



November 29, 2020 - One Service Only – 10:00 a.m. Live Stream

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# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

www.uccmedina.org



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

**LIVESTREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT UCCMEDINA.ORG**

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**“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS”**

## RINGING OF THE TOWER BELL

PRELUDE “All Earth is Waiting” – arr. Curt Oliver

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

## 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 ADVENT WREATH: The Candle of Waiting (based on 2 Peter 3: 8)

Leader: God, you are infinite.

People: **A day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.**

Leader: You are not slow in keeping your promise, as some understand slowness.

People: **Holy One, you are patient with us, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.**

Leader: We light our first candle of waiting. (*candle is lit*)

Knowing what has come into the world,

People: **And has been working on us, with us, and through us for 2,000 years,**

Leader: And will come in its fullness.

People: **Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC “Be Thou My Vision”

Eve & Sam Lindon, Duet

Luke Lindon, Ukulele

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 65: 1-9

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

Pastoral Prayer

SERMON

"Before and After the Call"

Ryan Collins

HYMN

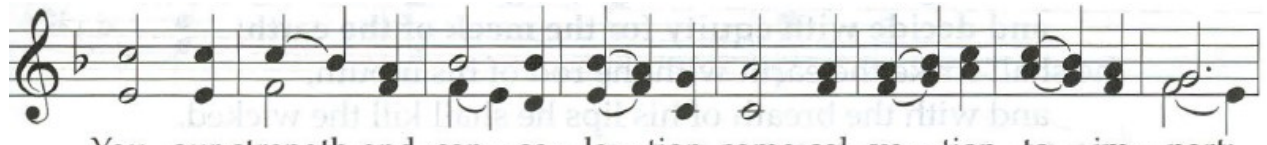
"Come, O Long-expected Jesus"



1. Come, O long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus, born to set your peo-ple free.  
2. Born your peo-ple to de-liv-er, born a child, and yet a king,



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Christ, in whom our rest shall be.  
born to reign in us for-ev-er, born your grac-ious realm to bring.



You, our strength and con-so-la-tion, come sal-va-tion to im-part;  
By your own e-ter-nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a-lone;



dear de-sire of man-y a na-tion, joy of man-y a long-ing heart.  
by your all-suf-fi-cient mer-it raise us to your glo-rious throne.

## OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

In this holy season, when the sun's light is swallowed up by the growing darkness of night, you renew your promise to reveal among us the splendor of your glory. May what we offer be light to reveal you to the nations. Thank you, Precious Lord, for all your gifts given to us. Let us sing of your goodness!

**\*Doxology** (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**We have heard your story, Gracious One. We are people of your story. We travel together, living the Jesus way. While we wait for the coming kingdom, we can be messengers now. Guides upon the narrow way. May what we offer in this time be pleasing to you, and comfort those who wait. Amen.**

## \*BENEDICTION

**Leader:** As God's own, clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, patience.

**People:** **May we forgive as freely as God has forgiven us.**

**Leader:** Crown all things with love,

**People** **which binds everyone together in perfect harmony.**

**Leader:** And should troubles visit and tempt you to despair,

**People:** **remember the candle of waiting and it's message:**

**Leader:** God calls to each of us to love with everything we have,

**People:** **and to love one another as we love ourselves.**

**Leader:** Go now blessed to be a blessing, for this service has ended.

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

## \*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "God Be with You"

**God be with you 'til we meet again; By His counsels guide uphold you;  
With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you 'til we meet again.**

**POSTLUDE** "Hark, the Glad Sound!" – setting, Paul Manz

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

**"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"**

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***PASTORAL STAFF***

Rev. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - email: [luke@uccmedina.org](mailto:luke@uccmedina.org)  
Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor

***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  
Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool  
Laura Garcia, Assistant Director of Hobby Horse Preschool  
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance  
Jack Manhoff, Custodian

# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## NOVEMBER 29, 2020

**“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS.  
MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY!”**

November 29, 2020 thru December 6, 2020

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

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**Sun** **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
10:00 am Live Stream Worship Only

**Mon**

**Tues**

**Wed**

**Thurs**

**Fri**

**Sat**

**Sun** **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
10:00 am Live Stream Worship Only  
11:45 am **Mission Team Meeting**

### **ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE**

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Advent services will be live streamed on the website and facebook every Sunday at **10:00 am**.

