

# Agape

Greek for “Love without Limits”



North Olmsted United Methodist Church

Vol. 54 Issue 1

February 2020

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*Sunday, February 2*

On Sunday, February 2, our youth will help fight hunger and poverty, joining a national effort to refocus Super Bowl weekend into a weekend of sharing God’s love with our neighbors in need, by participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring. This effort helps us to be mindful of those who are without even a bowl of soup to eat as we enjoy our Super Bowl celebrations. This year’s donations will be sent to the North Olmsted Oxcart Food Pantry.

The youth will be available at the Sanctuary doors following worship on Sunday to collect any monetary donations you may have for Oxcart Pantry.

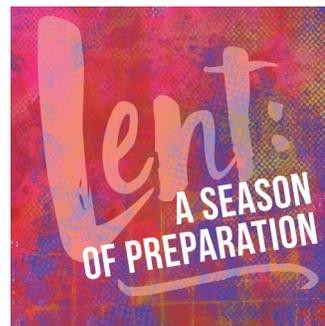
*Thank you for making a difference in our community!*

## The Season of Lent

*Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26.*

*Ash Wednesday Worship  
with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion*

*7 pm in the Sanctuary*



*During the Season of Lent, Holy Communion will be celebrated  
in the Sanctuary on March 1 and April 5  
and in the Chapel on the other Sundays in Lent.*



## Opportunities to Give and to Serve

### Support the Free Community Meal Ministry

*Penny Sunday is February 16*

The February Penny Sunday collection will help support our monthly Free Community Meal. This outreach mission is one of the ways we keep our pledge of “Feeding the Community - Body, Mind, and Spirit”. Some who attend the meals are in need of the food, some are in need of the company, and some are there to volunteer, but we all benefit. While we hope you give generously on February 16, please remember that donations are needed and appreciated any time.



### Free Community Meal

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

*Fellowship Hall*

We are serving BBQ chicken, macaroni and cheese, a vegetable, dessert, and beverages. If you can help to serve in this ministry to the community, please sign up on the Outreach Board in Fellowship Hall. For more information, please contact Barb Linton.



### Oxcart Pantry Collection

*Collecting soup until February 9*

*Collecting canned vegetables until March 8*

Our busiest month of the year is over. In December we collected 60 cleaning items (mostly laundry detergent) and 48 cans of beans, all for Oxcart Pantry. We also stuffed 60 Christmas stockings with personal items, small gifts, and candy (thanks for your help, Sunday School youth.) You probably realized by the amount of gifts under the tree in the Sanctuary that four North Olmsted families had a great Christmas. It took three cars to get all the gifts over to the Pantry. The green donation box will soon reappear in Fellowship Hall as we prepare to make Easter baskets for our North Olmsted neighbors. More information will be provided in upcoming bulletins and the next Agape.

## Opportunities for Fellowship

### Lunch with Friends

*Thursday, February 20, 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.



### Chinese New Year Party

*Saturday, February 8, 6 pm, Fellowship Hall*

*RSVP by February 2*

“May your happiness be without limits!” Adult Council is celebrating the Chinese New Year on Saturday, February 8. Come for an evening of fun and fellowship to learn about the Chinese Zodiac and sample various Asian foods. Are you a Rat? Quick-witted, resourceful, but lacking courage? Or are you a creative, compassionate, and friendly Rabbit? All ages are welcome!! Please invite your family and friends! Cost is \$6 (age 10 and over). Sign up in Fellowship Hall or email Tammy Moore.

## Random Acts of Kindness

Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm



*“... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23).*

It's easy to get immersed in Valentine's Day—a special day of giving gifts of love—roses, cards, and chocolates, and other such things. The Day has certainly developed far beyond what anyone could have imagined since it was attributed to Saint Valentine, a third-century Roman saint, commemorated on February 14 during the High Middle Ages in respect for traditions of courtly love.

