



# 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 “Meditation on Chereponi” – Richard Blake

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

### \*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

Leader: They gathered together in the square

**People: young and old, men and women, certain and seeking.**

Leader: Ezra and Nehemiah gathered the people together on the square

**People: they opened the book, read and listened, talked and prayed.**

Leader: Let us now gather

**People: together on the square to open the book and listen for our still-speaking God.**

### \*OPENING HYMN

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

*Refrain (Unison)*



*Fine*

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. Kneels at the feet of his friends,  | si - lent - ly wash - es their |
| 2. Neigh-bors are rich and poor,       | neigh-bors are black and       |
| 3. These are the ones we should serve, | these are the ones we should   |
| 4. Lov - ing puts us on our knees,     | serv - ing as though we are    |

*D.C.*

feet,	Mas - ter who acts as a slave	to them.
white,	neigh-bors are near and far	a - way.
love;	all these are neigh-bors to us	and you.
slaves,	this is the way we should live	with you.

WORDS: Tom Colvin, 1969 (Jn. 13:1-17)  
 MUSIC: Ghana folk song; adapt. by Tom Colvin, 1969; harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1988

CHEREPONI  
 Irr. with Refrain

© 1969, 1989 Hope Publishing Co.

### OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Teacher, you stood among us and read the familiar words from the Prophet Isaiah. Forgive us for not hearing you. Waiting can become a way of life and we're not ready to change. Help us change and send us out with your mission:

To bring good news to the poor,  
 To proclaim release to the captives,  
 Recovery of sight to the blind,  
 To let the oppressed go free,  
 And proclaim the year of your favor.

May your Spirit fall upon us and these scriptures be fulfilled in our hearing. Amen.

### PRAISE RESPONSE "In Christ There Is No East or West"

*Hymnal 1982 529*

Words: John Oxenham, (1852-1941), alt.

Music (McKEE, CM): Afro-American spiritual; adapt. and harm. Harry T. Burleigh (1866-1949)

*Unison or harmony*

1 In Christ there is no East or West, in  
him no South or North, but one great fel - low -  
ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.

**CHOIR ANTHEM** "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy" - Kathryn S. Banner 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**

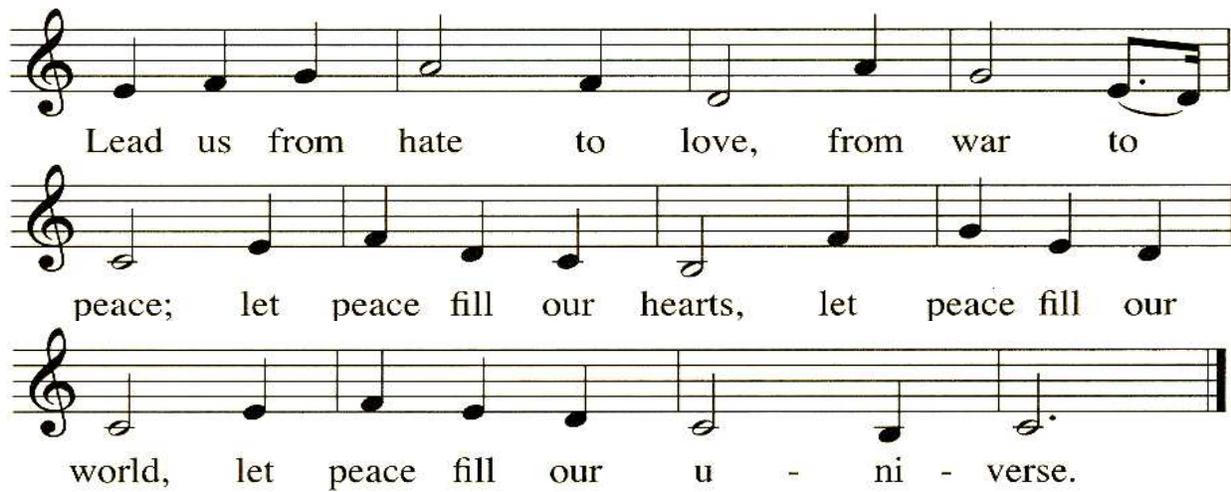
Joys and Concerns, Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**"World Peace Prayer"**

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Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to  
truth, from des - pair to hope, from fear to trust.



