

Agape

Greek for "Love without Limits"

North Olmsted United Methodist Church

Vol. 56 Issue 11

November 2022

Charge Conference for North Olmsted UMC

Saturday, November 5, 2 pm

Host Site: The UMC of Berea (170 Seminary Street, Berea)

This year's Charge Conference for NOUMC and other North Coast District UMC churches will be held on Saturday, November 5. Rev. Dr. Bruce Hitchcock, District Superintendent, will preside with the in-person Charge Conference which is open for all members of NOUMC and other District churches to attend.

NOUMC leaders serving on the Church Council and Council on Ministries are voting members for the Conference and must be present in-person in order to vote.

Information pertaining to the Charge Conference (e.g. ministry reports, membership updates, clergy compensation, and details pertaining to the Lay Leadership of NOUMC) will be made available at the meeting and afterward for any members requesting a copy. Pastor and Lay Leader Reports can be found on pages 3 and 4 of this edition of the Agape Newsletter.

Thank you, all, for your faithfulness with NOUMC through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.



United Methodist Men Turkey Dinner (Carry-Out Only)

Sunday, November 6, 12 pm – 2 pm, Fellowship Hall

Carry-Out Menu:

turkey, dressing, potatoes, salad, a roll, and pie

Cost: \$15 per dinner

\$12 for seniors (age 60 and over)

Orders will be taken before and
after worship on October 31
or call the church office
during office hours.

For more information, contact Ed Brewster.

Worship Opportunities

Worship With Us In-Person and Online

Sundays at 10:30 am

Masks continue to be optional.

However, please be sensitive to and respectful of those who choose to wear masks.

If you are ill or experiencing symptoms, please stay home and worship with us online.

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

Date	Greeter(s)	Liturgist	Usher(s)
November 6	Sandi & Frank O'Dell	Alice Walsh	Sarah Jackson & Sydney Scothon
November 13	Jean Scothon	John Wolter	Beth Cruz
November 20	Sarah Jackson	Chris Byrns	Barb & Ron Clough
November 27	Charlene & John Vas	Joel Chermonte	Judi Wagner & Guylene Harold

United Methodist Student Day

Special Offering Sunday: November 27

Students are the future of The United Methodist Church. In the 18th Century, our Wesleyan roots were formed around the importance of education and its role in spiritual formation. In fact, the original Special Sunday was created to help advance education for children—and today we call it United Methodist Student Day.

By investing in our students, the Church supports potential in students who will one day pay the investment forward to society. Together, we support their effort to become Christian leaders of tomorrow. Unfortunately, higher education grows more expensive and less accessible each year.

One of the major challenges that students face is a lack of financial support to attain a college education. Worrying about expenses adds to the already existing anxieties students experience. But for students attending United Methodist Churches, we extend a hand to help them accomplish their career goals.

For more than one-hundred years, United Methodists have been supporting their students' educational needs through a special offering. The funds received from the offering go into the United Methodist Student Loan Fund to underwrite scholarships for United Methodist students. Scholarships are awarded to deserving United Methodist students annually.

Right now, there are United Methodist young people who might not have the resources to attend a school of their choice or, for some, any school at all. However, because of people like you, they will be sent into the world with gifts made through United Methodist Student Day. Your contribution is an acknowledgment that the church has confidence in them and in their abilities. The needs exceed what we can fund and your gifts can further growth and success. Please help deserving students continue their education and their faith journeys. Supporting this ministry allows us to invest in future missionaries, engineers, teachers, pastors, film producers, and so many other careers.

*Make checks payable to NOUMC and write **UM Student Day** in the memo. Send checks to the church office, attention Financial Secretary.*

2022 Lay Leader and Pastor Charge Conference Reports

Lay Leader Report

The theme for NOUMC for this year is All Invite. Along with this theme we have designated three main goals for our church: 1) New Worship Ideas, 2) New Service Opportunities and Additional Events, and 3) Improvement of Curb Appeal of our building. Pastor Hoyte Wilhelm has challenged every member to invite at least one person to a service or event this year. I feel these goals and his challenge address the mission "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world".

The Worship Committee, along with the Pastor, are exploring some new worship ideas, such as a Taize service. Another consideration is the use of more contemporary music and choir selections. A Yoga and meditation group is meeting, a labyrinth has been discussed, and the use of our Chapel Room is encouraged for quiet contemplation. More innovative uses of our video capabilities during worship and other events are being investigated.

