

# Abraham

January 23, 2022

More  
Light &  
Truth



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

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

### RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE “We Bow Down” – Twila Paris/arr. Lloyd Larson

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

### \*OPENING HYMN “God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”

HOLY MANNA 8.7.8.7.D.

William Moore, 1825

Catherine Cameron, 1967



1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,  
2 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child-hood of our race;  
3 As each far hor - i - zon beck - ons, may it chal-lenge us a - new,



Flung the suns in burn-ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space;  
Known the ec - sta - sy of wing-ing through un - trav-eled realms of space;  
Chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - oring you.



We, your chil - dren, in your like-ness, share in - ven-tive powers with you;  
Probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield-ing un - i - mag - ined power,  
May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise, each en-deav-or, well be - gun;



Great Cre - a - tor, still cre - a - ting, show us what we yet may do.  
Fac - ing us with life's de - struc-tion or our most tri - um-phant hour.  
Great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (written by Rev. Daniel B. Randall, and posted on the United Church of Christ's *Worship Ways* website)

Leader: We are met in the presence of God

People: **And we do not meet alone.**

Leader: With the angels in the highest heaven

People: **We gather to worship the Lord.**

Leader: With Abraham and Sarah

People: **We gather to worship the Lord.**

Leader: With the saints of every age

People: **We gather to worship the Lord.**

Leader: We embark on our own journey of faith

People: **God's Holy name be praised.**

Leader: God makes of us a great people

People: **God's Holy name be praised.**

Leader: In the desert and in the den, in barrio and basilica

People: **God's Holy name be praised.**

Leader: We journey in the presence of God.

People: **And we do not journey alone.**

**BELL ANTHEM**

"For the Beauty of the Earth" – arr. Michael R. Keller

Alleluia Ringers

**SCRIPTURE**

Genesis 22:9-14

Nick North, Liturgist

**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

"Abraham"

Rev. Luke Lindon

## HYMN

### "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Isaac Watts, 1719

ST. ANNE CM  
Attr. To William Croft, 1708; harm. By W.H. Monk, 1861



1. O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2. Un - der the shad - ow of thy throne, still may we dwell se - cure;
3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home!  
suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
from ev - er - last - ing, thou art God, to end - less years the same.

## 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

May we not live in regret. May what we have experienced today inspire us to contact someone. Give something of ourselves to the world. To bend it to blessing and heal a hurting world. Let us now rise in body or spirit as we sing...

**\*Doxology for Epiphany** (George Rawson, 1853; alt. & Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906)

**Eternal God, Incarnate Word, Spirit of flame and dove:**

**Enlarge, expand all living souls to comprehend your love;**

**And help us all to seek your will with wiser powers conferred:**

**O god, grant yet more light and truth to break forth from your Word.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Generous God,  
you gave us our voices, no two the same.  
As you did with Abraham and Sarah,  
you take and touch our lives and they can become extraordinary.  
And in your Church you have gathered us,  
in your community of common folk and complainers,  
prophets and puzzled people,  
you have called us and made a place for us.  
So let what we say and do here,  
what we ponder and decide here,  
be real for us and honest to you,  
as you prepare us for the life of the world in which you are praised. Amen.

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

**"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"**

FAITHFULNESS 11.10.11.10 w/ ref  
William M. Runyan, 1923

Thomas O Chisholm, 1923



1. Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no  
2. Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and  
3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -  
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in  
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by

morn-ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy  
hand hath pro - vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!

**\*BENEDICTION**

Leader: And here we are,

**People: made of stardust and promise.**

Leader: Abraham's children and still counting.

**People: May we go from here heirs of the promise,**

Leader: having been blessed to be a blessing, go! For this service has ended.

**People: And our service now begins! 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** "The God of Abraham Praise" – Trad. Synagogue melody/arr. Gordon Young  
Cathy Fafraf, Organist

**"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"**

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# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## JANUARY 23, 2022

**“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)

January 23, 2022 thru January 30, 2022

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**Sun** 8:15 am Chapel Worship  
9:00 am Gathering Worship  
9:15 am Bell rehearsal  
9:30 am 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Bible Class  
10:30 am Traditional Worship  
3:00 pm Confirmation Class

**Mon** **Pastor Luke off – Clergy Retreat  
NO ENCOUNTER BIBLE STUDY TODAY**

**Tues** **Pastor Luke off – Clergy Retreat**  
7:00 pm Bible Study

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

**Thurs** **6:30 pm Financial Peace Zoom  
Class**  
**7:00 pm Congregational Council**

**Fri** 6:00 pm Confirmation Class to  
Temple Israel

**Sat**  
**Sun** **BLANKET SUNDAY**  
9:15 am Choir rehearsal  
**10:00 am ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP  
ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING TO FOLLOW**

### **ANNUAL MEETING NEXT WEEK**

Friendly reminder to ask you to please join us for our Annual Meeting taking place on Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 10 am, one service only, at the end of combined service. Last year you could vote via paper ballot or via phone. This year, *you can only vote in person*. We need to have a quorum to vote on matters to move forward. Childcare will be provided. Thank you! See you there!

**Annual Reports are ready for you to view.**

**Proposed Budgets will be available next week.**

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

Scripture: Genesis 22:9-14

Sermon: “Abraham” – Rev. Luke Lindon

**Communion Table:** The flowers on the communion table are given by Ellen and Josh Nolan in honor of ‘our first teenager: Nora’.

Pastor Luke will be out of the office on  
Monday January 24<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday  
January 25<sup>th</sup>  
to attend a Clergy Retreat

### **BLANKET SUNDAY OFFERING JANUARY 30<sup>TH</sup>**

This is an annual special offering that supports Church World Service (CWS), an organization that responds with tools, including emergency clean-up buckets, blankets, hygiene kits and other critical supplies when disasters strike. In many ways, these tools and kits are a symbol of hope and comfort to families. Your generosity allows CWS to respond quickly. Thank you for the many blessings you share which brings joy and comfort to those who are struggling in God’s world. Please give generously.



