all areas of great need; and it’s wonderful to both highlight these needs to our youth and to encourage them to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

All this being said, I was especially excited when, this past fall, I heard about 4 Paws for Ability, because I have personally witnessed the difference a service animal can make in the life of a child. In my previous church, we were contacted by a family asking if we could accommodate them including their very severely autistic young son whom I’ll call Joe (*not his real name*). It became clear that, in order to welcome Joe into Sunday School, we would need a specially trained adult one-on-one with him at all times. Fortunately, the church mobilized to line up volunteers, give the training, and welcome Joe’s family into our church family.

It was about a year later that we became aware that service dogs were being specially trained to provide stability and calm to children with severe autism. Again, the church mobilized and worked with the family to get Joe a service dog, and the results were truly amazing. After a few months with the dog, Joe became far more functional in church. He was able to take part in activities without total supervision. Joe’s dog truly, significantly improved Joe’s quality of life and the quality of his parents’ lives.

Given my experience with Joe, when I heard that our Sunday School classes were considering 4 Paws for Ability as their mission project, I became very excited. I was told that the class hoped to raise about \$1000 or \$1500 for the project; and I said, “Oh, we can do better than that. If a dog costs the family \$17,000, let’s raise \$6000 – roughly a third of the cost.” Maybe I was being overly optimistic, but I know the difference a dog can make.



Last month we received the details on the child for whom we are raising money. Brynlynn is a four-year-old girl with severe seizure disorders. I know how a dog can improve the quality of her life, and, as a result, the quality of her parents’ lives. Our Penny Sunday offering on April 28 will be used to support the Sunday School efforts to get a 4 Paws for Ability dog for Brynlynn. I encourage you to give generously to this offering. Of course, if you’re not prepared to give on Sunday, you can always write a check to North Olmsted United Methodist Church. Be sure to put *4 Paws for Ability* in the memo line. God has richly blessed us. May we use our blessings to be a blessing to others.

See you in church,

Rev. Mark

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.

*Our Faithful
Journey*



Sunday School Teacher Recognition*Sunday, May 19, during worship*

We will recognize the hard work and dedication of our Sunday School teachers during worship on May 19. Please be sure to join us!

Thank you SO VERY MUCH to all of our talented and dedicated Sunday School teachers! You have all worked very hard this year to make our Sunday School program a success, and your time and service is very much appreciated!



Our teachers this year were:

Jean Scothon, Sarah Jackson, Chris Blosser, Claudia Taller, John Wolter, Michelle Wolter, Judi Wagner, Tammy Moore, Reverend Mark Steiger, Sally Stacho, Bill Ransom, Wayne Pullman, Craig Mueller, and Peggy Cornell.

Hope you all enjoy your summer!

Honoring Our Graduates*Sunday, June 9, during worship*

We will honor our graduates during worship on June 9. If you are a graduate or know of a member who is graduating from high school, college, technical school, or with an online degree, please give your information to Wendy Cooper by the end of May. She will need your name, school, degree, and what you will be doing next (job, further schooling, taking a nap, traveling around the country, etc.).

Sunday School Mission Project: 4 Paws for Ability*Donations due by the end of May*

We have been assigned a child! Her name is Brynlynn. She is 4 years old and lives in Sandusky. Brynlynn was diagnosed in late 2016 with cerebral heterotopia (nerve cells/neurons in the fetal brain do not migrate properly during early development, causing seizures, dyslexia, and developmental delay), hemiparesis (weakness and mild paralysis on one entire side of the body), reflex asymmetry (when the head is turned to the side, the arm on that side will straighten and the opposite arm will bend), seizures, Todd's paralysis (focal weakness in a part or all of the body after a seizure), and schizencephaly (a rare congenital birth defect/malformation; symptoms include developmental delay, seizures, and problems with brain-spinal cord communication). Brynlynn's seizures will be a lifelong battle, and she may need brain surgery sometime in the future. Brynlynn is a beautiful little girl with a smile that can light up a room. She loves princesses, Paw Patrol, and animals. Her family has been trying to raise the \$17,000 needed so that Brynlynn can receive a seizure alert dog. It is our hope to be able to raise a significant amount so that we can help Brynlynn to receive her service dog! We will be wrapping up our fundraising efforts very soon so that we can send our proceeds off to Brynlynn's family in early June. Please be sure to have all donations in to Wendy or one of our youth by the end of May! We thank you very much for all of your support so far this year. Updated totals will be given in the June Agape.

