
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL

217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559
www.uccmedina.org



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LIVESTREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT UCCMEDINA.ORG

“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS”

Please take a moment to sign the attendance pads, (located at the end of each pew) so that you know who is worshipping near you and you may greet them by name.

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PRELUDE “All Earth is Waiting” – arr. Curt Oliver

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

CHORAL INTROIT

Chancel Choir

LITANY OF LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

The Harbath Family

Leader One: These are fearful days: Words of hate. Acts of terror. Welcomes withheld. Truths denied.

People: Anxiety is a constant companion; Hope feels like a stranger.

Leader Two: We call out in our anxiety:

**People: Show us how you work, GOD; School us in your ways. Take us by the hand;
Lead us down the path of well-being. You are our Savior, aren't you?
Mark the milestones of your mercy and love, GOD....**

(Psalm 25: 5-7a adapted from The Message © 2002 Eugene H. Peterson; reproduced with permission)

Leader One: We remind ourselves of God's ancient promises: Justice is coming! Love is on the way!
Lift up your heads and watch for the signs! *(Luke 21: 28, paraphrase)*

Leader Two: Let us light this first candle of Advent, a candle of Hope. In its light, let us think about what signs we are seeing of God at work in our lives and in our world right now.
Let us think about where we may contribute to that work.
In a few words, let's share those signs, and possibilities, with each other.

Candle of Hope is Lit.

Leader One: Let this candle of Advent Hope shine in our hearts all week and remind us to lift up our heads and open our eyes to watch all around us for signs of the Holy One.

Unison D F#m Em A7

1. All earth is wait-ing to see the Prom-ised One,
 2. Thus says the proph-et to those of Is - ra - el,
 3. Moun-tains and val-leys will have to be made plain;
 4. In low - ly sta - ble the Prom-ised One ap-peared,

and o - pen fur - rows, the sow - ing of our God. All the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el": one whose
 o - pen new high - ways, new high - ways for our God, who is
 yet feel that pres - ence through - out the earth to - day, for Christ

world, bound and strug - gling, seeks true lib - er - ty; it
 name is "God with us," our Sav - ior shall be, through
 now com - ing clos - er, so come all and see, and
 lives in all Chris - tians and is with us now; a -

cries out for jus - tice and search - es for the truth.
 whom hope will blos - som once more with - in our hearts.
 o - pen the door - ways as wide as wide can be,
 gain, on ar - riv - ing Christ brings us lib - er - ty.

WORDS: Alberto Taulé, 1972; tr. Gertrude C. Suppe, 1987, alt.
 MUSIC: Alberto Taulé, 1972; harm. Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1988

Words and music © 1972 The Pastoral Musicians; tr. © 1989 The United
 Methodist Publishing House; harm. used by permission of Juan Francisco
 Chávey

TAULÉ
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ANTHEM

"There Shall a Star"
From "Christus" by Felix Mendelssohn; Arr. by John Leavitt

Chancel Choir

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Stacie Yates

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns, Silent Prayer, People's Prayer

PRAYER RESPONSE

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

O Come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive
Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

WORDS: 9th cent. Latin; st. 1 *The Hymnal*, 1940;
MUSIC: 15th cent. French; arr. and harm. By Thomas Helmore, 1854
St. 1 © 1940, 1943, renewed 1981 The Church Pension Fund;

VENI EMMANUEL
LM with Refrain

SCRIPTURE

Luke 21: 25-36

Deb Waldron, Liturgist

SERMON

"Waiting"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS**Offering Invitation**

In response to the promise of God, let us give thanks through the presentation of our gifts and offerings.

Offertory Music "Improvisation on Savior of the Nations, Come" – Paul Manz

***Doxology** Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

God of hopeful waiting, we give thanks for all of the ways in which you reveal yourself to us. Help us to clear away the many distractions of this season and offer our whole lives as gifts to you. May these offerings nurture all of the ways in which your promise is breaking into the world in acts of compassion and justice. May these gifts nurture your rule of peace. Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. You do not need to be a member of the United Church of Christ to partake in the Holy Sacrament

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution

Prayer of Blessing

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*SENDING HYMN

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"



1. Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da-vid's great-er Son!
2. He comes with suc-cor speed - y to those who suf-fer wrong;
3. He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit-ful earth;
4. To him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - cend;



Hail in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!
to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in his path to birth.
his king-dom still in - creas - ing, a king-dom with-out end.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap-tive free;
to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark-ness turn to light,
Be - fore him, on the moun - tains, shall peace, the her-ald, go,
The tide of time shall nev - er his coy - e - nant re - move;



to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
whose souls, con-demned and dy - ing, are pre-cious in his sight.
and righ-teous-ness, in foun - tains, from hill to val-ley flow.
his name shall stand for - ev - er; that name to us is love.

