

Agape

Greek for “Love without Limits”

North Olmsted United Methodist Church

Vol. 54 Issue 7

August 2020

Enduring the Long Haul

It's been a long time since we've worshipped in-person with one another. March 8 was the last time that we gathered on Sunday morning for Sunday school, fellowship, and worship. On March 15, the worship bulletin, announcements page, and sermon text were sent to people and posted on the church's website. On March 22, John Wolter, Phil Wolter, Marlene Dirksen, and I worked together to offer live-streamed worship in the sanctuary.

Since that time, we have teamed with you and others in the life of the church to offer live-streamed worship from my home through the gifts of technology and the home broadcasting studio of Phil with John at his side. While it has been a joy to discover and share worship in new ways, 20 weeks, going on 21 for August 2, is a long time to be away from one another's company! We do not yet know when we will worship in-person again but as you know we are targeting September 13 as a possibility as long as COVID-19 does not prevent us from doing so in respect for everyone's health and safety.

Seeking living messages of hope as we endure the “long haul” is important so that we can be encouraged and offer strength for one another. The Apostle Paul offered an enduring message of hope to the people of Rome as made known in Romans 5:1-5. He had compassion for their trials and sufferings as I believe he also would for us. Note these powerful words and post them near your computer, on your refrigerator, on your bathroom mirror, in your Bible, or on your bedside table.

“Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”

As we endure in hope together, know that the love of God and Jesus Christ will always be with you through the sustaining presence and power of the Holy Spirit! How so? It is made known through the creative and adaptable ways in which you continue to connect with each other: prayers, phone calls, emails, text messages, greeting cards, Zoom meetings, mission outreach through financial support and material goods, care for the church building and grounds, advancement of audio/visual technology, and safe-distancing practices with small group fellowship, study, and conversation outside the church. Fantastic, NOUMC! Carry on!

Faithfully and prayerfully in Christ,

Pastor Hoyte

330-428-1545

hoytewilhelm@gmail.com



COVID-19 Reminders

Worship with Us Online!

Live-stream worship on Sundays at 10:30 am

Join us online as we live-stream worship on Sundays at 10:30 am! Visit our [YouTube channel](#) to worship with us. The videos will also be available to view later. For more information and assistance, visit www.noumc.org or our [Facebook page](#).

Visit <http://www.noumc.org/worship-remote-worship-resources/> for bulletins and weekly announcements.

Office Hours

To protect the health and well-being of you and the staff, we will be working from home whenever possible. Please conduct business with the staff by phone or email, when possible. If you leave a voicemail at the church or send an email, a member of the staff will respond. If you need to conduct business in person, please call ahead to be sure someone is in the office to assist you, or contact a staff member and leave a voicemail to make an appointment.

Pastoral Care

Please reach out to Pastor Hoyte by using his cell phone or email address (330-428-1545 or hoytewilhelm@gmail.com) if you have any questions or want to schedule an individual time to talk as he will be working remotely much of the time from the church office consistent with the rest of our support staff.

Pastor Hoyte continues to keep you in his thoughts and prayers. God *IS* with us!

Stay Connected—We Are Not Alone

If you would like to subscribe to receive weekly e-newsletters, up-to-date email announcements from Pastor Hoyte, and prayer concerns from the congregation, email office@noumc.org.

Financial Contributions to North Olmsted United Methodist Church

Please continue to be faithful with your financial gifts by sending your stewardship contributions to the church office to the attention of the Financial Secretary, Ed Brewster.

September Agape Deadline

August 15

Please email articles to office@noumc.org or mail them to the church, attention Megan Howe by August 15.

Church Staff: 440-779-6634

Pastor: Hoyte Wilhelm
hoytewilhelm@gmail.com
ext. 16
cell: 330-428-1545

Christian Ed.: Wendy Cooper
sundayschool@noumc.org
ext. 13

Youth Director: Katie Chapman
youth@noumc.org
ext. 14

Admin. Assistant: Megan Howe
office@noumc.org
ext. 10

Music Director: Gabriela Martinez
gabrielamarmar@aol.com

Organist: Marlene Dirksen
mkdpteach@sbcglobal.net

Social Media: Hanna Moore
social@noumc.org

Reopening Team Update

Dear Friends,

A sub-committee of the Reopening of NOUMC Committee has set up guidelines for small group gatherings. We know many of you are looking forward to being able to meet at the church for fellowship, committee meetings, and projects. We are trying to make this happen while keeping everyone as safe as possible.

