

---

# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

[www.uccmedina.org](http://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** “People, Look East” with “On Jordan’s Banks” – Curt Oliver 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.**

### **\*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF PEACE**

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

**Leader:** This season of waiting continues. We have come together to encourage each other as we prepare.

**People:** **We’ve already reminded each other to hope. We eagerly anticipate the arrival of Emmanuel, God With Us.**

**Leader:** One hope stirring within us is for peace. Our world cries out for peace in so many ways.

**People:** **We wonder where peace is to be found in troubled times. We look to the Prince of Peace to answer our anxiety.**

*(Pause while the second Advent candle of Peace is lit.)*

**Leader:** The light grows brighter in this darkening season. Unto us a child is to be born who will show us the way of peace.

**People:** **May this assurance quiet our restless souls. May this time of worship make gentle our racing hearts.**

**\*RESPONSE**

**"Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn"**

2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, whose hum - ble song is  
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing.  
Mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing  
kind - ness, the thun - der of the an - thems roll to  
shat - ter all hate and in - jus - tice.

**\*INVOCATION**

People: You say to us, "Be still and know that I am God," yet it is hard to be still during this busy season. The many demands of our lives press upon us, and we are weary and wary of your promise of peace. Reassure us in this time together of your presence, and by it soothe our troubled minds. Carry us forward by your promise that all manner of things shall be well. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

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.

## The Music of the Church: An Advent Festival

Hymn: **MY SOUL GIVES GLORY TO MY GOD**

My heart pours out its praise.  
God lifted up my lowliness  
in many marvelous ways.

My God has done great things for me:  
Yes, holy is her name.  
All people will declare me blessed,  
And blessings they shall claim.

Choral Selections: "Savior of the Nations, Come"  
"Gloria"

Hymn: **O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL,**  
And ransom captive Israel.  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Choral Selections: "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"  
"Old Hundredth"

Hymn: **JOY TO THE WORLD,** the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Hymn: **COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS,**  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

Organ Chimes Demonstration: Change Ringing "Plain Hunt on 8"

Alleluia Ringers: "And the Glory of the Lord" from "*Messiah*" – arr. Kevin McChesney

## OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

### Offering Invitation

Having paused to consider peace, and prayed for one another... we now freely give what we have to offer to the common good of our faith community.

**Offertory Music** "In Dulci Jubilo" BWV 608 – JS Bach 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

**Use these gifts, O Prince of Peace, for your will to be done and your kingdom come. Amen.**

Choral Selections: "Judea (A Virgin Unspotted)" by William Billings  
"Sherburne" ("As Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night")  
"Shout Hallelujah!" by Fanny Crosby & Larry Shackley

Gathering Band: "Go, Tell It On the Mountain" [*version by Mercy Me*]

Choral Selection: "O Holy Night"

Hymn: **IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER,**  
Frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron,  
Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
Snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid-winter  
Long long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him  
Nor earth sustain,  
Heaven and earth shall flee away  
When He comes to reign:  
In the bleak mid-winter  
A stable-place sufficed

The Lord God Almighty —  
Jesus Christ.  
Angels and Archangels  
May have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim  
Thronged the air;  
But only His Mother  
In her maiden bliss  
Worshipped the Beloved  
With a kiss.

Choral & Band Selection: "Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn"

Hymn: **LIVE INTO HOPE, YE CAPTIVES FREED**  
Of sight regained, the end of greed.  
The oppressed shall be the first to see  
The year of God's own jubilee!

Band Selections: "Silent Night"  
"Joseph's Song"

Choral & Band Selection: "Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child" arr. by Mark Hayes

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

Leader: Be at peace, with yourself with your neighbor.  
Be at peace, for God has offered you peace.  
Be at peace, for there is no way to peace.

**People: Peace is the way.**

Leader: You have been blessed to be a blessing. Go! For this service has ended.