New Member Class*Beginning Sunday, May 5, at 12 pm*

If you are interested in learning more about The United Methodist Church and what it means to be a member of the church and our local congregation, join us for our new member class. We plan to meet in the classroom across from the church office following worship on May 5, 12, and 19, but if you have a scheduling conflict, let Rev. Mark know. To register for the class, please see Rev. Mark or email him at msteiger@noumc.org. All are welcome!

Youth News

by Katie Chapman

Youth Work Mission Trip Meeting

Sunday, May 19, 5:30 pm, Westlake UMC

We are traveling to Detroit, Michigan, July 7 - 13 to work with Cass Community Center. This trip is open to all youth who will have completed 6th grade and up. Join us at our next meeting on May 19. Dinner will be provided. See John Wolter or Katie Chapman for more information.

Youth Work Mission Stock

Last call to purchase stock

We will be wrapping up stock sales soon, so if you are interested in supporting our youth or adults on their upcoming mission trip to Detroit, Michigan this summer, please see John Wolter, Katie Chapman, or any of our missionaries to purchase stock.

Breakfast with the Bunny

Thank you for offering hospitality to the community!

Breakfast with the Bunny was a huge success. We served over 80 people, who enjoyed pancakes, sausage, blueberry muffins, cinnamon rolls, cereal, juice, coffee, and tea. The kids (and some adults) enjoyed crafts, heard the Easter story, enjoyed face painting, and participated in an Easter Egg Hunt. We were blessed with twelve students from North Olmsted High School SITES and Key Club, who, along with several members of our congregation, gave up their Saturday morning to help us out. They set up, cooked, served food, prepared crafts, took photos, and cleaned up. Without these volunteers, this event would not have been possible. A HUGE THANK YOU to Jean Scothon, Brenda Forsberg, Bev Hixon, Greg Lavelle, Judi Wagner, Tammy Moore, Floyd Andrews, Ed Brewster, Marilyn Ransom, Jennifer Gaydos, Becky Riddlebaugh, Makena Chapman, Bill and Wendy Cooper, Amy Cooper, Will and Sally Stacho, Beth Cruz, Ray and Barb Schurr, John-John Weinert, Guylene Harold, Carole Bettinger, Reba Galvin-Yafanaro, Jim and Ellie Yager, and last but certainly not least, the bunny: Sydney Scothon! You were an AMAZING BUNNY.



Opportunities for Fellowship

Outing to Prologue Bookshop

Tuesday, May 14, 9 am; RSVP by May 9

Due to interest expressed in visiting Dan Brewster's bookshop in Columbus, we are organizing a trip on Tuesday, May 14 for anyone that would like to visit the store. We will leave from the church at approximately 9 am, arriving at the bookshop at about 11:30 am. After spending some time there, we will stop for lunch on the way out of town and arrive back at the church between 4 pm and 5 pm.

Anyone who is interested, please call Barb or Ed. Please reply by May 9.

If anyone would like to pre-order books to be picked up on May 14, they may do so at prologuebookshop.com. We would be happy to bring back any book orders.

Rev. Mark's Retirement Celebration

Sunday, June 23, following worship

Save the date! Please plan to join us for a salad buffet prepared by Chef Joel. Reservations are required. More details to follow.

Opportunities for Fellowship

Potting Party Sponsored by Adult Council

Wednesday, May 8, 5:30 pm
Dean's Greenhouse
(3984 Porter Road, Westlake)



We're having a Potting Party! Join us for an evening of fun at Dean's Greenhouse. The fun begins at 5:30 pm. Bring an empty pot or planting container, and the Dean's designers will help you create a combination pot for your home or garden. They will provide all the plants and materials. You pick out and pay for whatever you choose to use. We can also bring refreshments, so please bring a snack or beverage to share. No green thumbs required! We had a great time last year! See Tammy Moore or any Adult Council member for more details.

Lunch with Friends

Thursday, May 16, 11:30 am

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 of 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!)

United Methodist Women

by Barb Andrews



UMW Plant Sale

Saturday, May 11
Sort plants 9 am - 11 am; Pick up plants 11 am - 2 pm

To begin, we will meet at 8 am for breakfast at Sammi's Deli, if you're so inclined. The plants will then be delivered around 9 am, and sorting takes place from then until around 11 am. If you can help for those two hours, we would appreciate it. Pickup of the plants will be from 11 am until 2 pm. If you didn't get your order in, we will have extras for sale on Mother's Day.

Thank You

The general comment before the rummage sale was, "We don't have very much stuff." The comments afterward were, "We did pretty good." There is still at least one bill to be paid, but it looks like we will clear over \$1600, which isn't bad for a spring sale. We certainly couldn't have done it without your help. Whether you donated rummage, helped with sorting and pricing, stopped in for lunch, or were there for clean-up, we appreciate you. And, the bake sale table was overflowing with donations of yummy items. Guy, who picks up our leftovers, says we have the best and fastest workers getting his truck loaded.

