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# 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

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## “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 “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” – setting, Lynn Arthur Koch Cathy Fafrak, Organist

### CHORAL INTROIT

Chancel Choir

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (from a longer liturgy by Seekers Church, a Christian community in the tradition of the Church of the Saviour.)

Leader: The New Dawn will arise upon you.

**People: You shall see and be radiant.**

Leader: The New Dawn will arise upon you.

**People: The Holy One will bless the people with peace.**

Leader: The New Dawn will arise upon you.

**People: The joy of the Lord is my strength.**

Leader: The New Dawn will arise upon you.

**People: God is here among us.**

Let us rejoice and be glad in God's presence.

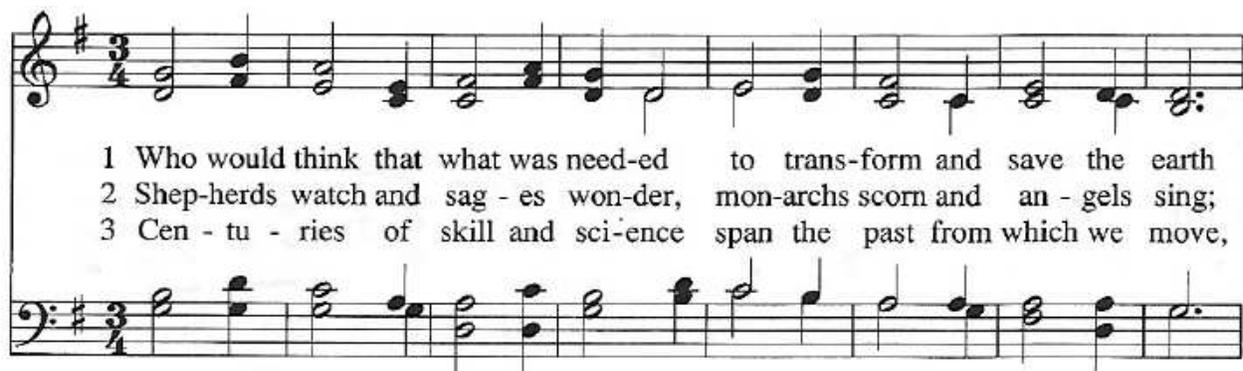
### \*OPENING HYMN

### “Who Would Think That What Was Needed”

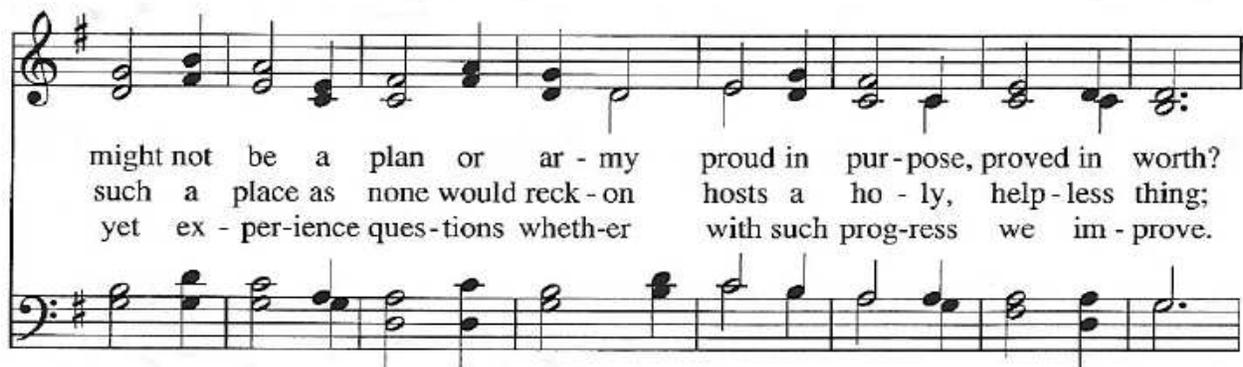
*This song was written by The Iona Community in Scotland, which frequently develops hymn texts through a collaborative process, often employing traditional tunes from the British Isles such as “Scarlet Ribbons.”*

Tune: SCARLET RIBBONS 8.7.8.7.D.  
*English traditional melody  
Arr. John Bell and others, 1990*

