

Agape

Greek for "Love without Limits"



North Olmsted United Methodist Church

Vol. 53 Issue 8

October 2019

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North Olmsted UMC
United Methodist Women's Annual

Church Mouse Craft Fair



Saturday, October 12, 9 am - 3 pm

Fellowship Hall

Join us for:

over 20 local crafters, food, and a bake sale.

Free Admission.

For more information, see page 9.

Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 26, 5 pm - 7 pm

North Olmsted UMC parking lot

You are invited to decorate the trunk of your car (nothing too scary, please) and pass out treats at Trunk or Treat! We anticipate that this outreach opportunity will draw a bunch of children and families from our community, so we are in need of participants. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or contact Katie Chapman at youth@noumc.org if you can pass out candy or help in any way.

All are welcome to this free, community event!

For more information,
see page 7.



Connections Team

Coming Soon! New Digital Church Calendar

Want to know what's happening at NOUMC? Starting in October, you will be able to find out using our new digital calendar from your phone, tablet, or computer. It's as easy as opening up the church web site (www.noumc.org), where you'll find the calendar on the front page. You can view events by day, week, month, or in a list. You can also search for specific events. It's really easy to use; please give it a try.

Also, if you happen to be a user of Google calendar (or another iCal-compatible calendar), you can now add church events as a view in your personal calendar if you wish. See the NOUMC web site for easy instructions on how to do so.

Of course, the timing of events in the life of the church will continue to be visible in a number of ways. A monthly calendar is published in every issue of the *Agape*, and significant events will always be noted in our weekly bulletins and shared as announcements during Sunday worship. But the calendar on the web site will always have the most up-to-date and reliable information about all the exciting things happening at NOUMC.

It is worth noting, though, that only Megan in the church office can add, delete, or edit items on the church calendar. So, if you have a need to amend an event, please contact her by phone or at office@noumc.org.

We are continuing to explore new ways to connect with everyone in the church, so stay tuned for more in the coming months.

Photo Denial Form

The Connections Team is in the process of updating many of our pamphlets, flyers, and internet based materials (website, Facebook page, etc.). We would like to include photos from church events and functions. Your photo may be included in an item in print or on the internet. Most of the time it is a side view or a shot from the back of the Sanctuary. If you do not want your photo to be included please let us know.

If you would like your photo to be excluded from any printed or internet based products, please contact the office and fill out a denial form so we can honor your wishes. We will do our best to make sure your photograph is not included and request that you notify us if it has been posted in error. It is only necessary to fill out the form if you do not want your photo included. Thank you all for your cooperation!

Nursery News

Nursery and Preschool Room Changes

A small group of people met last spring and determined that the nursery and preschool room were in need of updating. In addition, it was time to reexamine our policies and procedures and recruit a volunteer staff. Over the summer the preschool room was painted, everything was cleaned and sanitized, and several new items were purchased for both rooms. A huge thank you to all of you who generously donated your time or bought gifts for the rooms. If you haven't seen them, please peek in and check them out. We greatly appreciate all of your support! And now, we are ready:



For the children who come to worship, we are ready!

For the grandchildren of our congregation, we are ready!

For the children of AA members, we are ready!

For the families who attend our Community Meal, we are ready!

For the children who haven't been born yet, we are ready!!!

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me" (Mark 10:14).



“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” (John 3:16). *How does this life-giving scripture offered by Jesus impact your relationships with others? How do you live and share the passage in God’s kingdom so that others may gain a joyful glimpse of eternal life here and now?*

Jesus taught and lived that the most meaningful and lasting relationships are based in God’s love. He said, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35). *How are you living and sharing this passage in all your relationships with family, friends, colleagues, and those who are different than you? How are you receiving and passing on the love of God and Jesus Christ in and beyond the community of faith at North Olmsted UMC?*

Jesus also taught: “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Matthew 5:43-44). In a related way, the Apostle Paul taught: “Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive” (Colossians 3:13). *Who is persecuting you and who do you possibly name as your “enemies?” How are you calling on God in your efforts to love and forgive them? Who is someone you can trust to talk about your struggle to do so?*

The Apostle Paul also taught the importance of love. His message to the Corinthians in part was: “Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” (I Corinthians 13:4-7). And to the Galatians, Paul espoused: “...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23). *How do you love others unconditionally even when it is challenging to do so? Do your words and actions—your very being—reflect the fruits of the Spirit?*

In the balance of what is most important in life and faith it is this: loving relationships through the love, power, grace, mercy, and forgiveness of God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

I encourage you to join me in our ongoing efforts to live our lives of love in this way.