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: Go into the world and keep awake!
People: The time is drawing near when God’s hope will be revealed.
Leader: Go into the world and keep watch!
People: The signs of God’s light are breaking into the world.
Leader: Go into the world and nurture hope for justice and peace
People: this day and always. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE “God Be with You”**

**God be with you ‘til we meet again; By His counsels guide uphold you;
With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you ‘til we meet again.**

*** POSTLUDE “Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying” – arr. Thomas Chesterton Cathy Fafrak, Organist**

“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”

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*All who are able please stand.

***Ushers:** Dick Christy, Darlene Bagley-Fazekas, Pete Benson, Ron Greinke*

****Please join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the service***
Today’s coffee hour is hosted by **The DELTs.***

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PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister – email: luke@uccmedina.org

OFFICE STAFF

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - email: office@uccmedina.org
Kelly Charnley, Financial Manager - email: financial@uccmedina.org

PROGRAM STAFF

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education
Michelle Lisco, Co-Director of Youth
Jim Kiser, Director of Music
Cathy Fafrak, Organist
Rebecca Rosen, Nursery Supervisor
Xanthe Phillips, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2, 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

December 2, 2018 thru December 9, 2018

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
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 (Leaders only)
4:30 pm	Advent Family Fun Night Confirmands & Youth Group will help
Mon	Cook for Cups 7:00 pm Evangelism Team
Tues	7:00 pm Worship Team
Wed	10:30 am Quilters 6:45 pm Gathering Team Meeting 6:30 pm Youth Bell Choir 7:00 pm Youth Choir
Thu	Garfield Deliveries
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	Traditional Worship – Choir Christmas Program
11:30 am	Christmas Pageant Practice
3:00 pm	Confirmation Class

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

Scripture: Luke 21:25-36

“Waiting”

Rev. Luke Lindon

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

Upcoming Youth Events:

- *December 2 – Christmas Pageant Practice 11:30
- *December 2 – Advent Family Fun Night 4:30 pm
- *December 9 – Christmas Pageant Practice 11:30
- *December 9 – Confirmation Class 3:00-4:30 pm
- *December 14 – Pageant Dress Rehearsal 6:00 pm
- *December 16 – Christmas Pageant 10:30 service
Confirmands light the Advent Wreath
- *December 16 – Youth Group Christmas Parties 4-6
- *December 23 – **NO F.I.S.H.** MERRY CHRISTMAS!
One Room Sunday School
- *December 30 – **NO F.I.S.H.** –HAPPY NEW YEAR!

ADVENT FAMILY FUN NIGHT Tonight!

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 **TONIGHT!** 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 dinner will be \$3 per person. Help us get into the holiday spirit. If you would like to attend, please sign up outside of Fellowship Hall. We hope to see all our church family there.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

"A Charlie Brown Christmas"

It's that time of year again! Practices will be beginning for the annual Children's Christmas Program. We will have rehearsals immediately following the 10:30 service today, Sunday December 2nd and Sunday December 9th. Dress rehearsal will be Friday, December 14th at 6:00. The program will be performed by our children and youth on Sunday December 16th at the 10:30 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 2nd so they can be distributed for Christmas. Help share the true meaning of Christmas with those in need in our area this holiday season.

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 10th**. Please fill out a green poinsettia order sheet (available from the ushers and on the table by the kitchen) and turn it in to the offering plate or the church office.

SEND A CHRISTMAS CARD

Reach out to older members and friends of the church – send a Christmas card. When you are making your Christmas card list, could you include those on our Circle of Caring Visitation list? Lists with addresses are on a poster in the hall by the office. Thank You!

