

Agape

Greek for "Love without Limits"



A Publication of North Olmsted United Methodist Church

Vol. 52 Issue 7

September 2018

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Rally Day is September 9th!

**Join Us As We Celebrate
a New Year of Sunday School!**

Sunday, September 9 Schedule:

9 am	Sunday School for all ages
10 am	Fellowship with coffee & doughnuts
10:30 am	Worship
	Blessing of the Book Bags
12 to 2 pm	Pulled Pork BBQ Dinner

United Methodist Men

Pulled Pork BBQ Dinner

Sunday, September 9, from 12 to 2 pm

Pulled Pork, Cole Slaw, Chips,
Baked Beans, Rolls, Dessert, Beverage

Dinner \$10 Pulled Pork \$10/lb. Dine in or Carry out

All proceeds will go to The United Methodist Committee on Relief

Tickets on sale after worship or contact the church office at
440-779-6634 or office@noumc.org to reserve your dinner!

Church Staff

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News and Notes from NOUMC

Potluck Labels

The members of our summer session of the Daniel Plan suggested that we find a way to label dishes served at potlucks and other events here at NOUMC. Doing so would assist our members who have food allergies as well as helping those who want to make informed choices on what they consume. We devised this label that can quickly be filled out to indicate common allergens. It also notes who made the dish so we can all bug you for the recipe! Here is what the label looks like:

POTLUCK DISH: _____		
MADE BY: _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> VEGETARIAN	<input type="checkbox"/> VEGAN	<input type="checkbox"/> LOW FAT
<input type="checkbox"/> GLUTEN FREE	<input type="checkbox"/> SUGAR FREE	<input type="checkbox"/> DAIRY FREE
<input type="checkbox"/> CONTAINS NUTS	<input type="checkbox"/> CONTAINS EGGS	
OTHER: _____		

The labels are in the cabinet by the dishwasher.

Get connected with NOUMC!



Are you on Facebook? So are we! Have you "Liked" our North Olmsted United Methodist Church page? Find us online at:
facebook.com/northolmstedunitedmethodistchurch

Friends of NOUMC Facebook Group

Join our Facebook group to stay connected with your church friends and family! Find our group at facebook.com/groups/friendsofnoumc



Coffee Hour ☕

Do you have questions or want to find out more? This summer, you will have the opportunity to see our social media accounts on display during coffee hour and ask any questions you may have regarding setting up or using your account.

We will have the table set up from 9:30-10:15 a.m. on July 22nd and September 16th. Stay tuned for more details!

Contact Tammy Moore or Andy Walsh if you have questions!

We are also on Instagram!

Follow us: [@northolmstedumc](https://www.instagram.com/northolmstedumc)



Photo Release Form



Occasionally, we may take a picture from an event. We would like your consent to use it on our website or Facebook page.

Please fill out a Photo Release form. These are coming soon and will also be available at the office or during coffee hour. Watch for more details!

Oberammergau Passion Play – September 2020



Rev. Mark and Ginny are headed back to Germany September 12-29, 2020, this time to see the Oberammergau Passion Play, and you are invited

to join them. The Passion Play has taken place every ten years since 1634, and depicts the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Over 2,000 Oberammergau villagers will participate in the 2020 play, almost half the town. Educational Opportunities has built a wonderful "Alpine Odyssey" tour of Southern Germany and Austria around the play including visits to some fantastic castles and churches and trips to Salzburg and Innsbruck. Exciting tour extensions to Switzerland or Italy are also offered. Brochures are available on the bulletin board by the choir room or in the church office. For more information see Rev. Mark.

Thank You

Here is my Mom with the prayer shawl. She thought it was beautiful and really appreciated that everyone was thinking of her. She also enjoyed all of the cards. She is thinking of all of you at NOUMC. She wants to thank you all. I thank you too.

Kurt Bilas



Spreading Sparks...

