

# Agape

Greek for "Love without Limits"



A Publication of North Olmsted United Methodist Church

Vol. 51 Issue 8

October 2017

## Inside this issue:

News & Notes	2
Reverend's Remarks	3
Education	4
Outreach	5
Long Range Planning	6
Stephen Ministry, UMW	
Birthdays & Anniversaries	7
Worship, Thank You Notes	8
Prayer Concerns	9
Calendar	10
Community Meal	11

## North Olmsted United

## Methodist Women's Annual

# Church Mouse



# CRAFT FAIR

**Saturday, October 14, 2017**

**9 am to 3 pm**



## 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

- **Over 20 Local Crafters**
- **Free Admission**
- **Food**
- **Bake Sale**



## News and Notes from NOUMC



As you have heard, our church will be creating a new directory. The directory will be updated with all the new faces, addresses and phone numbers. Bring the whole family and the family pet if you would like to have them included! You will receive a free 8 x 10 portrait and a directory with your participation. We would like to have everyone participate whether you attend church once or twice per year or if you attend every week.

Picture taking day will be on Monday, 10/23 and Tuesday, 10/24. You have a couple of ways to sign up to have your picture taken. You can visit the church web site click on the link to schedule your appointment or see us after church on 10/1, 10/8 and 10/15. We will be happy to assist you. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

### Youth Theater Camp at NOUMC

Oct. 7- Nov. 25  
Saturdays  
10 am -12:30



Youth will learn basic stage craft while rehearsing a play. Students will learn how to audition, create a character, vocalization, movement and props while working on a show to be presented the last weekend. Have fun, meet new friends & get creative!

Cost - \$130 includes script

(2 family members \$ 225, 3 family members—\$ 300)

Director/ Instructor - Jim Volkert

330-603-8334



Mark your  
calendars for...  
**The North Olmsted  
United Methodist  
Men's Annual**

## **TURKEY DINNER** **Saturday, November 4th** **5:00 - 7:00 PM**

Traditional turkey  
dinner with all the  
Trimmings!

Watch for ticket info in  
your bulletin  
or call the church office  
for tickets  
at 440-779-6634



## Save Around Coupon Books - \$25



The UMW Ladies are selling the  
Cleveland version of the  
**Save Around Coupon Books.**

The 2017 edition has a local and a  
national coupon section. Books are  
available in fellowship hall and the  
church office.

## Generosity Times Two...

Rev. Mark Steiger

As a United Methodist pastor, I am frequently asked by other ministers, family and friends, “How are things at your church?” To that, I usually give two responses. First, I tell them that it is an exciting time to be at North Olmsted UMC. There is an energy, a vitality, and a “can do” attitude within the church. It’s a busy time at the church. A lot of good work is being done; and, indeed, a busy church is a healthy church.



The second thing I regularly tell people is that the congregation of North Olmsted UMC is very generous with both their time and their money. And for that I am extremely grateful, because the first thing, the energy, vitality, and overall ministry cannot happen without the generosity. It takes those two ingredients, time and money, to support the ministry and mission of our church.

I am also extremely grateful for the work of our Long Range Planning Team. In large part, it is the work of these individuals that have helped breath new energy into our congregation. As our initial planning is coming to completion, we are at the point of beginning to implement the Long Range Plan - “Our Faithful Journey.” (Note: I say “our initial planning,” because this is “a work in progress.” It will be revisited and revised on a regular basis.) I am truly excited about “Our Faithful Journey.” It promises great things for this church – ministries that will support us today and lead us into the future.

That being said, the “Journey” can only happen with the support of our congregation in those two significant areas – time and money. That’s why our fall Stewardship Campaign is being directly tied to “Our Faithful Journey.” The ministries outlined in the plan will take the commitment of the congregation. They will take some more volunteer hours, and they will take an increase in our operating budget. This year, Andy Walsh has agreed to again lead our stewardship efforts. Andy has done an outstanding job leading our Long Range Planning Team, and I’m thankful for his efforts.

Through the month of October, you’ll be hearing more about the stewardship of time and money, and how these will support our church in the present and into the future. Time and Money: It’s Generosity Times Two. Given the generosity of this congregation, I have total confidence that NOUMC will continue to be a great church for many years to come. Thanks to all for your parts in this support of our church and “Our Faithful Journey.”

See you in church,

**Rev. Mark**

## Christian Education

### Sunday School: 9:00 AM

On September 10th, we kicked off a brand new school year with a Rally Day celebration in our Elementary, Middle and Young Adult classes.

