

Agape

Greek for "Love without Limits"



A Publication of North Olmsted United Methodist Church

Vol. 52 Issue 4

May 2018

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A Youth Work Mission Fundraiser

May 6, 2018

*ven hambriento,
deja feliz*
Come Hungry,
Leave Happy!!!

We will be celebrating Cinco De Mayo with a Mexican themed lunch after worship. This will be a free will offering meal with all donations going to our mission trip to Buffalo. We are looking for volunteers to donate a Mexican dish. See Katie or Tammy for details.



.... the Holy Spirit fell upon all
who heard the word.
Acts 10:44

Sunday, May 20th
Wear red for Pentecost



Dover Players Community Theater Presents

Heir Pressure

A newlywed couple finds living together challenging, but with two overbearing parents showering them with gifts and suggestions, life is outrageous. A suggestion from a crazy marriage counselor changes the course of their lives in ways they could not imagine. Romance, Love, Comedy & Singing...What more can you ask for in a Spring Play?

Written by Keith Behrendt, Jeff Campbell and Bill Royse. Directed by Jeff Campbell. Choreography by Josh Landis. Starring: Lynn Galicki, Scott MacLean, Holly Prather, Lisa O'Halloran, Michael Attali, Bill Graham, Mary Manos Mitchem, Jackie Kelly, Keith Behrendt, and Jacob Phelps

May 11-12, May 18-20 and May 25-27

Fri/Sat at 8:00 pm, Sun at 3:00 pm

(No performance on Sun May 13)

**NEW Location! North Olmsted United Methodist Church
4600 Dover Center Rd., North Olmsted, OH 44070**

**For reservations (\$5.00 per seat) contact Dover Players (Linda) at
440-782-0095 or Facebook—The Dover Players**



**ARTICLES FOR THE JUNE
ISSUE OF THE AGAPE
NEWSLETTER ARE DUE
BY SUNDAY, MAY 20**

News and Notes from NOUMC

Interested in a volunteer opportunity at **Midwest Mission Distribution Center** (MMDC) in Chatham, Illinois? Sandy Bittner from Garfield UMC is organizing a group from East Ohio Conference Aug. 26 - Sept. 1.



Cost is \$325 p/p with a \$100 deposit due May 1st. That includes lodging and meals for the week. John and Charlene Vas are signed up. Feel free to ask them questions.

April Volunteer Hours	# of people	Total Hours
Panera Food Pick-up	2	46
Food Donation Pick-up	3	30
Fragapanes Pick Up	2	18
Feeding Site Deliveries	2	120
Oxcart Food Pantry	2	12
Urban Meals	8	24
Community Meal	20	45
Total Volunteers & Hours	30	295



Would you like to join NOUMC or just brush up on your Methodist theology? Our New Member class will meet April 29, May 6 and 13th following worship. See Rev. Mark, if you are interested.

April Attendance

Good Friday	60
Easter 8:30 am	21
Easter 10:30 am	110
April 8	89
April 15	96
April 22	100

Congratulations Church. . .

NOUMC received to Certificates of Appreciation from our District Superintendent and our Bishop at the Spring District Conference held on Saturday, April 21st. The first was for having received nine new members by Profession of Faith in 2017. The second was for paying 100 Percent of our District and Conference Apportionments. These certificates continue to emphasize that NOUMC is alive and growing in faith and in mission – making and maturing disciples for the transformation of the world.



The Spirit is Alive...

Rev. Mark Steiger

The scriptures tell us that forty days after the resurrection Jesus ascended to heaven. (We will celebrate the Ascension along with the Festival of the Christian Home on Mother's Day, May 13th.) Ten days after the Ascension, on Pentecost we're told the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples. Pentecost is a wonderful and often understated church holiday. Pentecost has been called the birthday of the church. At that first Christian Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples and gave them the strength, the faith, the power, and the courage to go forth and spread the Good News of God's amazing love as witnessed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

People sometimes ask me if the Holy Spirit was created at Pentecost. No, the Holy Spirit always existed at one with God the creator. It's in the first Chapter of Genesis that we read, "The Spirit of God moved across the waters" to bring forth creation. I also find that sometimes Christians try to draw too sharp of distinction between the three persons of the Holy Trinity. I confess that I am fairly "unitarian" in my "trinitarian" beliefs. It was the twentieth century pastor and theologian Ralph Sockman that liked the term "tri-unitarian" and that term fits me fairly well.

