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# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

[www.uccmedina.org](http://www.uccmedina.org)



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**LIVE STREAMING 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      “Simple Gifts” – arr. Douglas E. Wagner      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: We have talked of stewardship the last few weeks.  
**People: Stewardship of time, talent, and treasure.**  
Leader: Of the importance of giving to what you love.  
**People: Of taking a break and not producing anything.**  
Leader: Of giving up our idols, and remembering that this life...  
**People: Is a cosmic love story.**  
Leader: Created by God.  
**People: Redeemed by Jesus.**  
Leader: And sustained by the Holy Spirit.  
**People: One God!**  
Leader: To which we worship here and now.  
**People: Amen!**

### \*OPENING HYMN

**“God of the Ages”**



*Trumpets, before  
each stanza*

1. God of the a - ges, whose al-might-y hand
2. Thy love di - vine hath led us in the past;
3. From war's a-larms, from dead-ly pes-ti - lence,
4. Re-fresh thy peo- ple on their toil-some way;



leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band  
 in this free land with thee our lot is cast;  
 be thy strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense;  
 lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day;



of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies,  
 be thou our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and stay,  
 thy true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease;  
 fill all our lives with love and grace di - vine,



our grate - ful songs be - fore thy throne a - rise.  
 thy Word our law, thy paths our cho - sen way.  
 thy boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.  
 and glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er thine.



**\*OPENING PRAYER** (a Veteran's Day prayer written by Roddy Hamilton, and posted on **Mucky Paws.**)

Leader: Can you hear it? It is the silence  
People: **That holds all our stories**  
**The hurt for which there are no words**  
**The pain that cannot be expressed from war**

Leader: ...it is the silence  
People: **That shares the ache of the past**  
**And knows the deep cost of war**  
**That always costs too much**  
**Yet there always seems more to give**

Leader: ...it is the silence of a God  
People: **Who has no words left**  
**For a love that has nothing left to give**  
**Yet will give even that**

Leader: May we gather in the clutch of such a silence  
People: **For it is in this silence and no other**  
Leader: We hold together the perplexing truth of battlefields  
People: **And our honest turmoil of emotion.**  
Leader: Here we gather in remembrance.  
People: **Of those who served.**  
**Those who never came back.**  
Leader: Those who are called to service.  
People: **Be with us all, we pray. Amen.**

**\*PRAISE RESPONSE**

**"Take My Life, God, Let It Be"**

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "I Take my life, God, let it be con - se - crat - ed faith - ful - ly." The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "Take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise." The lyrics are printed below the notes.

*Frances R. Havergal wrote her hymn following a visit to Areley House in Worcestershire, England. Among the ten persons at the house were "some unconverted . . . some converted but not rejoicing." Before she left, "everyone had got a blessing."*

Tune: VIENNA 7.7.7.7.  
Justin H. Knecht, 1797  
Alternate tune: HENDON

**ANTHEM**

**"The Battle Hymn of the Republic"**

Chancel Choir

Words by Julia Ward Howe. Music by William Steffe, arr. by Peter H. Wilhousky

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

Joy and Concerns, Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer

PRAYER RESPONSE

"Spirit of the Living God"

WORDS: Daniel Iversen (1890-1977); vs. J. Michael Baughen (1930- )  
MUSIC: Daniel Iversen (1890-1977)  
Words and Music © 1975, Rev. 1983 Bidding Music (Admin: DMI Christian Music Publishing)

IVERSON  
Regular

1 Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me;

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

SCRIPTURE Acts 4:32-37

Pete Metzloff, Liturgist

SERMON "Stewardship Sunday"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

May what we offer, be held in common. Held in trust. Holy One, guide our leaders that this trust may never be violated, that you guide our gifts to those who need is most.

**\*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 give you some of our all. We give you thanks for those who gave their all. We know that life is a gift and one day you will take all of it back to yourself. May what we offer now be a blessing that brings wholeness and hope. Amen.

