

Agape

Greek for "Love without Limits"



North Olmsted United Methodist Church

Vol. 53 Issue 5

June 2019

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This Month in Worship

June 2: Ascension of the Lord Sunday

Ascension Day is the fortieth day after Easter Sunday. On this day we gather to remember Christ's ascension into heaven. We will celebrate Holy Communion.

June 9: Pentecost

Pentecost is the fiftieth and final day of the Easter season. It marks the beginning of the Christian church and the proclamation of the Good News throughout the world.

You are invited to wear red as we celebrate Pentecost and remember the gift of the Holy Spirit to the church.

We will celebrate our graduates in worship, followed by a small reception.



June 16: Trinity Sunday / Confirmation Sunday

We will celebrate confirmation by welcoming youth as professing members of the church and of our local congregation. After worship, there will be a reception to celebrate the confirmands.

June 23: Second Sunday after Pentecost

Peace with Justice Sunday

We will observe Peace with Justice Sunday, a special offering Sunday in the life of The United Methodist Church. On this day, donations will go to fund programs that advocate for peace and justice in this country and around the world.

A luncheon to celebrate Rev. Mark's retirement will be held following worship. To RSVP, call the church office or sign up by June 16.



June 30: Third Sunday after Pentecost

Join us as we bid Rev. Mark and Ginny a fond farewell at their final worship service with us.



As I write this column, I realize that retirement is less than two months away. So I ask myself, “What do I really want to say to you, my congregation? What do I really want to leave with you?” I have written and taught and preached extensively about love over the past eight years. The Great Commandments are: Love God; and love your neighbor as yourself. I have often said there are three commandments here: love God, love your neighbor, and love yourself; but we are not always good at loving ourselves.

As most of you know, I was truly excited when I discovered The Daniel Plan because I believe it truly focuses on the five essentials of healthy living: Faith, Food, Fitness, Focus, and Friends. If all five of these are “in order,” we will generally have healthy and happy lives. The problem is that most of us, myself included, fall short in one or more of these areas.

Faith: Most members of our congregation have a very strong faith. Still, I know that some are questioning and struggling with issues of faith and belief. If you are among those, your pastor, a counselor, a Spiritual Director, or a Stephen Minister can help.

Food: I wonder how many people reading this can truly say they have a healthy diet, one free of trans-fats, low in sugar and starches, and rich in fruits and vegetables. I recently read that one third of all Americans are either pre-diabetic or suffering from type II diabetes. By eating a poor diet, we are robbing ourselves and those we love of years of quality life.

Fitness: Fitness goes hand-in-hand with food. Most Americans spend way too much time sitting. . . sitting at desks, sitting in meetings, sitting at dinner, sitting in front of the television. Activity is key to a healthy life. I wear a pedometer every day, but rarely do I get my

prerequisite 10,000 steps. I’m hoping to correct that when I retire. I’m also hoping to spend more time on my bicycle. Will you join me?

Focus: I had a friend who would regularly say, “What you focus on expands.”

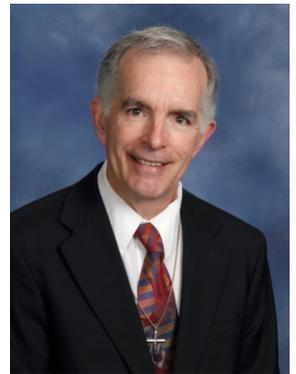
Dr. Amen, the PBS “brain doctor” and one of The Daniel Plan authors, likes to say, “Don’t believe every stupid thought that pops into your head.” I like to tell folks to focus on the positive; and the Apostle Paul says, “Focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, holy, just, pure, lovely, and worthy of praise. Practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.” (*Philippians 4:8-9*)

Friends: Humans were built to be in relationship. We need friends; and if you can’t find friends anywhere else, you can certainly find them at NOUMC. Be active. Join your friends in lots of healthy activities.

