

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 12, 2017

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

November 12 thru November 19, 2017

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir Practice
10:30 am Traditional Worship
10:30 am JMM @ Brookdale South
11:45 am **Caring Team**
12:00 pm **Youth Spaghetti Lunch
Fundraiser**
1:00 pm JMM @ Elmcroft

Mon

Tues 8:00 am Men's Fellowship @ PJ Marley's
9:00 am Women's Breakfast @ Eat-n-Park
7:00 pm Women's Book Group

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice
7:00 pm **Discipleship & Education Team**

Thurs 7:00 pm **“Minimize the Mountain”
with Rob Snow**

Fri

Sat 9:00 am Choir rehearsal
4:00 pm Candlelight Walk Bake Sale

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir Practice
10:30 am Traditional Worship
11:30 am Christmas Pageant Practice
11:45 am **Mission Team**
4:30 pm **Youth Group Thanksgiving
Potluck Dinner**

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

Scripture - Matthew 25:1-13

Sermon: “Give” – Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are given by Dennis & Allayne Reese in celebration of their 54th Anniversary.

Upcoming Youth Events:

*November 12 – Spaghetti Lunch Fundraiser after Church

*November 19 – Christmas Pageant Practice
11:30 am

*November 19 – Youth Group 4:30-6:00 pm

*November 26 – Christmas Pageant Practice
11:30 am

*December 3 – Christmas Pageant Practice
11:30 am

*December 3 – Advent Family Fun Night 4:30 pm

SPAGHETTI LUNCH FUNDRAISER

Sunday, November 12th

If you like to eat and would like to support our youth groups at the same time we have just the event for you. **Today, immediately following the 10:30 service**, the youth will be hosting a spaghetti lunch to help them raise funds for future mission trips. We will be taking a free will offering and there will be spaghetti, salad, bread and a dessert. Thank you so much for your support and we hope to see you for lunch!

CE CANDLELIGHT WALK BAKE SALE

Calling all bakers! The CE board will once again be hosting a bake sale on Saturday, November 18th from 5-8 pm. Funds collected will be used for supplies and equipment for Christian Education and Youth programming. If you would like to donate a yummy baked good for the bake sale, please fill out a bake sale donation slip (found on the table in the hallway by the kitchen) and turn it into the church office or the offering plate. Thank you so much for your support.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The 2018 Flower Chart is now hanging on the bulletin board in the East Room hallway. Please sign up to sponsor the Altar Flowers. This is a wonderful way to honor or remember someone, or to celebrate a special occasion.

Please fill in your name and write “church” or “self” to let us know if you would like the church to order the flowers for you or if you will be ordering them yourself. The cost of the flowers ordered through the church office is \$22.50.

ADVENT FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Sunday, December 3rd at 4:30 pm

Does good food, fellowship, Christmas music and fun sound good to you? Then you will want to be sure to come to Advent Family Fun Night on Sunday, December 4th at 4:30. The evening will consist of crafts and activities to help kick off the season of Advent. We will also enjoy a pizza dinner together. The cost of the dinner will be \$3 per person. Help us kick off the season of Advent and get into the holiday spirit. If you would like to attend, please sign up outside of Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you there!

ADVENT READERS NEEDED...

Would you like to help out in worship during advent? We are looking for families or individuals to light the Advent candles and do a short reading.

We need volunteers for all 3 services of worship for 12/3, 12/10, 12/17 and only **1 family or individual for a single service on December 24th at 10:00 am**. Please see the signup sheets in the East Room, Fellowship Hall or near the chapel.

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.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

November 26th at 12:30 pm

Please come and help decorate the church for the Advent season.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS GATHERING

Thursday, December 14th from 12:30 – 2:00pm

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the Christmas Gathering. We will meet in the East Room for light refreshments and fellowship. At 1:30 pm, we will be entertained by our own Hobby Horse Preschool students in Fellowship Hall.

There will be sign-up sheets outside Fellowship hall. Let's hope the weather is good and many of you will be able to attend. If you have questions, please contact Beth Hari (330-725-3630) or Becky Weber (330-725-8545).

