Prayer Concerns

*Condolences to the family of Bill Cauley, on his passing	*Condolences to the family of Joan Phillips, on her passing
*Condolences to the family of Bob Wise, Alice Walsh's uncle, on his passing	ˣCondolences to the family of Jim Sainsbury, on his passing
*Jean S.'s sister, Holly	ˣJanis J.'s brother, Kirk
˚Jan C.'s nephew	ˣSusan W.
˚Chris B.'s brother, Curtis	ˣBarbara B.
˚Nadine W.	ˣBunny, cousin of Liz L.

**=1 week ˚=2 weeks ˙=3 weeks ˣ=4 weeks on prayer list*

This Week's Birthdays and Anniversaries

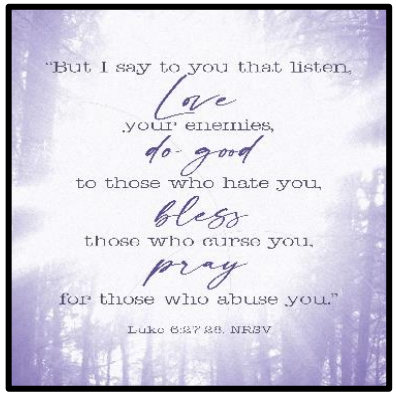
2/23 Sydney Scothon
2/25 Carolyn Bernard
2/25 Judy Sainsbury
2/28 Phil Wolter
2/29 Ron and Lisa (Davison) Stroup
3/1 Sally Coast
3/1 Javier Gonzalez

Today's Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. Hoyte L. Wilhelm
Liturgist: Joel Chermonte
Organist: Javier Gonzalez
Choir Director: Gabriela Martinez
Greeters: John and Char Vas, Greg Lavelle
Usher: Liz Lavelle
Audio Video Elements: John and Michelle Wolter, Phil Wolter

RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

NOUMC is a Reconciling Ministries Network church open to all people!



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

Seventh Sunday After the Epiphany

February 23, 2025 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 *Cavatina* Joachim Raff/arr. Ernest A. Dicks

****Call to Worship*** Joel Chermonte
L: Jesus teaches us, "Do to others as you would have them do to you." But who are the others?
P: Our enemies and friends, family and strangers.
L: Jesus teaches us, "Be merciful as your Father is merciful." But what is mercy?
P: To act with compassion, to help without expecting anything in return.
L: Jesus teaches us, "Forgive, and you will be forgiven." But how do we forgive?
P: By recognizing enemies, friends, family, strangers, and ourselves as people in need of compassion.
L: Let us worship God, who loves us and empowers us to love one another with mercy and compassion.
P: Come, let us worship! Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Unison Prayer**

Holy Jesus, you call us into a life that others have told us is easy, but it is not. You challenge us to forgive, to love our enemies, to bless those who curse us. We want the easy way, but you have given us the hard path. Grant us the patience and endurance to journey with you, to allow ourselves at times to stumble, to live into the hard way so that we might fully experience your love, grace, and peace in this world, by becoming a people full of love and grace and forgiving others. In your name, we pray. Amen.

****Old Testament Reading*** Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

****Hymn*** *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* UMH 117

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

Unison Prayer of Confession

God, we are so conditioned to respond in kind. We are so worried that when the reckoning comes, we will find ourselves left with the short end of the stick. And not without reason. The powerful take and take and lie and lie and oppress and oppress, seemingly without consequence. Teach us to love with skill. Teach us to love with precision. Teach us to love with abandon, trusting that when we step into the ocean of your abundant love, we will receive the blessings of your abundant life. Amen.

Responsive Words of Assurance

L: Trust in the life-giving love of God and Jesus and know that you are forgiven.

P: Trust in the life-giving love of God and Jesus and know that you are 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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Anthem

****Prayer for the Offering***

****Doxology*** UMH 94

Gospel Reading Luke 6:27-38

Hymn *Freely, Freely (God Forgave My Sin)* UMH 389

Sermon "A Challenging Way to Live" Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm

****Hymn*** *Help Us Accept Each Other* UMH 560

****Responsive Benediction***

L: Beloved, go from this place ready to listen. Listen for the opportunities to extend mercy.

P: Notice the moments to forgive instead of condemn. Watch for the person who needs help without any strings attached.

L: For the blessing of the Triune God goes with you, pouring out mercy and compassion on you

P: so that you may share mercy and compassion with everyone you meet.

All: Amen.

Postlude *Festal March in C* J. Baptiste Calkin

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

**Please stand if you are able.*