Acts of love on Valentine's Day can be expressions of Christian Love or Agape love: the love of God for humans and their reciprocal love for God, extending to the love of one's fellow humans (paraphrased from the Britannica and Mirriam-Webster dictionaries). Agape love is manifested through a love of God in Jesus Christ in our love for others and is experienced in actions of the Spirit, not the least of which is kindness, essential for all Christians as the Apostle Paul encouraged in his letter to the Galatians.

One of the beautiful things about Agape love is that it can be offered randomly anytime, anywhere, with anyone. An ideal time to be attentive to offering such love is during Random Acts of Kindness week, February 11-17, 2020.

I spent some time with the \*website: <https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/kindness-ideas> and discovered a lot of good ideas and suggestions that connect well to living a Christian life with others in the Spirit of kindness. There are hundreds of examples on the website about how people can offer random acts of kindness. I've chosen three examples that may yield wonderful and reciprocating blessings of God's love.

**\*Leave a Generous Tip.** Paying it forward never goes out of style. If you had service that went above and beyond (or you're just having a good day), you owe it to your server to tip well. Many people in the service industry rely on tips to earn a liveable wage. We all have bad days, even if your service was less than the best, so spread your kindness through generosity.”

**\*Wheel Out Your Neighbor's Trash Bin.** We all get caught up in the busyness of our everyday lives, but it's always nice to know your neighbors are willing to offer a helping hand when you forget to wheel your trashcan out for pickup. This RAK is easy, free, and takes about five minutes to complete...show some kindness to your neighbors by doing this simple favor.”

**\*Write Down Someone's Best Qualities.** This can truly make someone's confidence soar. How would you feel if someone handed you a list of all the things they loved about you? That's right, amazing! Make someone you care about feel all warm and fuzzy inside.”

What are some other random acts of kindness that you might consider putting into practice this year?

Serving with You through the Love of Christ,

Pastor Hoyte

### 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*





### Join Our Sunday School Program: Teachers Needed!

Our Sunday School program is in need of a few more people to teach classes to fill out our rotation schedule. **You** would be perfect for the job! Teaching would only require an hour or two of preparation time and an hour of teaching time once a month on Sunday mornings. You get the benefit of working with and learning from our younger members, along with ongoing support of your Christian Education Director, and a day set aside in your honor during worship at the end of the year! How can you beat that? Please consider teaching. We promise you will not be sorry. Please see Wendy Cooper if you would like to volunteer, or email [sundayschool@noumc.org](mailto:sundayschool@noumc.org).

### Sunday School Mission Project: Support CANstruction and the Greater Cleveland Food Bank

#### *Greater Cleveland Food Bank Facts*

Did you know that 1 in 6 people in our community struggle to put food on their table? The Greater Cleveland Food Bank works to ensure everyone in our communities has the nutritious food they need every day. For forty years, the food bank's goal has been to provide the highest quality, most nutritious food possible to anyone who needs it. Last year alone the Food Bank supported almost 1,000 partner programs and over 350,000 people in their 6-county service area. They serve people who don't always know where their next meal is coming from. The Greater Cleveland Food Bank is the largest hunger relief organization in Northeast Ohio, serving Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Ashland, and Richland counties. They aim to provide even more meals in 2020! With support from people like you and me, they will do just that!

#### *Thank You!*

The youth would like to thank all who have supported their Sunday School CANstruction Mission Project since September. Thank you to the United Methodist Women, who have so generously donated \$200! Thank you to all who purchased a Christmas cactus or poinsettia; we raised \$125.60. So far, the youth have raised a total of \$594.00. This money will be donated to our local CANstruction team so that they can purchase cans of food needed to build their structure. All food items will be donated to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank after the structure is disassembled.



### Pre-Ordered Sub Sandwiches

*If you ordered subs, you can pick them up Sunday, February 2!*

### Justice and Witness Program

*Sunday, February 23, 9 am - 10 am, classroom 4*

You are invited to a Justice and Witness program with a focus on global climate change/climate justice. Join us during the Sunday School hour as we do some activities that will help us gain understanding of some of the impacts of climate change, the challenges facing the world, and what we might do to make a difference.