Lead us from hate to love, from war to  
 peace; let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our  
 world, let peace fill our u - ni - verse.

**SCRIPTURE** Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Dorothie Edinger, Liturgist  
 Luke 4: 14-21

**SERMON** "Fulfilled in Your Hearing" Rev. Luke Lindon

**OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS**

**Offertory Invitation**

We turn to you, Oh God, and offer you these gifts so that your word can be fulfilled.

**Offertory Music** "Blessed Savior of All" – Franklin Ritter 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)** (from <http://overcomingviolence.org> selected from Prayers from Tanzania)  
 Our Lord and God Almighty, we praise you, for you created us all and made us into many different tribes and nations, that we may befriend one another and that we may not despise each other. Open our hearts, we pray, so that we may respond to the needs of all our brothers and sisters. May what we offer today, not just these gifts of material and financial giving, but also the work of our hands and the intentions of our heart. Your will be done. Your kingdom come. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**\*SENDING HYMN "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"**

**TEXT:** Traditional Spiritual

**MUSIC:** Traditional Spiritual; arranged by Eugene Thomas

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**WHOLE WORLD**

Irregular meter

1. He's got the whole world in His hands, He's got the  
 2. He's got the wind and the rain in His hands, He's got the  
 3. He's got the ti - ny lit - tle ba - by in His hands, He's got the  
 4. He's got you and me, broth - er, in His hands, He's got

whole world in His hands, He's got the whole  
 wind and the rain in His hands, He's got the wind and the  
 ti - ny lit - tle ba - by in His hands, He's got the ti - ny lit - tle  
 you and me, sis - ter, in His hands, He's got you and me,

world in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands.  
 rain in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands.  
 ba - by in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands.  
 broth-er, in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands.

**\*BENEDICTION**

Leader: May the Spirit of God oil the hinges of our hearts' doors

**People: That they may swing gently and easily to welcome our neighbor.**

Leader: May you rest easy knowing nothing that you say,

**People: Or do. Or think. Or believe.**

Leader: Can separate you from the love of God the Creator.

**People: We will be witnesses and signs of this love to God's world.**

Leader: May the love of the Gracious Mystery which surpasses all understanding be with you now and forever. Go for this service has ended,

**People: And our annual meeting now begins. Amen.**

**PLEASE REMAIN SEATED FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING**

**“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”**

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\*Those who are able please stand

***Ushers:*** Dick Christy, Darlene Bagley-Fazekas, Julie Gilliland, Crell Johns

***\*\*\*There will be no Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall today\*\*\****

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***PASTORAL STAFF***

Rev. Luke Lindon, Senior Pastor – email: [luke@uccmedina.org](mailto:luke@uccmedina.org)

***OFFICE STAFF***

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - email: [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)  
Kelly Charnley, Financial Manager – email: [financial@uccmedina.org](mailto: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

## JANUARY 27, 2019

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

Live streaming of the Sanctuary Service is available at [uccmedina.org](http://uccmedina.org)

January 27, 2019 thru February 3, 2019

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

<b>Sun</b>	<b>BLANKET SUNDAY OFFERING</b> <b>Return from Costa Rica Mission Trip</b> 8:15 am Chapel Worship 9:00 am Gathering Worship 9:15 am Choir Practice 9:15 am <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Class</b> 10:30 am Traditional Worship <b>11:30 am Congregational Budget Meeting</b> 2:00 pm JMM @ Medina Meadows 7:00 pm JMM @ WRMC
<b>Mon</b>	6:30 pm Women's Bible Study <b>7:00 pm New Member Class</b>
<b>Tues</b>	<b>2:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study – “Theological Worlds”</b>
<b>Wed</b>	10:30 am Quilters 6:15 pm Youth Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
<b>Thu</b>	<b>Garfield Deliveries</b> <b>6:00 pm Pastor's Study - Marriage Series</b>
<b>Fri</b>	1:30 pm JMM @ Evergreen
<b>Sat</b>	
<b>Sun</b>	<b>“SOUPER BOWL” SUNDAY</b> <b>New Members join</b> 8:15 am Chapel Worship 9:00 am Gathering Worship 9:15 am Choir Practice 9:15 am 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Class 10:30 am Traditional Worship 11:30 am Hunger Outreach Meeting (Project Leaders Only) 12:00 pm Elementary Youth Cook for Cups

