

# Agape

Greek for “Love without Limits”

North Olmsted United Methodist Church

Vol. 56 Issue 9

September 2022

## 21-Day Social Justice Challenge

*September 14 – October 5*

**What is a Social Justice Challenge?** Social Justice Challenges have become popular following the death of George Floyd and the increasing growth of the Black Lives Matter movement. Online challenges have been offered by many religious and non-profit organizations, including The UMC. Most include links to digital resources on social justice issues and/or prayer and devotions. The idea of spanning 21 days comes from the theory that it takes 21 days to make or break a habit.

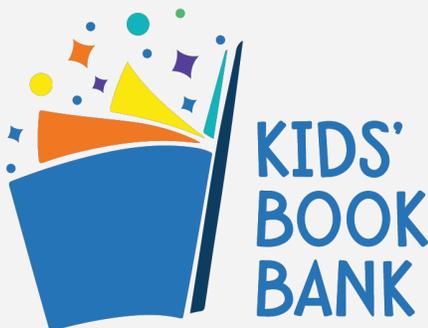
I participated in one this past spring sponsored by the Greater Cleveland YWCA. Every day I received an email with links to three to five online resources on social justice issues. They were a mix of written content, podcasts, and videos varying in length from a few minutes to an hour. I found the content very interesting, and it increased my understanding of social justice issues. I found some issues I wanted to act on, some groups I wanted to become an ally for, and a great deal to pray about.

The NOUMC Racial Justice Group members have looked at many resources in the three years they have been meeting and thought a 21-day challenge would be a great way to share some of that content. Our challenge will begin on Wednesday, September 14 and will run through October 5. Participants will receive a daily email with links to online social justice issues. There will be a description of the topic and type of resource as well as how long it takes to view or listen so you may choose the ones that interest you and fit your schedule.

During the challenge we will meet to discuss what we have learned. The meetings will most likely be on Wednesdays, September 14, 21, 28, and October 5. We will determine the time and if we will meet via Zoom and/or in-person after polling the participants availability. You are welcome to participate in the NOUMC Challenge even if you cannot attend the meetings.

If you would like to participate in the NOUMC Social Justice Challenge or would like more information, please see the sign-up sheet on the office door or contact one of the following: Pastor Hoyte, Sharon Werner, Janis Jarvis, or the church office at [noumc@noumc.org](mailto:noumc@noumc.org).

—Submitted by Sharon Werner



### Cleveland Kids' Book Bank Mission Trip

*Tuesday, September 20, 1 pm - 3 pm*

Join us as we support Kids' Book Bank in their work to ensure all kids growing up in Greater Cleveland have books of their own to read and cherish. We have room for up to 20 people. No lifting required. We will carpool from the church building. Contact Janis Jarvis for more information or to reserve a spot.

## Worship Opportunities

### Worship With Us In-Person and Online

*Sundays at 10:30 am*

*Masks continue to be optional.*

*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)
September 4	Jim & Ellie Yager	Bev Hixon	Judi Wagner & Guylene Harold
September 11	Barb Andrews	Greg Lavelle	Sarah Jackson & Sydney Scothon
September 18	Jean Scothon	John Vas	Beth Cruz
September 25	Sarah Jackson	Joel Chermonte	Barb & Ron Clough

## Christian Education

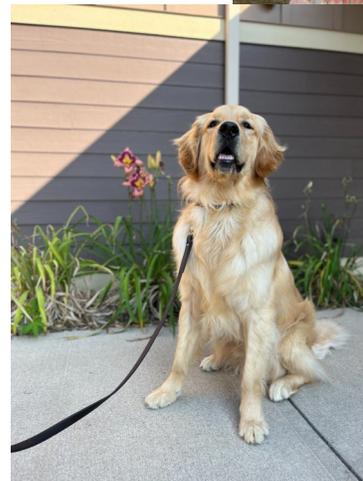
### Sunday School Mission Project: 4 Paws For Ability Update



As you may remember, in 2018-2019, for our Sunday School Class Mission Project, our youth raised money to help fund a service dog for a little girl in need through 4 Paws For Ability. We got a message from 4 Paws that Brynlynn finally got her service dog!



