

Agape

Greek for "Love without Limits"

North Olmsted United Methodist Church

Vol. 55 Issue 11

November 2021

Charge Conference

Saturday, November 13, 10:30 am, Sanctuary

This year's Charge Conference for NOUMC and other North Coast District UMC churches will be offered on Saturday, November 13 at 10:30 am. Rev. Dr. Steve Bailey, District Superintendent of the North Coast District, will preside through an online connection which will be communicated to the congregation before November 13. You may attend Charge Conference in-person in the Sanctuary or view it with an online link from your homes.

NOUMC leaders serving on the Church Council and Council on Ministries are voting members for the Conference and must be present in-person in order to vote. However, the entire congregation is welcome to attend. Note: Please wear masks and practice safe physical distancing if you are planning to attend Charge Conference in-person.

Information pertaining to Charge Conference (e.g. financial statements, membership updates, a summary of staff compensation, and details pertaining to the Lay Leadership of NOUMC) will be made available at the meeting and afterward for any members requesting a copy. Pastor and Lay Leader Reports can be found on pages 4 and 5 of this edition of the Agape Newsletter.

A special thanks is extended to John Wolter and Phil Wolter for providing the technical setup necessary in the Sanctuary, and members of the staff and congregation who submitted reports for the Conference.

Thank you, all, for your faithfulness with NOUMC through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

Donate Items for UMCOR Cleaning Kits!

Items due by Friday, November 5

UMCOR cleaning kits help to care for the most vulnerable during times of crisis. By donating items, you make a tangible difference in people's lives. In Fellowship Hall, visit the board of items the youth are collecting for UMCOR cleaning kits for the youth to assemble on November 7. The board has pull-off tabs to take with you. We are hoping to collect enough items to assemble at least 10 kits. If you have questions, contact Chris Byrns at noumc@noumc.org.



Youth Mission Opportunity: Assembling Cleaning Kits!

Sunday, November 7, 12 pm, Fellowship Hall

We will be assembling cleaning kits from items donated by our church friends. We are asking each youth's family to donate a 5-gallon bucket (**it must have a lid**). Buckets can be purchased at home improvement stores and Meijers (around \$4.00/each). We hope to collect enough buckets and items to make 10 cleaning kits. These kits will then be delivered to UMCOR for flood/hurricane victims. For more information, contact Chris Byrns at noumc@noumc.org.

Worship With Us!

Worship With Us In-Person and Online

Sundays at 10:30 am

As an expression of love for our entire community, we require all persons, regardless of vaccination status, to wear face masks throughout their time in the building.

If you are ill or experiencing symptoms, please stay home and worship with us online.

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

Date	Greeter(s)	Liturgist	Usher(s)
November 7	Claudia & Paul Taller	Janis Jarvis	Barb & Ron Clough
November 14	Charlene & John Vas	Ed Brewster	Judi Wagner & Guylene Harold
November 21	Jean Scothon	Greg Lavelle	Sarah Jackson & Sydney Scothon
November 28	Barb & Floyd Andrews	Bev Hixon	Beth Cruz

United Methodist Student Day

Sunday, November 28

One of six special offering Sundays in the life of The United Methodist Church, United Methodist Student Day calls the church to support students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge. The special offering provides scholarships for qualified United Methodist applicants. When you give generously on United Methodist Student Day, you support students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge.

Make checks payable to NOUMC and write UM Student Day in the memo. Send checks to the church office, attention Financial Secretary.



Support Laura's Home

November 21 is Penny Sunday

Every month several people from our congregation go to Laura's Home to provide a meal for homeless women and children. Usually we serve 80 to 100 meals with a possibility of over a hundred. Last month we found they are adding on to the building to provide more beds, so the need is growing. We do all this for \$125 a month, with the money coming as extra donations and not from the general fund. We are blessed with a wonderful shopper and cook, as well as a baker, to accomplish this mission. Please remember this as you give to the Penny Sunday offering this month.