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

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 & Luke 4:14-21

“Fulfilled in Your Hearing” - Rev. Luke Lindon

**Altar Flowers:** Donated by Joan & John Walschon in memory of Joan's parents, Charles & Ruth Mackenbach.

### BLANKET SUNDAY ~ 1/27/19

Church World Service (CWS) has distributed thousands of blankets around the world in 2018. Your congregation can be part of an even greater response in 2019. You will reach families fleeing their homes, recovering from disaster and more. Share blankets, warmth and comfort with your neighbors. Your contributions go a long way to help families in need so please be generous in your support for Blanket+ Sunday. Thank you!

### ANNUAL MEETING TODAY!

Our Annual Budget Meeting will be held immediately following the 10:30 service. Please plan to stay after worship or come back if you worshipped earlier!

### Upcoming Youth Events:

\*Jan 27 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Class 9:15 am

\*Feb 2 – Super Service Saturday for Youth Groups (Time TBD)

\*Feb 3 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Class (9:15-10:15)

\*Feb 3 – “Souper” Bowl Sunday—No Youth Group!

\*Feb 10 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Class (9:15-10:15)

\*Feb 10 – Confirmation Class (3:00-4:30) with Mentors

\*Feb 17 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Class (9:15-10:15)

\*Feb 17 – Soup Cook Off – 11:30 am

\*Feb 24 – Confirmation Class (3:00-4:30) with Parents

## **“SOUPER BOWL” SUNDAY**

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**Sunday February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

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. **Please bring a can of soup and \$1 on Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.** 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 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **WANTED: SOUP**

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**SOUP COOK-OFF**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17<sup>th</sup>**

The youth will be hosting a Soup Cook Off on February 17<sup>th</sup> 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 in the Crossroads Hallway. 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!

## **SECRET PAL**

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The Secret Pal Project is when a child/youth in the church is paired with an adult from the church and for four weeks they secretly exchange letters. At the end of the project there will be a special coffee hour when all the secret pals will be revealed. Sign-ups to take part in this fun, whole church activity will be on Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be a table set up in the Crossroads Hallway where I will be sitting to help with sign-ups. The exchanging of letters will begin on Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. Complete instructions will be provided at the time of sign-up.

This is a wonderful way for the youth of the church to get to know the members of the congregation. I hope you will be a part of this fun project. If you have any questions, please contact Stacie Yates at 330-723-7344 or [yatesmsla@zoominternet.net](mailto:yatesmsla@zoominternet.net).

## **NEW MEMBER CLASS**

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Would you like to join our church family!? Join us for our last new member class on **Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. Class will be held from 7 pm – 9 pm** in the new library. New members **will join the church on Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.** 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.

## **1819 COMES ALIVE!**

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Calling all builders! The diorama is now in the corner of the East Room and ready for your models. Please complete your cabin or wagon and bring it to church by January 31<sup>st</sup>. Place your model on the table and fill out an information card from the box to display next to your work. The diorama has our present church in place. We are planning a token of appreciation for each cabin or wagon by Founders' Day, Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **FOUNDERS DAY 2019**

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They say that too many cooks spoil the broth, but today we are asking folks to be a part of making the broth! Yes—that means every foodie person that wants to help with a Founders Day celebration. On February 24<sup>th</sup>, a special shared luncheon will be a part of the activities of the day. We need volunteers to sign up to bring the “fixings” for a hearty stew to be served at noon on that day. Deadline for food donations is Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. A sign up list is available in the East Room. Items can be brought to the church kitchen. Please check the sign up list for an item that you can donate to the kettle! Thank you in advance!

## **THE PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY CHURCH OF 2019**

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Mary Lou, the new Community Services Center director, has advised that peanut butter and jelly are the most critically needed foods for its Medina County clients. PB&J are distributed every service day at the Center. We can become their PB&J angels this year by regularly buying a jar or two and placing it in the grey BOGO bin across from the elevator. Thank you for your ongoing support of this and all our Community Outreach projects!

## **VALENTINE VISITS**

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Make someone's Valentine season special! The Craftmakers have created a special Valentine's craft for our older members and friends of the church. Please pick up one or more of the crafts displayed in the East Room. Each craft has the name, phone number and an address of an older member or friend of the church. Please call the person to arrange your visit sometime before February 14<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please call Syd Benson at 330-725-5540.