I'm not through with the thank yous, either. Even though, once again, the USO cookies ended up being due on the day after the rummage sale, you came through. We added 25 dozen cookies to the collection taken to the USO office.

Opportunities to Give and to Serve

Native American Ministries Sunday

Sunday, May 5

Native American Ministries Sunday is one of six special offering Sundays in the life of The United Methodist Church. When you give on this day, your gifts help communities on reservations and in urban and rural settings.

Did you know there are 149 Native American United Methodist churches? Our church cares about equipping Native congregations to worship and serve as only they can. Join us this day by giving generously! You can make checks out to North Olmsted United Methodist Church and write *Native American Ministries Sunday* in the memo.

Oxcart Pantry Collection

Soup due May 12

Canned Fruit due June 9

We collected 84 jars of peanut butter for the Oxcart Pantry last month. Many of them were the large-sized jars which are really welcomed by some of the larger families that get help from the pantry. Our donation was well received since there had been only two jars left on the shelves. Our current item of the month is soup, due by May 12. After that we'll be collecting canned fruit, due by June 9. Many thanks to all of you.

May Free Community Meal

Thursday, May 30, 4:30 pm - 6 pm

St. Richard Parish is planning the menu this month. They are serving sloppy joe's, potato salad, baked beans, dessert, and beverages. All are welcome!



Ride Request from Westlake Village

Sunday mornings before & after worship

We have an on-going request to drive 1 to 3 people from Westlake Village to North Olmsted UMC for worship.

They live at: Brookdale Westlake Village, 28550 Westlake Village Drive (actually on Center Ridge Road)

The trip takes six minutes. They would like to be picked up around 9:45 am to 10 am, but they are flexible.

Please contact Janis Jarvis or sign up on the office door with your name and phone number. Also be sure to indicate if you can drive them one way or both ways.

Military Coupon Collection

The military can use coupons up to 6 months after the expiration date

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 be sure to clip the coupons before bringing them; however, it is not necessary to sort them. Place them in the envelope under the Outreach bulletin board by the nursery.

May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June Agape Deadline <i>May 15</i> Please email articles to office@noumc.org or place them in the Administrative Assistant's mailbox.			1 10 am UMW 4:30 pm Confirmation 8:30 pm AA	2 7 pm Choir	3	4 8:30 am UMM at Canary's Family Restaurant 10 am - 1 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist
5 <i>Native American Ministries Sunday</i> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 12 pm Nurture 12 pm New Member Class	6 6:30 pm Scouts 7 pm Bell Choir 8:30 pm AA	7 11 am AA 7 pm - 8:45 pm Girl Scouts of North Olmsted	8 10 am UMW 4:30 pm Confirmation 5:30 pm Potting Party at Dean's Greenhouse 8:30 pm AA	9 7 pm Choir	10	11 UMW Plant Sale 9 am - 11 am Sort Plants 11 am - 2 pm Pick up 10 am - 1 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist
12 <i>Mother's Day</i> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 12 pm New Member Class 6 pm Scouts	13 6:30 pm Scouts 7 pm Bell Choir 8:30 pm AA	14 9 am Outing to Prologue Bookshop 11 am AA	15 <i>June Agape Deadline</i> 10 am UMW 4:30 pm Confirmation 8:30 pm AA	16 11:30 am Lunch with Friends 7 pm Choir	17	18 10 am - 1 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist 5 pm - 8 pm Dover Center Diner Youth Work Mission Fundraiser
19 <i>Penny Sunday</i> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 12 pm Youth Council 12 pm New Member Class 5:30 pm Youth Work Mission Meeting (WUMC)	20 6:30 pm Scouts 8:30 pm AA	21 11 am AA	22 10 am UMW 4:30 pm Confirmation 8:30 pm AA	23	24	25 10 am - 1 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist
26 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 6 pm Scouts	27 <i>Memorial Day Office Closed</i> 8:30 pm AA	28 11 am AA 1 pm - 3 pm Alzheimer's Association	29 10 am UMW 4:30 pm Confirmation 8:30 pm AA	30 4:30 pm - 6 pm Free Community Meal	31	

Office Hours:

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

Director of Christian Education Office Hours:

Mondays 1 pm to 3 pm, Thursdays 12 pm 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
4600 Dover Center Road
North Olmsted, Ohio 44070

Agape Newsletter

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
North Olmsted, Ohio
Permit No. 25



May Free Community Meal



MAY

Thursday, May 30

4:30 pm - 6 pm

sloppy joes, potato salad, baked beans,
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.*