

Agape

Greek for "Love without Limits"



A Publication of North Olmsted United Methodist Church Vol. 51 Issue 2 March 2017

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March Events...

Ash Wednesday Service
March 1, 2017 7:00 pm

Youth Work Mission
Soup and Chili Cook-Off
Sunday, March 5th at Noon

Please plan to stay for lunch on Sunday, March 5th for our annual Youth Work Mission Soup and Chili Cook-Off!! We will have a variety of chili and soup to sample and you be able to vote for your favorite. Proceeds will benefit youth work mission.



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North Olmsted United Methodist Men's
"Old Fashioned"

CHICKEN
DINNER

Saturday
March 18th
5-7pm

Menu: Chicken, Mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, salad and dessert!
Tickets Prices: adults \$10, senior \$9, child 5-11 \$6, under 5 free!
Tickets on sale after worship in March or call the church office at 440-779-6634 to reserve yours!

News and Notes from NOUMC



...March 18! North Coast District UMC 2017 leadership Academy

Held at Berea UMC
170 Seminary St.,
Berea, OH

Keynote Speaker: Beth Estock, co-author of *Weird Church, Welcome to the 21st Century*. All are welcome to attend! Class schedule brochures will be available in fellowship hall. soon.

The
UMW is
Thinking
Spring!!



Spring is just around the corner and so is the **United Methodist Women's Spring Plant Sale**. We have all the information and flyers and color brochures will be available in mid-March. All the plants come from Dean's greenhouse and they have added several beautiful new annual combination baskets like the one above. Call Sharon in the office at 440-779-6634 if you would like us to mail you an order form and brochure. Orders are due on Easter Sunday, April 16 and plants will arrive on Saturday, May 13.

Another event on our minds is the **Spring Rummage Sale on Saturday, April 22!** **Mark your calendars!** We are trying a new schedule this year...we will be sorting and pricing rummage on Thursday, April 20 instead of Wednesday. That way we can set it up and leave it up to continue working on it on Friday, April 21. We will start at 9:00 am on both days. More details to come.

Stephen Ministries – Called to Care for Each Other



The Stephen Ministries bulletin board to the right of the kitchen doorway will be changed every month or two and highlight an aspect of the way Stephen ministers can minister to you and how you can minister to the people around you. The theme in February and into

Lent will be broken heartedness. "He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds," Psalms 147:3 reminds us. In God you find solace and you can put yourself under His care. The point of Stephen ministry is not to have someone tell you what to do or help you solve your problems, it's to have someone be there to listen and pray and help you find your own answers. All you broken-hearted people, you are not alone: God is with you. And your Stephen ministers are on call to help you remember God's promise to each of us. If you need someone to hear you and be there for you, in the presence of God, let Reverend Mark know.



Youth Work Mission Chili & Soup Cook-Off!

Sunday, March 5th
at Noon

We will have all of the usual beef, turkey and vegetarian chili varieties and a variety of soups!! One of last year's winners was a chocolate dessert soup! So whether it is your love for chili, soup or work mission--please share the love and join us immediately following the service on March 5th. A free will offering will support Work Mission. The missionaries will be providing the soup and chili varieties, but everyone is invited to participate.

Red Letter Christians...

Rev. Mark L. Steiger

I have never before written a book review as my newsletter column, but I have recently been reading a powerful and provocative book that I highly recommend: *Red Letter Revolution: What If Jesus Really Meant What He Said?* by Shane Claiborne and Tony Campolo (San Francisco, Harper Collins Publishing, 2012). The book begins with Claiborne and Campolo noting that the extreme religious right has “hijacked” the word *evangelical* and even to some extent the word *Christian*; and indeed the news media has largely contributed to the “hijacking.” Thus, they state that there needs to be a designation for those who take the words of Jesus seriously, and apply them without apology to twenty-first century life, but those who would choose not to be associated with the exclusionist agenda of the extreme religious conservative movement. Thus the term: Red Letter Christians.

Starting in 1899, Bibles have been published that highlight the words of Jesus in red. Claiborne states: “We adopted the name. . . not only to differentiate ourselves from the social values generally associated with [extreme right-wing] evangelicals but also to emphasize that we are Christians who take the radical teaching of Jesus seriously and who are committed to living them out in our everyday lives.”

(Introduction Page xi.)