## Youth News

Katie Chapman, Youth Leader

### Game Night!

*Friday, February 28, 6 pm, Fellowship Hall*

Everyone is welcome to an intergenerational game night on Friday, February 28. Join us for some board and card games and get a chance to know our youth and adults. A light snack will be provided. If you have a game you would like to bring, feel free!



### Save the Dates

*March 8: Bowling (Adults and Youth)*

*March 22: Youth Work Mission  
Chili Cook-Off*

*April 4: Breakfast with The Bunny*



## Youth Work Mission

### Youth Work Mission Meeting

*Sunday, February 23, 5:30 pm, North Olmsted UMC*

Our next meeting will be February 23 in Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be provided. Youth Work Mission is open to youth (6th grade and up) and adults. If you have never been on mission trip, we encourage you to come check us out and see what it's all about. We'd LOVE to have you. If you have been before, but it's been a few years, we will welcome you back with open arms.

### Youth Work Mission Blanket Project

At our December youth work mission meeting, we spent time working on a service project for Seneca Street UMC in Buffalo, NY. The youth made several fleece blankets for Pastor Dee to hand out to those who may need a warm blanket this winter. We have taken two mission trips to Seneca Street UMC and have formed wonderful relationships with these adults and youth, and our kiddos were excited to help out.



## United Methodist Women

We had our usual fun *give-away meeting in December*. Money was allotted to several charities outside of the church itself including providing meals for Laura's Home, the Oxcart Pantry, the North Olmsted Community Fund, Flat Rock, the Salvation Army, Mobile Solutions (BUSES), the City Mission, the Cleveland Food Bank, Ohio Guidestone Cookie Jar, and Laura's Home. The majority of the money went back to the church for our Community Meals ministry, tables, postage for military coupons, nursery supplies, Breakfast with Santa, the CANstruction Sunday School Mission Project, Stephen Ministry, organ and piano repairs and tuning, the pastor's discretionary fund, gloves and music folders, plus \$650 was set aside for the new sound system when it comes. All in all, \$4000 was given away.

This has always been a lot of fun but has required a lot of work. Although we always have had good support from the church members, a small number of UMW members have had the majority of the work placed on them. After the *November rummage sale*, the general consensus was that we could no longer spend four days of concentrated work twice a year doing this. We also realize that this is the best fundraiser the church has and hate the idea of giving up \$3500 to \$4500 each year. It was proposed that this should become a church project rather than just the UMW's; however, this still means that someone or several "someones" would have to be in charge and would have those four days of work. If someone does feel the willingness to take this on, the UMW would be happy to give you all our expertise and guidance and would be willing to spend time helping to make these events a success, but we cannot continue to take on the leadership necessary. Please let us know if you are so moved to take on this project. It would be great if we could continue without a break since we do have regular customers who check on our sale days and would give you a head start.

The UMW hasn't given up on *fundraising*, though. We just know the big give-aways will be a thing of the past. We will continue with our craft show which will be held on October 17 and Dean's Plant Sale which is tentatively scheduled for May 9. We're working on several other ideas and will keep you apprised of them as they come to fruition.

## Thank You Notes

NOUMC Family and Friends,

De Niro, Oriana, Asher, Baby Z, and family would like to thank you for a beautiful shower! It was truly beyond anything we could have imagined! Beautiful decorations, delicious food, and great company! It was an absolute pleasure to see so many people come together to celebrate new life and a growing family. The generosity has left us speechless and so grateful! This church family is a blessing in our life. Thank you again for all your love and support! You have made this an unforgettable and joyful experience for us. Baby Z is so loved and looking forward to meeting everyone this spring.

Love, the Brenzo - Bernard Family

Thank you to the anonymous person who supplied altar flowers in honor of the United Methodist Women. We are grateful for your kindness.

Love, UMW

Dear Ladies,

The members of the St. John Neumann mission team want to thank you on behalf of the people of El Salvador. Nine villages will be thankful for your generous donation of clothing and toys to the families of Chiltiupan.

We also want to thank Marlene Dirksen, Frank and Sandi O'Dell, Kris Hipple, and Bob Cummings for their donation of luggage to transport these items.

