

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

OCTOBER 15, 2017

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

October 15, thru October 22, 2017

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	9:15 am	Choir Practice
	10:30 am	Traditional Worship
	11:45 am	Mission Team
	2:00 pm	JMM @ Medina Meadows
	4:30 pm	Youth Group
Mon	10:00 am	GIFT CARD ORDERS DUE
	1:00 pm	Breadmakers
	6:30 pm	Women's Bible Study
Tues		
Wed	10:30 am	Quilters
	6:30 pm	Bell Choir Practice
	7:00 pm	Discipleship & Education Team
Thurs	6:30 pm	BASIC: Bible Educational Study Series
Fri		
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 @ Medina Meadows Sing-a-long
	3:00 pm	Confirmation Class
	5:30 pm	ALL CHURCH HAYRIDE
	7:00 pm	JMM @ WRMC

Upcoming Youth Events:

- *October 15 – Youth Group 4:30-6:00
- *October 22 - All Church Hayride at Boyert's 5:30-9:00 pm
- *October 29 – Possible Rake-n-Run (Depending on leaves)
- *November 5 – Youth Group 4:30 – 6:00 pm

GREETERS NEEDED

A warm smile, friendly greeting and a handshake are all you need to be a greeter on Sunday mornings. Families, individuals, or youth of our church can participate in this outreach. It only takes a half hour of your time and means so much to people entering the church for worship. Please sign up to greet before the 10:30 service on the sheet in the East Room.

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

Scripture - Matthew 22:1-14

Sermon: “*Calvin*” - Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are given by Don & Marilyn Canfield in honor of their wedding anniversary.

BASIC: EDUCATIONAL SERIES

It's part potluck, community improv, theater, and Bible study! This is an all church event... All are welcome! **Just bring a dish to share for dinner.**

Remaining series dates are Thursdays:
10/19, and 11/2.

6:30-7 p.m. will be a potluck dinner
7-8 p.m. will be the Bible study

Childcare will be available. For more information, check www.uccmedina.org/basic

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Want a rewarding experience? The Community Service Center on Broadway is looking for volunteers to assist in their outreach program to the community providing food and clothing. Contact Michelle at 330-725-4690 on Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday 10-3 for opportunities.

CANDY BAR DONATIONS DUE TOMORROW!

The Evangelism Team is collecting fun size candy bars. We will pass out the candy bars during “Falloween” on the Square. Falloween is Trick-or-Treating at all the participating locations on and directly around the square for the little ones!

Last year, we ran out way too early and missed passing out our treats (with the church name on it), for half the evening. This is why we need your help! There will be a pumpkin basket set up in the hallway near the kitchen for candy donations. The cutoff date for this is October 16th. *Falloween* is on October 21st.

CHANGE JAR = STAPLES

Take one of our “Holiday Coin Jars” and set it on your kitchen table and offer change each day to remind you of the senior citizens among us. Jars will be collected on Sunday, November 19th. Kindly place your name in the coin jar if you wish your donation to be recorded with your usual church statement. These funds will specifically provide holiday season meats for the 450 Medina County Seniors receiving FMC supplemental foods.

HEALTHY COOKING DINNER

"Healthy Restaurant Dining" is the theme of our next Healthy Cooking Dinner. All are invited to attend on November 3rd at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Gary Quesada, owner of Main Street Café, is our speaker. Gary will tell us about his pursuit of healthy eating; for himself, his restaurant menu and his own adventures eating out. For our dinner, we'll each cook one recipe and then also enjoy more that others prepare. Recipes and sign up will be offered in the East Room on October 15th, 22nd, and 29th. Come join us!



CROSSROADS UPDATE

We will begin to assemble our crossroads wall as soon as we collect a few more crosses. Mr. Carl Jessie has agreed to create our wooden signage which will be made from a piece of one of our original organ pipes.

Perhaps once you visually see what we are trying to accomplish, you will be able to obtain a suitable piece to add to our collage. If you are unable to locate a special cross, you may contribute funds that would be earmarked "UCC Crossroads" and the committee will search the antique shops or commission artisans to create a piece for the wall.

We need a large variety of crosses; big or small, wooden, ceramic, clay, wire, jeweled, lace, tapestry, woven, floral, carved, mosaic, metal, painted, quilted, beaded, shells, origami, or whatever else you can think of. We have a very large space to fill.

Thank you to those who have contributed, to those who have a work in progress, and to those who have let it slip their minds over the summer but still have a good idea of what they intend to do. Faithfully and respectfully, Jan Coleman

VISIT FROM OUR COSTA RICA FRIENDS

Manuel Zamora and his wife Ana will be visiting us in Medina during the next couple of weeks. Manuel is part of the Mercy Homes Ministries team that we work with when we do our mission building in Costa Rica. We are very excited to be able to share our church, our city and our country with them. We will be having an **Open House** on **Sunday** afternoon, **October 15, 2:00-5:00 p.m.** at the home of the Daugherty's, 4120 Fox Meadow Drive, Medina. All are invited to come learn a little more about our mission trip to Costa Rica and to welcome Manuel and Ana.

