

# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## FEBRUARY 25, 2018

**“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS.  
MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY!”**

Live streaming of the Sanctuary Service is available at [uccmedina.org](http://uccmedina.org)

February 25 thru March 4, 2018

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

#### Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT

8:15 am Chapel Worship  
9:00 am Gathering Worship  
9:15 am Choir practice  
10:30 am Traditional Worship  
11:30 am Bicentennial Planning Committee Meeting  
11:45 am Easter Bag Planning Meeting  
2:00 pm JMM @ Medina Meadows Sing-a-long  
3:00 pm Confirmation Class  
7:00 pm JMM @ WRMC

Mon 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study

#### Tues

Wed 10:30 am Quilters  
**6:00 pm Dinner & Lenten Series “Parables”  
@ First Christian Church**  
6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice

#### Thurs

Fri **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**  
Confirmation Retreat at Templd Hills

#### Sat

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship  
9:00 am Gathering Worship  
9:15 am Choir Practice  
10:30 am Traditional Worship  
2:00 pm JMM @ Evergreen  
4:30 pm Elementary Youth Group  
Cook for Cups

### LENTEN DINNER & WORSHIP SERIES

We will continue the tradition of partnering with First Christian and other Medina churches in the ministerial group as we journey together through Lent. **We will share in a light meal at 6:00 p.m. and then worship together.** This year's theme: Parables.

**\*Feb. 28:** First Christian Church  
The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector – Luke 18:9-14

**\*March 7:** Medina UCC, Congregational  
The Parable of the Sower – Matthew 13:1-23

**\*March 14:** Medina UMC

**\*March 21:** Medina Presbyterian Church  
The Parable of the Dishonest Manager

**\*March 29:** Maundy Thursday  
Worship at First Christian Church at 7:00 pm

**Worship Highlights:** 8:15, 9:00 & 10:30 am

Psalm 22:23-31 and Mark 8:31-38

*“Deny Yourself”* - Rev. Luke Lindon

#### **Altar Flowers:**

Altar flowers are donated by Kellie & Crell Johns in celebration of their 14<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

### EASTER BAG PLANNING MEETING

**Sunday, 2/25 at 11:45 am**

You are invited to come to the New Library for the 2018 organization and planning review for the Easter bags distribution, preparation and deliveries. You can come to observe or to get involved! The Easter Bag Project began in 2010 and is an outreach of Christ's love to children whose parents have been incarcerated in the Medina County Jail. For the past 8 years, the project has been organized by “Both Sides of Prison”, a Medina UCC group which looks at all aspects of the criminal justice system and how its processes affect individuals, their families and the community around us. Please call the church office, 330-725-4559, if you have questions.

### BICENTENNIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

The committee will meet this Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am in Rooms 9 & 10.

### EASTER EGG HUNT

**Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>**

**1 pm at First Christian Church**

It's almost time for our annual Easter Egg Hunt at First Christian Church! Come and see the sea of colors as the grounds of First Christian Church are covered with plastic eggs filled with goodies. The egg hunt is for 1 year olds through the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. There are different egg hunts for different age groups. Bring your own baskets to collect all your eggs. Mark this date on the calendar and join the fun!

### EASTER CANDY NEEDED

We need candy to fill our eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt. If you are willing to donate a bag of candy it would be greatly appreciated. There is a box in the Welcoming Area marked “Easter Candy Donations” where you can put your donations. The only requirements are that the **candy must be individually wrapped (no jellybeans), that the candy is able to fit into an egg and NO chocolate candy** that could melt if it gets warm enough the day of the hunt (and we hope it will). **Donations are needed by Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>.** Thank you for your help.

## RECIPES NEEDED

Will you share a favorite family recipe? Soup, salad, main course or dessert recipes are needed for the next Healthy Cooking Dinner in April. If you have one or more favorite healthy recipes that can be easily prepared and served to a group and are willing to share with others, please email them to Syd Benson at [sydandpete.benson@gmail.com](mailto:sydandpete.benson@gmail.com) or leave them in the office marked "HCD". Recipes will be duplicated and shared with the congregation at the HCD table in late March and early April and served at our April Healthy Cooking Dinner. If we receive more recipes than we can use in April, we will use your donated recipes for future Healthy Cooking Dinners.