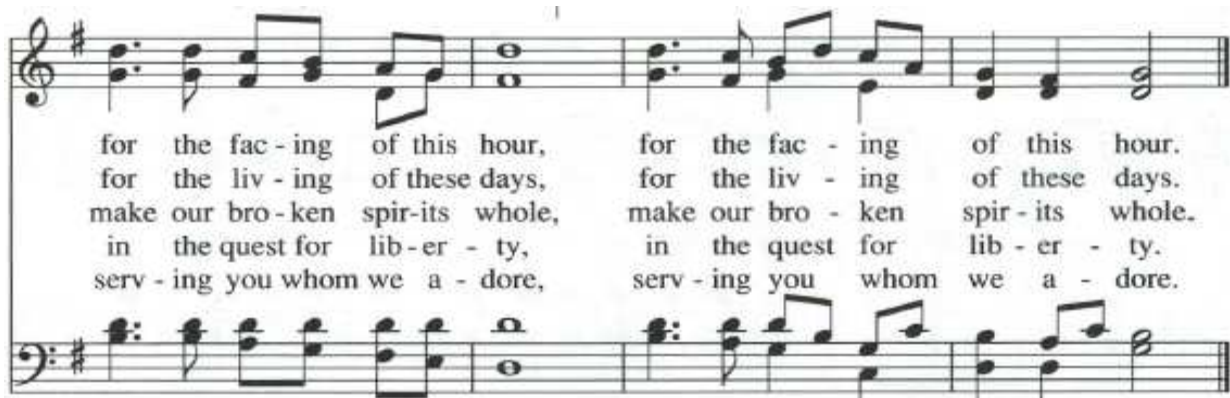
**\*SENDING HYMN**

**"God of Grace and God of Glory"**

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
 2 From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the  
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
 4 Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that  
 5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;  
 Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—  
 your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,  
 they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,  
 we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



*Harry Emerson Fosdick, a prophetic preacher and writer, taught at Union Theological Seminary from 1915 to 1946. This hymn was written for the opening service and dedication of Riverside Church, New York City, which he served for twenty years.*

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7. John Hughes, c. 1907

**\*BENEDICTION** (based on Micah 4:3)

Leader: God will judge among many people, rebuking strong nations far away;

People: **And they will reshape their swords as plowshares  
And their spears as pruning hooks.  
No nation will threaten another,  
Nor will they train for war anymore.**

Leader: Go in the peace of Christ, working as you are gifted to hasten that beloved community, where all dwell in peace. Go! 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** "Mighty Maker of All" – Rachel Sawyer

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

**MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"**

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\* Those who are able are asked to please stand

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

\*\*\*Please join us for the **Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser** in Fellowship Hall following the service\*\*\*

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***PASTORAL STAFF***

Rev. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister – 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  
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

## NOVEMBER 10, 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)

November 10 thru November 17, 2019

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

#### Sun STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

8:15 am Chapel Worship  
9:00 am Gathering Worship  
9:15 am Choir Practice  
10:30 am Traditional Worship  
**11:45 am Pancake Breakfast  
Youth Fundraiser**  
**11:45 am Safety & Security**  
3:00 pm Confirmation Class

#### Mon Veteran's Day

6:30 pm Women's Bible Study

#### Tues 8:00 am Men's Fellowship @ P.J. Marley's

9:00 am Women's Breakfast Group  
@ Marie's

2:00 pm Tuesdays Bible Study

**7:00 pm Worship Team**

#### Wed 10:30 am Quilters

6:15 pm Youth Bell Choir Practice

6:45 pm Youth Choir Practice

6:45 pm Adult Bell Choir rehearsal

#### Thu Garfield Deliveries

#### Fri 1:30 pm JMM @ Evergreen

#### Sat

#### Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship

9:00 am Gathering Worship

9:15 am Choir Practice

10:30 am Traditional Worship

**11:30 am Hanging of the Greens**

**11:45 am Mission Team**

**11:45 am Caring Team**

2:00 pm JMM @ Medina Meadows

**4:00 pm Youth Group**

**Thanksgiving Potluck/Ornament Painting**

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

Scripture: Acts 4:32-37

Sermon: "Stewardship Sunday" - Rev. Luke Lindon

**Altar Flowers:** The altar flowers are donated by Dennis & Allayne Reese in honor of their anniversary and with thanks for God's blessings.

