

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

APRIL 29, 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

April 29, 2018 thru May 6, 2018

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun No Youth Group

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 Meeting
1:15 pm JMM @ Brookdale North
6:00 pm Confirmation Rehearsal
& Dinner

Mon ANNUAL REPORTS DUE TODAY

(for May 20th all church meeting)

6:30 pm Women's Bible Study

Tues

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice
7:30 pm Worship Team

Thu 7:00 pm National Day of Prayer
Service - Sanctuary

Fri

Sat

Sun CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir Practice
10:30 am Traditional Worship
& Confirmation
11:30 am Easter Bag Project Review
2:00 pm JMM @ Evergreen
4:30 pm Youth Group

CONSIDER JOINING THE BICENTENNIAL TEAM

Medina UCC's Bicentennial Planning Group has entered a new chapter in its work, and now begins its first round of volunteer recruitment. Many proposals scored high in the Founders' Day vote, but their success will depend on the effort of volunteer help. In the Fellowship Hall look for a table display featuring several of the project proposals. If any of these proposals spark your interest, please add your name to that proposal's volunteer list, and the Planning Group will thank you for your willingness to participate.

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

Romans 5:18-21 John 21:15-18

"Bound/less" - Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: There are still some Sundays available to sponsor the flowers. Please sign up on the poster in the East Room Hallway.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Sunday, May 6th

Please plan to join us next Sunday, May 6th as eight very special young people will be affirming their baptism by being confirmed. We are very excited for them as they take this step in their faith journey and become active members in our church.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

THERE WILL ONLY BE ONE SERVICE OF
WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM ON MAY 20th

ANNUAL REPORT TIME!

Teams, Committees and Leadership of the church are being asked to write up their **Annual Reports** to be presented at the **May 20th Annual Meeting immediately following ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP at 10:00 am.** The due date for your report is **TOMORROW... MONDAY, APRIL 30TH.**

Please email or drop off your reports to me in the church office. Please try to limit your reports to one page for the purpose of space limitations.

I appreciate all your efforts in **getting these to me on time.** Please email to: office@uccmedina.org or uccoffice@zoominternet.net.

Upcoming Youth Events:

*April 29 – Confirmation Dinner & Rehearsal 6 pm
*May 6- Confirmation
*May 20 – Youth Group Year End Picnic 4:30 pm
at the Lisco's home.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Would you like to become a member of our church family? Join us for our next new member class! The next classes will be held:

Monday, May 7th & Monday, May 14th.

Class will be held from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm in the new Library. New members **will join the church on Sunday, May 20th**. Childcare is provided if needed. Please contact the Church Office at 330-725-4559 if you are interested and let us know if you will be in need of childcare.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

It's hard to believe, but it is time to start thinking about Vacation Bible School. This year VBS will be June 4th-8th. Our theme this year is "River Rampage" and it will be tons of fun! As always, many hands make light work. We are in need of people to help make sure it is a success. If you are interested in helping out with VBS, please see Stacie Yates.

ENDOWMENT FUND QUILT RAFFLE

The Endowment Fund is sponsoring a Quilt Raffle to support the growth of the Endowment Fund for the future of our church. Tickets are \$1.00 each. The drawing will be held on May 20th, and the winner need not be present to win. This beautiful quilt, a floral cross stitch, is available for viewing in the East Room. It was quilted by our own Quilters Group that meets each Wednesday. Tickets are available every Sunday and also in the Church office.

SAVE THE DATE!

The 5th Annual Bicentennial Golf Fund Raiser will be held on **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2018**. Registration will be at noon and Golfers Tee Off at 1:00 pm. Bunker's Grille will serve a delicious steak dinner at 6:30 pm. Details will follow. Please mark your calendars and plan on participating in this fun Bicentennial Event. Blessings, Arnold and Cheri Ingraham

CIRCLE OF CARING MEMBERS

If you were unable to attend the April 12th meeting, please pick up an updated copy of the Circle of Caring and Membership list on the information rack just beyond the cross wall display. Please call the office (330-725-4559) with any changes or corrections. Be sure to take copies of Luke's sermons when you make visits. The pink papers with directions for watching our church services on line may be helpful and are on the rack also.

SUPER SUMMER FOODS

On May 18th at 6:30 pm, Medina County Gazette food columnist, Phyllis Molnar, will again speak to our Healthy Cooking Dinner. Phyllis has selected the theme and recipes that feature all the wonderful foods of summer. Sign-up and recipe selection will be available in the East Room on April 29th, May 6th and May 13th. All are invited. Choose one recipe you'd like to cook. Bring it to the dinner and enjoy the feast plus Molnar's lively and wise talk. What a fun way to pick up some grand ideas for your whole summer's dining!

