

Agape

Greek for "Love without Limits"



North Olmsted United Methodist Church

Vol. 53 Issue 3

April 2019

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Worship with Us



Palm Sunday, April 14

*Worship at 10:30 am
with Chancel Choir singing "The Fauré Requiem"*

We remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Good Friday, April 19

Tennebrae Service at 7:30 pm

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

Easter Sunday, April 21

*Son-Rise Worship at 8 am
with Holy Communion*

*Traditional Worship at 10:30 am
with Chancel & Handbell Choirs*

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

Spring Rummage Sale

Saturday, April 6, 9 am - 3 pm

Clothing, household goods, books, toys, & collectibles.

Lunch & bake sale, too!



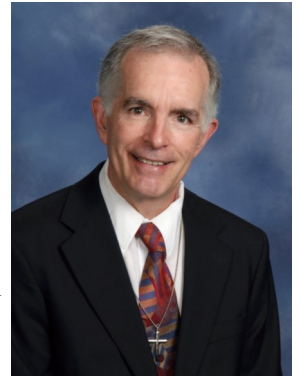
Sponsored by United Methodist Women



In my last column, I spoke of impending changes in our denomination. At that time many of us were hopeful that The United Methodist General Conference would adopt a plan for unity, a plan that both conservatives and progressives could live with, a plan that would respect all points of view and all biblical interpretations. However, that did not happen. By a vote of approximately 55% to 45%, the General Conference voted to keep current disciplinary language condemning our LGBTQ friends, forbidding UM clergy from performing same-sex marriages, and forbidding conferences from ordaining practicing homosexuals. In addition, the General Conference passed legislation attempting to strengthen the penalties for clergy and bishops that choose to violate this disciplinary language. I, along with many of my friends, both clergy and lay, both gay and straight, were devastated.

As a result of these actions, many are asking where we go from here. Where do we go as a church, and where do we go as a denomination? First, I encourage us all to stay calm, and in the words of our bishop, “stay the course.” (I encourage you to watch the bishop’s entire remarks at <https://www.youtube.com/user/EastOhioUMC>.) Many of the “rules” that were put in place by the General Conference have already been ruled unconstitutional by our denomination’s Judicial Council; the entire plan has been submitted to the Judicial Council for review at the April 23-26 meeting. We, The United Methodist Church, have a system of checks and balances in place to prevent any one group from controlling the church, and we need to give time for those checks and balances to work.

Furthermore, there will be a regularly scheduled General Conference in May of 2020 with a newly elected set of delegates. I am certain that this issue will come up again next year. General Conference 2019 is NOT the final word on this. I am both hopeful and prayerful that when future delegations come to understand the hurt and the pain that has been realized by the 2019 decisions, change will take place.



Please don’t hear that I’m simply saying, “Wait and See.” I have spoken out for full-inclusion of all people in our denomination for decades. Twenty years ago I seriously questioned whether I should seek ordination in The United Methodist Church because I disagreed with the church’s official stand on LGBTQ issues; and, after much prayer and wise council, I decided that I loved everything else about The United Methodist Church, and I had to stay within the denomination to work for change. I am still committed to working for change, speaking out for change, and praying for change. I am also committed to loving all people, even those who reject my LGBTQ friends, because that’s what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. I praise God for the love of Christ. I fully believe that love is stronger than hate; and I fully believe that love will triumph on this issue as well.

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***



Sunday School Mission Project: 4 Paws for Ability D-O-G Spells Hope

We all struggle to find and hold onto hope when we face tests and trials. Hope is necessary, vital even, to life. It is like oxygen for our souls. Without hope, despair replaces joy. Fear replaces faith. Anxiety replaces prayer. Insecurity replaces confidence. Dreams are replaced by discouragement. Without hope, we can literally perish. When a family receives a devastating diagnosis for their child, or when they are in the midst of trying to care for that child, when things are really hard, and they don't know where to turn or how to help, it would be really easy to lose hope. When a child struggles to walk, or communicate, or to control themselves, wanting to just be normal, I can see how easy it would be for that child to lose hope. Our God does not want us to lose hope, but I believe He knows that sometimes it seems hard not to. He wants us to have faith in Him, trust in Him...but sometimes that is hard to do when we are in the midst of hardship. I believe God knows when we need to be shown that hope is there. That's why I believe God created dogs. After all, God spelled backward is D-O-G.