### YOUTH GROUP PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

Bring your appetite and we will provide the butter and syrup! The Youth Group will be flipping flapjacks **today, November 10<sup>th</sup> from 11:45-1:00**. Come help us raise money for our Youth Group mission trips by eating your weight in pancakes! Free will offerings will be accepted to cover the pancake breakfast as well as donations towards youth mission trips. In honor of Veterans Day we will also be taking some time to recognize our church members who have served in the US Armed Forces. We hope to see you after church in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday November 10<sup>th</sup>.

### HANGING OF THE GREENS

The Christmas decorations for the holiday season will be hung and displayed after church on Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, around 11:30 am. Volunteers and helping hands are needed. Due to the activities that involve our church facility during the Candlelight Walk, we are decorating a week earlier than our normal time. Please mark your calendars to join our crew.

### COMPUTER NEEDED

We are in need of a quality Windows 7 desktop computer for our Sanctuary Video System. If you have a retired Win 7 desktop computer to donate (monitor not required), drop off in the office or call and we will pick up. Thank you!



## **COMING SOON: TWO MORE BICENTENNIAL EVENTS**

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The year-long observance of our Bicentennial will highlight two festive celebrations during the upcoming holidays.

**\*\*Saturday, November 23:**

### **Candle Light Walk Open House**

From 12:00 Noon to 5:00 pm, we will open our doors to welcome the public for a guided tour of the church. Along the way, take a turn at ringing the tower bell, listen to holiday selections played on the organ, join in a caroling singalong that will feature the voices of The Medina Chorus, and warm up with a cup of hot cider or cocoa in our Fellowship Hall. If you are willing to help out, please add your name to the sign-up chart posted in the Sanctuary hallway.

**\*\*Sunday, December 8:**

### **All-Church Worship Service & Concert**

This holiday worship service will begin at 10:00am 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.

## **WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB**

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The Women's Book Club will not be meeting in the future as our attendance has not been sufficient for fruitful conversations about the books. Keep reading on your own!

## **PUMPKIN CONTEST UPDATE**

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Congratulations to Ava Muranko! Her painted pumpkin, "The Messed Up Pig", won the pumpkin painting contest! The youth raised \$183.70 with their contest and the change will go to the Senior Mobile Meals project. So far with all the change jars collected we have raised \$1,810 and... we are still counting! Great job everyone and thank you all for your generous donations.

## **ENDOWMENT FUND GRANTS**

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The Endowment Fund Committee is pleased to invite Boards and Committees within the church to complete a *Request for Funding* form, available in the new rack near the office. The packet has easy-to-follow directions to provide details of the funded project that is in need of funding. There is over \$6,500 available for allocation and we celebrate the generosity of the church family that has made this possible via their donations to the Endowment Fund over the last two decades. **Deadline for applications is November 30<sup>th</sup>.**

## **JUVENILE DETENTION COLLECTION DRIVE**

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United Way of Medina County and the Juvenile Detention Center will be collecting white socks, T-shirts and thermal long sleeve shirts. All sizes (small to XXL) are needed for both male and female students. The items must be white and the socks are to be crew socks. The thermal long sleeve shirts may be off-white as it is hard to find white. **Collection will be final on November 22<sup>nd</sup>** on which day they are to be delivered to the United Way for the Juvenile Detention Center. Please deposit the items in the box next to the BOGO box at the bottom of the stairs. Let's see if we can do as well again in recognition of our bicentennial year!

