

Agape

Greek for “Love without Limits”

North Olmsted United Methodist Church

Vol. 54 Issue 8

September 2020



Summer Adult Council Events Recap

August was a busy month for Adult Council! Thank you to everyone who attended or participated in our Facebook Garden Party! It was great to see so many beautiful plants and gardens. There are many green thumbs in our congregation!

We also hosted an outdoor Trivia & Ice Cream night. We had five teams compete for the title of NOUMC trivia champs! Congratulations to Kim and Ken from team Gilbert’s Guardians who took first place. The questions ranged from

“name the main characters from the Golden Girls” to “name Jesus’s brothers” to “name the top five most popular fast food restaurants (based on 2019 revenue)”.

We also held a potluck on Zoom. Claudia made her family favorite Zucchini Quiche recipe, and Sarah and Ron teased us with their Chocolate Sundaes. We are always looking for new ways to enjoy fellowship safely. Please forward your ideas to any of the Adult Council members.



Introducing the 2020/2021 Sunday School Mission Project: Africa University



Africa University is the first and only fully-accredited institution of higher learning established on the African continent by action of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church. Bishop Tracy S. Malone has asked the East Ohio Conference to take on the challenge of raising \$1.5 million to build a new dorm for female students at Africa University. Because of increasing enrollment at AU, there is a great lack of and a need for on-campus housing. Many students must commute long distances from remote areas or choose to live in off-campus housing that could put female students in risky living situations. Bishop Malone’s vision is for the EOC to build an on-campus dorm that provides a safe, secure environment and a community of support so that female AU students can focus on their education without risking their lives.

This year, all fundraising done by our Sunday School youth will be used to help meet Bishop Malone’s goal of raising \$1.5 million. We are hoping that our youth will be able to hold their fundraisers at church as soon as it is safe to return and do so. In the meantime, we will accept any donation you feel led to give. *Make checks payable to NOUMC and write Africa University in the memo. Mail them to the church office, attention Wendy Cooper.*

More information is to come in future articles. You can also visit www.africau.edu or www.eocumc.org and click on Teach-Reach-Bless to learn more.

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 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.

October Agape Deadline

September 15

Email articles to office@noumc.org or mail them to the church, attention Megan Howe by September 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
office@noumc.org
ext. 10

Music Director: Gabriela Martinez
gabrielamarmar@aol.com

Organist: Marlene Dirksen
mkdpteach@sbcglobal.net

Social Media: Hanna Moore
social@noumc.org

Financial Review for First Half of 2020

Mike Moore, Treasurer

During the first half of this year, we received \$107,779 in offerings. We also received \$1,324 in rent, proceeds from the Dover Players, and Amazon Smile rebates, for a total of \$109,103. Thank you all for your support, especially those members of the congregation who have paid ahead or paid all of their 2020 pledge. In addition to these funds, the church obtained a Payroll Protection loan in the amount of \$26,900 from the government, which was used to help cover the church's payroll and utility costs. We fully expect the loan to be fully forgiven, and the church will not need to pay any of the loan back.

However, the church's expenses for the first half of 2020 totaled \$133,343, which results in a shortfall of \$24,240. Although some of our expenses, such as our utilities, have gone down with the church being closed, we have had necessary repairs that we needed to make. With the help of the our offerings received and the loan proceeds, we have been able to make the necessary repairs to the building, along with paying all of our bills, our apportionments, and our payroll.

Here is the breakdown of our expenses for the first half of 2020:

Ministerial Expenditures	46,169	34.62%
Other Staff Payroll	36,466	27.34%
Trustee / Building Expenses	21,190	15.89%
Apportionments	16,997	12.75%
Utilities	5,596	4.20%
Office Expenses	2,510	1.88%
Insurance	2,433	1.82%
Christian Education / Youth Ministry	1,104	0.83%
Other Expenses	878	0.67%
Total Expenditures	133,343	100.00%



Thanks again for your financial support of the church and supporting all the good work that we do!

United Methodist Women



We are not quite back in business, but the UMW is attempting to meet occasionally following all the protocols we should. One thing that we did accomplish was the FUNDrive. You all responded wonderfully for our call to load the trailer over a weekend in late-July. There was a minimum of open space when we finished. We can't thank enough all who donated items, trailer-sat that weekend, and helped to get the goods to the appointed store. We owe a special thanks to Ray Plogger for letting us use his brand new trailer and then hauling the donations to Savers for us.

