



1. All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
2. Crown him, ye mar - tyrs of our God, Who from his al - tar call;
3. Ye seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race, Ye ran - somed of the fall;
4. O that, with yon - der sa - cred throng, We at his feet may fall;



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, And crown him Lord of all.
Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod, And crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace, And crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, And crown him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, And crown him Lord of all.
Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod, And crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace, And crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, And crown him Lord of all.

OPENING PRAYER ("The Thanksgivings" a traditional Iroquois prayer translated by nineteenth-century political advocate Harriet Maxwell Converse)

We thank God for all the fruits that grow on the trees and vines.
We thank God for God's goodness in making the forests, and thank all its trees.
We thank God for the darkness that gives us rest, and for the kind Being of the darkness that gives us light, the moon.
We thank God for the bright spots in the skies that give us signs, the stars.
We give God thanks for our supporters, who had charge of our harvests.
We give thanks that the voice of the Great Spirit can still be heard.
We thank the Great Spirit that we have the privilege of this pleasant occasion. Amen.

PRAISE RESPONSE

"Give Thanks"

TEXT: Henry Smith
MUSIC: Henry Smith

GIVE THANKS
Irregular meter

© Copyright 1978 by Integrity's Hosanna! Music. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart; Give thanks to the Ho - ly One;

Give thanks be-cause He's giv-en Je - sus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong;" Let the poor say, "I am rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

ANTHEM "Thanksgiving Canticle" – arr. by Mark Hayes

Chancel Choir

BAPTISM Amelia Luz Hincapie Hari

"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"

Child of blessing, child of promise, bapt-ized with the Spir-it's sign;

With this wa-ter God has sealed you un-to love and grace di-vine.

Question to the Congregation

Leader: I commend to your love **Amelia Luz Hincapie Hari** whom we receive as a child in the family of God. Through your lives and example, will you support these parents in their desire to guide **Amelia** in the knowledge and love of God and of our savior Jesus Christ?

People: In joyful response to God's grace, we promise our love, our support and our care.

'Borning Cry" Jim Kiser, Soloist

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns, Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer

PRAYER RESPONSE

"Loving Spirit"

1,5. Lov - ing Spir - it, lov-ing Spir - it, you have cho-sen me to be—

you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray, 1987
 MUSIC: David Gregof Corner, 1631; arr. William Smith Rockstro (19th century)
 Words © 1987 The Hymn Society, used by permission of Hope Publishing Co.

OMNI DIE 87.87
 ♩=64-68

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 1:11-20

Jeannine Murray, Liturgist

SERMON

"The Image of the Invisible God"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offertory Invitation

What tangible things we now offer.... They are the image of our invisible time, talent, and intention. Let us now freely give.

Offertory Music

"Let All Things Now Living" – arr. Gerhard Krapf

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**

Lord we come before you, desiring to give you thanks. We have so much to be thankful for. For all the things unseen and seen that you have done in our lives, thank you. Thank you for the gift of now. For the blessings of the past. For the promise of your future. Dwell in and amongst us. Be with these gifts we freely offer. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel-ling, Joy of heaven to earth come down,
2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;
3 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less let us be;



fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
let us all in thee in - her - it, let us find the prom - ised rest.
sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.
let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee:



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
Take a - way the love of sin - ning, Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,



vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
end of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
pray and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

WORDS: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
MUSIC: John Zundel (1815-1882)

BEECHER
8.7.8.7.D.

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: I am grateful y'all decided to show up here.

People: We shall be grateful for all the gifts God has given us.

Leader: Go in the name of our God who is love,

Christ who is our example, and in the promise of the Holy Spirit who indwells us all.

People: One God! Forever and ever. 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 "Now Thank We All Our God" Op. 65, No. 20 – S. Karg-Elert/ed. Linker**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

*Those who are able please stand

***Ushers:** Dick Christy, John Kavouras, Julie Gilliland, Pete Benson*

****Please join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the service****

*Today's coffee hour is hosted by **the Johns family.***

+++++

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Luke Lindon, Senior Pastor – 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

NOVEMBER 24, 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 24 thru December 1, 2019

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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
Mon	6:30 pm Women's Bible Study
Tues	2:00 pm Tuesday Bible Study
Wed	10:30 am Quilters 6:30 pm REVEREND IN THE RAFTERS LIVESTREAMED!
Thu	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Fri	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 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 4:30 pm Advent Family Fun Night (Confirmation Help)

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.

Worship Highlights: 8:15, 9:00 & 10:30 am
Scripture: Colossians 1: 11-20
Sermon: "The Image of the Invisible God"
Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are donated by Holly and Gary Hallman with thankfulness for our many blessings.

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.

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.

NEW ADDRESS CORRECTION

Please make this correction to the previously provided information:

Larry & Dianna Huffman: Elmcroft of Medina 1046 N. Jefferson St., Rm. 226

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!

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 www.uccmedina.org/live 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.

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.

FELLOWSHIP SURVEY

We have had received numerous comments on how great it was to have our expanded coffee hour for Luke (Pastor Appreciation month) in October. Your input is important for us to plan future church fellowship gatherings. **Please fill out one of the colorful surveys and drop it in the offering plate or in the office.** Once we gather the responses, we hope to have our first gathering sometime after the first of the year. If you have any questions please contact Brooke Davis, Darlene Fazekas, or Linda Turek.

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 as a part of the upcoming church tour set for Saturday, November 23rd, 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 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!

