
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

www.uccmedina.org



*****Assisted Listening Devices Available – Please Ask Your Usher*****

LIVE STREAMING 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 “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” – arr. Kenneth T. Kosche Cathy Fafrak, Organist

*CHORAL INTROIT

*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF HOPE Kathy Goodwin

(written by the Rev. Jeff Nelson, on <http://www.coffeehousecontemplative.com/>)

Leader: Lift up your eyes and your hearts. From where does your hope come?

People: **Our hope is in God, who made heaven and earth;
Our hope is in Jesus Christ, for whose birth we wait.**

Leader: What keeps you from hoping? Bring it to this time of worship and offer it to God.

People: **We come to worship to renew our hope.
We come seeking a light for our way through the darkness.**

(Pause while the first Advent candle of Hope is lit.)

Leader: People of God, may this candle serve as a reminder of the hope that is within us.

People: **Though it is one single flame, it is enough. We press on through our fears with the Spirit as our guide and source of courage.**

***RESPONSE** “Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn”

I A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, sing out your joy, for
 Je - sus is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 geth - er, to o - pen wide the heaven - ly door, and
 lives now in - side us for ev - er.

Liturgical composer Marty Haugen wrote both words and music for this Advent hymn with the twofold aim of providing an easy congregational chorale and utilizing the images of the Isaiah passages.

Tune: REJOICE, REJOICE 9.8.9.8.8.7.8.9.
 Marty Haugen, 1983

Copyright © 1983 by G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

***INVOCATION**

Leader: Let us pray together

People: God of Hope, you light our path. When we feel drained, defeated, and downtrodden, you tend to our souls. When our bodies and hearts are chilled by personal winters, you warm us by your Spirit's fire. As we begin this time of Advent waiting, instill in us a hope that carries us through troubled times, as we anticipate the new heaven and new earth that is ever manifesting in our world. It is in the name of the one for whom we wait and in whom we hope that we pray. Amen.

***HYMN**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

TEXT: Latin Hymn, *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, 1710; translated by John M. Neale, stanzas 1,2, altered; Henry S. Coffin, stanzas 3,4 altered
 MUSIC: Adapted from Plainsong by Thomas Helmore, altered

VENI EMMANUEL
 L. M. with Refrain



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el And ran - som cap - tive
2. O come, Thou Day - spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by Thine
3. O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high And or - der all things,
4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples in one



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,
ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
far and nigh; To us the path of knowl - edge show
heart and mind. Bid en - vy, strife, and quar - rels cease;



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
And death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re - joice! Re - joice!
And cause us in her ways to go.
Fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.



Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

ANTHEM "How Lovely Are the Messengers" – Felix Mendelssohn

Chancel Choir

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children's Choir

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

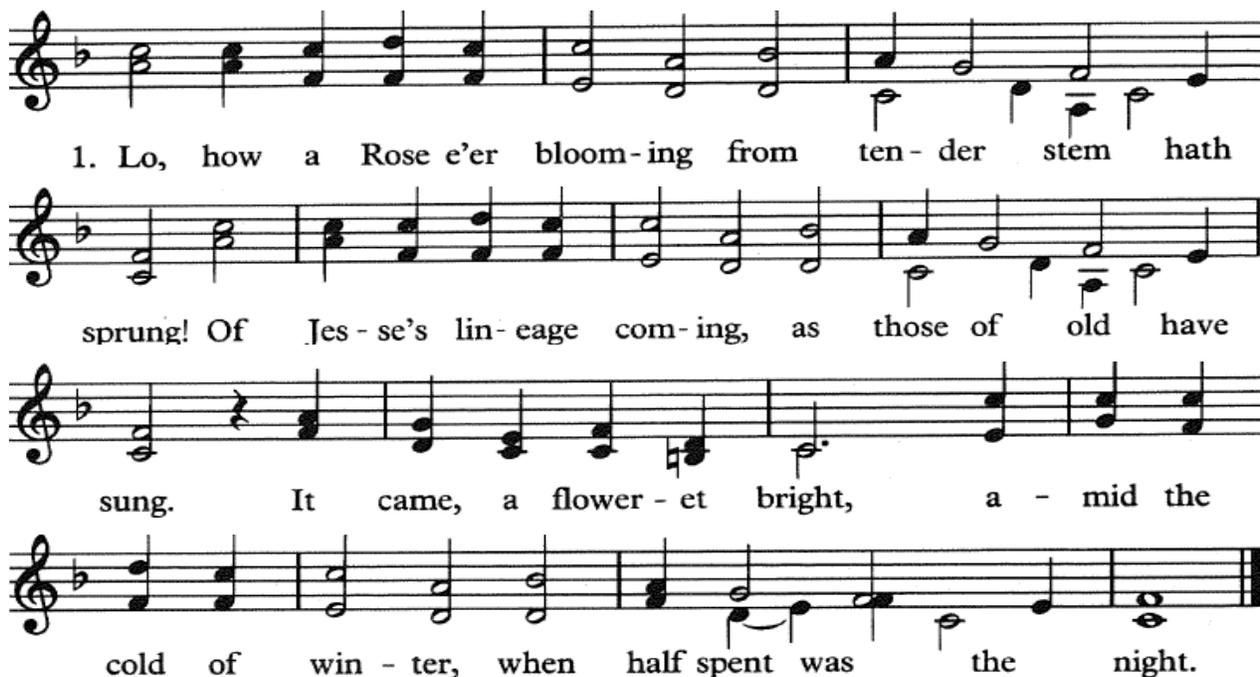
Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayer

Morning Prayer

PRAYER RESPONSE

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”



1. Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten-der stem hath
 sprung! Of Jes-se's lin-eage com-ing, as those of old have
 sung. It came, a flower-et bright, a - mid the
 cold of win-ter, when half spent was the night.

WORDS: Sts. 1-2, 15th cent. German; trans. by Theodore Baker, 1894; st. 3 from
The Hymnal, 1940 (Is. 35:1-2)

ES IST EIN ROS
 76.76.676

MUSIC: *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599; harm. by Michael Praetorius, 1609

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 2:1-5 and Matthew 24:26-44

Deb Waldron, Liturgist

SERMON “Hope, the first Sunday in Advent”

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation (Romans 13:11)

The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

Offertory Music “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” – arr. David M. Cherwien

*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

We have hope in you, Jesus. Take our gifts and use them. We know the Wisemen gave their gifts and it was not recorded how they were used. Take our gifts of time, talent, and treasure to use them to build your kingdom. Even if we don’t know how you use our gifts, we have hope in you. Amen.

SACRAMENT 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

The Words of Institution

Distribution of the elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*SENDING HYMN

"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.

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: May you find hope today.
May your burden be lighter.
May you go from here blessed to be a blessing, for this service has ended.
People: **And our service now begins. 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** "Hark, the Glad Sound!" – setting, Paul Manz Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

*All who are able please stand.

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

****Please join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the service***
Today's coffee hour is hosted by **Ken & Sue Dean.***

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
Nicole Rubino, Co-Director of Youth
Jim Kiser, Director of Music
Cathy Fafrak, Organist
Rebecca Rosen, Nursery Supervisor
Xanthe Phillips, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

December 1, 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

December 1 thru December 8, 2019

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT
8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir Practice
10:30 am Traditional Worship
**4:30 pm Advent Family Fun Night
(Confirmands to Help)**

Mon Cook for Cups

Tues 7:00 pm Worship Team

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
6:15 pm Youth Bell Choir Practice
6:45 pm Adult Bell Choir Practice
6:45 pm Youth Choir

Thu Garfield Deliveries

Fri 1:30 pm JMM @ Evergreen

Sat 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal

Sun 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT
8:30 am Choir Practice
10:00 am ONE SERVICE ONLY
WORSHIP & MUSIC CHRISTMAS
PROGRAM
11:00 am Youth Christmas Talent
Rehearsal
11:30 am Safety & Security Meeting
3:00 pm Confirmation Class

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Do you like to sing Christmas carols for the shut-ins in our community? If so, please join us on Saturday, December 14th at 3:00 pm to do some caroling. Bring the whole family as it is always fun to have children join us. Afterwards, we'll meet back at the church and have chili and more. There is a sign-up sheet in the East Room hallway asking what you can bring for our meal.

