

Agape

Greek for “Love without Limits”

North Olmsted United Methodist Church

Vol. 56 Issue 3

March 2022



Support the United Methodist Committee on Relief

UMCOR Sunday is March 27

From “They” to “We”

UMCOR is the United Methodist Committee on Relief, and yet they are anything but a typical committee. They are a program by the General Board of Global Ministries taking action when disaster strikes around the globe.

We will be highlighting UMCOR during our next Special Sunday, on March 27. All donations given on UMCOR Sunday go to the day-to-day operations of UMCOR so that the rest of the year, all of our donations go to where they are needed most.

UMCOR acts as the hands and feet of Christ’s church, moving towards the most vulnerable in their time of need. Helping people in their darkest days doesn’t have to be something “they” do, it can be something “we” do. We hope that you will give generously this upcoming UMCOR Sunday so that we, along with our United Methodist congregations around the globe, can share compassionate relief in the midst of devastation. Until then, let’s be praying for the volunteers, the lives they touch, and for hearts to be moved.

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



Ash Wednesday Service

March 2, 7 pm, In-person and Online

(Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17;
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21)

Join us for centering music and the imposition of ashes.

Worship Opportunities

Worship With Us In-Person and Online

Sundays at 10:30 am

Masks are optional in light of the declining severity of the COVID-19 virus. However, please be sensitive to and respectful of those who choose to wear masks. 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)
March 6	Sarah Jackson	Bill Ransom	Barb & Ron Clough
March 13	Charlene & John Vas	Ed Brewster	Judi Wagner & Guylene Harold
March 20	Jean Scothon	Beverly Hixon	Sarah Jackson
March 27	Claudia & Paul Taller	Barb Clough	Beth Cruz

Opportunities to Give

“A Year of Invitation”—2022 Stewardship Campaign for NOUMC

Friends...it is time for our church family to engage in a stewardship campaign in support of the church's operating ministries and capital improvements to the building and grounds.

Please be watchful for detailed information about the campaign which will be communicated during worship, in an introductory letter sent to your homes, in email messages to the congregation, and in the Agape newsletter.

—SHARE ABUNDANTLY IN—
every good work.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:8, NRSV

The campaign's theme is based on 2 Corinthians 9:7-8:

“An Invitation to Give Cheerfully and Abundantly”

Sunday launch of the Campaign: March 20

Sunday commitment of pledge cards: April 10

Opportunities to Give and to Serve

Support West Side Community House

Penny Sunday is March 20

March's Penny Sunday offering will go to support West Side Community House. WSCH is a mission site of The United Methodist Church. This is a very busy place helping families, youth, and seniors. They provide help for people on the west side of Cleveland with classes, advice, after-school activities, helping youth during the summer, senior meals, and many other activities. Any help you can give is appreciated.

*Make checks payable to NOUMC and write **March Penny Sunday** in the memo. Send checks to the church office, attention Financial Secretary. For those worshipping in-person, an offering plate will be designated for Penny Sunday.*



Donate to Oxcart Pantry

Collecting salad dressings and salad toppings until March 27

Thank you for your January donations. 55 cans and packages of soup and crackers were collected and will help to warm some tummies this winter. In March we will collect salad dressings and toppings, such as croutons and bacon bits.

East Ohio Summer Camps

If you know of a youth who would love to spend a week away at camp this summer, why not invite them to check out one of our beautiful area United Methodist summer camps? There are many different camps available, and there is something to spark every interest. Information is now available. Please contact Wendy Cooper for more information.



United Methodist Women

Spring Plant Sale and Weekly Lunches

We have the delivery date for plants from Dean's Greenhouse confirmed. That date is May 7, and we will be asking for help with unloading and sorting as we get closer to May. Just remember to watch for the order forms in the next month or so. The UMW guarantees that spring will actually come.

Join us at our weekly lunches on Wednesdays. We have a meeting at the church on the first Wednesday of the month (before lunch), and if any group or person has a project they'd like us to tackle, we'd be happy to meet at the church any Wednesday before we go out to lunch. Do you sense a theme here?

Be sure to check with a UMW member as to plans for that week or contact Barb Andrews.

Opportunities to Serve

Mission Trips to Kids' Book Bank

The Racial Justice Group has focused its energy on exploring the possibilities for ministry and mission through UMC sites for the last 21 months. We've learned about the depths of racism and white privilege that are still right in front of us. Now we see them. We feel morally obligated by our beliefs not to leave these issues behind, but to move into action.

We have chosen to support **Kids' Book Bank**. The mission of the Cleveland Kids' Book Bank is to foster literacy and a love of reading by distributing free books to children in need through collaboration with community partners. Visit their website at <https://www.kidsbookbank.org/en/>:

- Cleveland has the highest child poverty rate in the country (2018).
- In Cuyahoga County, 60% are illiterate.
- 2 out of 3 low-income kids don't own a single children's book.
- Kids growing up in poverty hear 30 million fewer words by age 3.
- Books lead to literacy, regardless of parent education or income.
- Children growing up in homes without books are on average three years behind children in homes with lots of books.
- One of the most successful ways to improve the reading achievement of children is to increase their access to books, especially at home.
- Studies show that the most important indicators of a child's educational success is having books in the home and being read to as a child.
- Children of all ages need books to develop reading fluency, open their eyes to the world beyond their neighborhood, and fuel the imagination.