Brynlynn met her dog on August 13, and the two graduated from the training program and began their new life together the next day. Brynlynn's service dog is a male Golden Retriever named Nalu. He was born on October 20, 2020 and has since been in training for his new position and learning how to take care of Brynlynn's needs. We're so excited for Brynlynn and thought you might enjoy seeing the result of the hard work of our youth and the generosity of our congregation!



## Christian Education and Youth



### Community Bonfire and Service Project

*Sunday, October 2, 4:30 pm, Church yard  
RSVP by September 30*

All youth and their families, our congregation, and our community are invited to join us for hot dogs, s'mores, and a service project! The price of admission will be one package of paper products (which will be donated to the North Olmsted Oxcart Food Pantry), and one long roasting stick. There will be music and games and lots of fun as we share the love of Jesus with our neighbors and friends. Please be sure to RSVP to Wendy Cooper by September 30.

### Volunteer in the Nursery!

*The nursery is opening on Rally Day,  
Sunday, September 11*

We want to be able to offer the nursery and toddler rooms to our families with small children, as well as any families who might visit our church and be in need of a safe place for their child during worship. In order to do so, we are in need of two people to help out in the rooms each week. Please consider joining our nursery staff! Please contact Wendy Cooper to ask questions or to be added to the list of volunteers.



### Adult Sunday School: "Becoming A Contagious Christian"

*New study begins Sunday, September 11, 9 am, Classroom 4*

Join us for Sunday School! Our new study will equip us to communicate our faith in a style that fits the unique personality God gave each of us. Presenters include: Bill Hybels, Mark Mittelberg, and Lee Strobel. Contact Craig Mueller if you are planning to join us or for more information.

## Opportunities for Fellowship

### Lunch with Friends

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

All are welcome to meet us for lunch and fellowship! For our September location, read the church announcements or call Carole Bettinger.

## Opportunities to Give

### Support Laura's Home Women's Crisis Center

*Penny Sunday is September 18*

September's Penny Sunday offering will go to help finance our mission to feed the women and children at Laura's Home. Every month a group from our church and our wonderful chef and food shopper feed the people at Laura's Home.

Our congregation has a long history of providing free meals. Over forty years ago an East Side church asked us to provide \$125 a month to pay for a meal at their supper kitchen. Most at that Administrative Board meeting said we couldn't afford to do that. Nell Jensen spoke up and said that we should meet the request with donations and not from the church budget, and not only that, we should send volunteers to work at the kitchen once a month. For over twenty years we supported East Glenville Supper Kitchen until the church closed. So, we found another place in need: Laura's Home. Over this whole period, the cost has been kept at \$125 to feed about 100 people.

Over the last couple of years, donations have dwindled, and our part in this mission is in danger of not being able to continue; this month's Penny Sunday will provide an opportunity for you to support this important ministry of the church. *Make checks payable to NOUMC and write **September Penny Sunday** or **Laura's Home** in the memo. Send checks to the church office, attention Financial Secretary. For those worshipping in person, a basket will be designated for Penny Sunday.* Please remember that you can donate to this cause **any time of the year** by sending a check to the church.