GIFT CARDS

Believe it or not... the holidays will soon be upon us! **Plan ahead now** for holiday grocery shopping and gift giving! Place your Gift Card order soon. Please see the Yellow Retailer List on the table near Fellowship Hall or visit www.glscrip.com and click on the Retailer List on the left side to view or print your own list. Complete a Green Order Form, also available on the table near Fellowship Hall and return to Kelly or Stacie with payment.

Due date is, Monday, October 16th by 10 am
The next order will be on Monday, November 13th.

SIGN UP NOW!!!

HAYRIDE AND FALL FUN AT BOYERT'S Sunday, October 22nd

One of the most anticipated events of the year is just around the corner. The annual fall hayride is on Sunday, October 22nd, at Boyert's from 5:30-9pm. The cost for the evening is \$10 for 7 year olds and up and \$6 for 6 year olds and under. This includes a dinner (hot dogs, chips, apples and apple cider), hayride, pumpkin, s'mores and lots of other great fall fun. You need to sign up for this event and pay in advance. There is a signup sheet outside of Fellowship Hall. Make checks payable to Medina UCC and put *hayride* in the memo. You can give your money to Stacie Yates or place it in her mailbox in the church office. We had a great time last year and are looking forward to another great year. Sign up now!!

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS S.O.S. – Mayday – Help!!

We need volunteers for Coffee Hour after the 10:30 Service for the rest of October, November and December! Please sign up in the East Room. Coffee hour responsibilities are very minimal. The Gathering has the coffee prepared. All that is asked is to present juice, donut holes, mini-cupcakes, cookies, etc. and perhaps some fruit, like grapes. Some volunteers cut up cheese to serve with crackers. You can do a simple assortment or mix of any of these. We are not serving meals – just a light snack to enjoy as you chat with friends. Any questions, please phone Becky Weber at 330-725-8545. Thank you...

CIRCLE OF CARING MEMBERS

If you were unable to attend the October 4th meeting, please pick up a copy of the updated Circle of Caring Visitation and Membership list on the table in the East Room. There have been many changes since May. Please call the office (330-725-4559) or Syd Benson (330-725-5540) with any additions or corrections.

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

There is now a sign up sheet in the choir room for all children who are trained to be acolytes. Please sign your child up for times that he or she would like to acolyte. Thank you!

COMMUNITY HUNGER OUTREACH

On October 4, 2017 the Akron Beacon Journal printed a chart showing the percent of people in Ohio who are struggling to make ends meet. This was based on information provided by the United Way.

Medina County, with a population of 66,769 total households, had 28% of households below poverty or were struggling. Medina City, with 10,090 households, had 11% below the poverty level and 31% below the ALICE threshold.

ALICE stands for "Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed." ALICE households are the working poor.

While Medina County had one of the lowest overall percentages of households in the state living in poverty or struggling at 28%, it still means that there are people who need our help.

The donations of time, money and food stuffs from the UCC allow our church to help our neighbors who are in need.

GOSPEL GALLEY...

by Dave Weber

When Bad Things Happen to Good People.....

In the late 1980's, Rabbi Harold Kushner penned the title above. Today, it seems appropriate to consider why God permits terrible things.

Rabbi Kushner's three year old son had been diagnosed with a degenerative disease that meant he would only live into his early teens. He was confronted by that most difficult of life's questions, "Why, God?"

His short series of essay-like chapters plumb the depths of what it means to be truly alive in God's realm. We are introduced to many families who have been confronted by horrific tragedy and Kushner reminds us of the story of Job.

Likewise in the early 2000's television series, "Joan of Arcadia", we journey with a teenage girl who is confronted by a series of challenging life circumstances. God appears to Joan and reminds her that she promised to do anything he wanted if he would let her brother survive a car crash that left him a paraplegic. God appears in the form of various people including small children, teenage boys, elderly ladies, transients, or passersby. Joan is asked by God to perform tasks that often appear to be trivial or contrary, but always end up positively improving a larger situation. In one particularly moving episode, Joan's friend is on the brink of death in the hospital when God, appearing as a doctor, stands by her bedside holding the dying girl's hand. Joan is outraged that God did not save her friend.

Over the last several years, our congregation has walked through many '...valleys of the shadow of death...', traumas and moments of despair. It is true as I write this meditation, several of our beloved face uncertain life challenges. So what are the questions for us? Can we like Job find our way out of the painful fog of life's tragedies? Where does this lead us? What do we do next?

The facts of life and death are neutral nature, in some ways, happenstance. God inspires people to act, to become, to love, to console, to create. God seeks self-discipline as being a part of the human family and our families. God gives us sight and insight, strength and perseverance.

Praise God for having created a world that is basically good and a life worth living. This isn't about death. It is about living.

LOOKING FOR ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS & MORE!?

How can people sitting around a table change the world?

What's Pastor Luke's preaching method?

How practical is keeping the Sabbath?

These topics and more covered in Pastor Luke's blog:

<http://www.uccmedina.org/category/pastor-blog/>

Check us out on social media!

Facebook: facebook.com/uccmedina

Instagram and Twitter: @MedinaU3C

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

Submit articles to: office@uccmedina.org Or: messenger@uccmedina.org

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