

## 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.
Condolences to the family of Ron Wagner on his passing	John, lifted by Mary B.
Judi W.	Keith A.
Todd and Caroline W., lifted by Barb A.	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.
Nate Ressel	Janis J.'s cousin, Mel
Paul T.'s mother, Alice	Ray S.
Carolyn B.	David N., JoAnn's husband
Matt & Debby, lifted by Janis J.	Joan T.
Jennifer G.	Donna R., sister of Bob & Carol N.
Greg & Liz L.	Will S.
Mario R., Meals piano player	Judy, lifted by Brenda F.
Pat, CJ C.'s mother	Susan L.
Cindy, Reba Y.'s sister-in-law	Randall S.
Bunny, cousin of Liz L.	Barbara B.
Vicki and her family, daughter of Rae and Walt S.	Doris, friend of Sally C.
Chris & Ava K., lifted by Jean S.	Tammy M.'s friend, Kate's, father
Karen and Tom H., Jeff R.'s sister and brother-in-law	Curtis, lifted by Reba Y.
	Bill & Marilyn R.
	Joy and Rocky, lifted by Paul & Claudia T.

## This Week's Birthdays and Anniversaries

12/10 John Solt	12/13 Ray Plogger
12/11 Barb Schurr	

## Today's Worship Leaders

Pastor: Rev. Hoyte L. Wilhelm  
Liturgist: Joel Chermonte  
Organist: Javier Gonzalez  
Choir Director: Gabriela Martinez  
Greeters: Jean Scothon, Greg Lavelle  
Usher: Sarah Jackson  
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 L. Wilhelm, Pastor

## Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 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

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Mark Hayes

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

### Liturgy for the Advent Wreath and Lighting of Candles

Deb and Joel Chermonte

L: The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God's coming salvation. "For he is like a refiner's fire and like fuller's soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness." (Malachi 3:2b-3).

**P: In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.**

L: We light the candles of hope and peace as signs of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in

our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

**\*Call to Worship**

Joel Chermonte

L: Children of God, prepare the way! The Word of God is coming!

**P: We come to listen and receive God's Word among us.**

L: Children of God, the prophets call to us now and from generations past, urging us to prepare and refine our hearts for the coming of the Word of God. Are you listening?

**P: We come to listen and prepare to receive God's Word among us.**

L: Children of God, this is the mark of our preparation: that passion for God's Word would burn within us, cleansing us and renewing us to reflect God's love throughout the world.

**P: May God ignite our passion for God's Word that has come among us as we listen, prepare, and receive all that God has for us today. Amen.**

**\*Unison Prayer**

Compassionate God, greet us with your grace this day, for we need you. We cannot save ourselves. Though we may be frantic with activity, our efforts do not yield peace, peace as you can give. Today we would be quiet enough to hear your voice. Today we would be still enough to feel your touch. Help us to find that place where we can receive as well as give, wait as well as act, and listen as well as speak. Our whole world needs your peace. Let us come before you and learn your ways, laying down our weapons and feeding the hungry. Come to us now, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

**\*Old Testament Reading** Malachi 3:1-4

**\*Hymn** *Angels from the Realms of Glory* UMH 220

**Prayers of the People**  
**Pastoral Prayer**

**Unison Prayer of Confession**

**God of Grace, you blow the breath of life into our lungs, you have formed us in your image. And yet we acknowledge that sometimes we are not who you would have us be. You challenge us to embrace the refining fire of your love, to meet you on the threshing floor of life, to be washed as with fuller's soap. But in our heart of hearts we would rather keep those things that would be removed in such an encounter. Through your Grace, life-giving God, accept us as we are, unrefined, unwashed, the chaff mixed in with the grain. And help us to move into a new way of being.**

**Responsive Words of Assurance and Pardon**

L: Listen! For this is Good News! God's Grace is wider than our wildest imaginings. God's Grace embraces us as we are and where we are and draws us out to be the people we were created to be.

**P: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**\*Prayer for the Offering/Doxology** UMH 94

**Anthem** *Heaven's Gift of Love* Travis L. Boyd

**Gospel Reading** Luke 3:1-6

**Hymn** *In the Bleak Midwinter* UMH 221

**Sermon** "Passion" Joel Chermonte  
(Second in a Sermon Series: "Come, Let Us Adore Him!")

**\*Hymn** *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* UMH 557

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude** *Ding! Dong! Merrily on High* Mark Hayes  
arr. Douglas E. Wagner

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