I do not draw a sharp distinction between the "spirit of the Living Christ" and the "Holy Spirit." When I speak of Christ walking with us everyday of our lives, that's the Spirit. When I quote that last verse of Matthew's Gospel: "I am with you always, even to the end of the age" – that's the Holy Spirit. Truthfully, I prefer to think of God's immanent presence as the Spirit of the Living Christ. I find that more relational. I can relate better to a living Jesus than to an ethereal Spirit.

Still, whatever words we use, on May 20th we will celebrate Pentecost. We will celebrate the Spirit of the one living God, descending on the disciples in such a wonder-filled way that they were able to go forth to tell the whole world

about God's grace and God's mercy as personified in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

But we at NOUMC have more to celebrate than just the birthday of the church two thousand years ago; for, I firmly believe and truly sense that the Spirit of the Living Christ is alive and active in this church. I am truly excited to see rebirth that began with our 50th Anniversary Celebration and has continued with "Our Faithful Journey" planning. I am truly excited to see our congregation alive and active in the life of our church. I am excited that there is so much going on in the church that meeting space sometimes becomes a challenge. Indeed, we at NOUMC have much to celebrate. I hope you will join me on May 20th at we celebrate Pentecost and the glorious presence of the Spirit in the life of our church.

See you in church,

Rev. Mark



Our Faithful Journey



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.

Christian Education

by Wendy Cooper

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Our youth would like to thank the entire congregation for all of the support and donations over the past month! Thank you to all who purchased **East-er flowers: \$121.65 was raised.** To all who joined us for our **Indians Home Opener Hot Dog Lunch: \$136.00 was raised.** To all who gave a little bit of change on **Pen-ny Sunday: \$155.50 was raised.** All of these monies raised will go toward the Sunday School Hurricane Mission Project.

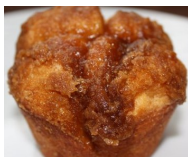


Thank you also to all who donated children's clothing to the **Twice Blessed Free Store at the Nehe-miah Mission.** The kids were able to donate **6 boxes of clothing** to the store for their final service project of the year. Thank you for helping our youth discover what it means to be disciples of Christ by living a life of service to others!



Mother's Day Monkey Bread Sale for Hurricane Relief!

The youth will be holding their final fundraiser for their Sunday School Hurricane Relief Mission Project on Mother's Day, May 13th. The youth will be in the kitchen preparing **MONKEY BREAD!** Small 1/2 pound containers of the bread will be available for purchase after worship. Because we never seem to have enough bread for all who want it, we are taking orders ahead of time! Forms will be in your bulletin and in Fellowship Hall. Please complete your order and place it into the purple collection box. A free will offering will be collected on the day of the sale. All proceeds will benefit our Sunday School Hurricane Harvey Mission Project.



Son-fest: Your Help Is Needed NOW

We'd really like to share the love of Christ with our neighbors by holding a summer festival on **August 11th**, but we need your help to do it! Committees are currently forming, but we haven't had much response. If we do not have our committees set in stone by the end of May, we may need to cancel this endeavor. A meeting is scheduled for **May 20th** after worship. If you would like to be involved with Son-Fest in any way, please plan on attending this meeting!

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...).



Teacher Appreciation:

We will be celebrating and thanking the hard work and dedication of our Sunday School teachers on June 10th or 17th. Details will be in the bulletin so you can plan to join us!



Facebook

Are you on Facebook? So are we!

Please "Like" our church Facebook pages.....

NORTH OLMSTED UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

and FRIENDS OF NORTH OLMSTED UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Check them for updates, announcements, reminders and other events.

