

# Agape

Greek for "Love without Limits"



North Olmsted United Methodist Church

Vol. 53 Issue 6

August 2019

## Inside this issue:

Pastor's Remarks	2
Christian Education	3
Youth Work Mission	4
Opportunities to Serve and to Give	5
Youth News, Fellowship	6
August Calendar	7
Community Meal	8

## Church Staff

Pastor: Hoyte Wilhelm  
[hoytewilhelm@gmail.com](mailto:hoytewilhelm@gmail.com)  
440-779-6634, ext. 16

Administrative Assistant: Megan Howe  
[office@noumc.org](mailto:office@noumc.org)  
440-779-6634, ext. 10

Christian Education: Wendy Cooper  
[sundayschool@noumc.org](mailto:sundayschool@noumc.org)  
440-779-6634, ext. 13

Youth Director: Katie Chapman  
[youth@noumc.org](mailto:youth@noumc.org)  
440-779-6634, ext. 14

Organist: Marlene Dirksen  
[mkdpteach@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mkdpteach@sbcglobal.net)

Choir Director: Gabriela Martinez  
[gabrielamarmar@aol.com](mailto:gabrielamarmar@aol.com)



Discover  
Digital  
Literacy!

## Digital Literacy Class for Seniors

*Free 16-week class starting soon at North Olmsted UMC*

*Informational Meeting on Sunday, August 4, 12 pm in classroom 7*

**Digital Literacy** has become a necessary life-skill, as technology continues to permeate into every nook-and-cranny of our lives.

Join Tak Sato, Founder of locally based 501(c)(3) nonprofit Center for Aging in the Digital World, as he talks about their *free* 16-week **Discover Digital Literacy!** program offered to seniors 60 and older, for the first time at North Olmsted United Methodist Church starting in late August.

Cohorts will embark on a journey of discovery through hands-on learning utilizing supplied tablets. If you are interested, please attend the **Connectedness CONVO** information session taking place on Sunday, August 4, right after the worship service, in classroom 7.



Center for Aging  
in the Digital World  
*Empowering Seniors with Digital Literacy.*

## Spread the Love and Joy of Christ at Homecoming!

*Thursday, August 22 - Sunday, August 25*

Join us at North Olmsted UMC's Homecoming booth!

We'll offer crafts, balloons, and games! Sign up in Fellowship Hall to help.

*For more information, see the Homecoming article on page 3.*



## What Are Your Favorite Scriptures?

Pastor Hoyte Wilhelm

One of the most powerful ways of getting to know one another is by sharing our favorite Scriptures. I've listed "Ten of My Favorite Scriptures" and the reasons I selected them. I invite you to share some of your favorites, too! This kind of sharing can deepen and enrich our lives of faith and relationship-building in the life of the church.

**Exodus 20:8** "Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy." *Everyone needs a time of worship to become centered, refreshed, rested and renewed.*

**Psalms 46:10** "Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth." *Our lives can become overwhelming with all kinds of "doing" activities and so God calls us to take more time to simply "be" and find moments of stillness.*

**Proverbs 3:5-6** "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." *This passage, selected by my wife Terri and me for our wedding day, has kept me focused in our 32 years of marriage.*

**Micah 6:8** "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" *This was one of my father's favorite Scriptures. In a world that often condones actions of injustice, hatred, mean-spiritedness and self-serving pride, God encourages us to live into a higher calling in life.*

**Matthew 7:12** "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets." *This is one of my mother's favorite Scriptures. The world would be a much better place if more people would truly model this kind of treatment with others.*

**Matthew 11:28** "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." *Remember that all of us are carrying heavy loads in life and the only One that can truly give us relief is God in Jesus Christ.*

**Matthew 22:37-40** "He said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'" *This is easier said than done, but if we love God first and foremost we will become a beautiful, accepting and loving reflection of God in our interactions with ALL people.*



**Mark 1:17** "And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.'" *I love to fish for fish, but there is nothing more fun and rewarding than catching people to develop a relationship with God and Jesus!*

**John 3:17** "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." *Many people are familiar with John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life;" but the scripture immediately following is often overlooked as a central message of Christians and churches: SAVING not condemning words and actions.*

**Romans 8:38-39** "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." *This is a very hopeful and promising message when people are feeling hopeless and as if God is absent, very distant or may have stopped loving them. Nothing could be further from the truth!*

Would you like to share some of your favorite Scriptures?

In Christ,

Pastor Hoyte

## Please Join Us at Homecoming

*Thursday, August 22 - Sunday, August 25*

North Olmsted United Methodist Church will spread the love of Christ to our community by hosting a booth at the annual North Olmsted Homecoming. We will have crafts and games, balloons, and other fun activities, and we will hand out information about all that we do here at North Olmsted United Methodist Church! Homecoming runs from Thursday, August 22 to Sunday, August 25. We need at least two people to run the booth at all times. Please see the volunteer sheets posted in Fellowship Hall to sign up for a time slot or two, or to help us set up beforehand or clean up afterwards. You can volunteer for a couple of hours or for the whole day, whatever works for you! Volunteers will help pass out flyers or assist with crafts and games during the festival. Please see Wendy for more details or if you have questions.

