

Agape

Greek for "Love without Limits"

North Olmsted United Methodist Church

Vol. 57 Issue 1

January 2023

Free Community Meal Ministry

Important Update for the New Year

Throughout the pandemic, we have continued serving carry-out community meals each month. Our January meal on Thursday, January 26 will be the last carry-out meal. A big thank you to Barb Linton and her small team for keeping this ministry going during a challenging time!

Beginning in **February**, we will return to only serving in-person, sit-down meals. This means we need your help! We are in need of volunteers to **set up, serve the meals, and clean up afterwards**. Be on the lookout for a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall as we move into February. You can also sign up by contacting Barb Linton. Please consider helping in this important ministry! Meals are usually the last Thursday of the month.



Homecoming Sunday

Sunday, February 12

Worship at 10:30 am

Fellowship at 11:30 am

We miss you!

Come and reunite with friends at
North Olmsted

United Methodist Church!
(4600 Dover Center Road)

Worship with us at 10:30 am
and join us afterwards
for punch, coffee, cookies,
and fellowship.

No RSVP necessary.

Questions? Call 440.779.6634
or email noumc@noumc.org.



Worship Opportunities

Worship With Us In-Person and Online

Sundays at 10:30 am

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

Date	Greeter(s)	Liturgist	Usher(s)
January 1	Jean Scothon	Barb Clough	Judi Wagner
January 8	Charlene & John Vas	Michelle Wolter	Sarah Jackson & Sydney Scothon
January 15	Sandi & Frank O'Dell	Floyd Andrews	Beth Cruz
January 22	Sarah Jackson	Ed Brewster	Barb & Ron Clough
January 29	Claudia & Paul Taller	Alice Walsh	Judi Wagner

Two Special Offerings: Penny Sunday *AND* Human Relations Day

Both on January 15!

Support Free Community Meals

January's Penny Sunday offering will go to support our Free Community Meal Ministry, which serves from 100 to 140 people on average each month. As we all know, the price of groceries has increased. Your support of this church ministry is greatly appreciated.

*Make checks payable to NOUMC and write **January Penny Sunday** in the memo. Send checks to the church office, attention Financial Secretary. For those worshipping in person, a special offering basket will be made available.*


Human Relations Day

Human Relations Day is a denomination wide Special Sunday designed to celebrate and raise awareness to further the development of better human relations by involving congregations in community and youth outreach. This special offering is taken the Sunday before Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. Gifts received for the offering build King's vision of "the beloved community".

*Make checks payable to NOUMC and write **Human Relations Day** in the memo. Send checks to the church office attention Financial Secretary.*



Racial Justice Group



Don't assume that all people of color share the same views. We are all different!

Things That White People Can Do

(to be anti-racist and intentional when interacting with others)

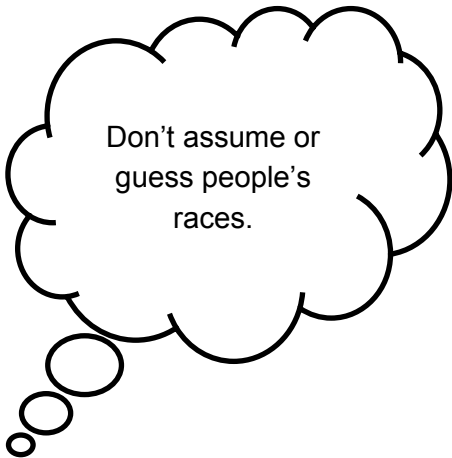
Offered by the Racial Justice Group of North Olmsted UMC

The Racial Justice Group is currently offering "things that white people can do" in our Agape Newsletters and bulletin announcements. It is our hope that conversations regarding these thoughts will take place in our faith community and create opportunities for change that move people one-person-at-a time to become anti-racist and more sensitive and kind in treatment of our Black brothers and sisters.

Heavenly Creator, come to us, for the need is great. May empty stomachs be filled with justice and lonely pockets burst with peace. May freedom come to all prisoners. ... Open our eyes so we may see your Creation in all its wonderment. ... Help me to lead, to guide, and to protect but most importantly, teach me to follow, and show me the way that I should go. May my eyes remain affixed on Jesus, in Whose name I pray, Amen. —Vince Gonzales Lay person GCORR Board Member, Based on Luke 4:18-19 NRSV.

