

Agape

Greek for “Love without Limits”

North Olmsted United Methodist Church

Vol. 54 Issue 5

June 2020

Join Us for Worship on these Upcoming Special Sundays!

Day of Pentecost

Sunday, May 31

Pentecost is the fiftieth and final day of the Easter season. It marks the beginning of the Christian church and the proclamation of the Good News throughout the world. *You are invited to wear red as we celebrate Pentecost and remember the gift of the Holy Spirit to the church.*



Support Peace with Justice

Peace with Justice Sunday is June 7

It is very fitting that Peace with Justice Sunday comes the first Sunday after Pentecost. United Methodists celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit and the gift of Christian unity on Pentecost Sunday. And on Peace with Justice Sunday, United Methodists recognize their baptismal and membership vows to resist evil, injustice and oppression on behalf of others. In simple terms, Peace with Justice Sunday calls the church to advocate on behalf of the vulnerable and to remove systemic barriers that affect God's children at home and around the world.

As a connectional church, we combine our resources so that we have larger impact in the world. In 2019, United Methodist churches gave \$433,437 toward ministries funded by the Peace with Justice Sunday offering. Fifty percent of the offering remains in the annual conference to support local and regional justice efforts, and 50 percent supports justice ministries through the General Board of Church and Society.

Checks can be made payable to NOUMC and sent to the church, attention Ed Brewster, Financial Secretary. Please be sure to write Peace with Justice in the memo.

Congratulations to Our Graduates!

Graduation Sunday is June 14

Kristi Jackson has graduated from the University of San Francisco! Kristi has earned a Masters of Arts in Teaching English as a Second Language. Her goal is to teach at the university level. Congratulations, Kristi!



Kirsten Ressel has graduated from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks! Kirsten received her Master of Science in Fisheries. She is currently working for the University but is looking for a permanent position in the Fairbanks area. She would like to remain in Alaska. Congratulations, Kirsten!

Emily Cooper graduated on May 9 from Baldwin Wallace University! Emily earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. She also minored in Dance and English. Emily is looking forward to going to graduate school in January where she will pursue a Masters in Clinical Psychology. Emily hopes to become a Dance Movement Therapist. Congratulations, Emily!

COVID-19 Reminders

Worship with Us Online!

Live-stream worship on Sundays at 10:30 am

Join us online as we live-stream 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 wellbeing 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.

July Agape Deadline

June 15

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

Church Staff: 440-779-6634

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

Christian Ed.: Wendy Cooper
sundayschool@noumc.org
ext.13

Youth Director: Katie Chapman
youth@noumc.org
ext. 14

Admin. Assistant: Megan Howe
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Music Director: Gabriela Martinez
gabrielamarmar@aol.com

Organist: Marlene Dirksen
mkdpteach@sbcglobal.net

Social Media: Hanna Moore
social@noumc.org

Because He Lives

What is your favorite hymn? It's really difficult for me to choose *one*. Among my favorites is "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" and "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms." And of course, there are "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" and "Let There Be Peace on Earth." Sometimes my favorite hymn changes depending on the season of the Christian calendar year. And so, during this time of transition from Easter to the Sundays of Easter, the Ascension, Pentecost, and Trinity Sunday, I am most mindful of the hymn, "Because He Lives."

For me, the hymn offers a timeless hope in the promise of resurrection life and strength to face all matters of life and death especially made known through the refrain: "*Because he lives, I can face tomorrow; because he lives, all fear is gone; because I know he holds the future, and life is worth the living just because he lives.*" Our faith in a God that is alive and well through the Risen Christ and the weaving power of the Holy Spirit certainly makes life "*worth the living*" for today, tomorrow, and every future moment!

The history of the hymn described by Dr. Hawn*, a professor of sacred music at Perkins School of Theology, noted on the website of Discipleship Ministries, an agency of The United Methodist Church, is interesting and one that I want to share with you.

"UM Hymnal editor Carlton Young says this gospel hymn 'is one of the five most requested...to be included in this hymnal.' Based on John 14:19c—'because I live, you also will live'—the hymn's theme is effectively supported by a soaring melody in the refrain. The words were written by two of the longest-lasting performing couples of Christian contemporary music, Gloria (b. 1942) and William J. (b. 1936) Gaither.

The following background was provided (by Gloria and William) to Carlton Young in preparation for the *Companion to The United Methodist Hymnal* (1993): 'Because he lives' [1971] was written in the midst of social upheaval, threats of war, and betrayals of national and personal trust. It was into this world at such a time that we were bringing our third little baby. Assassinations, drug traffic, and war monopolized the headlines. It was in the midst of this kind of uncertainty that the assurance of the Lordship of the risen Christ blew across our troubled minds like a cooling breeze in the parched desert. Holding our tiny son in our arms we were able to write: 'How sweet to hold our newborn baby, And feel the pride, and joy he gives; But greater still the calm assurance, this child can face uncertain days because He lives.'

