



December 27, 2020 – Pre-recorded service – 10:00 am

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

LIVE STREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT UCCMEDINA.ORG

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

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE “ ‘Twas in the Moon of Wintertime” – setting, Mark Lochstampfor 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.

COMMUNITY PRAYER (Worst Day Ever? By Chanie Gorkin)

People: Today was the absolute worst day ever. Amen.

Leader: And don't try to convince me that

People: There's something good in every day
Because, when you take a closer look,

Leader: This world is a pretty evil place.
Even if

People: Some goodness does shine through once in a while

Leader: Satisfaction and happiness don't last.
And it's not truth that

People: it's all in the mind and heart
Because

Leader: True happiness can be obtained

People: only if one's surroundings are good

Leader: It's not true that good exists

People: The reality

Leader: Creates
People: **My attitude**
Leader: It's beyond my control
People: **and you'll never in a million years hear me say that**
Leader: Today was a good day.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Happy Xmas (War Is Over)" Bennett & Jessika Petersen

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:22-40

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Stacie Yates

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 "After/Before" Rev. Luke Lindon

HYMN "Go, Tell It On the Mountain"

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev-ery-where;
go, tell it on the moun-tain, that Je-sus Christ is born.

The image shows three staves of musical notation for the hymn "Go, Tell It On the Mountain". The first staff is the vocal line, starting with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/2 time signature. The lyrics "Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev-ery-where;" are written below the notes. The second staff continues the vocal line with the lyrics "go, tell it on the moun-tain, that Je-sus Christ is born." The third staff is a piano accompaniment line, consisting of chords and single notes.

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si-lent flocks by night,
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled, when lo! a-bove the earth,
3. Down in a low-ly man-ger the hum-ble Christ was born,



be - hold through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho-rus that hailed the Sav-ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va-tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

WORDS: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. by
John W. Work, Jr., 1907 (Lk. 2:8-20)
MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. and arr. by
William Farley Smith, 1986
Adapt. and arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN
Irr. with Retrain

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Our doxology reminds us that all things come from God. Every blessing. Each and every neighbor. Thank you for continuing to financially support the work and mission of the church! You can give in many ways of your time, talent and treasure. You can send your offering via mail or online at uccmedina.org/give. You can also give of your time and talent of writing and calling one another to strengthen the ties that bind. Thank you!

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 are dedicated to you, our God; before we have even heard what you have to say. We come to you humbly. Seeking to welcome, love, and serve all your people. Even when we're disoriented, you will right us and reveal yourself to us. A light for revelation and a glory to your people. Amen.

BENEDICTION

**People: We recognize our own story in Christ's Birth. We find our blessedness.
Thanks be to God! Amen!**

Leader: And they do! And they have blessed us.

**People: Recognized by the two loonies who hang around the temple all the time.
Thinking they will know God's promised one when they come.**

Leader: Being born in a barn, surrounded by dirty shepherds and foreign magicians.

People: God surprises us by starting from the bottom.

Leader: This is where we start.

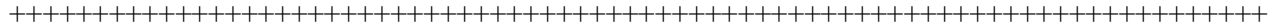
CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "God Be with You"

**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 "Good, Christian Men, Rejoice" – arr. Wilbur Held

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"



PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - email: luke@uccmedina.org
Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor

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

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

DECEMBER 27, 2020

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

December 27, 2020 thru January 3, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun 10:00 am Online worship only

Mon

Tues

Wed

Thurs *New Years Eve*
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSING @ NOON

Fri CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Happy New Year

Sat

Sun 10:00 am Service of Remembrance
Online worship only

PILGRIM MESSENGER MAILING

We will not be mailing
the Pilgrim Messenger
between Christmas and New Year's
on December 31st.

We will resume mailing again on
Thursday, January 6, 2021

UPPER ROOMS AVAILABLE

New Upper Room daily devotionals for
January/February are in! Pick up a regular or
large print format on the table in the Welcome
Area.

Worship Highlights: 10:00 am Live Stream Only

Scripture: Luke 2:22-40

Sermon: “After/Before”

Rev. Luke Lindon

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE JANUARY 3, 2021

Live streamed service at 10:00 am

On January 3rd we will remember those persons who have passed away this year. During the worship service, the names of the members of Medina UCC who have passed away during 2020 will be read. For each member a candle will be lit 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 that you would like remembered, please call the Church Office no later than Monday, December 28th with the full name of the loved one, their relationship to you, and the date of their passing.

ALTAR FLOWERS

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.

