Photo: Courtesy of Shannon Cochrane

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

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 friendship 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 "How Far Is It to Bethlehem?" – arr. Richard Warner Cathy Fafrak, Organist

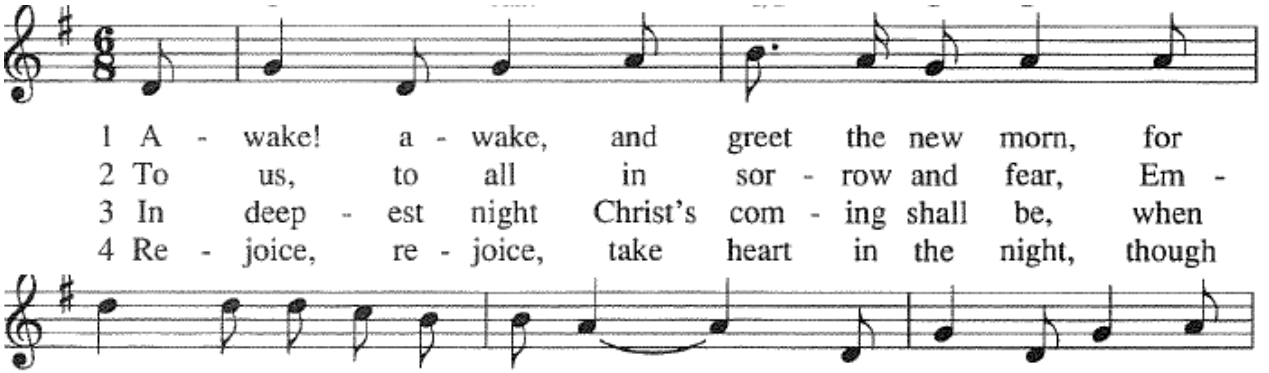
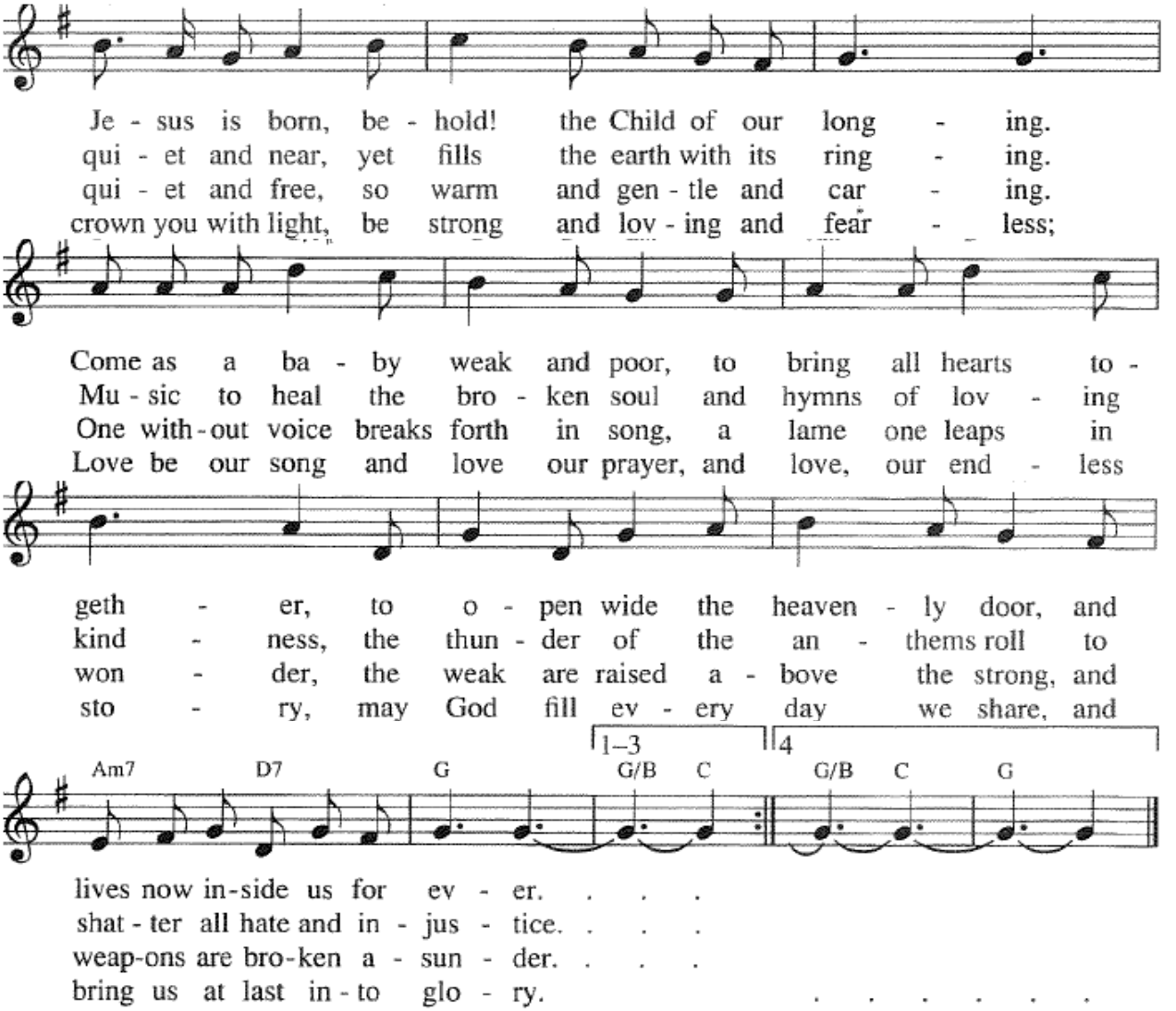
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***OPENING HYMN "Awake! Awake! And Greet the New Morn"**