In case you were wondering, we collected 5,068 pounds of goods, and the UMW received \$847.50. This will help to increase our give-away total in the late fall. Stay tuned for plans for another FUNDrive. There is a possibility we might hold another one next year, but plans have yet to be discussed and made. As per fire department regulations, we cannot use the attic for storage, so this means you will need to hold onto donations until they are collected. We appreciate your willingness to do this and to support this project.

Christian Education



Consider Teaching Sunday School This Year!

Fall is fast approaching, and hopefully that will also mean a return to Sunday School at some point! What our classes will look like and when they will begin will depend on the COVID-19 situation. We will be placing a top priority on everyone's health and safety. It does NOT look like we will be holding our annual Rally Day on September 13 or beginning in-person classes on the following Sunday. (Please look for updates on our return to classes.) However, when we do return to Sunday School in the classroom, we will need several volunteers to teach classes on all levels. We offer elementary, middle school, high school/young adult, and adult classes. All classes welcome new teachers into their rotation! Email Wendy Cooper at sundayschool@noumc.org if you are interested in signing up or if you have any questions.

CANstruction Update

Postponed until April 2021

We just received word that the CANstruction build and display, which had previously been rescheduled to the end of September, will now be postponed again until April 2021 due to COVID-19. We will continue to accept any monetary donations you may want to give, and they will be held for John Wolter and his team to use next year. Remember, all donations will eventually benefit The Greater Cleveland Food Bank. *Make checks payable to NOUMC and write CANstruction in the memo. Send checks to the church office, attention Wendy Cooper.* Wendy will, of course, let you know new dates and times for the display when they become available.



Opportunities to Give and to Serve

Support Oxcart Pantry

Penny Sunday is September 20



As a compassionate congregation, we are aware of the financial distress families are currently facing. North Olmsted Oxcart Pantry provides food and household items to ease the economic burden of affected individuals.

The September Penny Sunday collection will go towards this worthy cause. It will be an open monetary gift with no designation so that Oxcart Pantry can apply it to wherever they see the most need. *Make checks payable to NOUMC and write September Penny Sunday in the memo. Send checks to the church office, attention Financial Secretary.*

Free Community Meal (Carry-Out Only)

Thursday, September 24, 4:30 pm - 6 pm

The menu for September is three cheese chicken penne pasta, mixed vegetables, peaches, and dessert. For more information, contact Barb Linton.



Community Meal

Updated Small Group Gathering Procedures from Reopening Team



Procedures for In-Church Small Group Gatherings at NOUMC

(Small groups means 10 or fewer people, at this time)

The following procedures are to be practiced by small group leaders and participants in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Please follow these procedures in respect for everyone's health and safety.

1. All surfaces are to be sanitized prior to the gathering and after; this includes bathrooms, tables and chairs, doorknobs, light switches, door handles, etc. All trash is to be taken to the dumpster at the end of the gathering.
2. Screening is to be administered. This includes taking of temperatures, checking for other symptoms, recent travel histories, and contact with someone that has tested positive for COVID-19. This information will be recorded in case contact tracing becomes necessary. The organizer should locate the thermometer on top of the mailboxes. The paperwork and symptom sheet are tacked to the calendar outside the office. The cleaning supplies are by the door to classroom 7 across from the church office.
3. Hand washing with soap or hand sanitizer is required before and after the meeting.
4. Wearing of face coverings is required.
5. Physical distancing is to be maintained at all times (a minimum of 6 ft.)
6. No food or beverages will be served.
7. A gathering must be approved by the church office before it is permitted to take place. Not all rooms of the church will be open. Gatherings should meet in classroom 7 across from the church office. One restroom near the classroom should be designated for use during the gathering.
8. Only the door near the office should be used to enter and leave the building by the attendees. Someone should be stationed by the door to let other attendees enter. The doors should **never** be propped open. Late arrivals should phone the organizer to allow them entrance. The rest of the church building should be designated "off limits" to keep possible contamination to a minimum.
9. An assessment of the gathering will be submitted to the office. Forms can be found tacked to the calendar outside the church office.
10. The organizer is to see that all procedures are followed.

