

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

DECEMBER 3, 2017

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

December 3 thru December 10, 2017

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun ADVENT BEGINS

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
11:30 am Hunger Outreach Meeting
11:45 pm Both Sides of Prison meeting
2:00 pm JMM @ Evergreen
4:00 pm **All Church Advent
Family Fun Night**

Mon Poinsettia Orders Due

Cook for Cups

7:15 pm Evangelism Team

Tues

Wed 10:30 am Quilters

7:00 pm **Worship Team**

Thurs 9:45 am **OFFICE CLOSED**

7:00 pm Gathering Team Meeting

Fri

Sat 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal

Sun SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir Practice
10:30 am JMM @ Brookdale South
10:30 am Worship – **Christmas Choir
Program**
11:30 am Christmas Pageant Practice
11:45 am Finance Team
11:45 am Mission Team
1:00 pm JMM @ Elmcroft
3:00 pm Confirmation Class
3:00 pm JMM @ Brookdale North –
Hymn Sing

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

Scripture - Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

“Concerning Hope, Patience, and God’s True Power”

Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are given by Alice & Pete Metzloff in memory of Sahara Jade Pettit.

ADVENT FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Sunday, December 3rd 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 3rd 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!

COMMUNION

The bread being served during Communion today was baked by the loving hands of our Breadmakers’ Ministry.

“And though we are many, we all eat from one loaf of bread, showing that we are one body.”

Corinthians 10:17

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

*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 pm
*Dec. 15 – Dress Rehearsal for Christmas
Pageant 6:00 pm
*Dec. 17 - Christmas Pageant 10:30 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!

REMEMBERING ENDOWMENT AT CHRISTMAS

It will soon be gift-giving time, and the Endowment Fund Committee wants to invite you to honor a loved one by making a gift to the Endowment Fund as a Christmas love-gift. What better way to celebrate and lift up the Christian life of a family member.

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

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

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

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.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS GATHERING

Thursday, December 14th
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).

BAKE SALE AT CANDLELIGHT WALK

The Discipleship and Education Leadership Team once again hosted a bake sale at candlelight walk. Thank you to all the wonderful bakers who baked yummy treats for our sale. Thank you also to everyone who supported our bake sale by purchasing some of the yummy treats. Despite the very rainy conditions we made \$321.00 for the Children and Youth Ministries programs.

POINSETTIA ORDERS DUE!

Last chance to order your beautiful poinsettia! 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 Dec. 4th.

Please fill out a green poinsettia order sheet (found in the East Room and near Fellowship Hall) and turn it in to the offering plate or the church office.

GIFT CARDS

A limited supply of \$10 Panera, Chipotle and Starbucks cards are available for purchase. There are also a few \$25 Speedway gas cards available, as well. Please contact Kelly in the church office to purchase these cards. Remember, this is a great way to support our youth with your normal holiday spending! Other cards are available for groceries, gasoline, video rentals, home repairs, clothing and gift items. **The last order date before Christmas will be Monday, December 11th by 10:00 am.**

A PROGRAM OF CAROLS

The Chancel Choir will be presenting a Program of Carols on December 10th. We hope you will join us to hear some familiar carols with interesting arrangements. We are sure it will get you into the holiday spirit.

BOTH SIDES OF PRISON

Meeting Sun, 12/3 11:45 a.m. - Rooms 9 & 10

Everyone is invited to sit in for a short review of the Thank You Note Project. This meeting will also create dates and details for the first project in 2018! Thank you to everyone who wrote notes of appreciation to Medina City Police officers and their support staff. Pastor Luke delivered them on Monday, 11/20 to the Police Department.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

It's that time of year again! Practices will continue immediately following the 10:30 service today, Sunday, December 3rd and Sunday, December 10th. Dress rehearsal will be Friday, December 15th at 6:00 pm. The program will be performed by our children and youth on Sunday, December 17th at the 10:30 am worship service. Make sure to mark your calendars now!

