

# Agape

Greek for "Love without Limits"



North Olmsted United Methodist Church

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## Sunday School Begins on Rally Day

*Sunday, September 8*

9 am	Sunday School for all ages
10 am	Fellowship with coffee & doughnuts
10:30 am	Worship
12 pm - 2 pm	Pulled Pork BBQ Dinner

## Rally Day Pulled Pork BBQ Dinner

*Sunday, September 8, 12 pm - 2 pm*

United Methodist Men will serve:

pulled pork, coleslaw, chips,  
baked beans, rolls, dessert, and beverages.

Dinner \$10 Pulled Pork \$10/lb. Dine in or Carry out.  
Tickets on sale after worship or contact the church office at  
440-779-6634 or [office@noumc.org](mailto:office@noumc.org) to reserve your dinner!



## How Are You Communicating with Your Words and Actions?

One of the most significant things I learned from my mother is to live her favorite scripture: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you” (Matthew 7:12; Luke 6:31). My mother and I know, as I imagine you do, too, that this scripture—The Golden Rule—is sometimes difficult to practice in everyday life.

Who among us has not fallen short in communication and actions consistent with The Golden Rule? Perhaps you have said or done something that was intentionally or unintentionally hurtful or harmful to a family member, friend, acquaintance, colleague, or stranger? Maybe you have hurt or harmed someone in a one-on-one conversation, in a group setting, over the phone, with an email, or through social media?

God forgives us when we ask for forgiveness in falling short in our treatment of others.

However, God also expects each of us to live as best as possible the words of Jesus in The Golden Rule.

The United Methodist Church provides excellent guidelines for how we should treat people individually and collectively in all times and places. And so, I encourage you to join me in working to practice the guidelines as described in the article below consistent with The Golden Rule.



### **\*Guidelines for Holy Conferencing: What God Expects of Us**

*“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly ... And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Colossians 3:12-16a, 17).*

- Every person is a child of God. Always speak respectfully. One can disagree without being disagreeable.
- As you patiently listen and observe the behavior of others, be open to the possibility that God can change the views of any or all parties in the discussion.
- Listen patiently before formulating responses.
- Strive to understand the experience out of which others have arrived at their views.
- Be careful in how you express personal offense at differing opinions. Otherwise dialogue may be inhibited.
- Accurately reflect the views of others when speaking. This is especially important when you disagree with a position.
- Avoid using inflammatory words, derogatory names, or an excited and angry voice.
- Avoid making generalizations about individuals and groups. Make your point with specific evidence and examples.
- Make use of facilitators and mediators.
- Remember that people are defined, ultimately, by their relationship with God - not by the flaws we discover, or think we discover, in their views and actions.
- We believe Christians can discuss important issues without the acrimonious debate and parliamentary maneuvering that can divide a group into contending factions. We see too many examples of that in secular society. We believe the Holy Spirit leads in all things, especially as we make decisions. We want to avoid making decisions in a fashion that leaves some feeling like winners and others like losers.
- We can change the world through honest conversation on matters about which we are passionate.”

\*(This work is based on the guidelines for “Holy Conferencing” that emerged from the United Methodist “*Dialogue on Theological Diversity*” in February 1998 and continues to be practiced by many United Methodists today.)

How Are You Communicating with Your Words and Actions?

Pastor Hoyte

## Christian Education

### It Is Time for Rally Day! Join Us for the Kickoff of Sunday School!



*Sunday, September 8, 9 am*

The elementary, middle school, and young adult Sunday School classes will start the new Sunday School year off right with a Rally Day celebration on September 8 at 9 am. We will share in some fun and food together before we settle into our new curriculum for the year. All kids are welcome to join us; bring a friend or two!

The adult Sunday School class will also begin on Rally Day. We will start the year by studying *Five Means of Grace; Experience God's Love the Wesleyan Way*. John Wesley gave the Methodist movement (and all Christians in general) a discipleship pathway to follow. Wesley observed the need for continuous renewal of relationships with God and others, so he established a recurring annual process for God's people to make One Faithful Promise: The Wesleyan Covenant for Renewal. The study, by Elaine Heath,

turns to the practices at the center of Wesley's understanding of spiritual growth: the means of grace. Craig Mueller, Claudia Taller, Becky Riddlebaugh, and Alice Walsh will share the leadership of the adult class. All are welcome to join the group in the Choir Room at 9 am every Sunday morning. Hope to see you there!

### Volunteer Teachers Always Welcome

We are always thrilled to welcome more teachers to teach in the elementary, middle school, youth/young adult, or adult classes, so if you have an interest and feel called to teach Sunday School, please see Wendy Cooper to be added to the rotation of teachers!

### Introducing Our New Mission Project:

CANstruction is a global non-profit organization that has donated over 50 million pounds of food since it was founded in 1992. Their mission is to CANstruct a World Without Hunger.