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*



Lunch with Friends

Thursday, September 17

For the past several months we have not been able to meet at various restaurants for lunch to talk, laugh, and share stories of support. In keeping with the theme of “lunch and fun”, we have been staying connected through food related games and puzzles as we eat lunch at home. If you'd like to join us this month, call Carole Bettinger for copies of the lunch games.

Thank you!

Thank you to Ron Clough and Ray Plogger for installing the missing wood shingles on the church building.

Thank you to Chris Byrns, Jean Scothon, and Tammy Moore for sprucing up the parking lot.

Thank you to everyone who has provided special music for our online services.

Thank you to Dave & Barb Linton and their team of helpers for serving the Community Meal each month.



Thank you for Hand Sanitizer

Thank you to **David Leonard** for providing free hand sanitizer for NOUMC! David's generosity and hard work in bottling and delivering the sanitizer will make it possible to have plenty of product available for in-person worship services and activities (*when they resume*) in the church building. There is also enough product to provide for mission outreach which David and others are making decisions about for the near future. Individual households may request one bottle of hand sanitizer as a gift from David. Please leave a message at the church office if you would like a bottle and it will be placed outside the building for you to pick up at your convenience.

Thank You from Hoyte and Terri

Terri and I thank you so much for your heartfelt thoughts, prayers, and cards in response to the loss of her mother, Ellen Cummings, on Friday, August 7. Thank you, too, for your prayers for her father, Dallas, as he moves forward in grief and recovery from his loss.


Terri and I, and her immediate and extended family, have been extremely touched by your outreach in love, care, and support. Thank you for the beautiful NOUMC bouquet of flowers sent to the funeral home for the visitation and celebration of life service on Tuesday, August 11.

Terri and I have been reminded again of the wonderful gift of loving community that is shared by the people of NOUMC in times of joy and sorrow.

Thank you for embodying and modeling with genuineness and great empathy the powerful scripture passage from Romans 8:38-39—*"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

In gratitude, Hoyte and Terri

Church Family News

1	Sandi O.				
1	Katie C.				
2	Jessica P.				
9	Randall S.				
10	Jason D.	22	Doris B.	10	Becky & Jeff R.
11	John V.	22	Toni J.	10	Guylene H. & Josh O.
11	Buford W.	25	Judy F.		
12	Hadley B.	25	Jim E.	16	Barb & Dave L.
17	Chris B.	28	William G.	19	Charlene & John V.
18	David J.	28	Beverly H.	23	Rebecca & Kevin W.
19	Gloria C.	28	Ken D.	26	Alice & Andy W.
20	Betty S.	30	Judie F.		

Prayer Concerns

<p>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 Terri and Hoyte W. following the passing of Terri's mother, Ellen Our condolences to John and Charlene V. following the passing of John's mother, Twila Donald R. Scott, Wayne P.'s son Sheryl, lifted by Sally S. Barb S. Paul and Erin, lifted by Char V. Danielle, lifted by Alice W. Scott, brother-in-law of Barb L. Frank M.</p>	<p>Keith A. Danielle, lifted by Gwen H. Gwen H. Mary Lou L. Barbara B. Dave L. Sterling B. Bev, lifted by Josh O. Viola C. Amanda, lifted by Jane P. 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.</p>	<p>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 Ron & Barb C. Zack, son of Jennifer G. Brian R. Steve, son of Mary Ellen M. Carol, lifted by Ray & Jane B. Selene, lifted by Carole A. <u>Those in Military Service:</u> Christopher Y., USAF, Matthew F., USAF Lt. Col. Bill G., USMC Cpl. Trevor C., USMC</p>
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Thank You for Donating to the Back-to-School Collection

Thank you for your monetary donations for Oxcart Pantry's back-to school-collection. We donated \$645.15 that will go to North Olmsted students and parents to buy backpacks and gift cards for school supplies! What a loving and giving community you are!



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

Agape Newsletter



September Free Community Meal Carry-Out Only



*Thursday, September 24,
4:30 pm - 6 pm*

Carry-Out Menu:

Three cheese chicken penne,
mixed vegetables, peaches, 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.*