

Agape

Greek for "Love without Limits"

North Olmsted United Methodist Church

Vol. 55 Issue 5

May 2021

Pentecost Sunday is May 23

What is Pentecost?

On Pentecost Sunday, we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a special way. The story in Acts 2 describes a powerful wind and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all over the world who came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. At the first Pentecost over 3000 people were baptized, creating the first church. This is why Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Christian church.

The word Pentecost comes from a Greek word meaning fiftieth. The Jewish Festival of Pentecost (called *Shavuot*, meaning "weeks" in Hebrew) falls on the fiftieth day after the original Passover. On that day, God gave the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai. The Christian festival of Pentecost falls on the 50th day after the resurrection of Jesus.

Pentecost for Christians culminates the celebration and work of the church begun on Easter Day. In early Christianity, Easter Day was the primary day for baptisms. The newly baptized were then trained in basic Christian doctrine, including the meaning of the sacraments they had now experienced, as they prepared to take up their ministries in the life of the church. On Pentecost, Christians celebrate the commissioning of new members into ministry.



Two colors are historically associated with Pentecost. Red is a visual reminder of the "tongues of fire" that empowered the apostles and others to proclaim the good news of Christ's resurrection in many languages to the crowds of pilgrims from many lands (Acts 2:3). White is also used because Pentecost was the major day for baptisms in the early church. Those being baptized were given new white robes to wear as a sign they had taken off the world, died to sin, and were raised with the risen Christ to new life. This is why Pentecost may be referred to as "Whitsunday" or "White Sunday."

The Season after Pentecost is the time of the church year to support new disciples and the whole congregation in living out the gifts we have been given in the name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

(This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Publications.)

Special Note

Please be looking for information and instructions sent to you via the weekly worship bulletin announcements, the weekly e-newsletter, and announcements in worship about in-person worship possibly beginning in May, maybe even on Pentecost Sunday, May 23!

COVID-19 Reminders

Worship with Us Online!

Livestreamed worship on Sundays at 10:30 am

Join us online for livestreamed worship on Sundays at 10:30 am! Visit our [YouTube channel](#) to worship with us. The videos will also be available to view later. For more information and assistance, visit www.noumc.org or our [Facebook page](#).

Visit <http://www.noumc.org/worship-remote-worship-resources/> for bulletins and weekly announcements.

Office Hours

To protect the health and well-being of you and the staff, we will be working from home whenever possible. Please conduct business with the staff by phone or email, when possible. If you leave a voicemail at the church or send an email, a member of the staff will respond. If you need to conduct business in person, please call ahead to be sure someone is in the office to assist you, or contact a staff member and leave a voicemail to make an appointment.

Pastoral Care

Please reach out to Pastor Hoyte by using his cell phone or email address (330-428-1545 or hoytewilhelm@gmail.com) if you have any questions or want to schedule an individual time to talk as he will be working remotely much of the time from the church office consistent with the rest of our support staff.

Pastor Hoyte continues to keep you in his thoughts and prayers. God *IS* with us!

Stay Connected—We Are Not Alone

If you would like to subscribe to receive weekly e-newsletters, up-to-date email announcements from Pastor Hoyte, and prayer concerns from the congregation, email office@noumc.org.

Financial Contributions to North Olmsted United Methodist Church

Please continue to be faithful with your financial gifts by sending your stewardship contributions to the church office to the attention of the Financial Secretary, Ed Brewster.

June Agape Deadline

May 15

Please email articles to office@noumc.org or mail them to the church, attention Megan Howe, by May 15.

Church Staff: 440-779-6634

Pastor: Hoyte Wilhelm
hoytewilhelm@gmail.com
ext.16
cell: 330-428-1545

Director of Christian Education:
Wendy Cooper
sundayschool@noumc.org
ext.13

Organist: Marlene Dirksen
marlened959@gmail.com

Admin. Assistant: Megan Howe
office@noumc.org
ext.10

Youth Director: Chris Byrns
youth@noumc.org
ext. 14

Music Director: Gabriela Martinez
gabrielamarmar@aol.com

Social Media: Hanna Moore
social@noumc.org

United Methodist Women

UMW Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, May 8; Pick up plants 12 pm - 2 pm

The truck is scheduled to arrive between 8:30 am and 9 am, and we could use help unloading, counting the plants before paying, and sorting the orders. We would welcome any men who can help. Please let Darlene Owings or Barb Andrews know if you can help in the morning.