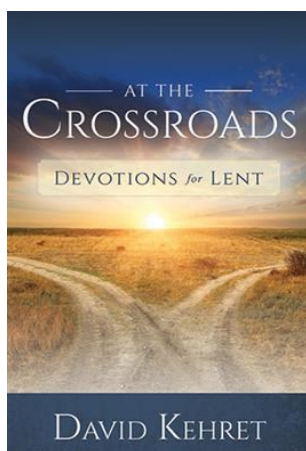
Throughout the 269 pages of this book, Claiborne and Campolo, in dialogue with each other, discuss such contemporary issues as hell, Islam, economics, family, abortion, the environment, women, racism, sexuality, immigration, and civil disobedience.

(I note, this is not a book about the current political situation in Washington; it was published in 2012. Still, much of it seems to apply all the more in 2017.) This book has been endorsed by such people as: Former President Jimmy Carter; Archbishop Desmond Tutu; Eugene Peterson, author of the Message Bible; Phyllis Tickle, a contemporary feminist theologian; Richard Rohr, O.F.M., Center for Action and Contemplation; and Brian McLaren, author and motivational speaker.

In recommending this book, I’m not suggesting that the reader will agree with every viewpoint espoused by Claiborne and Campolo. Still, they raise an interesting and provocative question: What if we really took *all* the words of Jesus seriously? What if we applied the Gospel in total to our decisions: personal, economic, political, social, environmental? What if we, as Christians really believed that Jesus meant what he said, and truly lived our lives according to his words? Campolo and Claiborne contend that the world would be a different place, a better place; and I agree. We are called to follow the teachings of Christ; and just maybe that means we are called to be Red Letter Christians.

See you in church.

Rev. Mark



Lenten Devotionals Available...

This year’s devotional is *At the Crossroads* by David Kehret. Lent is the perfect season to consider the critical crossroads of life: losses, transitions, choices, uncertainties and disappointments; those times when faith and life intersect. These devotions for Lent by Rev. David Kehret, an experienced campus minister, help us to become more keenly aware that our crucified and risen Savior navigated the difficult crossroads of this world for the sake of our salvation, equipping us to navigate the crossroads of our own lives.

Devotional are available in fellowship hall. Please take one for yourself and a friend or neighbor. Call the office at 440-779-6634 if you would like us to mail you one.

Christian Education

by Wendy Cooper

THANK YOU!!!!!!

Our youth and I would like to thank all who purchased subs at their sub sale on February 5th! The kids raised \$200.00, which will be donated to the Sunday School ARF Mission Project. Thank you also to all of the Sunday School teachers who came to help us construct the subs. We hope you enjoyed eating them as much as we enjoyed making them for you!



The youth would also like to thank the congregation for their very generous donations on February 5th to their Souper Bowl of Caring fundraiser. A total of \$104.88 was received, and 100% of that was sent directly to the North Olmsted Oxcart Food Pantry.

Thanks so much for helping our youth follow God's commandment to care for His creation...be they two legged or four legged!

EASTER FLOWER SALE

The youth will be selling Easter Lilies, Hyacinths, Martha Washington Geraniums, daffodils, pansies and Tulips to be placed on the altar for our Easter morning services. Proceeds of the sale will be going towards the Sunday School ARF Mission Project. Order forms will be in your bulletins beginning on March 12th, and orders will be due on April 2nd. Please give your order to Wendy or Sharon, or place them in the purple box in the sanctuary. You may also call the church office to place your order.



Berea Animal Rescue: Sunday School ARF Mission Project:

Did you know that there are MANY ways to help the Berea Animal Shelter? There are volunteer opportunities, and there are fostering opportunities. You can become a member, or you can purchase an annual calendar. You can donate money, or you can donate items the shelter needs. You can donate your car, or you can have the shelter put into your will. ARF also holds several fundraisers throughout the year, including

the Monster Mutt Dash and Halloween After Party, and the Soup-R-Bowl Dinner. Please check out the ARF website, for more information if you are interested in getting involved!