So, steeped in NOUMC tradition, we're going on a **mission trip** into the community. Circle up, byo coffee, we're **going to Cleveland!** Kids' Book Bank is located about 25 minutes away.

We will collect and bring with us any books in **good condition** and **unmarked**, from books for babies through chapter books, and we will help sort the books that are brought to them. There are jobs for most physical abilities.

There will be a limited number of people allowed on each trip due to Covid, so ask early! Later we can include more people and youth as restrictions are eased.

More information will follow, but those who are interested, contact Janis Jarvis. We will make plans and discuss details at our Monday Racial Justice Group meetings from 12 pm - 1 pm (during the lunch hour) on Zoom. Contact Janis for the login information.

Racial Justice in Action!

Janis Jarvis, Racial Justice Group Moderator

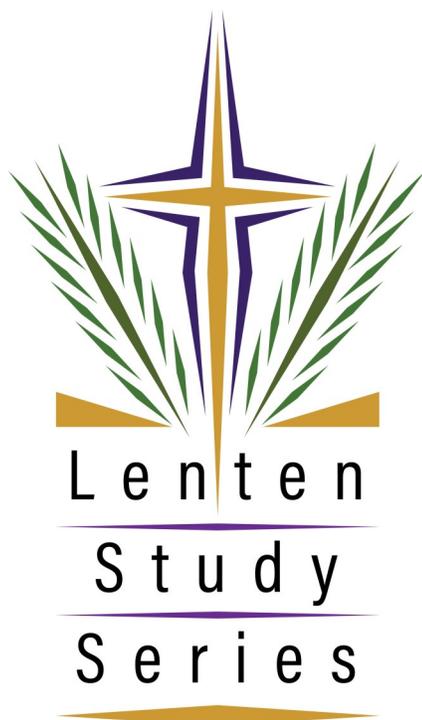
Opportunities for Study and Christian Formation During Lent

Adult Sunday School Lenten Study

The God We Can Know: Exploring the "I Am" Sayings of Jesus

Begins Sunday, February 27, 9 am, Classroom 4

We will explore the "I am" sayings of Jesus found in the Gospel of John. Perfect for Lent, this series will help us find and form an answer to the most essential question in the Christian faith, "Who do you say I am?" Contact Craig if you are planning to join us, and he will be in touch as details develop.



Weekday Lenten Study

The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer

Begins Wednesday, March 9, 2 pm – 3:30 pm, Zoom

RSVP to Pastor Hoyte no later than March 2

This study is based on a new book by United Methodist pastor and popular author Adam Hamilton and will guide us to better understand the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray. By exploring the lines and their meanings, we will take a look at what we ask of God and what we ask of ourselves while learning how to use the Lord's Prayer as a pattern for our own prayer life. RSVP to Pastor Hoyte by March 2.

Looking Ahead to Easter

Easter Flower Sale

Orders due Sunday, March 27

Our Youth will be selling Easter Lillies, Hyacinths, Martha Washington Geraniums, and Tulips to decorate our altar on Easter morning. Proceeds will benefit our Oxcart Food Pantry Sunday School Mission Project. Order forms will be available beginning on February 27 in Fellowship Hall. Orders are due on March 27. Please fold your payment into the order form and place it into the purple box. Or, you can send the form with your check to the church office, attention Wendy Cooper, or email the church office.

Egg Hunt on the Lawn

Save the Date: Sunday, April 10

The Youth Ministry Team is making plans for a community Easter egg hunt on our front lawn! More information to come as our plans are finalized; be sure to check our weekly bulletins and the April Agape for details. Please consider volunteering to help out, and be sure to invite any youth that might be interested! Please contact Wendy for further information.



Opportunities for Fellowship

The Adult Fellowship Ministry Team is in the process of planning some fun ways to socialize, online and in-person, with your Church family!



Treat Yourself Tuesday

Tuesday, March 1, Friends of NOUMC Facebook Page

Socially distance with us through the NOUMC Facebook page. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2, so that makes the first of March Fat Tuesday. We are calling it “Treat Yourself Tuesday” and would like you to share how you are treating yourself with a special dinner or treat, by buying a book you have been wanting to read, or by taking a nature walk. Post your pictures on Facebook and enjoy how your friends are treating themselves.

Frank and Dean Dinner Show

Wednesday, March 30, Dinner at 5:30 pm and Show at 7 pm

Matteo’s Restaurant in Olmsted Falls

RSVP by March 15

Join us for a dinner and a show at Matteo’s Restaurant. You will have a choice of three entrees to be determined at a cost of \$35 plus gratuity. Please note that this will be held on the second floor of the restaurant, and there is not an elevator. Let Charlene Vas know if you are interested in this event so she can give you details.