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Hoyte

*The following poem was offered at the end of
Pastor Hoyte’s sermon on September 15.*

When I Say, I Am A Christian, by Carol Wimmer

“When I say, ‘I am a Christian,’ I’m not shouting, ‘I’ve been saved!’
I’m whispering, ‘I get lost!’ That’s why I chose this way.

When I say ‘I am a Christian,’ I don’t speak with human pride.
I’m confessing that I stumble – needing God to be my guide.

When I say ‘I am a Christian,’ I’m not trying to be strong.
I’m professing that I’m weak and pray for strength to carry on.

When I say ‘I am a Christian,’ I’m not bragging of success.
I’m admitting that I’ve failed and cannot ever pay the debt.

When I say, ‘I am a Christian,’ I don’t think I know it all.
I submit to my confusion asking humbly to be taught.

When I say ‘I am a Christian,’ I’m not claiming to be perfect.
My flaws are far too visible, but God believes I’m worth it.

When I say, ‘I am a Christian,’ I still feel the sting of pain.
I have my share of heartache which is why I seek His name.

When I say, ‘I am a Christian,’ I do not wish to judge.
I have no authority – I only know I’m loved.”

Christian Education

Support the Youth Mission Project:

CANstruction is a competition between teams of architects and engineers who create sculptures out of canned foods. The competition is designed to draw attention to hunger and to inspire donations of food and money. The sculptures are put on display, and after the competition, all of the canned food is donated to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

Monkey Bread Fundraiser

Sunday, October 13

Throughout the year, the youth will be holding fundraisers to raise money to donate to the CANstruction Mission Project. We ask that you keep our mission project 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 on October 13: we are selling monkey bread! Order forms are available in Fellowship Hall.



Sunday School Teachers Needed

We are still in great need of Sunday School teachers in both the middle school and high school/young adult classes! If you have any interest in being a part of the teaching rotation, please see Wendy Cooper for more information. You can sign up on the sheet in classroom 7 for the dates you would like to teach.

October Penny Sunday

October 20

October's Penny Sunday collection will go towards the Sunday School CANstruction Mission Project. Please be sure to bring in your spare change. The more we raise, the more cans of food the team can use to make their sculpture and the more gets donated to the food bank!



Happy Halloween!

Celebrate in Sunday School on October 27

The Sunday School classes will celebrate Halloween with treats in their classes on October 27! Kids are welcome to come in costume.

Save the Date: Justice and Witness Program

Sunday, November 3, 9 am - 10 am

You are invited to a Justice and Witness program with a focus on poverty (aka economic justice). Join us during the Sunday School hour as we do some activities that will help us gain understanding of some of the challenges facing those who do not have the monetary resources many of us enjoy.

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



Opportunities to Give

Financial Support for Disaster Relief in Response to Hurricane Dorian

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has responded to the damage caused by Hurricane Dorian's hit to the Bahamas and the southeastern region of the United States. UMCOR has awarded a solidarity grant to Bahamas Methodist Habitat, the Disaster Ministry of the Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church of the Caribbean. The grant provides emergency short-term funding for basic human needs of those affected by the storm.

To contribute to the international relief and recovery efforts in the Bahamas, make a check payable to *North Olmsted UMC* and write *Advance #982450* in the memo. You can also give to disaster recovery in the United States by issuing a check to *North Olmsted UMC* and writing *Advance #901670* in the memo. One hundred percent of all contributions go to designated projects. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



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 giving helps to provide scholarships for national and international graduate students whom God has gifted to learn and to serve. Make checks payable to *North Olmsted United Methodist Church* and write *World Communion Sunday* in the memo.

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.

Calendar Collection

We are collecting extra 2020 calendars that you may receive in the mail. They will be donated to City Mission and the Cuyahoga County Jail. Look for the collection box in Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your donations.

