



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 “Air” on All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name – Janet Linker Cathy Fafrak, Organist
(The organ selections this morning are from the collection “Variations on All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”)

***VISIONING PRAYER** by Sharon Alberson

God, help us to be welcoming. God, help us to be loving.
God, help us to see that serving you can lead us to
A place full of grace with no limits where we can be free...
To open our hands, welcoming. To open our hearts, loving
To be more than church on Sunday, to live in the light from above;
To celebrate in service and love.

***CALL TO WORSHIP (A Biblical Call)**

Leader: Come to worship Jesus our Christ, Alpha and Omega, the one who is, who was,
and is to come. (Rev. 1:8)

People: **We come to worship the one who rules justly.** (2 Samuel 23:34)

Leader: Come to worship Jesus Christ, the faithful witness.
The firstborn of the dead, the ruler of the kings of the earth! (Rev. 1:5)

People: **Bread of Heaven, God with us!** (John 6:51, Mt. 1:23)

Leader: Good Shepherd, True Vine! (John 10:11, John 15:1)

People: **Eternal Word, Great I AM.** (John 1, John 8:58)

Leader: Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace! (Isaiah 9:6)

People: **We come to worship Jesus Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords!** (Rev. 19.16)
To him be glory and dominion forever and ever! Amen. (Rev. 1:6)

***OPENING HYMN**

“Jesus Shall Reign” (vs 1-4)



1. Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2. To Je - sus end - less prayer be made, and end - less
 3. Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his
 4. Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns; all pris - oners
 5. Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring hon - ors pe -



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom spread from
 prais - es crown his head; his name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
 leap and loose their chains; the wea - ry find e -
 cu - liar to our King; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain. and earth re - peat the loud a - men!

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719 (Ps. 72)
 MUSIC: John Hatton, 1793

DUKE STREET
 LM

***CONFESSION (unison)**

Eternal Monarch, You who rule over all of us with justice and care,
 We your people confess that we do not submit ourselves to your rule,
 That we do not always participate in your reign of equity and integrity,
 That we have not followed the example you set forth.
 Instead we often place our trust in leaders who let us down,
 And in our own flawed leadership of others. Lead us, Christ our Sovereign,
 And set us on the path to righteous rule in all that we do. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

We who are dependent upon our divine ruler have Christ's example ever before us, to give us guidance and hope. Take heart that you are forgiven and may return to that example again.

***PRAISE RESPONSE**

"Jesus Shall Reign" (vs 5)

SPECIAL MUSIC

"God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale" – Jaroslav J. Vajda & Carl F. Schalk
Eve Lindon, soloist & Pam Branscome, guitar

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, Pastoral Prayer

PRAYER RESPONSE

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy
 2. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and

peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us,
 yet a King, born to reign ' in us for - ev - er,

let us find our rest in thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -
 now thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of
 spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone; by thine all suf -

ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

SCRIPTURE Daniel 7: 9-10 and John 18: 33-37

Nick North, Liturgist

SERMON "Christ the King"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offertory Invitation

From our lives, we choose to offer our gifts. Knowing that what we regard as excess, others may need, and all that we need, others may regard as excess. May we recognize that when all share, all are enriched.

Offertory Music "Meditation" on All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name Cathy Fafrak, Organist

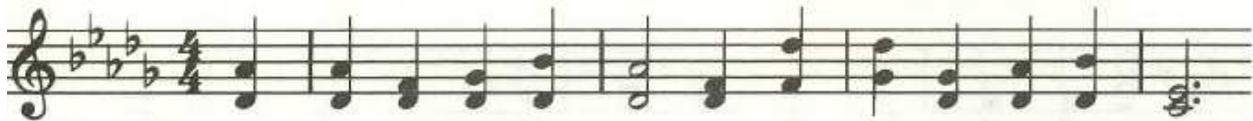
***Doxology:** Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

Righteous ruler, accept all that we have offered to you. May these gifts we gather participate in your realm of truth. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

"Lead On, O King Eternal"



1. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, the day of march has come;
2. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
3. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, we fol-low, not with fears,



hence-forth in fields of con-quest thy tents shall be our home.
and ho - li - ness shall whis-per the sweet a - men of peace.
for glad-ness breaks like morn-ing wher - e'er thy face ap - pears.



Through days of prep - a - ra - tion thy grace has made us strong;
For not with swords loud clash-ing, nor roll of stir-ring drums;
Thy cross is lift - ed o'er us, we jour-ney in its light;



and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat-tle song.
with deeds of love and mer - cy the heaven-ly king-dom comes.
the crown a - waits the con-quest; lead on, O God of might.

WORDS: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1887
MUSIC: Henry T. Smart, 1835

LANCASHIRE
76.76 D

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: As you enter your own domain today, remember Christ's reign of justice and compassion, setting it before you as an example now and always.

People: **We note that in the face of the political power of his day, Christ was true.**

Leader: As he was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be.