“Dogs are a marvelous healing influence. They give hope by doing what humans can't or won't. They delight to serve. Dogs are a help and a lifeline for children and adults with special needs. Dogs open bridges of communication to people stunned and numbed by crisis. Dogs coax responses from the sick and the aged that at times are nothing short of miraculous. Dogs walk with us through our hurt and pain, soothe our stress and anxiety, and offer a balm to those crushed by depression. And they do it all with gentleness and love. But consider Who created dogs. How marvelous that the God of all hope chose dogs as a means to convey hope. How like our God to make warm furry beings to lavish their love on us and, in so doing, make His love and care more real. How amazing to see all of the incredible ways He has designed dogs to be a blessing to us!” (Doctor Dog, by M.R. Wells)

My friends, we have an opportunity to help provide hope to a special needs child and their family! This year, our Sunday School youth have been holding fundraisers and raising money so that they can help sponsor a child who is in need of their own service dog: a dog who will be specifically trained to meet the needs of that child. 4 Paws dogs can be trained to assist kids with Autism, diabetes, fetal alcohol syndrome, who are visually impaired, hearing impaired, or mobility impaired, children who have Down's Syndrome, ADHD, seizure disorder, and even cancer.



Service dogs require extensive training before they can be placed with a child. The puppies are first placed in the home of a person or family who will raise them and teach them basic obedience, house manners, and socialization until they are about a year old. The dogs are then sent on for advanced training to be service dogs.

It costs 4 Paws between \$40,000 and \$60,000 to raise and properly train a service dog. The families are required to pay only a small portion of the cost: \$17,000. Medicaid and Medicare do not cover service dogs, so even this amount is often a stretch. 4 Paws helps families fund raise to cover this fee. Families are able to create a "Make A Dream Come True" fundraising page on the 4 Paws website, where they are able to post their story and photos, make their needed requests known, and accept donations.

April Penny Sunday: 4 Paws for Ability

Sunday, April 28

Your Penny Sunday donations for the month of April will be added to the money the youth have already raised through fundraising for their Sunday School 4 Paws for Ability Mission Project. The money will be used to help a child and their family receive a service dog to help them deal with a devastating diagnosis. Please join us on April 28: we will have information available, we will show videos, and be sure to bring your spare change!



Sunday School Mission Project: 4 Paws for Ability

We Have Been Assigned a Child!

Our child's name is Brynlynn. She is four years old and was diagnosed in late 2016 with several disorders, including seizures. Her seizures will be a lifelong battle, and she may need brain surgery sometime in the future. Brynlynn is a beautiful little girl with a smile that can light up a room. She loves princesses, Paw Patrol, and animals. Her family has been trying to raise the \$17,000 needed for Brynlynn to receive a seizure alert dog, and it is our hope to raise a significant amount so that we can help her to do so. So far, we have raised about \$1000, thanks to your generosity! For more information, please visit <https://4pawsforability.org/make-a-dream-come-true/make-a-dream-come-true-t/>.

Kristie & Nike Update

You may remember that back in September, we had a visit from a 4 Paws puppy raiser and Nike, the dog she was training. We have gotten news from Kristie that Nike has been placed in a family that already has a service dog that helps a teenage child. Nike will not be a service dog himself, but he will live as a Client Companion to an adult who also lives in the home. Kristie feels that this is a great placement for Nike, and although she misses him terribly, she is thankful that he will be able to serve in this way. Kristie has taken on another foster dog named Topo Gigio. He is 16 months old already, so she only expects to have him with her for a few months.

Youth News

by Katie Chapman

Chili & Soup Cook-Off

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our 2019 Youth Work Mission Chili and Soup Cook-Off. We raised over \$360 for this year's mission trip to Detroit, MI. We had several different soups and chili for everyone to sample, and all were delicious. Congratulations to Wendy Cooper for her winning chili "Cooper's Classic Chili" and to Ron Clough for his winning soup "Lakes of Killarney Chowder". Thanks to all who provided soup and chili!

Stay tuned for our next fundraiser on May 18. Save the date!



Youth Work Mission Trip Meeting

Sunday, April 14, 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall

We are traveling to Detroit, Michigan, July 7– 13 to work with Cass Community Center. This trip is open to all youth who will have completed 6th grade and up. Join us at our next meeting on April 14. Dinner will be provided. See John Wolter or Katie Chapman for more information.

