

Agape

Greek for “Love without Limits”

North Olmsted United Methodist Church

Vol. 54 Issue 3

April 2020

“Do Not Be Afraid: Easter Is on Its Way!”

“...Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.” Matthew 28:10

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior!

I trust that you are experiencing Lent and the approaching time of Easter with new awakenings and a spirit of hope and promise for renewed life through the Risen Christ!

With this in mind, I encourage you to *tell* the Good News of the Risen Christ. This high calling of discipleship cannot be done through our own strength. *Why?* Most, if not all of us, are impacted in some way by challenges with relationships, families, careers, health, and hopes for the wellbeing of the church, country, and world.

Are you troubled by a disagreement or hurtful experience with a family member or friend? Are you experiencing strains in your job or with adjustments in retirement? Are you worried about your own health or the health of a loved one in light of the news of COVID-19? Are you anxious about the future of the local and connectional church? Are you concerned about the deep divides of people in their ways of thinking and behaving with one another?

The Good News is that the love of God and the Risen Christ are present with whatever we are facing, and it is the strength of our faith that gives us courage to move forward each day, one person, one-moment-at-a time! *We need not worry or be afraid!*

Thanks be to God, through Jesus’ proclamation to those who first experienced his resurrection, we can live hopefully and courageously with the words: *“Do not be afraid!”* We can do so by *telling* and *living* the Good News that Jesus, the Risen Christ, is alive and well!

Easter is on its way and will soon be experienced as an encouraging reminder of the power of resurrection life!

Pastor Hoyte

Walk with us through Holy Week as we worship together online

Palm Sunday, April 5

Live-stream Worship at 10:30 am

We remember Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Good Friday, April 10

Online worship experience available beginning at 7:30 pm on our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#)

We remember the significance of Jesus dying on the cross.

Easter Sunday, April 12

Live-stream Worship at 10:30 am

We celebrate Jesus’ resurrection and proclaim, “Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!”



Updates Regarding COVID-19 Concerns

Worship with Us Online!

Live-stream worship on Sundays at 10:30 am

Following the encouragement of Bishop Tracy S. Malone, we will not have public worship for the next few Sundays in order to support the protection of people's health.

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

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

Office Hours

To protect the health and wellbeing 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.

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

Charge Conference regarding NOUMC Governance

The Administrative Board recently approved a proposal for some significant improvements to NOUMC's governance structure. This new structure will enable the church to plan more effectively, think and act more strategically, and operate more efficiently. This is an important element of *Our Faithful Journey*, the church's long-term vision.

"Governance" is a broad term that includes many elements related to how the church makes decisions about our ministry and our administration. It includes, among other things, the number and composition of our committees and ministry teams, the processes under which they operate, how we develop our annual plans, and how the congregation stays informed about all matters that are important to the life of the church.

The current NOUMC governance model has been in place for many years. It works well for tactical decision-making and coordinating activities throughout the church. However, it has some significant shortcomings that could be impediments to the church achieving the strategic goals and brighter future articulated in *Our Faithful Journey*. The current proposal outlines these challenges in more detail. It also proposes a new structure to address these challenges without sacrificing the best elements of our current structure.

It is important that the whole church understand and approve the new structure. As you may have heard during worship, we were planning to hold a Charge Conference on April 5, in which the plan was to be presented and the church membership was to be asked to vote on its adoption. However, we have now decided to postpone the Charge Conference until a later date, to help keep everyone in the church safe and healthy during the coronavirus outbreak. But please watch for future announcements of the rescheduled date and plan to join us for this important discussion.

For those not aware, a *Charge Conference* is the basic unit of organization in the hierarchy of the United Methodist Church, comprised of a single church (or, in some cases, a collection of local churches that share a pastor). It typically meets once per year to evaluate the ministry of the church, approve the budget, set salaries for the pastor and staff, recommend any candidates for ordination, and other important business. Because the governance structure affects all areas of the church, the Administrative Board felt it was important that the whole church have an opportunity to review the plan, ask questions, and formally approve it before implementation. As such, it was recommended that the new governance proposal be presented and voted upon at a special meeting of the NOUMC Charge Conference.