People: **We go from here inspired that God will not change and turn on us.
Always showering grace and love on us, we depart here in peace! 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 "Scherzo" on All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name – Janet Linker Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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*Those who are able please stand

***Ushers:** Dick Christy, Darlene Bagley-Fazekas, Julie Gilliland, Pete Benson*

****Please join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the service****

*Today's coffee hour is hosted by **Beth Hari.***

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PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Luke Lindon, Senior Pastor – 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

NOVEMBER 25, 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

November 25, 2018 thru December 2, 2018

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	10:30 am	Traditional Worship
	11:30 am	Christmas Pageant Practice
	11:30 am	Christmas Decorating
	2:00 pm	JMM @ Medina Meadows Sing-a-long
	7:00 pm	JMM @ WRMC
Mon	6:30 pm	Women's Bible Study
Tues		
Wed	10:30 am	Quilters
	7:15 pm	Youth Bell Choir
	7:15 pm	Pastor's Bible Study for All
	7:45 pm	Youth Choir
Thu		Garfield Deliveries
Fri	5:00 pm	Sanctuary BICENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR CITY OF MEDINA
Sat	9:00 am	Choir rehearsal
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 (Project Leaders Only)
	4:30 pm	Advent Family Fun Night Confirmands & Youth Group will help

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

Scripture: Daniel 7:9-10 and John 18:33-37

“Christ the King”

Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are given by Gary and Holly Hallman in gratitude for God's love and His many blessings.

Upcoming Youth Events:

- *November 25 – Christmas Pageant Practice 11:30
- *December 2 – Christmas Pageant Practice 11:30
- *December 2 – Advent Family Fun Night 4:30 pm
- *December 11 – Christmas Pageant Practice 11:30
- *December 11 – 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

Sunday, December 2, 2018

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 2nd at 4:30**. 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 attend, please sign up outside of Fellowship Hall. We hope to see all our church family there.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you to everyone who filled a shoebox and supported Operation Christmas Child this year. Together we filled 50 shoe boxes! You helped to bring joy to children all over the world.

BAKE SALE AT CANDLELIGHT WALK THANK YOU!

The Discipleship and Education Leadership Team once again hosted a bake sale at Candlelight Walk. Thank you to all the wonderful bakers who made yummy treats for our sale. Thank you also to everyone who supported our bake sale by purchasing some of the yummy treats. It was a beautiful evening to ring in the Christmas season. We raised \$717 for the Children and Youth Ministries programs!

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 November 25th, 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.

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. Cash or checks 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).

HAVE WE OVERLOOKED ANYONE?

Do you know an older church member who no longer can attend church regularly because of health issues or a shut-in that may enjoy a visit from a Circle of Caring member? If so, please call the office (330-725-4559) or Syd Benson (330-725-5540). That person will be called and matched with one of the members of Circle of Caring who makes visits.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

With Advent quickly approaching, we need to turn our attention to the Christmas decorating process of our beautiful church. We will plan to assemble immediately after the 10:30 church service on Sunday, November 25th. Those who attend the 8:15 and the 9:00 services can begin the decorating process in the new addition and Fellowship Hall after their services. Photos and instructions will be provided for each area. With the help of our veteran volunteers, we should be completed well before 3:00 pm. Thank you in advance.

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!

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 **Winter Hats, Gloves and Scarves**. Socks are always appreciated. Please place your contributions in the box at the bottom of the staircase.

ENDOWMENT FUND GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Endowment Fund Committee is pleased to invite Boards and Committees within the church to complete a Request for Funding Form, available on the table near the kitchen. The packet has easy-to-follow directions to provide details of the funded project for the Committee to evaluate. There is over \$10,000 available for allocation and we celebrate the generosity of the church family that has made this possible via their donations to the Fund over the last two decades. **Deadline for applications is November 30th.**

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.

FOUNDERS DAY

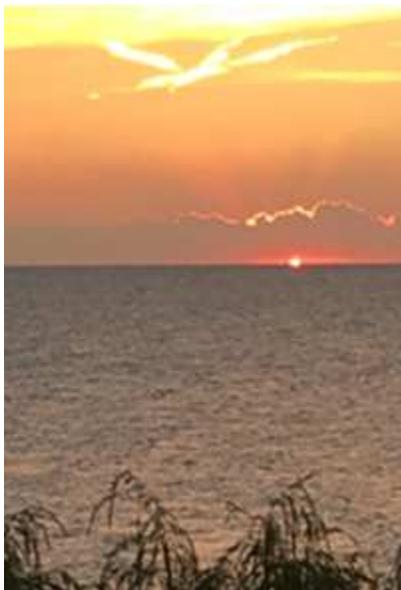
It seems family and recipes go together—especially when the recipe is a treasured family recipe with delights made from “scratch”. The Bicentennial-Founders Day Team is asking that when you prepare your upcoming Thanksgiving menu that you give a thought to choosing a special family recipe that will be 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!