REJOICE, REJOICE 9.8.9.8.8.7.8.9

Marty Haugen, 198; rev. 1993 *Marty Haugen, 1983*



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Confirmands

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

Reader: We have called one another to hope, and we have sought peace with one another.
Now comes a reminder to rejoice!

People: We look forward to a time when God will bring joy to the world.
For so many reasons, we need this joy ourselves.

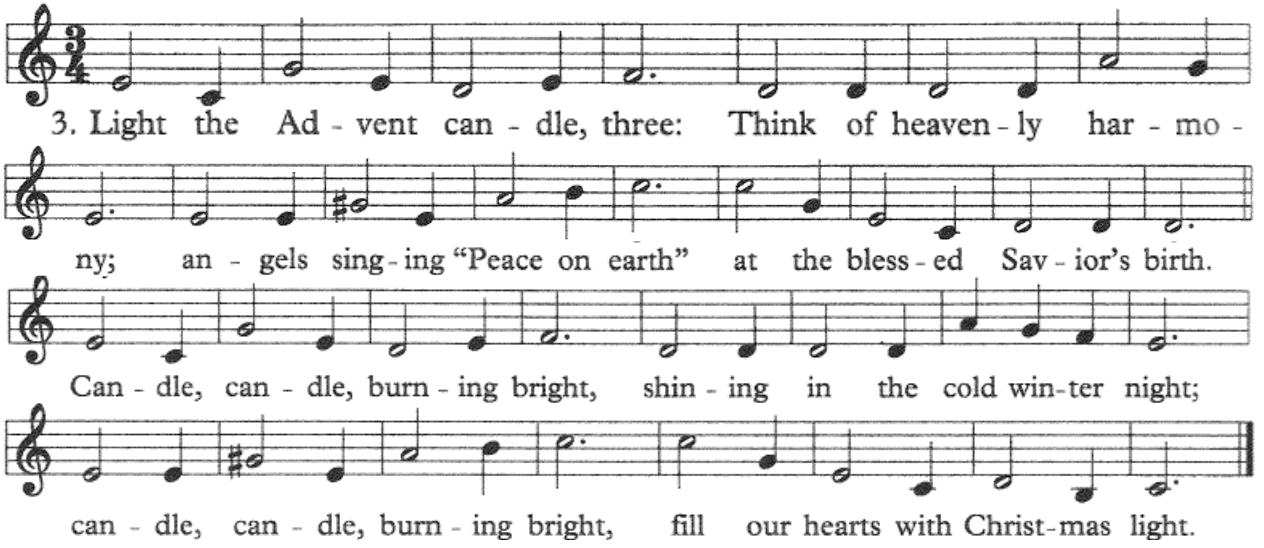
Reader: The demands and reminders of this season may make joy difficult.
This is why we come together to worship.