Over the next month, as I prepare to retire from full-time parish ministry, I hope and I pray that each of us will consider these five essential. I pray that each of us will honestly and openly identify the places we need to improve; and I pray that we will support each other in our efforts for a healthier lifestyle. It is only through loving and caring for ourselves that we can truly love and care for others. God loves us; and we are called to love ourselves.

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*



Congratulations to Our Graduates!

We will honor our graduates on June 9 during worship



Congratulations to **Alex Kieffer**, who will graduate from the Lawrence Upper School. Alex plans to attend Cuyahoga Community College in the fall, with plans to move to a 4-year university after receiving his Associate's degree. He would like to study either Game Design or Cyber Security.

Congratulations to **Zoe Bridges**, who will graduate with an honors diploma from North Olmsted High School on June 2. Zoe plans to attend Miami University of Ohio, where she will study Engineering.

Congratulations to **Cameron Ressel**, who will graduate from Mount Union University. He will receive his Doctorate in Physical Therapy. Cameron will take his board exams in either July or October.

We are celebrating our graduates on June 9 during worship, followed by a small reception. Please be sure to join us! *Blessings and best wishes to all of you from your NOUMC family!*

Sunday School Mission Project: 4 Paws for Ability

Donations due June 15

Thank you:

to all who purchased **flowers** to decorate our altar on Easter: **\$125.90** was raised.

to the **United Methodist Men**, who donated **\$500**.

to **Jane and Ray Burnett** who donated a milk jug filled with change that came to a total of **\$364.12**.

to all who purchased a **dog toy**: **\$40** was donated.

to **Toni Jackson** and **Sarah Jackson** for their donations.

and finally, to all who gave change on **Penny Sunday**: **\$669.75** was raised!



As we wrap up our Sunday School Mission Project for the year and get ready to send off the money we raised to Brynlynn and her family, the youth and I would like to say thank you to all of you for your support and your donations over the past several months. Because of you, we will be donating **\$2545.52** (to date) to help Brynlynn receive her service dog! If you haven't had a chance to give yet, we will be accepting donations until June 15.

Son-Fest/Homecoming

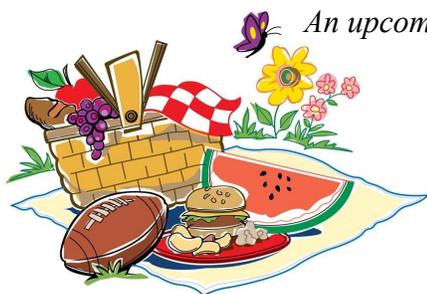
August 23 - 26

The Son-Fest committee has decided to have a booth at the North Olmsted Homecoming Festival this year instead of a carnival in our front yard. We will be sticking with the carnival theme and will have a few games, crafts, face painting, clowns, and balloons for people to enjoy as they pass by our booth. We will also hand out church fliers and information about all that we do here at NOUMC! The festival runs Thursday, August 23, at 6 pm through Sunday, August 26 at 6 pm. We will need at least two people to run the booth at all times during these days, and we will ask for people to volunteer in two-hour increments throughout the weekend. We are hoping this will be a fun way to get the community to notice our church and to see all that we do in service and love of Christ! Please see Wendy if you have any questions or if you would like to sign up to help!

Opportunities for Fellowship

Vermilion Valley Tour and Potluck Picnic

An upcoming Saturday in June; meet at the church at 3 pm



Adult Council is hosting a Vermilion Valley tour and picnic on a Saturday in June—date TBA. We'll begin with a visit to Schoepfle Gardens, stop at Vermilion Valley Vineyards, eat a picnic potluck meal at Matus Winery, head into downtown Vermilion and up to the beach, and make an optional stop at Paper Moon Vineyards. We'll meet at 3 pm at the church to carpool, and Claudia Taller will be our tour guide. Check out future bulletins and Weekly Reminders for the date and for more information. If you can join us, sign up on the office door. Contact Claudia Taller for more information.

