

Merry  
Christmas



MEDINA  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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



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

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**“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*

**PRELUDE** “What Child Is This?” – trad. English carol/arr. Carol Tornquist Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

## **“Joy to the World”**

*Isaac Watts; Music arr. from G.F. Handel by Lowell Mason*

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.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; let us our songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Merry Christmas!

People: **Merry Christmas!**

Leader: The God of Love be praised:

People: **whose word speaks all things into being, who is present in the expanse of the universe, and in the hearts of all people.**

Leader: Praise the Living God,

People: **who comes as a child, full of promise and hope for the fulfillment of peace.**

## HYMN

### **"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!"**

*Latin carol, 14<sup>th</sup> century; trans. John M. Neale  
German melody, 14<sup>th</sup> century; har. John Stainer*

Good Christian friends, 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 friends, rejoice With heart and soul and voice!  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: News, news! Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door, and ye are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart and soul and voice!  
Now ye need not fear the grave: News, news! 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!

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: From birth you open our lives to amazement, Holy One,  
and our imaginations to possibility.

People: **In the birth at Bethlehem, you show us that your love finds a way,  
that even the firmament of heaven cannot contain your love for us.**

Leader: Today, we pray that your love might be born anew, that the star of Bethlehem would  
guide us to the mangers of this time, in this world.

People: **Gather us in prayer and hope, O God, with those who suffer illness, with those, near  
and far, who are in want or need, or in places broken by violence and taut with  
anxiety.**

Leader: Shine your light of healing within us; help us to tend it and reflect it,

People: **in the name of Jesus, who became the Christ. Amen.**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: May the peace revealed in the child fill us this day.

People: **Let us rejoice and be healed. Amen.**

## HYMN

### "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."

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time behold him come offspring of the virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,  
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
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 we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

## SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:15-20

## 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.**

## HYMN

### "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

*John W. Work, Jr.; trad. 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 thro'out the heavens there shone a holy light. **Refrain**

The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth,  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth. **Refrain**

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. **Refrain**

## OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

### Offering Invitation

Leader: To the stable, each brought what they could, and each gave what they had:

People: **the animals, warmth;  
the shepherds, awe;  
the magi, gifts.**

Leader: To this world and its people, we offer our gifts:

People: **our faith, which seeks to do as well to believe;  
our joy, which persists even in times of trial;  
our love, offered freely, as it was to us.**

\* **Doxology for Christmas** (*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**

**Accept our gifts, Loving God. May they honor your gift of love in the Christ child. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

## CLOSING HYMN OF THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

***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.***

Leader: God of hope, of silent prayers and urgent cries,  
we pray for your world and its people...

People: **for those who are feeling alone;  
for those who are hungry;  
for those whose tables will have an empty place this year.**

Leader: Lift our hearts in anticipation of your vision.

People: **Shine a light in the depth of fear.**

Leader: Sing a song of joy in the lonely heart.

***For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.***

Leader: God of peace, on this Christmas day we pray

People: **for the people of Bethlehem, of Israel and Palestine;  
for refugees who have nowhere to lay their heads,  
for those who find themselves in strange lands.**

Leader: Watch over and protect them, God of the morning star.

People: Guide us in the ways of mercy and reconciliation.

*How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessed gift of heaven.  
No ear may hear its coming; but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.*

Leader: Open our hearts, that we might receive you

People: and hear your still-speaking voice, Loving God.

Leader: May we share the gift of your heaven,  
your vision for all people:

People: hope of fulfillment,  
peace in our time,  
joy that persists through trial and celebration,  
and love that heals the wounded heart.

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.*

#### \*BENEDICTION

Leader: May you go from here filled with the Good News that

People: **The Kingdom has Come Near! Let us think differently now that we have heard!**

Leader: Having been blessed to be a blessing, may you go from here to bend the world toward blessing

People: **By knowing that we are enough. We are loved. We are children of God.**

Leader: May this news tend to your wounds and heal your scars.

People: **And cause us to reach out in peace and love to our neighbor.**

Leader: Go boldly into the new year! For this service has ended.

People: **And our service beings! Alleluia! 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 "I Saw Three Ships" – trad. English carol/arr. Dale Wood Cathy Fafrak, Organist

#### "MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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***PASTORAL STAFF***

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# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## DECEMBER 26, 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)

December 26, 2021, thru January 2, 2021

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**Sun** 10:00 am Pajama Worship Service

**Mon** CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

**Tues** No Tuesday Bible Study until Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>

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

**Thurs**

**Fri** CHURCH OFFICES CLOSES AT NOON

**Sat** NEW YEAR'S DAY

**Sun** 10:00 am Service of Remembrance  
4:00 pm New Year's Dance Party &  
Youth Group

### **HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE SCHEDULE**

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

**Worship Highlights:** One service at 10:00 am

Scripture: Luke 2:15-20

Rev. Luke Lindon

**Communion Table Flowers:** The flowers today are given by Jerry & Laverne McGuire with Blessings to all!

### **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 28<sup>th</sup> with the full name of the loved one, their relationship to you, and the date of their passing.**



## END OF YEAR GIVING STATEMENTS

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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.**

## NEW YEAR'S DANCE PARTY

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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.

## FRIENDLY FOLKS NEEDED

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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.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

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Thank You to our wonderful congregation for your support for our Senior Citizens Coin Jar fund raiser. We collected \$1750 for Feeding Medina County! A Blessed Christmas to all! Jackie Smith

## ANNUAL REPORTS AND MEETING

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**Save the date!**

**Our Annual Budget Meeting will be held on Sunday, Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>** 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 10<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:office@uccmedina.org) or drop them off in the church office.

## FINANCIAL PEACE CLASSES COMING VIA ZOOM

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Take control of your money with *Financial Peace University!* This nine-lesson class uses biblical wisdom and common sense to help you tackle budgeting, pay off debt, and make your money work for you! You can 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.**

## ROOT GRAB & GO UPDATE

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The Root Grab & Go Breakfast Pantry is full! Your generosity takes the program well to the school year's end in May 2022. The program and collection bin will be on hiatus until school resumes in August 2022. Look for details at that time.

Thank you for your generous support of our youth at A.I. Root Middle School. It is greatly appreciated!

# ENCOUNTER

how reading  sacred stories

opens up our sacred stories

Mondays at 1 + 7 p.m.  
Starting 1/10/22



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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

Luke 2:41-52

### Who is This Child?

Today's scripture reading gives us a short glimpse into the life of the boy Jesus, at the moment that he ceases being a child and begins to be a young adult. His parents, after a frantic search, discover him in the temple in a sort of self-directed impromptu confirmation class of one - a class in which he is both student and teacher.

By beautiful happenstance, this day also begins the celebration of Kwanzaa, a day for teaching and learning. The Rev. Calvin Jones of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago tells the story of this holiday\* which was introduced in 1966 as a celebration of people of African descent in the United States.

While Kwanzaa is not religious, its values of anti-consumerism, strong families, and cultural tradition resonate strongly with our Christmas celebrations in the progressive church. Each day of Kwanzaa is marked by a principle, which is named both in Swahili and English. Why do you think these principles are important markers for those of African descent? Whether you celebrate Kwanzaa or not, how might these principles inform and enrich your understanding of the Christ story?

December 26: Umoja or Unity

December 27: Kujichagulia or Self-Determination

December 28: Ujima or Collective Work and Responsibility

December 29: Ujamaa or Cooperative Economics

December 30: Nia or Purpose

December 31: Kuumba or Creativity

January 1: Imani or Faith

\*Learn more about Kwanzaa in this stirring video from Rev. Calvin Jones at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNPhdf1gb4k>.