Welcome and Passing of the Peace

Ministries and Missions Announcements

Prelude  What Wondrous Love Is This  Sarah Douglas

Call to Worship  (Ezekiel 37, John 11)

Coming from places that have seen better days,

**God bids us to celebrate this day, a day full of new possibilities.**

Coming with our breath taken away by grief,

the Holy Spirit breathes new life within us, renewing our connection with God and

with one another.

Coming to worship seeking a hope that will endure,

Christ unbinds the fetters that hold us in death, speaking in word and sacrament,

and building community for holy service.

Opening Hymn  Breathe on Me, Breath of God  UMH 420

Unison Prayer  (Psalm 130, John 11)

God of life, present and promised, you are the One to whom we call: for you are the

One who hears, and you are the One who acts, bringing us new life with your grace

North Olmsted
United Methodist Church
4600 Dover Center Road, North Olmsted, Ohio 44070
440-779-6634  +  www.noumc.org
Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm, Pastor
Worship with us online:
https://youtu.be/zG1_uzPVR64
and love and power. Lead us in our time of worship, that we may be prepared to follow your lead in places where life is at risk—places where hope seems far away, places where dreams die during sleep. Awaken us to live the teachings we proclaim in faith and hope, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

New Testament Reading Romans 8:6-11

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns (see last page of bulletin)

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer of Confession (Ezekiel 37, Psalm 130, John 11)
Forgive us, O God, when we see the world through rose-colored glasses rather than as it really is, much less the way you seek it to be. Forgive us, Holy One, when we forsake lively and risky faith calling us to be agents of change in our world for the bland conviction that all will be well. Renew us with your grace and ground us with your Spirit, that we might be empowered to live, in word and deed, as testimonies to the power of your love over the grave. In Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance (Ezekiel 37, Romans 8)
The God we serve is the God of life, the God of hope, the God of new beginnings—even for dried-up bones and shattered dreams. That rattling of bones in Ezekiel’s vision may be heard as the shackles that once held us down in fear, sin, prejudice, and guilt. God defies these deadly entanglements with the power of life. This we trust, and by this we live. Thanks be to God!

The Lord’s Prayer

The Offering with Prayer
(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.)

Gospel Reading John 11:1-45
**Hymn**  
*Be Still, My Soul*  
UMH 534

**Sermon**  
“Searching for A Hopeful Sign”  
Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm

**Closing Hymn**  
*Lord of the Dance*  
UMH 261

**Benediction** (Psalm 130, Romans 8)

We are a people loved by God.

**We will live as signs of this love.**

We are a people blessed with hope.

**We will live in light of this hope.**

May the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the courage of the Spirit, strengthen our faith and set us loose to share God’s love with all.

**Amen and amen!**

**Postlude**  
*Praise God, Ye Christians All Together*  
Dietrich Buxtehude

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**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.

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**This Week’s Birthdays**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 30</td>
<td>Dick M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 31</td>
<td>Diane P.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>Kara Q.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>John W.</td>
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**This Week’s Anniversaries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>Wendy and Bill C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>Diane and Ray P.</td>
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</tbody>
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**Prayer Concerns**

First Responders  
Victims of natural disasters  
Those suffering from mental illness  
Those affected by gun violence  
Those who are homeless  
Stephen Ministers and Care Receivers  
Our condolences to the family of Mary R. following her passing  
Barb B.  
Dave L.  
David J.  
Bev, lifted by Josh O.  
Tina, Brenda F.’s niece  
Amanda, Jane P.’s granddaughter  
Sterling B.  
Rita R.  
Carl, friend of Rita R.  
Darlene, friend of Barb A.  
Uri, grandson of Michael & Jennifer G.  
Adrienne, lifted by Tom M.  
Viola C.  
Donna, sister of Carol N.  
Steve, Mary Ellen M.’s son  
Kay, Pippa, and Heather, lifted by Ron S.  
Glenn K.  
Susan W.  
Rev. Mack, lifted by Frank O.  
Connie C.  
Bill and Vince, brothers of Reba Y.  
Andy, Faye W.’s son  
Selene, granddaughter of Carole A.  
Cheryl, sister of Mike B.  
David L.  
Russ, friend of David L.  
Dusty, nephew of Reba Y.  
Israel, Sarah J.’s student  
Dawn, friend of Susan W.  
DeNiro and family  
Jim, friend of Bill & Marilyn R.  
Donna, friend of Judy K.  
Kevin, friend of Ron & Barb C.  
Zack, son of Jennifer G.  
Brian R.  
Carol B., lifted by Ray & Jane B.  
Matthew F., USAF  
Lt. Col. Bill G., USMC  
Cpl. Trevor C., USMC  
Christopher Y., USAF