

Prayer Concerns

First Responders	Donald R.
Victims of natural disasters	Susan W.
Those suffering from mental illness	Viola C.
	Barbara B.
Those affected by gun violence	Lois D.
Those who are homeless	Keith A.
Stephen Ministers	Sterling B.
Care Receivers	Nancy D.
Carol W.	Patty, lifted by Janis J.
Jennifer G.	Miriam, lifted by Janis J.
Randall S.'s son	Selene, lifted by
Sydney S. and family	Carole A.
Alice and Tony, lifted by	Donna, sister of Carol N.
Claudia and Paul T.	Israel, Sarah J.'s student
Ron W.	Bev, lifted by
Teresa, Michelle W.'s cousin	Josh O.
Josh O. and Guylene H.	Steve, lifted by
Mary, lifted by Susan W.	Mary Ellen M.
Monica, lifted by Susan W.	Matthew F., USAF
Betty Ann, sister of Mike B.	Lt. Col. Bill G., USMC
Judy, lifted by Brenda F.	Christopher Y., USAF
Victor, lifted by Reba Y.	

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries

December 19	Lois Dow	December 23	Wayne Pullman
December 22	Mikenzie Dennis	December 24	Jean Scothon
December 19	Brigid & Shawn Dennis		

Today's Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm	Liturgist: Michelle Wolter
Organist: Marlene Dirksen	Greeter: Sarah Jackson
Choir Director: Gabriela Martinez	Video: John & Michelle Wolter,
Ushers: Judi Wagner, Guylene Harold	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 Wilhelm, Pastor

4th Sunday of Advent December 19, 2021 + 10:30 am

Theme for Advent: Come Home for Christmas

Welcome and Passing of the Peace

Celebration of Ministries and Missions

Prelude *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* arr. Earl R. Larson

***Old Testament** Micah 5:2-5a Michelle Wolter

***Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Candles**

L: Sometimes when we are trying something new, or when we are facing a difficult decision, or when we want to celebrate something, or when we just feel lost and alone and uncertain about life, the universe and everything, we need a blessing. We don't always think of it that way, or word it like that. We say we need advice, or support, or companions, or someone to come along beside and lift us up again so we can see more than the tops of our shoes. We seek a blessing.

P: **For many of us, we go home; we ask mom; we talk to dad, or brothers and sisters, close friends, those we grew up with,**

those who know us best. We want them alongside; we want to be in their presence. Somehow, we know that being there, being home, will make all things better. Maybe it won't be fixed, or solved, or wished away, but at least we won't be alone. We seek a blessing.

L: Mary, faced with an incomprehensible burden and gift, ran to Cousin Elizabeth's house, looking for someone who knew a little of what she was going through, looking for a place to hide until the reality of her condition could become something real. And she received a blessing. The prophet Micah spoke of a blessing coming to an unexpected place, an unassuming town. Yet by God's grace would become the means through which God would bless the whole world. Bethlehem, the little town of blessing. We seek a blessing.

P: **We light these candles, the candle of hope, of peace, of joy and of today, love, as a sign that we know blessing and we know waiting for blessing to be felt and lived. We light these candles as a sign that we still seek a blessing. It's time to go home.**

***Unison Prayer**

Lord, be with us this morning as we encounter Mary and hear of the wondrous news that she received. Remind us that, like Mary, each one of us is a bearer of your Good News. We are called to proclaim hope, peace, joy, and love in your name. Open our hearts and our spirits today to receive with great joy the love that you have for us. For we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

***Hymn** *To a Maid Engaged to Joseph* (vv. 1-2, 4-5) UMH 215

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism Luma Arielle Bautista
Parents: Erlich and Kristi Bautista

Special Music *Mary, Did You Know?* Andy Walsh

Prayers of the People

Prayer Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Anthem *Morning Star* Lloyd Larson

Penny Sunday

Today's offering will go to support the General Commission on Race and Religion.

Invitation for the Offering

Offertory *It Came upon the Midnight Clear* arr. Carl Schalk

***Doxology** UMH 94

Prayer for the Offering

Gospel Reading Luke 1:39-55

Hymn *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* UMH 216

Sermon "The Blessing of Home" Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm

***Hymn** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (vv. 1-3, 6) UMH 234

***Benediction**

L: Go with the love of God, who extends mercy from generation to generation.

P: **Go with the illumination of the Holy Spirit, who prepares us for the coming of our Lord.**

L: Go with the peace of the Christ child, who comes to partner with us to bring the kingdom that will never end.

P: **Amen.**

Postlude *Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying* arr. Walther