The younger kids gathered to play some games and the young adults spent some time chatting and catching up while preparing a yummy waffle feast before joining the younger classes to eat and to talk about our new mission project. We had a lot of fun! All of our Sunday School classes are now in session, and there are classes available for all ages, including an adult class, an elementary class, a middle school class, and a young adult class for grades 7 and up. Our **Elementary class** will start off the year learning that God made us...and what God made us to do. We have a **Middle School class** this year! They will be learning God's story using the Sparkhouse "Connect" curriculum. Our **Young Adult class** will be learning about our basic Christian beliefs by studying the Apostle's Creed, and what it means to be a disciple of Christ by studying Romans Chapter 12. The young adults will be mixing in some fun activities and service projects, too. Our **Adult class** will be led by Craig Mueller again this year; however, the Stephen Ministers have taken over his class for a time so that they can lead a class based on the book *"Christian Caregiving: A Way Of Life"*.

### Sunday School Mission Project

After the recent devastating hurricane and flooding in Texas and Louisiana, our Sunday School classes have decided that our mission project this year will be Hurricane Harvey Relief. Since it is such a recent event, at this time we aren't exactly sure what direction our project will take or how our fundraising efforts will be donated. We are also hoping to connect in some way with the kids that attend a UMC in the Houston area.

While the scope of the disaster seems huge and we may feel like our efforts will be too small to make any difference, scripture tells us something different. In *Acts 11:27-30*, the church in Antioch became aware of an impending disaster that would be worldwide in scope. Since the church couldn't meet the needs of the whole world, they chose to do what they could do: focus their efforts in one local area. They chose to help the believers in Judea. ( *"Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea..." Acts 11:29*) In our Sunday School classes this year, our kids will be learning what it means to be Disciples of Christ and how they can live out their faith, and

through our mission project, they will be given the chance to do so! We will do what we can do...we will focus our efforts on a limited area and concentrate on helping a specific group of people so that we can be as effective as possible, and we will spread the love and Good News of Jesus Christ along the way!

### Fundraisers!

Stay tuned for further information and updates and keep your eyes out for our very first fundraiser...**MONKEY BREAD!** We will be making and selling Monkey Bread on **October 15th**. We will be taking orders this time so hopefully everyone will get some! Look for order forms in your bulletin or Fellowship Hall in October.



### Sunday School Service Project:

#### Birthday Bags - Donations Requested

This year, alongside our annual mission project, the kids would like to do several small, simple service projects that would benefit our church or our community as another way of learning how they can live out their faith. Our very first project will be to make **"Birthday in a Bag"** party bags and donate them to the Oxcart Food Pantry.

**Each bag will contain everything needed for a festive birthday party:**

fun gift bags	streamers	noise makers
cake mix	balloons	small gifts (such as
frosting	candle	bubbles, chalk, stickers,
sprinkles	party hats	crayons or candy)

These things are often the last thing on the list when a family is worried about where their next meal will come from. We will be assembling Birthday Bags on **October 22nd**. The kids would gladly accept and greatly appreciate donations from our congregation of any of the items that are needed or a to put together the birthday bags, or a monetary donation if you would rather we do the shopping.

## Happy Halloween!

Our Elementary and Middle School classes will be celebrating Halloween on **October 29th!** Kids are welcome to come in costume and to bring a friend!





# Outreach Committee

Well, we managed to eke out our 70 jars of spaghetti sauce for the food pantry in September. Right now we are collecting meat and fish, which are due October 8th. Please remember that the cans of meat are really preferred over the fish, but all are welcomed. In November we will be helping to fill the Thanksgiving bags of groceries. Churches are assigned different parts of the Thanksgiving meal. Our items are cans of sweet potatoes and boxes of stuffing. Although no one has been assigned them, we could probably add marshmallows and brown sugar.

## Oxcart Pantry Items

Canned Meat & Fish	Due Oct. 8
Canned Sweet Potatoes	November
Stuffing	

## Hat & Mitten Tree

October 1st through 29th we will be collecting hats scarves, gloves and mittens to "dress" our Hat and Mitten Tree. These donations will be given to Brookside Community Center and OhioGuidestone to help keep those in need warm this winter.



## Clipped Coupons for the Military

We are still collecting clipped coupons for military families to use at the PX. Place them in the envelope under the Outreach bulletin board (by the nursery).

## Medical Mission to Haiti

Dr. Lenore Jarvis, daughter of David and Janis will be going with a team of doctors to Haiti to provide much needed medical care. She will be taking supplies to give to those in need. If you would like to contribute items, here is a list of needed items:

- Powdered Infant Formula
- Onesies and infant clothes (gently used is okay)
- bar soap,
- Disposal Diapers—size small
- shampoo
- Toothbrush & Toothpaste

## New Collection - 2018 Calendars

New 2018 Calendars are being collected for distribution to Laura's Home, City Mission and area prisons. If you know of other facilities which could use the calendars (such as nursing homes) please let the Outreach Committee know.