People: We as a worshipping community are called to point out joy to one another.
We set our lights on a lampstand for all to see.

The first, second & third Advent candles are lit

RESPONSE **"Light the Advent Candle"**

Mary Lu Walker, 1975 ADVENT CANDLE SONG 77.77 with refrain



Reader: Rejoice in the Lord always! Again, I will say rejoice!
The Lord, our source of joy, is near!

People: May our lives and spirits be brightened by this worship moment, and by those with whom we praise God's name!

REPEAT AFTER ME PRAYER

Reader: Let us pray,

People: Dear God,
You give us,
So many reasons for joy.
Our family.
Friends.
Pets.
Food!
Movies and Music and more.
Thank you.

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT

Medina United Church of Christ presents:

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"

Cast

FATHER (BOB BRADLEY)	Blake Stepsis
MOTHER (GRACE BRADLEY)	Nora Nolan
BETH BRADLEY (Angel)	Leah Medley
CHARLIE BRADLEY (Shepherd)	Mason Rusyniak
HERDMAN WHO TOILET PAPERS	Camden Cochrane & Parker Cochrane
RALPH HERDMAN (Joseph)	Joel Manners
IMOGENE HERDMAN (Mary)	Eve Lindon
LEROY HERDMAN (Wise Man)	Hayden Pettit
CLAUDE HERDMAN (Wise Man)	Sam Lindon
OLLIE HERDMAN (Wise Man)	Blake Cook
GLADYS HERDMAN (Angel of the Lord)	Laura Medley
ALICE WENDLEKEN (Angel)	Madeline Bauer
MRS. ARMSTRONG	Miss Stacie
MRS. SLOCUM	Olivia Miller
MRS. MCCARTHY	Maggie Bixler
MAXINE (Narrator)	Rosie Bauer
ELMER HOPKINS (Shepherd)	Price Bilikam
HOBIE	Camden Cochrane
FIREMAN	Bobby Nolan
SHIRLEY (Angel)	Maxine Pettit
JUANITA (Angel)	Lyla Davis
REVEREND HOPKINS	Pastor Luke

ANGEL CHOIR MEMBERS

Rosie Bauer, Sadie Davis, Lyla Davis, Addisyn Miller,
Leah Manners, Ava Rosen, Lily Rosen

BABY ANGELS

Josie Bilikam, Kaelyn Miller, Paige Rusyniak,
James Rihm, Dom Stalter, Drew Stalter

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

Scene 1: Kitchen

Scene 2: School Yard

Scene 3: Sunday School

Scene 4: Parking Lot

Scene 5: First Rehearsal

Scene 6: Dress Rehearsal & Performance

"Away in the Manger" – Angel Choir

"Angels We Have Heard on High" – Angel Choir

"We Three Kings of Orient Are" – Angel Choir

"Silent Night" – Angel Choir & Congregation

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin, mother and child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

"Joy to the World" – Angel Choir & Congregation

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.

"We Wish You a Merry Christmas"

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

There is an offering plate by the East Room and by the tower doors if you feel led to deposit your envelope or an offering there. You can also give through our Realm app or text-to-give by texting 73256 and following the prompts. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

Offering Invitation

Reader: God calls us to create a community which welcomes all:
People: To care for the infirm, to heal the shame of the outcast,
Reader: To create a welcome for all.
People: Let these gifts we offer begin this process of reconciliation!

