

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	Jan R.
Those who are homeless	Keith A.
Stephen Ministers	Sterling B.
Care Receivers	Lois D.
Carol W.	Nancy D.
Jennifer G.	Patty, lifted by Janis J.
Randall S.'s son	Miriam, lifted by Janis J.
Sydney S. and family	Victor, lifted by Reba Y.
Alice and Tony, lifted by Claudia and Paul T.	Selene, lifted by Carole A.
Ron W.	Donna, sister of Carol N.
Karen, lifted by David L.	Israel, Sarah J.'s student
Dale, David L.'s brother	Bev, lifted by Josh O.
Teresa, Michelle W.'s cousin	Steve, lifted by Mary Ellen M.
Josh O. and Guylene H.	Matthew F., USAF
Mary, lifted by Susan W.	Lt. Col. Bill G., USMC
Monica, lifted by Susan W.	Christopher Y., USAF
Betty Ann, sister of Mike B.	
Scott, David L.'s brother	
Judy, lifted by Brenda F.	

This Week's Birthdays

December 5	Kelly Maculewicz	December 10	John Solt
December 6	Jan Reed	December 11	Barb Schurr

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

2nd Sunday of Advent December 5, 2021 + 10:30 am

Theme for Advent: Come Home for Christmas

Welcome and Passing of the Peace

Celebration of Ministries and Missions

Prelude *Prepare the Way, O Zion* Robert Lau

***Old Testament Reading** Malachi 3:1-4 Chris Byrns

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

L: For many of us, the call to head home is one of joy and of hope. We can't wait to reconnect with family, with history and tradition, with a wonderful time of freedom and loving support. We can't wait to go home.

P: **There are those who fear going home, however, and there are times when going home brings back memories that are not so good, not so healing. We are reminded of when we didn't fit in, when we didn't measure up, when we weren't loved like we needed to be loved. Home can be a difficult place for some.**

- L: The prophet Malachi tells us that even when we are in the hottest of fires, there is a presence who can make us better, who can refine and purify. John the Baptist tells us that the road home is always under construction, mountains leveled, and valleys filled in, to make smooth the path that leads us to our true destination, where we can live in peace and unity with all.
- P: **We light these candles, the candle of hope and the candle of peace, as a sign of our assurance that though the road is hard, we believe it is worth the journey. It is time to go home.**

***Unison Prayer**

God in this season of Advent suspended between hope and fulfillment, let us never forget what you have done. May we be overwhelmed by your mercy, which flows in wave after wave. May we be honest about the darkness within us, and perceptive of the light around us. May we make straight the path for the Lord, that together we may see God's glory revealed. Amen.

***Hymn** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (vv. 1, 3, 5-7) UMH 211

Prayers of the People

Prayer Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Unison Prayer of Confession

Lord, these times in which we live are often confusing and fearful. Sometimes we are stressed preparing during a Season which is supposed to bring hope and peace; yet we crowd it with obligations and distractions and shut the door to your healing love and compassion. Sometimes we find ourselves on edge, fretful, and wondering if we have done enough or can do enough. Help us to hear your voice, "Peace, be still." Slow us down. Encourage us to take some time to listen, to stop and rest rather than run. Prompt us to see and respond to people who need our care. For it is in helping your people and reaching out in love that we will find true peace. These things we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Jesus said, "I bring you peace, not the kind of peace the world would give to you. My peace I give to you, now and forever." Be at peace. Know God's love is given for you.

The Lord's Prayer

Anthem *Christmas Prayer* Deborah Govenor

Invitation for the Offering

Offertory *A Blessing* Michael Shea

***Doxology** UMH 94

Prayer for the Offering

Gospel Reading Luke 3:1-6

Hymn *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* UMH 206

Sermon "The Fear of Home" Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm

The Great Thanksgiving for Advent

***Hymn** *Heralds of Christ* (vv. 1, 3) UMH 567

***Benediction**

Postlude *Companions, Let Us Sing Joyfully* Pyrenees Carol

You are invited to remain seated for the Postlude.

Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm Usher: Sarah Jackson
 Organist: Marlene Dirksen Greeters: Claudia & Paul Taller
 Choir Director: Gabriela Martinez Video Production: John Wolter
 Liturgist: Chris Byrns Michelle Wolter, Phil Wolter