**Christmas Eve at 6:00 pm** We will have a parking lot Carols and Candle Lighting service, weather-permitting. We will gather in a socially distant fashion to pray and sing carols and light candles.

**Christmas Eve at 8:00 pm** A live streamed, pre-recorded service featuring a message, music and scripture readings from members.

Worship Highlights: 10:00 am Live Stream Only

Scripture: Isaiah 65:1-9

Sermon: “Before and After the Call”

– Ryan Collins

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are given by Gary & Holly Hallman in gratitude for God’s many blessings.

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

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The 2021 Flower Chart is now hanging 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 and **write “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. The cost of the flowers ordered through the church office is \$22.50.

**Also, please write what you would like printed in the Messenger and if you want to claim your flowers** after the 10:30 service.

You may call the church office to sign up since we are not having in person worship right now.

### **STEWARDSHIP UPDATE**

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Thank you to the 80 people who have already turned in their pledge cards for 2021!

**In order to best forecast 2021 budgets the church is still in need of your 2021 Stewardship Card.** Blank cards are available on the table in the Welcome Area or on the website. Click on “Give Online Here” and download your own copy.

## **ENDOWMENT FUND DEADLINE TOMORROW!**

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Just a reminder to Teams and groups in the church that the deadline to file for funding from the Endowment Fund is **Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>**. Do you have a special project? Do you see a need to upgrade equipment? Is your Team mission needing some financial support? The Endowment Fund is here to help. Request forms are available in the literature rack in the hall near the church office. Questions? Call 330-813-1367

## **ADVENT FOOD DONATION FOR CLAGGETT MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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As we prepare our hearts and minds for this year's Advent season, **the Mission Team has a "giving" mission to put before our congregation.** We would like to focus on the most vulnerable in our community, the children. The children in elementary school receive weekend food bags. Until recently there were no supplemental foods available for children once they moved out of the elementary schools. There is a food pantry at Claggett and the students can take items from the pantry as they need them. Together with the counselor at Claggett, we have compiled a list of their needs. A copy of this list (in the form of a Reverse Advent Calendar) was included in a mailing that you received last week from the church as well as on our website and facebook page. You may also email the church office for a copy or stop in the welcome area and pick one up. **Deadline for collection is Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.**

It is our hope to help stock their shelves by filling boxes with food items they can use. If you are only able to "give" a few items, that would be wonderful too. Boxes (or bags) can be dropped off in the church welcoming area and we will deliver them to the school when they resume classes after the first of the year.

## **PLEASE SIGN UP TO RING THE BELL!**

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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 5<sup>th</sup>**, in the vestibule at Buehler's River Styx. There are 30-minute shifts available **between 12:00 - 12:30 pm, 12:30 - 1:00 pm and 1:30 - 2:00 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. You may **sign up by calling or emailing the church office** at 330-725-4559 or [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org) For any questions or concerns please contact Jessica Manners.

## **POINSETTIA ORDERS**

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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 7<sup>th</sup>.** Please fill out a green poinsettia order sheet (available from the ushers and on the table in the welcome area) and turn it in to the offering plate or the church office. **Since we are not having in person worship right now while the County is in the red, you may also call the church office to place your order.**

## **SUPPORT OUR YOUTH!**

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Support our youth and buy gift cards for all your special occasions! The possibilities are endless: groceries, gasoline, home repairs, clothing and gift items are a few of the ways the shopping you normally do can help our youth. Remember, Christmas is just around the corner!

**The last order date before Christmas will be**

**Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> by 10 a.m.**

**We will not have extra gift cards in the office to purchase this year as we have in the past. If you want to order any, now is the time!**

## **WINTER CRAFTS ARE READY FOR DELIVERY DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>**

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Help is needed delivering 13 winter crafts to members at home. If you are able to deliver, please take a craft(s) from the table in the Welcome Area and sign your name next to the recipient's name so that there's a record of it being taken and delivered. **Pick up for delivery is scheduled Monday thru Friday 12/7 – 12/18 during office hours of 9am – 3pm.** Make sure to call the recipient ahead of time to let them know that you'd like to arrange a drop-off. Don't forget to wear your mask when at the church and when delivering the craft! Invitations extended to stay for a visit in-person will be at the discretion of the recipient. If asked, please feel free to stay and visit! Afterwards, please email the Visitation Pastor, Karen Brocco-Kish at [karenb7777@aol.com](mailto:karenb7777@aol.com) if there are any concerns that may need her attention.

