



Heaven  
and nature  
Sing  
True Hope

10:30 a.m.

*Photo courtesy of Megan Harbath*

# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

[www.uccmedina.org](http://www.uccmedina.org)



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**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.*

*\*Those who are able please stand*

CONGREGATIONAL CAROLING (see last page of worship)

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” – arr. Robert Thygeron

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

\*OPENING HYMN

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*Unison*



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, and  
3 O come, O come, O A - do - nai, who  
4 O come, O shoot of Jes - se, free your



ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly  
or - der all things far and nigh; To us the path of  
came to all on Si - nai high, And from its peak a  
own from Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny, From depths of hell your



ex - ile here, un - til the Child of God ap - pear.  
 knowl - edge show, and help us in that way to go.  
 sin - gle law pro - claimed in maj - es - ty and awe.  
 peo - ple save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

*Psalterium Cationum Catholicarum, 1710  
 Trans. John Mason Neale, 1851, and others; alt.  
 St. 2, trans. Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; alt.*

VENI EMMANUEL LM with refrain  
 Melody from a 15<sup>th</sup> century French "Processional"  
 arr. Thomas Helmore, 1854

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Lindon Family

*(All the children are asked to come forward at this time)*

**Reader:** We have endured these past few years and know that there is more to face before us. We don't know if we have the strength to withstand what might be around the next corner.

And we wonder who will stand with us, who will have our back, who will occupy our corner.

**People:** **Who is with us?**

**That is what we begin to wonder these days.**

**Who will light our way and chart our course?**

**Who is on our side, who will welcome us home again?**

**Reader:** Home. The prophet Jeremiah speaks of a branch that will be raised.

Jesus spoke of a Son of Man that will descend.

Both point to a hope. A hope that calls us home.

Our true home, where we're welcomed and loved and included.

Where there is justice and equality and peace.

It's time, this Advent season, time to go home.

**People:** **We light this candle, as a sign of our hope,  
 our strong hope that there is a way to go home.**

**To the home in Christ, and it starts with us, and it starts here, and it starts now.**

**It's time to go home.**

*The first Advent candle is lit*

## RESPONSE

## "Light the Advent Candle"

*Mary Lu Walker, 1975*

ADVENT CANDLE SONG 77:77 with refrain



1. Light the Ad - vent can - dle, one: Now the wait - ing has be -  
gun; we have start - ed on our way, time to think of Christ - mas day.  
Can - dle, can - dle, burn - ing bright, shin - ing in the cold win - ter night;  
can - dle, can - dle, burn - ing bright, fill our hearts with Christ - mas light.

#### REPEAT AFTER ME PRAYER

Holy One, you are our home.  
Our Beginning and End.  
Thank you.  
You are our hope.  
Thank you for the reminder.  
In your name, we pray. Amen.

#### 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**

#### SPECIAL MUSIC

"The Star Carol" – Wihla Hutson & Alfred Burt

Pete Metzloff, soloist

#### SCRIPTURES

Jeremiah 33:14-16 and Luke 21:25-36

Pam Branscome, Liturgist

#### SERMON

"True Hope"

Rev. Luke Lindon

#### HYMN

**"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"**

9<sup>th</sup> cent. Latin; trans. Henry Sloane Coffin & Lawrence Hull Stookey

VENI EMMANUEL LM with refrain  
15<sup>th</sup> cent. French, arr & harm. Thomas Helmore, 1854

O Come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home.  
The captives from their prison free, and conquer death's deep misery. *Refrain*

O Come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thy justice here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

O Come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind.  
From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife. *Refrain*

## OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

### Offering Invitation (Psalm 25: 4-5)

Leader: Make me to know your ways, O Lord: teach me your paths.