## October Penny Sunday - Red Bird Mission



Red Bird Mission, a United Methodist supported national mission institution in Beverly, Kentucky, works to ease rural poverty symptoms for people of all ages in its Appalachian community. It is the largest and most comprehensive United Methodist mission in the United States. It serves over 10,000 people annually.

The mission works to reduce suffering and give people new energy to develop long-term solutions that will allow them to overcome the financial poverty. It is a complete, thorough program that nourishes its beneficiaries and provides strength with the goal to provide education, economic and spiritual reform in the bleak economic times. The donation will go to help the mission advocate for improved community conditions necessary for economic development that will lead to long term reduction of poverty for the people served.

# Our Faithful Journey

As many of you know, following NOUMC's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September of 2016 a team of several members began working on a long-range strategy for the church. The goals of this effort included both enriching the worship experience of our current members and ensuring the mission and vitality of the church for future generations. This work continued prayerfully through 2017, and resulted in a strategy framework, now called *Our Faithful Journey*, that was approved by the Administrative Board in a special session in early September. *Our Faithful Journey* sets out an ambitious and exciting vision of what NOUMC will be by 2025. You will be hearing more about the elements and programs of *Our Faithful Journey* throughout the next weeks and months. We hope that you will be as excited about the *Journey* as we are.



The guiding principles of *Our Faithful Journey* are the foundational ambitions of the church. These principles build on our core United Methodist beliefs and articulate how we want our members and the North Olmsted community to view the church. All the programs you will hear about in the coming months will be designed to strengthen these attributes of NOUMC. These principles are aspirational; some are good descriptors of NOUMC currently and some need more work to become real.

The success of *Our Faithful Journey* depends on our membership having a deep understanding of our guiding principles. That is, these principles need to become part of the church's DNA. We encourage everyone to commit them to memory and make them come alive in the work we all do for the church. You will be hearing much about the principles over the next few months, beginning with a series of sermons from Rev. Mark that will expound on each of them. In the meantime, we encourage you to keep them where you will see them frequently (perhaps on your desk or refrigerator) to remind yourself of their importance.

At North Olmsted United Methodist Church, we will follow the guiding principles of *Our Faithful Journey*:

- 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

As you learn more, please contact Andy Walsh or any member of the long-range planning team if you are interested in helping with any activity related to *Our Faithful Journey*.

# Stephen Ministry



The phrase, *be kind to everyone because you do not know what crosses they bear*, is well known. One of the tools in Stephen Ministry is active listening. You listen for the person's feelings within their story. A Stephen Minister reflects back those feelings without interjecting their experiences, opinions, judgments, or possible solutions. Stephen Ministers check what they are hearing by reflecting back the specifics and the feelings they think the person is expressing. The person hears their story, and clarifies. Sometimes a person just needs to be truly heard.



## United Methodist Women

After an enjoyable trip to Amish country, it's time to get to work. The tables for the Church Mouse Craft Show have been rented out for quite awhile. We hope that you will stop by to check out some of the crafts. You can get some neat decorating ideas or do some early Christmas shopping. If nothing else, come join us for lunch. We will also be having a bake sale, so we would appreciate your help with baked goods donations. The date for all the fun is October 14 from 9:00 to 3:00. Hope to see you all there.

We still have some room in the attic for rummage sale items, or you can keep them at home. You will hear more about this sale next month, but keep in mind that the sale is November 11, and we will be asking for your help earlier in that week. We couldn't do any of these activities without your help, and we will be giving away our money later on in November, as well as heading to the Lodi Outlet Mall. Keep checking the bulletins and Agape to join us.

# Save the Dates!



**Church Mouse Craft Fair**  
**Saturday, October 14th, 2017**  
**9 am to 3 pm**  
**Lunch & Bake Sale too!**



**Fall**  
**Rummage**  
**Sale**

**Saturday, November 11, 2017**  
**9 am to 3 pm**  
**Lunch & Bake Sale too!**

## An Opportunity To Serve

One of the most significant opportunities to serve the church is to serve as an usher. The role of usher is central to the worship experience. Their responsibilities include:

- Turning the lights and sound system on
- Passing out attendance pads during the prelude and getting a head count
- Collecting the offering
- Dimming the lights during the sermon & prayer
- Helping with the Communion Service

Each Sunday we need a head usher and 3 others to assist with the offering. The worship committee will offer usher training and it takes less than a half hour. There will be a sign-up slip in the bulletin in the coming weeks. If you are willing to serve, and we hope you are, simply fill out the slip and place it in the offering plate or drop it off in the office.