'Because He Lives' begins with the empty grave on Easter Sunday. Stanza two is about hope, even in uncertain days, because of the singular significance of the Resurrection event. Stanza three takes us to heaven where we will 'see the lights of glory and... know [Jesus] reigns.' This gospel song has undoubtedly offered hope for many people because of its connection between the Resurrection and a 'life... worth the living.'**

One of my most significant experiences with the hymn occurred on the third Sunday of Easter, April 10, 2016 after my father's passing on April 8 of the same year. It had been a very tough stretch of time. My mother was in the same hospital where my father passed recovering herself from pneumonia and other respiratory and cardiovascular problems. My second-to-oldest sister, her boyfriend, and I took a "time-out" from family care-giving and went to Trinity United Methodist Church in Columbus where my parents attended regularly. It was a moving service feeling the spirit of my parents' presence and being in the company of their pastor and church friends climaxing with the closing hymn, "Because He Lives," sung by the choir surrounding the congregation in a grand circle around the outside aisles of the pews. The tears flowed as my sister, her boyfriend, and I struggled to sing the lyrics, but we got through it and by the end were empowered with a presence that is impossible to describe with words. I can tell you with confidence that we were reassured beyond measure that Dad was alive because God and Jesus live and give him eternal life! That fact comforts me to this day!

May all of you know the immeasurable love, power, and living presence of God and the Spirit of the Risen Christ now and always!

Faithfully,

Pastor Hoyte

*www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-because-he-lives

Opportunities to Give and to Serve

Oxcart Pantry Collection

*Collecting canned fruit, juice,
and spaghetti sauce for when we meet again*

To keep from having an overflow of food for the Oxcart Pantry, we are not asking for a new item this month. You can continue to store fruit juice, canned fruit, and spaghetti sauce that we will collect from you when we are together again.

Free Community Meal Carry-Out Only

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

St. Clarence will provide a carry-out meal of hotdogs, pasta salad, chips, and a brownie. For more information, contact Barb Linton at blintonofnr@aol.com.

Support the Free Community Meal Ministry

Penny Sunday is June 21

Make checks payable to NOUMC and write June Penny Sunday in the memo

Our June Penny Sunday collection should have gone to provide financial assistance to youth attending one of our United Methodist summer camps. The camps, sadly, will not be open this summer due to COVID-19 restrictions.

We will, therefore, redirect the Penny Sunday collection for June to the Community Meal, which has continued to be an important mission during these last difficult months.

Please help us keep our promise to feed the community, body, mind, and spirit, especially during this time when so many are in need.

A reminder that once we are together in worship again, we still plan to celebrate a Super Penny Sunday to benefit several ministries and causes. In the meantime, you are welcome to send in checks for June Penny Sunday. Thank you to all who have supported this important ministry each month.

Financial Statements

Military Coupon Collection

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

We continue to save 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 and sort them by month. Once we are able to gather together again, you can place them in the envelope under the Outreach bulletin board by the nursery.

*Look for your statement
the first week of June*

During the first week of June, Ed Brewster, our Financial Secretary, plans to send out Financial Statements to all members and donors. Also, if you had previously purchased Chicken Dinner and play tickets from the United Methodist Men's group, your refunded check or cash will be included with your statement. If you wish to receive your statement by email, please email Ed at ebrews@gmail.com or call at 440-785-7319 and leave a message.

Christian Education

Thank you, Teachers!



Thank you so very much to all of our talented and dedicated Sunday School teachers! You have all worked very hard this year to make our Sunday School program a success, and your time and service are very much appreciated! Our teachers this year were: Chris Byrns, Katie Chapman, Sarah Jackson, Tammy Moore, Craig Mueller, Bill Ransom, Becky Riddlebaugh, Jean Scothon, Sally Stacho, Claudia Taller, Alice Walsh, and John Wolter. Our teachers were recognized during the online worship service on May 24, and a small gift of appreciation was delivered to their homes. Hope you all enjoy your summer!

Sunday School CANstruction Mission Project

So far we have raised a total of \$1010.12 for this year's Sunday School Mission Project! Although we will have no further fundraisers, we will continue to collect your donations for CANstruction until John and the CANstruction team need the funds. They are hoping to have their structure on display at the end of September. You are still welcome to make a contribution to the mission project. All donations will ultimately end up benefiting The Greater Cleveland Food Bank. Please send any donations to the church, attention Wendy Cooper or Ed Brewster, and write CANstruction in the memo. Thank you for your generous support!

