# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL



217 E. Liberty St. <u>www.uccmedina.org</u> Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559 Email: <u>office@uccmedina.org</u>

\*\*\*Assisted Listening Devices Available – Please Ask Your Usher\*\*\* LIVE STREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT <u>UCCMEDINA.ORG</u>

### "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** "Gather Us In" – arr. John A. Behnke

**\*VISIONING PRAYER** 

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

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 (based on Psalm 145: 1-8)

- Leader: Come, let's praise God together!
- People: For God is great, and worthy of our praise!
- Leader: Let's tell stories of God's power and majesty, mighty acts throughout history:
- People: for God is great, and worthy of our praise!

Leader: Let's remember the compassion God has shown toward us; Mercy and unfailing love, generation after generation:

- People: for God is great, and worthy of our praise!
- Leader: Let's pass these stories along to our children and grandchildren, so that they, too, may come to know and love our God.
- People: For God is great, and worthy of our praise!
- Leader: Let's worship God together!

#### **\*OPENING HYMN**

### "All Are Welcome"

Text: 96 86 87 10 with refrain. Music: TWO OAKS. Text and music: Marty Haugen, © 1994, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

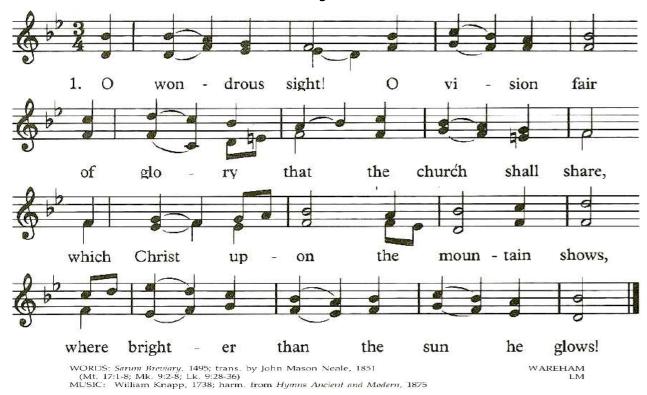


**\*CONFESSION** (inspired by Isaiah 65: 17-25, written by Dr. Tom Cheatham, a minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). He blogs at **The Connection**. <u>http://theconnectiono8.wordpress.com/</u>)

- Leader: O God, still creating,
- People: we hear your promises of a new day of joy and peace, and we are skeptical.
- Leader: We expect things to go on the same as they always have,
- People: from bad to worse.
- Leader: The past will keep us guilty,
- People: the future will make us afraid,
- Leader: and the present will burden us
- People: with too little time and too much to do.
- Leader: Forgive our lack of faith,
- People: our quickness to believe that you do not hear us, and our pessimism about tomorrow.
- Leader: Do a new thing in our hearts,
- People: and let us be glad and rejoice in your abundant care; through Christ we pray. Amen.

\*PRAISE RESPONSE

"O Wondrous Sight! O Vision Fair"



#### **COMBINED ANTHEM**

"Creation Will Be at Peace" Chancel Choir & Alleluia Ringers Words by J. Paul Williams & music by Anna Laura Page

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### 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 of Dedication (unison)

We give in faith. We give so that the day when the wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, and dust will be the serpent's food. No one will harm nor destroy on all God's holy mountain. Amen.

| *SENDING H | YMN  | "All Beautiful the March of I | Days"   |
|------------|--|-------------------------------|---|
|            | Frances Wile wrote this hymn exto<br>at the suggestion of her pastor, Wi<br>Hosmer, both of whom were hym. | illiam Gannett, and Frederick | Tunc: FOREST GREEN C.M.D.<br>Traditional English melody<br>Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906 |

at the suggestion of ner pastor, withiam of Hosmer, both of whom were hymnwriters. From The English Hymnal 1906



#### \*BENEDICTION (2 Timothy 1: 1-14)

- Leader: As you go from here, may God our creator and Christ Jesus our Lord give you grace, mercy, and peace.
- People: We will not let our faith or witness grow cold.
- Leader: Remember: God's gift of faith is like a flame;
- People: when the embers of that flame have cooled, we must fan them again to keep them ablaze.
- Leader: So remember what you have been taught
- People: and what we have experienced.
- Leader: Live in such a way that all who know you
- People: may see the light of God reflected in me.
- Leader: And may the grace of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit be with you and among you in the days ahead.
- People: 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** "All Beautiful the March of Days" – arr. Anna Laura Page Cathy Fafrak, Organist

### "MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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 **Elaine McCarroll & Sari Allen** 

#### PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - email: luke@uccmedina.org

#### OFFICE STAFF

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - email: <u>office@uccmedina.org</u> Kelly Charnley, Financial Manager - email: <u>financial@uccmedina.org</u>

