THE PILGRIM MESSENGER
FEBRUARY 4, 2018

"Welcoming, Loving, Serving, Where God Has No Limits.

More Than Church On Sunday!"

Live streaming of the Sanctuary Service is available at uccmedina.org

February 4 thru February 11, 2018

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	**NEW MEMBERS JOIN**	
	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	9:15 am	3rd Grade Bible Class
	9:15 am	Choir practice
	10:30 am	Traditional Worship
	11:30 am	Hunger Outreach Meeting
	1:00 pm	**Middle School Youth Cooking for Cups**
	2:00 pm	JMM @ Evergreen
Mon	Cook for Cups	
	7:15 pm	Evangelism Team
Tues		
Wed	10:30 am	Quilters
	6:30 pm	Bell Choir Practice
	6:30 pm	Hobby Horse Leadership Team
	7:30 pm	Worship Team
Thurs	**7:00 pm**	**Book Discussion "Tattoos on the Heart"**
Fri		
Sat	10:30 am	Gathering Leadership Team Meeting
Sun	**FOUNDER'S DAY**	
	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
	10:30 am	JMM @ Brookdale South
	11:45 am	**Mission Team**
	11:45 am	**Caring Team**
	1:00 pm	JMM @ Elmcroft
	3:00 pm	Confirmation Class
	3:00 pm	JMM Hymn Sing @ Brookdale North Hymn Sing

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. 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!

Worship Highlights: 8:15, 9:00 & 10:30 am
Isaiah 40:21-31 and Mark 1:29-39
"Say Your Prayers" - Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers:
Altar flowers are donated by Ken & Karen Zuehlke in honor of all Scouts.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, February 14th – 7:00 PM
@ UCC, CONGREGATIONAL – SANCTUARY
"Flame & Ash"

"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 is sponsored by all the children in our F.I.S.H. program. 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.

SCOUT SUNDAY

Since Founder's Day took over Transfiguration Sunday, we're going to celebrate Transfiguration on Scout Sunday, February 18th. All scouts are invited to wear their gear (uniforms and sashes) to worship. The sermon will have a nature focus, reminding us how spending time in nature (God's first testament) can help us see the world a little differently.

KNOW WHAT YOU EAT

Our speaker, Dr. Clifford Sonnie, has asked to change the February 9th date for our Healthy Cooking Dinner due to his Marine son being deployed to South Korea the next day. Understandably, Dr. Sonnie and his wife wish to spend some precious time with their son before his departure. **The rescheduled Healthy Cooking Dinner date and sign up dates will be announced and printed in the bulletin as soon as possible.** Your interest and patience is appreciated and every effort will be made to make the event worth waiting for!

TIRED OF DARK DAYS AND 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.

JAIL TOUR SAT. 2/17, 9:30-11 AM

See what our County Jail looks like on the inside, and hear a corrections officer explain what a typical day is like.

- We will walk through common areas
- Hear corrections officers describe their work
- No interactions or viewing of incarcerated individuals
- Opportunities to ask questions during the tour, discussions afterwards

If you'd like to be a part of this tour and discussion, please sign up in the hall by the kitchen so we can have an estimate of how many people might be in the tour.

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 current items are Chicken Noodle soup, Laundry detergents, Dishwashing liquids and bar soaps**. Next time you buy some for yourself, pick up an extra to place in the BOGO box.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Anyone interested in a women's book club is invited to participate in a meeting Feb. 18th at 11:30 am after the 10:30 am church service to discuss a meeting time, day, etc. The ongoing Tuesday evening group has had some difficulty with attendance and would like to explore if there is a better time and date that would suit more women. Please join us next Sunday if you have any interest or if you are interested but cannot attend the meeting, contact Pam Branscome (440-724-8114 or Jill Linek (330-723-3537).

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!

GIFT CARD ORDERS

Plan ahead now for Special Occasions and 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.

The next order will be due on
Monday, February 12th at 10:00 am.

Upcoming Youth Events:

*__Feb. 4__ – 3rd Grade Bible Class – 9:15-10:15
***Feb. 4** – **"Souper" Bowl Sunday**
***Feb. 4** – No Youth Group!
***Feb. 4** – Middle School – Cook for Cups 1-2:30
*__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 Fundraiser– 11:30am**

MISSION GIVING

Thank you to those who so graciously gave to help out the Neumann family with the funeral expenses for Cara. We are happy to report that this bill has been paid in full. We will be checking with the family to see what other needs there may be.

LENTEN DINNER & WORSHIP SERIES

Lent is almost here! We will continue the tradition of partnering with First Christian and other Medina churches in the ministerial group as we journey together through Lent. **We will share in a light meal at 6:00 p.m. and then worship together.**
This year's theme: Parables.