Rev. Mark Steiger

My last few Agape columns have concentrated on our Youth Mission Trip to Buffalo, New York; but I can't resist sharing one more. Some of you know that my work team was made up of four teenage girls (two of whom are thirteen), and two adult leaders, myself included. Our job was to repair Miss Fanny's front porch. When we arrived at the work site, we found a rotten porch deck, so badly deteriorated that it would not support our weight. The girls immediately went to work, tearing off that deck, as our mission trip leader went to the lumber yard to buy new decking. Then it became apparent that the support joists were also rotten – more lumber needed, more deconstruction and reconstruction. After replacing/reinforcing the entire deck, it came time to put up new railing. On another trip to the lumber yard, we opted for vinyl railing – maintenance free, nice looking, and not a lot more expensive than wood. Then, as our week drew to a close, we decided that we needed to replace the stair railing as well, just to make things look good with all the railing matching.

But the really exciting news was shared at our Mission Trip Slide Show by Pastor Dee of Seneca Street United Methodist Church. Indeed, Miss Fanny is enjoying her new front porch – spending time sitting there, greeting passers-by, and enjoying the neighborhood. But, shortly after our young crew headed back to North Olmsted, the neighbor across the street decided to repair his front porch. Then two neighbors down the street did the same thing. Because of a week's work by four girls and two adult leaders, the entire neighborhood is getting a "face-lift" and folks are taking pride in their property.

But the Good News doesn't stop there. Miss Fanny, who lives almost across the street from the church, had not been to church in several years. Shortly after

we finished our week's work, she told her pastor, "Pastor Dee, you'll see me back in church." Our sharing of God's love has brought Miss Fanny into a closer relationship with her church; and hopefully a closer relationship with her Lord.

What's unsaid here. . . I got to know Miss Fanny fairly well in the week we spent working on her house; and I don't think she is going to be silent about her new relationship in the body of Christ. I'm willing to bet that, as Miss Fanny is sitting on her new porch, she'll be inviting others, maybe even dragging others, to join her in worship and service; and that's the way the love of God works.

There's a song that says, "It only takes a spark to get a fire going." Our humble crew created "a spark" in the Seneca Street neighborhood. Miss Fanny is creating more sparks; and the neighborhood is on fire with the work of the Holy Spirit. Thanks be to God for the opportunity to serve as we give God all the praise and all the glory.

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

Rally Day! September 9th!

Join Us as We Kick Off the New School Year!

Our Elementary, Middle School, and Young Adult Sunday School classes will be starting the new Sunday School year off right with a Rally Day Celebration on September 9 at 9:00 am. We will have some fun and food together before we settle into our new curriculum for the year. **All kids are welcome to join us...and to bring a friend or two!**



Adult Sunday School

Our Adult Sunday School class will also be getting down to business on September 9. Craig Mueller will be leading the traditional class in the Choir Room again this year. We have something for everyone...come join us and plan to stay after worship for the United Methodist Men's annual BBQ!

Volunteer Teachers Always Welcome!

We are looking for people who would like to teach! This year we will have an Elementary Class, a Middle School Class, and a Young Adult Class. I would like to have enough teachers that our Middle School and Young Adult classes can be taught on a rotation basis, so that no one ends up having to teach every week and you can pick and choose what weeks work best for you. **We are always ready to welcome more teachers into our rotation, so if you have an interest in teaching Sunday School, please see me and we will fit you into the schedule!**

Adult Council

by Claudia Taller

John and Charlene Vas will host a wine tasting at their home in Olmsted Falls on Saturday, September 22 at 6:30 pm. Bring a bottle of wine and an appetizer. Be prepared to say a few words about the wine you bring (you love the label, you only drink white, it is only \$7.99 a bottle, etc.) It is a great chance to taste other varieties. Who knows? Maybe you will discover a new favorite! Sign up in Fellowship Hall, call or email Charlene by Sunday, September 16.