ARF Items Needed:

Please don't forget, our youth are accepting donations of items that the Berea Animal Shelter needs to help them care for the animals they rescue. If you would like to donate any of these items, you can leave them in the big green box in Fellowship Hall. Here is a list of the items needed:

Paper towels
Canned cat food
Puppy piddle pads
Cat litter deodorized
(20 oz. Arm & Hammer)
Cat & Dog toys
Canned dog food
Large & med. rawhide bones
Scoop-able litter or Clay litter
Crates of all sizes

Toilet paper
Latex gloves
30 gal. trash bags
13 gal. trash bags
Dishwasher detergent
Laundry detergent
Bleach
Dryer sheets
Pet gates or extra tall gates
Exercise play yards

Plastic swimming pools
First Aid supplies
Printer paper
Postage stamps
Laptop computers
Gift cards
(Target, Walmart, Petco,
PetSmart, Office Max,
Staples)

Outreach Committee

You did really well at keeping some of our neighbors a little warmer this winter. We sent 101 cans/packages of soup to the Oxcart Pantry. We are now collecting meat or fish products which are due on March 12. After that we will collect peanut butter.

We received a thank you from Georgia at the Oxcart Pantry for our Adopt-A-Family participation and notes from the families we adopted (see below). One line in these notes brought a tear to my eyes; the mother said, "It is so nice to have shoes with no holes and dry socks."

We will be providing Easter baskets for some of the patrons at the Oxcart Pantry. For some of our new members or as a refresher to some of the old ones, we ask for donations of baskets, wash cloths as liners instead of grass and toiletry articles and small gifts. The list of suggested items can be found here, but don't let the list limit your donations. If you think of a good item, just remember it has to fit in a basket. We have already been blessed with a supply of soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all the wonderful gifts you gave me and my dog! I was brought to tears when I saw all the wonderful things. And, so much dog food! I will definitely be using the gift card to buy him more food and maybe a special treat. And, I couldn't believe the outfits you got me! They are perfect. Thank you for everything! Thank you so, so much for all your kindnesses. This has been a very tough year for me and you helped make it a truly special Christmas.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Family # 26

To simply say the words "thank you" doesn't seem like enough for all the good that you did. We went from nothing for Christmas to one of our biggest Christmases ever. The children's gifts were perfect! They loved them! My jeans and shoes are wonderful! It is so nice to have shoes with no holes and dry socks. A special thank you to the person who got my husband the Denny's gift card. He took all the kids out for breakfast and it made him so happy to have that privilege. God bless you richly for your generosity!

♥ Family #32



Oxcart Pantry Items:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Due</u>
Canned Meat	March 12
Peanut Butter	In April

Easter Basket Items:

<u>For All:</u>	<u>For Men</u>
Candy!	Shaving cream
baskets	Razors
Wash cloths	Pens
Combs etc.	Puzzle books
Shampoo	Small tools
Conditioner	<u>For Kids</u>
Lotion	Crayons
Lip balm	Coloring books
<u>For Women</u>	Small cars
Makeup	Small toys
Nail polish	Small dolls
Nail files	Stuffed animals
Bath gel	Hair accessories



Thank you all so much for your gifts. May God bless you and all your families in all you do.

Much Love,

Me

Capital Campaign Update

Back in May of 2015, the congregation pledged \$32,000 to be contributed over 36 months for improvements to the church. Through the end of 2016, we have already have received \$30,635, or 96% of our goal. Thank you for your continued support toward our goal!

Many improvements have been made to the church with these funds, such as:

- Resurfacing of the parking lot
- New furnace and air conditioner
- Painting of Fellowship Hall
- Carpeting of Fellowship Hall
- Three flat-screen televisions
- Defibrillator

Thanks to the many helpers who volunteered their time and efforts to do much of the work to keep our costs down. Because of all this help, even with all the improvements we have made, of the funds we have received we still have \$5,300 available for more improvements.

December Income Statement

Regular Income	YTD Accounts	"YTD Actual"	"YTD Budget "Over (Short)"
Regular Offering	\$189,301	\$193,145	\$(3,844)
Non-pledged	4,946	2,500	2,446
Loose Offering	4,516	2,000	2,516
Christmas & Easter	1,463	1,100	363
Rental Income	5,200	5,000	200
Total Regular Income	205,426	203,745	1,681
Total Special Income	7	4,125	(4,118)
Total Income	205,432	207,870	(2,438)
<u>Expenses</u>			
Minister Expenses	83,102	84,354	(1,252)
Staff Payroll and Employer Taxes	51,972	51,233	739
Christian Education	1,084	2,400	(1,316)
Trustee Expenses	11,712	12,192	(480)
Office Expenses	6,859	6,620	239
Utilities	11,206	10,900	306
Insurance 5,261	5,500	(240)	
Repairs & Maintenance	3,250	2,000	1,250
Other Expenses	4,866	4,160	706
Conference - Shared Ministries	23,618	23,618	0
District - Shared Ministries	1,732	1,732	-
Total Expenses	204,663	204,709	(46)
Net Income	\$769	\$3,161	\$(2,392)