## **SAVE THE BELL SHIRTS**

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Do you want to support our capital finalizing campaign? Have you always wanted a way to show your pride for your church? Are you running low on t-shirts? If you answered yes, please consider buying a "Save the Bell" t-shirt. Shirts are \$15 each. All proceeds from the sale of the t-shirts will go towards our capital campaign AND will count towards our goal of getting Pastor Luke to spend the night in the bell tower. Look for our table between the 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM services to see a picture of the shirt, pick up an order form, and place your order. Please make checks out to "Medina UCC" with "T-Shirt" in the memo. Orders can also be dropped off to the church office during the week. Shirts will be available at the beginning of November.

## PLEASE BE AWARE!

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Please be aware of two email accounts that are imitating Pastor Luke. They are asking for a favor and then following up with a gift card request. Please ignore and do not buy any gift cards. Luke uses two emails, [luke@uccmedina.org](mailto:luke@uccmedina.org) and [lucasvlindon@gmail.com](mailto:lucasvlindon@gmail.com). The spam accounts are close, using [luke.uccmedina@gmail.com](mailto:luke.uccmedina@gmail.com) and [revlukelindon@gmail.com](mailto:revlukelindon@gmail.com). We have filed a police report and had our tech guys in to check our computers. Please pay extra close attention as the holiday season brings about a lot of scams like this.

## TWO QUILTS TO BE RAFFLED OFF

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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 as a part of the upcoming church tour set for Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, as part of Candlelight Walk. 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 mid-December. 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!

## ALTAR FLOWERS

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The 2020 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, write what you would like printed in the Messenger (if the flowers are in memory or in honor of someone) and check “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. Also, please circle whether or not you want to claim your flowers after the 10:30 service.

The cost of the flowers ordered through the church office is \$22.50.

## Upcoming Youth Events:

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\*November 10 – Confirmation 3:00-4:30

\*November 17 – Youth Group 4:00-6:00

\*November 24 – Confirmation 3:00-4:30

If you dropped by our house in the early evening you would likely catch us sitting down to dinner. We would invite you to stay and eat with us – we would insist there was enough food (and then go divide up our dinner for two into dinner for three). We wouldn't even think twice about sharing our meal with you – for us it would be the natural thing to do. I am sure if I dropped in on most of you at dinner time the same thing would happen – an “abundance” of food would become “enough” food. Why is something so natural for us so difficult to do on a larger scale? If I share my abundance of blessing with someone that has none, we both have enough. The same holds with our country and the world: if those with abundance share with those that do not, we all have enough. God gave us a world with enough of everything for everything (plants, animals and people). Somewhere along the way we lost sight of that. We shifted from the idea that God will provide to a concern of scarcity – the idea that “I need to stockpile my blessing just in case”. There is inequity in the world – most of which is driven by the fear of scarcity. Where there could be “enough” for all, there is now abundance and scarcity, or haves and have nots. I believe being a Christian means having faith that God expects me to provide for others. I think this holds true on a global scale – if God has provided for you, there is an expectation that you will provide for others. If our dinner table can provide “enough”, imagine what God's table can provide? We just need to be able to see scarcity and be willing to share when there is abundance.

**The First Congregational Sunday School**  
**Medina, Ohio**

SUPERINTENDENT, C. B. LOWE.  
 SECRETARY, PAUL T. ABBOTT.  
 TREASURER, CLARE DAVENPORT.

To our Boys in the Service:

You will not be looking for a message or Christmas greeting from us. But as we sit by our cozy fireside and read the evening paper, and especially the War news, for Mrs. Lowe has a brother who is in the thick of the fight in France, our minds naturally revert to our own boys from Medina and vicinity, and we wonder how many of you are well and fit, and how many of you are thinking of home and loved ones. And as we muse, we try to imagine our feelings were we in your places. And the answer comes, surely we would want to know how many care and step to think of the boys who are doing this patriotic work and sacrificing their own comfort and pleasure in order that our Nation may always be "The Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave".

