

Agape

Greek for "Love without Limits"



North Olmsted United Methodist Church

Vol. 53 Issue 2

March 2019

Inside this issue:

Announcements	2
Reverend's Remarks	3
Christian Education	4
Outreach	5
Outreach, UMW, Fellowship	6
Youth News	7
Breakfast with the Bunny	8
March Calendar	9
Community Meal	10

Church Staff

Reverend Mark L. Steiger
msteiger@noumc.org
440-779-6634, ext. 16

Administrative Assistant: Megan Howe
office@noumc.org
440-779-6634, ext. 10

Christian Education: Wendy Cooper
sundayschool@noumc.org
440-779-6634, ext. 13

Youth Director: Katie Chapman
youth@noumc.org
440-779-6634, ext. 14

Organist: Marlene Dirksen
mkdpdteach@sbcglobal.net

Choir Director: Gabriela Martinez
gabriela.marmar@aol.com

Worship with Us

Ash Wednesday Worship

Wednesday, March 6, at 7 pm

The forty-day season of Lent begins with the imposition of ashes and the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Sundays during the Season of Lent

Holy Communion is available in the Prayer Room following worship each week during Lent.



Palm Sunday Worship

Sunday, April 14, at 10:30 am

We remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Good Friday Tenebrae Worship

Friday, April 19, at 7:30 pm

We remember Jesus dying on a cross and celebrate Holy Communion at this Service of Darkness.

Easter Sunday Worship

Sunday, April 21, at 8 am & 10:30 am

We celebrate Jesus' resurrection and proclaim,
"Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!"



Announcements

Post-General Conference Informational Gatherings

As you already know, the General Conference of the United Methodist Church met February 23-26 in St. Louis, Missouri to deal with disciplinary issues related to human sexuality (i.e. clergy rights to perform same-sex weddings and conference rights to ordain practicing homosexuals). At the time of this writing, we do not know the outcome of this meeting, but it is sure to have implications for The United Methodist denomination in general and North Olmsted United Methodist Church in particular. Therefore, Bishop Tracy Malone has scheduled three informational sessions to inform and discuss the results of General Conference. They are:

Saturday, March 9	10 - 11:30 am	Newcomerstown Christ UMC
Saturday, March 9	2 - 3:30 pm	North Canton Faith UMC
Sunday, March 10	4 - 5:30 pm	Strongsville UMC

All East Ohio United Methodists, clergy and laity, are invited to attend one of these sessions. You are encouraged to attend as you are able, and, as always, please continue to pray for the church and the denomination.

North Coast Spring District Conference and Leadership Training: Bridges Out of Poverty

Saturday, March 30, from 9 am to 12 pm
The United Methodist Church of Berea
170 Seminary Street, Berea 44017

All United Methodists in the North Coast District are invited to this district-wide event. The morning will begin with a short meeting to deal with some necessary district business. The remainder of the morning will be devoted to a presentation on Bridges Out of Poverty by Jennifer Hedinger and her team from OhioGuidestone. The morning will include helpful research and information, personal stories, and testimonials by those whose lives have been changed through the work of Bridges Out of Poverty. This event promises to provide thoughtful insight on how we can move beyond food drives and community meals to begin additional relational and transformational work within our community. I'm looking forward to learning more about Bridges Out of Poverty. I hope you will join me; if you can, let me know at msteiger@noumc.org by Sunday, March 24. - Rev. Mark

Pastoral Change

July 1



In January Rev. Mark Steiger announced his retirement from full-time parish ministry effective July 1. On February 24, it was announced that Bishop Malone has appointed Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm to serve our congregation. Rev. Wilhelm is currently the pastor of Hudson United Methodist Church.

Rev. Wilhelm grew up in Ada, Ohio where his father was a Chemistry Professor at Ohio Northern. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration at Valparaiso University. Initially attracted to Higher Education Administration, he earned a Master's of Arts degree from Bowling Green University and began an 11-year career in that field – working at Albion College,

Kenyon College, and the College of Wooster.

