

Agape

Greek for "Love without Limits"



A Publication of North Olmsted United Methodist Church Vol. 51 Issue 3 April 2017

Church Staff

Reverend Mark L. Steiger
440-779-6634, ext. 16

Admin. Assistant: Sharon Werner
440-779-6634, ext. 10

Christian Education: Wendy Cooper
440-779-6634, ext. 13

Organist: Marlene Dirksen

Choir Director: Gabriela Martinez

Stephen Ministry: Janis Jarvis
440-779-6634, ext. 12

Nursery Caregiver: Claire Taller



Easter Services

Maundy Thursday, April 13th 5:30 - 7 pm Open Communion
(you may receive communion at anytime from 5:30 to 7:00 pm)

Good Friday, April 14th 7:30 pm - Tenebrae Service

Easter Sunday, April 16th 8:00 am - Communion Service
9:00 am - Fellowship
10:30 am - Traditional Easter Worship
11:30 am - Fellowship

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Other April Events:

**HOME OPENER
HOT DOG LUNCH
SUNDAY, APRIL 9TH**

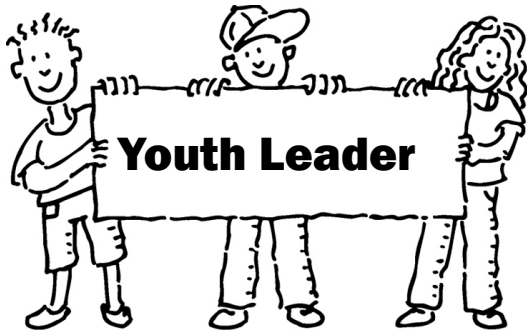
Eat in or carry out. Proceeds will benefit our Sunday School Berea Animal Rescue Fund Mission Project. More info on page 4.

United Methodist Women's
**Spring Rummage Sale
Saturday, April 22**

9 am to 3pm
Lunch &
Bake Sale
Too!



News and Notes from NOUMC



One of the decisions that came out of our January All Church meeting was the need to increase the number of youth and young families in our congregation. It was decided that the first step was to hire a Youth Leader. The Administrative Board voted to fill that position. A job description has been written, and a job advertisement will be written and sent many places in hopes of filling the position by August 1st with a highly qualified person. This will mean an added expense to our budget. We feel that the expense is necessary in order for NOUMC to grow and flourish.

Please feel free to ask Rev. Mark, Wendy or myself if you have questions about hiring a Youth Leader.

Jean



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

Sundays at 6 pm at NOUMC

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



**HOSPICE OF THE
WESTERN RESERVE**



**FURNITURE
DONATIONS
NEEDED!**

Consider donating your *gently used*
furniture/household items to
Hospice of the Western Reserve Warehouse Sales

What better way to repurpose gently used furniture and housewares than to donate to a beneficial cause? Proceeds from these sales help support seriously ill patients and their loved ones, in addition to programs such as art and music therapy, school crisis and community bereavement services.

Sales are held several times throughout the year at
Hospice of the Western Reserve Headquarters
17876 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44110

*Drop off at your convenience or we can arrange pick-up with you within a
reasonable distance of the Warehouse.*

**ITEMS NEEDED INCLUDE: *gently used* indoor and outdoor furniture, other
household items, collectibles, framed artwork, and holiday items.**

DONATIONS NEEDED. For more information, visit hospicewr.org/warehouse. To donate, please call 216.255.9090 or email warehousesaledonation@hospicewr.org.

We are unable to accept mattresses and boxsprings.

SHOP ANY TIME. Between Warehouse Sales, visit our resale shops in Lyndhurst and Medina. Learn more at hospicewr.org/resale.

VOLUNTEERS ARE VITAL MEMBERS OF THE HOSPICE TEAM. To learn more about how you can volunteer, visit hospicewr.org/volunteer.



The Joy of Light...

Rev. Mark L. Steiger

For the past few Sundays, we have been concentrating on the light of Christ as a central feature of Christian life. Of course, I have long known that one of Christ's great "I AM" statements proclaims, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12 NRSV) I have long experienced the joy of Taizé worship and the lighting of candles; but this Lent has afforded me the opportunity to consider "the light of life" in new and wonderful ways.