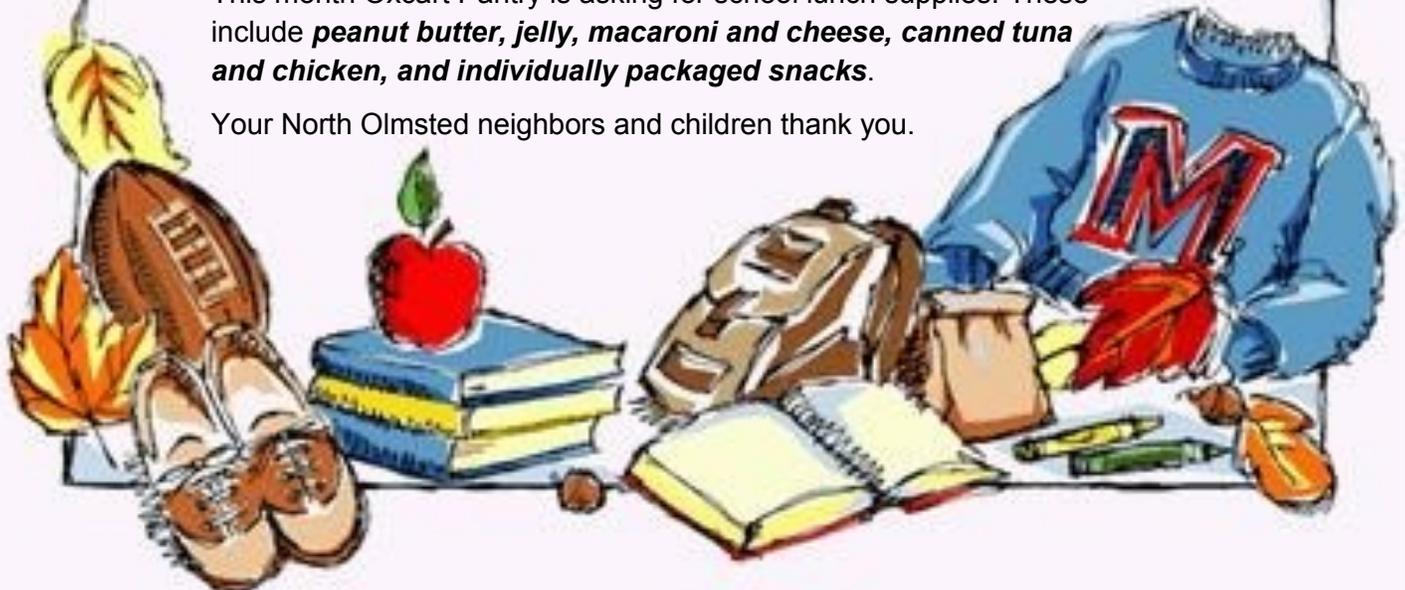
### Oxcart Pantry Collection

*Collecting food for school lunches until September 25*

There will be some happy (or at least happier) kids heading back to school because of your help. You provided 140 back-to-school items ranging from boxes of crayons to backpacks and \$381.50 to the Oxcart Pantry to purchase more items.

This month Oxcart Pantry is asking for school lunch supplies. These include **peanut butter, jelly, macaroni and cheese, canned tuna and chicken, and individually packaged snacks.**

Your North Olmsted neighbors and children thank you.



# United Women in Faith



## United Women in Faith

*First Business Meeting:  
Wednesday, September 7, 10 am  
Classroom 7*

It's back to school and back to work time. The UWF will hold its first business meeting of the fall on Wednesday, September 7. All are welcome to join us! A couple of things we'll be discussing will be whether we can resume our annual Amish trip and also the upcoming Craft Show on October 15.

# Church Office Updates

## October Agape Deadline

*September 15*

Email articles and meeting dates to [noumc@noumc.org](mailto: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 September 15.

## 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).

### **Church Office:**

440-779-6634

[noumc@noumc.org](mailto:noumc@noumc.org)

**Pastor:** Hoyte Wilhelm  
ext.16

**Christian Ed. & Youth Director:**  
Wendy Cooper  
ext.13

**Organist:** Marlene Dirksen

**Admin. Assistant:** Megan Howe  
ext.10

**Social Media:** Hanna Moore

**Music Director:** Gabriela Martinez

**Financial Secretary:** Ron Clough

## Church Family News

1	Sandi O.		
2	Jessica P.		
9	Randall S.		
10	Jason D.		
11	John V.		
11	Buford W.		
12	Hadley B.		
17	Chris B.		
18	David J.		
19	Gloria C.		
22	Doris B.		
22	Toni J.		
25	Judy F.	10	Guylene H. & Josh O.
25	Jim E.	10	Becky & Jeff R.
28	William G.	16	Barb & Dave L.
28	Beverly H.	19	Charlene & John V.
28	Ken D.	23	Rebecca & Kevin W.
30	Judie F.	26	Alice & Andy W.