DONATIONS

For the Nehemiah Mission Center Spring Cleaning. We need some items that you may be parting with!!

- Drapes and Sheets (ALL SIZES)
- Towels and washcloths
- Toys and games (with all parts)
- Books
- Clothing: babies through teen
- Clothing: female juniors, women's, plus, and MATERNITY!!
- Clothing: men's casual and dress clothes (all sizes)
- Underwear (all sizes male and female)
- Socks (all sizes)
- Long socks for men

Collection dates are April 29th through May 20th.

Donations can be put in room 9/10 (downstairs). There will be paper marked "Nehemiah Donation" with a roll of tape. Please tape a paper to your donation!

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Please join us as we host the National Day of Prayer Worship Service on Thursday, May 3rd at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. The Harmony Bell Ringers will be joining us for worship with their beautiful music! This is a great opportunity to worship with our Medina neighbors in an ecumenical setting.

Can't make it? There will also be "Prayer on the Square" from noon-1:00 pm at the Gazebo. The rain site for that is St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church.

MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL OFFERING

The **Friends in Need Fund** was established by the Mission Leadership Team in 2003 to provide financial assistance to Medina UCC members with basic living expenses. Please give generously to help our church family members.

On Mother's Day, we usually have asked for donations to the Amanda Fund. However, due to the generosity of so many, the Amanda Fund is well funded at this time. The Mission Leadership Team has found that the Friends in Need Fund is in need of additional support, so we are seeking your donations for the Friends in Need Fund this Mother's Day. The Amanda Fund continues to be available to provide assistance with medical bills and other related costs that arise due to pressure put on families during hospitalizations of their children. Please pass this information along to your friends and family, or make your need known by sending a written request to Mission Leadership Team – Amanda Fund, 217 E. Liberty Street, Medina 44256.

REVIEW OF EASTER BAG PROJECT – MAY 6, 11:45 AM

Every year "Both Sides of Prison" group reviews the past project of Easter Bags for Children of Incarcerated Parents. We look at what went right and what might be improved for the next year.

Everyone who has an interest in this project is invited to join the meeting in Room 9/10 on Sunday May 6th at 11:45 am. Comments and points of improvement can also be left in the church office before Friday, May 4.

MARCH FINANCIAL REPORT:

	MARCH	YTD	Annual Budget	YTD as a % of Budget
Income:	\$24,256	\$77,404	\$343,085	22.6%
Expense:	\$26,524	\$83,042	\$356,589	23.3%
Net Income (Loss)	(\$2,268)	(\$5,638)	(\$13,504)	

- Total Sunday School Offerings thru March 31st are \$12.00
- One Great Hour of Sharing special offering \$938.00.
- 2015 Year-end legislation finally made permanent qualified distributions from individual retirement accounts. Only individuals who've attained age 70½ are eligible and transfers must come directly from the IRA.
- Automatic Withdrawal Options are available for your weekly, monthly or even quarterly contributions; contact Kelly for form to complete.
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GOSPEL GALLEY

by Mark Armstrong

"This, then is how you should pray, 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. May your kingdom come. May your will be done...'"

On Palm Sunday, we remembered a happy crowd cheering their king, who knew he was coming to drink a very bitter cup and establish a very different kingdom. That week, Jesus would tell Pilate, "My kingdom is not of this world." That week, Jesus himself would pray the prayer of ultimate surrender – "Not my will, but yours be done" before he became the first to rise from the dead, never to die again.

And that week, the kingdom would start to spread. As Jesus said, "Except a kernel of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abides alone; but if it dies, it brings forth much fruit."

Jesus knew he was going to the cross, and he called us all to follow him there – not to merely observe, but to be crucified with him. What does that mean?

I once thought the end, or the final goal, of the Christian life was complete surrender to God and his purposes. Now I realize that complete surrender to God is not the end of the Christian life. It is the beginning.

As the hymn goes, "Ours the cross, the grave, the skies... Alleluia!"

May His will be done.



Bicentennial Tidbits

... A drop in Church Membership...

In 1833, twenty-two members were "dismissed" to form a new Congregational Church in York. A cow was also contributed. Cash money hardly existed on the frontier.

Similar dismissals occurred to start new Congregational Churches in Lafayette and Weymouth.

The deadline for submission of articles for NEXT Sunday's *Messenger* is this Sunday at 11:30 am.

*****CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm MONDAY THRU FRIDAY*****