CHRIST TREE DONATIONS DUE TODAY

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 3rd so they can be distributed for Christmas. Help share the true meaning of Christmas with those in need in our area this holiday season.

ENDOWMENT FUND

Just a reminder to the church family that the Endowment Fund Committee is accepting funding requests for 2018. The application is available in the church office and on the East Room info table. The deadline is December 15, 2017. Last year, the Fund made five allocations to underwrite expenses for items outside the Operating Budget. Questions? Contact Jane Langol at 330-813-1367.

A NOTE OF THANKS AND AN INVITATION FROM HARRY BUCH AND PAM BRANSCOME

We are grateful for the many ways in which folks of this congregation reached out to our mother (and mother-in-law), Dolores Buch, during her time in Medina. When she arrived here two years ago, she was a person in great need of life-giving relationships. You, dear friends, were instrumental in helping her make the happy journey from an increasingly-isolated existence into a whole new world of friends, experiences and spiritual stimulation which helped sustain her until her peaceful death on October 12th. We conclude our thank-you with an invitation for members of this congregation to participate in a Memorial Service for Dolores, to be held on Saturday, December 9th at 1:00 pm in the Sanctuary, with a reception afterwards.

HAPPY TRAILS PROJECT

Hi! My name is Abby Yates. This year in my language arts class we were challenged to come up with a project that sparked our interest and would ultimately benefit the world as a whole. I chose to help animals because I have always been very passionate about the well-being of these beautiful creatures. I have decided to collect items for an organization called Happy Trails. This organization rescues farm animals from abusive living conditions. Happy Trails deals with criminal cases which means the owner is charged with some form of abuse. I will be collecting gently used blankets/sheets, ginger snaps (treats for animals), gas cards (for transporting animals), cash donations (for medical expenses and general care. Please put cash donations in an envelope.), and bottled water, Gatorade and soft drinks (for the volunteers who spend many hours with the animals). If you have any questions you can contact Stacie Yates and she will put me in contact with you. I will be collecting the items through Sunday, December 10th and have a bin in the welcoming area for all donations. Thank you for your support and for helping abused animals get a second chance at a happy life!

YOUR MISSION TEAM GIVING

Your Mission Team has been at work allocating the funds that you have so generously given. The Team is always open to your ideas and suggestions as to how you would like to have this money designated. Our most recent decisions have been as follows: The Children's Center of Medina County - \$500. This donation from our church will provide medical exams, crisis intervention and follow-up services free to abused and neglected children. \$500 was given to the Society for Handicapped Children for ongoing programming due to cuts in federal funding. \$500 to the Salvation Army's Christmas Red Kettle as we were unable to participate in the annual bell ringing this year. Also given was \$200 toward the Candlelight Walk Promotions. Please contact anyone on the Mission Team for comments or suggestions that you might have.

CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING

Shepherding the Light! Please give generously this holiday season to **THE CHRISTMAS FUND FOR VETERANS OF THE CROSS & OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER.** This unique UCC Special Mission Offering recognizing and honoring our beloved ministers and their spouses who dedicate their careers and so much of their lives to the church. The Christmas Offering provides us with a means to directly assist those who have so faithfully and selflessly served and now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs as well as those in our community who face financial difficulties and are assisted through the Community Services Center.

GOLF OUTING RESULTS

On October 1st our church members and friends gathered to participate in our 4th Annual Bicentennial Golf Outing and Fundraiser. It was a beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon and a grand time was had by all. Twenty-eight participated in golf and many gathered in the evening for dinner and a chance to win one of the beautiful baskets assembled by so many of our church teams, members and friends. The fundraiser was successful in raising \$5,500!!

Thank you to all who participated in golf, dinner, donated basket raffle items, silent auction items, hole sponsors, bake goods, ticket purchasers, and worker bees!! Without your help and gifts we could not be successful.

\$2,000 will be added to the fund to hire a keyboard/music coordinator for our 9:00 am Gathering Service and \$3,500 will be placed in the "Building for the Next 100 Years Fund" to be used as needed.