On Saturday, October 13, get out to hear some music at the Cirigliano Studio Theatre at Stocker Center, LCCC. Singer/songwriter/performer Jeff Varga's show begins at 8 pm and Josh and Guylene will be there at 7:30 pm to hold seats. Tickets are \$20. Please obtain your own tickets for unassigned seating at https://www.lorainccc.edu/stocker/lccc_events/. Sign up in Fellowship Hall so we know how many people will be there.

See future publications of the Agape for other upcoming events, like the fall potluck and walk, painting at Pinot's Pallet, and a holiday progressive dinner.

Son-Fest

by Wendy Cooper

Our first ever community festival was held here at NOUMC last Saturday.

The event was free and everyone was welcome to come celebrate a beautiful summer day with us as we shared the love of Christ with our community. Several families came and spent the better part of the day enjoying our games, crafts, bounce house, and live band. Our visitors were treated with cotton candy, snow cones, and popcorn; burgers, dogs, chips, and nachos were also available.



Many members of our congregation spent the day as volunteer carnies, and many of them said that they had as much fun as our community visitors! We even had some extra special surprises....the North Olmsted Fire Department brought a fire truck and an emergency vehicle, along with Sparky, the Fire Dog, for photo opportunities. The kids had fun exploring the trucks and trying on their heavy equipment. We also had a visit from one of our North Olmsted Police officers who gave the kids a tour of his vehicle and turned on his loud sirens!

Thank you to all who volunteered to help out! Whether you could only help out on a committee for a few hours or donate money, or whether you were here for the entire day helping out, or whether you were the head of a committee and poured your heart and soul and many hours into our celebration...we could not have done this without you! Many thanks to everyone for making our first Son-Fest a complete success!

(For more photos, please see our Instagram page and Friends of NOUMC Facebook page.)



Outreach Committee

by Barb Andrews

**OXCART
PANTRY**



Oxcart Pantry Collection

You really came through in August for the Oxcart Pantry. We were able to supply 100 containers of beans, canned and dried. Besides that, between the school supplies you brought in and the money from Penny Sunday, which was \$209, and the money from the city, Georgia said they were able to give out almost 100 backpacks with school supplies to

North Olmsted students whose parents would have been hard-pressed to provide these items. Once again, thanks for helping your neighbors.

We are presently collecting soup for the pantry, which is due September 9, and we will then gather canned fruit with the due date of October 14. Remember that our goal is 80 items each month, and we're always happy to collect even more than that number.

September Penny Collection: Laura's Home

Even though we have been going to Laura's Home for several years now, I'm often asked what Laura's Home is and what we do there. Well, it's part of The City Mission but is located on the west side of Cleveland. They serve between 110 and 130 women and children and have a long waiting list. The clients live there with the hope that they will be able to get out on their own. They are homeless, and some are victims of domestic abuse. They are provided with help to find jobs, get further education, find a place to live, and get religious training. Because Laura's Home does provide religious training, it does not qualify for federal and state aid. Most of the money for Laura's Home comes from private donations. What we do there is provide one meal per month. We feed usually around 90 people each month for \$125, with some judicious shopping and great chefs. The money does not come from our church budget, but rather from donations from some of our church groups and individuals. This is where you can help. Our September Penny Sunday will go to this mission. Also, if at any other time during the year you would like to donate to this project, you can always put a check, made out to NOUMC, in the collection plate or in the church office with Laura's Home on the memo line.

United Methodist Women

by Barb Andrews

Our first fall meeting will be at 10 am on September 5, followed, of course, by lunch. Come join us. On that day, we will be scheduling our annual trip to Amish country. Please keep in mind the date of our Church Mouse Craft Fair, which is October 13, and the rummage sale, which is November 3. You'll be hearing more about both of these events in the next couple of Agapes. Also, be thinking about items or projects that can use money from our profits during the year; we will determine where to donate our profits at our late November meeting.