***Ash Wednesday, Feb 14**: Medina UCCC: Imposition of the Ashes with First Christian Church

***Feb. 21**: St. Matthew Lutheran
The Parable of the Great Judgment (sheep and goats) – Matthew 25:31-46

***Feb. 28**: First Christian Church
The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector Luke 18:9-14

***March 7**: Medina UCC, Congregational
The Parable of the Sower – Matthew 13:1-23

***March 14**: Medina UMC

***March 21**: Medina Presbyterian
The Parable of the Dishonest Manager

***March 29**: Maundy Thursday
Worship at First Christian Church at 7:00 pm

VALENTINE VISITS

Make someone's Valentine season special! The craftmakers have created "Love is in the Air" kite door hangers for our older members and friends of the church. PLEASE pick up one or more of the crafts displayed in the East Room. Each kite has the name, phone number and address of an older member or friend of the church. Please call the person to arrange your visit sometime before February 14th. If you have any questions, please contact Syd Benson at 330-725-5540.

BLANKET SUNDAY THANK YOU!

Thank you for your generous donation to the Blanket Sunday Special Offering.
We were able to collect $815.00 to help those who need blankets, water and help with disaster response.

Founders' Day Celebration is Fast-Approaching: **NEXT SUNDAY**

Prepare for a profound experience!

Founders' Day: A Sunday to celebrate that moment when a handful of hearty pioneer souls entered into covenant with God and each other and thus brought this congregation into being. It is also a time to celebrate the legacy of our Endowment Fund, instituted to support the mission and long-term ministry of our Church.
At each worship service next Sunday, those who benefit from this year's Endowment Fund earnings will tell us how the Fund will support the church's ministry and help create a better world and also invite us to help shape our Bicentennial Year, which begins with a festive worship service on Sunday, February 17th, 2019.
This Sunday's worship bulletins will include an insert highlighting the ideas of the Bicentennial Planning Committee. Please take this insert home to reflect on the ideas which you believe would be most important to undertake and make notes on your insert to that effect.
Next Sunday's worship bulletins will have an identical insert that includes ten sticky ballots. Displayed on the wall of the corridor that leads to the Fellowship Hall will be "voting stations" for each of the Bicentennial ideas. Please place your ballots on the ten ideas that are most important to you. Then keep meandering along to the Fellowship Hall for some special Founders' Day refreshments!

Bicentennial Tidbits

Medina County was just a part of Portage County from 1812 until 1818. The current boundaries were not fixed until 1833. Although like the other original 13 colonies who gave up their rights to western land claims in return for the assumption of Revolutionary War debt by the new Federal government, Connecticut "retained" .5 million (15%) of its 3.4 million acres. This was intended to be land for veterans and families whose farms were destroyed by British raiders. Most of the reserved land was later sold to a group of investors. The $1.2M proceeds became an endowment fund that even today helps to fund public schools in Connecticut.

This early map demonstrates that the borders of most of the colonies extended west, at least to the Mississippi river. Settlers were physically limited by the Allegheny Mountains, and politically restricted from entering the "Indian Lands." It was not until 1800 that Connecticut formally ceded political sovereignty to the 1787 Northwest Ordinance. Furthermore, clear title to lands west of the Cuyahoga River only occurred in an 1805 treaty with the Indians. The next year, Moses Cleaveland was sent by the Connecticut Land Company to conduct a survey of "New Connecticut," the extreme western portion of which was called the Firelands or "Sufferers Lands."

GOSPEL GALLEY

by Alice Metzloff

FEBRUARY…What does this month have that makes it so special? Is it because it only has 28 days…or adds one more so the calendar works out right…a Leap Year, still making it the shortest month of the year? Is it due to Groundhog Day, Saint Valentine's Day, the Chinese New Year, and President's Day? Maybe it is the moon with its three phases…"third quarter", "new moon", and "First Quarter"? Or the sky has the Constellations of Auriga, Gemini the Twins and the brightest star, Sirius? Maybe it is each of the 4 Sundays, with the jump start to Lent with Ash Wednesday (2/14/18)? Or maybe it is special because of births, anniversaries, graduations, retirements, or deaths? Whatever makes February special to you, remember…JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON! His birth, as of Sunday, February 4th, was only 40 days ago! Have we so compartmentalized our faith we only express the joy of JESUS in December? Do we get so busy with our secular lives, and pack so much into the days after CHRISTMAS, that we find there is "no room" for Jesus? Do we like Jonah, run the other way from God only to be swallowed up by a "great fish", and choose to sit in the darkness wondering what do we do? All good questions! Are we ready for God to provide the answers? He is still speaking! Listen…hear…follow.

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*******