## JESUS VIBES NEEDS YOU!

Exciting things are happening downstairs on Sunday mornings. The kids are enjoying being creative and bringing the bible stories and characters to life. We are in need of people to be with children as they learn and create. There is no prep work for this. You just show up on Sunday mornings and support and guide the children with their ideas. If you are interested or would like to hear more, please see Stacie Yates. We will need people starting in February.

## MEDINA LEADERS SPEAK TOASTMASTERS GROUP

Is this the year you will improve your public speaking skills? Is this the year you will network more? Is this the year you will improve your leadership skills?

Medina's Toastmasters club will allow you to do one, two, or all three. Toastmasters focuses on improving communication and leadership skills. This is a club specifically for Medina's community members and business leaders.

We meet on the first and third THURSDAY of each month from 12 Noon to 1 pm at BW3 (Buffalo Wild Wings) 5050 Eastpointe Dr., Medina (Rt. 18 near I-71), OR you can attend virtually. For more information and link to attend virtually, check out our website: <6938941.toastmastersclubs.org> OR contact [johnkav@ameritech.net](mailto:johnkav@ameritech.net)

Join us at a future meeting for a no-cost, no-obligation look at Toastmasters. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain.



## NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Would you like to join our church family!? Join us for our next new member classes! The next classes will be held **Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>**. **Classes will be held from 7 pm – 9 pm** in the New Library. New members **will join the church on Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>**. Childcare is provided if needed during class. Please [register here](#) or contact the Church Office at 330-725-4559 if you are interested and let us know if you will need childcare.

## TUITION FREE! VIRTUAL FINANCIAL PEACE CLASSES

Participants will pay the expenses up-front, with the understanding that they must attend all nine sessions and then complete the program, whereupon, they would be reimbursed for the cost of the course, **thus attending tuition free.** **This program benefit is open only to UCC, Congregation members.** 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 at [www.fpu.com/1141840](http://www.fpu.com/1141840). Class starts **Thursday, January 20, 2022.**

## FRIENDLY FOLKS NEEDED

Thanks to all who signed up to be a greeter before the 10:30 service! We have 3 more spots left for winter: 3/27, 4/3, and 4/10. Call/text Kate Lindon at 330-663-1801 if you can help.

A black rectangular graphic with white text and a book icon. At the top, the word "ENCOUNTER" is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Below it, the phrase "how reading sacred stories" is written in a smaller font, with a white icon of an open book between "reading" and "sacred". Below this, the phrase "opens up our sacred stories" is enclosed in a white rectangular box. At the bottom, the text "Mondays at 1 + 7 p.m. Starting 1/10/22" is written in white.

# OUR WINTER WEATHER POLICY

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**Level 1:** Roadways are hazardous with blowing and drifting snow. Roads are also icy. Drive very cautiously.

\*\*Scheduled Teams, Committees, Groups: Check with chairperson, leader or Facilitator of Group.

\*\*Worship Services: Will be held.

**Level 2:** Roadways are hazardous with blowing and drifting snow. Only those who feel it is necessary to drive should be out on the roadways.

\*\*Church Closed.

\*\*NO Church meetings or gatherings.

\*\*Worship Services: Cancelled.

**Level 3:** All roadways are closed to non-emergency personnel. No one should be out during these conditions unless it is absolutely necessary to travel.

\*\*Church Closed.

\*\*NO Church meetings or gatherings.

\*\*Worship Services: Cancelled.

\*if indications appear that conditions will deteriorate and move to a level 2 or 3, check the church web site, call the church office and/or chairperson. If conditions appear that they will improve, decision will be based on the level two hours before the event.

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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**

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January 23, 2022  
Third Sunday after Epiphany  
*Ecumenical Sunday*

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Luke 4:14-21

### **Good News, Good Ways**

Today, Ecumenical Sunday, falls smack dab in the middle of the “Week of Prayer for Christian Unity”. One of the ways that Christian unity has found an expression is through ecumenical councils and associations. Because of our denomination’s prayer that “they may all be one,” members of the United Church of Christ are often deeply invested in these organizations.

The Wisconsin Council of Churches (WCC) is headed by Executive Director Rev. Kerri Parker, a United Church of Christ clergy member. Like many such organizations, the WCC generally works on a variety of projects and advocacy locally helpful in Wisconsin. When the council began as an informal gathering of (all male) clergy in the 1930’s, those original members could not have imagined that ninety years later their organization would be headed by a woman who would become one of the most dependable nationwide voices for church leadership during these past years of global pandemic.

The WCC’s guide “COVID-19 and our Christian Witness” is a clear and reliable source of information and support that was widely shared and utilized by churches far outside the WCC’s usual constituency during the pandemic months. As their website says, “Churches around the world are learning how to be imaginative in their ministry in order to be present to those in need in a time of social disruption. From the experiences of communities facing crises around the world, we know that faith leaders can play a transformational role in calming fear, disseminating accurate information, and modifying religious practices to help keep people safe while providing spiritual care and honoring important community traditions.”\*

Today, we give thanks for the Wisconsin Council of Churches and their role in being a voice of faith and reason both locally and nationally during the global pandemic. If you are not in Wisconsin, what do you know about the ecumenical organization in your area? What impact are they having, locally or more broadly? How can you be involved in this important work?

\*“Coronavirus – Wisconsin Council of Churches.” Wisconsin Council of Churches, [www.wichurches.org/2020/03/11/coronavirus/](http://www.wichurches.org/2020/03/11/coronavirus/).