

Agape

Greek for "Love without Limits"

North Olmsted United Methodist Church

Vol. 55 Issue 4

April 2021

UMW Spring Plant Sale

Orders due Wednesday, April 14; Pick-up Saturday, May 8

Spring is here, which means it is time for our annual Spring Plant Sale! For this year's sale, we are offering a large selection of annuals, vegetables, herbs, and hanging baskets. Please send the attached order form and payment to Darlene Owings. All plants are supplied by Dean's Greenhouse. For full color photos of the plants, visit www.deansgreenhouse.com. Gift cards are also available for purchase on the order form, which means you can shop at Dean's Greenhouse and still support UMW. Contact Darlene with any questions or for more information.



Adult Fellowship Wildflower Walk

Sunday, April 25, following worship

Adult Fellowship is happy to announce plans to take a walk in the Rocky River Reservation after worship on April 25. The Cleveland Metroparks has provided Char Vas with wildflower information, and Claudia Taller is equipped with a two-page spread of wildflower descriptions and pictures from Lorain Metroparks. We should be able to spot lots of tiny flowers as we walk the paths. We plan to meet at a picnic area and enjoy conversation and picnic brown bag lunches together. To RSVP or for more information, contact Charlene or Claudia.

Journey with us through Holy Week as we worship together online

Visit www.noumc.org for worship links unless otherwise noted

Palm Sunday, March 28

10:30 am: livestreamed worship service

Good Friday, April 2

*Noon: pre-recorded East Ohio Black Pastors' Fellowship—
Seven Last Words of Jesus (www.cotsumc.org/live)*

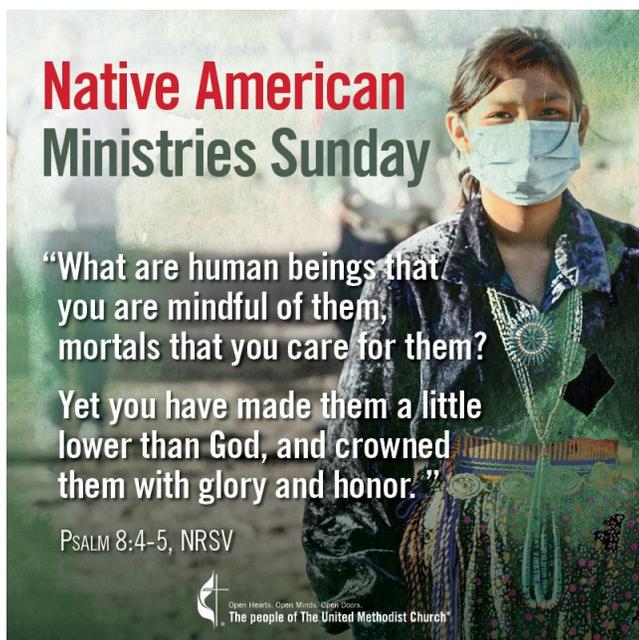
7 pm: pre-recorded worship service

Easter Sunday, April 4

10:30 am: livestreamed worship service



Opportunities to Give and to Serve



Support Native American Ministries

Native American Ministries Sunday is April 11

On this day, we honor the unique and beautiful contributions of Native Americans by giving generously to a special fund set aside for seminary students and for congregations that are finding authentic ways to minister to their communities.

Will you join us in supporting these efforts? Together, we will make a lasting impact. Your offering will reach across the country because, together, we do more.

*Make checks payable to NOUMC and write **Native American Ministries Sunday** in the memo. Send checks to the church office, attention Financial Secretary.*

Support Africa University

Penny Sunday is April 18

As you know, our Sunday School classes this year have been collecting donations from the congregation for the Africa University Sunday School Mission Project. We have joined efforts with the East Ohio Conference to raise enough money to build a women's dorm at Africa University that will provide a safe, secure environment and a community of support for female AU students to focus on their education without risking their lives to attend university. The Teach Reach Bless Campaign to raise \$1.5 million has met its commitment goal only one year after the campaign was launched! To date, \$515,097.52 of committed funds have been received. The TRB campaign hopes to be able to send the full amount to Africa University in early 2022 so that construction on a new dorm for 90 additional female students can begin. The youth will be sending all money that they raise for Africa University to the Teach Reach Bless campaign at the end of May.

In April, all donations collected for Penny Sunday will be added to the amount the youth have collected. Please consider donating generously on Penny Sunday to this amazing university!

*Make checks payable to NOUMC and write **April Penny Sunday** in the memo. Send checks to the church office, attention Financial Secretary.*

Free Community Meal (Carry-Out Only)

Thursday, April 29, 4:30 pm - 6 pm

The menu for April is ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, and dessert. For more information, contact Barb Linton.



