

Prayer Concerns

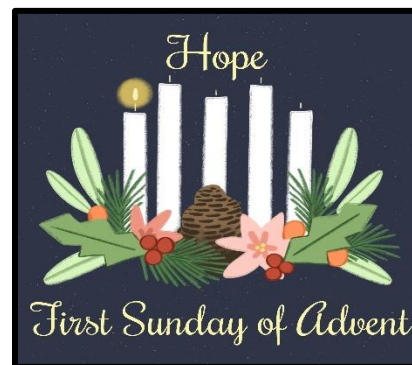
First Responders	Brenda F.'s niece, Michelle
Those affected by gun violence	Bev C., Deb C.'s mother
Those suffering from mental illness, addiction & homelessness	Lois D.
Paul T.'s mother, Alice	John, lifted by Mary B.
Todd and Caroline W., lifted by Barb A.	Keith A.
Donna R., sister of Bob & Carol N.	Judy L.
Dave S., brother-in-law of Jan C.	Carl, friend of Joel & Deb C.
Michael M., nephew of Jan C.	Sarah J.'s brother, Billy
Jan C.	Selene, lifted by Carole A.
Daniel C., lifted by Joel & Deb C.	Joan H.
Joan T.	Janis J.' cousin, Mel
Bill & Marilyn R.	Ray S.
Matt & Debby, lifted by Janis J.	David N., JoAnn's husband
Carolyn B.	Will S.
Jennifer G.	Judy, lifted by Brenda F.
Greg & Liz L.	Susan L.
Mario R., Meals piano player	Randall S.
Pat, CJ C.'s mother	Barbara B.
Cindy, Reba Y.'s sister-in-law	Family of Irina M.
Nate R.	Doris, friend of Sally C.
Bunny, cousin of Liz L.	Tammy M.'s friend, Kate's, father
Vicki and her family, daughter of Rae and Walt S.	Curtis, lifted by Reba Y.
Chris & Ava K., lifted by Jean S.	Joy and Rocky, lifted by Paul & Claudia T.
	Judi W.

This Week's Birthdays and Anniversaries

12/3 Barb Schultz	12/5 Jona Kelly
12/4 Bill Cauley	

Today's Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. Hoyte L. Wilhelm
Liturgist: Ed Brewster
Organist: Javier Gonzalez
Choir Director: Gabriela Martinez
Greeters: John and Char Vas, 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 L. Wilhelm, Pastor

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024 10:30 am

Welcome and Passing of the Peace

L: The grace and peace of our Lord and Savior be with you.

P: And also with you.

Prelude From Heaven Above to Earth I Come Johann Pachelbel

Liturgy for the Advent Wreath and Lighting of Candles

Mike and Tammy Moore

L: From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, “The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah” (Jeremiah 33:14). Beloved, the days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.

P: While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God's grace already at work in our midst.

L: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here—the days when God's kingdom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.

***Call to Worship**

Ed Brewster

L: Children of God, pay attention! The days are coming when God's peace will reign and all creation will flourish under the reign of our Creator.

P: The days are surely coming!

L: Children of God, prepare your hearts! The days are coming and are already here when God will come near and show us how to recognize God's reign among us.

P: The days are surely coming and are already here!

L: Children of God, be alert and listen! God has come near to build the kingdom on the earth here and now. Will you join in?

P: The days are surely coming and are already here! We come to prepare our hearts to pay attention, to listen, and to follow God's call to build the kingdom of earth as it is in heaven.

***Unison Prayer**

God of our Expectation, we praise you for surely-coming days when you will execute Shalom: love, peace, health, and well-being for the people who walked in darkness. We await with assurance the surely-coming days when AIDS is cured, when guns are beaten into tools for rebuilding, when every child has the opportunity to develop God-given gifts, and when every adult sees every child as a gift from God. We desire, O God of our Hope, surely-coming days when no city fears hurricanes, no country fears nuclear bombs, and no tribe fears annihilation by another. We thank you for the surely-coming days when no person fears another because God chose to create all people in the diversity of God's image. We thank you for our hope and for your surely-coming days. Amen.

***Old Testament Reading**

Jeremiah 33:14-16

***Hymn**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs. 1-4) UMH 211

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

Unison Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess that we are busy with many preparations. We are busy with parties, with feasts, with giving. We are busy cleaning house and wrapping presents. We are busy with the stuff of the holiday. And we confess that our busyness may be misplaced, that we spend more time preparing for things than preparing for You. Draw us back to the center, which is You. Remind us that our hearts and souls have work to do, too. Enable us to let go of that which does not matter, and to see what does matter. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Responsive Words of Assurance and Pardon

L: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

P: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

The Lord's Prayer

***Prayer for the Offering/Doxology**

UMH 94

Anthem

"Canticle for Advent"

Lloyd Larson

Gospel Reading

Luke 21:25-36

Hymn

Take Time to Be Holy

UMH 395

Sermon

"Preparations"

Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm

(First in a Sermon Series: "Come, Let Us Adore Him!")

Sacrament of Holy Communion (*singing responses b,c,d*) TFWs 2257

***Hymn**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

UMH 196

***Benediction**

Postlude

English Carol Medley

Mark Hayes

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

(You are invited to be seated for the Postlude before exiting the Sanctuary.)

**Please stand if you are able.*