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." —Barack Obama, the 44th president of the United States

Source: 100 Ways White People Can Make Life Less Frustrating for People of Color https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/ne95dm/how-to-be-a-white-ally-to-people-of-color



Don't assume or guess people's races.

Christian Education



New Adult Sunday School Study!

"Catch: Attracting and Connecting Visitors"

Begins Sunday, January 8, 9 am, Classroom 4

Craig Mueller will lead us in this new study as a part of our "A Year of Invitation" at North Olmsted United Methodist Church. It is a comprehensive program filled with practical ideas to help churches guide visitors to becoming thriving members. The CATCH program, from Church of the Resurrection, teaches churches how to go on "fishing expeditions" in their communities and connect with unchurched people or those who may have drifted away from church. Join us!

Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Safe Sanctuary Guidelines Training

Wednesday, January 11, 6 pm, Classroom 7

Our Safe Sanctuary guidelines have recently been updated, and we will be holding a Safe Sanctuary Training. Gary Jones, Spiritual Formation Director for the East Ohio Conference, will be joining us to give us a refresher on the guidelines and to go over changes to the policy. Anyone who volunteers with our children and youth are required to know our Safe Sanctuary guidelines and should plan on attending this meeting, but anyone may join us. The meeting should last about an hour. Email Wendy Cooper if you have questions or can join us.



Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday, February 12

On the Sunday of the Big Game, we will help fight hunger and poverty, joining a national effort to refocus the weekend into one of sharing God's love with our neighbors in need. The Souper Bowl of Caring helps us to be mindful of those who are without even a bowl of soup to eat. During worship on the 12th, large soup pots will be in Fellowship Hall to hold our monetary donations. All proceeds will be sent to the North Olmsted Food Pantry.

*You can also make checks payable to NOUMC and write **Souper Bowl of Caring** in the memo. Send checks to the church office, attention Wendy Cooper.*



Super Bowl Sub Sale

Sunday, February 12, following worship

Orders due February 5

The Christian Education and Youth Ministry Team is holding our annual Super Bowl Sub Sale! This year we will make the subs on Saturday, February 11, and they will be available for pick up after worship on Sunday, February 12. Order forms will be available in Fellowship Hall. The subs are \$7.00 each, or \$25.00 for 4. You have a choice of fine luncheon meats, cheeses, condiments, and toppings (toppings packed separately). Sub sandwiches make a quick and easy treat to eat while watching the Super Bowl game, and all proceeds will be used to fund future youth events and activities.

Help Make Subs!

Saturday, February 11, 1 pm, Fellowship Hall

Please join us for this youth and family service opportunity to put together our Super Bowl sub sandwich orders! All are welcome! Please email Wendy Cooper if you can join us.

Opportunities to Give and to Be in Fellowship

Oxcart Pantry Collection

Collecting side dishes, such as packets and boxes of rice, noodle dishes, and mashed potatoes, until January 29


What a wonderful time we had this past month! First, we donated an additional 82 items for the Thanksgiving bags at Oxcart Pantry. Next, we filled and gave 80 stockings with some basic items plus small gifts to add to the Oxcart Pantry Christmas bags of groceries. Finally, two cars filled with asked-for and surprise gifts for two families in the area showed up at the Pantry. We can only imagine the joyful Christmas they will have--especially the four children you purchased gifts for. And we start again next year. In January we will be collecting side dishes to take to the Oxcart Pantry. Thanks for all you do.

United Women in Faith

Next meeting is Wednesday, January 4, 10 am

Classroom 7

We closed out a pretty fruitful year thanks to your support. We are already talking about projects for 2023. We always enjoy having you drop into a meeting or go to lunch with us. Hope to see you at our first meeting!




If someone tells you they're from Uganda, don't say, "I went to Nigeria once!"

Altar Flowers

You are invited to provide the altar flowers for our Sunday worship service. Flowers may be dedicated in honor or in memory of a loved one or to the Glory of God. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the entryway, or contact the church office with a specific date. You can provide flowers from your garden, your own arrangement, or we can order an arrangement for you. Contact the church office to make any special flower or color requests and to provide the dedication for the bulletin.