Also, please write what you would like printed in the Messenger and if you want to claim your flowers after the 10:30 service.

POINSETTIA ORDERS

It's time to order your beautiful poinsettia again! You may donate a poinsettia to decorate the Sanctuary, East Room and Fellowship Hall for Christmas services and claim it afterward, or, you may donate a poinsettia to be delivered by the Flower Committee to a shut-in to be enjoyed before the holiday. The cost is \$8.50. **Deadline for ordering is December 4th**.

Please fill out a green poinsettia order sheet (found in your bulletin) and turn it in to the offering plate or the church office.

GIFT CARDS

Support our youth and buy gift cards for all your special occasions! The possibilities are endless: groceries, gasoline, video rentals, home repairs, clothing and gift items are a few of the ways the shopping you normally do can help our youth. Remember, Christmas is just around the corner! **The next order date is Monday, November 20th by 10:00 am**. Cards will be in by Wednesday the 22nd for your Black Friday shopping. **The last order date before Christmas will be Monday, December 11th by 10:00 am**.

COOKING FOR CUPS

The Hunger Team provides a warm cooked lunch at Cups Café for the 60-80 guests the first Monday each month. We are **looking for additional cooks** for this mission. It is a wonderful opportunity to provide a meal to those less fortunate in our community...and add a new recipe to your collection! If cooking will not fit into your schedule, we also provide Cups with fruit (apples, oranges & bananas). A sign-up sheet can be found on a table near the kitchen or contact Linda Turek, Becky Weber, Beth Hari or Lynn Leckie for more details. **Thanks to all** who have participated in this community mission either in our monthly warm lunch or with your individual donations.

FALL MONEY JARS

This is the third year UCC has distributed money jars to collect money for the 450 seniors that Feeding Medina County provides monthly staples, fresh vegetables, fruit and meat. According to Laura Toth, Director of the Medina Office of Older Adults, reduction of funding is impacting the OOA's ability to provide meals for the growing population of senior citizens in Medina County. The money jar collection will be used to provide holiday meats for the seniors served by FMC. Money jars will be collected on November 19th.

LIBRARY SHOP AND DROP

The Hunger Mission Team is reaching out to children in our community who need a snack at the library after school. There is financial support for this mission. All we need you to do is shop for snacks and drop them at the Medina Library. If you would like more information or would like to sign up to help, please contact Maureen Walker at Rini72@zoominternet.net.

ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund Committee is pleased to announce that the Endowment Fund will soon be able to award allocations for funding for various church projects that qualify. This distribution of funds for a worthy cause will be the second issue of dollars from the Fund and we are excited! There is a simple guideline of how an activity/project/item qualifies for a funding grant. If you are interested in applying for a grant, please contact the church office for the Endowment Grant Application and Information packet. Further questions, please contact Jane Langol at 330-725-5311.

SERMON COPIES

Transcripts of the sermon will be available Sunday mornings in the East Room for those who are hard of hearing. Please only take one to follow along during the services. Sermons will continue to be available Monday morning for general distribution.

AN EVENING WITH ROB SNOW

Hobby Horse Preschool is pleased to host nationally recognized professional speaker, Rob Snow, who will present "Minimize the Mountain," a humorous, powerful and motivational show about managing through life's biggest challenges.

Rob will speak in our Sanctuary on Thursday, November 16th at 7:00 pm.

He combines his background in comedy and his process for managing through his own challenges in life, including raising a child with special needs, to provide a very funny, very moving, and very inspiring show for all audiences.

This event is free and open to the public; no RSVP required. Donations will be accepted at the door and will go to **Stand Up For Downs**, a charity started by Rob and his wife, Ellen, which raises money for many of the amazing organizations working with the Downs Syndrome community.

His book, "What I Should Have Said," will also be available for purchase after the show, and Rob will be available to sign copies. Please join us!