October Free Community Meal

Thursday, October 31, 4:30 pm - 6 pm

North Olmsted UMC Fellowship Hall

St. Richard's Catholic Church is serving sloppy joes, macaroni and cheese, a vegetable, drinks, and dessert. We are in need of a couple of people to be in the building to answer questions and help as needed. If you are willing, please see Barb Linton. All are welcome!



Opportunities to Serve and to Give

Harvest of Hope for Stepstone Academy Fundraiser

Now through October 13



North Olmsted UMC has a goal to raise \$500 to donate to Stepstone Academy for needed classroom supplies.

Stepstone Academy was started and is supported by Ohio Guidestone. Ohio Guidestone is a connectional ministry of The East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Stepstone Academy is a 100% tuition free, K-3 charter school in Cleveland's Central neighborhood. It is committed to building a collaborative learning culture that unites staff, families, and the community to provide our students with pathways for growth, academic excellence, and lifelong success.

If you would like to contribute, check out the board in Fellowship Hall. On the board are envelopes with pre-set dollar amounts on them. Please take one, place your donation in it, and place the envelope in the Sunday collection plate by October 13. Thank you!

Oxcart Pantry Collection

Collecting peanut butter until October 13

Collecting mashed potatoes and gravy for Thanksgiving baskets

We donated 92 cans of meat and fish last month. Once again you came through. We are now collecting peanut butter which is probably our most expensive item. We hope to make our goal of 80. We are also collecting mashed potatoes and gravy for the pantry's Thanksgiving baskets. They expect to give baskets to over 200 families.

We have been playing around with a good place to leave our green cart for donations and decided we would put it in Fellowship Hall. Let us know if this is a better location.

Looking ahead, we plan to ask for some Adopt-a-Families for December, and we will fill as many stockings as we can. We'll have a list of items in the next Agape, but if you see any of the toiletry items on sale, you can stock up. These can be placed in the basket outside the Nursery for now until our Christmas Stocking is out.

As the summer days come to an end, our thoughts turn towards cool fall nights and cold winter days. Thus, it is time to prepare for the change in seasons. Our annual hats and mittens collection will start Sunday, October 6 and end October 27. The donations can be for ages 1 – 99. **Yes, we accept adult items!** Keep in mind that many boys starting at age 9 need adult gloves to keep warm. The warm items will be donated to Front Steps, St. Augustine's, Brookside Hunger Center, and Simpson Church. Donations can be put on the hat and mitten tree in Fellowship Hall.



Trunk or Treat



Saturday, October 26, 5 pm - 7 pm

Please join us on for NOUMC's first annual Trunk or Treat! This is a free community event that provides a safe place for kids of all ages to Trick or Treat.

We are in need of people to decorate their trunks in any kid-friendly theme and then hand out candy to trunk or treaters. There will be a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall or you can contact Katie Chapman at youth@noumc.org.

Haunted Hay Ride

Saturday, October 19

Meet at Rockin'-R-Ranch at 7:30 pm (19066 E River Road in Columbia Station)

Prepare to be spooked! Join us for an evening of terror and suspense at Rockin'-R-Ranch on October 19 for a Haunted Hayride. This event is open to 6th grade and up. Cost will be \$10 per person. Please RSVP to Katie Chapman at youth@noumc.org by October 13.

Youth Work Mission Fundraiser at Burntwood Tavern

5600 Great Northern Blvd. in North Olmsted

Wednesday, October 9

Dine at Burntwood Tavern on October 9 and 15% off your dine-in or take-out bill will be given to Youth Work Mission for our upcoming mission trip this summer. In order to donate part of your bill to Youth Work Mission, you must take the flyer, found on page 7, with you. Additional flyers are available in Fellowship Hall.

Youth Work Mission Meeting

Sunday, October 27, 5:30 pm

Westlake UMC

Opportunities for Fellowship

Oktoberfest Potluck

Following worship on Sunday, October 27

Adult Council is sponsoring an Oktoberfest Potluck on Sunday, October 27, immediately following the service. There is guaranteed to be Bratwurst and Strudel but lots of other favorites too! Bring any dish you would like to share or just come hungry and join in the fellowship! "PFIAT DI!"—May God protect you.



Lunch with Friends

Thursday, October 17, 11:30 am

Our group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 11:30 am. Watch the bulletin for the location. Join us for a couple of hours of food and fellowship. To RSVP, call and leave a message with Carole Bettinger.

