

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

JANUARY 21, 2018

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

January 21 thru January 28, 2018

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir Practice
9:15 am 3rd Grade Bible Class
10:30 am Traditional Worship
11:45 am Mission Team
11:45 am Bicentennial Planning Meeting
2:00 pm JMM @ Medina Meadows
4:30 pm Youth Group

Mon 7:00 pm New Members Class

Tues

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice

Thurs 7:00 pm Congregational Council Meeting

Fri Confirmation Class to visit
Temple Israel - & Lock-in

Sat Confirmation Lock-in ends

Sun **BLANKET SUNDAY**

8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir Practice
9:15 am 3rd Grade Bible Class
10:30 am Traditional Worship
**11:45 am ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL
BUDGET MEETING**
2:00 pm JMM @ Medina Meadows
Sing-a-long
3:00 pm Confirmation Class
7:00 pm JMM @ WRMC

ALTAR FLOWERS

There are still several Sundays left to sponsor Altar Flowers for 2018! 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.

Worship Highlights: 8:15, 9:00 & 10:30 am
Jonah 3:1-5, 10 and Mark 1:14-20
“Called Out”
Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers:

Please sign up to sponsor the Altar Flowers.

ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND!

Our Annual Budget Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28th immediately following the 10:30 service.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you requested offering envelopes they are available on the table in the East Room

BLANKET+ SUNDAY OFFERING

In 2017, Church World Service (CWS) distributed thousands of blankets around the world. Our church can be part of an even greater response in 2018. We can reach families fleeing their homes, recovering from disaster, and more. Your contributions go a long way to help families in need so please be generous in your support for Blanket+ Sunday on January 28th. Thank you!

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, January 22nd & Monday, January 29th.

Class will be held from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm in the new Library. New members **will join the church on Sunday, February 4th**. 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.

BAKERS NEEDED!!!

The Breadmakers need a few extra pair of hands. They meet every third Monday of the month from 1:00 pm until about 5:00 pm. The team makes and bakes about 20-24 loaves each month. Church members deliver the bread. Those receiving the bread are church members that have had a difficult time due to illness or death in the family, or a great joy such as the birth of a child, as well as visitors that have attended one of our services.

Please consider joining in the fun of making and baking bread for this appreciated service. If you have questions, please contact Pat Hale (330-723-5203), Shirley Krcmar (330-764-3364) or Carolee Rafn (330-052-0258).

KNOW WHAT YOU EAT

Our speaker, Dr. Clifford Sonnie, MD, chose this topic for the next Healthy Cooking Dinner on February 9th at 6:30 pm. All are invited to select and prepare one recipe, then come and share your dish plus many others followed by Dr. Sonnie's talk. With diet being so important for the prevention of major illness, this is an event you will not want to miss. Sign-up and recipes will be offered in the East Room on January 21st, 28th and February 4th. Plan to enjoy this evening of fine food, fellowship and information.

TIRED OF DARK DAYS AND ANNUAL REPORTS

The annual reports are ready for your early review. If you would like to look one over before next Sunday's meeting you may pick up a copy in the East Room or in the hallway by the kitchen. The proposed budgets will be available next Sunday.

HOBBY HORSE REGISTRATION

Our church owned preschool will begin registration for the 2018-2019 school year on Monday, January 29th, 2018. You may review our curriculum, classes offered, and fees by visiting our school website at: www.hobbyhorsepreschool.org. If you are interested in scheduling a tour or receiving registration information, please contact our Director, Xanthe Phillips, at the school's phone number, 330-722-1445.

Families that are members or friends of our church may register prior to January 29th by contacting Xanthe or stopping by the Hobby Horse Preschool office during school hours.

Families currently enrolled in Hobby Horse may register beginning January 29th at 9:00am. Siblings of former students may register beginning January 29th at 9:30am. Open community registration will begin on January 29th at 10:00am.

DISTURBING NEWS?

Pick up a copy of a book which can bring light and hope to this cold season: "Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion." Read the stories between now and Thursday, February 8th, when Pastor Luke will lead a lively review and discussion of how readers were affected. Written by Father Greg Boyle, "Tattoos on the Heart" contains inspiring stories of how ruthless gang members in Los Angeles experienced the transformative power of God's love. Limited number of copies of the book are in the East Room, free and available for checkout/return. The book is also available for purchase on-line in a variety of formats: paperback, e-readers and tablets. This is presented by the "Both Sides of Prison" group.

MISSION INITIATIVES

There are many ways your small gifts may bring blessings throughout the year. Following are projects our church has in progress:

***Cups Café: Sign up to cook the first the Monday of the month for luncheons serving 60-80 at Cups Café.

***Garfield Seven: Sign up to buy and/or deliver fresh foods to seven most needy families whose children attend Garfield School.

