Prayer Concerns

First Responders Victims of natural disasters Those suffering from mental illness Those affected by gun violence Those who are homeless Those experiencing addiction Susan L. Nancy D. Louise A. Carole B. Curtis, lifted by Reba Y. Karen, sister of Jeff R. David, lifted by Mary Ellen M. Bob, Terry, Kathy, and Deb, lifted by Claudia & Paul T.

Josh O. Ron W. Barbara B. Will & Sally S. Lois D. Judy, lifted by Brenda F. Jane P. Ray S. Keith A. Judy L. Selene, lifted by Carole A. Steve, lifted by Mary Ellen M. Matthew F., USAF Lt. Col. Bill G., USMC Christopher Y., USAF

Tone thing I do I WAS know. BLIND BUT NOW I SEE. JUHN 9.25. NTV

North Olmsted United Methodist Church

Feeding the Community – Body, Mind, and Spirit 4600 Dover Center Road, North Olmsted, Ohio 44070 440-779-6634 + <u>www.noumc.org</u> Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm, Pastor

Fourth Sunday in Lent March 19, 2023 + 10:30 am

Welcome and Passing of the Peace

Celebration of Ministries and Missions

Preluc	le In Quietness and Confidence	J. S. Bach
* Call to Worship (Ephesians 5, John 9)		Greg Lavelle
L:	When the world is dark and full of hate and fear,	
	when we cannot see God,	
Ρ:	we will turn on the light.	
L:	When we cannot find our way back to love and pe	ace,
Ρ:	we will turn on the light.	
L:	When our vision dims due to the darkness within,	
Ρ:	we will turn on the light.	
L:	Christ opens our eyes with the gift of sight.	
Ρ:	The light of the world is Jesus Christ.	
L:	Come and worship the one who brings sight to the	e blind.
Ρ:	Hallelujah! Praise God, the light of the world!	

This Week's Birthdays

March 19	Liam Benko	March 21	Wendy Cooper
March 20	Barbara Miotti	March 25	Marilyn Ransom
March 20	Debra Chermonte		

Today's Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm Organist: Marlene Dirksen Choir Director: Gabriela Martinez Liturgist: Greg Lavelle Greeters: Charlene and John Vas, Greg Lavelle Ushers: Barb and Ron Clough

Audio Video Elements: John and Michelle Wolter, Phil Wolter

*New Testament Reading Ephesians 5:8-14

*Unison Prayer (Ephesians 5, John 9)

Gracious God, who created us in God's own image, we are grateful for all that you have done for us, for all that you are doing in us, and for all that you will do through us. Open our eyes to see your presence among us, moving in powerful ways at all times and in all places. Open our ears to hear familiar words in new ways—ways that will change us and challenge us to become the people you created us to be. Grant us the power and the courage to come out of the darkness and into the light of Jesus Christ, that we may serve you by serving others. We love you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Amen.

*Hymn O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing UMH 57 (vv. 1-3, 5, 7)

Prayers of the People

Prayer Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer of Confession (1 Samuel 16, Ephesians 5, John 9)

Forgiving God, in a world filled with so much pain, we would rather shut our eyes and be blind than see things as they really are. Grant us the courage to face the reality of our world, and give us the strength to bring your light to those who walk in darkness. Help us see others as you see them, and forgive us when we do not trust you enough to open our eyes to the possibilities before us. Heal our self-inflicted blindness, O God, and lead us in the footsteps of the Light of the World, who reveals your glory in his life, his teachings, and his love. In his holy name, we pray. Amen. *Responsive Words of Assurance* (Psalm 23)

L: Christ came to lead us in paths of righteousness and to guide us through our lives. Christ is with us in times of danger and times of peace. The goodness and mercy of God are given to us each and every day of our lives. God forgives us for our failings, upholds us in love, and leads us to the place that Christ has prepared for us.
Believe in your heart that God loves you and forgives you.
P: We believe! God help our unbelief!
The Lord's Prayer

Penny Sunday

Today's offering will go towards purchasing Easter Basket items to be distributed by Oxcart Pantry.

Invitation for the Offering

You are invited to give your tithes and offerings online (<u>www.noumc.org/donate</u>), by mailing a check to the church office, or in the offering plates that are passed during worship.

Offertory *Doxology *Prayer fo	Jesus, I Will Ponder Now / or the Offering	J. S. Bach UMH 95
Gospel Readi	ng John 9:1-41	
Hymn	When Jesus the Healer Passed Through Go (vv. 1, 4-7)	alilee UMH 263
Sermon	"Eye-Opening Experience" Rev	v. Hoyte Wilhelm
Anthem	<i>Gather by the River to Pray</i> arr.	Pepper Choplin
*Hymn	Open My Eyes, That I May See	UMH 454
*Benediction		
Postlude	Postlude in d Minor Please be seated for the Postlude.	H. Götze

*Please stand as able