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—Family Worship

9:00 PM—Candlelight and Carols

ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Service of Remembrance

Sunday, December 29th – **10:00 am.**

COMMUNITY CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL SERVICE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24th at 5:00 pm – sponsored by Waite Funeral Homes

You are invited to attend a candlelight memorial service in the UCC Congregational sanctuary to reflect, honor, and remember those who have passed on before us. Join us for music by candlelight, an interactive bereavement experience, and a holiday remembrance message. Cookies and cocoa will be provided! 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 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.

Upcoming Youth Events:

*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 1st 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!

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.

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



Bicentennial Tidbits – 2011 The Big Dig

... We were able to complete the storm water drainage project ("The Big Dig") on time and with minimal disruption to the church's normal activities. This project cost slightly in excess of \$50,000 and was fully funded. For the first time in our memory, the crawl space under the church is completely dry!

Source: Property & Grounds report for 2011

A few weeks ago Luke mentioned our "spiritual ancestors". Since we are moving into the Thanksgiving season I wanted to share a little about who they were and the great struggle they faced to create their Congregational Church. "During the Reformation and Counter-Reformation of the 16th and 17th centuries, Christianity split into many different groups, with varying creeds and desires. Puritans were Protestants who wished to reform the Church of England along Calvinist lines. Separatists were Puritans who believed there was no point in trying to reform the C of E and wanted to maintain a separate religion and way of life from dominant English society. The Pilgrims were an even smaller subset of Separatists because of the influence of their pastor, John Robinson. He was the founder of what would later be called "Congregationalism," which was a type of bare-bones Protestantism where each congregation had total autonomy. He also preached tolerance, which made the Pilgrims far more reasonable, just, and fair than their Massachusetts Bay compatriots. The kernel of the Pilgrim group was born in the tiny hamlet of Scrooby, Nottinghamshire in north-central England. In 1606 a group of believers joined into a "gathered" community, forming a simple church congregation around a Covenant. At this time it was treasonous to join voluntary associations or to form a church outside the Church of England. The Scrooby congregation was not unique, but it was still a courageous one. Over time, informants reported the Scrooby meetings to the attention of the Bishop of Lincoln and Archbishop of York, who began to persecute the participants. "For some were taken and clapped up in prison, others had their houses beset and watched night and day, and hardly escaped their [persecutors'] hands; and the most were fain to flee and leave their houses and habitations, and the means of their livelihood." The congregation eventually determined to immigrate to Holland, "where they heard was freedom of religion for all men." The congregation knew some people who had immigrated to Amsterdam and felt they would have a better chance at not only practicing their religion but developing a more Christian culture within their community. It was also against the law for Catholics or dissenting Protestants to leave England. But under the Covenant, if the majority voted to immigrate, all must go or be relieved of their Covenant bonds. Some did leave the congregation rather than risk emigration. Because it was illegal to emigrate, the Separatists relied on bribery to escape the country. "And yet were they often times betrayed, many of them; and both they and their goods intercepted and surprised, and thereby put to great trouble and charge...." The whole enterprise was extremely dangerous, and many of the Separatists suffered in the undertaking. The group eventually ended up in Leyden, Holland. Life there was difficult as well. The States General of the Netherlands passed a law in 1619 which outlawed Separatist gatherings. While it was not enforced, it was seen as a harbinger of things to come." So, as you are preparing for the holidays- remember our spiritual ancestors. 400 years ago, at this same time, they were preparing to leave everything they knew to come to America and find the freedom to worship as they wished.

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

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

November 24, 2019

Reign of Christ – *Thanksgiving Sunday* – *United Black Christians Anniversary*

Colossians 1:11-20

Together in Christ

A Prayer for Reign of Christ Sunday

Here is your throne, Christ Jesus, Lord of all.

It looks like a park bench on a drafty winter afternoon, whose only occupant is curled up asleep under a pile of paper and blankets. It is You resting there, trying to find a few hours of rest before You are pushed out, told to move on.

Your reign is a home, where all gather in warmth.

Here is your throne, Christ Jesus, Lord of all.

It looks like an uncomfortable plastic chair, pulled close to a hospital bed. The room is quiet except for the hushed sounds of breathing and the steady pulse of machinery. Your hand is the one holding the hand of the sleeping patient.

Your reign is a temple of healing, where all find comfort.

Here is your throne, Christ Jesus, Lord of all.

It looks like a scratched and graffitied desk in an impoverished schoolhouse. The class is packed with too many students and too few resources. And yet there You are, crowded into the back row, raising Your hand to ask yet another question no one can answer.

Your reign is a classroom for justice, where all learn that the last will be first.

Here is your throne, Christ Jesus, Lord of all.

It looks like a worn and polished pew on a Sunday morning. It seems like there's plenty of room, but the unspoken rules that govern who-sits-where are as strict as any commandment. And there you are, plunking yourself down right in the middle, as if there are no rules at all.

Your reign is a sanctuary of hospitality, where all experience extravagant welcome.

We want to put you on a different kind of throne, Christ Jesus, Lord of all.

We want your throne to feel plush, to look shiny, to express might and strength. Instead, You! Ruler of the Earth and the Heavens rest on a park bench.

You! The King of Majesty recline in a hospital room.

You! Messiah squirm in our country's underserved classrooms.

You! The Savior sit right here, right now, right beside me.

Where else will I see you, if only I look? Amen.