Worship Highlights: 8:15, 9:00 & 10:30 am
Scripture: Isaiah 2:1-5 & Matthew 24:26-44
Sermon: "Hope, the First Sunday in Advent"
Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are donated by Alan Parkhurst in honor of the church family. They were created using the Christian symbolism of Floral Materials. A copy of this list is available in the East room today.

ADVENT FAMILY FUN NIGHT

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**. We will have crafts and activities for all ages, enjoy a pizza dinner together at a cost of \$3/person. Help us kick off the season of Advent and get into the holiday spirit. If you would like to attend, please sign up on the bulletin board in the East Room hallway. We hope to see you there!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

All-Church Worship Service & Concert

This holiday worship service will begin at **10:00 am** and feature a unique concert that employs narrative, projected images and the talents of all our church musicians and singers. This is a holiday version of the concert performed in June, and tells the story of the church's music, beginning with the earliest days of the Christian tradition and continuing up to the present day. Of course, the congregation will have ample opportunities to join in the music making.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Thank You to those of you who have returned your pledge cards for 2020! **In order to best forecast 2020 budgets the church is still in need of your 2020 Faith Offering Card.** Blank cards are available in the pew racks.

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 9th.** Order forms are available from the ushers or in the information rack by the church office.

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 7th**, 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 sheet is available on the bulletin board in the East Room hallway. For any questions or concerns, contact Holly Hallman. This is a popular event each year, so sign up soon!

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS GATHERING

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2019
11:30 AM**

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 on the bulletin board near the East Room.** 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).

TWO QUILTS TO BE RAFFLED

Two quilts have been donated to the UCC Quilters Group. A king size quilt was donated by Nancy Lamkin and a wall hanging has been donated by Shirley Nowak. The Quilters Group is offering both of these beautiful quilts for raffle. The quilts will be offered during the weeks of November and early December for gift-giving and as a fund-raiser for the Endowment Fund. **The drawing is set for December 8th.** Ticket cost is \$1.00 and the winner need not be present to win. Stop in the East Room and view these grand quilts. Tickets are on sale in the East Room and in the church office. We encourage you to share a photo of the quilt on social media so that friends in the community will have an opportunity to buy a ticket – and perhaps win!

SERVICE OF REMEMBERING

DECEMBER 29TH at 10:00 am

On the last Sunday of the year we will remember those persons who have passed away this past year. By having the time of remembrance during a worship service, we encourage family members and others to come and share this time together. During the worship service, the names of the members of Medina UCC who have passed away during 2019 will be read. For each member a candle will be lighted and a chime will ring. We would also like to read the names of family members and loved ones who have passed away during this past year. If you have a loved one you would like remembered, please call the Church Office with the full name of the loved one, their relationship to you, and the day of their passing.

EXTRA GIFT CARDS ON HAND FOR PURCHASE

Extra Gift Cards available for Christmas Gifts:

\$10 – Chipotle, \$10 – Panera, \$10 – Starbucks

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 with cash or by check payable to "UCC". These cards make great gifts. Supplies are limited.

Upcoming Youth Events:

- *December 1 – Advent Family Fun Night 4:00-6:00
- *December 8 – Christmas Program Rehearsal 11:00
Confirmation 3:00-4:30
- *December 13 – Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Program 6:00
- *December 15 – NO F.I.S.H. Children’s Christmas Talent Program
- *December 15 – Youth Group Christmas Dinner & Parties – 4:00–6:00
- *December 29 – NO F.I.S.H. – HAPPY NEW YEAR!!
- *January 5 – Youth Group – 4:00-6:00
- *January 12 – Confirmation 3:00-4:30
- *January 19 – Youth Group 4:00-6:00
- *January 24 – Confirmation Trip to Temple Israel 6:00 pm in church parking lot
- *January 26 – Confirmation 3:00-4:30