#### 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 17, 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

### November 17 thru November 24, 2019 WEEK AT A GLANCE

- Sun8:15 am Chapel Worship9:00 am Gathering Worship9:15 am Choir Practice10:30 am Traditional Worship11:45 am Hanging of the Greens11:45 am Caring Team11:45 am Mission Team2:00 pm JMM @ Medina Meadows4:00 pm Youth GroupThanksgiving Potluck/OrnamentPainting
- Mon 10:00 am GIFT CARD ORDERS DUE 1:00 pm Breadmakers
- Tues 2:00 pm Tuesday Bible Study
- Wed10:30 am Quilters<br/>6:15 pm Youth Bell Choir Practice<br/>6:45 pm Youth Choir Practice<br/>6:45 pm Adult Bell Choir rehearsal<br/>7:00 pm Discipleship & Education<br/>Team
- ThuGarfield Deliveries7:00 pmCongregational Council
- Fri 1:30 pm JMM @ Evergreen
- Sat 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal CANDLELIGHT WALK WEEKEND 12:00 pm Musical Recitals & Caroling with Medina Chorus 4:30 pm Candlelight Walk & Bake Sale
- Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship 9:00 am Gathering Worship 9:15 am Choir Practice 10:30 am Traditional Worship 2:00 pm JMM @ Medina Meadows Sing-a-long 7:00 pm JMM @ WRMC

<u>Worship Highlights:</u> 8:15, 9:00 & 10:30 am Scripture: Isaiah 65: 17-25 Sermon: "Living the Dream" - Rev. Luke Lindon

<u>Altar Flowers</u>: The altar flowers are donated by Ken & Karen Zuehlke in honor of their anniversary.

### HANGING OF THE GREENS

The Christmas decorations for the holiday season will be hung and displayed after church **today**, after the 10:30 service. 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 <u>desktop</u> computer for our Sanctuary Video System. If you have a retired Win 7 <u>desktop</u> computer to donate (monitor not required), drop off in the office or call and we will pick up. Thank you!

### JUVENILE DETENTION COLLECTION DRIVE

United Way of Medina County and the Juvenile Detention Center will be collecting white socks, Tshirts 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 at the bottom of the stairs. Let's see if we can do as well again in recognition of our bicentennial year!

### COMING SOON: TWO MORE BICENTENNIAL EVENTS

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.

### THE MUSIC MAN

Several of our church youth will be part of Medina High's "The Music Man" this weekend at the Performing Arts Center, including Ian Morgan as Prof. Harold Hill, Eve Lindon and Ruby Gabrielsen in the children's ensemble, Bailey Olin on crew and Bella Lindsley in the pit orchestra. Come support our youth! Shows are Friday and Saturday, Nov. 22-23 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, Nov. 24 at 2:30 pm. Tickets are \$12/adult, \$10/student or \$8/senior citizen at www.cameo-medina.org, the box office or by calling 330-636-3400. ALSO: There will be a FREE senior citizens' preview on Thursday, Nov. 21 at 4 pm. If you'd like to attend and need a ride, let Pastor Luke know!

# REVEREND IN THE RAFTERS PLANS

Thanks to your amazing efforts, Pastor Luke will be spending Thanksgiving Eve in the bell tower! All are welcome to join him at 6:30 pm for a Thanksgiving message before he ascends the ladder at 7:00 pm. If you can't make it in real life, watch the live feed from 6:30-7:30 at <u>www.uccmedina.org/live</u> or on our Facebook page! Also, visitors are welcome down below until 8:30 pm when we lock the doors.

### **ENDOWMENT FUND GRANTS**

Just a reminder to the church family that the Endowment Fund Committee is accepting funding requests for 2020. The application is available in the rack outside the church office. The deadline is November 30, 2019. Questions? Contact Jane Langol at 330-813-1367.

# 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).

### NEW ADDRESSES

Please put these new addresses in your directory.

Ruth Gay: Brookdale North

49A Leisure Lane, Rm. 87 Larry & Dianna Huffman: Elmcroft of Medina

1046 N. Jefferson St.

Rms. 226 (Dianna) & 231 (Larry)

Edie Larsen: 1175 Township Road 1996 Ashland, OH 44805-9271

# SAVE THE BELL SHIRTS

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 have helped to send Luke up to sleep in the rafters and will also go towards future Capital repairs. 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.

# **Upcoming Youth Events:**

- \*November 17 Youth Group 4:00-6:00
- \*December 1 Advent Family Fun Night 4:00-6:00
- \*December 8 Christmas Program Rehearsal 11:30
  - 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

### **ADVENT FAMILY FUN NIGHT**

### Sunday, December 1, 2019

Does good food, fellowship, Christmas music and fun sound good to you? Then you will want to be sure to come to Advent Family Fun Night on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:00. The evening will consist of crafts and activities for all ages. We will also enjoy a pizza dinner together. The cost of dinner will be \$3 per 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!