If you have any questions, please contact Andrew Walsh (*Our Faithful Journey* leader), Pastor Hoyte, or any member of the Administrative Board.

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 and to Serve

Oxcart Pantry Collection

*Collecting canned fruit, juice,
and spaghetti sauce for when we meet again*

For now, The Greater Cleveland Food Bank is keeping Oxcart Pantry stocked with food. Hold onto your donations of food, and we will collect it later as we find there is a need. In the meantime, donate to the April Penny Sunday offering which will benefit Oxcart Pantry through The Greater Food Bank. More details below.

Free Community Meal

Carry-Out Only

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

In an effort to feed our neighbors while also protecting the health of everyone, we are serving a carry-out only Free Community Meal in April. The meal will be pulled pork sandwiches, potato salad, coleslaw, and dessert. For more information, contact Barb Linton.

Support Oxcart Pantry through The Greater Cleveland Food Bank

Penny Sunday is April 19

You can make checks payable to NOUMC and write April Penny Sunday in the memo

April's Penny Sunday offering will go to support Oxcart Food Pantry in North Olmsted through The Greater Cleveland Food Bank. The Greater Cleveland Food Bank is able to provide four meals for every dollar it receives. If by April 19 we are continuing to worship remotely, please send a check, attention Financial Secretary, Ed Brewster, to the church office. Make checks payable to *NOUMC* and write *April Penny Sunday* in the memo. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Support Native American Ministries

Native American Ministries Sunday is April 26

Native American Ministries Sunday is one of six special offering Sundays in the life of The United Methodist Church. When you support Native American Ministries Sunday, you equip seminary students who will honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries. And you empower congregations that are finding fresh new ways to minister to their communities with the love of Christ.

Checks can be made payable to *North Olmsted United Methodist Church*. Write *NA Ministries* in the memo. Please send checks to the church, attention Financial Secretary.

Oxcart Pantry Easter Baskets Update

This year's Easter baskets will probably be distributed late because of COVID-19 concerns. After we have rescheduled the March Penny Sunday offering to collect money for the baskets, we will decide how to fill the baskets and deliver them. Once again, Fairview Grace is joining us by donating baskets, too. The need continues, and with the talk of cutbacks of SNAP and Medicare help, it is destined to grow.

United Methodist Women

*The dates in the UMW articles are tentative and may change due to the spread of COVID-19.
We will do our best to keep you up to date on any changes.
We appreciate your understanding in these trying times.*

UMW Spring Plant Sale

*Orders due Sunday, April 19
Pick-up Saturday, May 9
Just in time for Mother's Day!*

While we have been hibernating, Dean's Greenhouse has been busy planning and planting for Spring. For this year's plant sale, we are offering a large selection of annuals, vegetables, herbs, and hanging baskets. This year we are also offering *Dean's gift cards in \$10, \$20, and \$50 values!* You can shop at the greenhouse and still support the UMW. Dean's Greenhouse on Porter Road offers a huge selection of annuals, perennials, vegetables, and herbs as well as gardening soils, fertilizers, containers, and more. Color photos of the plants in our sale and info on Dean's Greenhouse may be found at deansgreenhouse.com.



We are happy to send you a form by email or mail. If you need one, contact Darlene Owings or Sharon Werner.

Lunch with Friends

Thursday, April 16, 11:30 am

Our group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 11:30 am for food and fellowship. In light of COVID-19 concerns, we will keep this date open, and if we need to keep a safe distance, we will plan a virtual opportunity for fellowship instead. More details to come. To RSVP, call and leave a message with Carole Bettinger.

UMW FUNDrive

Coming this Summer!

The United Methodist Women are holding a FUNDrive! In place of a rummage sale we will be accepting your donations of clothing and household goods in good, clean, and sellable condition. We will have a trailer in the church parking lot to accept your donations.