WELCOME AREA CHRISTMAS TREE

Once again, our welcome area will be graced by a 10' pre-lit Christmas tree. Like last year, we will trim it with simple ribbon and angel ornaments contributed by the families in our congregation. If you would like to contribute an angel, they can be handmade, a family heirloom, or thoughtfully selected from a store. There will be a collection box in the library where you can place your ornament and a list to write your name, description, and if the ornament is in honor or memory of a loved one. Angels will be added to the tree prior to each Advent Sunday. We will carefully store these angels as we take down the Christmas decorations until next year.

FAITH OFFERING CARD

By now, all of you have received a colorful Stewardship Brochure that outlines the ministry of our church on the Square. Attached to the brochure is a *Faith Offering Card* where each of you can commit a portion of your abundance to the work and mission of the church.

Today, we invite you to prayerfully complete the card. Make this a gift of increase from your abundance. With Christian discernment, you will know what amount of your wealth you can return to Our Lord for the work of His church. Your gift will allow us to plan exciting and meaningful ways to better serve others in ministry. We will be able to be a vibrant church – welcoming, loving and serving.

If you need to clarify what you have given in the past, please contact Kelly Charnley, Financial Secretary, at 330-725-4559. We want you to share your faith giving card during the three worship services today, November 12th. Be a part of the *Journey to Generosity*. Be a part of a giving Church.

OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT:

| | October | YTD | Annual Budget | YTD as a % of Budget |
|---------------------------|----------|-----------|---------------|----------------------|
| Income: | \$31,701 | \$280,367 | \$338,829 | 82.7% |
| Expense: | \$27,534 | \$270,453 | \$348,387 | 77.6% |
| Net Income (Loss): | \$4,167 | \$9,914 | (\$9,558) | |

- Total Sunday School Offerings thru October 31st are \$392.00
- Automatic Withdrawal Options are available for your weekly, monthly or even quarterly contributions, contact Kelly for a form to complete.
- Please return your 2018 Faith Offering card as soon as possible so that the church can properly budget for 2018.

LITTLE THINGS MEAN A LOT ...THANK YOU CARDS

For Thanksgiving this year, your help is needed to provide personalized thanks to individual staff and officers of the Medina Police Department. Thank you cards and suggested short messages can be found on tables outside of services today.

Please take one or two cards, write a short message here or at home then return by the 19th. Pastor Luke will bless them on that Sunday and deliver them to the Police Department prior to Thanksgiving, 11/23.

Medina's police and staff members work long hours in a highly-regulated and reviewed profession. From office staff to dispatchers and officers of all ranks, each one contributes to our community's safe and welcoming character. How often do they hear a simple "Thank you" from the people they serve and protect?

This is a project from "Both Sides of Prison." For more information, contact the church office or Jeannine Murray at 330-241-5629 or jmw597b@yahoo.com.

As an avid genealogist, I have spent the better part of my adult life chasing my family roots. Long before there were computer programs I would spend hours in research libraries plowing through old records. It is my passion (or obsession depending on who you ask). I do it because I'm also a history buff and I love being connected to the past, learning how my ancestors fit into today's history. I am blessed to have almost all my ancestors arriving during the "Great Migration". I have two sets of 9x's Grandparents that arrived as Pilgrims on the Mayflower and dozens of other 8/9x's Grandparents that were Puritans arriving in the 20 years that followed.

This Sunday is the 397th anniversary of the signing of the Mayflower Compact and in a few weeks, we will also be celebrating Thanksgiving. This time of year, I am always mindful of the courage and sacrifice the early Pilgrims and Puritans made. Not unlike the Protestant Reformation, their intent was to "purify" the Church of England. They came to "New England" with a desire to worship in a way they could not in "Old England". Our collective "Church Ancestors" gave us the concept of Congregationalism, the early idea that each Congregation determines its own affairs without having to submit to a higher human authority. The ideas written in the Mayflower Compact, and the influence of the early Congregationalists, helped to determine the character of our nation. As I sit in church on Sundays, especially this Sunday, I am proud of my "Church Ancestors" and the impact they have had on who we are as a country.

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*****