GOSPEL GALLEY

by Alice Metzloff



THANKSGIVING, BIRDS, and BLESSINGS...how does this photo express them? We’ll come back to this question later. THE GAITHER VOCAL BAND wrote a song called “Sweet, Sweet Spirit”. The lyrics are: “There’s a sweet, sweet, spirit in this place, And I know that it’s the spirit of The Lord. There are sweet expressions on each face, And I know you feel the presence of the Lord. *Chorus* “Sweet Holy Spirit! Sweet heavenly Dove! Stay right here with us, Fill us with your love. And for these blessings, we lift our hearts in praise! Without a doubt we’ll know, that we have been revived...When we shall leave this place!”

There are many Scripture passages about **THANKSGIVING, BIRDS, and BLESSINGS**. We read in OT Psalm 30:12...“that in my heart I may sing to you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will **give you thanks forever**”. In NT Colossians 3:15-17: “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. **And be thankful.**” **Birds...especially Doves**, are representation of God’s Spirit. We read in NT Mark 1...a **Dove** comes down from heaven to sit on Jesus’ shoulder...symbol of love and acceptance. **And BLESSINGS?** We ask for blessings in prayer. We were all blessed by Jesus in

Matthew 5:1-12... “The Beatitudes”. After the Sunday offering has been collected, we sing “Praise God from whom all blessings flow,” God/Jesus shows **THANKSGIVING, BIRDS, and BLESSINGS** every day through Nature, Song and People. Jesus asks us to share these with others daily...not just only on one specified Thursday of each year. So, back to the photo. Can we give God thanks for His magnificent expression of his Spirit...sing it? Is there a Dove descending from above the earth to show how much we are loved and accepted...See it? Is there a Dove descending from above the earth to show how much we are loved and accepted...See it? Are we blessed by being shown how much God cares...feel it? YES is the answer to all!

God is...Jesus...**N**oteworthy **O**mnipotent **V**ast **E**xpressive **M**ajestic **B**lessed **E**ternal **R**egal!



Bicentennial Tidbits

More on the Ladies Benevolent Society of Medina...

This group also served as our local chapter of the American Home Missionary Society, a protestant organization founded in 1826 that did "local" mission work. A few highlights from their Constitution and by-laws:

- A 6 cent fine will be levied for non-attendance at any weekly meeting.
- A 25 cent payment was required as annual dues, with these funds being used for debt reduction on our building.
- None but the wife of the pastor could offer any public prayer.
- No person is expected to provide but one kind of cake and no sweetmeats at any meeting of the Society.

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THE MEDINA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

This little band of faithful women worked on under the leadership of Mrs. Brown. Sometimes working for the poor and needy in our own community and again sending barrels of good warm clothing to the Bethel in Cleveland or some charity bureau in New York City always with an eye to the needs of the church and its property.

In 1871 it was voted to use the earnings of the society to aid a young man in Oberlin College. This was a young colored man who was trying to fit himself to go back and be an arm of strength to his people. His life work would have been given up had it not been for the timely aid of this group of benevolent women.

(Source: History of the First Congregational Church of Medina, 1909, by Rev. J. Edward Kirbye)

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*******

John 18:33-37

A Wise Reign

Jesus said his kingdom was not of this world. He said that to Pilate, the tool of the Roman Empire. He might have meant, "I am not of your kingdom. My understanding of how things work is not the same as yours, O Pilate." Who are the Pilates of this world today? To whom would Jesus be speaking if he was on trial today? And where would that trial take place?

Jesus always knew what to say to the powers of his world. He spoke truth with compassion. He said what was genuine and from his heart without apology and without rancor.

We are now in times of challenge and controversy surrounded by Pilates. All of them think they are King of the world. Just as Pilate interrogated Jesus we are all interrogated by the world. And sometimes the questions are worth considering. They might be: Where do we stand? Who do we serve? In who or what will we find hope today? Who has the power? Who gets to ask the questions? Who gets to give the answers?

This last Sunday in Pentecost is called Christ the King Sunday. It's a late addition to the liturgical calendar. It was introduced by the Roman Catholic Church in 1925. Originally called Reign of Christ Sunday, Protestant denominations adopted it as European churches saw the rise of ideologies like Fascism, Communism and the Nazism. Declaring Christ "King" was a way of saying there is another power in this world.

This Sunday's scripture is perfect because it says that yes, he is a king; he's just not Pilate's kind of king. It might suggest that we could look around and see who today thinks they are King of this world? Who is the true King? Whose world is this?

The UCC Statement of Faith says many things about the power of people of faith, about our call to be a united and uniting church and witnesses to a triune God. Among those statements is one that reflects this scripture. It says: *We believe that the UCC is called to be a prophetic church. As in the tradition of the prophets and apostles, God calls the church to speak truth to power, liberate the oppressed, care for the poor and comfort the afflicted.* When Jesus speaks to Pilate he is doing just what the church is called to do in his name: *Speak truth to power.*