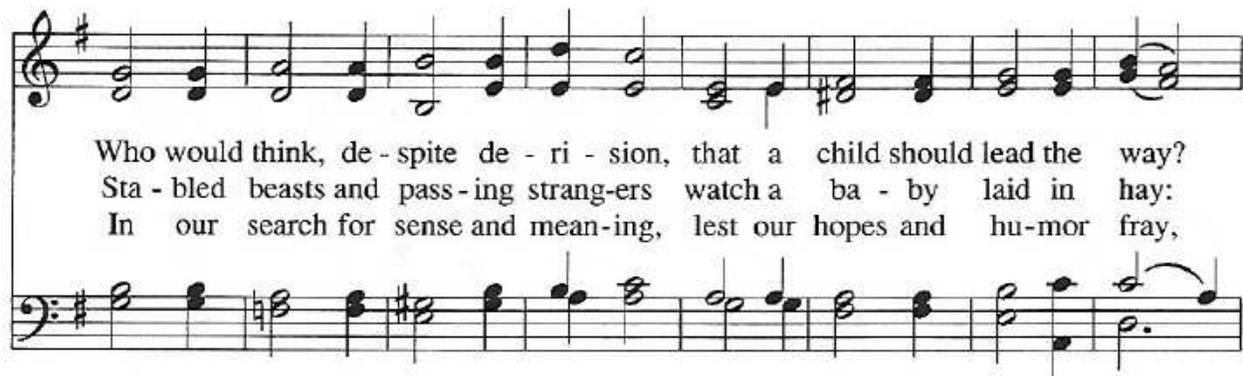
Words and Arrangement Copyright © 1990, Wild Goose Publications/Iona Community. Used by permission of G.I.A. Publications, Inc.



1 Who would think that what was need-ed to trans-form and save the earth  
 2 Shep-herds watch and sag - es won-der, mon-archs scorn and an - gels sing;  
 3 Cen - tu - ries of skill and sci-ence span the past from which we move,



might not be a plan or ar - my proud in pur-pose, proved in worth?  
 such a place as none would reck - on hosts a ho - ly, help - less thing;  
 yet ex - per-i-ence ques-tions wheth-er with such prog-ress we im - prove.



Who would think, de - spite de - ri - sion, that a child should lead the way?  
 Sta - bled beasts and pass - ing strang-ers watch a ba - by laid in hay:  
 In our search for sense and mean-ing, lest our hopes and hu-mor fray,



God sur - pris - es earth with heav-en, com-ing here on Christ-mas Day.  
 God sur - pris - es earth with heav-en, com-ing here on Christ-mas Day.  
 God sur - pris - es earth with heav-en, com-ing here on Christ-mas Day.

**\*OPENING PRAYER** (adapted from Padrig O Tauma's interview from *On Being*, March 2, 2017 and found here: <https://tinyurl.com/ychorvb7>)

Leader: Neither I nor the poets I love found the keys to the kingdom of prayer

**People: and we cannot force God to stumble over us where we sit.**

Leader: But I know that it's a good idea to sit anyway.

**People: So let us sit, waiting, making friends with the habit of listening, hoping that we are being listened to.**

Leader: Here, I greet God in my own disorder.

**People: I say hello to my chaos,**

Leader: my unmade decisions,

**People: my unmade bed,**

Leader: my desire and my trouble.

**People: I say hello to distraction and privilege, I greet the day and I greet my beloved and bewildering Jesus.**

Leader: I recognize and greet my burdens, my luck, my controlled and uncontrollable story.

**People: I greet my untold stories, my unfolding story, my unloved body, my own love, my own body. I greet the things I think will happen and I say hello to everything I do not know about the day.**

Leader: I greet my own small world and I hope that I can meet the bigger world today. I greet my story and hope that I can forget my story during the day, and hope that I can hear some stories, and greet some surprising stories during the long day ahead.