Christian Education

Online Sunday School

Sunday School students, please join us each week on our [Friends of NOUMC Facebook page](#) as we continue to study God's Word! A video Bible lesson will be posted, and links to activity sheets will be offered in the comments. High School and Young Adults are welcome to click on a weekly devotion with thoughts and questions to ponder. Video lessons and devotions will be posted by Saturday evening each week.

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.

A Message from the Stephen Ministries Team

The Light of Christ Continues

Not long before he was crucified, Jesus and his disciples went to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed, as Luke wrote, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me, let not my will, but yours be done." In the last days of his life we were shown his humanness, which included a holy and steadfast belief that God was in control. When he prayed, he sought inner holiness, so he could endure and so he could show us his outward holiness, a glimpse of his love of God. He was willing to make that sacrifice, even as he struggled with it in a very human way.

Jesus served as an example to us in the way he lived. He put God first, and God's people second in his life. He showed us that God is always with us. We just need to listen and feel and search, as Christ did. Our inner holiness becomes our outer holiness so we can do God's will. Every time we pick up the phone to talk to a shut-in or prepare a meal for someone who needs it, we are letting our love of God, as John Wesley put it, reign supreme in our hearts.

It's not easy to be a disciple of Christ. We are not always confident that we're going in the right direction or doing God's will. We don't always set the best example—for fear and sadness, despair and depression often stalk us. God is there to hear us, to respond, to uplift us. Look to how Jesus lived, how he stayed the course, and how he died so we might know he was our Savior.

Your Stephen Ministers are available to pray with you, to help you find stillness and to know holiness. Send an email to Alice Walsh or Michelle Wolter if you want to deepen your relationship with God, be stilled, and continue to do His work on Earth. May we be disciples, may we bring the Light to all.

Claudia Taller, Stephen Minister



Youth News

Photos of Winterfest Fun

Thanks to all who participated in Winterfest. We had a bright, sunny, COLD day.

There was lots of fun playing games, drinking hot chocolate, and crafting.



Looking forward to delivering some Easter fun as we celebrate the season.

Things to come...Earth Day at NOUMC: clean-up and planting.

United Methodist Women

UMW Meeting: *Wednesday, April 14, 10 am*

UMW is on the verge of getting back to normal. We will celebrate with our first regular meeting of the year on April 14! We will practice safe Covid protocols, using face masks and physical distancing. Most of us will be fully vaccinated by that time, so we will be ready to get some business done. Feel free to join us.

UMW Plant Sale: *Orders due Wednesday, April 14*

After the past year, aren't we all ready for some beauty? The order form was sent to you with the Agape. Click on the link to download it. Directions for placing your orders are on the order form.

Let's thank the Lord that we are able to start talking about normalcy again. Please remember to continue to follow the safety protocols and get the vaccine when it becomes available. Stay safe until we can worship and get together in person again.

Spring Cleaning? It is almost time for the UMW FUNDrive!

Weekend of May 23; actual dates and times TBA

We will have a trailer in the parking lot to collect your rummage sale items.

As a reminder, soft goods should be bagged in large garbage bags and other items should be packed in manageable-sized boxes that can be closed. Accepted items include clothing, shoes, bedding and towels, accessories (hats, gloves, scarves, ties, socks, purses, wallets, backpacks, belts, and jewelry), CDs, DVDs, electrical items, toys and games, kitchen items, knick-knacks, and sporting goods. **No furniture and large house-hold items, baby gear, cleaning products, flammable items, or building materials, please.**

Racial Justice Symbol

The North Olmsted United Methodist Women formed a group last July to study racial inequities. We found that there are so many ways to be unconsciously prejudiced that we haven't stopped learning and trying to see what we can do about it. We have adopted the following symbol from the United Methodist Women. For more information, visit: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/what-we-do/service-and-advocacy/mission-focus-issues/racial-justice/symbol>



This image represents United Methodist Women's commitment to work for racial justice. It symbolizes a world of racially and ethnically diverse peoples working together side by side to create a world in which every person has a voice, rights, and opportunity for abundant life. Within the image are two hands joined together to work for justice for all God's children.

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD)

Contributions to traditional IRAs can be tax deductible, but withdrawals are included in taxable income. Account owners must begin taking annual withdrawals from traditional IRAs—called required minimum distributions (RMDs)—at age 70½ (now 72). These distributions must be included in gross income in the year the distribution occurs, and income taxes must be paid on the distribution's taxable portion.