St. John Neumann  
Mission Team

Thank you so much for your generous donations.  
Love,  
Claudia

Thank you for helping us with our service and mission trip.  
Beth

Thank you for your generous donation!  
Addie

Thank you for all you have done. Prayers for you and your family.  
Beth

Thank you!  
Your donations are greatly appreciated!  
-Kristin

# Church Family News



13	Jean and Gary S.
29	Lisa and Ron S.

### 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.

3	Ron S.
8	Rachael B.
9	Don A.
10	Emily B.
12	Beth C.
13	Andrew S.
14	Carol W.
20	Joanne K.
21	Terri W.
23	Sydney S.
25	Carolyn B.
28	Philip W.

### March Agape Deadline

*February 12*

Please email articles to [office@noumc.org](mailto:office@noumc.org)  
or place them in the  
Administrative Assistant's mailbox.



# Worship Leadership

Date	Greeter(s)	Reader(s)	Usher(s)	Acolyte
February 2	<b>Greeters needed; please sign up</b>	Bill Ransom	Katie Chapman Sydney Scothorn	Makena Chapman
February 9		Barb Clough	Sarah Jackson	Morgan Chapman
February 16		Anita Bridges	Judi Wagner Guylene Harold	Sydney Busser
February 23		Mary Lou Fitzgerald	Jennifer & Michael Gaydos	Mikenzie Dennis

# February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Office Hours:</b> Mondays - Wednesdays 10 am to 2 pm, Thursdays 1 pm to 5 pm <b>Director of Christian Education Office Hours:</b> Mondays 1 pm to 3 pm, Thursdays 12 pm to 3 pm <b>Youth Director Office Hours:</b> Mondays & Thursdays 11 am to 2:30 pm						<b>1</b> 8:30 am UMM Breakfast at Canary's Restaurant  10 am - 1 pm Sanctuary Reserved  2 pm - 4 pm Dover Players Rehearsal
<b>2</b> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship  12 pm Nurture  Sub Sandwich Sale Souper Bowl of Caring	<b>3</b>  6:30 pm Scouts  7 pm Bell Choir  7 pm Dover Players Rehearsal 8:30 pm AA	<b>4</b> 11 am AA	<b>5</b>  10 am UMW  7 pm Dover Players Rehearsal  8:30 pm AA	<b>6</b>  7 pm Choir	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  10 am - 1 pm Sanctuary Reserved  2 pm - 4 pm Dover Players Rehearsal  6 pm Chinese New Year Party
<b>9</b> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship  12 pm Youth Council  12 pm SPRC  6 pm Scouts	<b>10</b>  6:30 pm Scouts  7 pm Bell Choir  7 pm Dover Players Rehearsal 8:30 pm AA	<b>11</b> 11 am AA	<b>12</b> <i>Agape            Deadline</i>  10 am UMW  7 pm Dover Players Rehearsal 8:30 pm AA	<b>13</b>  7 pm Choir	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  10 am - 1 pm Sanctuary Reserved  2 pm - 4 pm Dover Players Rehearsal
<b>16</b> <i>Penny Sunday</i> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship  12 pm Administrative Board	<b>17</b>  7 pm Bell Choir  7 pm Dover Players Rehearsal 8:30 pm AA	<b>18</b>  11 am AA  6:30 pm Stephen Ministers	<b>19</b>  10 am UMW  7 pm Dover Players Rehearsal 8:30 pm AA	<b>20</b>  11:30 am Lunch with Friends  7 pm Choir	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  10 am - 1 pm Sanctuary Reserved  2 pm - 4 pm Dover Players Rehearsal
<b>23</b> 9 am Sunday School 9 am Climate Justice Program 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship  5:30 pm Youth Work Mission Meeting  6 pm Scouts	<b>24</b>  6:30 pm Scouts  7 pm Bell Choir  7 pm Dover Players Rehearsal 8:30 pm AA	<b>25</b> 11 am AA	<b>26</b> <i>Ash Wednesday</i>  10 am UMW  7 pm Worship  8:30 pm AA	<b>27</b>  4:30 pm - 6 pm Free Community Meal  7 pm Choir	<b>28</b>  6 pm Game Night	<b>29</b>  10 am - 1 pm Sanctuary Reserved  2 pm - 4 pm Dover Players Rehearsal