Please see the "Procedures for In-Church Small Group Gatherings at NOUMC". If you want to set up a meeting, please call and leave a message or email the church office and Megan will be able to help you.

You are encouraged to continue Zoom meetings and outdoor meetings at the church or at public parks as a good and safer option than meeting indoors. For outdoor meetings, masks and social distancing continue to be required.

Thank you,

Pastor Hoyte, Michelle Wolter, & Jean Scothon

Procedures for In-Church Small Group Gatherings at NOUMC

(Small groups means 10 or fewer people, at this time)

The following procedures are to be practiced by small group leaders and participants in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Please follow these procedures in respect for every one's health and safety.

1. All surfaces are to be sanitized prior to the gathering and after; this includes bathrooms, tables and chairs, doorknobs, light switches, door handles, etc. All trash is to be taken to the dumpster at the end of the gathering.
2. Screening is to be administered. This includes taking of temperatures, checking for other symptoms, recent travel histories, and contact with someone that has tested positive for COVID-19. This information will be recorded in case contact tracing becomes necessary. A form will be provided for group leaders to complete.
3. Hand washing with soap or hand sanitizer is required before and after the meeting.
4. Wearing of face coverings is required.
5. Physical distancing is to be maintained at all times (a minimum of 6 ft.)
6. No food or beverages will be served.
7. A gathering must be approved by the church office before it is permitted to take place. Not all rooms of the church will be open.
8. An assessment of the gathering will be submitted to the office. A form will be provided for group leaders to complete.
9. The organizer is to see that all procedures are followed.

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*



Summer Fun with Adult Council



Ice Cream Social & Trivia Evening



Tuesday, August 4, 6 pm - 8 pm, Church Parking Lot

Ready for an evening out? Join us in the NOUMC parking lot for trivia and ice cream. We will leave a blank parking spot between each car. You are welcome to bring a lawn chair if you prefer to sit alongside your car. Please wear a mask and try to maintain a six-foot distance from others. There will be a mix of trivia categories, and we will have a variety of individually wrapped popsicles and ice cream novelties to choose from. Please feel free to bring a pencil, paper, and anything else you will need to enjoy the evening. There will also be a Penny Sunday collection jar, so those who are interested can donate to the August Penny Sunday Fund. To RSVP or for more information, email Tammy Moore.

For the past few months, Adult Council has been looking for ways that we can experience fellowship and stay connected with one another. Now that it has been nearly six months, we are looking for new ways that we can safely socialize within the confines of COVID-19. We hope that each of you will determine what is best for your individual situation.

We also ask for your understanding, cooperation, and respect with the following in considering your attendance at events:

- If you have recently been exposed to someone with COVID-19, it will be best that you do not attend.
- If you have recently been out of state, it will be best that you do not attend the event or any other church event for at least 14 days.
- If you are physically unable to wear a mask, it will be best that you do not attend the event.
- If you have a compromised immune system, it will be best that you do not attend the event.

Virtual Garden Party on Facebook

Check Facebook for the post

All are welcome to our virtual garden party on the Friends of NOUMC Facebook page! Since we didn't have our annual gathering at Dean's Greenhouse this year, we will share what we have in our home planters, pots, and garden beds. You are invited to share a photo of your flowers and greenery and the stories behind them. Please see the post in the NOUMC Friends Facebook Group and add your photo. If you aren't on Facebook, email a photo to Tammy Moore.

Zoom Dinner Party

August 12, 6 pm

Guests should prepare or be preparing their meal during the event and share their recipes and the stories behind what they cooked for dinner. We know you can cook, and we miss our potlucks! A Zoom link will be provided prior to the meeting, and we're hoping a lot of you show up. For more information or to RSVP, email Claudia Taller.

United Methodist Women

The UMW thanks everyone for the donations to our FUNDrive. We especially thank you for your patience in holding onto your donations for such a long time.