**People: I greet God, and I greet the God who is more God than the God I greet.**

Leader: Hello to you all, I say,

**People: as the sun rises above the chimneys of Medina. Hello and Amen.**

**\*PRAISE RESPONSE**

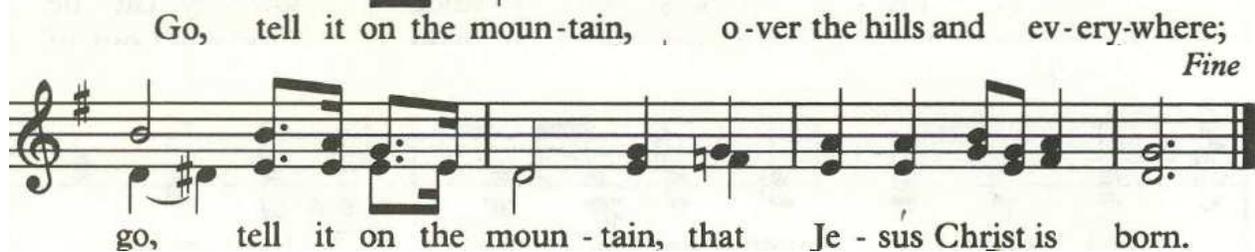
**"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"**

*Refrain*



Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev-ery-where;

*Fine*



go, tell it on the moun-tain, that Je-sus Christ is born.

WORDS: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. by John W. Work, Jr., 1907 (Lk. 2:8-20)

MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. and arr. by William Farley Smith, 1986

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN  
Irr. with Refrain

Adapt. and arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

**ANTHEM**

“The Holly and the Ivy” – traditional; arr. by Ruth Elaine Schram  
Deanna Ockunzzi, flute

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 Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”**

WORDS: Philipp Nicolai, 1599; trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863; trans. st. 3 Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978

WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET DER MORGENSTERN 887.887.4.84.8

MUSIC: Philipp Nicolai, 1599; harm. by J. S. Bach, ca. 1731

1. O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright thou  
 beam - est forth in truth and light, O  
 Sov - ereign meek and low - ly! Thou  
 Root of Jes - se, Da - vid's Son, my

Lord and Mas - ter, thou hast won my  
heart to serve thee sole - ly! Thou art ho - ly,  
fair and glo - rious, all - vic - to - rious, rich in bless -  
ing, rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing.

**SCRIPTURE**

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Matthew 2:1-12

Greg Zuehlke, Liturgist

**SERMON**

"Your God Is Too Small"

Rev. Luke Lindon

**OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS**

**Offering Invitation**

We gather now our offerings of time, talent, and treasure; pledging our loyalty to the child for we observed his star at its rising. To him and him alone we pay homage.

**Offertory Music**

"As with Gladness Men of Old" – arr. Steven Scott

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**

Dear Christ-child, we seek you as the wise ones did. We dedicate our humble gifts to your work. Guide our work, send us warning in dreams and visions should we stray from your way and have us come home to your country by another road. 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

Leader: We have come asking for the child –

**People: Wondering where that love might be born.**

Leader: Seeking that joy that might satisfy our thirst,

**People: Wandering through the fog of so many mistakes.**

Leader: We have come to this place where

**People: wise-people and shepherds and young women met.**

Leader: We have come to this place called Bethlehem –

**People: to this place where our hearts rise like yeast;  
to this place where we meet our newborn hope;  
to this place where we taste our deepest joy.**

Leader: In Bethlehem, where we assumed the worst,

**People: imagining that no good can come, we somehow missed its name.**

Leader: Bethlehem: *Lehem* meaning bread. *Bethel* meaning house.

There is something here that will satisfy our hunger.

**People: No matter how long we have wandered, here our hearts arise. Our light has come.**

Leader: In this bread and in this cup,

**People: We celebrate something we can't quite understand.**

Leader: Because God has made a house at this table.

**People: Because God satisfies our hunger in the most unlikely places.**

Leader: Because God comes to be with us.

**People: Now and always.**

Leader: It is with this expectation that we come to the table

**People: to taste and see that God is here.**

### Prayer at the Table

Leader: Holy Spirit, come into this bread and this cup.

Transform these ordinary objects

**People: As you change our hearts**

Leader: To shape and form your world with the joy you promise.

**People: Pour your grace upon us, so we overflow with your love.**

**Help us to remember how a newborn baby might grow into a little child  
that would one day turn to his hope-filled friends**

Leader: In an upper room...

