

Prayer Concerns

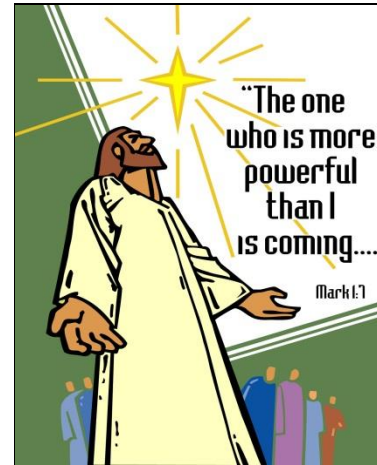
First Responders	Carole B.'s niece's family
Victims of natural disasters	Nancy D.
Those suffering from mental Illness, addiction & homelessness	Lois D.
Those affected by gun violence	Anita B.
Victims of Maui wildfires	Ray S.
Curtis, lifted by Reba Y.	Judy, lifted by Brenda F.
Bunny, Liz L.'s Cousin	Marianne, lifted by Janis J.
Doug, friend of Joel & Deb C.	Jane P.
Bill & Marilyn R.	Keith A.
Tammy M.'s Dad's recovery	Judy L.
Alice W.'s Dad's surgeries and recovery	Selene, lifted by Carole A.
Vicki and her family, daughter of the Rae & Walt S.	David and Steve, lifted by Mary Ellen M.
Harry W., son of Harry W.	Terry, Kathy, and Deb, lifted by Paul & Claudia T.
Dan G., lifted by Barb & Ron C.	Barbara B.
Matt, lifted by Janis J.	David N., JoAnne's husband
Joan H.	Joy and Rocky, lifted by Paul & Claudia T.
	Ron W.

This Week's Birthdays and Anniversaries

12/10 John Solt	12/15 Floyd Andrews
12/11 Barbara Schurr	12/16 Phoebe Tidmore
12/13 Ray Plogger	12/16 Bryan Deeken

Today's Worship Leaders

Preacher: Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm
Organist: Javier Gonzalez
Choir Director: Gabriela Martinez
Liturgist: Floyd Andrews
Greeters: Jean Scothon, Greg Lavelle
Ushers: Sarah Jackson, Sydney Scothon
Audio Video Elements: John and Michelle Wolter, Phil Wolter



North Olmsted United Methodist Church

Feeding the Community –
Body, Mind, and Spirit

4600 Dover Center Road,
North Olmsted, Ohio 44070
440-779-6634 + www.noumc.org
Rev. Hoyte L. Wilhelm, Pastor

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023 10:30 am

Welcome and Passing of the Peace

L: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

Celebration of Ministries and Missions

Prelude

Lo, How a Rose

Mark Hayes
arr. Marvin Gaspard

***Call to Worship**

Floyd Andrews

L: In days when God's people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins." (Isaiah 40:1)

P: We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

L: We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.

***Unison Prayer**

We light these candles as signs of God's hope and peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God. Amen.

***Old Testament Reading** Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

***Hymn** *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* UMH 213

Prayers of the People

Prayer Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Unison Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Words of Assurance

God's forgiving love has been poured upon each one of us. Hear the good news! You are healed and forgiven!

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy Kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Choir Anthem *Canticle for Advent* Lloyd Larson

Invitation for the Offering

Offertory *O Heart of Jesus* Joseph J. McGrath

***Doxology** UMH 94

***Prayer for the Offering**

Gospel Reading Mark 1:1-8

Hymn *In the Bleak Midwinter* UMH 221

Sermon "Prepare the Way" Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm

***Hymn** *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* UMH 203

***Responsive Benediction**

L: God is bringing light to our darkness.

P: We are called to go into the world, confident in God's loving presence, to serve others in need.

L: Go, bringing hope and peace to this darkened world.

P: Go in God's love. Amen.

Postlude *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Mark Hayes
arr. by Marvin Gaspard

(You are invited to be seated for the Postlude before exiting the Sanctuary.)

**Please stand if you are able.*