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

It’s that time of year again! It’s time to start thinking about the Holidays. Our annual Children’s Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 15th at the 10:30 service. This year we will once again be doing “A Talent Filled Christmas”. If your child/youth has something they would like to perform for the show, please sign up on the bulletin board in the East Room hallway. We will have a practice on Sunday, December 8th at 11:30 am and our dress rehearsal on Friday, December 13th at 6:00 pm. The Cherub Choir and the Youth Choirs will be performing and will be practicing before Sunday School every Sunday. If you have any questions, please see Stacie Yates.

BICENTENNIAL “TIME CAPSULE”

The yearlong observance of our 200th anniversary will culminate on Founders Day with the ceremonial dedication/deposition of the Time Capsule. Memory Cards will be distributed via bulletins, ushers, and will be available near the drop off collection box (not the actual time capsule box). Members are asked to fill out this form with pertinent family information, as well as favorite memories, stories, or experiences that connect you to this church. Watch for these forms to become available in early December until the week before our Founders Day celebration in February.

Join us for the Advent/Christmas Season

Advent Family Fun Night
Sunday, December 1st – 4:00 pm

“Music of the Church: An Advent Festival”
December 8th – **One Single Service**
10:00 am Worship

Women’s Fellowship Christmas Gathering
Wednesday, December 11th – 11:30 pm

“Children’s Talent Filled Christmas”
Sunday, December 15th - 10:30 worship service
No F.I.S.H. Sunday school today

Youth Group Christmas Dinner & Parties
Sunday, December 15th – 4:00 pm

Christmas Caroling & Chili Dinner
Saturday, December 14th - 3:00 pm

Christmas Eve Worship
6:00 PM—Candlelight Service
9:00 PM—Candlelight Service

ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP
Service of Remembrance
Sunday, December 29th – **10:00 am.**

Matthew 24:36-44

Called to Gift

December 1st is World AIDS Day. In the nearly four decades since we have learned about HIV, more than 35 million people have died of the virus, making it one of the most destructive pandemics the world has ever known. On World AIDS Day, we remember those who have died of the disease, we demonstrate support for those living with HIV & AIDS and we re-commit to combatting HIV & AIDS. Perhaps most importantly of all, we pledge to end the stigma that is still attached to a diagnosis of the virus.

UCAN is the United Church of Christ HIV & AIDS Network, providing Faith-based leadership for ending the HIV & AIDS epidemic. According to the UCAN website* "Much progress has been made since we first learned about HIV more than 35 years ago and we have made it through some very difficult times. We remember with thanksgiving those we have lost to this disease and for those who grieve, we pray God's peace and comfort. Although medical advances have made it possible to prevent HIV from attacking the immune system, saving millions of lives, we recognize that we have not sufficiently scaled-up our responses to meet the need for prevention, treatment, care and support for all those living with and affected by HIV."

One of the difficulties in fighting this disease has been, and continues to be, discrimination and stigma. With treatment, people can live healthy lives with AIDS. The first step to getting treatment is to get tested and diagnosed, but for many, stigma is a major barrier to testing. Everyone can help knock down that barrier.

Today's scripture reminds us of all that we do not know. Jesus tells us that in most important ways, we do not know what the future will bring. But one thing we do know is that we can help end the stigma of getting help for this disease. We can all be tested for HIV & AIDS, even if we do not consider ourselves at risk. Getting tested is one way that each of us can be involved in combatting and eradicating HIV & AIDS.

First Sunday of Advent - Prayer for Hope

O come, O come Emmanuel!

We look at the world and all its brokenness and we are too often tempted to give up.

Grant us the audacity of hope.

Save us from easy cynicism and despair.

Remind us that while none of us can do all things, all of us can do some things.

Place before us the things we can do, and give us the courage to do them. Amen.

*UCAN Call to Action. Accessed July 24, 2019. https://www.ucc.org/ucan_call_to_action