### 12 X 12 Tent / Canopy with Sides Needed

Please see Wendy if you have a tent/canopy with sides that you could lend us during the Homecoming Festival.

## Sunday School Teachers Needed!

*Starting in September*

Summer is flying by and fall will be here before we know it, and that means that Sunday School will be starting up again! We are in need of several volunteers to teach. The Bible says that we are to pass on our faith to our children: "These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up" (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

## Please Consider Teaching this Upcoming School Year!

Working with our youngest members and teaching them about Jesus is a joy, and sometimes we learn more from them than they learn from us! This year we will have an Elementary School, a Middle School, and a High School/Young Adult class. Our aim in these classes is to have several volunteers who teach on a rotation basis as their schedule permits (rather than one teacher who teaches every week). Wendy will be looking for materials that are engaging for the students but easy for the teacher to prepare. We usually have some fundraising days and some service days scattered throughout the schedule, too. We would also like to find volunteers to help Craig Mueller teach our traditional Adult class. Please watch your weekly bulletins for further information and updates regarding our Sunday School program, and please see Wendy if you have any interest in teaching or if you have any questions!

## 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*



## Why Go on Youth Work Mission Trips?

This is a question I am often asked, and frankly, often ask myself. When Mike and Andy left with the Oak Hill mission trip to West Virginia in 2006, I found myself sobbing alone in the parking lot. I decided then that no matter if it meant sleeping on the floor all week, manual labor, or giving up the other comforts of home, going on the trip had to be better than sending my family off alone. So for the next few years we attended as a family and as the kids grew and graduated from the program, I found myself still “needing” to go.

I know it was in part my need to play “mama bear” for the attending youth missionaries combined with the tremendous enjoyment from the fellowship and sharing that happens amongst the adults.

But by far, the number one reason I continue to attend as an adult is to witness the “good.” Every trip has challenges and various highs and lows, but every trip has “good.” It may be the look on the face of a youth realizing just how fortunate they are, or the smiles of hope on the families we serve. I guess it has become my own guilty pleasure to bear witness to the tremendous “good” that takes place.

Our trip to Detroit was awesome. Since my return, I have struggled to find words to describe what happened to us on Friday afternoon, and finally during his sermon, Pastor Hoyte put it into words.

We were invited to attend the Cass Social Center which serves as an Adult Day Care Center for disabled and developmentally delayed adults. One of their clients is a DJ, so every Friday they have a dance party. As our group entered the building, experiencing sound bouncing off the walls, we walked very quickly through the room looking straight ahead, making very little eye contact. We received a short orientation and history of the center, and we were then invited to join the party. One-by-one they started to “pull-us” in. It would start with a hand clap, or a finger snap, and before long we were dancing, we were smiling and we were joyous. We were able to see beyond any differences that were apparent when we walked in and look directly into each other’s eyes, both the youths and the adults. I have never felt such pure joy. I didn’t know what happened, but I knew we were leaving as different people. This is what Pastor Hoyte described as “freedom.” Letting go of my inhibitions, allowing my rhythm-less, awkward, uncoordinated self be there in the moment, present with the “good.” It was amazing.

God is good.



### Work Mission Ice Cream Social

*Sunday, August 11, 6 pm*

Thank you all for your tremendous support of our youth work mission trip! Now it's time to celebrate with our annual Slideshow and Ice Cream Social. All are invited. It is also a great time to invite friends or relatives who may be interested in going with us next year.

## Announcements

### Upcoming Dates for Your Calendars

*SPRC Consultation with the District Superintendent: October 14, 7 pm, at Rockport UMC*

*Charge Conference: Saturday, November 9, 9 am - 11 am, Rocky River UMC*

## Opportunities to Serve and to Give

### Support Community Meals!

*Penny Sunday, August 18*

Our August Penny Sunday collection will go towards helping to fund our Community Dinner. Funding for the dinner comes out of the church's general fund if enough contributions do not come in for it. Any money you give to the Penny Sunday collection, therefore, helps both the dinner and the church's general fund. This undertaking provides help to our community by providing a good meal for some of our neighbors who find it hard to do it for themselves at times. Besides that, if you have helped or eaten at this meal, you probably have seen that it provides a place for our neighbors, many of them seniors, to socialize. You can tell this is important because some show up even before the doors are open and sometimes are there while our volunteers are trying to clean up. Please dig deep to support this much-appreciated mission to friends in our area.



### August Free Community Meal

*Thursday, August 29, 4:30 pm - 6 pm*

Dave and Barb Linton are planning the menu this month. We are serving salad, ham, pasta salad, green beans, bread, dessert, and beverages. If you are willing to help, please sign up on the Outreach board in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!