People: **Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you  
I wait all day long.**

Leader: Let us now offer our gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

### \* Doxology for Advent (*Christina G. Rossetti, 1872 & Gustav Holst, 1906*)

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

### \*Prayer of Dedication

In you, we hope. In you, we look for new life. In you, we look for a new idea to organize  
around, set goals, and become closer to our neighbor. Teach us your ways. We wait on you.  
We thank you, our God, Our Christ, Our Spirit. One God forever and ever. Amen!

## \*CLOSING HYMN

### "Christians All, Your Lord is Coming"

*Jim Miller, 1993*

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D  
*Joshua Leavitt's Christian Lyre, 1830*



1. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, draw-ing near in  
2. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, call-ing you to  
4. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, hope for peace is



ho - ly birth. Ring the bells and sound the trum-pets,  
serve in deed. See the ones who hurt and suf-fer,  
now at hand. Let there be no hes - i - ta - tion,



let your mu - sic fill the earth. Dance and move to  
 hear their cry and act with speed. Set all self - ish  
 walk in faith where life de - mands. Bear the word that



show God's glo - ry; kneel and pause to hear God's word.  
 ways be - hind you. Purge your hearts of sin - ful greed.  
 God has giv - en; share the birth that stirs your soul.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and let your songs be heard.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ in you will meet their need.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ will come and make you whole.

**\*BENEDICTION**

Leader: Keep Watch! Keep your eyes peeled, and ears open!

People: **We won't faint from fear or foreboding of what is coming upon the world.**

Leader: We shall wait and listen for the nudging of the Spirit  
 and find God born into the world again.

People: **Forgiveness. Reconciliation. Peace. Love. These our tools in this time of waiting.**

Leader: You have been blessed to be a blessing!  
 May you remember that no matter how backward,  
 sideways, or upside-down life becomes;

People: **God is always there for us! Thanks be to you, Our God;  
 our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen!**

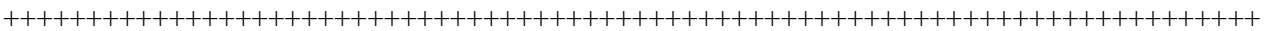
**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "God Be with You"**

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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# CONGREGATIONAL CAROLING

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

### Go, Tell It on the Mountain

*John W. Work, Jr.*

*trad. Spiritual, ref. harm. Eugene Thomas*

**Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!**

While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold! Thro'out the heavens  
There shone a holy light.

**Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!**

### Away in a Manger

*Source unknown, vs. 1*

*John Thomas McFarland, vs. 3*

*James R. Murray*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay;  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children In Thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

### Angels, from the Realms of Glory

*James Montgomery*

*Henry T. Smart*

Angels, from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

**Come and worship,  
Come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing;  
Yonder shines the Infant Light:

**Come and worship,  
Come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

Tho' an infant now we view Him,  
He will share His Father's throne;  
Gather all the nations to Him;  
Every knee shall then bow down:

**Come and worship,  
Come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## NOVEMBER 28, 2021

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

Live streaming of the Sanctuary service is available at [www.uccmedina.org/live](http://www.uccmedina.org/live)

November 28, 2021, thru December 5, 2021

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**Sun** 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
8:15 am Chapel Worship  
9:00 am Gathering Worship  
9:15 am Choir Rehearsal  
10:30 am Traditional Worship  
3:00 pm Confirmation Class – mentors invited

**Mon** 6:30 pm Women’s Bible Study

**Tues** 7:00 pm Bible Study

**Wed** 10:30 am Quilters  
6:30 pm Bell Practice  
7:00 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal

**Thurs**

**Fri**

**Sat**

**Sun** 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
8:15 am Chapel Worship  
9:00 am Gathering Worship  
9:15 am Choir rehearsal  
9:40 am Bell Choir Warm-up  
10:30 am Traditional Worship  
4:30 pm Advent Family Fun Night

### **REALM HOW-TO**

For those choosing to give via Realm, you can now enter your 2022 Pledge towards Operating, Mission & Capital Funds. We’ve created 3 quick videos to guide you through Realm. Watch them here: <http://tinyurl.com/RealmVideos>. Questions? Contact the office!