In 1996 he felt clearly called to ministry and enrolled at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio, where he earned his Master of Divinity degree.

Rev. Wilhelm is married to Terri, a realtor with Re/Max Realty, where she has built a very successful career. Terri also has a music degree and has done music and community-based ministry of her own. The Wilhelm family includes two adult children: Megan and Timothy.

Rev. Steiger will be actively working with Rev. Wilhelm to ensure a smooth transition for the North Olmsted UMC congregation, and it will be a joy to welcome him and his family to our church.

A Time of Change

Rev. Mark Steiger

There are two kinds of people in the world: those for whom change is exciting, and those for whom change is scary. Then there are those who face change with a mix of emotions – excitement/anticipation mixed with a bit of anxiety/fear. I have stated before that I am a born optimist; so I generally find change exciting. In a previous career as a Systems Analyst and IT Manager, I frequently found myself needing to both calm people's anxieties and help them through various changes in computer systems.

NOUMC is currently facing two major changes. The first is a denominational change. As I stated in last month's newsletter, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church is meeting February 23-26 to address issues of human sexuality as they affect our denomination. (I presented details of this in the February Agape. You may refer back to that, either in print form or online at www.noumc.org.) There are two major issues facing our church: 1) Will The United Methodist Church allow clergy to perform same-sex weddings; and 2) Will The United Methodist Church allow the ordination of LGBTQ individuals? These are difficult issues; and people on both sides have very strong feelings. At the time of this writing, the General Conference is meeting, but the results of that meeting are yet to be determined.

I have been very open in my belief that The United Methodist Church should be a denomination for all people; and LGBTQ individuals should be afforded all the rights and privileges of straight people in our churches. That being said, I don't know what will come out of our General Conference; but I'm certain that whatever they decide will mean change for our denomination and possibly for our

church. (By the time you read this, we will have a better idea what changes lie ahead of us, and those will be addressed in a future newsletter.)

The second change is more local. As you are now aware, I have announced my retirement effective, July 1, 2019. Your Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) has met with our District Superintendent to welcome a new pastor into our pulpit; and, on Sunday, February 24, it was announced that Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm will be appointed to our church. I am excited about the ideas and energy that Rev. Wilhelm brings to our church, and I look forward to working with him in the next few months as together we move forward on *Our Faithful Journey*.

And so, NOUMC is currently facing two major changes. It's a bit scary; but it's also hugely exciting. The changes bring new ideas and new opportunities. Know that I will continue to lead this church through these changes; and, when Rev. Wilhelm takes the pulpit on July 1, I will "pass the mantel" with every confidence that NOUMC will continue to thrive and grow. Please join me in work and in prayer as together we seek to make these changes a growth opportunity for our church and our denomination.

See you in church,

Rev. Mark



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.

*Our Faithful
Journey*



Christian Education

by Wendy Cooper



Easter Flower Sale

Order forms due April 8

The youth are selling Easter Lilies, Hyacinths, Martha Washington Geraniums, and Tulips to be placed on the altar for our Easter Sunday worship services. Proceeds from the sale will go towards the Sunday School 4 Paws for Ability Mission Project. Order forms will be in Fellowship Hall beginning on March 10, and orders are due on April 8. Please give your order to Wendy, or place it in the purple box in the Sanctuary. You may also call the church office to place your order.

Sunday School Mission Project 4 Paws for Ability: Autism Assistance Dogs

1 in 68 children have been identified as having some level of spectrum disorder. 4 Paws has a program that trains dogs specifically to meet the needs of children with autism! 4 Paws was the first agency in the United States to begin placing task-trained Autism Assistance Dogs and the first agency known to place these assistance dogs with tracking skills. 4 Paws Autism Assistance Dogs can be trained in a variety of tasks.



Thank You!