## Prayer Concerns

First Responders

Victims of natural disasters

Those suffering from mental illness

Those affected by gun violence

Those who are homeless

Our condolences to the loved ones  
of Matthew Talbott following his  
passing

Josh O. & Guylene H.

George, Liz L.'s brother

Joan P.

Judy, lifted by Brenda F.

Bill, Sarah J.'s brother

Deb, friend of Claudia & Paul T.

Sally C.

Don, lifted by Liz L.

Judy K.

Nancy D.

Carol W.

Sally S.

Kathy, lifted by Claudia & Paul T.

Hannah, lifted by Louise A.

Sterling B.

Ron W.

Lois D.

Viola C.

Susan W.

Donald R.

Keith A.

Barbara B.

Carol, lifted by Sally & Will S.

Sherry, lifted by Sally & Will S.

Patty, lifted by Janis J.

Miriam, lifted by Janis J.

Mary, lifted by Susan W.

Monica, lifted by Susan W.

Donna, sister of Carol N.

Steve, son of

Mary Ellen M.

Selene, lifted by

Carole A.

Judy, lifted by Brenda F.

Christopher Y., USAF

Matthew F., USAF

Lt. Col. Bill G., USMC

## September 2022

<i>Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, &amp; Thursday 10 am - 2 pm</i>				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist
<b>4</b> 10:30 am Worship	<b>5</b> <i>Labor Day/ Office Closed</i>  8:30 pm AA (FH)	<b>6</b> 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved  7 pm Scouts (FH)	<b>7</b> 10 am UWF (Classroom 7)  7 pm Church Council (Classroom 7)	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist	<b>10</b> 8:30 am UMM Breakfast (Canary's)  10 am - 2 pm Stamp Social (FH)
<b>11</b> <i>Rally Day</i> 9 am Sunday School (Classroom 4) 10:30 am Worship  3 pm - 5 pm Girl Scouts (Classroom 7)	<b>12</b> 12 pm - 1 pm Racial Justice Group (Zoom)  8:30 pm AA (FH)	<b>13</b> 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved  7 pm Scouts (FH)	<b>14</b>   21-Day Social Justice Challenge	<b>15</b> <i>October Agape Deadline</i>  11:30 am Lunch with Friends	<b>16</b> 11 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <i>Penny Sunday</i> 9 am Sunday School (Classroom 4) 10:30 am Worship  3 pm - 5 pm Girl Scouts (Classroom 7)	<b>19</b> 12 pm - 1 pm Racial Justice Group (Zoom)  8:30 pm AA (FH)	<b>20</b> 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved  1 pm - 3 pm Kids' Book Bank Mission Trip  7 pm Scouts (FH)	<b>21</b>   21-Day Social Justice Challenge	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist
<b>25</b> 9 am Sunday School (Classroom 4) 10:30 am Worship  3 pm - 5 pm Girl Scouts (Classroom 7)	<b>26</b> 12 pm - 1 pm Racial Justice Group (Zoom)  8:30 pm AA (FH)	<b>27</b> 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved  7 pm Scouts (FH)	<b>28</b>   21-Day Social Justice Challenge	<b>29</b>   4:30 pm - 5:30 pm Free Community Meal (Carry-Out Only)	<b>30</b>	

*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](http://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, September 29*

*4:30 pm - 5:30 pm*

### Carry-Out Menu:

ham and scalloped potatoes,  
salad, a roll, 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.*