CANstruction is a competition between teams of architects and engineers who create sculptures out of canned foods. The competition is designed to draw attention to hunger and to inspire donations of food and money. The sculptures are put on display, and after the competition, all of the canned food is donated to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

During this school year, our youth will work to raise funds that will help our local CANstruction team create and build their latest sculpture, which will be on display in April 2020. Throughout the year, we will hold fundraisers for the local CANstruction team. Look for further information about our local CANstruction team in future Agape and bulletin articles. We ask that you keep our mission project in your prayers!

## 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



## Opportunities for Fellowship



### Schoepfle Gardens Outing

*Saturday, September 14, 3 pm*

Join Adult Council for a retreat to Schoepfle Gardens of the Lorain County Metroparks in Wakeman. Information on the gardens can be found at [http://www.metroparks.cc/schoepfle\\_garden.php](http://www.metroparks.cc/schoepfle_garden.php). This unique outdoor space has 70 acres of botanical gardens and natural woodland bordered on one side by the Vermilion River. The garden features collections of rhododendrons, roses, cannas, hostas, shade plants, and varieties of shrubs, topiaries, and trees. After our tour of the gardens, we will enjoy a potluck picnic in the garden's picnic area. You may want to stop at one of the wineries on the way home, depending on whether your carpooling buddies would like to do so as well. Please sign up on the office door so we can update you on the details. Contact Claudia Taller if you have questions.

### Lunch with Friends

*Thursday, September 19, 11:30 am*

Our group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 11:30 am. Watch the bulletin for the location. Join us for a couple of hours of food and fellowship. To RSVP, call and leave a message with Carole Bettinger at 440-234-3611.

## Nursery News

A decorative border of colorful footprints in shades of pink, purple, and blue, arranged in a roughly rectangular shape around the text.

North Olmsted UMC will provide child care during church services beginning Rally Day, September 8! We have a team of ten wonderful volunteers and teens to help staff the child care area. The rooms have been updated and have many new items. Thanks to all who gave gifts for the shower!

# Nursery

## United Methodist Men



*Orders due September 15*

Merry Christmas from United Methodist Men! It's that time again, for the last time. The men will be making nativity scenes, but only those ordered by September 15. Please order in writing (don't trust our memories!) Orders can be given to Floyd Andrews, Jim Yager, John Vas, or any other UMM member. The cost is \$75.

## United Methodist Women

Our restful summer days are over. Our first meeting of the fall will take place on September 4. We will be deciding on our annual Amish trip, so check the bulletin to see if you can join us. We will discuss other upcoming events, such as the Church Mouse Craft Show on October 12 and the Rummage Sale on November 9. There is still room in the church attic for your rummage, thanks to your help in making good use of the space and to a couple of our UMW members who have done a wonderful job of consolidating your contributions upstairs. As always, if you have the storage space at home, we'd appreciate your keeping your donations until the week of the sale, but if that's not possible, there is some room available. We are grateful for your help. We enjoy giving away the money you have helped us earn during the year.

## Opportunities to Serve and to Give

### Support Laura's Home!

*Penny Sunday is September 15*

September's collection will go towards the monthly dinner we serve at Laura's Home Women's Crisis Center. Laura's Home serves 100 clients at any given time and has a long waiting list. Laura's Home provides education, job-training, help in finding employment and housing, and a safe haven. We started providing support to this mission over thirty years ago. We provide a great meal, thanks to our wonderful chef, John, for no more than \$125 each month. The money, however, has never come from the general fund except to tide the project over. It needs your support to cover the expenses. To help, you can give a little extra to Penny Sunday, or at any other time of the year. Make checks payable to *North Olmsted UMC* and write *Laura's Home* in the memo.



### September Free Community Meal

*Thursday, September 26, 4:30 pm - 6 pm*

Barb Linton is planning the menu this month. We are serving Mexican casserole, salad, corn, applesauce, dessert, and beverages. If you are willing to help, please sign up on the Outreach board in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

### Volunteer Opportunities at Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels is an IRS certified 501(c)(3) non-profit that receives no government funding. They are funded through reasonable meal service fees plus generous community donations. Currently they serve residents in Bay Village, North Olmsted, Olmsted Falls, Olmsted Township, and Westlake. Not only do they provide nutritious meals, they offer caring contact, combat social isolation, and provide peace of mind for families of the convalescing, disabled, and elderly.

Meals on Wheels proudly serves over 600 meals a week. They have over 150 of the best volunteers that share their mission of service to others, and they always welcome the talents of those in the community. Many hands make light work. If you would like more information about how you can help, visit [www.westlakemealsonwheels.org](http://www.westlakemealsonwheels.org).

### Oxcart Pantry Collection

*Canned meat and fish due September 8*

*Peanut butter due October 13*

Thank you for your donations of spaghetti sauce last month. We came up short of our goal, but any size donation is welcome. We're now collecting canned meat and fish and after that, peanut butter. Both of these are more expensive than other items, so we will try our best to meet our goal of 80 items.