*** 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.

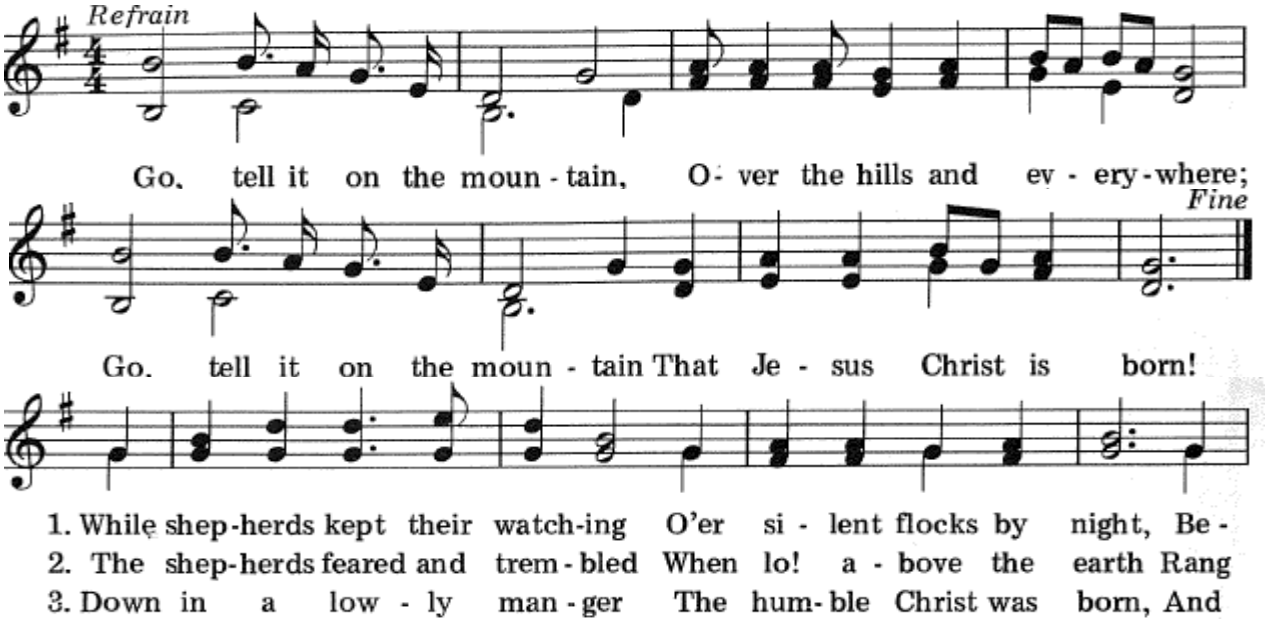
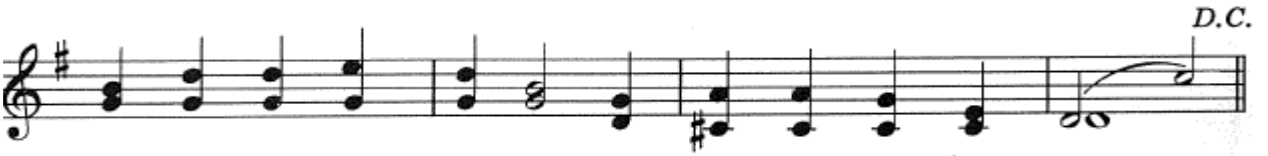
***Prayer of Dedication**

Take these gifts, and gather us back together, O God, we who have separated ourselves from our neighbors from our higher selves and from your expansive Love. Reunite us with our calling. Amen.

HYMN **"Go, Tell It On the Mountain"**

Spiritual; adapt. John W. Work, Jr., 1907

GO TELL IT Irr. with refrain
Spiritual; adapt & arr. William Farley-Smith, 1986



***BENEDICTION**

Leader: Gathering one!
People: Embracing one!
Leader: The one-who-bears-the-image-of-those-who-bear-God's.
People: Open our hearts to find you in community,
Leader: In the hopeful, peaceful, joyful work of your people.
People: All thanks and praise to our God, our source of joy! 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** "People, Look East" – arr. Dale Wood Cathy Fafrak, Organist

MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – jen@uccmedina.org
Sharon Perry, Custodian

CONGREGATIONAL CAROLING
3rd Sunday of Advent

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Latin carol, 14th century; trans. John M. Neale
German melody, 14th century; har. John Stainer

Good Christian men, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice!
Give ye heed to what we say: News! News!
Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before Him bow,
And He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice!
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy!
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door
And man is blessed forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice!
Now ye need not fear the gave: Peace! Peace!
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain His everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

O Come, Little Children

Christoph von Schmid; J.A.P. Schultz

O come, little children, O come, one and all.
To Bethlehem haste, to the manger so small.
God's son for a gift has been sent you this night.
To be your redeemer, your joy and delight.