Who is not celebrating the lengthening of days, as Spring approaches? Who does not enjoy the warmth of the Spring sun shining down on a bright sunny afternoon? It strikes me that the light of Christ is like that. The light of Christ brightens our day. It illumines our path so we may follow "in Jesus' footsteps." The light of Christ also provides energy and warmth, such that we can almost physically feel the love of God enveloping us in his arms like a mother lovingly wrapping a warm fleece blanket around her child.

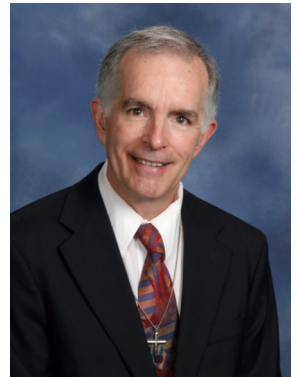
But there's even more to the light than our personal experience. One of my favorite words has long been *radiate*. I have often said in sermons that we should radiate the love of Christ to those whom we meet. But as the light of Christ has taken on

increased meaning in my life, that word *radiate* had also become stronger. We radiate light. We radiate warmth. We radiate energy. Indeed, as Christians, we are called to radiate love. It's my dream, my wish, my desire, that I might be so filled with the love of Christ, that folks will take one look at me and know that I am a Christian and that it is good to be a Christian.

As we pass through the season of Lent and head for Easter, I hope each of us will experience an increase in the light of life shining in us. Indeed, Easter is the day when the light shines so brightly that even death cannot overcome it. I pray that, in some sort of wonderfully mysterious way, that light will pour off of us to everyone we meet. I pray, that light will be reflected in all our thoughts, our words, and our actions. Let our light shine as we give God all the praise and all the glory.

See you in church.

Rev. Mark



Help Hearing the Word...

NOUMC is pleased to announce that we now have a new hearing assistance system in our sanctuary. If you sometimes have difficulty hearing parts of the service, if your hearing needs a little help or a lot of help, our new system is you. Upon entering worship, you will be given a receiver, about the size of a small pocket radio. (We currently have four receivers, but will purchase more as the need arises.) Each receiver is currently fitted with an ear bud, but we will also supply headphones for those who would prefer. You may also use your own ear buds or headphones. The receivers are simple to operate – the only control on them is a dial for volume which the individual user can adjust. See an usher to give our new system a try.

We thank Glenn for donating this system in loving memory of his wife, Jean.



Christian Education

by Wendy Cooper (sundayschool@noumc.org)

Easter Flower Sale

Thank you to all who purchased a flower in memory of or in honor of a loved one to place on our altar on Easter Morning. The sanctuary will be beautiful, and your donations will help out animals in need, with proceeds going towards our Sunday School Berea Animal Rescue Fund Mission Project (Please see future bulletin articles for the exact amount). Thank you also for helping our youth care for God's 4-legged creations!



INDIAN'S HOME OPENER HOT DOG LUNCH



Our youth will be holding an Indian's Hot Dog Lunch on April 9th. Lunch will include a hot dog on a bun with various condiments, Cracker Jacks, a soft pretzel and a can of pop....all for \$5.00. You have the option to add a 2nd hot dog for a total of \$6.00, or a 3rd for a total of \$7.00. You can choose to eat your lunch at church or take it home with you. All proceeds will benefit our Sunday School Berea Animal Rescue Fund Mission Project.

ATTENTION GRADUATES

We will be honoring our graduates during a worship service during the month of June. If you are a graduate or know of a member who is graduating (high school, college, technical school, online degree etc.) please get all of your details to me by the end of May. I will need your name, school, degree, and what you will be doing next (job, further schooling, taking a nap, traveling around the country...etc.).



Camp Information Is Here!

East Ohio Camps and Retreat Ministries offer something for everyone - children, youth, adults and families. *Camp Aldersgate*, *Camp Asbury*, and *Camp Wanake* each offer Summer Camps. Camp information is here and brochures can be found in Fellowship Hall.



Vacation Bible School

NOUMC will not be hosting VBS this year; however, I know there might be some of you who would still like to do VBS, and thought that a small group of us could volunteer to help out at another VBS program in our area. I will be contacting other churches to see if they are in need of volunteers, but I would like to be able to give them some idea of the number of people that we would be sending. If you would like to volunteer with us at another VBS this summer, please let me know soon.