A Message from the Stephen Ministries Team

One-to-One Ministry by a Trained, Caring Friend

Has this ever-changing world left you feeling a bit disoriented? If so, I want you to know that you are not alone. I have spoken with many of you over the past weeks, and we've shared some concerns of our changing lives together: concern for the health of family and friends, concern for job and economic insecurity, and grief over lost opportunities. We've also shared joys: the joy of learning to connect with one another over livestream worship and ZOOM meetings. And for me, the joy of online tea parties with my four little granddaughters.

Sharing joys and concerns with a caring friend can be very helpful during times of change. I know it has helped me. I wanted each of you to know that our Stephen Ministers are here to be a listening ear with you. Shared phone calls can encourage and uplift us in uncertain times. And sharing with a Christian Caregiver can be a reminder of the hope that God offers to us.

One of my favorite prayers is from Thomas Merton. I'll close today with his words:

"Dear God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself...and the fact that I think I am following Your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But, I believe this: I believe that the desire to please You does in fact please You. I hope I have that desire in everything I do. I hope I never do anything apart from that desire. And, I know that if I do this You will lead me by the right road... though I may know nothing about it at the time. Therefore, I will trust You always for though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death, I will not be afraid because I know You will never leave me to face my troubles all alone. Amen."

Blessings always,

Rev. Alice Walsh and the Stephen Ministries Team

United Methodist Women

UMW FUNDrive

The date for the UMW FUNDrive is still pending. We are hoping for a date this summer, depending on the pandemic and the schedule of the group purchasing the items. We appreciate your willingness to store your donations until we are given a date.

The FUNDrive is taking the place of our 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.

We will accept: 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.

We cannot accept: furniture and large household items, baby gear, cleaning products, flammable items, or building materials.

All soft goods should be bagged in large garbage bags, and other items should be packed in manageable-sized boxes that can be closed.



Thank You for Supporting the Plant Sale

Well, it was a tossup as to whether you would use your shovel for snow or to plant the new plants you bought, but as long as you weathered the frost and freeze warnings, we hope you're enjoying the plants. The UMW wants to thank all who showed up to help with the unloading and sorting, as well as those who purchased the plants. We worried that the sale would be small because of the constraints imposed by the pandemic, but it looks like this was our biggest sale ever. We cleared \$1212.50 which will be used to help finance some church needs and charities.

Lunch with Friends

Thursday, June 18, 11:30 am

We meet on the third Thursday of each month at 11:30 am for food and fellowship. In light of COVID-19 concerns, we will keep this date open, and if we need to keep a safe distance, we will plan a virtual opportunity for fellowship instead. To RSVP, leave a message with Carole Bettinger.

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*



Church Family News

1	Jennifer G.
3	Makena C.
4	Barbara A.
5	Matias G.
5	Joan L.
5	Minna B.
7	Emily J.
8	James W.
14	Rebecca W.
18	Shawn M.
19	Matthew G.
22	Alex K.
22	Wesley W.
27	Stanley M.
29	Kara M.
30	Amy C.



1	Amye & Ron S.
9	Kara Q. & Christopher H.
14	Barbara & Raymond S.
16	Kim & Daniel B.
17	Judi & Ron W.
18	Virginia & Mark S.
25	Barbara & Floyd A.
26	Rita & James W.
26	Sally & Wilbur S.
27	Terri & Hoyte W.
27	Michelle & John W.

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

Those under quarantine in their
rooms in assisted living facilities

Mary Lou L.

Ron, nephew of Mary B.,
following the passing of his
father

David L. & family,
following the passing of his
uncle, Jon Leonard

Josh W. and family

Barbara B.

Dave L.

Sterling B.

Bev, lifted by Josh O.

Tina, Brenda F.'s niece

Viola C.

Amanda, Jane P.'s

Granddaughter

Kay, Ron S.'s mother

Pippa & Heather, Ron's sisters

Rita R.

Carl, friend of Rita R.

Darlene, friend of Barb A.

Susan W.

Uri, grandson of Michael & Jennifer

Donna, sister of Carol N.

Adrienne, lifted by Tom M.

Bill and Vince, brothers of Reba

Russ, friend of David L.

Andy, Faye W.'s son

Dusty, nephew of Reba Y.

Israel, Sarah's student

Dawn, friend of Susan W.

DeNiro and family

Connie C.

Jim, friend of Bill & Marilyn R.

Donna friend of Judy K.

Kevin, friend of Barb & Ron C.

Zack, son of Jennifer G.

Brian R.

Steve, son of Mary Ellen M.

Carol, lifted by Jane & Ray B.

Selene, lifted by Carole A.

Those in Military Service:

Christopher Y., USAF,

Matthew F., USAF

Lt. Col. Bill G., USMC

Cpl. Trevor C., USMC



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

Agape Newsletter



June Free Community Meal Carry-Out Only



*Thursday, June 25,
4:30 pm - 6 pm*

Carry-Out Menu:
hotdogs, pasta salad, chips,
and a brownie

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.*