***BOGO (Buy One Give One): Purchase and donate items that the SNAP program doesn't pay for. **The Items for January are Chicken Noodle soup, Laundry detergents, dish washing liquids and bar soaps.** Next time you buy some for yourself, pick up an extra to place in the BOGO box.

PERSONAL HYGIENE BAGS

We are collecting personal care items to place in hygiene bags for students at Garfield Elementary. Items needed include full-sized shampoo, body wash, bar soap, lotion, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes. In the case of lotion and body wash, please buy unscented or gender-neutral scented products. Items can be placed in a container found next to the BOGO bin opposite the elevator. If you have any questions, please contact Heather Finley at 440-759-3718. Thank you for your generosity in this new endeavor!

Upcoming Youth Events:

- *Jan. 21 – 3rd Grade Bible Class – 9:15-10:15
- *Jan. 21 – Youth Group 4:30-6:00
- *Jan. 26 – Confirmation Class to Temple Israel and Lock-In
- *Jan. 28 – 3rd Grade Bible Class – 9:15-10:15
- *Jan. 28 – Confirmation Class 3:00-4:30
- *Feb. 3 – Super Service Sunday for Youth Groups 9:30 am at Medina Meadows
- *Feb. 4 – 3rd Grade Bible Class – 9:15-10:15
- *Feb. 4 – "Souper" Bowl Sunday
- *Feb. 4 – No Youth Group!
- *Feb. 11 – 3rd Grade Bible Class – 9:15-10:15
- *Feb. 11 – Confirmation Class 3:00-4:30
- *Feb. 18 – 3rd Grade Bible Class – 9:15-10:15
- *Feb. 18 – Soup Kick Off – 11:30 am

“SOUPER” BOWL SUNDAY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4th

Are you ready for some football? Well, it's not the actual Super Bowl, but it is time again for “Souper” Bowl Sunday. This is a mission project that our youth do every year. Everyone is asked to bring a can of soup and \$1 on Sunday, February 4th. Everything that they collect is given to Community Services. Please help support our youth as they do this important mission project. Bring in a can of soup and \$1 on February 4th.

WANTED: SOUP SOUP KICK OFF SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18th

The youth will be hosting a Soup Cook Off on February 18th immediately following the 10:30 service. We are now looking for people who would like to enter their favorite soup! A prize will be awarded for the best soup along with the Golden Ladle Award! If you have a soup you would like to enter, please sign up outside of Fellowship Hall or in the East Room. There will also be salad, bread and desserts. We hope you will plan on joining us on this day for some yummy soup, great fellowship and friendly competition!

COMING SOON!!

Live Streaming of our Sanctuary Services!

We will begin live streaming of our Sanctuary service in a couple of weeks. Stay tuned for details. The Streaming will be accessible on any device connected to the internet (via our website). Details to follow!

GOSPEL GALLEY

by Dave Weber

Oh, Those New Year Resolutions!

Well, here we are in mid-January. Thousands of well intentioned folks have already broken their New Year's resolutions. If you have been to the Medina Rec Center right after New Year's Day, you might have been hard pressed to find an open spot on the exercise equipment, the pool or the walking track. If you go tomorrow, you should have little problem. It is a reminder that we all have these goals we'd like to achieve for ourselves. And, we tend to be in a hurry to reach them. Perhaps it explains why diet ads promise significant weight loss within two weeks or a month, or...

But resolutions mean being, well, 'resolute'. You know: purposeful, determined, and unwavering. After reviewing the colonial troops at New Brunswick, John Adams reported to the Continental Congress that '...never have the troops been more resolute!' Of course, the truth was there was little discipline and desertion a daily occurrence.

So how is it that we are less than 'resolute' in our daily seeking to follow Jesus...? We try, but too often we are in the 'hurry it up' mode. We want to be Christians today. Maybe that should be our resolution. God, I will try everyday to be more resolute, but I know that I will often miss my mark. So, be patient with me as I struggle to follow Jesus in evolving as a Christian.

Two noted observers of our 'we've arrived' mentality remind us that God's work takes time. She isn't in a hurry.

“Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We should like to skip the intermediate stages. We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new. And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability—and that it may take a very long time.

-Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, visionary French Jesuit

“I'm always amazed when people walk up to me and say, 'I'm a Christian,'" as she accepted the Presidential Medal of Freedom. "I think, 'Already? You already got it?' I'm working at it, which means that I try to be as kind and fair and generous and respectful and courteous to every human being."

-Maya Angelou, author and civil rights activist known for "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings."

As we ring in the New Year, take a look back at 2017 in the video link: tinyurl.com/UCCMedina2017

Like us on Facebook ([facebook.com/medinaucc](https://www.facebook.com/medinaucc)) and follow us on Twitter and Instagram

([@MedinaU3c](https://www.instagram.com/MedinaU3c)) for sermons, articles, and general happenings! Happy New Year!

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*****