LAST WEEK FOR ADVENT FOOD DONATION TO CLAGGETT MIDDLE SCHOOL

As we celebrate Christmas, the Mission Team continues to ask the congregation for their help in this “giving” season. We would like to focus on the most vulnerable in our community, the children. The children in elementary school receive weekender 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 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 31st. 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.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Yes... it's Annual Report time again! If Cindy has asked for an annual report from you, the **deadline is Wednesday, January 6th**. This means we would like an annual report from the following:
Endowment Committee, Stewardship Team, Finance Team, Treasurer and Church Clerk. When completed, please email them to her at: office@uccmedina.org or drop them off in the church office. Thank you!

FORECASTING 2021

In order to best forecast 2021 budgets the church is still in need of at least 48 more pledges. Thank you to the 122 people who have already turned in their pledge cards for 2021! 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.

GIFT TO ENDOWMENT FUND

Gift time is close approaching, and often, we are seeking a gift for the person who “has everything” or the person who says they “need nothing”. Please consider making a GIFT OF GRATITUDE for the life of that person by making a gift to the ENDOWMENT FUND in their name. The Fund is here to do good things. The fund is here to underwrite projects, programs and needs that emerge from the life of the church. Your loved one will be honored – and it is the perfect size and perfect color!

- **All 2020 gifts / contributions must be postmarked by December 31, 2020 to be eligible for tax deductions.**

NEW CIRCLE OF CARING FIDGET BLANKETS OF LOVE MINISTRY

Circle of Caring has a new outreach ministry called Fidget Blankets of Love Ministry. Its mission is to have consistent contact with our church membership who have Alzheimer's, Dementia, Autism, ADHD, Arthritis, and Blindness and/or Deafness. What is a fidget blanket? It is a rectangular lap-sized blanket made in a quilted mosaic with “action baubles”, fabrics of patterns/bright colors/textures, and decorative features for engaging the physical senses of sight/sound/touch for keeping actively stimulated mentally, and hands busy, to help teach and maintain mental acuity and fine motor skills. Fidget blankets are appropriate for all ages...toddlers to senior adults.

Look for January 2021 Pilgrim Messengers about how the congregation can help this new ministry.



FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

No more money stress—ever! It's possible when you know how to handle your finances. Join our virtual *Financial Peace University class*, and we'll learn how to dump debt and build wealth. You won't even have to leave home. And now, you can try Financial Peace free for 14 days! Visit fpu.com/1127951 to sign up and learn more. Class starts **Thursday, January 21, 2021**.

GOSPEL GALLEY MEDITATIONS GOES INTO “DRY DOCK”

This Sunday is the last appearance of Gospel Galley Meditations for a long while. What comes to mind is the song “Auld Land Syne.” It is the title and key phrase of a Scottish poem, written in 1798, by poet Robert Burns. Each New Year's Eve the lyrics, “Should old acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind? Should old acquaintance be forgot, and old lang syne?” are sung. But what does “Auld Lang Syne” mean? Literally, it translates as “old long since” and means “days gone by.”

Gospel Galley Meditations' sailing has hit a patch of rough seas, prompting the Captains to put into port for a long rest, through 2021. The hope is that calmer seas and prevailing winds of good weather will allow for fair sailing again in 2022.

To send Gospel Galley Meditations to its berth of rest, there is hope on the horizon! Expressed so beautifully in this Irish Blessing:

May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face; The rains fall soft upon your fields;

And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Gospel Galley Meditations sends its heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who has written over the years. Reading has been a joy. The Captains of Gospel Galley Meditations wish everyone a Happy, Prosperous New Year.

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

Luke 2:22-40

Long-Awaited Gift

A Litany

Holy One, Like Anna and Simeon, we have waited.

And, like Anna and Simeon we rejoice now at the young ones who have appeared.

In an age of climate change, the seas rise along with the temperature. While her elders posture to protect resources, or argue about who is at fault, a single young woman dares to speak truth to power. As our youth are empowered, empower us at all ages to listen and then to act.

We give thanks for the energy, vitality, and leadership of the youth in our church, community, and world. Like Anna and Simeon, we rejoice!

The scourge of gun violence has affected no group so horribly as the young. Children who cannot yet read know how to hide in the event of an active shooter in their classrooms. And so, it is the young who lead the way in calling for reasonable gun controls and an end to gun violence.

We give thanks for the energy, vitality, and leadership of the youth in our church, community, and world. Like Anna and Simeon, we rejoice!

The cries of Black Lives Matter that has spilled from hearts into the streets is a rallying cry that gives voice to generations of oppression and violence. As the youth lead the way in making the social change that must come, help us to uplift their leadership. Give us the grace to get behind them, instead of standing in their way.

We give thanks for the energy, vitality, and leadership of the youth in our church, community, and world. Like Anna and Simeon, we rejoice!

(Lift up the gifts of local youth who have shown energy, vitality, and leadership in calling for social change and justice in Christ's name.)

We give thanks for the energy, vitality, and leadership of the youth in our church, community, and world. Like Anna and Simeon, we rejoice! Amen.