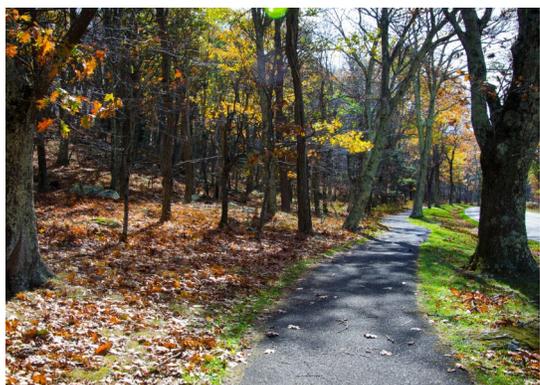
To help provide meals for the women and children of Laura's Home, *make checks payable to NOUMC and write **November Penny Sunday** in the memo. Send checks to the church office, attention Financial Secretary. A special offering basket will be available for those worshipping in person.*

Opportunities for Fellowship

UMW Lunch Out with Jane Philpott

Wednesday, November 3, Lutheran Home at Concord Reserve, Carpool from church at 11:30 am

We know that many of you remember Jane Philpott. She has moved back into our neighborhood; she's at the Lutheran Home at Concord Reserve but in a new building. She has invited us to have lunch with her on November 3. The powers that be there have said they will pick up the check. If you would like a time of fellowship and reminiscing, RSVP to Barb Andrews by November 1. Seats are limited.



Adult Fellowship Hike

Sunday, November 7, 12:30 pm, Rocky River Nature Center

The Hiking Team of Adult Fellowship, led by Beth Cruz, will hike in the Rocky River Reservation after church on November 7. We will meet by the sign in the parking lot at the Nature Center, which is off Valley Parkway between Cedar Point Road and Shepherd Lane in North Olmsted. Please send an email to Claudia Taller so we know to expect you.

Adult Fellowship Holiday Hits Concert, by The Midtown Men

Tuesday, December 14, 7:30 pm, LCCC Stocker Arts Center

RSVP with payment by Sunday, November 7

Soon it will be Halloween, then Thanksgiving followed by Christmas! It's not too soon to get a Christmas concert on the calendar with your NOUMC friends. We have decided to attend the Holiday Hits Concert by The Midtown Men. Tickets in the Mezzanine are \$33.00. For more information on The Midtown Men, visit https://www.lorainccc.edu/stocker/lccc_events/the-midtown-men-holiday-hits-show/.

Since this show is expected to be a sell-out, the theater will not let us reserve a block of seats in advance. Charlene Vas will collect your paid reservation and will secure tickets for the group. Seats may not be together. Cash or check is due by Sunday, November 7.

Valet parking is available at the theater. And, for those who are not able to drive at night, we will try to arrange a ride. Questions? Contact Charlene Vas.

Lunch with Friends

Meets on the third Thursday of each month, 11:30 am

For those of us who enjoy a good restaurant but don't want to eat alone, this is the group for you! We meet at different restaurants for food and fellowship. To find out where we will dine each month, read the church announcements or call Carole Bettinger. All are welcome!



Lay Leader & Pastor Charge Conference Reports 2021

Pastor Hoyte Wilhelm has been very flexible as this year has been a combination of on-line services until April and then a combination of on-line and in-person Sunday services. His excellent communication skills were a very significant asset to making this combination a success. He has continued to help organize our committees and activities to run more efficiently consistent with *Our Faithful Journey*. Pastor Wilhelm led a Bible study group during Lent via Zoom and plans on leading one during Advent. He continued to send inspirational messages once a week during the time we were not having in-person services.

The North Olmsted United Methodist Church continues to work on our long-range strategic plan for continued future growth. Upon approval of our Administrative Board, the governance structure has been realigned into two councils, one focusing on administration and the other on program ministries. The purpose of this is to have a more efficient organization with less overlap of duties.

Sunday attendance for in-person service has been averaging 50 people along with YouTube viewers. The organist, choir director, choir, and members of the congregation have been sharing their musical talents with pre-recorded music. Our very talented organist has returned to in-person playing of the prelude and postlude. An adult Sunday school class has been meeting in-person since September. Until May this class was meeting via Zoom each Sunday morning.