**People: And our service now begins! Amen.**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "Angels We Have Heard on High"**

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, Echo back their joyous strains.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

**\*POSTLUDE** "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" – setting, John Leavitt Cathy Fafrak, Organist

**MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"**

+++++

\* Those who are able are asked to 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 **Alice & Pete Metzloff.**

**PARTICIPATING IN THIS MORNING'S PROGRAM**

Jim Kiser, Music Director

Cathy Fafrak, Organ & Piano

**Narrators**

Ann Nagy & Rob Cervenak

**Chancel Choir**

Nicci Avalon, Andy Bixler, Whitney Bixler, Pam Branscome, Karen Brucken, Harry Buch, Cheryl Figure, Tracy Gabrielsen, Holly Hallman, Cheri Ingraham, Kellie Johns, Patrick Mann, Elizabeth Mason, Jerry Mason, Alice Metzloff, Pete Metzloff, Earle Olson, Carolee Rafn, Allayne Reese, Barb Rosen, Carl Skorepa, Bob Smith, Elaine Taylor

**Bell Choir**

Maggie Bixler, Whitney Bixler, Harry Buch, Valerie Cervenak, Cathy Fafrak, Cheri Ingraham, Carleigh Johns, Katherine Johns, Melanie Kasten-Krause, Elizabeth Mason, Alice Metzloff, Mark Muranko, Nora Nolan, Carolee Rafn, Diane Stoll

**Gathering Band**

Mark Armstrong, Mary Ann Blosser, Harry Buch, Rob Cervenak, Valerie Cervenak, Dan Marty, Ann Nagy

**Instrumentalists**

Elliott Avalon, Tuba  
Carleigh Johns, Saxophone  
Emerson Lindsley, Trumpet  
Lorna Lindsley, Trumpet  
Alex Swantek, Trombone

**PowerPoint Wrangler**

Judy Daugherty

**Sound Engineer**

Matt Yates

**Video & Live-Streaming**

Terry Rhodes

# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## DECEMBER 8, 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)

December 8 thru December 15, 2019

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

<b>Sun</b>	<b>2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 8:30 am Choir Practice <b>10:00 am ONE SERVICE ONLY</b> <b>WORSHIP &amp; MUSIC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM</b> 11:00 am Youth Christmas Talent Rehearsal <b>11:30 am Safety &amp; Security Meeting</b> 3:00 pm Confirmation Class
<b>Mon</b>	4:30 pm Endowment Fund Committee 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study <b>Poinsettia Orders Due</b>
<b>Tues</b>	8:00 am Men's Fellowship @ P.J. Marley's 9:00 am Women's Breakfast Group @ Marie's Cafe 2:00 pm Tuesdays @ 2:00 pm Bible Study
<b>Wed</b>	10:30 am Quilters <b>11:30 am Women's Fellowship Christmas Luncheon</b> 6:15 pm Youth Bell Choir Practice 6:45 pm Youth Choir
<b>Thu</b>	Garfield Deliveries
<b>Fri</b>	1:30 pm JMM @ Evergreen 6:00 pm Youth Talent Dress Rehearsal
<b>Sat</b>	<b>3:00 pm Christmas Caroling &amp; Chili dinner</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> <b>No F.I.S.H. Sunday School Today</b> 8:15 am Chapel Worship 9:00 am Gathering Worship 9:15 am Choir Practice <b>10:30 am Traditional Worship &amp; Children's Talent Program</b> <b>11:45 am Mission Team</b> <b>11:45 am Community Outreach Team</b> 2:00 pm JMM @ Medina Meadows 3:00 pm JMM Hymn Sing Brookdale N. 4:00 pm Youth Christmas Dinner

### Worship Highlights

**10:00 AM ONE SERVICE**  
**Music of the Church: An Advent Festival**

**Altar Flowers:** The altar flowers are donated by Alice & Pete Metzloff in memory of their granddaughter, Sahara Jade Pettit.

### THE CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross is a special mission offering administered through the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Board. Funds provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. Active and retired clergy as well as lay employees are eligible. Your support of this mission offering will be received Sunday, December 22, 2019. Thank you for your generosity.

### **LAST CHANCE!** **POINSETTIA ORDERS**

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

### **TWO QUILTS TO BE RAFFLED TODAY!**

The two quilts donated to the UCC Quilters Group by Nancy Lamkin and Shirley Nowak are to be raffled off today at 10:00 am worship during the church announcements. The proceeds will go to the Endowment Fund.

## **CHRISTMAS CAROLING**

---

Do you like to sing Christmas carols for the shut-ins in our community? If so, please join us on **Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> 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 downstairs in the community room. There is a sign-up sheet in the East Room hallway asking what you can bring for our meal.