Lunch with Friends

Thursday, June 20, 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!)

Rev. Mark's Retirement Celebration Luncheon

Sunday, June 23, 12 pm in Fellowship Hall

NOUMC has been blessed to have Rev. Mark lead our congregation for the past eight years. Rev. Mark's last day to preach will be on June 30.

We invite you to join in the celebration of Rev. Mark's retirement on Sunday, June 23. We hope that all will attend to honor and thank Rev. Mark and Ginny for their ministry and service with our congregation. The salad buffet meal will be prepared and hosted by the UMM and UMW. There is no charge for the meal, but reservations are required. RSVP to Barb Clough or call the church office at 440-779-6634 by June 16. If you would like to contribute to a gift for Rev. Mark, please contact Barb Clough or any SPRC member.



United Methodist Women

by Barb Andrews

Just a quick follow-up from the rummage sale. After all the bills have finally come in, we ended up with a profit of \$1629.07. The plant sale gave us a profit of \$540.70. Both of these activities were successes because of UMW members' hard work but also everyone else's support. It would not be possible for our group to accomplish so much if it were not for your help. We can't thank you enough.

We are now heading for our summer break. We continue to meet on Wednesday mornings and would love to have you drop in any of those mornings. We will see if we can come up with a day trip or two during the season and will keep you advised of our plans. We would welcome your joining us. Again, thanks for your help and support.

Opportunities to Serve and to Give

Nursery/Childcare Planning Group

Next meeting is Sunday, June 2, 12 pm in the Nursery

The Nursery Planning Group had our first meeting after church on Sunday, May 5. So far, we have eight church members who are volunteering to take on this exciting endeavor! Some of the items we'll be working on include:

- 'Rehabbing' our nursery/childcare area and making sure it stays clean and well-stocked
- Starting up an adult volunteer rotation to staff the Nursery on Sundays
- Making sure our policies match Safe Sanctuaries policies

Our goal is to have the Nursery ready to go (regularly staffed with volunteers and looking great!) on Rally Day this fall! Please let us know if you're interested in being in the volunteer rotation for the Nursery!

To date, the planning group members are Sarah Jackson, Judi Wagner, Kim Busser, Sue Shellhouse, Barb Clough, Zola Ward, Jean Scothon, and Tammy Moore. If you would like to be part of this group, we will be meeting again after worship on Sunday, June 2.



Support Camperships!

Penny Sunday, June 16

The June Penny Sunday offering will provide financial assistance for youth from our district to attend one of our United Methodist summer camps. Camp Aldersgate, Camp Asbury, and Camp Wanake offer activities like swimming, canoeing, sports, and arts and crafts to help youth develop social skills and form lasting relationships. East Ohio camps provide an opportunity for campers to explore God's creation in a fun and relaxed atmosphere and develop a sense of Christian values to carry back with them to their daily lives. Please give generously!



Peace with Justice Sunday

Sunday, June 23

Peace with Justice Sunday is one of the six special offering Sundays in the life of The United Methodist Church. Gifts given on this day fund programs that advocate for peace and justice in the United States and around the world. These programs empower United Methodists to speak out for removing structures and systems that harm God's children globally.

Although we may lack the resources alone to effect change in a broken world, your giving is vital for the UMC to continue its global ministries of reconciliation. Because of the Peace with Justice Sunday offering, the people of The United Methodist Church are able to make a difference together by sowing seeds—and yielding fruit—of peace.

Make checks payable to *North Olmsted United Methodist Church*, and write *Peace with Justice Sunday* in the memo.

Thank You

Thank you for thinking of me on Administrative Professionals Day. The beautiful planter of petunias is brightening up my back patio, and the cards you left for me were so thoughtful. I am thrilled to be on staff at North Olmsted United Methodist Church and feel blessed to be in ministry with you. Thanks again.