Our church congregation continues to be generous in many ways. We continue to pick-up food from one restaurant and deliver it to a food pantry. Our once a month community meal is a "grab-and-go" meal. We continue to have a monthly Penny Sunday collection for a mission, such as UMCOR. We have resumed collections for the local food pantry, school supplies, hats and mittens, and other collections for those in need. These are just a few of our missions.

Financially we are good stewards. We are able to pay our district apportionments in full while supporting, making, and serving a free community meal along with paying the salaries and expenses of an active church. Our technology team continues to improve the technology system after the large project was completed last year.

One of our goals for the upcoming year is to revitalize the youth program. We have hired a new Youth Director who has been good at contacting our youth during the past year and planning events. We are now working toward contacting more children, from outside our congregation, as we have an aging congregation. Our theme for all of the church this next year is "Invitation". We hope to attract new members and families to NOUMC.

North Olmsted United Methodist Church provides many opportunities to praise and serve the Lord. Our goal continues to be to serve the community, feeding body and soul.

Jean Scothon, Lay Leader

Hope in Action at North Olmsted UMC

The Apostle Paul offered this timeless message of hope: *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."* NOUMC is living in hope with action, persevering through and rising above the challenges of the pandemic, offering effective and innovative ministries.

NOUMC continues to be faithful in providing opportunities for people to grow in faith, invest in youth, serve neighbors, celebrate diversity, and foster personal relationships that embody "Our Guiding Principles" with the church's strategic plan of "Our Faithful Journey."

I share and celebrate in gratitude the following ministries:

Governance Structure—implemented a new governance structure with the work of church leaders to enhance the effectiveness of planning, organizing, communicating, and offering ministries in and beyond the local church;

Three Ways to Worship on Sunday Mornings: In-person, Livestream, and Recorded—teamed with the pastor, technically and artistically gifted laity, organist, choir director, liturgists, and musicians in the congregation;

Technology—expanded ways to use new equipment for audio, video, and wireless capabilities in the sanctuary and throughout the building through the leadership of the experienced and professional Technology Team;

Zoom Connections and Some In-person Gatherings—offered through administrative meetings, fellowship gatherings, mission activities for all ages, study groups (e.g. racial and social justice), informal support groups, Adult Sunday School, one-to-one support and care; and outreach to the community of North Olmsted (e.g. float in Homecoming parade, passing out welcoming contact information about the church);

Caring Ministries—made possible through complementary work of the pastor and laity with phone calls, personal greeting cards, email messages, listening presence, prayer, and care;

Electronic Communications—developed through new features and updated information on the Website, Facebook page, weekly e-newsletter, and monthly newsletter;

Monthly Meals—offered to the community through pre-packaged hot meals, and a pickup process in the parking lot entailing safe distancing practices and the wearing of masks;

Financial Stewardship—received and continuing to receive financial support from members for the operating, building, and mission ministries of the church locally, regionally, and abroad;

Future Planning—met together as a Church Council and Council on Ministries to discuss actionable ways to live into a focused theme of “Invitation” in 2022 with people connected to NOUMC or desiring to connect with a faith community, ideally NOUMC.

Living in hope, in faithfulness, and action with you, through the love of God and Jesus Christ,
Pastor Hoyte, North Olmsted United Methodist Church

Opportunities to Give

Donate to Oxcart Pantry

Collecting Thanksgiving items until Sunday, November 14

Collecting cleaning supplies, especially laundry detergent, until Sunday, December 26

We currently are collecting packages and cans of the following Thanksgiving items: *stuffing mix, potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, corn, sweet potatoes, marshmallows, and desserts (especially pie mix and blueberry, cherry, apple, and pumpkin for pie fillings, as well as packages of other desserts)*. After November 14, we will begin collecting cleaning supplies, especially laundry detergent. Please put all donations in the Oxcart Pantry container in Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your continued generosity!

Thank you for your September donations of peanut butter and other small items for lunches. We collected 267 items. Georgia was surprised Barb’s trunk didn’t spring open on its own because it was so full.