Stephen Ministry

by Claudia Taller

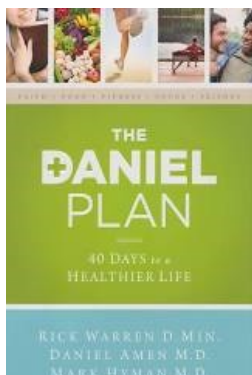
As you know, Stephen Ministry training will begin on September 7 at John Knox. Your current Stephen Ministers will support the new students as they embark on this journey towards further love and understanding by attending meetings and teaching some of the modules. As the training begins, we will explore ways to listen and respond and be present with compassion. We'll also work on praying with others.



Prayer is difficult for many of us, especially praying out loud with others. Practice prayer alone, in conversation with God and with your heart. Keep Him close as you go through your day. Just like anything else, the more you do it, the more relaxed you'll be. All of us are ministers, whether we're taking care of sick loved ones, helping someone through their grief, supporting a new mother, or building confidence in someone who is seeking work after losing a job. You may be called to pray, aloud or on your own. Although God doesn't always give us what we ask for, when we're in communion with Him, lives change. "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

Another Daniel Plan Group at NOUMC

by Rev. Mark



By now, most of you have heard a lot about The Daniel Plan. The Daniel Plan is a special project of Rick Warren, Pastor of Saddleback Church and Author of *The Purpose Driven Life*, who teamed up with Dr. Daniel Amen, the "Brain Doctor" of PBS fame, and Dr. Mark Hyman, the Chair of the Cleveland Clinic Functional Medicine Department. The program takes its name from Daniel 1:8-15. This is a six-week program that concentrates on the five essentials of healthy living: Faith, Food, Fitness, Focus, and Friends.

Last Spring we had a very successful Daniel Plan Group meeting on Saturday mornings. However, Saturdays were not an ideal time for some people. Others have developed interest after speaking with the Spring group. As a result, I will be facilitating another Daniel Plan Group on Tuesday evenings beginning September 11 at 7 pm. Our regular meeting will run for six weeks (September 11 through October 16). All are welcome to join this group, including those who were in the Spring group and would like to repeat. Please sign up on the office door.

The cost for The Daniel Plan Study Guide is \$8.00. I will order a Study Guide for everyone who signs up for The Daniel Plan. It is also highly recommended that you read *The Daniel Plan: 40 Days to a Healthier Life* book as we spend our six weeks together. If you check "Order a Book" on the sign-up sheet, I will order a book for you in addition to the Study Guide – the cost for the book is \$15.00. You can also order the book on amazon.com, and it is available on Kindle. (Note: The Study Guide is also available on Kindle, but you really need the Study Guide in hard-copy because there are sections to be filled in during sessions and between sessions.)

Youth News

by Katie Chapman

I cannot believe the summer is over and most of you have gone back to school already. I want to wish you all a very successful and blessed 2018-2019 school year. Remember, my door is ALWAYS open. If there is anything I can do for you, please do not hesitate to call or email me. I know how stressful and scary the beginning of the school year can be, so if you need help at school, at home, socially, or even just an ear to listen, I will do my very best to listen, guide you, and lead you down the most successful, Christ-like path possible. I am ALWAYS here for YOU!!!!

Blessing of the Book Bags

On September 9 NOUMC will hold our first annual Blessing of the Book Bags. I am asking every child, teen, adult (college student or teacher) to please bring in their book bags for the upcoming school year, and during our Children's Moment, Rev. Mark will place a blessing on all book bags for a successful 2018-2019 school year. This is also Rally Day, the beginning of our Sunday School year, so I hope to see every one there. It's sure to be the start of an amazing year.



Youth Room Reveal



We have begun the youth room remodel, and are very excited to show you our finished space. Please plan to join us on **Sunday, September 23** after worship for our "Youth Room Reveal". You won't believe your eyes when you see this beautiful, "brand-new" room. I'm so excited about this project, and I hope this gets you just as excited about our youth and their futures here at NOUMC.