EXTRA GIFT CARDS ON HAND FOR PURCHASE

Extra Gift Cards Available for Christmas Gifts:

\$10—Chipotle, \$10—Panera, \$10—Starbucks, \$25—Speedway and \$25—Target and \$10.50—Regal Premiere Movie Ticket

Please contact Kelly weekdays in the office or via email financial@uccmedina.org if you would like to purchase any of these cards. You may pay cash or by check payable to UCC. These cards make great gifts. Supplies are limited. **Last order of Gift Cards before Christmas will be Monday, December 10th by 10:00 am.**

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS GATHERING

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2018

12:00 pm to 1:30 pm

All women are invited to attend the Christmas Gathering. We will meet in the East Room for a light lunch and fellowship. At 1:00 pm we will be entertained by our own Hobby Horse Preschool students in Fellowship Hall. Please sign up 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 (330-242-1807) or Becky Weber (330-725-8545).

2019 BICENTENNIAL CALENDARS

As our Bicentennial year approaches, we have several exciting things planned to celebrate the upcoming year!

We have compiled a usable working wall calendar for 2019 with all the special church events listed along with some beautiful photos of the church. Of course, things will be subject to change and we will keep you posted throughout the year, but it is a great way to keep track of what will be happening so you can save the dates!

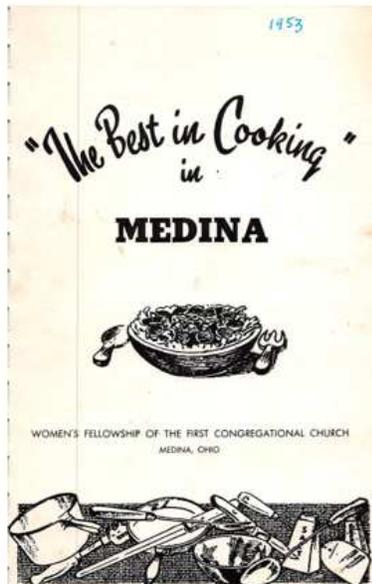
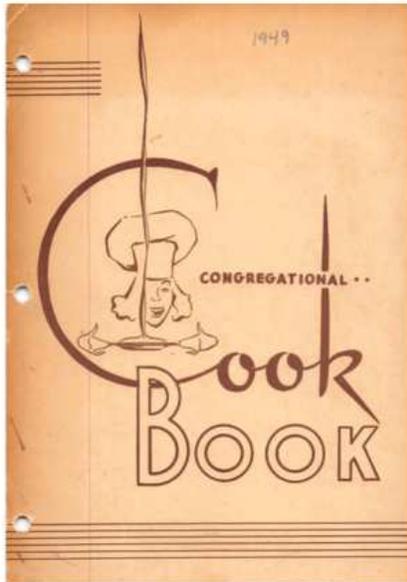
Calendars will be available beginning Sunday, December 2nd for a \$5 donation that will go towards our Bicentennial Celebrations.

GARFIELD HYGIENE PROGRAM NEW ITEMS NEEDED!

Thank you for the generous contribution of toiletries for the Hygiene Program to assist the children at Garfield School. We are now asking for your contributions of **ear muffs and body lotion** in addition to the hygiene items. Socks are always appreciated. Please place your contributions in the box at the bottom of the staircase. Many thanks to Edie Larsen for all the knitted hats and gloves!

FOUNDERS DAY

It seems family and recipes go together—especially when the recipe is a treasured family recipe with delights made from “scratch”. The Bicentennial-Founders Day Team is asking that when you prepare your upcoming Thanksgiving menu that you give a thought to choosing a special family recipe that will be needed in February 2019. The Founders Day celebration will feature an old-time, “home-cooked” covered dish meal and we need your support to provide a dish suitable for passing. We know this seems far in the future, but plans from your Bicentennial Team are being developed now. Please scour your grandmother’s cookbook over the holidays for those treasured family recipes. Keep the recipe in mind for a later day of celebration. Details to come after the first of the year.



WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The book club will meet in the East Room at the church the second Tuesday of December, January and February. This month's book is Daniel Silva's "The Other Woman", "a modern masterpiece of espionage, love, and betrayal."

The books are in the office. Just add your name to the list and join us in the East Room on December 11th at 7:30 pm!

HEAR THE BELLS RINGING!