## **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

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It's time to start thinking about the Christmas Program. Like most things right now it is going to be virtual. The church has purchased a program with several speaking parts available. The program is not very long and will be open to all ages. If you child/children would like to participate in the program either by reading a part, or singing or playing a song, please contact Stacie Yates. She will be getting scripts out to those who are interested in the next week.

## **DO YOU WANT A F.I.S.H. PACKET?**

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Miss Stacie is in the process of putting together F.I.S.H. packets for the Christmas season. If you would like a packet for your child/children, please contact Stacie Yates. The DELTS (Discipleship and Education Leadership Team) will be delivering packets to families that would like them. The packets are geared towards Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, but if you have a middle schooler who likes to do Christmas crafts, they might enjoy one also.

## **2020 CHRIST TREE GIVE A GIFT CARD THIS HOLIDAY SEASON**

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In years past we have had our Christ Tree up during the holiday season. This Christmas tree had tags on it for needed items for different agencies in the community. We would still like to do something to help our community members, but since we will not be in the church much this holiday season to grab a tag, we came up with another way to help. We will be collecting gift cards so that when a need arises we have some to distribute to those in need. If you would like to contribute a gift card there are two ways to do it.

1. Here is the link for the for the Scrips Gift Card program where you can view the list of options available. <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com> Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on Retailer List. Here you can choose your option and contact Kelly ([financial@uccmedina.org](mailto:financial@uccmedina.org) or 330-725-4559) to let her know which gift card you would like to purchase and then you send in your money. You cannot purchase directly from this site. By doing this the youth get a little kick back for each gift card ordered.
2. You can also purchase a gift card yourself and drop it off at the church. There will be a small basket on the table, inside the welcoming area, where you can put the gift card. We will be collecting gas cards and gift cards from Walmart, Target, Walgreens, Rite-Aid, Aldi, Giant Eagle.

If you have any questions, please contact Stacie Yates.



# THANKSGIVING THOUGHTS

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by Rev. Nayiri Karjian, General Minister of the UCC Living Water Association

So just because we cannot gather does not mean that we give up on celebration, thanksgiving and singing. In fact, we celebrate in spite of restrictions, we give thanks despite limitations, and we sing whole heartedly to the One who continues to give us reasons to celebrate – life and breath, grace inexhaustible and gifts unnumbered. So, celebrate and create rituals you can do on your own or with your household. Give thanks. Count your blessings, Find the joy, or put the joy in the moment. Take time to play and pray, lament and sing, creating new ways of celebrating. Yes, in spite of the pandemic.

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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

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

### Where Are You, God?

In the book, *The Words of Her Mouth: Psalms for the Struggle*, published at the beginning of this year by The Pilgrim Press, ten women writers responded to the 150 Biblical psalms with words of their own. Not a retelling of the psalms or an alternate translation, instead the book is a reply to those ancient words, engaging them for today.

Editor Martha Spong reports that over the course of the twelve months of 2019, she “watched a book idea that had lived only in my hopes grow from a conversation in an airport in January to a manuscript being sent to the printer in December. I had the joy of inviting nine women to work with me and the delight of hearing a yes from each of them. We all felt excited, and daunted, to engage with the psalms personally, yet also for a future audience of readers. Some of us do this weekly in crafting liturgy; here we wrote not for the collective voices of a congregation, but out of our particular contexts and experiences. It is an offering both to God and readers in this season of extreme division, full of passion and persistence. My hope is that readers will recognize themselves in the words of our mouths and be inspired to articulate their own psalms for the struggle.”

Like the psalms themselves, the poems and prayers in *The Words of Her Mouth* are both deeply personal and widely universal and address a range of human experience and emotions. In response to Psalm 88, United Church of Christ Pastor Rev. Jennifer Garrison Brownell writes,

“Here are my tears,” you said. “Eat. And these are my tears, too. Drink.”

“Too salty!” we cried. “We can’t eat this sorrow! We can’t drink this suffering! We will die!”

You heard our protests and you lifted the plate and the cup anyway.

Most of us turned away. But some of us stayed to eat and drink with you, and we did not die as we had feared.

In truth, we lived. In truth, we live still.

Spong, Martha, ed. *The Words of Her Mouth: Psalms for the Struggle*. Copyright © 2020 Martha Spong.