## Prayer Concerns

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✠ First Responders</li> <li>✠ Victims of natural disasters</li> <li>✠ Those suffering from mental illness</li> <li>✠ Those affected by gun violence</li> <li>✠ Those who are homeless</li> <li>✠ Stephen Ministers &amp; Care Receivers</li> <li>✠ Our condolences to the family of Marlene S., following her passing</li> <li>✠ Our condolences to Barb L., following the passing of her brother, Jerry</li> <li>✠ Our condolences to Josh O., following the passing of her brother, Tim</li> <li>✠ Rita R.</li> <li>✠ Carl, friend of Rita R.</li> <li>✠ Darlene, friend of Barb A.</li> <li>✠ Uri, grandson of Michael &amp; Jennifer</li> <li>✠ Donna, sister of Carol N.</li> <li>✠ Adrienne, lifted by Tom M.</li> <li>✠ Glenn K.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✠ Gary S.</li> <li>✠ Emily B., daughter of Andy and Alice W.</li> <li>✠ Rev. Mack, lifted by Frank O.</li> <li>✠ Bill and Vince, brothers of Reba Y.</li> <li>✠ David L.</li> <li>✠ Russ, friend of David L.</li> <li>✠ Andy, Faye W.'s son</li> <li>✠ Dusty, nephew of Reba Y.</li> <li>✠ Sue, Jan R.'s friend</li> <li>✠ Viola C.</li> <li>✠ Israel, Sarah's student</li> <li>✠ Dana, lifted by Jan R.</li> <li>✠ Dawn, friend of Susan W.</li> <li>✠ DeNiro and family</li> <li>✠ Susan, daughter-in-law of Joel and Deb C.</li> <li>✠ Susan W.</li> <li>✠ Betty Anne, sister of Mike B.</li> <li>✠ Connie C.</li> <li>✠ Jim, friend of Bill and Marilyn R.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✠ Donna friend of Judy K.</li> <li>✠ Kevin, friend of Barb and Ron C.</li> <li>✠ Zack, son of Jennifer G.</li> <li>✠ Brian R.</li> <li>✠ Steve, son of Mary Ellen M.</li> <li>✠ Carol Brown, lifted by Ray and Jane B.</li> <li>✠ Selene, granddaughter of Carole A.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Those in Military Service:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✠ Christopher Y., USAF</li> <li>✠ Matthew F., USAF</li> <li>✠ Lt. Col. Bill G., USMC</li> <li>✠ Cpl. Trevor C., USMC</li> </ul> |
|---|--|---|

## Financial Review 2019

Mike Moore, Treasurer

For 2019, NOUMC had \$227,338 in income to cover the church operations. Of that income, \$222,383 was from offerings. The remaining income comes from rental of the building, proceeds from Dover Players, and our portion of sales through Amazon Smile.

However, the church's expenses for 2019 totaled \$253,308, which results in a shortfall of \$25,970. We were able to cover this shortfall with funds allocated for roof repairs from 2018 that we kept in our Investment account to earn interest.

Here is the breakdown of our 2019 expenses:

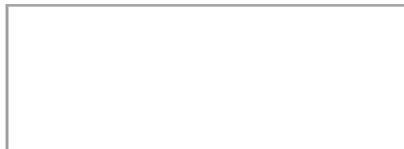
Ministerial Expenditures	95,544	37.72%
Other Staff Payroll	71,510	28.23%
Apportionments	29,543	11.66%
Trustee / Building Expenses	22,578	8.91%
Utilities	15,703	6.20%
Office Expenses	6,441	2.54%
Insurance	4,738	1.87%
Christian Education / Youth Ministry	3,802	1.50%
Other Expenses	3,449	1.36%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>253,308</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Thanks for your financial support of the church and supporting all the good work that is done here.



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

Agape Newsletter



## February Free Community Meal



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

BBQ chicken, macaroni and cheese,  
a vegetable, dessert, 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.*