Prayer Concerns

First Responders	Josh O.
Victims of natural disasters	Ron W.
Those suffering from mental illness	Barbara B. 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.
Our condolences to Will S. following the passing of his son, David	Carole B. Ray S. Keith A. Judy F.
Will & Sally S.	Selene, lifted by Carole A.
Greg, lifted by Sarah J.	Steve, lifted by Mary Ellen M.
Karen, sister of Jeff R.	Matthew F., USAF
David, lifted by Mary Ellen M.	Lt. Col. Bill G., USMC
Jane P.	Christopher Y., USAF
Bob, lifted by Claudia & Paul T.	
Terry, lifted by Claudia & Paul T.	
Judy, lifted by Brenda F.	

This Week's Birthdays and Anniversaries

January 28 Janis Jarvis

January 25 Carol and Bob Nupp January 26 Judy and John Solt

Today's Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm
Organist: Marlene Dirksen
Choir Director: Gabriela Martinez
Liturgist: Ed Brewster
Greeters: Sarah Jackson, 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
Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm, Pastor

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany January 22, 2023 + 10:30 am

Welcome and Greeting

L: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!
P: And also with you!

Celebration of Ministries and Missions

Prelude *Brightest and Best* arr. John M. Rasley

****Call to Worship*** (Isaiah 9, Psalm 27, Matthew 4) Ed Brewster

L: To those who sit in darkness, light has dawned.
P: To those who dwell in gloom and despair,
God's glorious presence has appeared.
L: God is indeed our light and our salvation.
P: We will follow, unafraid, where God and Jesus lead us.
L: Let us worship our God of light and promise.
P: Let us celebrate the hope and joy of our salvation.

****Old Testament Reading*** Psalm 27:1, 4-9

Unison Prayer (Isaiah 9, Psalm 27, Matthew 4)

God of light and love, we come this morning with eyes stinging from the brightness of your glory. We have become so accustomed to the darkness, that your radiant light sometimes overwhelms us. Open our eyes to the light of your dawn, that our souls may be flooded with love and mercy and joy. Open our hearts to receive your message of comfort and peace and security, that we may find rest in your loving, protective presence. Open our spirits to follow the path you put before us, that we may lead lives committed to your Way. Amen.

***Hymn** *The Church's One Foundation* UMH 546
(vv. 1-2, 4-5)

Prayers of the People

Prayer Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Unison Prayer of Confession (Is. 9, Ps. 27, 1 Cor. 1, Mt. 4)

God of our light and our salvation, sometimes we prefer to live in darkness, embracing the safety and anonymity of the shadows; sometimes we delight in our divisions, believing we are better than others; sometimes the yoke of our calling feels too heavy, and we seek to slip out from under the bar across our shoulders. Forgive our fear. Forgive our aversion to the light. Forgive our unresponsiveness to your call. Forgive our willful blindness and deafness to the Way. Help us know deep in our souls that you are our light and our salvation, our joy and our wonder, our very life. Hear us as we cry aloud in our need. Amen.

Words of Assurance and Pardon (Psalm 27)

Our God of light and love hears us when we cry aloud. We have nothing to fear. Know that this God of light wraps us in comforting arms, lifts us from the darkness of our guilt and sin, and forgives us once and for all. Know that we will dwell in safety in God's house, now and forevermore.

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation for the Offering

Offertory *God's Great Grace* Colin Curtis

Doxology UMH 94

Prayer for the Offering

Gospel Reading Matthew 4:12-23

Hymn *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling* UMH 348

Sermon "Thin Places" Rev. Hoyte L. Wilhelm

Anthem

***Hymn** *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore* UMH 344
(vv. 1, 3-4)

Responsive Benediction (Matthew 4)

L: Jesus, the light of the world, calls us to follow.
P: Go and tell the news of God's love.
L: Cast the nets of grace wide, that all may see the glory of God.
P: Go forth and shine with God's light!
L: May God—Source, Word, and Spirit—
bless you with the radiance of love.
P: Amen.

Postlude *Stand Up and Bless the Lord* arr. Robert Hughes

Please be seated for the Postlude.