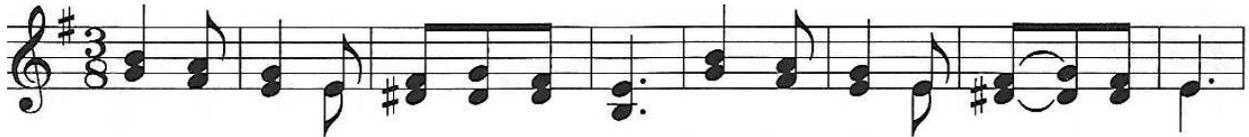
### Words of Institution

### Distribution of the Elements

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

\*SENDING HYMN

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing gifts we trav - erse a - far,  
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,  
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I, in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;  
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom:  
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;



field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.  
prayer and prais - ing, voic - es rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God on high.  
sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.



O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.

WORDS and MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891), alt.

KINGS OF ORIENT  
8.8.8.6.Ref.

\*BENEDICTION (written by Nathan Nettleton. Posted on [LaughingBird.net](http://LaughingBird.net))

Leader: Go now as a light to the nations.

People: **To honor the Lord and preach what we know of the risen Christ, and fulfil all righteousness.**

Leader: And may God strengthen you and bless you with peace;  
May Christ Jesus bring forth justice for you and among you;  
And may the Holy Spirit alight on you and affirm you as God's beloved ones.

People: **We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,  
In the name of Christ. Amen.**



# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## JANUARY 6, 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](http://uccmedina.org)

January 6, 2019 thru January 13, 2019

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

<b>Sun</b>	<b>EPIPHANY SUNDAY</b>
	8:15 am Chapel Worship
	9:00 am Gathering Worship
	9:15 am Choir Practice
	10:00 am 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Class Parent Meeting
	10:30 am Traditional Worship
	11:30 am Hunger Outreach Meeting (Project Leaders only)
	4:00 pm Youth Group – Post New Year's Party
<b>Mon</b>	Cook for Cups Hobby Horse back in session 7:00 pm Evangelism Team
<b>Tues</b>	<b>8:00 am</b> Men's Fellowship @ P.J. Marley's 7:30 pm Women's Book Group
<b>Wed</b>	10:30 am Quilters 6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm Hobby Horse Open House 7:15 pm Youth Bell Choir
<b>Thu</b>	<b>Garfield Deliveries</b>
<b>Fri</b>	1:30 pm JMM @ Evergreen
<b>Sat</b>	
<b>Sun</b>	8:15 am Chapel Worship 9:00 am Gathering Worship 9:15 am Choir Practice 10:30 am Traditional Worship 11:45 am Mission Team 3:00 pm Confirmation Class

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

Scripture: Isaiah 60: 1-6 & Matthew 2: 1-12

“Your God Is Too Small” - Rev. Luke Lindon

**Altar Flowers:** The altar flowers are given in honor of Pastor Luke's Birthday! Many blessings on your birthday!

### Upcoming Youth Events:

\***January 6** – Third Grade Bible Parent Meeting –  
10:00 in the Library

\***January 6** – Youth Group 4-6 pm – Post New  
Year's Party!

\***January 20** – Youth Group 4-6 pm – Make  
Valentines for residents at Medina Meadows.

### THIRD GRADE BIBLE PARENT MEETING

**January 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am**

There will be a meeting for all parents of third graders who wish to receive their bible. We will meet in the library at 10:00 am. Please see Stacie Yates if you have any questions.

### NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Would you like to join our church family!? Join us for our next new member class! The next classes will be held: **Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup> & Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>**. Class will be held from **7:00 pm – 9:00 pm** in the new Library. New members **will join the church on Sunday, February 3rd**. 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.

## WHAT GOES UP, MUST ALSO COME DOWN

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With another Christmas season behind us, we now need to turn our thoughts to disassembling, packaging, labeling and taping the Christmas decorations and storing them for next year.

If you would like to lend a hand, please join us on Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 after the traditional service to help with the "Un-Decorating" process.

## OFFERING ENVELOPES

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

## ALTAR FLOWERS

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The 2019 Flower Chart is now hanging on the bulletin board in the East Room hallway. Please sign up to sponsor the Altar Flowers. 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.

## COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED

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Thank you to those who have signed up to host a Coffee Hour in January! Please consider hosting a Sunday after the 10:30 service in February or March. Sign-up sheets are in the East Room. Please remember this is supposed to be a snack with coffee or punch. Doughnut holes, cheese and crackers, fresh fruit or anything you like may be served. KEEP IT SIMPLE. Thank you and if there are questions, please contact Beth Hari @ 330-242-1807.