Youth News

Katie Chapman, Youth Director

Our first youth event was a huge success! On March 31st we took 6 youth to the IX Indoor Amusement Park. They all had a good time riding rides, watching a seal show, eating junk food and just enjoying each others company.

A big shoutout to our chaperones who attended with me. Jean Scothon, Sydney Scothon, and Emily Cooper.



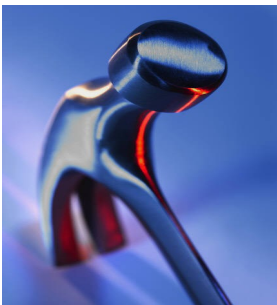
On April 6th we held our first *Kid's Club* event. We had a movie/game night. We watched the movie "STAR" and played "Sorry", "Chutes & Ladders", "Uno" and "Candy Land"! Thank you to Jean Scothon, Judi Wagner and Guylene Harold for playing games with us.



STAY TUNED!!!!!!

I am currently talking with *the Cleveland Indians* and planning a family day at the ball park this summer. This event will be open to the whole congregation. Once I have a date, time and cost, I will announce it in church as well as send out an email.

Youth Work Mission



We would like to thank everyone for their support and generous donations towards this years work mission trip. This trip would not be possible without you. The last day to purchase stock from our missionaries will be **Sunday May 20th**. Stop by and see them before or after church service.

We are still looking for adult volunteers to join us on work mission. We need help in the kitchen . You do not need to commit to the whole week, maybe just few days. If you can help in any way, please see Chris Blosser, Tammy Moore, John Wolter or Katie Chapman

Outreach Committee

by Barb Andrews

Just a quick follow-up on Easter baskets: NOUMC provided 72 baskets and Fairview Grace UMC provided 25 so 97 baskets went out to our neighbors. They were well-received. All were given out the first day and reached homes by Easter. We received a personal thank you from one of the recipients on the day we were there to pack grocery bags.

The food contributions continue to go well. 106 cans of vegetables were taken to the Oxcart Pantry in April, and we are currently collecting spaghetti sauce which is due May 13. Our next item of the month is canned meat and fish. There continues to be many people in need in our area, and they all would like to thank you for your donations.



Item	Due
Spaghetti Sauce	May 13
Canned Meat & Fish	June 10

Military Coupons... We are still collecting coupons for military families to use at the PX. These coupons help them stretch their budget and are greatly appreciated! Please **clip** the coupons before bringing them in and place them in the envelope under the Outreach bulletin board (by the nursery). Thanks for your help with this mission project.

Stephen Ministry

“Deep Love”

by Claudia Taller

During adult Sunday School class last week, we talked about helping people keep their dignity as they get older. It's an act of unselfish love to care for an elderly and disabled person, but it's the little things, like allowing them to bathe themselves while partially covered by a towel, that show deep compassion. Ministering to others requires not just doing things like getting a walker, it also requires putting oneself in the other person's place to discover what the care receiver's needs are. When we allow God's presence and acknowledge our own feelings about what's going on, holy moments occur. The caregiver grows into a more loving and God-connected person and the care receiver is the recipient of uniquely Christian caregiving. It's not just about “what would Jesus do?”, it's about putting God's love in action and being fully immersed in soulful service. Many of us have cared for loved ones in intimate ways, and we may one day be the recipi-



ents of care. When you need someone to talk with about your difficulties and feelings, Stephen Ministers are available to support you on your journey. Your Stephen Ministers are lay people trained to provide one-to-one care to people experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation, or being a caregiver. Christ loved people during a time of need, and Stephen Ministers are trained to provide that love. If you're feeling overwhelmed, sad, confused, or not sure what to do next, give Reverend Mark a call, so he can help you decide if a Stephen Minister would be helpful. And if you want to minister to others in our congregation as a trained Stephen Minister, that's another reason to pick up the phone or approach Janis Jarvis, Sue Shellhouse, Sarah Jackson, Judy Lachvayder, or Claudia Taller. Training begins this coming Fall.

