

Prayer Concerns

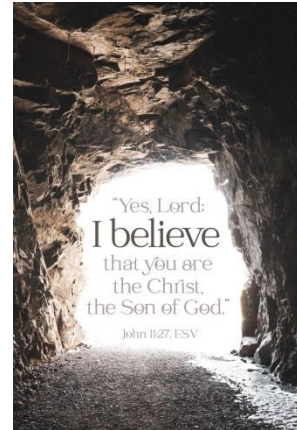
First Responders	Josh O.
Victims of natural disasters	Ron W.
Those suffering from mental illness	Barbara B. Will & Sally S.
Those affected by gun violence	Lois D.
Those who are homeless	Judy, lifted by Brenda F.
Those experiencing addiction	Jane P. Keith A.
Anita B.	Judy L.
Cole, lifted by Liz & Greg L.	Selene, lifted by Carole A.
Susan L.	David and Steve, lifted by Mary Ellen M.
Nancy D.	Bob, Terry, Kathy, and Deb, lifted by Claudia & Paul T.
Louise A.	
Carole B.	
Curtis, lifted by Reba Y.	
Karen, sister of Jeff R.	
Ray S.	

This Week's Birthdays and Anniversaries

March 30	Dick Mercer	March 31	Diane Plogger
March 27	Gabriela Martinez and Javier Gonzalez		
March 28	Barb and Ed Brewster		
April 1	Wendy and Bill Cooper		

Today's Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm
Organist: Marlene Dirksen
Choir Director: Gabriela Martinez
Liturgist: Joel Chermonte
Greeters: Claudia and Paul Taller, Greg Lavelle
Usher: Judi Wagner
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

Fifth Sunday in Lent/UMCOR Sunday March 26, 2023 + 10:30 am

Welcome and Passing of the Peace

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

Celebration of Ministries and Missions

Prelude *O World, I Must Leave Thee* Johannes Brahms

****Call to Worship*** (Ezekiel 37, John 11) Joel Chermonte

L: Coming from places that have seen better days,

P: **God bids us to celebrate this day,
a day full of new possibilities.**

L: Coming with our breath taken away by grief,

P: **the Holy Spirit breathes new life within us,
renewing our connection with God and with one another.**

L: Coming to worship seeking a hope that will endure,

P: **Christ unbinds the fetters that hold us in death, speaking in
word and sacrament, and building community for holy service.**

***Old Testament Reading** Ezekiel 37:1-14

***Unison Prayer** (Psalm 130, John 11)

God of life, present and promised, you are the One to whom we call: for you are the One who hears, and you are the One who acts, bringing us new life with your grace and love and power. Lead us in our time of worship, that we may be prepared to follow your lead in places where life is at risk—places where hope seems far away, places where dreams die during sleep. When we leave these walls, help us live the teachings we proclaim within this place of worship, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Hymn** *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee* UMH 175

Prayers of the People

Prayer Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer of Confession (Ezekiel 37, Psalm 130, John 11)

Forgive us, O God, when we see the world through rose-colored glasses rather than as it really is, much less the way you seek it to be. Forgive us, Holy One, when we forsake lively and risky faith calling us to be agents of change in our world for the bland conviction that all will be well. Renew us with your grace and ground us with your Spirit, that we might be empowered to live, in word and deed, as testimonies to the power of your love over the grave. In Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance (Ezekiel 37, Romans 8)

The God we serve is the God of life, the God of hope, the God of new beginnings—even for dried-up bones and shattered dreams. That rattling of bones in Ezekiel’s vision may be heard as the shackles that once held us down in fear, sin, prejudice, and guilt. God defies these deadly entanglements with the power of life. This we trust, and by this we live. Thanks be to God!

The Lord’s Prayer

Anthem *The Light Will Soon Appear* Williams/Lantz

Invitation for the Offering

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

Offertory *Chorale: If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Me* J.S. Bach

***Doxology** UMH 95

***Prayer for the Offering**

Gospel Reading John 11:1-45

Hymn *Hymn of Promise* UMH 707

Sermon “I Believe” Rev. Hoyte L. Wilhelm

***Hymn** *Lord of the Dance* UMH 261

***Responsive Benediction** (Psalm 130, Romans 8)

L: We are a people loved by God.

P: **We will live as signs of this love.**

L: We are a people blessed with hope.

P: **We will live in light of this hope.**

L: May the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the courage of the Spirit, strengthen our faith and set us loose to share God’s love with all.

P: **Amen and amen!**

Postlude *Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now* Johann Walther
Please be seated for the Postlude.

**Please stand as able*