UMW FUNDrive

Friday, May 21, 6 pm - 8 pm

Saturday, May 22, 10 am - 2 pm

Sunday, May 23, 12 pm - 2 pm



We are holding a FUNDrive again this year instead of a rummage sale. We will accept your donations of clothing and household goods in good, clean, and sellable condition. We will have a trailer in the church parking lot to accept your donations. **As a reminder, soft goods should be bagged in large, black garbage bags and other items should be packed in manageable-sized boxes that are closed.**

Accepted items include clothing, shoes, bedding and towels, accessories (hats, gloves, scarves, ties, socks, purses, wallets, backpacks, belts, and jewelry), CDs, DVDs, electrical items, toys and games, kitchen items, knick-knacks, and sporting goods. **No furniture and large household items, baby gear, cleaning products, flammable items, or building materials, please.**

Please bring your items during the times listed above. We could use the help of a few men the last 15 minutes of each session to help us load the donations into the trailer. It is impossible for us little old ladies to pile up the boxes and bags. We always appreciate all of the help that the rest of the congregation gives us. For more information, contact Judi Wagner.

Next UMW Meeting: Wednesday, June 2

We are hopeful that we can schedule more meetings when we meet again in June.

Christian Education

Online Sunday School

Sunday School students, please join us each week on our [Friends of NOUMC Facebook page](#) as we continue to study God's Word! A video Bible lesson will be posted, and links to activity sheets will be offered in the comments. High School and Young Adults are welcome to click on a weekly devotion with thoughts and questions to ponder. Video lessons and devotions will be posted by Saturday evening each week.

Honoring Our Graduates

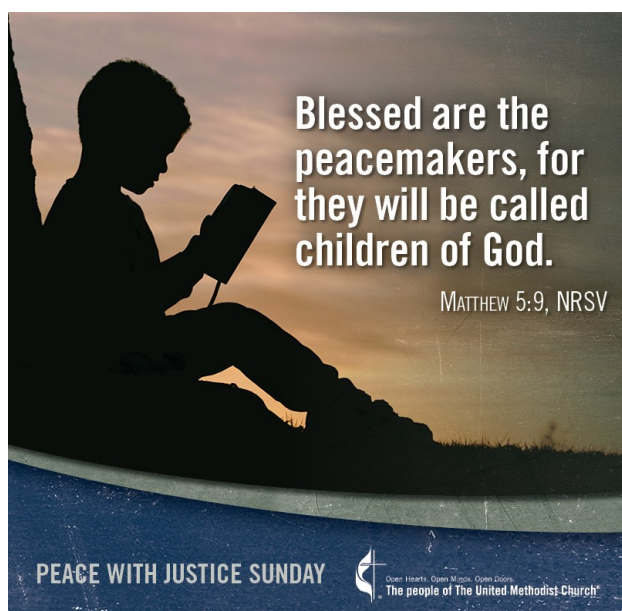
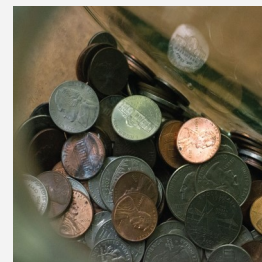
We will be honoring our graduates during worship sometime in June. If you are a graduate or know of a member who is graduating from high school, college, technical school, or with an online degree, please give your information to Wendy Cooper by the end of May. She will need your name, school, degree, and what you will be doing next. Email Wendy at sundayschool@noumc.org or call the office, ext. 13, and leave your name and phone number so that Wendy can contact you.