**OX CART  
PANTRY**

Thank you for your donations of school supplies and for the Penny Sunday collection of \$290.50. That money helped to provide backpacks of school supplies for children.

### 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.

### Next Outreach Meeting

*Sunday, September 15, 9:15 am - 9:50 am  
in classroom 4*

It's hard to believe that summer is over already. It sure went fast. As you begin the new year, we wish you a successful, fun, positive, and happy 2019-2020 school year. Make it a memorable one, and always remember that your NOUMC family loves you, is praying for you, and is cheering you on.

**Youth Group Bonfire**

*Saturday, September 21, 7 pm - 9 pm*

Join us here at NOUMC for fellowship and S'MORES!!!! Open to 6th grade and up. Bring a friend!

**Haunted Hayride**

*Saturday, October 19, Time TBA*

Take a ride with your Youth Group friends through the Forest of Fear, where you will experience terror and suspense at every turn. Join us in Columbia Station for a night of Halloween fun.

**Trunk or Treat**

*Saturday, October 26, 5 pm - 7 pm*



Please join us for our first NOUMC Trunk or Treat! This is a free community event! We are inviting you to decorate the trunk of your car, using any theme you'd like, and pass out candy or treats as children from the community "trunk or treat" in the safe environment of our church parking lot. We need at least 10-15 vehicles to make this a successful event! Please see Katie for more information.

**Summer Recap**

Putt-Putt with Pastor Hoyte was a blast! The young kids and adult kids all had a great time. We spent the afternoon in a rousing game of 18 holes of putt-putt and then enjoyed some much deserved ice cream. The weather was beautiful, and the company was great. We plan to offer more intergenerational activities in the future, so stay tuned!

It's been an exciting summer for the youth: Confirmation, Work Mission, Summer Camp, NOUMC's Ice Cream Truck, Fun in the Sun, Movie Night, Blessing of the Backpacks, Putt-Putt, and North Olmsted's Homecoming! We all thank you for your continuous support and love.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	<b>2</b> <i>Labor Day Office Closed</i>	<b>3</b> 11 am AA	<b>4</b> 10 am UMW  8:30 pm AA	<b>5</b>  7 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b>  10 am - 12 pm DDL	<b>7</b> 8:30 am UMM at Canary's Family Restaurant 9 am - 12 am Scrapbooking  10 am - 1 pm Sanctuary Reserved
<b>8 Rally Day</b> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 11:45 am Adult Council 12 pm Pulled Pork BBQ Dinner	<b>9</b>  6:30 pm Scouts 8:30 pm AA	<b>10</b> 11 am AA	<b>11</b> 10 am UMW  8:30 pm AA	<b>12</b>  7 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b>  10 am - 12 pm DDL	<b>14</b> 10 am - 1 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist  3 pm Schoepfle Gardens Outing
<b>15 Penny Sunday</b> 9 am Sunday School 9:15 am Outreach 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship  12 pm Ad. Board 1 pm - 5 pm FH Rental  <i>October Agape Deadline</i>	<b>16</b>  6:30 pm Scouts 7 pm Dover Players 8:30 pm AA	<b>17</b>  11 am AA 7 pm Dover Players	<b>18</b> 10 am UMW  7 pm Dover Players 8:30 pm AA	<b>19</b> 11:30 am Lunch with Friends  7 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Dover Players	<b>20</b>  10 am - 12 pm DDL	<b>21</b> 10 am - 1 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist  7 pm - 9 pm Youth Group Bonfire
<b>22</b> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship  12 pm SPRC 6 pm Scouts	<b>23</b> 6:30 pm Scouts 7 pm Bell Rehearsal 7 pm Dover Players 8:30 pm AA	<b>24</b> 11 am AA 1 pm Alzheimer's Association 7 pm Dover Players	<b>25</b> 10 am UMW  7 pm Dover Players 8:30 pm AA	<b>26</b> 4:30 pm - 6 pm Community Meal  7 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Dover Players	<b>27</b>  10 am - 12 pm DDL	<b>28</b> 10 am - 1 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist
<b>29</b> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship  12 pm Youth Council	<b>30</b> 6:30 pm Scouts 7 pm Bell Rehearsal 7 pm Dover Players 8:30 pm AA	<b>October Agape Deadline</b>  <i>September 15</i>  Please email articles to <a href="mailto:office@noumc.org">office@noumc.org</a> or place them in the Administrative Assistant's mailbox.				

**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](mailto:office@noumc.org)



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

## Agape Newsletter

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# September Free Community Meal

## September

*Thursday, September 26*

*4:30 pm - 6 pm*



Mexican casserole, salad, corn,  
applesauce, dessert, and beverages

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

440-779-6634 + [www.noumc.org](http://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.*