On the morrow (Sunday) in Sunday School, we are to have a patriotic service and dedication of a service flag, a project of which you will receive. But as this fearful news from our war rages without, it looks as if it would have to be postponed. If this continues until morning, traffic and travel will have to be suspended.

We, as a Sunday School are planning to have a special service on Sunday evening, Dec. 23d, with a Christmas program entitled "White Gifts to the King". Each department is to play a special part, the proceeds to be given to the Armenian relief work. In other words, we are having a giving Christmas instead of a receiving one. Now, as the days come and go, we want to assure you that the people of Medina are thinking of the boys who are doing their bit, and wishing them health and strength, courage and spirit to do the hard things as they come.

Ever yours in friendship and best wishes,  
 Mrs. & Mrs. C. B. Lowe.

## Bicentennial Tidbits

In early December 1917, the Sunday School wrote letters to service men overseas. This one from the Lowes (A.K.A. the “low room” family) is typical.

## PASTOR'S CORNER...

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Dear Church,

**I will be your Rev in the Rafters!** We have raised the \$8,500 to get me up the ladder and into the bell tower this month! So on Tuesday, 11/27 at 7 p.m. I will be heading up into the tower. We will stream the first two hours live on Facebook and will announce more details as the date gets closer. I am so surprised and grateful at the generosity and excitement around this project! Way to go church!

I am also blown away by the pastor appreciation brunch held on October 27, 2019. The food was delicious and the notes so lovely and humbling. I'm a big fan of you all and what we're building together. Thank you is not enough, but it's all I have. Thank you to all involved from the food, to the notes, to you reading this. I am grateful beyond words!

Another group of folks I'm grateful for beyond words are veterans. The last sermon on our Good Stewards worship series will be on November 10<sup>th</sup> and it will focus on Veterans. Please bring your stewardship pledges if you haven't already and we'll bless and collect those. The Youth Pancake brunch will follow as will our first "Second Sunday Safety" session as Ken and the moderators help put together a comprehensive safety plan.

Following our worship on 11/17, we will set up for our Advent season with the Hanging of the Greens. We will need lots of help to set this up, so if you're around and willing, please come out for this. We are early to prepare for the Candlelight Walk and all the events that we will be hosting then.

A note to the confirmands: FOUR worship notes are due by the end the year. Those can be found in your packet. Please let me know if you need another packet or just the notes. I'm looking forward to reading your reflections! I'm so thankful to spend time with these young men and women. They are remarkable.

May your November be cozy and full of gratitude!

Yours in Christ,  
-Pastor Luke



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

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

### **Hold on to Faith**

Surely the end is near.

Violence runs rampant.

Consumerism holds a culture in thrall.

The people listen to the words of the leaders and struggle to discern which are true.

Sound familiar? As it was for the church in Thessalonica, so it is for us today.

But hear the voice of Jesus calling and saying, "I am the way."

You may hear, my friends, that the end is near.

You may hear that this one is the Messiah, or that one is the Savior.

Don't let yourselves be stirred or shaken.

Do not believe everything you hear or see.

Be calm and discerning.

Don't let anyone fool you.

And listen for the voice of Jesus, calling and saying, "I am the way."

You may be tempted to put your trust in this celebrity or that one, a certain candidate or the opposition, one charlatan or another.

These may seem to us to be gods, but they are not.

God will reveal these exalted ones for who they truly are – flesh and blood like you and me.

Just listen for the voice of Jesus, calling and say, "I am the way."

How do we know the voice that we hear is indeed the voice of Christ?

First of all, be grateful.

Give thanks to God whenever you can.

Then, remember this.

You are God's beloved child.

You are called for such a time as this.

So stand firm in the truth.

Listen! The voice of Jesus, calling and say, "I am the way."

Be comforted in your heart and be strong in your spirit, knowing that you are held in Christ's embrace.