Here is a list of items you can set aside to donate:

UMW FUNDrive - What We Will Accept:

- Clothing
- Shoes
- Bedding & towels
- Accessories: hats, gloves, scarves, ties, socks, purses, wallets, backpacks, belts, & jewelry
- CDs, DVDs
- Electrical items
- Toys & games
- Kitchen items
- Knick-knacks
- Sporting goods

We cannot accept: furniture and large household items, baby gear, cleaning products, flammable items, or building materials.

All soft goods should be bagged in large garbage bags and other items packed in manageable-sized boxes that can be closed.

Christian Education

Sunday School Mission Project: CANstruction Display Dates

Tentative dates are September 18 - October 4

The CANstruction team hopes to build their structure on Thursday, September 17 at Southpark Mall, after the mall closes for the day. All structures will tentatively be on display from Sept. 18 - Oct. 4. The team hopes you will be able to stop by at some point to see their work!

The theme of this year's CANstruction competition is: *It CAN Be Fun to Do the Impossible*. John Wolter's team, the team we are supporting, has come up with a concept for their structure: playing off the popular video game, they will build a *Portal To The Moon!* John says, "Imagine if there was a gateway you could just step through and you're on the moon!" All of the money raised by our youth this year will be given to John and his team so they can purchase the canned food and other items they will need to build their structure. When the structure is disassembled, all of the canned food will be donated to the Cleveland Food Bank!

Honoring Our Graduates

We will be honoring our graduates during worship sometime in June. 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. Email Wendy at sundayschool@noumc.org.

Adult Sunday School New Study:

Faithful and Inclusive: The Bible, Sexuality, and The UMC, by Rob Fuquay

Dates to be announced

Facilitated in turn by Pastor Hoyte, Rev. Alice, Rev. Don, and Rev. Joel

Faithful and Inclusive allows you to gain an understanding of how United Methodists can be both obedient to God's Word and fully welcoming to LGBTQ persons in the church.

This six-session resource for Sunday schools and small groups has been designed for participants to develop their own perspectives on the Bible's passages related to homosexuality. Rev. Rob Fuquay, pastor of one of the largest United Methodist congregations in the country, creates a safe space to navigate through this thorny issue, relying on the biblical-interpretation approach of Methodism's founder, John Wesley. Each video session also features the faith journeys of members of the LGBTQ community and their families. Closed captioning included.

The six 45-minute video sessions cover these subjects:

- 1: How United Methodists Interpret Scripture
- 2: Old Testament Passages
- 3: The Influence of Culture on How We Read the Bible
- 4: New Testament Passages
- 5: The Jesus Ethic: What Did Christ Say?
- 6: Where Does the United Methodist Church Go From Here?

Everyone is welcome.

Youth News

Chili Cook-off

Pending Date of Sunday, April 26, 11:30 am

Our annual chili cook-off fundraiser for Youth Work Mission has been postponed until April 26. If you have a soup or chili you would like to enter, please contact Katie Chapman at youth@noumc.org or Tammy Moore.

Youth Work Mission

Next meeting is Sunday, April 26, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

All who are interested in joining us for our upcoming trip to Epworth Center in Bethesda, OH from July 12 - July 18 are welcome to our next meeting. Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm with the meeting to follow.

East Ohio Conference Youth News

Summer Camp Registration

The East Ohio Conference encourages you to plan for the future and register for camp. We are planning for and looking forward to seeing your campers this summer. So that you are aware, our normal refund policy states if we cancel an event or program, you will receive a full refund. This policy would apply in these current circumstances.

Camp by the Numbers! The average American youth spends:

- 270 minutes watching TV a day
- 4 minutes playing outside a day
- 7.5 hours a day on electronics

A week at camp provides 10,080 minutes away to consider, to dream, to believe that they are loved and created for a purpose.

Visit <https://www.eocumc.com/camps/summercamp.html> to learn about summer camps being offered this year. Visit <https://eastohiocamps.campbrainregistration.com/> to register for Summer Camp 2020.

You can call with any questions you may have:

East Ohio Camps office in North Canton, (330) 499-3972 ext. 108;

Camp Aldersgate, (330) 627-4369; Camp Asbury, (330) 569-3171; Camp Wanake, (330) 756-2333.