Members of our congregation will once again have the opportunity to be "Red Kettle Ringers" for the Medina Salvation Army. Volunteers are needed for **Saturday, December 8th**, in the vestibule at Buehler's River Styx. There are several short shifts available between 12:00 pm & 4:00 pm. It is a good idea (but not necessary) to bring a second person with you for your time slot, that way the kettle is never unattended if you need to take a break. Sign-up sheets are available near the kitchen. For any questions or concerns, contact Lynn Leckie. This is a popular event each year, so sign up soon!

Bicentennial Tidbits

The Ladies' Benevolent Society published a "Congregational Cookbook" in 1949. It devotes 50 of its 104 pages to dessert items.

The 1953 edition from the Women's Fellowship has a helpful appendix on tips for cooking for a groups of 50 persons or more, as well as special menus for those needing to gain weight.

These cookbooks, as well as a third edition from 1977, have been scanned and posted to the UCC website under Ministries > Women's Fellowships. All three of these cookbooks include the church member who contributed each recipe, as well as some interesting advertisements from merchants in the village. Check them out!

Miracles. That word comes up a lot during the Christmas season. For Christians there is the miracle of the Virgin Birth. For movie buffs there are at least a dozen "Miracle of Christmas" type movies- leading the pack is A Miracle on 34th street. For me, December will always be the month God gave me a miracle of good health. In 2015, I was diagnosed with ALS -and our world immediately turned upside down. We planned and prayed. We had an opportunity to travel to Israel and we prayed. We learned all we could about ALS and prayed. In December of 2016, we met with the head of Cleveland Clinics ALS program. He said since this disease generally progresses very quickly, and my initial symptoms had not changed, he did not think I had ALS. Upon leaving his office, we looked at each other and realized what an amazing miracle/gift we had just been given. Not a day goes by that I don't think about what could have been. This was our own personal Christmas miracle. Miracles aren't always big; they don't need to be a life changing event like a virgin birth, a dream house or a good health diagnosis. We are surrounded by miracles everyday- even the simple act of breathing is a miracle. In this chaotic month of December remember to look for the miracles- big and small. If you aren't experiencing them then remember these words by Albert Einstein, "There are only two ways to live your life. One is as if nothing is a miracle. The other is as if everything is."

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

Please submit articles to the church office at office@uccmedina.org

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

December 2, 2018

First Sunday of Advent - *First Night of Hanukkah*

Luke 21:25-36

Sign of Things to Come

Portents of the end of everything doesn't sound much like a Christmas story, does it?

This year the lectionary starts Advent off with a bang by not so much predicting an apocalypse but making sure we understand what the signs of its appearance will be. Luke's Gospel tells us that the skies will burst and the countries of the world, all the nations, will be in anguish. People will be anxious and despairing. Everything will be shaken to its core. The next sign, the one that would be hard to miss, according to Luke's Gospel and the book of Daniel, will be Jesus riding on a cloud and shining with all his glory. You would especially pay attention if you saw this because, according to this Gospel, it would signal the entrance of a new world.

In Jesus' day, living in his world meant being part of the Roman Empire; an empire with extreme income inequality, and oppressive forces pushing down both on the poor and the foreign born. The new world this passage envisions, is one where the poor will not be hungry, equality and compassion will rule and everything hopeful will be revealed in every corner of every street everywhere. Another way of imaging this can be stated this beautiful way: "Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing." (Arundhati Roy)

The apocalypse, then, signals not only an end but also a beginning. According to the book of Revelation it will herald a time when the world will change dramatically...for the good, for the just, for the end of sorrow, for the defeat of greed and the end to all those things that keep people from seeing each other as they are. The new world will truly be a Just World for All!

The birth we anticipate, the baby in the manger, is a glimpse of that new world...the hope of all. It is the great purpose of the church to be a place where we can hear the breathing of that new world. The world outside our congregations might feel hopeless. It may feel like evil powers are in control disregarding human beings, creating an order that feeds on greed and corruption and the extremes of inequality. But the church as the body of Christ houses hope itself. It's here, where we worship, that love is made visible, especially those three loves that the UCC holds dear: Love of Neighbor, Love of Children, Love of Creation. This Advent be mindful of how making love visible recharges our communities with possibility and infuses our world with resilience in times of trouble. This is the great work of the church – to make Christ visible, always.