

Agape

Greek for “Love without Limits”



North Olmsted United Methodist Church

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July 2019

Who is the *Real* Hoyt(e) Wilhelm?

When I was in first-grade, my Mom and Dad shared with me that people often asked if I was related to and named after the famous, hall-of-fame knuckleball pitcher, Hoyt Wilhelm. My parents told inquirers that I was not named after the pitcher but rather my Uncle Hoyte (spelled with an “e”) who was the late husband of my Aunt Pearl, my mother’s older sister. I was really curious about all the questions about my name and often wondered at a very young age who the *real* Hoyt(e) was—the pitcher, my Uncle or me. Playfully, all I can claim about the pitcher is that I have two of his autographs—one on an action, black and white photo—both in response to a hand-written letter that I wrote him when I was in first-grade!



Names are very important and each of us has a story about how we were named. Were you named after a relative, family friend, or a famous person? My wife Terri and I chose the name, Timothy, for our son and the name, Megan, for our daughter simply because they were our favorite choices. One of my first priorities in beginning my ministry will be to learn the names of people connected with the faith community of North Olmsted UMC. I will enjoy listening to and learning about the life stories connected with all the names!

There is one name that is common to all of us: “children of God.” There are at least two scriptures that remind us of this reality. “See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are.” (I John 3:1). “For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.” (Galatians 3:26). It is wonderful to know that we are all children of God with no exceptions and that we are received, loved and accepted for our *real* selves! That is something that we can celebrate everyday of our lives while encouraging people connected or yet to connect to the church that they can experience love as one of God’s children.

What makes us *real* in living the names and life that God has given each of us? It entails believing that each one of us is known and loved by God and called to live authentically with others in work and play. So, what does that mean for me as your new pastor? Knowing that I am loved and cared for by God I will seek to love and care for you by listening, encouraging, and supporting you in all matters of life and faith. I will lead and grow with you through the guidance of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. I will share my life story and invite you to share yours, too, as we build relationships with one another in fellowship, study, mission and worship.

What are a few things about “Hoyte Wilhelm” that might begin to provide you with some insight about him? He loves to fish and was most recently glad to hang on one of his walls a 40” Musky to join his record-catching 18 ¼” Black Crappie. He enjoys dark chocolate, hiking in metro and state parks, engaging in activities of silence and worshipful reflection, and relaxing with others over meals and conversation. Hoyte gets excited about helping people to discover and share their true selves with others in and beyond the church.

This will be fun and exciting!

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Hoyte

Welcome, Pastor Hoyte and Terri Wilhelm!

Sunday, July 7, worship at 10:30 am

Join us for worship on July 7 as we welcome the Wilhelm Family to North Olmsted United Methodist Church. Following worship, we will celebrate with cake and punch.



Until We Meet Again

Rev. Mark Steiger

As I write this, my last Agape column as your pastor, I reflect on our past eight years together. Since starting my appointment to NOUMC on July 1, 2011, I have preached 420 sermons. I have performed twelve weddings, forty funerals, and eleven baptisms. It has been a sincere privilege and high honor to officiate at weddings and funerals; and there is no greater calling for a clergy person than to serve the sacraments of the church to the people of God.

Still, the past eight years have been about a lot more than just the official duties of my ordination. You are not only my parishioners, you are my friends. Together we have worked on mission trips, youth outings, and event planning. We have shared in four full-length Disciple Classes and six shorter Bible Studies. We have struggled through hard times and celebrated good times; and I will cherish those times as much as I cherish the memories of our worship together.

Retirement is a real mix of joy and sadness. I'm looking forward to what the future holds, but I will miss my friends. Still, I am very pleased that Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm will be taking my place. I have every confidence that he will lead this church forward to a really bright future; and for that I am very grateful.