**Worship Highlights:** 8:15 am, 9:00, & 10:30 am

Scripture: Jeremiah 33:14-16 & Luke 21:25-36

Sermon: “True Hope” - Rev. Luke Lindon

**Communion Table Flowers:** The flowers today are given by Craig and Beth Hari in memory of their parents.

### **COIN JARS FOR SENIORS DUE TODAY, 11/28**

Time to turn in your coin jars. Please drop them off to the church office for Jeff Miller, our Financial Director. Thank you for your support of Feeding Medina County.

### **LITURGISTS AND ADVENT READERS NEEDED!**

The new sign-up sheet for liturgists is in the East Room hallway. Please consider signing up for an upcoming Sunday! We also need people to light the Advent Wreath and read a brief prayer. You can sign up alone or as a family or friends. The need is for all 3 services.

### **ADVENT FAMILY FUN NIGHT**

**Sunday, December 5, 2021**

This year for Advent Family Fun Night, our church family is invited to wear your pajamas, bring blankets, sleeping bags, pillows, bean bags, (I think you get the idea) and gather in Fellowship Hall to watch a Christmas Classic.... Elf! 😊 We will be having a hot chocolate bar and cookie decorating. We hope to see you next Sunday for fun, fellowship, and yummy treats.



## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

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It's time to order your beautiful poinsettia again! You may donate a poinsettia to decorate the Sanctuary and East Room 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 for each poinsettia.

**Deadline for ordering is December 6th.** Please fill out a poinsettia order sheet (available from the ushers and online) and turn it in to the offering plate or the church office. You may also call the church office to place your order. Click here to order online: [Poinsettia Order Form](#)

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

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**Sunday, December 12, 2021**

The children have started to work on the Christmas Program for this year. They will be performing The Best Christmas Pageant Ever during the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Make sure to mark your calendars for this special day. You will not want to miss it!

## SPECIAL MUSIC PROGRAM

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**Sunday, December 19, 2021**

The choir will share their gifts and we'll sing out with joy as we await the coming of the Lord! This will be a jam-packed Christmas hymn Sunday with a few surprises. I hope you'll come out.

## SALVATION ARMY RINGERS

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We only have 2 time slots left to be "**Red Kettle Ringers**" for the Medina Salvation Army. The time slots needed for Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> in the vestibule at Buehler's River Styx are 11:30-12 & 12- 12:30. 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 through [THIS LINK](#), on Realm or the FB page, or by calling or emailing Jessica Manners at [jgmanners@gmail.com](mailto:jgmanners@gmail.com) or (216) 287-6302. This is a popular event each year, so sign up soon!

## MISSION TEAM ANGEL TREE

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Please help the Mission Team keep our smallest neighbors warm this winter by grabbing a tag off our Angel Tree located in the upstairs loft area near the elevator. Tags will be available from November 28<sup>th</sup> through December 12<sup>th</sup>. Each tag has an item of outdoor winter clothing that is needed by a child participating in Medina County's Help Me Grow program. Purchase the item on the tag and return the new, unwrapped item with the tag attached to the bag by Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. **Items must be new; Help Me Grow cannot accept used items at this time due to COVID concerns.** Questions? Email Jessica Manners at [jgmanners@gamil.com](mailto:jgmanners@gamil.com)

## CHRISTMAS CAROLING

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Join us for Christmas Caroling on December 19<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 pm. All ages can participate in this wonderful, fun activity. Meet at the church by 4 pm. After caroling we will return to the church for hot chocolate.

## ALTAR FLOWERS

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The 2022 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.

## ROOT GRAB & GO PANTRY

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**Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup> begins collection for the Root Grab and Go Pantry.** Root Middle School is asking for our church's help to provide 100% fruit juice boxes and individually wrapped breakfast bars (regular and allergen-free varieties). A collection bin will be in the lobby by the stairs. Drop off during office hours 9am-3 pm. Questions? Email Alice Metzloff at [iamalsblugown@gmail.com](mailto:iamalsblugown@gmail.com). Thank you for your support.