The hay is His pillow, the manger His bed
The beasts stand in wonder to gaze on His head
Yet there where He lieth, so weak and so poor
Come shepherds and wise men to kneel at His door.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley, alt. & Felix Mendelssohn

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that men no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

How Great Our Joy!

Traditional German carol

While by the sheep we watched at night,
Glad tidings bro't an angel bright.
How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

There shall be born, so he did say,
In Bethlehem a Child today. ***Refrain***

There shall the Child lie in a stall,
This Child who shall redeem is all. ***Refrain***

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER
DECEMBER 12, 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

December 12, 2021, thru December 19, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun **3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir rehearsal
10:30 am Traditional Worship & Children's Pageant
11;45 am Mission Team
3:00 pm Confirmation Class & Mentors

Mon 1:30 pm Flower Committee Meeting
6:30 pm Women's Bible Study

Tues **7:00 pm Bible Study Today**
We will start the book of Genesis
7:00 pm Worship Team

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
7:00 pm Worship Team
7:00 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal

Thurs

Fri

Sat 10:00 am Brass Rehearsal

Sun **4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir rehearsal
10:30 am Traditional Worship & Special Music Program
11:45 am Caring Team
4:00 pm All Church Christmas Caroling
4:30 pm Youth Group

The church office will be closed on Monday, December 20th due to a staff planning retreat.

Worship Highlights: 8:15 am & 9:00 am
Scripture: Isaiah 12:2-6
Sermon: "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation"
- Rev. Luke Lindon

10:30 am Traditional Worship and Children's Pageant

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today are given by Barb Rosen in memory of Keith Rosen.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 12, 2021

Today is the day we have been waiting for! Today the children are performing "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" for the annual Christmas Pageant. So, sit back, relax and enjoy the show!

READERS NEEDED!

The sign-up sheet is in the East Room hallway. We need people to read on Christmas Eve at the 6:00 pm service.

CHRISTMAS WEEK SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Worship Services will be:
6:00 pm – Family Candlelight Service
9:00 pm – Candlelight Service
The 9 pm service will also be live streamed.

Church office will be closed Dec. 24th at 12 pm and re-open at 9 am on Tuesday, Dec. 28th

One service of worship at 10 a.m. on
Dec. 26th - Pajama Worship
Jan. 2nd - Service of Remembrance

SPECIAL MUSIC PROGRAM

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. We hope you'll join us.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Join us for Christmas Caroling on December 19th 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.

FRIENDLY FOLKS NEEDED

We'd love to have a friendly face at the downstairs door when people enter before the 10:30 service in the new year. It's your choice to shake hands, fist-bump, or wave "hi". Please sign up online at http://tinyurl.com/UCCGreeter or call/text Kate Lindon for available dates at 330-663-1801.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Thank You to those of you who have submitted your 2022 pledge! **As of 12/6/21:**

- 91 Pledging Families
  - In comparison to 2021
    - 13 NEW PLEDGES
    - 30 INCREASED PLEDGES
    - 4 MATCHED PLEDGES

- 82 families who pledged in 2021, which we have not yet received 2022 pledge

Your pledge is extremely important in helping forecast our 2022 budgets. If you need assistance, please give Jeff Miller a call at 330.725.4559 EXT: #13

*** Please note that for your 2021 or 2022 contribution to be eligible for a 2021 tax deduction, we must receive your contribution by 12/31/21.**

BAKE SALE THANK YOU

The DELT'S would like to thank all those who contributed baked goods for our Candlelight Walk Bake Sale. We are very excited to announce that we made this year $1,393.92. This is the most ever! Thank you again for your support.