Lunch with Friends

Our group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 11:30 am. Watch the bulletin for the location. Please join us for a couple hours of food and fellowship. It really helps if we know how many are coming so we can have enough chairs. To reserve your seat, call and leave a message with Carole Bettinger. (If you forget to call, come anyway!)



Worship Support

Date	Greeter	Reader	Usher	Acolyte
Sept. 2	Greeters needed, please sign up	Anita Bridges	Wayne Pullman	Amy Cooper
Sept. 9		Mary Lou Fitzgerald	Judi Wagner & Guylene Harold	Morgan Chapman
Sept. 16		John Wolter	Peggy Cornell	Sydney Busser
Sept. 23		Chris Blosser	Jennifer & Michael Gaydos	Mikenzie Dennis
Sept. 30		Joel Chermonte	Carol & John C. Weinert	Makena Chapman
Oct. 7		Ed Brewster	Beth Cruz	Amy Cooper

September 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:30 am Fitness Class
2 <i>Communion Sunday</i> 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	3 Labor Day Office Closed 8:30 pm AA	4 11 am AA	5 10 am UMW 8:30 pm AA	6 7 pm Choir	7	8 8:30 am UMM Breakfast 9:30 am Fitness Class
9 Rally Day! 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Blessing of the Book Bags during worship 12—2 pm UMM BBQ	10 6:30—7:30 pm Brownies 8:30 pm AA	11 11am AA 7 pm Daniel Plan	12 10 am UMW 8:30 pm AA	13 6 pm Worship Committee 7 pm Choir	14	15 8 am—1pm Stephen Ministry (double classroom) 9:30 am Fitness Class
16 <i>Penny Sunday</i> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 12 pm Outreach Committee 12 pm Youth Council Meeting in Youth Room 6—8 pm Scouts	17 6 pm Connections Team 6:30 –7:30 pm Brownies in Classroom 7 pm Dover Players in Sanctuary 7:30 pm Hand Bell choir 8:30 pm AA	18 11am AA 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry 7 pm Daniel Plan	19 10 am UMW 7 pm Dover Players 8:30 pm AA	20 11:30 am Lunch with Friends 7 pm Choir 7 pm Dover Players 8 pm NOUMC SPRC Meeting with the DS	21	22 8:15 am-5:30 pm Life Line Screening 9:30 am Fitness Class 6:30 pm Wine Tasting at the home of John & Charlene Vas
23 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 12 pm Ad Board Meeting Youth Room Reveal!	24 6:30-7:30 pm Brownies 7 pm Dover Players in Sanctuary 7:30 pm Hand Bell Choir 8:30 pm AA	25 11 am AA 1—3 pm Alzheimer's Association 7 pm Daniel Plan	26 10 am UMW 7 pm Dover Players in Sanctuary 8:30 pm AA	27 4:30—6 pm Community Meal 7 pm Choir 7 pm Dover Players	28 6—9 pm Kids Club Movie & Game Night	29 8 am—1 pm Stephen Ministry (double classroom) 9:30 am Fitness Class
30 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	<p align="center">Office Hours: Mondays - Wednesdays 10 am to 2 pm, Thursdays 1 to 5 pm Christian Education Office Hours: Mondays 1 to 3 pm, Thursdays 12 to 3 pm Youth Director Office Hours: Mondays & Thursdays 11 am to 2:30 pm</p>					

**NORTH OLMSTED
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**



4600 Dover Center Rd.
North Olmsted, Ohio 44070

Agape Newsletter

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Free Community Meal



Community Meal

Thursday, September 27

Serving 4:30 to 6 pm

The September menu is: meatloaf, tater tots,
veggie, desserts, and beverages

Join Us!

Held at North Olmsted United Methodist Church
4600 Dover Center Road, North Olmsted, Ohio 44070
440-779-6634 www.noumc.org

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.