

# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## NOVEMBER 19, 2017

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

November 19 thru November 26, 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  
10:30 am Christmas Pageant Practice  
10:30 am JMM @ Brookdale South  
11:45 am **Mission Team**  
4:30 pm **Youth Group Thanksgiving  
Dinner Potluck**

**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

**Thurs** **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

**Fri** **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

**Sat**

**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  
12:30 am **DECORATE THE CHURCH**  
2:00 pm JMM @ Med. Meadows  
Sing-a-long  
7:00 pm JMM @ WRMC

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

Scripture - Matthew 25:14-30

Sermon: “THANKS” – Rev. Luke Lindon

**Altar Flowers:** The altar flowers are given by Ken and Karen in celebration of their Anniversary.

### NOISY COIN OFFERING TODAY!

Our Holiday Jars are due this Sunday, November 19, 2017. To make sure all in our church have the opportunity to participate, we'll also take a noisy offering. 100% of the proceeds will go toward feeding Medina County seniors.

### ADVENT FAMILY FUN NIGHT

**Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 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 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:00. 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!

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED AT 9:45 a.m.  
ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>**

**FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
A STAFF RETREAT / PLANNING DAY**

**WE WILL RE-OPEN AS USUAL,  
ON FRIDAY DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> AT 9:00 a.m.**

### 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 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.** Please see the signup sheets in the East Room, Fellowship Hall or near the chapel.

### 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.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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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

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**November 26<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm**

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

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS GATHERING

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**Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> 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).

## ALTAR FLOWERS

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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.

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

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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 4<sup>th</sup>.**

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

## SERMON COPIES

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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.

## GIFT CARDS

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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 20<sup>th</sup> by 10:00 am.** Cards will be in by Wednesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> for your Black Friday shopping. **The last order date before Christmas will be Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> by 10:00 am.**

## COOKING FOR CUPS

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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

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This is the third year UCC has distributed money jars to collect money for the 450 seniors that Feeding Medina County provides with 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 19<sup>th</sup>.

## LIBRARY SHOP AND DROP

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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](mailto:Rini72@zoominternet.net).

## ENDOWMENT FUND

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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.

## THANK YOU NOTES FOR POLICE OFFICERS & STAFF DUE

If you haven't already returned your thank you note(s), please be sure to do so by Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Luke and the congregation will pray a blessing for the thank notes our congregation has written to the officers & staff of the Medina Police Department. The notes will then be delivered during Thanksgiving week.

This has been a project of "Both Sides of Prison" a small group which seeks to demonstrate Christ's love to all of those involved in the Criminal Justice System.

If this is a ministry you'd like to know more about, e-mail [jmw597b@yahoo.com](mailto:jmw597b@yahoo.com), or call the church office: 330-725-4559.

## Upcoming Youth Events:

- \*November 19 – Christmas Pageant Practice 11:30 am
- \*November 19 – Youth Group 4:30-6:00
- \*November 26 – Christmas Pageant Practice 11:30 am
- \*November 26 – Confirmation 3:00-4:30
- \*Dec. 3 – Christmas Pageant Practice 11:30 am
- \*Dec. 3 – Advent Family Fun Night 4:00 pm
- \*Dec. 10 – Christmas Pageant Practice 11:30 am
- \*Dec. 10 – Confirmation 3:00-4:30
- \*Dec. 15 – Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant 6:00
- \*Dec. 17 - Christmas Pageant Practice 11:30 am
- \*Dec. 17 – Youth Group Christmas Parties
- \*Dec. 24 – NO F.I.S.H – Merry Christmas!
- \*Dec. 31 – NO F.I.S.H. – Happy New Year!

## SPAGHETTI LUNCH THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who attended the spaghetti lunch last Sunday. It was wonderful to see our church family enjoying good food and fellowship while supporting a great cause. With your support we were able to raise \$850.00 to use towards future mission trips. As always, thank you for your continued support of our youth. We will be having more lunches throughout the year so stay tuned.

## GOSPEL GALLEY

by Vicki Haden-Marty

I read with great interest Vicki Miller's writing last week about her ancestors arriving to America via the Mayflower. I, too, have ancestors from New England and though, to my knowledge, mine did not arrive on the Mayflower, they did settle in Connecticut and lived there for many generations. It is fun to visit New England and imagine what life was really like when the Pilgrims arrived. Dan and I particularly love to vacation in Provincetown, Massachusetts.

Provincetown is where the Mayflower first landed on November 11, 1620, before moving on to Plymouth five weeks later. Land's End Inn, where we stay in Provincetown, is less than 100 yards away from this little-known landing spot. When I stand at this location, there is a simplicity that makes me feel closer to God.

Maybe it is my roots. Maybe it is the beach. Maybe it is the cranberry bogs we drive past to get there. Maybe it is the wildness of the lobster that we traditionally consume. Maybe it is the white wooden steeped churches. Maybe it is the continuing pursuit of religious freedom. Whatever the "maybe" is, I am grateful that God continues to provide this simplicity.

This Thanksgiving week, may we be grateful for the religious freedom that our ancestors sought, and may we continue this pilgrimage on their behalf.

## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

It's that time of year again! Practices will begin for the annual Children's Christmas Program. We will have rehearsals immediately following the 10:30 service today, Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Dress rehearsal will be Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. The program will be performed by our children and youth on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 am worship service. Make sure to mark your calendars now!

## CHRIST TREE

The Christ Tree is now up by the elevator. Please consider taking an ornament from the tree and purchasing the item found on the back of it. Bring your **unwrapped** item back to the church and place it under the tree. These items will then be given to Community Services. All donations are needed by December 3<sup>rd</sup> so they can be distributed for Christmas. Help share the true meaning of Christmas with those in need in our area this holiday season.

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The family of Andy Anderson thanks the church community for kind expressions of sympathy and support. With much appreciation, Lois Anderson and family

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

Submit articles to: [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org) Or: [messenger@uccmedina.org](mailto:messenger@uccmedina.org)

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