Peace, Megan Howe

Confirmation Sunday

June 16

On June 16, North Olmsted United Methodist Church will celebrate the confirmation of Makena Chapman and Mikenzie Dennis. Makena and Mikenzie have been attending weekly classes with Rev. Mark since January in preparation for becoming the newest members of our congregation. In February, they attended a weekend-long confirmation retreat at Camp Asbury in Hiram, Ohio and most recently helped Rev. Mark lead worship on Mother's Day. These two young ladies have worked very hard these past six months, and I could not be more proud of them. I have no doubt that they will go out into the world and be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Please plan on joining us at 10:30 am on Sunday, June 16 as we celebrate the confirmation of these two young ladies and welcome them as members of our congregation.

Meet Our Confirmands

Makena is 13 years old. She was born in Jacksonville, FL. Makena will be in 9th grade next year. She runs Cross Country and Track. She has one younger sister, three dogs, and two hedgehogs. She loves to read, swim, travel, and spend time with her family and friends.

Mikenzie is 13 years old, and will be in 8th grade next year. Her favorite color is blue. She has four siblings, an older brother, a little sister, and two little brothers. Her favorite subjects in school are history and math. In her free time she likes to sing, listen to music, and read.



Youth Work Mission Trip

July 7 - 13

Our 2019 Youth Work Mission Trip to Cass Community Center in Detroit, Michigan is rapidly approaching. We will begin loading the truck with all of our belongings on Saturday, July 6. On Sunday, July 7 at 10:30 am, Rev. Hoyte will commission the missionaries during worship and then we will load the vans and depart for Detroit. Our return date is July 13.

We will have one last meeting in June; date TBA. Watch the bulletins and Weekly Reminders for more details.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	July Agape Deadline <i>June 15</i> Please email articles to office@noumc.org or place them in the Administrative Assistant's mailbox.					1 8:30 am UMM at Canary's Family Restaurant 10 am - 1 pm Sanctuary Reserved 11 am Oberammergau Trip Meeting
2 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 12 pm Nursery Planning Group	3 8:30 pm AA	4 11 am AA 7 pm The Dover Players	5 10 am UMW 4:30 pm Confirmation Class 8:30 pm AA	6 7 pm The Dover Players	7	8 10 am - 1 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist
9 Pentecost Graduate Recognition 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 12 pm Ad. Board	10 Annual Conference 9 am - 2:30 pm Step by Step 8:30 pm AA	11 Annual Conference 9 am - 2:30 pm Step by Step 11 am AA	12 Annual Conference 9 am - 2:30 pm Step by Step 10 am UMW 8:30 pm AA	13 Annual Conference 9 am - 2:30 pm Step by Step	14	15 <i>July Agape Deadline</i> 10 am - 1 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist
16 Penny Sunday Confirmation Sunday Father's Day 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 12 pm Confirmation Reception	17 9 am - 2:30 pm Step by Step 8:30 pm AA	18 9 am - 2:30 pm Step by Step 11 am AA	19 9 am - 2:30 pm Step by Step 10 am UMW 8:30 pm AA	20 9 am - 2:30 pm Step by Step 11:30 am Lunch with Friends	21	22 10 am - 1 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist Fellowship Hall reserved all day
23 Peace with Justice 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 12 pm Rev. Mark's Retirement Luncheon 6 pm Scouts	24 8:30 pm AA	25 11 am AA 1 pm - 3 pm Alzheimer's Association	26 10 am UMW 8:30 pm AA	27 4:30 pm - 6 pm Free Community Meal	28	29 10 am - 1 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist
30 Rev. Mark's final worship service with us 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 12 pm Outreach Meeting	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 United Methodist Church
4600 Dover Center Road
North Olmsted, Ohio 44070

Agape Newsletter

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June Free Community Meal



Thursday, June 27

4:30 pm - 6 pm

chicken and noodle casserole, salad, rolls,
peaches, beverages, and cupcakes with sprinkles

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.*