

### **Prayer Concerns**

|                                     |                           |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| First Responders                    | Josh O.                   |
| Victims of natural disasters        | Ron W.                    |
| Those suffering from mental illness | Barbara B.<br>Nancy D.    |
| Those affected by gun violence      | Lois D.                   |
| Those who are homeless              | Bill, Sarah J.'s brother  |
| Those experiencing addiction        | Justin, lifted by Vann P. |
| David, lifted by                    | Keith A.                  |
| Mary Ellen M.                       | Sally S.                  |
| Jane P.                             | Judy F.                   |
| Bob, lifted by Claudia & Paul T.    | Selene, lifted by         |
| Carole B.                           | Carole A.                 |
| Terry, lifted by Claudia & Paul T.  | Steve, lifted by          |
| Barb and Ray S.                     | Mary Ellen M.             |
| Judy, lifted by Brenda F.           | Matthew F., USAF          |
| Deb, friend of Claudia & Paul T.    | Lt. Col. Bill G., USMC    |
| Kathy, lifted by Claudia & Paul T.  | Christopher Y., USAF      |

### ***This Week's Birthdays and Anniversaries***

|             |                         |             |               |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| December 18 | Hanna Moore             | December 23 | Wayne Pullman |
| December 19 | Lois Dow                | December 24 | Jean Scothon  |
| December 22 | Mikenzie Dennis         |             |               |
| December 18 | Megan and Nathan Howe   |             |               |
| December 19 | Brigid and Shawn Dennis |             |               |

### ***Today's Worship Leaders***

Pastor: Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm  
Organist: Marlene Dirksen  
Choir Director: Gabriela Martinez  
Liturgist: Bev Hixon  
Greeters: Charlene and John Vas, Greg Lavelle  
Ushers: Barb and Ron Clough  
Audio Video Elements: John and Michelle Wolter, 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](http://www.noumc.org)  
Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm, Pastor

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**Fourth Sunday of Advent** December 18, 2022 + 10:30 am

### ***Welcome and Greeting***

### ***Celebration of Ministries and Missions***

### ***Prelude***

*What Is This Lovely Fragrance?* arr. Steven Scott

### ***\*Call to Worship***

Bev Hixon

- L: Isaiah said that the Lord spoke to the king and said, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven" (Isaiah 7:11 NRSV). But when the king refused, God would not be stopped. "Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14 NRSV).
- P: **God wants us to know, even when we aren't sure ourselves. God wants us to experience God's presence, even when we think we can handle life on our own. God sends us signs of God's presence with us; all we need to do is keep our eyes open and look.**
- L: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital

relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus (Matthew 1:23-25 NRSV).

**P: We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, of deep everlasting joy, and today of presence that speaks of love, as a sign that no matter our circumstance, we know we are not alone.**

**\*New Testament Reading** Romans 1:1-7

**\*Unison Prayer**

Lord of all life and all seasons, help us open our hearts to hear the words of promise and love that you send to us. Like Joseph, may we trust in your abiding love and power. Prepare us to receive your gift of grace and peace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

**\*Hymn** *To a Maid Engaged to Joseph* (vv. 1-2, 4-6) UMH 215

**Reception of New Members** Susan Lancuski, Vann Preiss, Harry Walton

**Prayers of the People**

**Prayer Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Prayer of Confession**

Lord, we confess that we are rushing headlong into Christmas. It's only a few days away and we still have so much to do. Our preparations are far from complete, and we are exhausted. We wish this whole thing were over so that we could rest. Forgive our shortcomings and our short-sightedness. You have poured upon us blessing after blessing, daily reminding us of your love and presence; yet we have chosen to jump onto this "greased slide" into Christmas. Give us patience. Slow us down. Remind us of the ways in which you are present with us—not in the wrapped packages, the abundance of food, but in the love and compassion that is brought to all. Forgive us, we pray. Make us truly ready to receive your love and the gift of the Christ Child. Amen.

**Words of Assurance**

The light of God's love shines upon each of us in the gift of God's love, Jesus Christ. This is given for you. Rejoice! You are loved by God, now and forever.

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Penny Sunday Offering**

*Today's offering is for the United Methodist Committee on Relief.*

**Anthem**

*A la Nanita Nana* Traditional Spanish Carol  
Guitarist: Andy Walsh

**The Offering**

**Offertory** *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star* J. S. Bach

**\*Doxology** UMH 94

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Gospel Reading**

Matthew 1:18-25

**Hymn**

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel* (sing twice) UMH 204

**Sermon**

"God's Love Is With Us" Rev. Hoyte L. Wilhelm

**\*Hymn**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful* (vv. 1-3, 5) UMH 234

**\*Responsive Benediction**

L: Place your trust in God, for God is with you.

P: **Listen carefully for God's loving whisper in this time—the words will give you healing and hope.**

L: Go in peace and may God's peace always be with you.

P: **Amen.**

**Postlude**

*From Heaven Above* arr. Wilbur Held  
*The altar flowers are given in celebration of Kristi Jackson's birthday by Sarah Jackson.*