ROOT GRAB & GO PANTRY

Donte to the Root Grab & Go Pantry: 100 % fruit juice boxes and pouches-all flavors & individually wrapped breakfast bars (regular and allergen-free varieties). The collection bin will be in the lobby by the stairs. Drop off during open office hours 9am-3 pm. Questions? Email Alice Metzloff at iamalsblugown@gmail.com Thank you for your support.

ANNUAL REPORTS AND MEETING

Save the date!

Our Annual Budget Meeting will be held on Sunday, Jan. 30th immediately following ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP AT 10 a.m. I know this is a busy time of year, so I wanted to give plenty of notice to those people I need reports from. T**he deadline is Monday, January 10th**. **I will need reports from:** Endowment Committee, Stewardship Committee, Finance Team, Treasurer and Church Clerk. If you have any questions or need a copy of last years' annual report to refer to please let me know.
Please email your reports to Cindy in the office at: office@uccmedina.org or drop them off in the church office.

NEW YEAR'S DANCE PARTY

Pastor Luke's good friend, the Rev. Corbin Tobey-Davis (aka DJ Rev. CoBeCo) will get us moving on Sunday, January 2, from 4-6 pm. It's a youth group, but if you want to dance, you're welcome! Corbin will minister to our body, mind, and spirit as we dance like David in praise of God! Our DJ will join us via Zoom as we dance in Fellowship Hall. If you want to join us and dance from home, we can provide you that Zoom link.

THE CHRISTMAS FUND

The light is surely coming! Please give generously this holiday season to **THE CHRISTMAS FUND FOR VETERANS OF THE CROSS,** the unique UCC Special Mission Offering recognizing and honoring our beloved ministers and their spouses who dedicate their careers and so much of their lives to the church. For over a century, these offerings have been a tangible expression of God's love and light in the world. Year after year, United Church of Christ members and congregations have reached out in kindness, compassion, and gratitude to those who have faithfully shepherded our Church in the past and who now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs. This ministry cares for the active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ. Your gift will also provide for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants and Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks next December to lower-income retirees.

FINANCIAL PEACE CLASSES COMING VIA ZOOM!

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**. Class starts **Thursday, January 20, 2022.**

SERVICE OF REMEMBERING

January 2, 2022
ONE SERVICE ONLY 10:00 am

On this Sunday 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 2021 will be read. For each member a candle will be lit and a chime will ring. We will also have a white rose on the altar for each of the members who have passed away. They are for the family to take home following the service. 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 who passed away in 2021 that you would like remembered, please call the Church Office no later than December 28th with the full name of the loved one, their relationship to you, and the date of their passing.

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

December 12, 2021
Third Sunday of Advent

Luke 3:7-18

Look Forward

A prayer inspired by Luke 3:7-18

Holy One,
In this sacred season of the year, blinded as we are by the lights and the parties, deafened as we are by the songs and celebrations, we pause for a moment to look and to listen. We see the muddy prophet, crying on the riverbank. We hear, as John's listeners did long ago, the crackling fire of truth and repentance.
And we ask, as they did, "what should we do now?"

Holy One,
In this sacred season, we stop and breathe as we look and listen. Too often, we put our belief in the past, too often we ally ourselves with a tradition that is dead and gone. In all times, but in Advent especially, you desire for us to embrace the new life being born, to look toward the future with hope, and to be co-creators with you of that future.

Holy One,
In this sacred season, may all we do be a prayer.
We prepare gifts for those we love. Let that preparation be a prayer that propels us to be your generous people to all who are in need of opportunities to give and to receive.
We celebrate with special food and drink. Let those celebrations be a prayer that helps us to live fully the wisdom of moderation.
We repose in relative comfort. Let us have open eyes to see how much of what seems like safety is purchased at the terrible cost in violence and oppression.

Holy One,
In this sacred season, we stand on tiptoes and peek into the manger, hoping for a glimpse of the baby, sweet and small. When we see and hear you as you really are, roaring truth and demanding justice, grant us the wisdom and the courage to welcome you into our churches, into our celebrations, into our lives.

Amen.