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. You can leave any items donated in the big green box in Fellowship Hall. We are planning a field trip and donation drop off to the shelter as our fundraiser comes to a close in the spring, so be sure to get your items in soon! Here is a list of the items that the shelter has requested:



Paper towels	Laundry detergent
Canned cat food	Bleach
Puppy piddle pads	Dryer sheets
Cat litter deodorized (20 oz. Arm & Hammer)	Pet gates or extra tall gates
Cat & Dog toys	Exercise play yards
Canned dog food	Plastic swimming pools
Large & med. rawhide bones	First Aid supplies
Scoop-able litter or Clay litter	Printer paper
Crates of all sizes	Postage stamps
Toilet paper	Laptop computers
Latex gloves	Gift cards
30 gal. trash bags	(Target, Walmart, Petco, Petsmart, Office Max, Staples)
13 gal. trash bags	
Dishwasher detergent	



Youth Annual Conference

It's time to start thinking about **YAC 2017!** It is scheduled for June 9th-11th at beautiful Lakeside Ohio. It is a

weekend event for youth from the East Ohio Conference of the UMC to meet together for a time of worship, leadership development, and fellowship. There will be speakers, games, music and fun. The conference begins Friday evening at 6:00 and ends around noon on Sunday. Registration ends on May 23rd. I have information packets for any youth interested in going. Anyone of Middle School age or older is eligible to go! If you have any questions or are interested in going to the conference, please see me or Rev Mark!

Outreach Committee

Barb Andrews

When we arrived at the food pantry in March, the meat and fish shelf held one five-pound can of tuna. When we left, there were 116 more cans on the shelf. Needless to say the pantry director, Georgia, was happy to see us. I think it's safe to say that some other people in North Olmsted will also be happy to see those cans in their bags of food. Let's see how well we can do with this month's item, peanut butter! Due on April 9. After that we will be collecting beans, due May 14.



Don't forget to bring in items for our Easter baskets. Needed items are listed here. If possible, we would appreciate having items there before April 9 since our youth will be filling the baskets at 9 am that morning (all are welcome to come help), but we will continue to collect the items for this collection or a future one, so you'll never be late. Thanks so much for your in-kind donations and monetary, as well. Penny Sunday brought in \$142.50, and the coffee and donut fund has been earmarked for this mission for the last month, so missing items can be purchased. We are thankful that our friends at Fairview Grace U.M.C. are helping out by donating 26 baskets. And the clients at the Oxcart Pantry are always happy to receive the baskets that bring little gifts but even more some of the necessities of life that they find hard to provide for their families.

One other note, since Penny Sunday is usually the third Sunday and in April that is also Easter Sunday, for this month only, we will be moving our collection to the fourth Sunday of the month, the 23rd. April's collection will go to the Sunday School mission project for Berea Animal Rescue Fund.

Oxcart Pantry Items:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Due</u>
Peanut Butter	April 9
Beans	May 14

Easter Basket Items:

We can still use a few of everything but we especially need these items:

Shampoo
Conditioner
Lotion
Soap

Youth Work Mission

The Youth Work Mission trip will be going to Buffalo, New York the week of June 18-24. We will be staying at Harvest House Ministry Center. The youth from Christ UMC, Independence UMC, North Olmsted UMC and Simpson UMC will be working on area homes belonging to needy families. You can support us by purchasing stock at \$10 a share. Each stock holder will receive a pre-trip letter, a postcard from us while we are on our trip, and an invitation to our slideshow/ice cream social in August. Our stock table will be set up during fellowship. We greatly appreciate all of your support!!

Chili Cook Off!!

A tremendous THANK YOU to all of you for your support of our Work Mission Chili Cook-off fundraiser!! Your kindness help us raise over \$300 toward our trip to Buffalo, NY. An extra special thanks to our skilled chefs and servers--Zoe, Joel, Liz, Sarah, Alex, Andy, Mike, Jean and Sydney.



Congratulations to Jean and Andy who claimed first place-- Jean for her traditional Beef Chili recipe and Andy won with his Mac & Cheeseburger Soup. If you would like to sample more of Jean's recipes, she has happily agreed to provide two meals a day, for an entire week for anyone who is interested--(just join us in Buffalo)!!! Thank you to all!!!!!!

United Methodist Women

Winter is over and April is here. Time for the UMW to awake from its winter slumber. Activities start on April 9th. We once more will join with Church Women United to provide cookies for the USO. Purchased cookies are acceptable but home-baked ones are preferred. Please put the home-baked cookies in zipper freezer bags and mark the type and the number of cookies in each package. Our young men and women who are protecting us will appreciate your thoughtfulness.