## MIAMI UNIVERSITY CHEEZIES

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Kyle Root and The Miami University *Cheezies* are doing a home town tour this winter and will be making a stop right here at the church on **January 16, 2019**. They are thrilled to offer an evening of fun *a cappella* selections as well as guest performances by several members of the church. The performance will start at **7:30 the evening of the 16<sup>th</sup>** and will conclude with a reception so you can meet some of the talented performers. How much does this cost? It is 100% FREE! Come enjoy the music and we will offer a donation plate if you think it was amazing!

## COSTA RICA PANELS

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We are raising funds to build a house in the East Room! Well, a model of a house that will be built in Costa Rica. Each panel costs \$375. We hope that we can build a full model of the house which will be built in January with Mercy Homes, our mission partner in Costa Rica. **We have currently raised \$3,650.00, enough for 10 panels!** Any amount helps. Thanks for helping provide a home for our Costa Rican families!

## ANNUAL REPORTS AND MEETING

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**Save the date!**

**Our Annual Budget Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>** immediately following the 10:30 service.

If I have asked for an annual report from you, **the deadline is Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup>**.

**This means:** Endowment Committee, Stewardship Committee, Finance Team, Treasurer and Church Clerk. If you have any questions or need a copy of last years' annual report to refer to please let me know.

Please email your reports to Cindy in the office at: [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org) or drop them off in the church office.

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**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON  
MONDAY, JANUARY 21<sup>ST</sup> IN OBSERVANCE  
OF MLK DAY**

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## **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 17: The Zimzum of Marriage  
January 25: AWKWARD Communication  
January 31: Sex and What Can Result  
(Parenting)  
February 7: The Unfolding Mystery

## **New Bible Study TWO DAY 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?

## **2019 BICENTENNIAL CALENDARS**

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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 are available in the East Room for a \$5 donation that will go towards our Bicentennial Celebrations.

## **MANY, MANY THANKS**

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The Community Outreach Ministry would like to thank everyone who has shared their time, talent, and/or treasure to make a difference in so many lives in our community. Whether you Cooked for Cups, contributed to the personal hygiene program for Garfield students including handmade hats, scarves and gloves, participated in the library Shop-n-Drop, donated a variety of items to the BOGO for the Community Service Center, and/or contributed your time to driving to deliver food items, or shopped and brought to church many, many food items, or donated so generously for our adopted fourteen Garfield families...*WE THANK YOU.*

## **KEY FOUND FOR A BUICK**

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A Buick key was found in the kitchen sometime around the Youth Group Thanksgiving Potluck or Candlelight Walk. Please claim it if it is yours.

## **Founders Day 2019----WORSHIP, LEGACY LETTERS, AND LUNCH**

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### **SAVE THE DATE-ONE SERVICE ONLY**

Be sure to save the date of **Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>!!**

Join the church family in a special service at 10:00 am to re-enact a typical worship service from 1919. This to be followed by a READERS THEATRE show, concluding with an old fashioned pot-luck lunch as might have been served in 1919. Sounds like fun! Plan to be there!

## **GIFT CARD ORDERS**

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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](http://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.

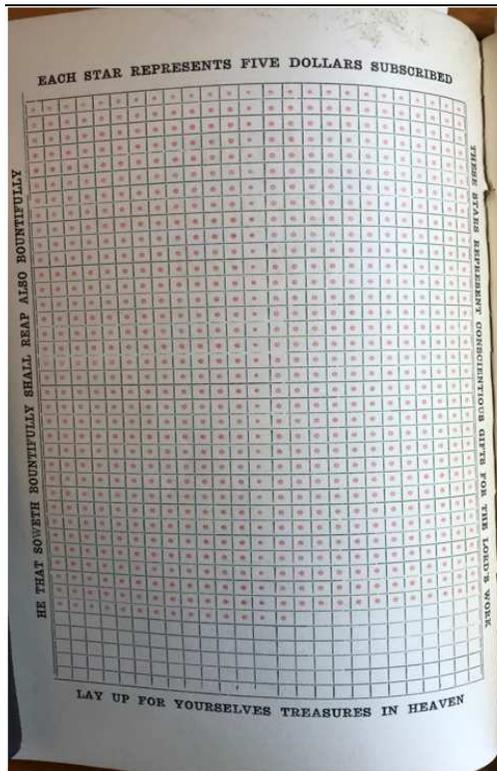
**The next order will be due a week early on  
Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.**

So often we are asked: "What is your New Year's resolution?" How do you reply? Many times people reply that they haven't really given it much thought. In reality, there is always a risk of failure in putting yourself out there with an answer. This year I pray is different.