Food Ministry

Have you ever looked into the Food Mission room next to the kitchen and wondered; where is that food going? Where is it from? A group of NOUMC members pick the food up six days a week and deliver the food to hunger centers and community meals.

Where does the food go?

FOOD PANTRIES

- **Brookside Food Center**, 3710 Pearl Road, Cleveland (distributes to over 900 families per) **Front Steps** (previously Transitional Housing), 1545 W. 25th St., Cleveland, (housing for approx. 100 individuals, mainly women).
- **Fairview Park Hunger Center**, 22960 Lorain Rd., Fairview Park, (serves 80 – 100 families per month)

COMMUNITY MEALS (normally held once a month)

- **Laura's Home**, 1812 Puritas Ave., Cleveland (serves 90 -100 meals)
- **N. Olmsted UMC**, 4700 Dover Center Rd. N. Olmsted, (serves approximately 110 meals)
- **Pearl Road UMC**, 4200 Pearl Rd., Cleveland (serves approx. 90 – 110 meals)
- **St. Augustine's Catholic Church**, 2486 W. 14th St. Cleveland, (serves approx. 17, 000 meals per month), Delivered weekly.
- **Simpson UMC**, 8519 Clark Ave., Cleveland (serves 60 -80 meals)

Where does the food come from?

- **Panera N. Olmsted** - picked up 6 days a week
- **Pizza Hut N. Olmsted** - picked up twice a week
- **Fragapane's N. Olmsted** - picked up twice a week
- **Red Lobster N. Olmsted** - picked once a week
- **Bob Evans N. Olmsted** - picked once a week
- **Chipotle N. Olmsted** - picked once a week
- **Starbucks N. Olmsted** - picked once a week

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, call the office at 440-779-6634.



Please take a Turn Hosting Fellowship Time!

The church will provide the supplies, you make the coffee, set out some pastries, clean-up and collect the donations for your group or designated mission project. Your donations have recently supported the Free Community Meal, The Dinner at Laura's Home and Youth Work Mission. Sign up by the coffee maker or see Sharon in the office for details.

NOUMC get a new website....



North Olmsted UMC has updated its website . The new website will be easier to navigate and maintain. It already has some new features: Prayers for the Week, links to Stephen Ministry and Reconciling Ministry Network, and lots of updated information. If you want to see the worship plans for next week, check the website. If you want to know what we are collecting for Oxcart Food Pantry, check the website. If you want information on the next community meal, check the website. If you want to know what the next Penny Sunday supports, check the website.

Future plans for the website include: posting a copy of our newsletter (edited to remove personal contact information); and, posting the church calendar. Further down the road, we may create a password protected “members only” page that will include an up-to-date church directory. If you or your group have information specific to North Olmsted UMC that you would like to see on the website, forward it to Rev. Mark either via e-mail or through the website Contacts Page. Check our website often to see how it evolves.

LIVING IN THE LIGHT

by Claudia Taller

I struggled for a while with whether yoga works with Christianity. Its origin is the Hindu tradition, and its teachings are not from The Bible but from its own teachings, including the 196 Indian aphorisms in the Yoga Sutras written by Pantajali. I find the Sutras add to my understanding of humanity and strengthen my faith. For example, the first of the Yamas, rules to live by, is to do no harm to any being, one of the reasons many yogis are vegetarian. And when we bow to each other at the beginning and end of class, hands together at heart's center, it is a prayer and an acknowledgment that we all have the light of God inside ourselves, and that's to be honored. Jesus said we are to be a light to the world and to let our light shine, and Namaste (I bow to the light within you, which is also the light within me) emphasizes that light.

The yoga classes here at the church begin with scripture and meditation, and flow into breath and movement. We always end with relaxation and the universal chant of “Om” and a sweet Namaste. Sometimes we end with a prayer, and we always devote our practice to an intention, whether it's peace or love or something else. It's spiritual and meaningful, not a religion, but an enhancement to living well. It seems to further everything I believe in as a Christian as I try to live life as a prayer and be a light to the world.