Play: CLE Indoor Adventure Outing for Youth in Second Grade and Up

Monday, April 22, 1 - 3 pm, meet at Play: CLE; RSVP by April 19

Do you want to get out of the house during Spring Break? Join us at Play: CLE for an afternoon of adventure! The cost is \$15 per person. Bring a friend! Transportation can be provided if needed; let Katie know if you need a ride. RSVP to Katie at youth@noumc.org or by calling 440-779-6634, ext. 14 by April 19. *If you haven't done so already, please have your parents fill out a permission slip at www.noumc.org. They will also need to fill out the waiver at www.playcle.com.*

United Methodist Women

USO Cookie Sunday

Sunday, April 7

SPRING IS COMING!! You may not know it by the weather, but we have three things that point the way. First is USO Cookie Sunday. Once again, the day after the rummage sale is the collection day, so we are asking you to bake cookies in the midst of gathering items for the rummage sale. If you can, both the UMW and our service people will be grateful. Please put the cookies into freezer bags labeled with the number of cookies in the bag. Homemade cookies are preferred, but store-bought are also accepted. The cookies have to last for at least a month. Please put the cookies in the kitchen by April 7.

Spring Rummage Sale

Help set up Thursday, April 4 and Friday, April 5, 9 am - 1 pm
Sale is Saturday, April 6, 9 am - 3 pm

Our second harbinger of spring is the rummage sale. We are in need of any donations you have come across while doing your spring cleaning. (You did spring clean, right?) We can really use your help with sorting and pricing on Thursday and Friday (April 4 & 5) starting at 9 am. You can spend the whole morning working with us, or you can show up for a spare hour that you have. Of course, we also welcome help on April 6, the day of the sale. Stop by to shop and eat lunch. We will buy stock from youth work mission team members who show up a little before 3 pm to help us clean up.

UMW Plant Sale

Orders due Easter Sunday, April 21

Finally, you can find an order form for our spring plant sale in this issue of the Agape. Can there be a better hint that spring is really coming? Orders are due on Easter Sunday. They may be given to a UMW member or placed in the UMW mailbox. Also, in the UMW mailbox, you can find color pictures of the plants for your information. They are in a large envelope sticking out of the mailbox; feel free to take a sheet. Extra order forms can be found in Fellowship Hall.

Opportunities for Fellowship

Murder Mystery Night Sponsored by Adult Council

Saturday, April 27, 7 pm, at NOUMC

Come, find out whodunit at our Adult Council Murder Mystery Night! Be prepared to be immersed in an interactive night of treachery, blackmail, intrigue, and mayhem! A crime has been committed and **everyone is a suspect**. Whom do you believe? Whom can you trust? Everyone has a secret to hide.

It will be a crime if you miss out on this evening of fun and excitement. Bring a killer appetizer or sinister dessert to share.

Please RSVP to Tammy as soon as possible! There will also be a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

More details to follow! Questions? See Jennifer or Tammy.

Lunch with Friends

Thursday, April 18, 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!)



Dean's Greenhouse Potting Party

Coming in May! Watch for more details!

Opportunities to Serve

Oxcart Pantry Collection

*Peanut Butter due April 14
Soup due May 12*

The week before our delivery day for meat and fish to the Oxcart Pantry, we were still short quite a few cans, but, as usual, you came through once again. We had 103 items to take over. We are now collecting peanut butter. This is the one item we sometimes come up short on, so let's see if we can get our 80 jars in by April 14. Following peanut butter, we will collect cans of soup, due by May 12.

April Free Community Meal

Thursday, April 25, 4:30 pm - 6 pm

Joel Chermonte is planning the menu this month. We are serving shepherd's pie, salad, bread, dessert, and beverages. We can use your help! Please sign up in Fellowship Hall.



Ride Request from Westlake Village

Sunday mornings before & after worship

We have an on-going request to drive 1 to 3 people to and from Westlake Village on Sundays.

The trip takes six minutes. They would like to be picked up around 9:45 am to 10 am, but they are flexible.

Please contact Janis Jarvis or sign up on the office door with your name and phone number. Also be sure to indicate if you can drive them one way or both ways.