## Upcoming Youth Events:

- \*Feb. 25 – Confirmation Class 3:00-4:30 (Parents Attend)
- \*March 2-4 – Confirmation Retreat at Temples Hills
- \*March 4 – Youth Group 4:30-6:00
- \*March 9-10 – Middle School Mission Trip-Nehemiah
- \*March 9-10 – Elementary Youth Group Lock In
- \*March 11 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Class – 9:15-10:15 am
- \*March 11 – Confirmation Class – 3:00-4:30
- \*March 18 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Class- 9:15-10:15 am
- \*March 18 – Youth Group 4:30-6:00
- \*March 25 – Palm Sunday Parade @ 10:30 am
- \*March 31 – Easter Egg Hunt @ First Christian–1:00pm
- \*April 1 - NO FISH & NO YOUTH GROUP

## LENTEN SOUP DINNER

### Soup Makers Needed for the Lenten Soup Dinner March 7<sup>th</sup>

We will again be hosting one of the Lenten dinners on March 7<sup>th</sup> prior to the Lenten Worship. Dinner begins at 6:00 pm. We are in need of volunteers to make soup. There is a sign-up sheet on the table by the kitchen.

## WOMEN'S LENTEN LUNCHEON

The Annual Lenten Luncheon will be held on Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Please come and join us for this special event and bring a dish to share. We will have Rev. Luke Lindon as our speaker and he will extend communion. Please sign-up in the East Room or near the kitchen so we can plan on seating.

## SAVE THE DATE

**LADIES & GIRLS TEA**  
**April 28, 2018 from 12-2 pm**  
**INFORMATION TO FOLLOW**

## EASTER LILIES

It's time to order your Easter Lily! If you would like to place a lily on the altar in honor or memory of someone, please fill out a yellow order form found in your bulletin and return it to the church office **no later than March 19<sup>th</sup>**.

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

**One Great Hour of Sharing** is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and development activities.

Our gifts become part of a loving legacy in ways we can't foresee. Our gifts become blessings to people we don't know and blesses in ways we can't expect. We can make a difference beyond what we can imagine.

**On March 11, 2018, give with thanks and with joy.**

## Lenten Schedule

### LENTEN DINNER AND WORSHIP SERIES

Wednesdays during Lent  
FEBRUARY 28, MARCH 7, 14 & 21  
Dinner at 6:00 pm—Worship @ 7:00 pm

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP LENTEN LUNCHEON

MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup> — 12:00 pm

### PALM SUNDAY PARADE OF THE PALMS

MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup>  
10:30 worship service

### MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

MARCH 29 - 7:00 pm  
At First Christian Church  
4797 Sharon-Copley Rd.

### GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

MARCH 30 - 7:00 pm  
UCC, Congregational

### THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED AT NOON MARCH 30<sup>TH</sup>

### EASTER EGG HUNT

MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup> – 1:00 PM  
First Christian Church  
4797 Sharon-Copley Rd.

## APRIL 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018

## EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES

**7:00 am**—Sunrise service @ Spring Grove Chapel  
**8:15 am**—Worship in the Chapel at UCC  
**9:00 am**—Gathering Worship in Fellowship Hall  
**10:30 am**—Easter Celebration in the Sanctuary

## GOSPEL GALLEY by Vicki Marty

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The grief of these past 11 days has been immense. When will the pain of school shootings ever go away? We can shout, protest, pray, write letters, discuss and even be silent, but the pain continues. In these times of pain, some turn to God in need of comfort; others turn to God in anger. "Where was God?" is a question many will ask.

Dan was the Choir Director of a church in the late 1980's when we heard a sermon about the heartache of grief. It was preached by Rev. Don Baird, the father of Rev. Josh Baird. Rev. Baird had the difficult job of preaching to a congregation that had, within a week, suffered the deaths of three congregants, including a child. The sentence that has stuck with me since I heard that sermon thirty years ago is this:

"When we are asking the question 'Where was God?' we need to remember that God was right there all along and that he understands our grief better than anyone because his heart was the first one to break."

God knew that his son, Jesus, was going to die. God's heart broke that day. God's heart breaks everyday that our heart breaks. He was, is and will always be with us in our grief. Praise God for allowing us to be angry and for giving us comfort in our time of grief.



## Bicentennial Tidbits

Elijah Boardman was a wealthy merchant living in New Milford, Connecticut. As an investor in the Connecticut Land Company, he received by the drawing of lots two of the townships of the Connecticut Western Reserve, one of which was Medina. He served in the Connecticut House of Representatives and later in the Senate of the United States. Although we believe he never actually visited Medina, his heirs settled in Boardman, Ohio.

This plaque is "hidden in plain sight" about 200 feet from where you are sitting right now. Do you know where it is?

