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
Susan W.
Carolyn and Alex B.
Paul, nephew of John & Char V.
Mary, Sue S.’s mother
Kifah, friend of David L.
Jeff, friend of Judy K.
Jeff & Sharon B., lifted by Janis J.
Bob, Carole B.’s son
Josh O.
Donald R.
Mary Lou L.
Danielle, lifted by Alice & Andy
Sheryl, lifted by Sally S.
Scott, Barb L.’s brother-in-law
Keith A.
Gwen H.
Danielle, Gwen’s granddaughter
Brian R.
Frank M.
Bill & Vince, lifted by Reba Y.
Jim, friend of Marilyn & Bill R.
Connie C.
Adrienne, lifted by Tom M.
Selene, lifted by Carole A.
Viola C.
Donna, sister of Carol N.
Donna, friend of Judy K.
Andy, Faye W.’s son
Israel, Sarah J.’s student
Bev, lifted by Josh O.
Zack, son of Jennifer G.
Steve, Mary Ellen M.’s son
Kevin, friend of Barb & Ron C.
Dusty, nephew of Reba Y.
Darlene, friend of Barb A.
Sterling B.
Dawn, friend of Susan W.
Carol B., lifted by Ray & Jane
Matthew F., USAF
Lt. Col Bill G., USMC
Christopher Y., USAF

This Week’s Birthdays and Anniversaries

December 13 Ray Plogger
December 15 Floyd Andrews
December 16 Phoebe Tidmore
December 17 Kristi Jackson
December 19 Brigid & Shawn Dennis

December 17 Barb Clough
December 18 Hanna Moore
December 19 Lois Dow

Welcome and Passing of the Peace
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Ministries and Missions Announcements

Prelude
We Greet Thee, Heavenly Dove
Austrian Carol
Marlene Dirksen

Introit
Savior of the Nations, Come (v. 1)
UMH 214
Vocalist: Gabriela Martinez; Pianist: Javier Gonzalez

Call to Worship with Lighting of Advent Candles (Ps. 85) Bill Ransom
L: Love has come down to us this Advent Season.
P: Divine love which heals and transforms our lives.
L: With great joy, we receive that love and share it with others.
P: We open our hearts to all God’s children, the last, the least, and the lost, as well as those who feel privileged.
L: The Lord has done and continues to do great things for us.
P: Praise be to God who loves us so much and who challenges us to be people of joy in this darkened world.
L: We light the first, second, and third candles of hope, peace, and joy!

Hymn Response O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v. 3) UMH 211

Unison Prayer
Lord of impending Light, we rejoice in your compassion for us. You send us your light and your healing love so that we may become better representatives of you in this world which cries for justice and peace. Be with us this morning as we gather to hear your word for us. Amen.

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Hymn Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates UMH 213

Message of Joy “What Christmas Means to Me This Year” Char Vas

Special Music O Little Town of Bethlehem arr. Doug Young (2013)
Guitarist: Andy Walsh

Prayers of the People
Prayer Concerns (back of bulletin)
Pastoral Prayer
Prayer of Confession
Words of Assurance
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.

The Offering with Prayer
Please continue to be faithful with your financial gifts by sending your stewardship contribution to the church office to the attention of the Financial Secretary, Ed Brewster.

Gospel Reading John 1:6-8, 19-28

Hymn Hail to the Lord’s Anointed UMH 203
(vv. 1, 3, 4)
Vocalist: Gabriela Martinez; Pianist: Javier Gonzalez

Sermon “The Light of Love Is Coming!” Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm

Hymn I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light UMH 206
Vocalist: Gabriela Martinez; Pianist: Javier Gonzalez

Benediction
L: Go forth with the light of Christ!
P: We go forth shining with hope, peace, and joy!
L: Go with the assurance of God’s guiding presence.
P: We go in faith to share the good news of Jesus to be born again! Amen.

Postlude From Heaven to Earth I Come J.S. Bach
Marlene Dirksen

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.