Opportunities to Give

Support Youth Ministry

Penny Sunday is May 16

With the hopes of a light at the end of the Covid tunnel, the Youth Ministry Team is looking forward to building a stronger, mission-oriented youth group of the future. May's Penny Sunday offering will be used to create meaningful relationships with our neighbors and friends whether it be helping our food pantry, physically cleaning up our church building, or building supportive friendships among our youth. Thank you in advance for your contribution. *Make checks payable to NOUMC and write **May Penny Sunday** in the memo. Send checks to the church office, attention Financial Secretary.*



Equipping The UMC to Do Justice in Jesus' Name

Peace with Justice Sunday is May 30

Gifts on Peace with Justice Sunday fund programs that advocate for peace and justice in the United States and around the world. These programs empower United Methodists to speak out for removing structures and systems that harm God's children globally.

Will you continue to support Peace with Justice Sunday? Will you empower local Christians to build the kingdom of peace that Jesus ushered in?

*Make checks payable to NOUMC and write **Peace with Justice Sunday** in the memo. Send checks to the church office, attention Financial Secretary.*

Support Africa University

Sunday School Mission Project Last Call!

As you know, our Sunday School classes this year have been collecting donations from the congregation for the Africa University Sunday School Mission Project. We have joined efforts with the East Ohio Conference to raise enough money to build a women's dorm at Africa University that will provide a safe, secure environment and a community of support for female AU students to focus on their education without risking their lives to attend university. Unfortunately, we have not been able to hold as many fundraisers this year as in years past, but we can still make a difference! This year, we sold Christmas and Easter flowers, collected a Penny Sunday offering, and had a few direct donations from congregants. The collection will end in May, and all of the money we have raised will be sent to the Conference at that time. If you are thinking about donating but haven't gotten around to it, you still have time! *Make checks payable to NOUMC and write **Africa University** in the memo. Send checks to the church office, attention Financial Secretary.*

A Message from the Stephen Ministries Team

Need a Caring, Listening Presence?

NOUMC is blessed to have trained lay persons to provide a caring, listening presence in addition to the ministry of pastoral care provided by Pastor Hoyte. You and others may receive care from one of our trained Stephen Ministers by contacting Alice Walsh, Stephen Ministry Leader, or Pastor Hoyte at hoytewilhelm@gmail.com or by calling the church office, ext. 16 and leaving a message.



What Is Stephen Ministry?

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2, NRSV).

Stephen Ministry offers a proven and effective way to organize, equip, and supervise a team of congregation members—called *Stephen Ministers*—to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life's difficulties.

What Is a Stephen Minister?

Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation.

Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life, but they all share a passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need.

Racial Justice Group

Join us for our new series in May!

Wednesdays, 12 pm – 1 pm

May 5, 12, and 26 (with a break on May 19)

The Racial Justice Group is now meeting on Wednesdays on Zoom at lunchtime so that those at work might also attend. Now is an excellent time to join us!

We chose to watch the series from St Luke's UMC "We Cannot Walk Alone" in three 30-minute sessions, followed by discussion. A featured speaker is Garlinda Burton, interim chief executive for the General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR).

Find the YouTube video at: <https://www.stlukescse.org/general-8>

For more information and the Zoom link, contact Janis or Pastor Hoyte at hoytewilhelm@gmail.com.



Youth Ministry Team



Thank you all for your overwhelming support of our Drive-Thru Bake Sale! Thanks to your generosity, we earned \$401 which will go a long way to fund our summer activities. A special thanks to Chris Byrns, Phoebe Tidmore, and Jean Scothon for sharing their baking skills. We delivered a tray of leftover goodies to the staff at the Wesleyan Village in Elyria.

We also dropped off some Easter goodies and an Easter card to some of our fabulous youth supporters! A special thank you to Sarah Jackson who hopped all over town making deliveries!



The Youth Ministry Team is currently planning for the summer and will continue to drop off activity bags through the end of the school year. Watch for more details! We are also recruiting! If you have ideas to share and would like to be a member of the Youth Ministry Team, please contact Tammy Moore or Chris Byrns at youth@noumc.org or ext. 14.

Staying Connected

Staying Connected Newsletter Update

Thank you all for your contributions to the Staying Connected Newsletter during this past year. We have all been lifted by the joys and blessings you have shared and have been encouraged by your messages of hope. June will mark our last edition of the Staying Connected Newsletter. Everyone is welcome to share a short bit of news or an update even if you contributed before. And don't forget the pictures!

Please send your information to Tammy or to Megan at office@noumc.org.