### 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am and our dress rehearsal on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

### PANCAKE BREAKFAST THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who attended the pancake breakfast last Sunday. It was wonderful to see our church family enjoying good food and fellowship while supporting a great cause. With your support we were able to raise \$757 to use towards future mission trips. As always, thank you for your continued support of our youth. We will be having more meals throughout the year so stay tuned.

# TWO QUILTS TO BE RAFFLED OFF

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 giftgiving and as a fund-raiser for the Endowment Fund. The drawing is set for December 8<sup>th</sup>. 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!

# **BICENTENNIAL "TIME CAPSULE"**

The yearlong observance of our 200<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **GOSPEL GALLEY**

#### by Alice Metzloff

What was happening in Jesus' day? Mark 12:41-44, and Luke 21:1-4 tells the story: Jesus is in the Temple of Jerusalem teaching. The wealthy and the poor are coming into the Temple to pay their dues. A widow quietly enters the courtyard, walks up to the alms box and drops two mites...copper coins worth less than our modern day penny. The sound of these copper coins clinking into the box does not go unnoticed. Jesus, who had been watching what was going on, stops his teaching momentarily. He turns to his Disciples and calmly and coolly says to everyone gathered, "Pay attention. This poor woman has given more than all who gave their gifts out of their wealth. Because in her poverty, she put in all she had to live on." In the Book of James, chapter 5:1-6 we hear Jesus state how the rich will have misery brought upon them for being greedy, selfish, snobbish, and self-indulgent. Verses 7-12 talk about the poor being envious and grumbling. James calls both groups "double-minded" for having divided loyalties. We are to be singleminded in our commitment to obey God. Be patient in suffering, like Job who had an immense and unyielding degree of patience and conviction, especially in the face of problems or difficulty. His absolute faith in God remained unshaken despite the numerous trials and tribulations that beset him, and being so, was blessed for persevering. Can we do no less? GOD WILL bring about blessings with compassion and mercy. ON HIS TIME... not ours. So...STOP GRUMBLING. PRAISE GOD by giving whatever you can when tithing, whenever you can of time and talents. Do it all with a clear conscious, and a humble and happy heart. This week, this month and beyond...be:

Neighborly. Obedient. Vital. Empathetic. Merciful. Benevolent. Empowering. Redeemed!

# **Bicentennial Tidbits – Hunger & Outreach Programs**

In 2012, Neal Sadler initiated one of our first formal hunger mission outreach programs. Called the "shopping cart brigade," it consisted of volunteers who participated in the city's July 4<sup>th</sup> parade to collect food for Feeding Medina County. Our involvement with this mission partner increased in 2015 when coin jars were taken home to be filled during the fall and the funds provided for Thanksgiving food distributions. Over the years, we have expanded into several other hunger related activities, including cooking meals for Cup's Café, and a "Buy One – Give One" collection of non-food items for the Community Services Center. In 2016 we "adopted" 5 (now 14) families from the Garfield School to provide fresh food.



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 <u>office@uccmedina.org</u> \*\*\*\*\*\*\*CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm MONDAY THRU FRIDAY\*\*\*\*\*\*

### November 17, 2019 Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 65:17-25

### **Infinite Possibilities**

Listen for the still speaking voice God who declares through the prophet, "I am about to create new heavens and a new earth..."

Two families of German Lutheran immigrants heard the voice in the middle of the 1800's when they traveled to Galveston, Texas in a leaky boat that nearly sank in the Gulf of Mexico. The immigrants listened to God's voice declaring that a new creation was coming as they gathered with a few other Germans who had already settled in the area. Together, the families founded a Lutheran church which they named St. Peter's.

The church members kept listening for the still speaking God, when yellow fever decimated the community twice in the next twenty years. And then they listened again when their church building burnt down a few years after that. They heard God declare a new creation was already being imagined and it gave them hope in those difficult times.

In 1937, St. Peter's adapted again, changing its worship services from German speaking to English speaking. And then, in the 1950's, there was a new creation again when the church joined the newly formed United Church of Christ.

Recently, St. Peter's United Church of Christ changed again. The small, white, traditional congregation merged with Houston's Cathedral of Hope – a tiny satellite of the huge LGBTQ congregation Cathedral of Hope in Dallas. Cathedral of Hope-Houston's pastor is African American and openly gay. The small congregation had started off as a renter at St. Peter's, but then they approached the church asking how they could afford necessary physical plant updates. Instead, representatives of St. Peter's proposed a merger. That's the how the church became what it is today – God's new creation called St. Peter United. The congregation had once again listened to the still speaking God's declaration that a new creation was being brought to life.

In just a little under two hundred years God has made many changes at St. Peter's. They were not changes that the founders could have imagined because God's imagination is so far beyond anything our human minds can create.

Listen, God is still speaking! "I am about to create new heavens and a new earth." Pay attention to what God's creative imagination might have in store for you and your community.