YAC 2020

Early bird registration has been extended to May 8. Full refunds will be given should the event need to be canceled.

Church Family News



APRIL

Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Wendy & Bill C.
4	Diane & Ray P.

May Agape Deadline

April 15

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

2	Kara Q.
3	John W.
5	Kim B.
18	Louise H.
19	Claudia T.
20	Joan P.
20	Amye S.
20	Charlene V.
22	Carol N.
22	Jim Y.
23	Amy F.
23	Becky R.
25	Daniel B.
26	Carole B.
30	Judy S.

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 John and
 Char V. following the passing of
 John's aunt, Mary R.
 Barbara B.
 Dave L.
 David J,
 Cheryl, sister of Mike B.
 Sterling B.
 Bev, lifted by Josh O.
 Tina, Brenda F.'s niece
 Amanda, Jane P.'s
 granddaughter
 Viola C.
 Kay, Ron S.'s mother

Pippa and Heather,
 Ron S.'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.
 Glenn K.
 Gary S.
 Rev. Mack, lifted by Frank O.
 Bill and Vince, brothers of
 Reba Y.
 David L.
 Russ, friend of David L.
 Andy, Faye W.'s son
 Dusty, nephew of Reba Y.
 Israel, Sarah's student
 Dana, lifted by Jan R.

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

Thank You Notes

Dear NOUMC Family,

Your kindness and expression of sympathy during the loss of Jerry Roman, Mary Jane's son, Pat's brother, Craig's "brother", and Addie's uncle has been God's gift to us during this very difficult time.

We are grateful to have people like you (a second family) in our lives, who show the meaning of friendship and God's love when it is needed most.

God Bless All Of You!

The Mueller Family

The Entire NOUMC Family,

Hello! For many years I have wanted to say thank you for your love and support. You have sent me gift box after gift box and card after card for my entire college career, and every time I received a gift from you all, I was overjoyed. You have all supported me since I was a child, and for that, I thank you. I know my visit to NOUMC is long overdue, but I want to say, I miss you all, and I am so appreciative of all you have done for me over the years. It did not go unnoticed. I miss you and love you all.

Cameron Ressel

P.S. Thank you for celebrating my graduation in absence. The cake was beautiful.

Dear Barb and all those who participated in the 2019 Adopt-a-Family Program,

On behalf of the Department of Youth and Family Services, I would like to extend my gratitude for participating in the 2019 Adopt-A-Family Program. Your time, thoughtfulness, and generosity were greatly appreciated and made for a truly memorable Christmas to the families you sponsored:

It was a pleasure working with you in helping to make a difference in our community this holiday season.

Georgia Wilder

Oxcart Pantry

We would like to thank you for the wonderful, beautiful gifts. They will be used in joyful ways.

Family #32

Thank you so much for all the gifts I received. I really appreciated everything.

Sincerely, Anthony (Family #22)

P.S. God Bless

To Our NOUMC Friends,

Thank you so much for all your prayers, cards, and gifts for Stella after her broken leg. She looks at her cards every day and has chewed them, colored them, and enjoyed them. Your thoughtfulness will help all of us get through a long month until she gets her cast off. God bless all of you!

Kim and Ken Delfing
and Stella, Rachael, and Tom Berry

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous donation of laundry soap and Christmas stockings! I can't tell you how much everyone loves these things! It is such a treat for everyone when they receive the stockings! Thank you!

Sincerely,

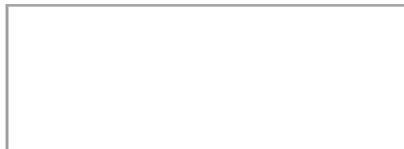
Georgia Wilder

Oxcart Pantry



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

Agape Newsletter



April Free Community Meal Carry-Out Meals Only



*Thursday, April 30
4:30 pm - 6 pm*

We are serving carry-out meals of pulled pork sandwiches, potato salad, coleslaw, 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.*