## **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS GATHERING**

---

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11<sup>th</sup> at 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).

## **SHARE THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!**

---

Spread some Christmas cheer to our older members and friends of Medina UCC by making a visit and delivering a Christmas Craft made at the Advent Family Fun Night. Each craft has the name, phone number and address on it. Please call the person and arrange your visit before Christmas. Crafts are displayed in the East Room ready for pick-up.

## **SEND A CHRISTMAS CARD**

---

Reach out to older members and friends of the church – send a Christmas card. When you are making your Christmas card list, could you include those on our Circle of Caring visitation list? Lists with addresses are on a poster in the hall by the office. Thank You!

## **CHRIST TREE**

---

The Christ Tree is now up in the Crossroads Hallway. Please consider taking an ornament from the tree and purchasing the item found on the back of it. Bring your unwrapped item back to the church and place it under the tree. These items will then be given to the Juvenile Detention Center. **All donations are needed by December 15<sup>th</sup>.** Thank you for your help and support!

## **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.

## **SERVICE OF REMEMBERING**

---

**DECEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup> 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.



## 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.

### Upcoming Youth Events:

---

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| *December 8 – Christmas Program Rehearsal 11:00<br>Confirmation 3:00-4:30 | *December 29 – NO F.I.S.H.  |
| *December 13 – Dress Rehearsal for Christmas<br>Program 6:00              | *January 5 – Youth Group – 4:00-6:00  |
| *December 15 – NO F.I.S.H. Children’s Christmas<br>Talent Program         | *January 12 – Confirmation 3:00-4:30  |
| *December 15 – Youth Group Christmas Dinner<br>& Parties – 4:00–6:00      | *January 19 – Youth Group 4:00-6:00   |
|   | *January 24 – Confirmation Trip to Temple Israel<br>6:00 pm in church parking lot |
|   | *January 26 – Confirmation 3:00-4:30  |

### 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.

### 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](mailto: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.

### *Join us for the Advent/Christmas Season*

---

#### **“Music of the Church: An Advent Festival”**

December 8<sup>th</sup> – **One Single Service**  
**10:00 am Worship**

#### **Women’s Fellowship Christmas Gathering**

Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> – 11:30 pm

#### **“Children’s Talent Filled Christmas”**

Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> - 10:30 worship service  
*No F.I.S.H. Sunday school today*

#### **Youth Group Christmas Dinner & Parties**

Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> – 4:00 pm

#### **Christmas Caroling & Chili Dinner**

Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> - 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 29<sup>th</sup> – **10:00 am.**

## PASTOR'S CORNER...

---

Dear Church!

I hope your Thanksgiving was full of warmth and gratitude. I was both of those things during my stay for the "Rev. in the Rafters". This was our fall part of our campaign to close out the mortgage. I'm thankful for all who donated to the campaign, both the spring and fall sections! I'm so thankful for all the love and coverage we got with our little event. Thank you all for all that you do. And if you missed it, or if you miss a past church service and want to catch up, our services are archived up to 6 months at <http://uccmedina.org/archived>

In November, we welcomed Karen Brocco-Kish as our new pastor of visitation. Karen will be responsible for visiting our homebound and helping to coordinate our Circle of Caring team with Syd. She will be tasked with visiting our members and staying in contact with church staff and her lay support team. Karen will be with us until August in this role. This internship is to finish out Karen's journey through the Northeast Ohio School of Ministry that she has worked so hard on. We are thankful for her gifts and for her time! Welcome Karen!

We are in Advent, awaiting Christmas! There are lots of things on the docket to usher in the birth of Christ. Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> is our Choir Program which echoes our Bicentennial music program but this time with Christmas tunes! Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> is our Children's Talent Show which was a big hit back in 2017 when we tried it. Jim will lead us in caroling around to our members on December 14<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 6 p.m. with a chili dinner following in the community room. On Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, we will gather for one service at 10 a.m. to remember those who have died. This will be an intergenerational worship that is the right mix of somber and hope. It will be interactive and the kids will get a surprise to help them remember the worship! I'm really excited about this service for our saints.

Looking ahead to January, Rob Kaiser will be bringing Financial Peace University, a well-known debt-reduction program by Dave Ramsey. The first night will be free and we'll play a game called "Cash Flow" that Deb Waldron taught me. This starts January 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. and will continue on Thursday nights for 10 weeks. More details will follow.