Many new service opportunities and additional events have been held or are planned. A group of members has started a Social Justice Challenge. They receive daily emails with social justice resources to expand their social justice awareness. Several volunteers have met at the Kids' Book Bank in Cleveland to aid in sorting and packing books to be distributed to inner city children to help combat illiteracy. We continue to serve two meals. One is in conjunction with another church for a community monthly "grab-n-go" meal; the other is a monthly meal prepared and served at Laura's Home. Food and supplies are collected for the Oxcart Pantry, a North Olmsted food pantry; school supplies, hats, and mittens, are also collected. The Adult Council has been conducting fun activities, such as a "Murder Mystery" night planned for this fall. The Youth Council has sponsored a "Putt-Putt with Pastor night", along with an upcoming Bonfire and Service Project and Trunk or Treat events. These are some of the service opportunities and events planned for this year. We had a booth at the North Olmsted Homecoming with church information and games for children.

Improving curb appeal, while maintaining our building has been a priority. New gutters were installed to help with a rain problem. The shingles are being washed and stained, and a fence was constructed around the trash area. The parking lot will be resurfaced this fall. A committee is meeting to address the improvement of the entrance to make it more inviting. A Girl Scout troop that meets at the church helped to clean up the garden areas and plant flowers.

Our theme of All Invite is to make North Olmsted United Methodist Church a place where disciples of Jesus Christ share God's Love with all people.

Jean Scothon, Lay Leader

Pastor Report: Ministry in Action at North Olmsted UMC

Jesus commissioned his Disciples in post-resurrection and commissions us with the words: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).

NOUMC is living ministry in action with Jesus' words as we move through and beyond the pandemic and into the emergence of a new United Methodist Church. We are moving forward with faithfulness and hopefulness with financial resources and commitments from people to serve actively in discipleship with specific areas of ministry.

NOUMC continues to be faithful in providing opportunities for people to grow in faith, invest in youth (and people of all ages), serve neighbors, celebrate diversity, and foster personal relationships that embody “Our Guiding Principles” with the church’s strategic plan of “Our Faithful Journey.”

Specifically, I share and celebrate in thankfulness the following discipleship ministries of the church:

“All Invite—Year of Invitation” Ministry Theme for 2022-23—living into teaming ministry with church leaders, the congregation, and District and Conference leaders to experience visible examples of the “All Invite—Year of Invitation” ministry theme for 2022-23 and beyond by people inviting others to worship, fellowship, and small group activities.

Financial Management and Stewardship—developing effective teaming leadership with the Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and Finance Committee to sharpen understandings of accounting and reporting of revenue and expenses of the church; experienced faithful response from the congregation with the Operating and Capital Stewardship Campaign conducted in the Spring of 2022 (e.g. gutters and siding repairs in interface work with the Trustees which has been substantial in completing functionality goals and cosmetic appearance of the building);

Governance Structure—continuing to implement a new governance structure to enhance the effectiveness of planning, organizing, communicating, and offering ministries of the local church through two main leadership bodies: Church Council and Council on Ministries;

Outreach Ministries—continuing active commitments with feeding and clothing ministries (e.g. Oxcart Food Pantry and Laura’s Home), new presence with laity serving at the Kids’ Book Bank in Cleveland, and financial gifts for local, regional, and worldwide missions made possible through “Penny Sunday” offerings and support for UMCOR;

Monthly Meals—maintaining commitment to offer a monthly Free Community Meal to the community through pre-packaged hot meals, a pickup process in the parking lot, and welcoming conversations with guests seeking a church home or information about the ministries of the church;

Caring Ministries—developing complementary work of the pastor and laity (e.g. Nurture Ministry Team) with visits, phone calls, personal greeting cards, email messages, listening presence, prayer, and care with members and non-members of the church;

Three Ways to Worship on Sunday Mornings: In-person, Livestreamed, and Recorded—advancing teaming ministry with the pastor, technically and artistically gifted laity, organist, choir director, liturgists, and musicians of the church;

Technology—expanding ways to use new equipment for audio, video, and wireless capabilities in the sanctuary and throughout the building through consultation and leadership with a talented Technology Team;

Zoom Connections and In-person Gatherings—offering in-person and computer-based options for people to participate in administrative meetings, fellowship gatherings, mission activities, study groups (e.g. Advent and Lenten studies, racial and social justice learning and sharing), informal support groups, Adult Sunday School, one-to-one support and care; and outreach to the community of North Olmsted (e.g. booth at North Olmsted Homecoming event in which we interacted with and introduced information to the public);

Electronic Communications—ongoing work with the staff and laity to create new features and updated information on the Website, Facebook page, weekly e-newsletter, and monthly newsletter.