Oxcart Pantry Easter Basket Collection

Items due April 7

We are wrapping up (literally) our Easter baskets for the pantry. You should check the list for items we need, remembering that toiletry items are most needed. It's fun to add toys and small gifts, but clients are always happy to get personal items that are sometimes in short supply in their homes. The youth will be filling the baskets on April 14, but we would appreciate getting your donations by April 7 so we know what additional items need to be purchased. Thanks for making this special time of the year a happier one for some of our neighbors.



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 |



Join us for
Breakfast with the Bunny!
Saturday, April 13, 9 am - 11:30 am

This is a free community event. All are welcome!
We will serve breakfast, do crafts, enjoy an egg hunt,
and take photos with the Easter 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



— JOIN US FOR — A DELICIOUS WAY TO **RAISE MONEY!**

Date: April 24, 2019 - Wednesday

Time: 12:00 PM to 9:00 PM

At this BJ's location:

25779 Brookpark Road
North Olmsted, OH 44070
440-471-9140

Enjoy delicious food in a fun atmosphere along with your family
and friends while earning funds in support of:

NOUMC & WUMC Youth Work Mission

With each flyer presented during this **FUNDRAISING EVENT**, BJ's will donate
20% OF FOOD AND SOFT BEVERAGE SALES to the designated organization!

Valid for dine in or take out. Not valid toward alcoholic beverages or Happy Hour specials. Please do not
distribute flyers on-site during the event. Digital or printed flyer must be presented to the server.



A P R 3 9 5



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30 pm Scouts 7 pm Bell Choir 8:30 pm AA	2 11 am AA 7 pm Girl Scouts of North Olmsted	3 10 am UMW 4:30 pm Confirmation 8:30 pm AA	4 9 am - 1 pm Sort Rummage 6 pm SPRC 7 pm Choir	5 9 am - 1 pm Sort Rummage	6 8:30 am UMM at Canary's Family Restaurant 9 am - 3 pm Rummage Sale 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved
7 <i>USO Cookie Sunday</i> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 12 pm Nurture 1 - 4 pm Hall Rental	8 6:30 pm Scouts 7 pm Bell Choir 8:30 pm AA	9 11 am AA	10 10 am UMW 4:30 pm Confirmation 8:30 pm AA	11 7 pm Choir	12	13 9 am - 11:30 am Breakfast with the Bunny 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist
14 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 12 pm Son-Fest Meeting 5:30 pm Youth Work Mission Meeting 6 pm Scouts	15 <i>May Agape Deadline</i> 6:30 pm Scouts 7 pm Bell Choir 8:30 pm AA	16 11 am AA 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry	17 10 am UMW 4:30 pm Confirmation 8:30 pm AA	18 11:30 am Lunch with Friends 7 pm Choir	19 7:30 pm Good Friday Tennebrae Service	20 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist
21 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 8 am Son-Rise Service 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	22 1 pm - 3 pm Youth Group Outing to Play: CLE 6:30 pm Scouts 7 pm Bell Choir 8:30 pm AA	23 11 am AA 1 pm - 3 pm Alzheimer's Association	24 10 am UMW 12- 9 pm BJ's Work Mission Fundraiser 4:30 pm Confirmation 8:30 pm AA	25 4:30 pm - 6 pm Free Community Meal 7 pm Choir	26	27 10 am - 1 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist 7 pm Adult Council Murder Mystery
28 <i>Penny Sunday</i> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 12 pm Ad Board 6 pm Scouts	29 6:30 pm Scouts 7 pm Bell Choir 8:30 pm AA	30 11 am AA				

Office Hours:

Mondays - Wednesdays 10 am to 2 pm, Thursdays 1 pm to 5 pm

Director of Christian Education Office Hours:

Mondays 1 pm to 3 pm, Thursdays 12 pm to 3 pm

Youth Director Office Hours:

Mondays & Thursdays 11 am to 2:30 pm

North Olmsted UMC 4600 Dover Center Rd. North Olmsted, OH 44070

Phone 440-779-6634 + Fax 440-779-0903 + office@noumc.org



North Olmsted United Methodist Church
4600 Dover Center Road
North Olmsted, Ohio 44070

Agape Newsletter

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April Free Community Meal

Thursday, April 25

4:30 pm - 6 pm

Join us for a meal of
shepherd's pie, 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.*