An arrangement ordered through the church office costs \$30; *make checks payable to NOUMC and write altar flowers in the memo*. Payment can be made by putting your check in the offering plate on Sunday or by sending your check to the church office, attention Financial Secretary.



Related: Don't refer to Africa as a country. It's a continent, and it's wildly varied.

Lunch with Friends

Meets on the third Thursday of each month, 11:30 am

All are welcome to meet us for lunch and fellowship! For our January location, read the church announcements or call Carole Bettinger.

Church Family News

2	Elizabeth S.	16	John D.
4	Brenda F.	16	Clara B.
4	Benjamin T.	19	Christine M.
7	James B.	20	Joel C.
9	Kim D.	28	Janis J.
13	Leighton M.	31	Emily C.
15	Barbara L.	31	Darlene O.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

25	Carol and Bob N.
26	Judy and John S.
30	Gwen and Dave H.

Pastoral Care

To schedule a time to talk, please reach out to Pastor Hoyte by using his cell phone or email.

Don't make embarrassing jokes
to try and be "down"
with people of color.

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
Our condolences to Louise A.
following the passing of her brother, Arthur
Our condolences to Nancy K.
following the passing of her father-in-law, Harold
Tom, lifted by Jeff & Becky R.
Karen, sister of Jeff R.

David, lifted by Mary Ellen M.
Jane P.
Carole B.
Bob, lifted by Paul & Claudia T.
Terry, lifted by Paul & Claudia T.
Barb & Ray S.
Justin, lifted by Vann P.
Judy F.
Josh O. & Guylene H.
Judy, lifted by Brenda F.
Bill, Sarah J.'s brother
Nancy D.
Sally S.
Kathy, lifted by Paul & Claudia T.
Deb, lifted by Paul & Claudia T.

Ron W.
Lois D.
Keith A.
Barbara B.
Steve, son of Mary Ellen M.
Selene, lifted by Carole A.
Christopher Y., USAF
Matthew F., USAF
Lt. Col. Bill G., USMC

PRAYER
list...

February Agape Deadline

January 15

Please 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 January 15.

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>New Year's Day</i> 10:30 am Worship	2 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	3 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved 7 pm Scouts (FH)	4 10 am UWF (Classroom 7) 8 pm AA (FH)	5 7 pm Choir (Choir Room)	6	7 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved
8 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	9 6 pm - 8 pm Girl Scouts (Classroom 7) 8:30 pm AA (FH)	10 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved 7 pm Scouts (FH)	11 6 pm Safe Sanctuary Training (Classroom 7) 8 pm AA (FH)	12 7 pm Choir (Choir Room)	13	14 8:30 am UMM Breakfast (Canary's) 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved
15 <i>Human Relations Day</i> <i>Penny Sunday</i> 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship <i>February Agape Deadline</i>	16 <i>Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day/Office Closed</i> 6 pm - 8 pm Girl Scouts (Classroom 7) 8:30 pm AA (FH)	17 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved 7 pm Scouts (FH)	18 8 pm AA (FH)	19 11:30 am Lunch with Friends 7 pm Choir (Choir Room)	20	21 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved
22 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	23 6 pm - 8 pm Girl Scouts (Classroom 7) 8:30 pm AA (FH)	24 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved 7 pm Scouts (FH)	25 7 pm Our Faithful Journey (Classroom 7) 8 pm AA (FH)	26 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm Free Community Meal (Carry-Out Only) 7 pm Choir (Choir Room)	27	28 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved
29 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	30 5 pm Bells (Choir Room) 8:30 pm AA (FH)	31 10 am - 2 pm Sanctuary Reserved	<p><i>Office Hours:</i> <i>Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday</i> <i>10 am - 2 pm</i></p> <p><i>On Tuesday, Megan works from home and will check her email and voicemail during office hours, 10 am - 2 pm</i></p>			

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.

Free Community Meal (Carry-Out Only)

Thursday, January 26

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

St. Clarence is serving the meal.

Carry-out menu: lasagna, salad, a roll, and dessert

****This will be our final carry-out meal!****

In February, we will return to only serving in-person,
sit down meals, one meal per person.

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.*