As I head into retirement I celebrate that, in The United Methodist Church, clergy are ordained for life. (That's not true in all denominations.) I will always be able to lead worship, perform weddings and funerals, and most of all, celebrate sacraments; and I have been assured by both my District Superintendent and my fellow clergy that I will have plenty of opportunities to do so.

I also look forward to doing some of the things I have not had time to do while serving a church full-time. As a

trained piano technician, I'm going to spend more time working on pianos and playing pianos. I'm hoping to spend more time doing some genealogy research. I want to do some writing and possibly more teaching. I still have a dream of maybe someday building a harpsichord; and, of course, Ginny and I both really love to travel. I have no doubt that my retirement time will be filled with joyful activities.



Some of you know that I have been studying German at the German Cultural Center in Olmsted Township. (I've been studying German for three reasons: travel; family heritage and genealogical research; and the joy of actually understanding classical vocal music in its original language.) Those of you who know even just a little German know that the German words for Good-Bye are *Auf Wiedersehen*. But "technically" *Auf Wiedersehen* doesn't mean Good-Bye. It literally means "on again seeing" or "until we see [each other] again." As I am continuing to live in the area and continuing to maintain my United Methodist Connection, I am sure we will continue to see each other.

And so, as July 1 approaches, I simply say *Danke schön* (thank you) for eight wonderful years and *Auf Wiedersehen* (until we meet again). Know that I will always keep NOUMC and all my parishioners/friends in my prayers, as I wish you every success and happiness.

Grace and peace always,

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**





North Olmsted Homecoming Booth

Thursday, August 22 - Sunday, August 25

The Son-Fest committee has decided to have a booth at the North Olmsted Homecoming Festival this year instead of a carnival in our front yard. We will stick with the carnival theme and are planning to have a few games, crafts, face painting, clowns, and balloons for people to enjoy as they pass by our booth. We will hand out church fliers and information on all that we do here at NOUMC! The festival runs from Thursday, August 22 to Sunday, August 25. We will need at least two people to run the booth at all times during these days, and we need people to volunteer in 2-hour increments throughout the weekend. We will also need volunteers to help us set up on Thursday and clean up on Sunday. Sign-up sheets are posted in Fellowship Hall. We hope this will be a fun way to get the community to notice our church and to see all that we do in service and in the love of Christ!

Nursery News

Nursery Shower

Starting on Rally Day, September 8, the Nursery will be clean, well-stocked, staffed by an adult, and ready to welcome children from infants through second graders during our worship services.

We need your help with supplying the Nursery with needed articles, so we are asking for a “shower” of donations.

In the weeks to come, look for a list of needed supplies in Fellowship Hall with a tear-off slip to take with you. A box will be provided for the donations.

Thank you for your generosity in helping us to provide a welcoming nursery for children.

The NOUMC Nursery Committee

Thank you for Supporting 4 Paws for Ability!

The youth would like to thank the entire congregation for all of your support and donations to our Sunday School 4 Paws for Ability Mission Project. Because of your generosity, we gave \$2585.52 to Brynlynn to help her family afford a service dog to help her manage her seizure disorders and give her a better quality of life. Thank you so much for helping our youth learn what it means to “bear another’s burden!”



Sunday School Teachers Needed!

Summer is flying by and fall will be here before we know it, and that means that Sunday School will be starting up again! We are in need of several Sunday School teachers this year. The Bible says that we are to pass on our faith to our children: “These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.” (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). Please consider teaching our youth this year! Working with our youngest members and teaching them about Jesus is a joy, and sometimes we learn more from them than they learn from us. This year we will have an Elementary class, a Middle School class, and a High School class. My aim in the Middle School and High School classes is to have several volunteers who teach on a rotation as their schedules permit rather than one teacher who teaches every week. I am looking for a curriculum that is engaging for the students but easy for the teacher to prepare. We will have discussion days, but we will also have several service days and “fun” days scattered throughout the schedule. Sarah Jackson is teaching the Elementary class, but this year would like to partner with another teacher or two. Please watch your weekly bulletins for further information and updates regarding our Sunday School program, and please see me if you have any interest in teaching or if you have any questions.