Sub Sale: The kids raised \$206, for 4 Paws for Ability. Thank you for your purchase, and also thanks to Jean and Tammy who helped us make the subs!

Souper Bowl of Caring: Thank you for your donations on February 3 to the Souper Bowl of Caring fundraiser. Several cans of food and a total of \$72.72 was collected, all of which was given to North Olmsted Oxcart Food Pantry.

The dogs are trained in search and rescue skills to follow the child's scent and to bring the parent or handler to the child. The dogs can also be trained to use a tether system to prevent a child from wandering.

The dogs can be trained to respond to a child's repetitive behaviors and to stop them from happening, and they can also be trained to provide assistance with meltdowns.

The dogs can help to make transitions easier for their child. They can also provide comfort to the child, help them learn to communicate and how to be responsible, and they can become the child's best friend.

4 Paws for Ability says: "At 4 Paws we have discovered a magic that exists between children and dogs, a magic that can become a life-saving miracle for a child paired with one of our Autism Assistance Dogs."

Won't you please help our youth provide an assistance dog to a child in need? Donations are always welcome; you don't have to wait for one of our fundraisers! If you would like to donate to our cause, please see Wendy or one of our youth, or write a check made payable to *North Olmsted United Methodist Church* and write *4 Paws* in the memo line. Thank you for helping our youth learn how to bear one another's burdens!

Confirmation Retreat

by Katie Chapman

Confirmation is off to a great start. Our two Confirmands, Makena and Mikenzie, have been meeting weekly with Rev. Mark since the beginning of January.

On February 8, we attended a Confirmation Retreat at Camp Asbury in Hiram, Ohio. We spent the weekend with 59 other adults and confirmands from Northeast Ohio learning about The United Methodist Church, how we all connect, the Sacraments, and different ways to pray. We played games, we hiked, we ate (imagine that), we stargazed, and we watched a movie. It was a very informative, peaceful weekend, and I believe we all learned a lot. Plus, we all made several new friends. That's always a bonus!

I look forward to continuing on this journey with them, and I ask that you keep these amazing young ladies in your thoughts and prayers as they go forward with their Confirmation.



Outreach Committee

Penny Sunday and Oxcart Pantry Collections 2018

In everything I have shown you that, by working hard, we must help the weak. In this way we remember the Lord Jesus' words: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35 CEB)

2018 Penny Sunday Collection		2018 Oxcart Pantry - Goal 80/Month
Month	Organization / \$	item / amount
January	MMDC / \$189	canned fruit / 72
February	Peddling Parsons / \$199.50	soup / 126
March	Easter baskets / \$160.50	peanut butter / 80
April	Westside Community / \$155.50	vegetables / 106
May	Youth Mission / \$216.00	spaghetti sauce / 90
June	camperships / \$115.00	canned meat or fish / 94
July	school supplies / \$206.50	peanut butter / 80
August	Westside Community / \$116.50	beans / 100
September	Laura's Home / \$114.50	soup / 106
October	UMCOR / \$467.00	canned fruit / 86
November	Christmas stockings / \$296.00	Thanksgiving items / 122
December	Flat Rock / \$208.00	household items (mainly laundry detergent) / 70
Total:	\$2444 average of \$204/month	1132 items average of 94/month

March Free Community Meal

Thursday, March 28, from 4:30 to 6 pm

Barb Linton and Floyd Andrews will cook ham and scalloped potato casserole, green beans, salad, bread, and desserts. Your help is needed, especially for set-up at 3 pm. Please sign up



March Penny Sunday: Easter Basket Items for Oxcart Pantry

Sunday, March 17

We are collecting toiletries and small gifts for Easter baskets for men, women, boys, and girls. Check out the suggestions listed here, but don't be limited by the list. Toiletry items are especially useful. Please remember the items will be going into baskets, so the size of the items should be considered. If you prefer to have us do the shopping for you, this month's Penny Sunday offering will be used to purchase items for the baskets.