Thank you for your continued support for this event and the life of our Church on the Square.

Blessings, Arnold and Cheri Ingraham

GOSPEL GALLEY

by Dave Weber

In Preparation.....

It is Advent season once again. We are in preparation for the coming of Jesus' birth. Actually, it seems that we are continuously in 'preparation'. Certainly, our lives are filled with daily preparation. You know, preparation for work, school, vacation, meals, arrival of visitors, shopping (yes, even Christmas shopping.... though, I'm not certain anyone can be prepared for that!).

While Advent is certainly a time of celebration and anticipation of Jesus' birth, it is more than that. It is only in the light of Advent that the miracle of Christmas can be fully understood and appreciated; and it is only in the light of Christmas that the Christian life makes any sense. It is between the fulfilled promise of Jesus' first coming and the yet-to-be-fulfilled promise of his second coming that theologian, Karl Barth penned these words: "Unfulfilled and fulfilled promise are related to each other, as are dawn and sunrise. Both are a promise."

And so, the church enters a new liturgical season in expectation of a humble birth. We need to prepare ourselves. Well, prepare ourselves all over again. Because our preparation is never complete. We will promise ourselves that this year will be different. Our preparation will mean total commitment to the 'way of Jesus'. We never quite get there. Perhaps that is a positive thing. It a refreshing time of renewal and revelation. Yes, Advent... Latin for 'coming'. What will our preparations be? Will we follow the scriptural admonition, 'Prepare ye the way of the Lord' in Isaiah and Mark? Will we open our hearts to receive the 'good news'? Are we prepared to have Jesus be 'with us'?

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom our captive hearts
That mourn in lonely exile here
Until You appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us.....*

We await the new day of this Advent when Jesus will once again come to us. And, we will be prepared. This is the essence of Advent.

ADVENT CALENDAR

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP DURING ADVENT EVERY SUNDAY
8:15 am, 9:00 am & 10:30 am worship (Dec. 24th 10:00 am only)

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**ADVENT FAMILY FUN NIGHT**

Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4:00 pm

**OFFICE CLOSED FOR STAFF RETREAT**

Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> after 9:45 am

**CHRISTMAS CHOIR PROGRAM**

*“A Program of Carols”*

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 am Worship service

**WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS GATHERING**

Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> – 12:30 pm

**“CHILDREN’S TALENT FILLED CHRISTMAS”**

Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> - 10:30 Worship service

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING & CHILI DINNER**

Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> - 3:00 pm

**THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE**

Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> – 7:00 pm

**CHRISTMAS EVE DAY**

**ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP - DECEMBER 24<sup>th</sup> AT 10:00 AM**

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP**

6:00 pm—Family Worship

9:00 pm—Candlelight and Carols

**SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE**

ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP - Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> – 10:00 am

**OFFICE HOURS:** We will be closed at 12:00 pm Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>  
We will be back on Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>

# Remembrance of the 1914 Christmas Truce: It's Our Turn Now



Come to this healing concert that is a remembrance of the 1914 Christmas Truce. In World War I, enemy forces left the safety of the trenches to the song "Silent Night" in their own language. Soldiers, sons, husbands, fathers wanted the peace beyond understanding. This year, 2017, we will remember and proclaim the same desire for world peace. You will be invited to sing, to pray, and to let go of grief and anxiety. We do this in expectation for the new life, light and peace that is the reason for the season.

The true meaning of Christmas has always been the unexpected birth of New Life in a most degraded, forgotten, even despised place. There was a time when that location was imagined as a stable in Bethlehem. In our traditional telling, the Savior was born into a forsaken shelter surrounded by animals. In the early 20th century, that unexpected location was *No Man's Land* -- the devastated landscape between the enemy trenches.

**Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> 7-9:30 pm**

**United Church of Christ, Congregational  
217 East Liberty St.  
Medina, Ohio 44256**

Your generous donation is welcomed (\$10.00 minimum suggested) however no one will be denied for lack of money. Your donation will continue to support this work.

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**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\*\*\*\*\*