

Heaven
and nature
sing

SING OUT!



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*

Hymn sing selections used this morning are listed after the last page of worship

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

“Adeste Fideles”

Maggie Bixler, Laura Medley, & Lark Oehler, violins
Ruby Gabrielsen, viola, Pam Branscome, cello

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN SING SELECTION #1

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (from the Rev. Jeff Nelson)

The Medley Family

Reader: Our journey through Advent is nearing its close. We’ve joined in hope, taught peace, and rejoiced with one another.

People: **Led by the Spirit, we have remembered some important truths revealed by the One whose birth we seek.**

Reader: The flame symbolizing love is the latest to mark our journey, and it is perhaps the brightest of all.

People: **Love seems to be the simplest, and yet is the most difficult. We take this moment to be reminded yet again.**

All four Advent candles are lit

RESPONSE

Mary Lu Walker, 1975

“Light the Advent Candle”

ADVENT CANDLE SONG 77-77 with refrain

4. Light the Ad - vent can - dle, four: Think of joy for - ev - er -
 more; Christ Child in a sta - ble born, gift of love that Christ-mas morn.
 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.

Reader: The light of love illuminates the path ahead of us. It is the path that the One soon to be born will bid us follow.

People: **May God embolden our hearts to love others as God first loved us. May this time of worship strengthen us for this call.**

Reader: Let us pray,

People: **Ever-present God, we rejoice in the love and faithfulness that you have shown to us. We are aware of your invitation not only to receive this gift, but also to share it with others. O God, grant us discerning hearts and generous spirits, that we may know the best way forward, ever guided by your light. Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM "The First Noel/Pachelbel's Canon" – arr. Michael Clawson Chancel Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

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.

HYMN SING SELECTION #2

SOLO "Sound Over All Waters" Ann Nagy & Harry Buch
Words by John Greenleaf Whittier; music, Paul Halley

HYMN SING SELECTION #3

SOLO "A Strange Way to Save the World" Colleen Rice
By Dave Clark, Don Koch & Mark Harris

HYMN SING SELECTION #4

SOLO "O Holy Night" - J.S. Dwight & Adolphe Adam Ryan Routh

HYMN SING SELECTION #5

BENEDICTION

CHOIR ANTHEM "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" – arr. Kirby Shaw Chancel Choir

“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”

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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.

Angels We Have Heard on High

Traditional French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes

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

As With Gladness Men of Old

William Chatterton Dix

As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold,
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright,
so, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led by thee.

Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn

Marty Haugen

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
For angels herald its dawning,
Sing out your joy, for Jesus is born,
behold! The Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
To bring all hearts together,
To open wide the heavenly door,
And lives now inside us forever.

Away in a Manger

Anonymous; 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.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Charles Wesley & Rowland H. Pritchard

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 ev'ry nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Bob McGee

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called
Emmanuel.

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

John W. Work Jr.; African American spiritual

**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 throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. **Refrain**

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

John Mason Neale; German melody

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!

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

*James Montgomery;
Gesangbuch der H.W.k. Hofkapelle; adapt. W.H. Monk*

Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free;
To take away transgression,
and rule in equity.

In the Bleak Midwinter

Christina Georgina Rossetti; Gustav Holst

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 midwinter, long ago.

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Edmund Sears; Richard S. Willis

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

Joy to the World

Isaac Watts; George Frederic Handel

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.

Let All Mortal Flesh

Liturgy of St. James; French carol melody

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded,
for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Georg Weissel, Psalmodia Evangelica

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
Behold the King of glory waits,
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here!

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

15th cent. German; Michael Praetorius

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming,
as those of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

John Francis Wade; trans. C. Frederick Oakeley

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

9th cent. Latin; 15th cent. French

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.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Phillips Brooks; Lewis Redner

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

O Morning Star How Fair and Bright

Philipp Nicolai; harm. JS Bach

O Morning Star, how fair and bright
thou beamest forth in truth and light,
O Sovereign meek and lowly!
Thou Root of Jesse, David's Son,
my Lord and Master, thou hast won
My heart to serve thee solely!
Thou art holy, fair and glorious,
all victorious, rich in blessing,
Rule and might o'er all possessing.