### Nursery Shower

*Throughout the month of August*

In August we will be "showering" our Nursery and Toddler rooms with a fresh look and some new items for the children. Please see the "Wish-List" in Fellowship Hall if you would like to make a donation or need ideas for something to purchase. We hope to unveil our updated Nursery and Toddler rooms on Rally Day. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

### Oxcart Pantry Collection

*Pasta sauce due August 11 and canned meat and fish due September 8*

We surpassed our goal once again. In July, we donated 92 cans of vegetables. School supplies and money for the supplies also went over to the pantry so that many of the children in North Olmsted will have a good start for the school year. Our next items are pasta sauce and canned meat and fish. Your neighbors appreciate your help.

### 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.



### **Youth Group Movie Night**

*Thursday, August 1, 7 pm - 9 pm, in the Youth Room*

Join us for a Superhero Movie Night! A light snack will be provided. This event is open to youth in sixth grade and up. Please see Katie for more information. RSVP to Katie at [youth@noumc.org](mailto:youth@noumc.org).

### **Blessing of the Backpacks**

*Sunday, August 11, during 10:30 am worship*

Whether you're a teacher or a student in preschool, elementary school, middle/high school, or college, it's time for the dreaded "S" word again: school! Let's start the year off right by bringing our backpacks to church and allowing Pastor Hoyte to say a blessing over them for a GREAT year. Join us for this special blessing during Sunday morning worship on August 11.



### **North Olmsted Homecoming**

*Thursday, August 22 - Sunday, August 25*

We are looking for a few youth volunteers to help out at the North Olmsted Homecoming booth that we will host this year. If you are interested in helping with crafts and games, please see Katie Chapman or Wendy Cooper.

### **Youth Work Mission**

I just wanted to thank you all again for your support and prayers for our youth and adults while we were in Detroit, Michigan. We had a successful week working with Cass Community Social Services Center, and it would not have been possible without the love and support of our church family back home. It's a real blessing to be a part of this family.

## **Opportunities for Fellowship**

### **Lunch with Friends**

*Thursday, August 15, 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 at 440-234-3611. (If you forget to call, come anyway!)

### **Schoepfle Gardens Outing**

*Saturday, September 14*

Adult Council is planning an outing at Schoepfle Gardens in the Lorain Metroparks on the afternoon of September 14; please mark your calendars. More information is forthcoming.

*Adult Council's next meeting is Sunday, September 8, at 11:45 am in classroom 7.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>September Agape Deadline</b></p> <p><i>August 15</i></p> <p>Please email articles to <a href="mailto:office@noumc.org">office@noumc.org</a> or place them in the Administrative Assistant's mailbox.</p>				<p><b>1</b></p> <p>7 pm - 9 pm Youth Group Movie Night</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b> 8:30 am UMM at Canary's Family Restaurant</p> <p>10 am - 1 pm Sanctuary Reserved</p>
<p><b>4</b></p> <p>10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship</p> <p>12 pm SPRC</p> <p>12 pm Connectedness CONVO</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>8:30 pm AA</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>11 am AA</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>10 am UMW</p> <p>8:30 pm AA</p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>10 am - 1 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist</p>
<p><b>11</b> <i>Blessing of the Backpacks</i></p> <p>10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship</p> <p>12 pm Stephen Ministers</p> <p>2 pm - 5 pm FH Rental</p> <p>6 pm Work Mission Ice Cream Social</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>8:30 pm AA</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>11 am AA</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>10 am UMW</p> <p>8:30 pm AA</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p><i>September Agape Deadline</i></p> <p>11:30 am Lunch with Friends</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>10 am - 1 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist</p>
<p><b>18</b> <i>Penny Sunday</i></p> <p>10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship</p> <p>12 pm Youth Council</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>8:30 pm AA</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>11 am AA</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>10 am UMW</p> <p>8:30 pm AA</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>6 pm - 10 pm Homecoming</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>6 pm - 11 pm Homecoming</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>10 am - 1 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist</p> <p>12 pm - 11 pm Homecoming</p>
<p><b>25</b></p> <p>10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship</p> <p>12 pm - 6 pm Homecoming</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>6 pm Connections Team</p> <p>8:30 pm AA</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>11 am AA</p> <p>1 pm - 3 pm Alzheimer's Association</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>10 am UMW</p> <p>8:30 pm AA</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>4:30 pm - 6 pm Community Meal</p> <p>6 pm Worship Committee</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>10 am - 1 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist</p>

**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



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

North Olmsted United Methodist Church  
4600 Dover Center Road  
North Olmsted, Ohio 44070

## Agape Newsletter

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED  
DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY



# August Free Community Meal



*Thursday, August 29*

*4:30 pm - 6 pm*

salad, ham, pasta salad, green beans,  
bread, desserts, and beverages

Held at North Olmsted United Methodist Church  
4600 Dover Center Road, North Olmsted, Ohio 44070

440-779-6634 + [www.noumc.org](http://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.*