Opportunities to Serve and to Give

July Free Community Meal

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

Dave and Barb Linton are cooking this month. The menu is: hamburgers, hotdogs, potato salad, coleslaw, desserts, and beverages. We need help this month because some of our regular helpers are on vacation. Sign up in Fellowship Hall.

Military Coupon Collection

The military can use coupons up to 6 months after the expiration date

We continue to collect coupons for military families to use at the PX. These coupons help families to stretch their budgets and are greatly appreciated. *Please be sure to clip the coupons before bringing them*; however, it is not necessary to sort them. Place them in the envelope under the Outreach bulletin board by the nursery.

Spiritual Care Volunteer Training at Fairview Hospital, Cleveland Clinic

Tuesday afternoons, September 10 - October 29; RSVP by August 2

Fairview Hospital's Spiritual Care Department is looking for Spiritual Care Volunteers to help provide support and comfort to our patients in the non-critical care units of the hospital. Eight weeks of training are required, held on Tuesday afternoons beginning September 10 thru October 29 from 2 pm - 4:30 pm at The Fairview Wellness Center, located at Center Ridge and Wooster Road. Your time, presence, and compassionate service will be greatly appreciated and are greatly needed. The deadline to apply is August 2. To receive an application form or for more information, contact Rev. Alice Walsh.

Back-to-School Supplies Collection

Items due July 28

Penny Sunday, July 21

We are collecting school supplies for North Olmsted students for the upcoming school year. The green box is waiting in Fellowship Hall to be filled with these supplies. Backpacks are the most expensive items needed, but since we're collecting things for children from kindergarten to high school, the pantry needs things from boxes of crayons to notebooks and items in between. If you would rather let Oxcart Pantry shop for you, donate your pennies on Penny Sunday since that is where that money is headed. Your neighbors appreciate all that you do.

Oxcart Pantry Collection

Canned Vegetables due July 14

Spaghetti Sauce due August 11

We just about made our quota of canned fruit for June. We'll see if we can do the same for the vegetables that we are now collecting. They are due July 14, and then we're collecting spaghetti sauce, due by August 11. Since spaghetti sauce is one of the more expensive items, if you catch a sale, don't hesitate to bring the jars in early, and we'll keep them until August.



**OXCART
PANTRY**



School Supplies

- | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| ◇ Backpacks | ◇ 3-Ring binders | ◇ Pencils | ◇ Markers |
| ◇ Colored pencils | ◇ Pens | ◇ Pocket folders | ◇ Glue |
| ◇ Spiral notebooks | ◇ Erasers | ◇ Rulers | ◇ Glue sticks |

Opportunities for Fellowship

Lunch with Friends

Thursday, July 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!)

Dover Players International 10-Minute Play Competition

July 19 at 8 pm; July 20 at 8 pm; July 21 at 3 pm

North Olmsted United Methodist Church

You Be the Judge of 10-Minute Plays submitted by Award-Winning Playwrights

\$ 5 admission \$ 1 hot dogs and drinks

Concession profits and a portion of ticket prices benefit North Olmsted United Methodist Church

Contact Gregory Lavelle for information and to make reservations

Oberammergau Passion Play Excursion

September 12-29, 2020

Rev. Mark and Ginny are headed to Germany 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 castles and churches and trips to Salzburg and Innsbruck. Tour extensions to Switzerland or Italy are also offered. Email msteiger@noumc.org for more information.



United Methodist Women

by Barb Andrews

The UMW continues to meet at the church Wednesday mornings at 10 am. Of course, we always include lunch or breakfast, so if you would like to join us for fellowship, check with a member to find out where we are headed to on that particular Wednesday. We spend our mornings helping with church projects, working on crafts, or just sitting around solving all the world's problems. We would love to have your company for one day or every Wednesday.