Adult Council

Friday Night Corn Hole



Thank you to everyone who has come to play Friday Night Corn Hole. This month, we will only meet once on May 4 at 6:30 p.m. on the front lawn. The Dover Players will be occupying the church the other Fridays in May. Watch for details about June dates. All ages are welcome!!!

Holy Rollers

Our Ladies Thursday Morning Strikers bowling league has ended for the season. NOUMC had 9 bowlers spread across 4 different teams. The league meets ever Thursday from late August through the beginning of April. They are always looking for new bowlers. They concluded the year with lunch at Hoolihan's in Westlake. Congratulations to Barb, Darlene, Gayle, Judi, Kim, Nancy, Sandi and Tammy.



Dean's Potting Party We're having a Potting Party!!

Join us for an evening of fun at Dean's Greenhouse—3984 Porter Road in Westlake, on Tuesday, May 15. The fun begins at 5:30. Bring an empty pot or container, and the Dean's designers will help you create a combination pot for your home or garden. They will provide all the plants and materials, you pick out and pay for whatever you choose to use. We can also bring refreshments, so please bring a snack or beverage to share. No green thumbs required! We had a great time last year! See Tammy or any Adult Council member for more details or contact the church office.



United Methodist Women By Barb Andrews, UMW President

There are not enough words to thank all of you who helped with the rummage sale. From the youngest youth to the oldest non-youth, both male and female, and even several non-church members, we couldn't do it without you. You would not know that the UMW officially numbers 12 members when you see all of the people who are at the church to help. Add to that the donated items and baked goods from members of the church, and you can see why we say THANK YOU to everyone. Although we are still collecting some money and have to pay a couple of bills for ads, it looks like we cleared around \$1900.

Spring Plant Sale



Our last big event where we ask for some help (but not nearly as much as for the rummage sale) comes on **May 12th**. That is the day of our Spring Plant Sale! We could use some help unloading and sorting plants at 9:00 am. As usual, we will start our day at Sammi's for breakfast and welcome you to join us. You can pick up the plants from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm. There will be some extra plants and hanging baskets that you can pick up that day or on Sunday.

We will continue to meet on Wednesdays but plan to do some more relaxing activities during the summer! We welcome ideas for field trips!

Thank You Notes...

Thanks for your work...


It's always dangerous to single out individuals to thank for their volunteer efforts. Whenever you thank people, you run the risk of leaving other important volunteers out. That being said, I want to specifically thank two people:

John Vas has refit our Hymn Boards (originally from Olmsted Christian Church). You may remember that John was responsible for all the work refinishing these to match our woodwork. He has now fit them with hangers so then can be mounted on the wall, but can also be easily taken down during plays and other events for which they might not be appropriate.

Ray Schurr has spent countless hours building and installing handrails for the stairs to the second story. These both look beautiful, and more importantly make the stairs safer. (Also, Ray and Barb Schurr come in every week to put the hymn numbers on the hymn boards, refill the altar candles and tend to similar tasks.)

I extend my personal thanks to these individuals and to all who do so much for our church. When I'm asked about our congregation, I say, "The folks at NOUMC are very generous with both their time and their money." It is truly a blessing to serve this wonderful group of people.

Thank you so much for the Easter basket you provided to the N.O. Open Heart Pantry. My heart was so touched by receiving it. May the Risen Christ bless all of you with joy, health and peace. I am thankful and grateful by your generous heart. You made my Easter. And bless you!

Carol Wagner and the 



A Note from Sharon...

It's official...I am going to retire! It has been my great joy to serve as your Administrative Assistant for the last ten years. We have shared many wonderful times, meaningful conversations and laughter. We have had some sad times and challenging situations too but Christian love and fellowship have kept us all going! I also plan to move to the Columbus area near the end of the year to be nearer to my daughter and son-in-law but I will visit NOUMC whenever possible. I have promised that I will still hold our Stamp Socials, and help with UMW events (although I feel a conflict coming on for the fall rummage sale).