## **HAVE WE OVERLOOKED ANYONE?**

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Do you know an older member or a shut-in that may enjoy a visit from a Circle of Caring member? If so, please call the church office (330-725-4559) or Syd Benson (330-725-5540) so they can be added to our list.

New Bible Study  
**TWOSDAY**  
Tuesdays at 2 p.m.

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A new Bible Study for those who don't like to drive in the dark! Beginning on Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm, Pastor Luke will host a Bible Study in the new library.

The first topic will be: THE THEOLOGICAL WORLDS: Why there are so many types of Christians?

## **SPIRITUALITY OF MARRIAGE**

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Thursdays at 6:00 pm, all couples are invited to explore the Spirituality of Marriage. Part Bible study, part couples exercise, part discussion with other couples; we'll explore what it means to be married and what it takes to sustain the covenant promise made at the wedding date.

Childcare will be provided. Topics are as follows:

January 31: Sex and What Can Result  
(Parenting)

February 7: The Unfolding Mystery

## **LADIES & GIRLS TEA SAVE THE DATE**

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Please mark your calendars for Saturday, April 27, 2019 from 12-2 pm for the Ladies and Girls Tea. The program will be a special one featuring Angela Strach-Gotthardt from the Secret Tea Society of Hudson, Ohio. Join this certified Tea Specialist to share the flavors of the tea leaf and learn the wonderful traditions of sharing tea and conversation with moms, daughters, family and friends. You will learn about the world's most consumed beverage, tea! It will surely brighten up your lovely April day. More information will follow but plan on joining us.

## **OFFERING ENVELOPES**

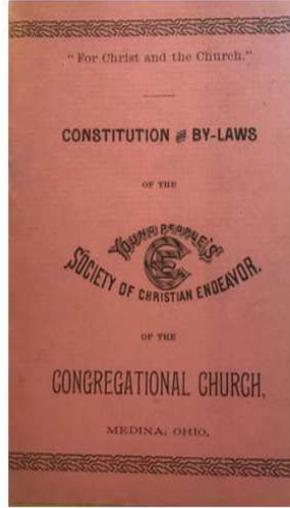
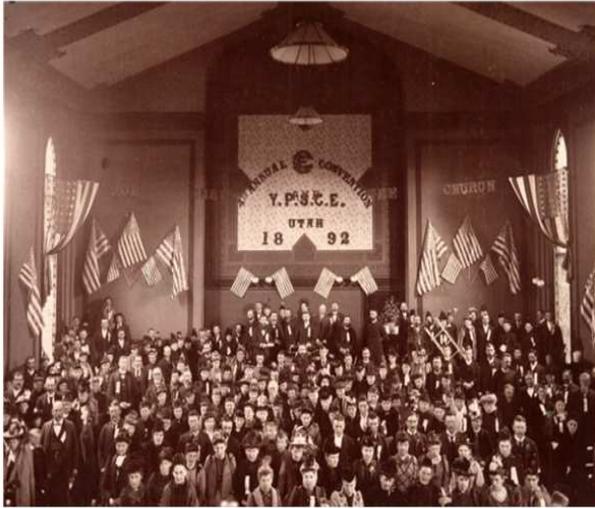
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If you requested offering envelopes they are available on the table in the East Room.

## **TOASTMASTERS**

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Is this the year you will improve your public speaking skills? Is this the year you will network more with area business leaders? Is this the year you will improve your leadership skills? Medina's newest Toastmasters club will allow you to do one, two, or all three. Toastmasters focuses on improving communication and leadership skills. This is a new club specifically for Medina's community and business leaders. We meet on the first and third THURSDAY of each month from 12 Noon to 1:00 pm at the Buehler's River Styx in the Community Room. For more information, check out our Facebook page: [MedinaLeadersSpeakToastmasters](#) OR contact [johnkav@ameritech.net](mailto:johnkav@ameritech.net) OR call Vicky at 330-622-3963. Join us at our next meeting. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain.



A medal earned by a member of our chapter of the "Young People's Society for Christian Endeavor" - a national Congregationalist founded movement.

February 2, 1881, was a bitterly cold winter day in Portland, Maine, U.S.A. Young people from the Mizpah Mission Circle were invited to the parsonage of the Williston Congregational Church for tea.