Oxcart Pantry Easter Basket Shopping List

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| ◇ Easter baskets | ◇ Shampoo | ◇ Conditioner | ◇ Hair items |
| ◇ Wrapped candy | ◇ Deodorant | ◇ Toothpaste | ◇ Small coloring books |
| ◇ Toothbrushes | ◇ Soap | ◇ Skin cream/lotion | ◇ Puzzle books |
| ◇ Lip balm | ◇ Combs | ◇ Razors | ◇ Crayons |
| ◇ Nail clippers/nail files | ◇ Small tools | ◇ Pens and pencils | ◇ Jewelry |
| ◇ Toy cars & trucks | ◇ Small stuffed animals | ◇ Small dolls | ◇ Cosmetics |

Outreach Committee

OX CART PANTRY



Oxcart Pantry Collection

Item	Due
Canned Meat & Fish	Mar. 10
Peanut Butter	Apr. 14

Knowing that spaghetti sauce is one of our more expensive monthly items, we always worry whether we'll reach our monthly goal of 80 items. Once again, we worried for no reason. We donated 83 jars and cans to Oxcart Pantry. We are now collecting meat and fish due March 10, followed by peanut butter due April 14. Thank you for your continued generosity.

UMCOR Sunday

March 31

UMCOR Sunday is one of the six special offering Sundays in the life of The United Methodist Church. Gifts given on this day go to cover the administrative costs of the United Methodist Committee on Relief so that gifts given to UMCOR the rest of the year can go where they are needed most.

I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me. (Mt. 25:35-36, CEB)

Checks can be made payable to *North Olmsted United Methodist Church*. Write *UMCOR Sunday* on the memo line.

United Methodist Women

by Barb Andrews

Even though we're still meeting every Wednesday, we have been taking it easy for the start of the year. Knowing April is coming, however, we're gearing up for our busy season. We will have more news in the next Agape, but we will be gathering Dean's plant orders and letting you know about USO cookies, along with our semiannual request for help with the rummage sale. Please save as much time as you can spare to help with any part of the sale on April 4, 5, and 6, the day of the sale. We do appreciate your help, and we know you appreciate the money we are able to give back to the church from the profits of all our activities.



Opportunities for Fellowship

Breweries Tour

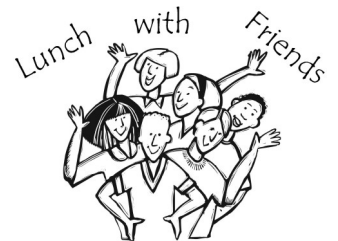
Sunday, March 10

Adult Council is planning a breweries tour for Sunday, March 10. If you're curious about how beer is made, even if you're not a beer lover, you'll find this tour interesting. We'll begin with a bit of Cleveland beer-making history at Bottlehouse Brewery and Mead Hall on Madison in Lakewood. At 4:30 pm we'll move to Working Class Brewery in Kamm's Corners before settling at Fat Heads Brewery in North Olmsted for a 6 pm dinner. Join us at 3:30 pm or catch up with us along the way. A sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall. Please include your e-mail so we can contact you with any new details. Questions may be addressed to Claudia Taller.

Lunch with Friends

Thursday, March 21, at 11:30 am

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 of 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!)



Youth News

North Olmsted United Methodist Church

Youth Work Mission Soup & Chili Cook-Off

Sunday, March 3, at Noon



Please plan to stay for lunch after worship on Sunday, March 3 for our annual Youth Work Mission Soup and Chili Cook-Off!! We will have a variety of chili and soups to sample, and you will be invited to vote for your favorite.

A free-will offering will support Work Mission. Everyone is invited to participate. If you would like to enter your favorite recipe, please see Katie or Tammy!