Oh, if only I could resolve to begin each day rejoicing. And I have a perfect example living in my home. If you don't have a dog, this might not be as meaningful an example for you. But Beau (a rescued Cocker Spaniel mix) greets each day the same –with great delight. His tail is wagging; he bounces around the house like he has a new lease on life. He appears to have put what went on yesterday behind him and is super charged to face this new day! Grateful for that bowl of food. Words cannot describe that morning walk; taking his time to investigate his surroundings and "marking" the spots that are good. HmMMMM.

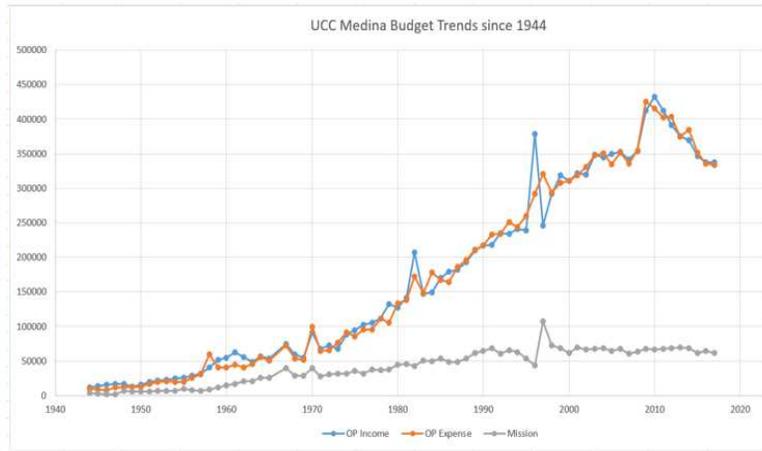
Yes, I think this year I will try to follow Beau's example. I will try to rise each morning with a rejoicing heart and enjoy all I can of the day the Lord has given me.

**"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."  
Psalm 118:24**



## Bicentennial Tidbits

The grid at left was the pledge drive status report from 1911 – when the page was completely filled with dots, the budget would be fully raised! In the 74 years since 1944, our budget was, in fact, oversubscribed 48 times, and by an average of 11%. These figures include the effect of bequests or special gifts, which show on the graph below as the blips for 1982 and 1996.



**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\*\*\*\*\***

Matthew 2:1-12

### **Where is the Child?**

Herod has no good intentions for baby Jesus. He was not looking to buy him a blue bassinet or a tiny little catcher's mitt. No, Herod had a more diabolic plan. The Magi who had traveled all that way to find the baby under the tail of that great extraordinary star knew better. They knew he was an evil man with an evil intent. So, when the time came, as Matthew's Gospel tells us, those Magi went home by another way. Thus, they saved the baby Jesus. The Magi were wealthy and were a part of Herod's world of privilege. But they could escape Herod's reach, and chose another way in order to protect the child.

Clergy in the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ have chosen another way with respect to immigrant children housed in their state. They have joined with other faith leaders, lawmakers and attorneys to introduce legislation that would require state licensed facilities that house immigrant children on behalf of our federal government to report to the public regularly. Those reports would require an accounting of how many children each facility is housing. Currently, the facilities say that they are not required to report anything about what is happening to these immigrant children. These are the children that have been forcibly removed from their parents, many of whose parents came here seeking asylum in the United States.

This coalition is hoping that other states and conferences will follow their example. The legislation is called "The Separated Children Accountability Response Act (SCAR). The gist of the Act would be to require state-contracted facilities to report every 15 days on numbers of children and on efforts to reunite children with their parents. This Legislation was introduced last summer at Judson Memorial Church (UCC affiliated) in New York City.

In Africa, among the mighty Masai warriors, the traditional greeting is to ask, "How are the children?" Even warriors without children ask that question of each other, and the traditional response is, "All the children are well." Thus, if there is time and attention and care for the children then life is good. We should all ask each other that question in order that all of us in all our churches might use the well-being of children as the test of how well we are doing as a society. The Magi knew that. The authors of this legislation know that. How are the children?