The UMW hopes to start meeting again soon. When we do so, we will continue to practice safe distancing and to wear masks. We all miss our church family.

Opportunities to Give and to Serve

Support Midwest Mission Distribution Center

Penny Sunday is August 16

The Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) is a disaster relief facility located near Springfield, Illinois that is a cooperating depot in the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Relief-Supply Network, providing cleaning buckets and emergency relief kits to those in need. MMDC's campus provides opportunities for individuals and groups of all walks of life, denominational backgrounds, abilities, and ages to help provide disaster relief kits and resources as well as educational and medical supplies to those in need. North Olmsted United Methodist Church has sent mission teams to MMDC in recent years.

Our August Penny Sunday offering will go to support the Midwest Mission Distribution Center and their efforts to provide much needed supplies to people experiencing need in the wake of disaster. For those receiving supplies, we are offering hope that they are loved. *Make checks payable to NOUMC and write August Penny Sunday in the memo. Send checks to the church office, attention Ed Brewster, Financial Secretary.*

Oxcart Pantry Collection

Collecting monetary donations until Friday, August 7

This fall when school starts, in whatever form it will take, Oxcart Pantry is giving school backpacks and Target and Walmart gift cards in denominations of \$10 or \$20, so students can purchase whatever school supplies they may need. To support this effort and to help purchase backpacks for students, you can make a monetary donation of any amount; *please make checks payable to NOUMC and write backpacks in the memo line.*

Free Community Meal (Carry-Out Only)

Thursday, August 27, 4:30 pm - 6 pm

The menu for August is ham, macaroni and cheese, green beans, and dessert. For more information, contact Barb Linton.

Thank you!

Thank you so much for the graduation package you sent me! It means so much to me that you continue to keep me in your thoughts and prayers! It was a very kind and generous surprise! I hope you are all staying well and continue to grow in your faith during this pandemic. Thank you for making a special effort to congratulate me during this time. — Kirsten Ressel

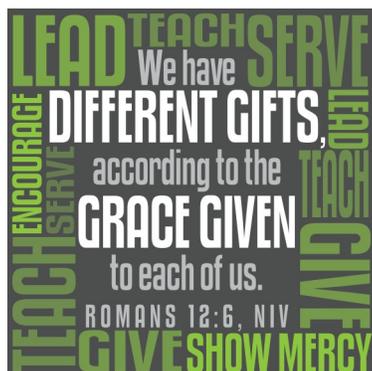
A heartfelt thank you to all of the prayers, kind words, and cards that have been sent to my family. They are of great solace. Peace be with you always. — Kara Quan

Floyd and Barb thank all of you who helped to make our 60th anniversary so special even though we were under a stay-at-home order. Our refrigerator is covered with many wonderful cards, and so far the only one who hasn't acted happy for our celebration is our mail carrier.

Thank you for the generous gift you gave me as I completed my second year in ministry with you at NOUMC. I am grateful for the blessing of being a part of your community! — Megan Howe

Christian Education

Consider Teaching Sunday School This Year!



Fall is fast approaching, and hopefully that will also mean a return to Sunday School at some point! What our classes will look like and when they will begin will depend on the COVID-19 situation. We will be placing a top priority on everyone's health and safety. When we do return to Sunday School in the classroom, we will need several volunteers to teach classes on all levels. Please consider teaching our children, youth, or adults this year! We offer elementary, middle school, high school/young adult, and adult classes. All classes welcome new teachers into their rotation! Please contact Wendy at sundayschool@noumc.org if you are interested in signing up or if you have any questions.

A Message from the Stephen Ministries Team

Abundance

This morning as I sat in my wooded backyard and listened to the birds high up in the tree canopy, I noticed a doe laying in the grass at the rear of our property. "How wonderful my world is," I thought. For my little world is precious and full of abundance, good beyond measure. I am blessed.

I don't always see life that way. That feeling of wellness can easily disappear if I look at news headlines. We seem to have lost our way, and I feel powerless to change anything.

In Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, verse 9:8, he said to the early church, "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." If we put our faith in God, we will live in abundance, and in fact will dwell in it. Why worry? For if we see how much we are given, we can do good work, we will have no choice, for it would seem we can give as abundantly to others as God has given to us.