Section 1201 of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-280) established QCDs, which allow individuals aged 70½ or older to exclude IRA distributions made directly to a qualified charity from gross income (26 U.S.C. §408[d][8]). (i.e. IRA account to church)

QCD features are as follows:

- Individuals must be older than 70½ when the QCD is made;
- Charities must be eligible to receive tax-deductible charitable distributions;
- Contributions must be from traditional IRAs

QCDs cannot be made from ongoing employer-sponsored IRAs (Simplified Employee Pensions [SEP-IRAs] and Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees [SIMPLE-IRAs]) or from defined contribution retirement plans (e.g., 401[k] plans or 403[b] plans).

This feature allows for a QCD to count toward an individual's RMD (e.g., an individual who is required to take a distribution of \$5,000 in a year may elect to make a QCD of \$3,000, so that the individual only has to withdraw the remaining \$2,000 and include it in taxable income).

- The distribution must be a trustee-to-trustee transfer; that is, a direct transfer from the IRA to the charity.

Please consult your tax advisor or Financial Planner to see if this could help reduce your taxes this year.

From: Ed Brewster, Financial Secretary

COVID-19 Reminders

Worship with Us Online!

Livestreamed worship on Sundays at 10:30 am

Join us online for livestreamed 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.

May Agape Deadline

April 15

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

Organist: Marlene Dirksen
marlened959@gmail.com

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

Youth Director: Chris Byrns
youth@noumc.org
ext. 14

Music Director: Gabriela Martinez
gabrielamarmar@aol.com

Social Media: Hanna Moore
social@noumc.org

Church Family News

APRIL



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

2	Kara Q.
5	Kim B.
12	Zurich 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.

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

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 the loved ones of Brian R. following his passing
 Carole B.
 Tom M. and family
 Ron W.
 Josh O. & Guylene H.
 Dallas & Bobbi, lifted by Terri W.
 Barbara B.
 Viola C.
 Susan W.
 Carolyn and Alex B.
 Mary, Sue S.'s mother
 Jeff, Judy K.'s friend
 Kifah, David L.'s friend
 Donald R.
 Sheryl, lifted by Sally S.
 Frank M.
 Keith A.
 Mary Lou L.
 Sterling B.
 Bev, lifted by Josh O.
 Darlene, friend of Barb A.
 Donna, sister of Carol N.
 Bill and Vince, brothers of Reba Y.
 Russ, friend of David L.
 Andy, Faye W.s son
 Dusty, nephew of Reba Y.
 Israel, Sarah's student
 De Niro and family
 Connie C.
 Jim, friend of Bill & Marilyn R.
 Donna friend of Judy K.
 Zack, son of Jennifer G.
 Steve, son of Mary Ellen M.
 Carol, lifted by Ray & Jane B.
 Selene, lifted by Carole A.
 Christopher Y., USAF
 Matthew F., USAF
 Lt. Col. Bill G., USMC

Adult Fellowship Work Teams

We're looking for people to join work teams! If you like being outdoors and want to be a part of a hiking team, or if you know how to organize a road rally, let us know: contact Claudia.



April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Please contact the church office to add your meeting or gathering, virtual or in-person, to the church calendar.</i></p>				1 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 2 pm - 3:30 pm Lenten Study (Zoom)	2 <i>Good Friday</i> 12 pm Pre-Recorded Worship 7 pm Pre-Recorded Worship	3 <i>Holy Saturday</i> 11 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist
4 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 10:30 am Worship (livestreamed)	5 8:30 pm AA (FH)	6 12 pm Racial Justice Group (Zoom)	7 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist	8	9	10 11 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist
11 <i>Native American Ministries Sunday</i> 9:30 am Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 10:30 am Worship (livestreamed)	12 8:30 pm AA (FH)	13 12 pm Racial Justice Group (Zoom)	14 10 am UMW 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved 7 pm Worship Team (Zoom)	15 <i>May Agape Deadline</i> 11:30 am Lunch with Friends (at home)	16	17 11 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist
18 <i>Penny Sunday</i> 9:30 am Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 10:30 am Worship (livestreamed)	19 8:30 pm AA (FH)	20 12 pm Racial Justice Group (Zoom) 6:30 pm Stephen Ministries (Zoom)	21 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist	22	23	24 10 am - 11 am Spring District Conference (Zoom) 11 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist
25 9:30 am Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 10:30 am Worship (livestreamed) 12 pm Wildflower Walk	26 8:30 pm AA (FH)	27 12 pm Racial Justice Group (Zoom)	28 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist	29 4:30 pm - 6 pm Free Community Meal (Carry-out Only)	30	

Agape Newsletter

North Olmsted United Methodist Church
4600 Dover Center Road
North Olmsted, Ohio 44070
www.noumc.org



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.

Free Community Meal Carry-Out Only

Thursday, April 29

4:30 pm - 6 pm

Carry-Out Menu:
ham, scalloped potatoes,
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.*