Share Ideas with the Adult Fellowship Ministry Team!

We would like your ideas for events and some help in planning them! Remember the fun we had with spring and fall walks in the Metroparks, at the hot dog potluck, and at the luau? You probably do not remember the campfire and s’mores—it had to be rescheduled a few times for rain and then canceled. Look for it later this year! If you have ideas or would like to help with upcoming activities, contact Charlene Vas, Claudia Taller, Tammy Moore, or Sarah Jackson.

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!



Church Office and Building Reminders

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

Masks are optional in light of the declining severity of the COVID-19 virus. However, please be sensitive to and respectful of those who choose to wear masks, and please stay home if you are ill or experiencing symptoms.

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.

April Agape Deadline

March 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 March 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

Social Media: Hanna Moore

Music Director: Gabriela Martinez

Church Family News

1	Judy K.	5	Kirsten R.	19	Liam B.
1	Sally C.	5	Sharon W.	20	Barbara M.
1	Javier G.	6	Luma B.	20	Debra C.
2	Gwen H.	9	Nathan C.	21	Wendy C.
		12	De Niro B.	25	Marilyn R.
		12	Nicole B.	30	Dick M.
		17	Kris H.	31	Diane P.



17	Kim & Ken D.
27	Gabriela M. & Javier G.
28	Barb & Ed B.

Prayer Concerns

First Responders	Dallas, Terri W.'s father	Keith A.
Victims of natural disasters	Wayne, lifted by Liz L.	Miriam, lifted by Janis J.
Those suffering from mental illness	Carol W.	Patty, lifted by Janis J.
Those affected by gun violence	Maggie, granddaughter of	Mary, lifted by Susan W.
Those who are homeless	Chris B.	Monica, lifted by Susan W.
Stephen Ministers, Care Receivers	Carol, lifted by the S.	Barbara B.
Our condolences to the loved ones	Sherry, lifted by the S.	Donna, sister of Carol N.
of Rev. Dr. Mark C.	Ron W.	Steve, son of Mary Ellen M.
following his passing	Nancy D.	Selene, lifted by Carole A.
Our condolences to the family of	Lois D.	Judy, lifted by Brenda F.
Owen Mitchel C. following his	Teresa, Michelle W.'s cousin	Bev, lifted by Josh O.
passing (great-grandson of	Josh O.	Christopher Y., USAF
Jane & Ray B. and Gwen &	Viola C.	Matthew F., USAF
Dave H.)	Susan W.	Lt. Col. Bill G., USMC
Sterling B.	Donald R.	

Thank You

During this time of sorrow, we want to thank our church family for the prayers and condolences.

Jane & Ray Burnett

March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday 10 am - 2 pm</i>		1 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved	2 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 10 am UMW (Classroom 7) 7 pm Ash Wednesday Worship	3 7 pm Choir (Sanctuary)	4	5 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist
6 9 am Sunday School (Classroom 4) 10:30 am Worship 3 pm - 5 pm Girl Scouts (Classroom 7)	7 11 am Bells 12 pm - 1 pm Racial Justice Group (Zoom) 8:30 pm AA (FH)	8 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved	9 2 pm Lenten Study (Zoom)	10 7 pm Choir (Sanctuary)	11	12 8:30 am UMM Breakfast (Canary's) 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved
13 <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins: Spring Forward</i> 9 am Sunday School (Classroom 4) 10:30 am Worship 3 pm - 5 pm Girl Scouts (Classroom 7)	14 11 am Bells 12 pm - 1 pm Racial Justice Group (Zoom) 8:30 pm AA (FH)	15 <i>April Agape Deadline</i> 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved	16 2 pm Lenten Study (Zoom)	17 11:30 am Lunch with Friends 7 pm Choir (Sanctuary)	18	19 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist
20 <i>Penny Sunday</i> 9 am Sunday School (Classroom 4) 10:30 am Worship 3 pm - 5 pm Girl Scouts (Classroom 7)	21 11 am Bells 12 pm - 1 pm Racial Justice Group (Zoom) 8:30 pm AA (FH)	22 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved	23 2 pm Lenten Study (Zoom)	24 7 pm Choir (Sanctuary)	25	26 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist 10 am - 2 pm Card-Making (FH)
27 <i>UMCOR Sunday</i> 9 am Sunday School (Classroom 4) 10:30 am Worship 3 pm - 5 pm Girl Scouts (Classroom 7)	28 11 am Bells 12 pm - 1 pm Racial Justice Group (Zoom) 8:30 pm AA (FH)	29 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved	30 2 pm Lenten Study (Zoom) 5:30 pm Dinner and Show (Matteo's Restaurant)	31 4:30 pm - 6 pm Free Community Meal (Carry-Out Only) 7 pm Choir (Sanctuary)		

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

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

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.

Free Community Meal (Carry-Out Only)

Thursday, March 31

4:30 pm - 6 pm

Carry-Out Menu:

*baked 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.*