## Thank You Notes....

9/15/17

Dear Outreach Team,  
I can't thank you enough  
for the teacher appreciation  
basket I received this week.  
It was a wonderful  
surprise and brought  
tears!

With sincere thanks,

Stepstone Academy



Thank You!



Dear Friends,

Your generous donation  
to the Oxcart Pantry enables  
us to help residents in need  
in North Olmsted.

Thank you for your kindness!!

Once again, thank you for your  
continued support! Not only with  
you TP Ministry, but for the monthly  
food donations and the school supplies!  
All is very much appreciated!! Georgia  
Winters





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

**Office Hours:**

Monday–Wed. 10 am - 8 pm

Thursdays - 2 to 5:30 pm

**Christian Ed Office Hours:**

Mondays - 1 to 3 pm

Thursdays - Noon to 3 pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Sunday, October 1</b> <i>World Wide Communion Sunday</i> 9 am - Sunday School 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am-Fellowship Noon - SPRC Meeting Noon - New Member Class	<b>2</b>  7:30 Bells 8:30 AA	<b>3</b> 11am AA  7 pm Bible Study	<b>4</b> 10 am-UMW  8:30 AA	<b>5</b>  7 pm Choir Practice	<b>6</b>  2 pm Mem. Serv. For Juanita Wyrick at Sunset	<b>7</b> 8:30 am UMM Breakfast at Canary's 9-10 am Fitness Class 10-12:30 Drama Workshop
<b>Sunday, Oct. 8</b> 9 am - Sunday School 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am-Fellowship Noon - New Member Class	<b>9</b>  7:30 Bells 8:30 AA	<b>10</b> 11am AA 6 –7 Daisy Scouts 7 pm Bible Study	<b>11</b> 10 am-UMW  8:30 AA	<b>12</b> 10- 2 St. Richard's Faithful Friends 7 pm Choir Practice	<b>13</b> 2-6 pm Craft Sale Set Up	<b>14</b> 9 am-3 pm UMW Craft Sale 10-12:30 Drama Workshop
<b>Sunday, Oct. 15</b> <i>Penny Sunday</i> 9 am - Sunday School 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am-Fellowship Noon - New Member Class 6:30 - 8 Venture Scouts	<b>16</b>  7:30 Bells 8:30 AA	<b>17</b> 11am AA 7 pm SPRC at Westlake UMC 7 pm Bible Study	<b>18</b> 10 am-UMW  8:30 AA	<b>19</b>  7 pm Choir Practice	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9-10 am Fitness Class 10-1 Stamp Social 10-12:30 Drama Workshop
<b>Sunday, Oct. 22</b> <i>Stewardship Sunday</i> 9 am - Sunday School 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am-Fellowship Noon– Potluck	<b>23</b>  2-8 pm Photo Session 7:30 Bells 8:30 AA	<b>24</b> 11am AA 1 pm Alz. Assoc. 2-8 pm Photo Session 6 –7 Daisy Scouts 7 pm Bible Study	<b>25</b> 10 am UMW  8:30 AA	<b>26</b> 4:30-6 pm Community Meal (St. Richard's) 7 pm Choir Practice	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9-10 am Fitness Class 10-12:30 Drama Workshop
<b>Sunday, Oct. 29</b> <i>Reformation Sunday</i> 9 am - Sunday School 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am-Fellowship Noon - Ad Board Meeting	<b>30</b>  7:30 Bells 8:30 AA	<b>31</b> 11am AA 7 pm Bible Study	<b>Nov. 1</b> 10 am-UMW  8:30 AA	<b>2</b>  7 pm Choir Practice	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 8:30 am UMM Breakfast at Canary's 9-10 am Fitness Class 5-7 pm UMM Turkey Dinner

**NORTH OLMSTED  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**



Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

North Olmsted, Ohio

Permit No. 25

4600 Dover Center Rd.  
North Olmsted, Ohio 44070

October  
Agape Newsletter

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY



# **NORTH OLMSTED UNITED METHODIST'S FREE COMMUNITY MEAL**

**Thursday, October 26, 2017**

**Serving 4:30 - 6:00 pm**

**Our friends from St. Richard's will be here and will serve  
Sloppy Joes, Au Gratin Potatoes, Vegetable, Pickle,  
Dessert and Beverages. Join us for dinner and fellowship!**

**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*