Living in faithful action with you through the love of God and Jesus Christ,

Pastor Hoyte

North Olmsted United Methodist Church

The Seasons of Advent and Christmas

Adult Sunday School Advent Study

Begins Sunday, November 20, 9 am, Classroom 4

Claudia Taller will lead us in the series: "Prepare the Way for the Lord", by Adam Hamilton. For centuries, Christians have turned to the story and message of John the Baptist in the weeks leading up to Christmas. In *Prepare the Way for the Lord: Advent and the Message of John the Baptist*, best-selling author and pastor Adam Hamilton explores the Advent themes of John's life and ministry, and how John calls all followers of Jesus to prepare our hearts for his coming. In each of the Gospels, the story of Jesus is intertwined with that of his cousin John, the one whom the prophets foretold would come to "prepare the way of the Lord."

Weekday Advent Study

RSVP to Pastor Hoyte by November 15

Pastor Hoyte plans to lead an Advent Study again this year. Please email him at noumc@noumc.org if you are interested in joining him. He is open to suggestions for preferred books or themes.



Christmas Cards are Coming!

Saturday, November 12, 9 am - 3 pm, Fellowship Hall; Sign up by November 7

Join Sharon Werner and Sandra Andrews on Saturday, November 12 and surprise your loved ones with some hand-made Christmas cards. Cards cost \$2 each and you will need double-sided tape (can be purchased at the event). We will also do a potluck brunch, so bring something yummy to share. The deadline to sign up is November 7. If you can't make it that day, you can also order a kit where all you have to do is assemble and mail. Please email Sharon Werner for photos of the cards being offered and an order form.

Help Decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas!

Christmas Flower Sale

November 13 - December 4



The Christian Education and Youth Ministry Team will be taking orders for Poinsettias and Christmas Cacti to be placed on the altar for our Christmas Eve services. Poinsettias are available in Red, White, Pink, Variegated, or Burgundy. Flowers are \$10 each. Proceeds from the sale will support Laura's Home Women's Crisis Center.

Order forms will be available in Fellowship Hall beginning on November 13. *Make checks payable to NOUMC and write Christmas flowers in the memo.* Please place your order and payment into the purple box in Fellowship Hall, or send them the church office, attention Wendy Cooper. You may also call the church office, extension 13 or email Wendy Cooper to place your order.

Opportunities to Give

Oxcart Pantry Collection

Collecting Thanksgiving dinner side dishes and desserts until November 20

Collecting cleaning supplies, especially laundry detergent, through the end of the year

In September we provided the Oxcart Pantry with ninety-one school lunch items to help some of the youth have nutritious and fun items for their lunches. Thank you for your donations!

In November, we will continue to collect Thanksgiving items to fill in the gaps as the folks at Oxcart Pantry pack Thanksgiving bags. These items include **boxed/bagged stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, gravy, canned sweet potatoes, and dessert items like boxed cake or cookie mixes and brownie mixes**. Please put donations in the Oxcart Pantry container in Fellowship Hall.

After November 20, we will collect cleaning supplies, with a special emphasis on laundry detergent.

Adopt-a Family information will come soon! In the meantime, check the shopping list in the Penny Sunday offering article for stocking stuffer ideas.

Stocking Stuffers for Oxcart Pantry

Penny Sunday is November 20

After a two-year hiatus, we are again collecting stocking stuffers for Oxcart Pantry clients. For those who are new to this project or those who could use a reminder, we collect stockings, toiletry articles, and small gifts for adult men and women and boys and girls; see the list below.

You can also give financially and let us do the shopping for you. The Penny Sunday offering in November will go towards purchasing stocking stuffers.

*Make checks payable to NOUMC and write **stocking stuffers or November Penny Sunday** in the memo. Send checks to the church office, attention Financial Secretary. For those worshipping in-person, an offering basket will be made available.*



Oxcart Pantry Christmas Stocking Shopping List

Donations due by December 4

◇ Christmas stockings	◇ 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

Christian Education and Youth



Volunteer in the Nursery!

If you would like to join our nursery staff, please sign up using the link below, or sign up in person on the nursery door.

Please see Wendy Cooper or email her with any questions.

United Women in Faith

Upcoming Give-Away Meeting

Our last fundraiser of the year is in the books. Thank you for your support! Now comes the fun part—we give away most of our money. A date will be decided at our final meeting of the calendar year, November 2. If your committee or you as an individual have a need that will help the church, just contact Barb Andrews or put the request in the UWF mailbox across from the office telling us what your need is and how much money you will need. We cannot guarantee we will be able to provide the full amount, but we will try. We also consider charities in our area and world-wide if you have a special request. Figure on getting the requests to us by mid-month, but we will consider all requests up until the give-away meeting. We do thank the whole congregation for the support and help we have received this year and every year. With a probable Christmas luncheon as our only activity after that meeting, we will be resting until January 4.

Opportunities for Fellowship

Lunch with Friends

Meets on the third Thursday of each month

11:30 am

For those of us who enjoy a good restaurant but don't want to eat alone, this is the group for you! We meet at different restaurants for food and fellowship. To find out where we will dine each month, read the church announcements or call Carole Bettinger at 440-234-3611. All are welcome!