Williston Church had recently had a revival and many of the youth had made a commitment to Christ. Pastor Clark was anxious to harness their enthusiasm; he had experienced youth quickly falling by the wayside because there were no activities to challenge them. Francis E. Clark planned to propose a new group to his young people and was busy preparing the constitution. When he shared this idea with his wife her first reaction was that it was asking too much of the youth and they could not do it.

Following the tea Pastor Clark presented the constitution for the new group, which he called the Williston Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor. The essence of the society was to provide a weekly prayer meeting led by the young people. They were asked to promise to attend and to take some part, however slight, in each meeting. The constitution spelled out the purpose of the group: "To promote an earnest Christian life among its members, to increase their mutual acquaintance, and to make them more useful in the service of God." It also included a list of officers and their duties and guidelines for the prayer meeting and the committees.



Williston Congregational Church

## Bicentennial Tidbits

In 1884, a youth group was organized in our church – a chapter of the Young People's Society of the Christian Endeavor or YPSCE.

All members had to formally sign the constitution, which had these elements: "The Object of the Society is to make its members more useful in the service of God."

"All young persons who believe themselves to be Christians are automatically active members. Those who are not decidedly Christian can still become associate members and shall have the special prayers and sympathy of the active members."

"The Lookout Committee has the responsibility to bring in new members and to look after and reclaim any that seem indifferent to their duties."

"All active members shall be present at every prayer meeting, unless detained by some absolute necessity. Each active member shall take some part, however slight, in every meeting. The meeting shall be held each Thursday for at least one hour."

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:34-45 NIV

It was Passover. Jesus knew he was about to create a new covenant between God and humanity – one based on God’s grace and the presence of the Holy Spirit. He was just about to tell his followers how he would come alongside them after his passion. First, though, he gave us a new commandment – Love one Another. Not “as you love yourself”. Love one another “as I have loved you”. Wow. It was not “another” commandment. It’s a “new” commandment. It goes with the new covenant. It can only be done with the new life from his Spirit and by the new creation into which he makes us. The Apostle Paul told us the fruit of the Spirit is love. May God teach us to walk in your Spirit so that we can carry out this new commandment! Will you join me in praying this little prayer?

“Dear Lord, teach me to walk in your Spirit so that I can properly love my brothers and sisters – to your glory and pleasure. Amen.”

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**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](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)**

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

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January 27, 2019  
Third Sunday after Epiphany  
*Health and Human Services Sunday*

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Luke 4:14-21

**Good News, Good Ways**

Across the country there is an epidemic. An epidemic that is killing our people and devastating communities. The reach of this crisis can be felt deep inside many of our congregations. It is the ongoing soul-emptying and family-destroying plague of opioid addiction. The UCC has ministries and congregations that offer support and various services to those affected. Our Council for Health and Human Services Ministry (CHHSM) is planning to offer a resolution at General Synod in July 2019 at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Resolutions offered at General Synods have the effect of focusing our advocacy and energy toward legislative and public stances around those issues important to all of us. This is no exception. When Jesus stood up in that synagogue two thousand years ago and proclaimed himself sent to heal the brokenhearted and preach the Gospel to the poor he could have been standing at the door of a family devastated by addiction. How will this resolution ask us to respond to this crisis?

CHHSM leadership plans that the resolution will call us all to act on advocating for better access to treatment and to call attention to how the pharmaceutical companies have contributed to the problem. It is a resolution that calls for comfort and aid to those afflicted and to afflict the powerful of the world with condemnation for their part in human suffering.

This two part resolution would highlight the fact that treatment for this addiction is costly and access is limited. Without some action access will get more difficult. And, the resolution would call out the unethical marketing of drugs like oxycodone, hydrocodone, fentanyl and other such prescription pain relievers.

Did you know that according to the National Institute at least 115 people die every day from opioid overdoses? There are medications for opioid addiction but their availability is limited. In addition, there is a call abroad in the land for drug companies to stop marketing these opiates to doctors recognizing that over prescribing them is part of the problem.

Perhaps this resolution, now in the process of being created, will come before our General Synod and prod all of us to work together to bring healing to those brokenhearted and broken bodied. This is a way we can continue to create a "Just World for All."