**USO Cookies
due April 9th**

Spring Plant Sale



It's time to plan your garden! Order forms for our Spring Plant Sale are included in this Agape. Orders are due by Easter Sunday, April 16 and plants will arrive on Saturday, May 13. This year's selection includes several new hanging basket combos and they arrive just in time for Mother's Day! Plants are locally grown by Dean's Greenhouse and color flyers showing the available plants are available in fellowship hall or you can go to www.deansgreenhouse.com to see color photos of the plants. Profits from the plant sale support projects at NOUMC.

Finally, the UMW event you all look forward to...our spring rummage sale. We are hoping to cut down a little on our work time by changing one of our work days from Wednesday to Thursday. This will eliminate the need to move items into the sanctuary and then back to Fellowship Hall because of an AA meeting. We still need as much help as possible starting at 9:00 am on both of those days. We appreciate male help also, especially (but not exclusively) on Thursday morning when some of the heavier moving takes place. We welcome help on Saturday, as well, anytime between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm. We do have a baked goods table, so if you'd like to help with that, it'd be great. We do need extra help at clean up time. After three straight days of work, our tired bodies don't work so well. Any of the work mission people who come over at that time will receive stock purchases. We hope you all come over to check things out on Saturday--even if it's only to have lunch with us.

Spring Rummage Sale



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.

**Newsletter
DEADLINE**

**Articles for the May Agape are due by Tuesday, April 18th.
Items for the weekly bulletins are due on Wednesdays**

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, April 2 <i>5th Sunday in Lent</i> Communion Sunday 9:00 am– Sun. School 10:00 am–Fellowship 10:30 am–Worship 11:30 am–Fellowship 5-6 pm—Scouts 6:00 pm Yoga	3 4:30 pm Conf. Class 7:30 pm Bells 8:30 AA	4 11am AA 7 pm Bible Study	5 10 am-UMW 8:30 AA	6 7pm Choir	7	8 8:30 UMM at Canary's 9-10 am Fitness Class 10 am Germany Trip Meeting
Sunday, April 9 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 9:00 am– Sun. School 10:00 am–Fellowship 10:30 am–Worship 11:30 am–Fellowship 6 pm—Yoga 	10 4:30 pm Conf. Class 7:30 pm Bells 8:30 AA	11 11am AA 7 pm Bible Study	12 10 am-UMW 8:30 AA	13 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 11 am-2 pm St. Richards FF 5:30 - 7 pm Open Communion 7 pm Choir	14  GOOD FRIDAY 7:30 pm Tenebrae Service	15 9-10 am Fitness Class
Sunday, April 16 <i>Easter Sunday</i>  8:00 “Son Rise” Service 10:00 am–Fellowship 10:30 am–Worship 11:30 am–Fellowship	17 4:30 Conf. Class 7:30 pm Bells 8:30 AA	18 11am AA	19 8:30 AA	20 9am-? UMW sort rummage 7 pm Choir	21 9am-? UMW price rummage	22 UMW Rummage Sale 9-3 
Sunday, April 23 <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 5:30 Work Mission at Simpson UMC 6 pm - Yoga	24 4:30 Conf. Class 7:30 pm Bells 8:30 AA	25 11am AA 1:30 pm Alzheimer's Grp.	26 10 am-UMW 8:30 AA	27 4:30-6 pm Free Community Meal 7 pm Choir	28	29 9-10 am Fitness Class
Sunday, April 30 <i>Native American Ministries Sunday (offering)</i> 9:00 am -Sun. School 10:00 am–Fellowship 10:30 am–Worship 11:30 am–Fellowship 6 pm - Yoga	May 1 4:30 Conf. Class 7:30 pm Bells 8:30 AA	2 11am AA	3 10 am-UMW 8:30 AA	4 6 pm Worship Meeting 7 pm Choir	5	6 8:30 UMM at Canary's 9-10 am Fitness Class

**NORTH OLMSTED
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**



4600 Dover Center Rd.
North Olmsted, Ohio 44070



Agape Newsletter

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DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY

Free Community Meal

Thursday, April 27, 2017
Serving 4:30 to 6 pm



We will be serving Shepherd's Pie, salad and assorted desserts and beverages. This will be Chef Joel's last turn in the kitchen.

Please join us for dinner as we celebrate his retirement!

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