Christian Education



Adult Sunday School Advent Study

Begins, Sunday, November 14, 9:30 am, Choir Room

Join us as we study "The Journey; Walking the Road to Bethlehem" by Adam Hamilton. Hamilton will take us on a journey as he travels on video from Nazareth to Bethlehem in this fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. Sessions include: Mary of Nazareth, Joseph of Bethlehem, Mary's Visit to Elizabeth, From Nazareth to Bethlehem, and The Manger. For more information, contact Craig Mueller.

Christmas Flower Sale

November 14—December 6

The youth are accepting orders for **Poinsettias and Christmas Cacti** that will be placed on the altar for our Christmas Eve service. Order forms will be available in Fellowship Hall beginning on November 14. The order form can also be found on the website. Poinsettias are available in red, white, pink, marbled, or burgundy. All plants are in 6" pots and sell for \$10.00. Proceeds will benefit this year's Sunday School Oxcart Food Pantry Mission Project.



Please drop your order form and payment into the purple box in Fellowship Hall, or send the form with your check to the church office, attention Wendy Cooper. You can also email Wendy at noumc@noumc.org.

United Methodist Women

Give-Away Meeting/Last Business Meeting of the Year

Wednesday, November 17, 10 am, Classroom 7

Our Give-Away meeting is coming up on November 17. Although we have not had as many fundraisers this year, we should have some money to give away. If you or your group have something you could use money for, we will try to meet at least some of your need; give your needed amount and project to a UMW member.

Church Mouse Craft Fair Wrap-Up

We asked for support, and we got it. We saw many of you at the craft sale, and even better, we saw a lot of people from the community buying crafts. We were busy most of the day, and almost all the crafters were happy at the end of the day. Our latest count is that we made \$759.47.

Church Office and Building Updates

Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 10 am - 2 pm

On Tuesday, Megan will work from home and will continue to check her email and voicemail during office hours (10 am - 2 pm).



Pastoral Care

Please reach out to Pastor Hoyte by using his cell phone or email address if you have any questions or want to schedule an individual time to talk.

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

Building Mask Policy

In light of the Delta Variant and current CDC guidelines and in respect for everyone's health, we will require all persons, regardless of vaccination status, to wear face masks throughout their time in the building. Thank you for your understanding.

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.

For those who worship with us in person, the ushers will have an offering plate available on Sunday.

December Agape Deadline

November 15

Please email articles and meeting dates to noumc@noumc.org, mail them to the church, attention Megan Howe, or put them in the Administrative Assistant's mailbox outside the church office by November 15.

Church Staff: 440-779-6634

Pastor: Hoyte Wilhelm
ext.16

Director of Christian Education:
Wendy Cooper
ext.13

Organist: Marlene Dirksen

Admin. Assistant: Megan Howe
ext.10

Youth Director: Chris Byrns
ext. 14

Music Director: Gabriela Martinez

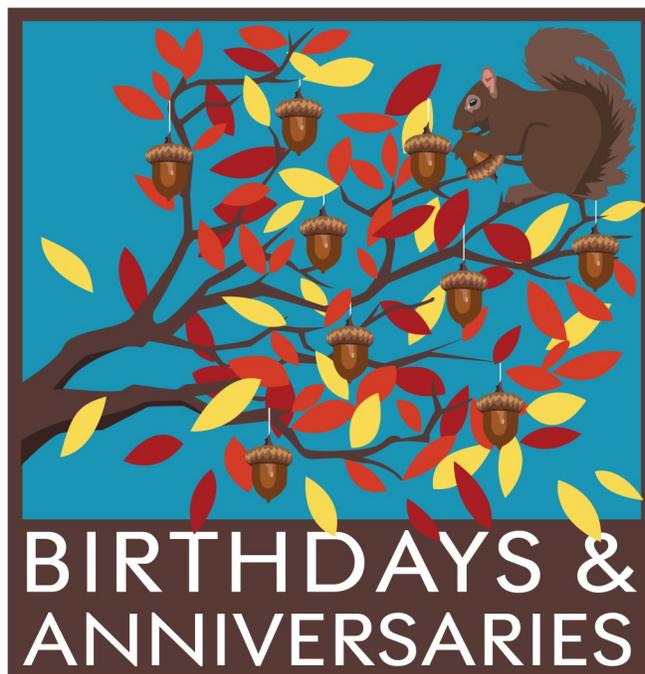
Social Media: Hanna Moore

Church Family News

8	Andy W.
14	Andy M.
15	Greg L.
18	Michelle W.
20	Andrew H.
24	Ron W.
29	Ray B.
29	Madison S.

18	Claudia & Paul T.
25	Judie & Mike F.
29	Sandi & Frank O.
29	Chris & Mike B.

NOVEMBER



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 Claudia T. and family following the passing of her mother, Dana

Our condolences to Chris B. and Reba Y. following the passing of their brother, David

Alice and Tony, lifted by Claudia and Paul T.