A Christmas Cabaret: Dinner and a Show

Saturday Matinee, December 10, 2 pm

Join us for **A Christmas Cabaret** musical show at LCCC's Cirigliano Studio Theatre. Call 440-366-4040 or go online at www.stockerartcenter.com for tickets.

Afterward we can share a meal at one of the local restaurant choices. Sign up so we know who all is going and if you want to car pool from the church.

Questions? Contact Sarah Jackson.

Church Family News

8	Andy W.
14	Andy M.
15	Greg L.
18	Michelle W.
20	Andrew H.
24	Ron W.
29	Ray B.
29	Madison S.

18	Claudia & Paul T.
25	Judie & Mike F.
29	Sandi & Frank O.
29	Chris & Mike B.



December Agape Deadline

November 15

Email articles to noumc@noumc.org, mail them to the church, or put them in the Administrative Assistant's mailbox outside the church office by November 15.

Prayer Concerns

First Responders

Victims of natural disasters

Those suffering from mental illness

Those affected by gun violence

Those who are homeless

Those experiencing addiction

Barb & Ray S.

Ray P.

Justin, lifted by Vann P.

Judy F.

Arthur, Louise A.'s brother

Karen & Eric, lifted by
Carole B.

Josh O. & Guylene H.

Susan W.

Judy, lifted by Brenda F.

Bill, Sarah J.'s brother

Deb, friend of the Claudia & Paul T.

Sally C.

Judy K.

Nancy D.

Carol W.

Sally S.

Kathy, lifted by Claudia & Paul T.

Sterling B.

Ron W.

Lois D.

Viola C.

Donald R.

Keith A.

Barbara B.

Donna, sister of Carol N.

Steve, son of Mary Ellen M.

Selene, lifted by Carole A.

Christopher Y., USAF

Matthew F., USAF

Lt. Col. Bill G., USMC



Jacquie and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people of NOUMC who reached out to us with cards and messages as well as their prayers during the weeks that Matt was ill and after his death. Nothing heals the hole left by the loss of a child, but the love of a community helps us go on.

-Roger Talbott

November 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 11 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved 7 pm Scouts (FH)	2 10 am UWF (Classroom 7) 7 pm Council on Ministries (Classroom 7) 8 pm AA (FH)	3 7 pm Choir (Choir Room)	4	5 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved 2 pm Charge Conference (UMC of Berea)
6 <i>All Saints Sunday</i> 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Missions Ministry Team (Classroom 7) 12 pm - 2 pm UMM Turkey Dinner (Carry-Out Only)	7 5 pm Bells (Choir Room) 6 pm - 8 pm Girl Scouts (Classroom 7) 8:30 pm AA (FH)	8 11 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved 7 pm Scouts (FH)	9 7 pm Church Council & Council on Ministries (Classroom 7) 8 pm AA (FH)	10 7 pm Choir (Choir Room)	11 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved	12 8:30 am UMM Breakfast (Canary's) 9 am - 3 pm Stamp Social (FH)
13 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	14 5 pm Bells (Choir Room) 6 pm - 8 pm Girl Scouts (Classroom 7) 8:30 pm AA (FH)	15 <i>December Agape Deadline</i> 11 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved 7 pm Scouts (FH)	16 4 pm Nurture Team (FH) 8 pm AA (FH)	17 11:30 am Lunch with Friends 7 pm Choir (Choir Room)	18	19 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved
20 <i>Penny Sunday</i> 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	21 5 pm Bells (Choir Room) 6 pm - 8 pm Girl Scouts (Classroom 7) 8:30 pm AA (FH)	22 11 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved 7 pm Scouts (FH)	23 8 pm AA (FH)	24 <i>Thanksgiving Day/Office Closed</i>	25	26 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved
27 <i>United Methodist Student Day</i> 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	28 <i>Office Closed</i> 5 pm Bells (Choir Room) 6 pm - 8 pm Girl Scouts (Classroom 7) 8:30 pm AA (FH)	29 11 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved 7 pm Scouts (FH)	30 8 pm AA (FH)	Office Hours: <i>Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday 10 am - 2 pm</i> <i>On Tuesday, Megan works from home and will check her email and voicemail during office hours, 10 am - 2 pm</i>		

For the most up-to-date calendar, visit www.noumc.org.

Please contact the church office (noumc@noumc.org or 440.779.6634)
 to add your meeting or gathering, virtual or in-person, to the church calendar.

Agape Newsletter

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



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.

Holiday Free Community Meal Carry-Out Only

(No meal in November)

Thursday, December 1

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Carry-Out Menu:

pork roast, mashed potatoes and gravy,
green beans, and dessert

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.*