The SPR Committee will be interviewing candidates for Administrative Assistant and I plan to help train my replacement so we can have a smooth transition. The timing of this is somewhat flexible but I hope our new person will be on board in July.

The position of Administrative Assistant is 20 to 25 hours per week and hours are somewhat flexible. If you are interested in the position, please see me, Rev. Mark, Greg Lavelle or send your resume to noumc@noumc.org.

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



Office Hours: Mon.– Wed. 10 am - 2 pm

Thursdays - 2 to 5:30 pm

Christian Ed Office Hours:

Mon. - 1 to 3 pm, Thurs. - Noon to 3 pm

Youth Director– Mon. & Thurs. 11 to 2:30 pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday, April 29 9 am - Sunday School 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am-Fellowship Noon - New Member Class Noon– Outreach Meeting Noon - Adult Council Mtg.	30 6:00 Dover Play practice 7:30 Bells 8:30 AA	1 11:00 AA 6– 7 Daisy Scouts	2 10 am UMW 6:00 Dover Play practice	3 6:00 Dover Play practice 7 pm Choir Practice	4 6-7 Corn Hole League	5 8:30 am UMM @Canary's 9:30-10:30 am Fitness Class 10–12 Daniel Plan
Sunday, May 6 <i>Communion Sunday</i> 9 am - Sunday School 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am-Fellowship Noon–Cinco de Mayo lunch Noon - New Member Class Noon-Dover Play Practice 6-8 pm Scouts	7 6:00 Dover Play Practice 7:30 Bells 8:30 AA	8 11am AA 7 Disciple	9 10 am-UMW 6:00 Dover Play practice 8:30 AA	10 10- 2 St. Richard's Fellowship 6:00 Dover Play practice 7 pm Choir Practice	11 8 pm Dover Players "Heir Pressure"	12 9–11 Plant sorting 9:30-10:30 am Fitness Class 10:30-1 Bridges Shower 10 -12 Daniel Plan 11—2 Plant Sale 8 pm Dover Players "Heir Pressure"
Sunday, May 13 <i>Mother's Day</i> 9 am - Sunday School 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am-Fellowship Noon - New Member Class	14 8:30 AA	15 11am AA 6 pm Potting Party at Dean's 6–7 Daisy Scouts	16 10 am-UMW 8:30 AA	17 11:30 Lunch w. Friends 7 pm Choir Practice	18 8 pm Dover Players "Heir Pressure"	19 9:30-10:30 am Fitness Class 10–12 Daniel Plan 8 pm Dover Players "Heir Pressure"
Sunday, May 20 <i>Pentecost, Penny Sunday</i> 9 am - Sunday School 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am-Fellowship 3 pm Dover Players "Heir Pressure" 5:30 - Work Mission 6-8 pm Scouts	21 6:00 Dover Players 8:30 AA	22 11am AA 1-3 Alz. Assoc.	23 10 am-UMW 8:30 AA	24	25 8 pm Dover Players "Heir Pressure"	26 9:30-10:30 am Fitness Class 10 - noon Daniel Plan 8 pm Dover Players "Heir Pressure"
Sunday, May 27 <i>Summer Schedule Starts</i> 10:00 am-Fellowship 10:30 am-Worship 11:30 am-Fellowship 3 pm Dover Players "Heir Pressure"	28 Memorial Day  8:30 AA	29 11:00 AA	30 10 am UMW 8:30 AA	31 4:30—6 pm Community Meal	June 1	June 2 8:30 am UMM @Canary's 9:30-10:30 am Fitness Class 10 - noon Daniel Plan

**NORTH OLMSTED
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**



4600 Dover Center Rd.
North Olmsted, Ohio 44070

Agape Newsletter

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North Olmsted, Ohio

Permit No. 25



May Free Community Meal

Thursday, May 31, 2018

Serving 4:30 to 6:00 pm



Join Us!

Our friends from St. Richard's will be here and will be serving Sloppy Joes, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Desserts, and Beverages. Please join us!

**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