Join us for Yoga for All, Sunday evenings at 6PM (a change from our original time of 7). This class is for all of you and for people in our community. A portion of the \$10 suggested donation goes to church ministries. May we be a light to the world.



**Yoga for All,
a Community
Practice
for Peace and
Connectedness**

**Sundays at 6 pm
at NOUMC**

Relax, Focus,
Move, Breathe,
Pray, Let Go

North Olmsted UMC
 4600 Dover Center Rd.
 North Olmsted, Oh 44070
 Phone 440-779-6634
 Fax 440-779-0903

**Office Hours:**

Monday–Wed. 10 am - 2 pm

Thursdays - 1 to 5 pm

Christian Ed Office Hours:

Mondays - 1 to 3 pm

Thursdays - Noon to 3 pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday, Feb. 26 9:00 am– Sun. School 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am-Fellowship 6:00 pm Yoga	27 4:30 pm Conf. Class 7:30 pm Bells 8:30 AA	28 11am AA 1:30 pm Alzheimer's Grp. 7 pm Bible Study	March 1 10 am-UMW 7 pm Ash Wed. Service 8:30 AA	2 6 pm Worship Committee 7pm Choir	3	4 8:30 UMM at Canary's 9-10 am Fitness Class 12-4 pm Private Rental
Sunday, Mar. 5 <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i> <i>Communion Sunday</i> 9:00 am– Sun. School 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am-Fellowship Noon - Work Mission Chili/Soup Cook-Off 5-6 pm– Scouts 6 pm—Yoga	6 4:30 pm Conf. Class 7:30 pm Bells 8:30 AA	7 11am AA 5:30-6:30 Therapy Dog Training 7 pm Bible Study	8 10 am-UMW 8:30 AA	9 11 am-2 pm St. Richards Sr. Fellowship. 7 pm Choir	10	11 9-10 am Fitness Class Before you go to bed ... SET YOUR CLOCKS Ahead!
Sunday, Mar. 12 <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i> <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i> 9:00 am - Sun. School 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am-Fellowship Noon - Ad Board 6 pm - Yoga	13 4:30 pm Conf. Class 7:30 pm Bells 8:30 AA	14 11am AA 7 pm Bible Study	15 10 am-UMW 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry Meeting 8:30 AA	16 7 pm Choir	17	18 9-10 am Fitness Class UMM's Old Fashioned Chicken Dinner 5-7 pm
Sunday, Mar. 19 <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i> <i>Penny Sunday</i> 9:00 am - Sun. School 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am-Fellowship 5-6 pm - Scouts 6 pm - Yoga	20 4:30 pm Conf. Class 7:30 pm Bells 8:30 AA	21 11am AA 7 pm Bible Study	22 10 am-UMW 8:30 AA	23 7 pm Choir	24	25 9-10 am Fitness Class
Sunday, Mar. 26 <i>4th Sunday in Lent</i> <i>One Great Hour of Sharing (offering)</i> 9:00 am -Sun. School 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am-Fellowship 4-6 pm- Open Table Service* 6 pm - Yoga	27 4:30 pm Conf. Class 7:30 pm Bells 8:30 AA	28 11am AA 7 pm Bible Study	29 10 am-UMW 8:30 AA	30 4:30-6 pm Community Meal 7 pm Choir	31	April 1 8:30 UMM at Canary's 9-10 am Fitness Class

*Open Table Worship & Communion Service at NOUMC Sunday, March 26, 2017 at 5 pm
 4-5 pm Leadership Planning Meeting (all are welcome to attend)
 Refreshment following the Open Table Service, Childcare is provided from 4 to 6 pm!



**NORTH OLMSTED
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**



4600 Dover Center Rd.
North Olmsted, Ohio 44070



Agape Newsletter

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Free Community Meal

Thursday, March 30, 2017
Serving 4:30 to 6 pm



The menu is still in the planning stage but Chef Joel will be in the kitchen!
Please join us for dinner!

Held at North Olmsted United Methodist Church
4600 Dover Center Rd., North Olmsted, Ohio 44070 440-779-6634

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. Menu's 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 a handicap accessible facility