Announcements

Dover Players Presents a Fall Musical!



Parktown - A Historical Musical Comedy

(Who thought learning your history could be so complicated?)

Written by Keith Behrendt and Directed by Jeff Campbell

Nov. 1-3, 9-10, and 15-17 at NOUMC

Fri/Sat at 8 pm and Sun at 3 pm

Note: No performance on Friday, Nov. 8 due to the NOUMC Rummage Sale the following day

Synopsis: Jim comes back to his childhood home of Parktown and suggests celebrating a Bicentennial; not everyone agrees it is a good idea, along with worries of what researching the town's history may reveal. History can be subjective. This musical play takes us through Jim's journey to research, build, and promote a celebration, while discovering his own family history in Parktown. Celebrate 200 years from something at The Bicentennial of Parktown.

Contact Dover Players (Linda Little) at doverplayers@gmail.com for additional information.

Concession profits and a portion of ticket sales benefit the church.





DINING FUNDRAISER

Join us for a fundraiser at
Burntwood Tavern North Olmsted
 5600 Great Northern Blvd.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 9

Present this flyer to show that you are supporting
**NORTH OLMSTED UNITED
 METHODIST CHURCH YOUTH
 WORK MISSION**

15% of your purchases will be donated
 to help support this very special organization.

Dine-in or Take-out.
 Flyer must be present.

Please call for reservations.
 440-455-9428

*excludes alcoholic beverages

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 11 am AA 3 pm ACTS at Ascension Lutheran 7 pm Dover Players	2 10 am UMW 6 pm Connections Team 7 pm Dover Players 8:30 pm AA	3 7 pm Choir 7 pm Dover Players	4 10 am - 12 pm DDL 1 pm - 3 pm Sanctuary Reserved 2pm CPR Training	5 8:30 am UMM at Canary's Restaurant
6 <i>World Communion Sunday</i> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 4 pm Open Table at Garfield Heights UMC	7 6:30 pm Scouts 7 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Dover Players 8:30 pm AA	8 11 am AA 7 pm Dover Players	9 10 am UMW 11 am - 11 pm Work Mission Fundraiser at Burntwood Tavern 7 pm Dover Players 8:30 pm AA	10 6 pm Stephen Leaders 7 pm Choir 7 pm Dover Players	11 10 am - 12 pm DDL 2 pm - 6 pm Craft Sale set-up	12 9 am - 3 pm UMW Church Mouse Craft Sale
13 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am Monkey Bread Fundraiser 6 pm Scouts	14 6:30 pm Scouts 7 pm SPRC Consultation at Rockport UMC 7 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Dover Players 8:30 pm AA	15 <i>November Agape Deadline</i> 11 am AA 6:30 pm Stephen Ministers 7 pm Dover Players	16 9 am UMW Outing to Amish Country 7 pm Dover Players 8:30 pm AA	17 11:30 am Lunch with Friends 7 pm Choir 7 pm Dover Players	18 10 am - 12 pm DDL 1 pm - 3 pm Sanctuary Reserved	19 7:30 pm Youth Group Haunted Hayride
20 <i>Penny Sunday Laity Sunday</i> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 12 pm Ad. Board	21 6:30 pm Scouts 7 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Dover Players 8:30 pm AA	22 11 am AA 1 pm Alzheimer's Association 7 pm Dover Players	23 10 am UMW 7 pm Dover Players 8:30 pm AA	24 7 pm Choir 7 pm Dover Players	25 10 am - 12 pm DDL 1 pm - 3 pm Sanctuary Reserved	26 5 pm - 7 pm Trunk or Treat
27 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 12 pm Oktoberfest 2 pm - 7 pm Dover Players 5:30 pm Work Mission at Westlake UMC 6 pm Scouts	28 6:30 pm Scouts 7 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Dover Players 8:30 pm AA	29 11 am AA 7 pm Dover Players	30 10 am UMW 7 pm Dover Players 8:30 pm AA	31 4:30 pm - 6 pm Community Meal 7 pm Choir 7pm Dover Players		

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
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Permit No. 25



October Free Community Meal

OCTOBER



Thursday, October 31

4:30 pm - 6 pm

sloppy joes, macaroni and cheese,
vegetables, drinks, and dessert

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.*