Please also remember to connect with us on Facebook. Our Group is named "Friends of NOUMC." All you have to do is request to join, and we will add you to the group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofnoumc>

Thank You!

Dear Barbara and the North Olmsted Team,

During this continued season of uncertainty, we want you to know just how thankful we are for the continuous support of your group! In 2020, 143,135 total meals were served to the men, women, and children staying in our facilities, and you played a part in making that happen! Whether you've been serving meals in person, dropping off food, or providing for the monetary cost of our meals, we are so grateful.

The work you do is not only meeting the basic needs of our men, women, and children, but it's also helping to restore dignity and value in their lives—so thank you! We couldn't do this work without you.

With joy,

Emily, The City Mission

Thank You!

Thank you to someone who left a special Easter card and some goodies on the organ the week of Easter. I appreciate your card and thoughtfulness.

Marlene Dirksen

Sarah,

To you and all the women who put my Easter gift together that you delivered to me—thank you so much. It was very special!

Toni Jackson

A BIG THANK YOU to ALL who were involved in my Easter Greetings with my two lovely Easter cards, the goodie tray which was delivered to the front staff of Wesleyan Living and the delicious hot cross buns which were delivered to me Saturday evening by the Easter Bunny! (The Balloon Bunny ended up riding on my rollator Easter Day.)

WHAT A GRAND TREAT EVERYTHING WAS!

I am so thankful for all the memories and friendships of NOUMC. I was really “floored” to see the Noah’s Ark wall hanging in the recent Sunday morning service, which I donated when I moved from Westlake to here.

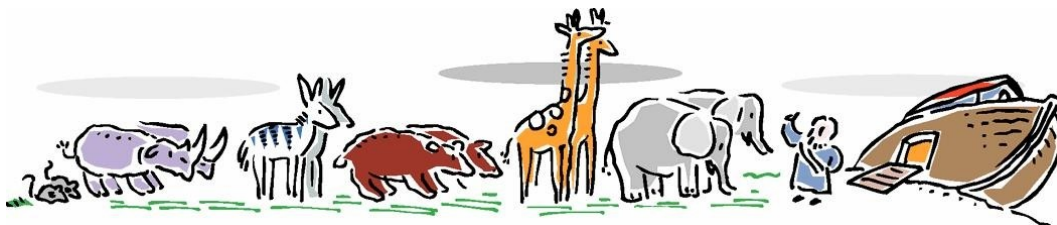
I purchased it at a Flat Rock Quilt Auction at Westlake UMC in about 2004 and hung it on my Westlake Village wall until moving in 2014. I had no space for it here and thought its new home should be near the Sunday School rooms of NOUMC and was so happy to see it again after over...6 years!

A side remark: I was forced to bid higher and higher to buy Noah’s Ark by a man in the back of the room. I was determined to purchase it, so as he bid more...I didn’t hesitate and up the price went...again and again! I finally turned around to see who was my “enemy” and there was Doug, NOUMC’s organist with a huge smile on his face! He then graciously bowed out and the ark was mine!

So when passing my Easter “Thanks”....THANKS ALSO to ALL who arranged to have “the Ark” included in the Sunday Service...it brought “happy tears and many NOUMC members to mind these past weeks”.

Thank you, LORD, for GOOD SERMONS, YouTube, skilled technicians, and always on duty – NOUMC’s office manager, Megan!

Jane Philpott



Church Family News

| | |
|----|------------|
| 1 | Sara B. |
| 3 | John G. |
| 4 | Cameron R. |
| 4 | Raymond S. |
| 5 | Sam V. |
| 9 | Carole A. |
| 10 | Susan W. |
| 10 | Leslie D. |
| 12 | Mike M. |
| 13 | Carolyn O. |
| 13 | Alice W. |



| | | | | | |
|----|------------|----|-------------|----|--------------------|
| 13 | Judi W. | 22 | Colin J. | 10 | Barb & Ron C. |
| 14 | Chris B. | 22 | Zoe B. | 14 | Deb & Joel C. |
| 14 | Oriana B. | 23 | Georgia A. | 22 | Liz & Greg L. |
| 15 | Ed B. | 24 | Josh W. | 22 | Janis & David J. |
| 15 | Anita B. | 25 | Mark B. | 27 | Natalie & Josh W. |
| 17 | Lisa D. | 26 | Benjamin D. | 28 | Tammy & Mike M. |
| 17 | Guylene H. | 27 | Louise A. | 30 | Kelly & Chris B. |
| 21 | Linda G. | 30 | Shane M. | 31 | Barbara & Frank M. |