Youth News

by Katie Chapman



Confirmation Sunday

A big welcome to North Olmsted United Methodist Church's newest members, Makena Chapman and Mikenzie Dennis!

Makena and Mikenzie confirmed their commitment to The United Methodist Church and this local congregation on June 16. In preparation for this occasion, they spent 22 weeks in class with Rev. Mark. During that time, they discussed the Bible, church history and polity, church doctrine, and the role of The United Methodist Church within the greater church and the world. They considered difficult issues such as the doctrine of the trinity and the two natures of Christ, as well as the Wesleyan doctrine of grace.

We are very proud of you!

Youth Work Mission

It's finally here! The North Olmsted UMC and Westlake UMC Metro and Suburban campuses Youth Work Mission Team departs for Detroit, Michigan on Sunday, July 7 to work with Cass Community Center for a week. We want to shout from the rooftop a huge "THANK YOU" to everyone who purchased stock, had their car washed, or enjoyed a delicious meal at our 50's Diner fundraiser. Without you, this trip would not be possible. We ask that you keep us all in prayer during our trip and watch for updates on our website noumc.org under the Youth tab at the top of the homepage.

*Join us in worship on July 7 at 10:30 am as we commission the Youth Work Mission Team!
Please keep the 28 missionaries and the people of Detroit in your prayers.*

Summer Youth Events

Upcoming events include a bonfire and a trip to Swings-N-Things Fun Park. Dates will be posted on our website and Facebook page.

Opportunities to Care for the Church Grounds

Garden Maintenance



The annuals are planted, late spring clean-up is completed, and lots of small, sprouting weeds have been removed. Now we need some volunteers to check the gardens each week for those pesky weeds that come back and to cut faded blooms on flowers. It should only take about an hour of your time, and if done weekly, will not get out of hand and turn into a big job. Contact Charlene Vas with dates that you can help. Thank you!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30 pm Dover Players 8:30 pm AA	2 11 am AA 6:30 pm Dover Players	3 10 am UMW 6:30 pm Dover Players 8:30 pm AA	4 <i>Independence Day / Church Office Closed</i>	5	6 8:30 am UMM at Canary's Family Restaurant 10 am - 1 pm Sanctuary Reserved For Organist
7 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship Work Mission Team Departs!	8 Work Mission 6:30 pm Dover Players 8:30 pm AA	9 Work Mission 11 am AA 6:30 pm Dover Players	10 Work Mission 10 am UMW 6:30 pm Dover Players 8:30 pm AA	11 Work Mission 6:30 pm Dover Players	12 Work Mission	13 Work Mission Team Returns! 10 am - 1 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist
14 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 12 pm Outreach Meeting Canned vegetables due	15 <i>August Agape Deadline</i> 6:30 pm Dover Players 8:30 pm AA	16 11 am AA 6:30 pm Dover Players	17 10 am UMW 6:30 pm Dover Players 8:30 pm AA	18 11:30 am Lunch with Friends 6:30 pm Dover Players	19 8 pm Dover Players 10-Minute Plays	20 10 am - 1 pm Sanctuary Reserved 12 pm - 4 pm Fellowship Hall Rental 8 pm Dover Players 10-Minute Plays
21 Penny Sunday 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 3 pm Dover Players 10-Minute Plays	22 8:30 pm AA	23 11 am AA 1 pm - 3 pm Alzheimer's Association	24 10 am UMW 8:30 pm AA	25 4:30 pm - 6 pm Free Community Meal	26	27 10 am - 1 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist
28 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 12 pm Ad. Board School supplies due	29 8:30 pm AA	30 11 am AA	31 10 am UMW 8:30 pm 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 United Methodist Church
4600 Dover Center Road
North Olmsted, Ohio 44070

Agape Newsletter

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July Free Community Meal



Thursday, July 25
4:30 pm - 6 pm

hamburgers, hotdogs, potato salad, coleslaw,
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.*