Merry Christmas and may your days be merry and bright!

-Pastor Luke

## Bicentennial Tidbits



Photos by KASSIE CHARNLEY  
The youth of UCC raise their shovels before preparing to turn the dirt for the ground-breaking for the church's new entrance.

The ground-breaking ceremony for the new entrance wing in April 2015 was done by the youth of the church – the ones that would be using the new building.



## GOSPEL GALLEY

by Rob Kaiser

On this second Sunday of Advent, I would like to encourage us to be grateful for our community. Today, I find myself reflecting on the wonderful community of UCC Medina. Today, we are gathered here for an all-Church Worship Service. A special, holiday worship bringing us together with a concert and narrative from our church musicians and singers. A special worship service in a special year...one which celebrates the two-hundred-year history of our church within our community. We've got a wonderful and thriving community here at UCC Medina. I'm proud to now be a member of this community, participating in it and even attempting to carry on Dave's legacy of the Gospel Gallery Meditations this week – though I know these are large shoes to fill. As I reflect on our community, I find myself reflecting on the Christmas season as well, for it is my favorite time of the year. In preparation for today's writing, I read a bit on Advent from the United Church of Christ website: [https://www.ucc.org/into the mystic advent](https://www.ucc.org/into_the_mystic_advent). *Advent is from an old Latin phrase – ad venio, loosely translated "until the coming." It is a time for reflection during which we prepare for Christ's coming... When early Christian communities, who knew very little about how or when the birth of Jesus actually took place, wanted to find a fitting time to commemorate his birth, they appropriated this pagan ritual [of Saturnalia] and decided the return of the light was the perfect metaphor for celebrating the coming of Jesus: Saturnalia became Christmas. In order to prepare herself for the coming of the Christ-child, the Church asked Christ's followers to use the four weeks prior to that to examine not so much their inner being – that would come in Lent – but the outer world. As disciples called to extend the reach of God's love most fully expressed through Jesus – Advent became the occasion to assess whether or not such love was evident. If Advent is a time to assess whether God's love is most fully expressed through Jesus – we need look no further than the community we've assembled here at UCC Medina. There is no better time to look beside you and say, "Neighbor, oh neighbor – we **ARE** God's love." Living accordingly and acting with the love of God, we can fully prepare for Christ's coming. Let us be grateful for our community.*

---

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

***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

### **Vision of Peace**

At General Synod earlier this year, delegates to the gathering made resolutions to address many issues facing our nation and world, including the country's growing opioid addiction crisis. Delegates challenged local churches and conferences to recognize opioid addiction as a health epidemic and to partner with corporations, governments, and health care providers.

Even before the Synod resolution, Fusion United Church of Christ, an interfaith spiritual community in Piqua, Ohio was already engaged in the fight. After they learned that 310 people in their small town had overdosed on opioids in 2017, the faith community took a stand. Working with the sheriff's department, they became a host site for Project DAWN.

Project DAWN is a training program that teaches residents about addiction and the effects opioids have on breathing. Students come away from the course not only with knowledge, but also with a nasal spray they can administer to a victim in the case of an overdose. The spray can reverse the overdose, and help the patient live to receive addiction-recovery services. The training is also an opportunity for fellowship, community-building and spiritual growth, as participants are also invited for a meal and a devotional time.

The path to addiction and overdose has many stops along the way. Fusion UCC's partnership with Project DAWN is just one way to combat addiction, but it is an important one. Karen Tompkins Jamison, pastor of the interfaith community, says that not all the participants are drug users themselves. The church has offered the training for teens who frequently come across parents who have overdosed. She also notes that, "offering a meal is a way to deal with food insecurity in our area." One participant came just for the meal on a Thursday, ended up staying for the training and by Sunday she had used the training on a neighbor.

You can find out more about the Fusion community's presence in their neighborhood by checking out their website: [fusionucc.org](http://fusionucc.org).

#### *Second Sunday of Advent - Prayer for Peace*

O come, O come Emmanuel!  
There is violence and dis-ease  
in our hearts and in our world.  
Save us, we pray, from the brutality of war,  
and all assaults on our inner peace.  
Remind us that you bring the peace  
that passes all understanding.  
Help us to be purveyors of your peace,  
here and now and always. Amen.