Youth Work Mission Trip

July 7 - 13

There is still plenty of time to join our 2019 Youth Work Mission Team. We have partnered with Westlake United Methodist Church (both the Suburban Campus and the Simpson Metro West Campus) for this year's trip. We will travel to Detroit, Michigan and work with Cass Community Center. This trip is open to all youth who will have completed 6th grade and up.

On February 10, we hosted the Youth Work Mission Team here at North Olmsted UMC for our monthly meeting and a spaghetti dinner. The youth met with their assigned groups and continued planning the trip, and we began to form relationships with new youth from the other congregation.

Upcoming meetings are from 5:30 to 7:30 pm on:

March 10 at Westlake UMC

April 14 at North Olmsted UMC

May 5 at Westlake UMC

Dinner is provided at all meetings. See John Wolter or Katie Chapman for more info!!!



Bowling with Our Youth!

Sunday, March 24, at 1 pm

Buckeye Lanes, 24488 Lorain Road, North Olmsted

ALL ages are welcome!! Cost is \$9.35 per person for two games of bowling and shoe rental.

Please RSVP to Katie at youth@noumc.org or sign up on the office door by March 17 to ensure we have enough lanes.



Join us for
BREAKFAST WITH THE BUNNY

Saturday, April 13, from 9 to 11:30 am

This is a FREE COMMUNITY event...ALL are welcome!
We will serve breakfast, have crafts, enjoy an egg hunt,
and take photos with the Bunny!
We will share the Easter story and the good news of the empty tomb!


Seating times are 9 am and 10:15 am.

Please RSVP to Katie Chapman by April 10
with the number attending, the ages of children in your group,
and your preferred seating time.

Contact info: youth@noumc.org or 440-779-6634 ext. 14.

North Olmsted United Methodist Church

4600 Dover Center Road, North Olmsted, OH 44070
440-779-6634 + www.noumc.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 10!					1 8 pm The Dover Players	2 8:30 am UMM at Canary's Family Restaurant 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved 8 pm The Dover Players
3 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 12 pm Soup & Chili Cook-Off 3 pm The Dover Players	4 6 pm Connections Team 6:30 pm Scouts 7 pm Bell Choir 8:30 pm AA	5 11 am AA 4:30 pm Confirmation 7pm Girl Scouts of North Olmsted	6 10 am UMW 7 pm Ash Wednesday Service 8:30 pm AA	7 7 pm Choir	8 8 pm The Dover Players	9 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist 8 pm The Dover Players
10 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 12 pm Nurture Meeting 3 pm Dover Players 3:30 pm Breweries Tour 5:30 pm Youth Work Mission Meeting at Westlake UMC 6 pm Scouts	11 6:30 pm Scouts 7 pm Bell Choir 8:30 pm AA	12 11 am AA 4:30 pm Confirmation	13 10 am UMW 8:30 pm AA	14 7 pm Choir	15 <i>April Agape Deadline</i>	16 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist 10 am - 1 pm Stamp Social
17 <i>Penny Sunday</i> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 12 pm Ad. Board	18 6:30 pm Scouts 7 pm Bell Choir 8:30 pm AA	19 11 am AA 4:30 pm Confirmation	20 10 am UMW 8:30 pm AA	21 11:30 am Lunch with Friends 7 pm Choir	22	23 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist
24 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 1 pm Bowling with Our Youth 6 pm Teen Scouts Committee	25 6:30 pm Scouts 7 pm Bell Choir 8:30 pm AA	26 11 am AA 4:30 pm Confirmation	27 10 am UMW 8:30 pm AA	28 4:30 - 6 pm Community Meal 7 pm Choir	29	30 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist 9 am - 12 pm Spring District Conference at The UMC of Berea
31 <i>UMCOR Sunday</i> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 12 pm Youth Council	<p style="text-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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
North Olmsted, Ohio
Permit No. 25



March Free Community Meal



Thursday, March 28

Serving 4:30 to 6 pm

ham & scalloped potato casserole, green beans,
salad, bread, dessert, and beverages

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.