Ron W.

Karen, lifted by David L.

Jeff R.

Nancy D.

Dale, David L.'s brother

Lois D.

Teresa, Michelle W.'s cousin

Jan R.

Scott, David L.'s brother

Josh O.

Carol W.

Mary Lou L.

Viola C.

Susan W.

Donald R.

Keith A.

Sterling B.

Betty Ann, sister of Mike B.

Miriam, lifted by Janis J.

Patty, lifted by Janis J.

Mary, lifted by Susan W.

Monica, lifted by Susan W.

Sheryl, lifted by Sally S.

Barbara B.

Donna, sister of Carol N.

Steve, son of Mary Ellen M.

Selene, lifted by Carole A.

Judy, lifted by Brenda F.

Israel, Sarah J.'s student

Bev, lifted by Josh O.

Christopher Y., USAF

Matthew F., USAF

Lt. Col. Bill G., USMC



November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 12 pm - 1 pm Racial Justice Group (Zoom) 8:30 pm AA (FH)	2 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved 6:30 pm Trustees (Classroom 7) 7 pm Scouts (FH)	3 10 am UMW (Classroom 7)	4 7 pm Choir (Sanctuary)	5 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved	6 10 am - 12 am Extra Life Fundraiser (Sanctuary, FH)
7 All Saints Sunday 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 12 pm Youth Cleaning Kits Project (FH) 12:30 pm Hike (Rocky River NC) 3 pm - 5 pm Girl Scouts (Classroom 7)	8 12 pm - 1 pm Racial Justice Group (Zoom) 8:30 pm AA (FH)	9 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved 7 pm Scouts (FH)	10 10 am UMW (Classroom 7)	11 7 pm Choir (Sanctuary)	12 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved	13 8:30 am UMM Breakfast (Canary's) 10 am - 2 pm Card-Making (Classroom 7) 10:30 am Charge Conference (Sanctuary)
14 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 3 pm - 5 pm Girl Scouts (Classroom 7)	15 <i>December Agape Deadline</i> 12 pm - 1 pm Racial Justice Group (Zoom) 8:30 pm AA (FH)	16 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved 7 pm Scouts (FH)	17 10 am UMW Give-Away Meeting (Classroom 7)	18 11:30 am Lunch with Friends 7 pm Choir (Sanctuary)	19	20 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist
21 Penny Sunday 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 3 pm - 5 pm Girl Scouts (Classroom 7)	22 12 pm - 1 pm Racial Justice Group (Zoom) 8:30 pm AA (FH)	23 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved 7 pm Scouts (FH)	24	25 <i>Thanksgiving Day/Office Closed</i>	26	27 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist
28 United Methodist Student Day 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 3 pm - 5 pm Girl Scouts (Classroom 7) 5 pm Youth Group (UMCB)	29 12 pm - 1 pm Racial Justice Group (Zoom) 8:30 pm AA (FH)	30 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved 7 pm Scouts (FH)	North Olmsted United Methodist Church 4600 Dover Center Rd. North Olmsted, OH 44070 440-779-6634 + noumc@noumc.org <i>Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday 10 am - 2 pm</i>			

For the most up-to-date calendar, visit www.noumc.org.

*Please contact the church office to add your meeting or gathering,
 virtual or in-person, to the church calendar.*

Agape Newsletter

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



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.

Holiday Free Community Meal Carry-Out Only *(no meal in November)*

*Thursday, December 2
4:30 pm - 6 pm*

Carry-Out Menu:

*Pork roast, mashed potatoes and gravy,
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.*