# LAST CHANCE FOR ENDOWMENT FUND GRANTS THIS YEAR

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It is time for appropriate projects, endeavors and ideas to be submitted for funding to the Endowment Fund Committee for the year 2022.

Requests for Funding forms are available in the church office and are **due Monday, November 29, 2021**. Electronic copies are also available. Who serves on this Committee? Earle Olson, Virginia Hall, Bert Humpal, Ellen Hunter and Jane Langol. Please consider submitting a request. The deserving projects will be announced in late December.

## OFFERING ENVELOPES

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Thank you to those who have turned in their pledges so far. If you have not done so yet please turn them in soon. For those who have requested offering envelopes they are ready to pick up in the East Room. If you did not request envelopes and you would like them, please contact the church office. Envelopes and people are matched with a number, so we will need to be sure to get you the proper envelopes.

## COSTA RICA TRIP

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We are heading back to Costa Rica for a home build! Covid held us back this year, but we are planning a trip back in May of 2022. This will be a new time of the year for us to build, so we may have some new weather adventures! We may also build in a new location. If you are interested in traveling down to Costa Rica with us or would like more information about what we do with Mercy Home Missions, please feel free to reach out to Vicki Miller at [tamvic1@aol.com](mailto:tamvic1@aol.com).

## FINANCIAL PEACE CLASSES COMING IN JANUARY VIA ZOOM!

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Tell your money where to go instead of wondering where it went! *Financial Peace University* is a nine-lesson class designed to help you build a budget, dump debt, grow your wealth, and leave money stress behind. Each lesson is based on biblical wisdom and common sense. Sign up for this class and start your 14-day free trial of Financial Peace at [fpu.com/1141840](http://fpu.com/1141840). Class starts **Thursday, January 20, 2022**.

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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**

### PASTORAL STAFF

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

### OFFICE STAFF

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - email: [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)  
Jeff Miller, Financial Director - email: [jeff@uccmedina.org](mailto:jeff@uccmedina.org)

### PROGRAM STAFF

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education – [stacie@uccmedina.org](mailto:stacie@uccmedina.org)  
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Cathy Fafrak, Organist – [cathy@uccmedina.org](mailto:cathy@uccmedina.org)  
Rebecca Rosen, Nursery Supervisor  
Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – [jen@uccmedina.org](mailto:jen@uccmedina.org)  
Sharon Perry, Custodian

Luke 21:25-36

## Sign of Things to Come

'Til Love Comes is the first single on Tracy Howe's album, "Things That Grow", available at [tracyhowemusic.com](http://tracyhowemusic.com). On this first Sunday of Advent, these inspiring words are a prophetic reminder of the universe-transforming power of the incarnation, the coming of the Christ Child. You can find more of Tracy's music, including a link to a video of this song, at [tracyhowemusic.com](http://tracyhowemusic.com).

We will march on, will fight on  
'Til love comes

If you cut into beauty  
and try to make it bleed  
you only find a deeper hope  
and what makes a person free  
the depths of love  
come from where we've been redeemed

So put down your guns  
and unlock the prison doors  
You can keep all your money;  
give yourselves to the poor  
learn to love  
Building a world of grace

We will march on, will fight on  
'Til love comes

You might make your words a weapon and  
build power out of fear  
But it's your own self breaking and fading  
away in the mirror

Because love  
Is writing the song

And the mystery of suffering is the life that  
comes from pain  
And the hope we share holds it -  
gives it a name  
All in love  
We carry on

We will march on, will fight on  
'Til love comes

We gave our lives to this fight,  
we gave our lives  
If we fall it will be alright,  
if we fall it will be alright  
Our bodies wrapped in dust,  
will tell the tale of both of us  
I who heard your cry for help,  
and you who lived for someone else

We will march on, will fight on  
'Til love comes

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