Prayer Concerns

First Responders
 Victims of natural disasters
 Those suffering from mental illness
 Those affected by gun violence
 Those who are homeless
 Stephen Ministers
 Care Receivers
 Our condolences to the loved ones
 of Tom M. following his passing
 Our condolences to the loved ones
 of Martha C. following her
 passing
 Our condolences to the loved ones
 of JoAnn D. following her
 passing
 Mary Lou L.
 Judy K.

Ron W.
 Josh O.
 Dallas & Bobbi, lifted by
 Terri W.
 Barbara B.
 Viola C.
 Susan W.
 Mary, Sue S.'s mother
 Jeff, Judy K.'s friend
 Kifah, David L.'s friend
 Donald R.
 Sheryl, lifted by Sally S.
 Frank M.
 Keith A.
 Sterling B.
 Bev, lifted by Josh O.
 Darlene, friend of Barb A.

Donna, sister of Carol N.
 Bill, Vince, and Dusty, lifted by
 Reba Y.
 Russ, friend of David L.
 Andy, Faye W.'s son
 Israel, Sarah's student
 De Niro and family
 Connie C.
 Jim, friend of Bill and Marilyn
 Donna friend of Judy K.
 Zack, son of Jennifer G.
 Steve, son of Mary Ellen M.
 Selene, lifted by Carole A.
 Christopher Y., USAF
 Matthew F., USAF
 Lt. Col. Bill G., USMC

May 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| <p><i>Please contact the church office to add your meeting or gathering, virtual or in-person, to the church calendar.</i></p> | | | | | | 1 11 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist |
| 2 9:30 am Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 10:30 am Worship (livestreamed) | 3 8:30 pm AA (FH) | 4 | 5 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved 12 pm Racial Justice Group (Zoom) | 6 | 7 | 8 11 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved 12 pm - 2 pm UMW Plant Sale |
| 9 9:30 am Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 10:30 am Worship (livestreamed) | 10 8:30 pm AA (FH) | 11 | 12 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved 12 pm Racial Justice Group (Zoom) | 13 | 14 | 15 <i>June Agape Deadline</i> 11 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist |
| 16 Penny Sunday 9:30 am Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 10:30 am Worship (livestreamed) | 17 8:30 pm AA (FH) | 18 6:30 pm Stephen Ministries (Zoom) | 19 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved | 20 11:30 am Lunch with Friends (at home) 7 pm Worship Team (Zoom) | 21 6 pm - 8 pm UMW FUNDrive | 22 10 am - 2 pm UMW FUNDrive 11 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist |
| 23 Pentecost 9:30 am Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 10:30 am Worship (livestreamed) 12 pm - 2 pm UMW FUNDrive | 24 8:30 pm AA (FH) | 25 | 26 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved 12 pm Racial Justice Group (Zoom) | 27 4:30 pm - 6 pm Free Community Meal (Carry-out Only) | 28 | 29 11 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved for Organist |
| 30 Peace with Justice Sunday 9:30 am Adult Sunday School (Zoom) 10:30 am Worship (livestreamed) | 31 <i>Memorial Day/ Office Closed</i> 8:30 pm AA (FH) | <p style="text-align: center;"> North Olmsted United Methodist Church 4600 Dover Center Rd. North Olmsted, OH 44070 440-779-6634 + office@noumc.org + www.noumc.org </p> | | | | |

Agape Newsletter

North Olmsted United Methodist Church
4600 Dover Center Road
North Olmsted, Ohio 44070
www.noumc.org



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.

Free Community Meal Carry-Out Only

Thursday, May 27

4:30 pm - 6 pm

Carry-Out Menu:
sloppy joes, potato salad,
a pickle, and dessert

*The meal will be prepared and served by
St. Richard's Catholic Church.*

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.*