Once in Royal David's City

Cecil Frances Alexander; Henry Gauntlett

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for His bed;
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.

Silent Night

Joseph Mohr; Franz Gruber

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.

We Three Kings

John Henry Hopkins Jr.

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.
**O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

What Child Is This?

William Chatterton Dix; 16th cent. English melody

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ, the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Nahum Tate; G.F. Handel

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around, and glory shone
around.

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

DECEMBER 19, 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 19, 2021, thru December 26, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
for Staff Planning Retreat

Tues No Tuesday Bible Study until Jan. 4th

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

Thurs

Fri Veteran of the Cross Christmas Offering
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSING @ NOON
6:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service
9:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sat CHRISTMAS DAY

Sun 10:00 am Pajama Worship Service

POINSETTIAS

If you have ordered a poinsettia and wanted to claim it, you can take it home after the 9 p.m. service on 12/24 or after the 10 a.m. service on 12/26.

Worship Highlights: 8:15 am & 9:00 am
Scripture: Micah 5:2-5a & Luke 1:46-55
Sermon: “Sing Out!”
Rev. Luke Lindon

10:30 am Traditional Worship and Special Music Program

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today are given by Ellen and Jeff Nutter in memory of Jerry Nutter and Robert MacKenzie.

SPECIAL MUSIC PROGRAM TODAY

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 TODAY

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.

HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE SCHEDULE

The church office will be closed at noon on Friday, December 24th and will reopen at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, December 28th due to the Christmas holiday.

The office will also be closed at noon on Friday, December 31st and reopen at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 4th.

END OF YEAR GIVING STATEMENTS

In an effort to be more efficient and try to save money, your End of Year Giving Statements will be emailed to you this year so you can print them out if you need them. If we do not have an email on file for you and you would like your statement mailed, please contact the church office. You can pick it up in the church office or we can mail it to you.

If you have not yet turned in your pledge, please consider doing it soon. 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.**

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.

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. **The deadline is Monday, January 10th. I will need reports from:** Endowment Committee, Stewardship Committee, 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.

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.

One service of worship at 10 a.m. on

Dec. 26th - Pajama Worship

Jan. 2nd - Service of Remembrance

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.

SERVICE OF REMEMBERING

January 2, 2022

ONE SERVICE ONLY at 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, 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.**

FINANCIAL PEACE CLASSES COMING VIA ZOOM

It's time to stop worrying about money! In *Financial Peace University*, you'll learn the proven plan to help you keep a budget, beat debt, and build wealth! You can 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**.

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.

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 19, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Fund Offering

Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

Moving with Mary's Song

Today, many churches will receive the Christmas Fund, which The Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ uses to help church pastors and their families in times of need.

Listen to this story from Rev. Cathy Barker, who was 14 years old when her father, a local church pastor, passed away in November 1968. As she describes in a video on the Pension Boards website (pbucc.org), the Christmas Fund brought hope in that difficult first Christmas. She shares: "Mom and I had a conversation about how Christmas was going to be very humble. So, we were facing a very lonely time. Then, in the mail, came a check from the United Church of Christ... That check meant so much to us, that the wider church remembered us.

We didn't know who we were anymore in the church. We weren't the minister's family. We were so adrift. But the national church knew about us, and knew that we had a sad Christmas before us. So that check meant the world to us, and it was a much better Christmas than we had thought it might be; it was because of the Christmas Fund entirely because of that experience of being known and remembered by the national church, I felt even more connected to the denomination and to our local church.

When the pandemic hit and the world screeched to a halt for a while in March of 2020, and churches were thrown into total disarray, pretty early on I received a letter asking for additional contributions to the emergency fund... As you might imagine, I got out my checkbook and wrote a check right away. I know what it's like to feel lost and abandoned and confused. And I know what it feels like to receive a gift that makes a huge difference and I want to be a part of that.

It had such a powerful effect on my mom and me, especially that very first year, I want to be part of that feeling and that graciousness for others... it's one of the ways the world goes 'round, isn't it, and one of the ways the Holy Spirit moves among us, that we multiply grace upon grace and help each other out? I want to be part of that."

You can be a part of the Christmas Fund, too, by designating a gift to your local church, or giving online at pbucc.org.