

Prayer Concerns

Those affected by gun violence	Brenda F.'s niece, Michelle
Those suffering from mental illness, addiction & homelessness	Bev C., Deb C.'s mother
Karen & Tom H., sister and brother-in law of Jeff R.	Lois D.
Judi W.	John, lifted by Mary B.
Janis J.'s brother, Kirk	Keith A.
Nadine B., lifted by Alice Walsh	Judy L.
Todd and Caroline W., lifted by Barb A.	Carl, friend of Joel & Deb C.
Dave S., brother-in-law of Jan C.	Sarah J.'s brother, Billy
Michael M., nephew of Jan C.	Selene, lifted by Carole A.
Becky & Dee, lifted by Claudia T.	Joan H.
Daniel C., lifted by Joel & Deb C.	Martha, lifted by Janis J.
Paul T.'s mother, Alice	Ray S.
Ken G., lifted by Barb B.	David N., JoAnn's husband
Jim S.	Joan T.
Matt & Debby, lifted by Janis J.	Donna R., sister of Bob & Carol N.
Carolyn B.	Jan C.
Jennifer G.	Will S.
Mario R., Meals piano player	Judy, lifted by Brenda F.
Pat, CJ C.'s mother	Susan L.
Cindy, Reba Y.'s sister-in-law	Randall S.
Nate R.	Barbara B.
Bunny, cousin of Liz L.	Bill & Marilyn R.
Vicki and her family, daughter of Rae and Walt S.	Doris, friend of Sally C.
Chris & Ava K., lifted by Jean S.	Tammy M.'s friend, Kate's, father
Phil T., lifted by Carolyn B.	Curtis, lifted by Reba Y.
	Joy and Rocky, lifted by Paul & Claudia T.

This Week's Birthdays and Anniversaries

12/27 Christopher Homola

Today's Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. Hoyte L. Wilhelm
Liturgist: John Vas
Organist: Javier Gonzalez
Choir Director: Gabriela Martinez
Greeters: Sarah Jackson, Greg Lavelle
Ushers: Barb and Ron Clough
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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024 10:30 am

Welcome and Passing of the Peace

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

P: And also with you.

Celebration of Ministries and Missions

Prelude *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Lani Smith

Piano: Gabriela Martinez Organ: Javier Gonzalez

Liturgy for the Advent Wreath and Lighting of Candles

Chris and Mike Byrns

L: When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, "But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day." (Micah 5:2). But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, "But you, O people of NOUMC, from you shall come forth for me..." What? What might God be calling forth from us?

P: God invites us to receive the promise of God's salvation and the sustenance of God's mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God's invitation to have Christ born

among us today and every day.

L: We light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God's promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God's love for all creation.

***Call to Worship**

John Vas

L: Children of God, the arrival of the Promised One is almost here!

P: We wait as people of God's promise.

L: The message of the prophets and the expectation residing in Mary's womb call to us today.

P: We listen as people of God's promise.

L: Mary's "yes" and Elizabeth's faithfulness guide our path, showing us that we too have a role to play in bearing God's good news into the world.

P: We follow as people of God's promise.

L: This is the promise Mary, Elizabeth, and the prophets bore that we continue to carry even today—God is with us!

P: God is with us! We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

***Unison Prayer**

God of the impossible and unlikely, God of pregnant old women and virgins, you turn our conventional world upside down, where the hungry are fed, and arrogant rich are turned away. Instill in us unthinkable marvels. Make us pregnant with wonder through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

***Old Testament Reading**

Micah 5:2-5a

***Hymn**

Once in Royal David's City

UMH 250

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

Unison Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you promised to do great things for us, yet we do not trust you. You extend your mercy to us, yet we do not

trust you. You lift up the humble, you fill the hungry with good things, and yet we still do not trust you. Forgive us, and help us to trust in the promises you have given us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Responsive Words of Assurance and Pardon

L: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

P: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

The Lord's Prayer

***Prayer for the Offering/Doxology**

UMH 94

Anthem

Morning Star

Lloyd Larson

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:39-55

Hymn

To a Maid Engaged to Joseph

UMH 215

Sermon

"Promise"

Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm

(Fourth in a Sermon Series: "Come, Let Us Adore Him!")

***Hymn**

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

UMH 240

***Responsive Benediction**

L: Go, now, in the blessing of God's promise and in the assurance that our expectant joy will find its fulfillment

P: in the God who was, who is, and who will be with us always.

All: Amen.

Postlude

March from The Nutcracker Suite Tchaikovsky/Pletnev

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

**Please stand if you are able.*

*Altar Flowers were provided by Sarah Jackson
in honor of Kristi's birthday.*