God's abundance is ours even in these dark times. We have the choice to embrace all that we have and recognize the gifts we've been given, to know abundance, or we can choose to be mired in fear and worry and see the glass as half empty, not half full. Abundance, plenty of the good things in life, is offered to those who trust in Him, for by seeking the kingdom of God, life becomes joyous and purposeful just by embracing it.

I read Paul's letter as a challenge. We will "abound in every good work." We live in abundance so we can give abundantly. Those news headlines are a call to action, and God gives us strength to do what we can to make the world a better place by speaking out, serving, and being present for people.

I looked back at the deer, whose eyes were always on me, and tried to convey with my eyes that all was well. And then I said a prayer, "God be with me as I open up my heart." As God resides in me, I go about my day, open to what He calls upon me to do. There's no room for worry.

Claudia Taller, Stephen Minister



Church Family News

3	Barb B.
4	Mary B.
4	Barbara B.
4	Michael K.
6	Liam M.
8	Bill C.
11	Emily K.
14	Shawn D.
15	Jane H.
15	Bill R.
22	Craig M.
23	Brigid D.
26	Bob N.
29	Peggy C.
31	Dave L.
31	Frank M.



AUGUST

Birthdays & Anniversaries

3	Christine & Shawn M.
27	Marilyn & Bill R.
30	Katie & Bob C.

August Dates to Mark on Your Calendars

Tuesday, August 4: Ice Cream Social
 Friday, August 7: Monetary Donations for Oxcart Due
 Friday, August 7: Putt-Putt with Pastor Hoyte
 Wednesday, August 12: Zoom Dinner Party
 Sunday, August 16: Penny Sunday
 Sunday, August 16: Kids Summer Event
 Thursday, August 20: Lunch with Friends
 Thursday, August 27: Free Community Meal (Carry-out Only)

Prayer Concerns

First Responders
 Victims of natural disasters
 Those suffering from mental illness
 Those affected by gun violence
 Those who are homeless
 Stephen Ministers, Care Receivers
 Our condolences to Randall S.,
 following the passing of his
 brother, David S
 Our condolences to Kara Q.,
 following the passing of her
 mother, Lillie Q.
 Our condolences to the family of
 Kay S., following her passing
 Scott, brother-in-law of Barb L.
 Frank M.
 Danielle, Gwen H.'s granddaughter
 Keith A.
 Gwen H.
 Mary Lou L.

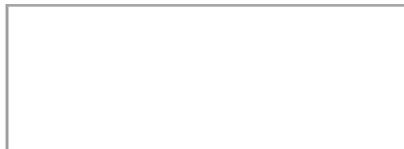
Josh W. and family
 Barbara B.
 Dave L.
 Sterling B.
 Bev, lifted by Josh O.
 Viola C.
 Amanda, lifted by Jane P.
 Pippa & Heather, Ron's sisters
 Rita R.
 Carl, friend of Rita R.
 Darlene, friend of Barb A.
 Susan W.
 Uri, grandson of Michael & Jennifer
 Donna, sister of Carol N.
 Adrienne, lifted by Tom M.
 Bill and Vince, brothers of Reba
 Russ, friend of David L.
 Andy, Faye W.'s son
 Dusty, nephew of Reba Y.
 Israel, Sarah's student

Dawn, friend of Susan W.
 DeNiro and family
 Connie C.
 Jim, friend of Bill & Marilyn R.
 Donna friend of Judy K.
 Kevin, friend of Barb & Ron C.
 Zack, son of Jennifer G.
 Brian R.
 Steve, son of Mary Ellen M.
 Carol, lifted by Jane & Ray B.
 Selene, lifted by Carole A.
Those in Military Service:
 Christopher Y., USAF,
 Matthew F., USAF
 Lt. Col. Bill G., USMC
 Cpl. Trevor C., USMC



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

Agape Newsletter



August Free Community Meal Carry-Out Only



*Thursday, August 27,
4:30 pm - 6 pm*

Carry-Out Menu:
ham, macaroni and cheese,
green beans, and dessert

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.*