



**Samson**  
**More**  
**Light &**  
**Truth**

January 30, 2022

# 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*

### RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE “Servant Medley” – arr. by Mark Hayes

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

### OPENING HYMN “Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service”

BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7.D.

Albert F. Bayly (1901-1984)

Attr. B.F. White; The Sacred Harp, 1844; harm. Ronald A. Nelson



1 Lord, whose love through hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu-man need,  
2 Still your chil - dren wan-der home-less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;  
3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal-ing light  
4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, of - fered mer - cy's per - fect deed;  
still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
in its height and depth and great-ness, dawns up - on our quick-ened sight,  
to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart,  
As, O Lord, your deep com - pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com - pas - sion bids us bear,  
hope and health, good will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - ery gift that you im - part.  
use the love your Spir - it kin - dles still to save and make us whole.  
stir - ring us to tire - less striv - ing, your a - bun - dant life to share.  
that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Sovereign Lord, we often pray to you from an unloving place,

**People: Let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines!**

Leader: Sometimes, we pray with an unfair comparison in our mind,

**People: I thank you, God, that I'm not like this tax collector.**

Leader: Thank you for knowing our human predicament,

**People: Thank you for your grace and understanding, Creator God.**

Leader: In this worship, help us leave our baser nature behind,

**People: And ascend to the mind of Christ which seeks to pray for our enemies,**

Leader: and do good to those who harm us,

**People: and love you, our God,**

Leader: And our neighbor,

**People: as ourselves. Amen.**

**ANTHEM** "Make Strong for Service" – Luigi Cherubini; arr. by Richard Proulx

Chancel Choir

**SCRIPTURE** Judges 16:28-31

Pete Metzloff, liturgist

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### 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 "Samson"

Rev. Luke Lindon

## HYMN "Make Me a Servant"

Kelly Willard

SERVANT Irr.  
Kelly Willard, 1982



Make me a ser-vant, hum-ble and meek; Lord, let me lift up those who  
are weak. And may the prayer of my heart al-ways be: Make me a  
ser-vant. make me a ser-vant, Make me a ser-vant to - day.

## 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!*

### Offertory Invitation

Our hearts our restless until they rest in God. May our identity and presence rest in our God, the ground of our being and the source of all there is. Let us freely give of ourselves for the benefit of our neighbors.

### \*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

Gracious and Holy God, we are your church. Your body in this time and place. May all that we offer in our time, talent, treasure and intention go to build your kingdom here. May we trade our revenge for prayer. May our prayer be free from malice. As you lived and taught in Jesus our Christ and in the guidance of your Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

**"God, Speak to Me That I May Speak"**

CANONBURY L.M.

Frances Ridley Havergal, 1872; alt.

Arr. From Robert Schumann, 1872



1 God, speak to me, that I may speak in  
2 O lead me, God, that I may lead some  
3 O fill me with your full - ness, God, your  
4 O use me, God, use ev - en me just

liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so  
wan - der - ers a - long life's way; O feed me so that  
ov - er - flow - ing love to know; In glow - ing word and  
as you will, and when, and where, un - til your bless - ed

let me seek your err - ing chil - dren lost and lone.  
I may feed your hun - gry ones with - out de - lay.  
kin - dling thought, your love to tell, your praise to show.  
face I see, your rest, your joy, your glo - ry share.

**\*BENEDICTION**

Leader: You don't need to be a superhero,

**People: We only need to be who God made us to be.**

Leader: May you go from here knowing that you are more than enough.

**People: We shall bless and grow where God has placed us.**

Leader: And love the neighbors you find there with abandon.

**People: Finding our holy and true identity in the process, thanks be to you our God!**

Leader: For the journey!

**People: For our holy selves.**

Leader: For our neighbor.

**People: Every. Single. Neighbor.**

Leader: Go to welcome, love and serve for this service has ended,

**People: And our Annual Meeting now begins! Amen!**

**\*\*\*PLEASE REMAIN SEATED FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING\*\*\***

**\*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      "Toccata" – Theodore Dubois/ed. By Diane Bish**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

**"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"**

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# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## JANUARY 30, 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 30, 2022 thru February 6, 2022

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

**Mon** **1:00 pm Bible Encounter**  
**7:00 pm Bible Encounter**

**Tues** 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**

**Fri**

**Sat**

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

**Worship Highlights: One Service @ 10:00 am**

Scripture: Judges 16:28-31

Sermon: “Samson” – Rev. Luke Lindon

**Communion Table:** The flowers on the communion table are given by Joan & John Walschon in memory of Joan’s parents, Ruth & Charles Mackenbach.

### ANNUAL MEETING TODAY!

Friendly reminder to ask you to please join us for our Annual Meeting taking place today, Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup> 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!

### BLANKET SUNDAY OFFERING TODAY - 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.



**ENCOUNTER**  
how reading  sacred stories

**opens up our sacred stories**

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

## JESUS VIBES NEEDS YOU!

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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.

## NEW MEMBER CLASSES

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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.

## THE BIG BIBLE BUY Begins February 13th

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Essential to our worship is the Bible—our sacred stories. To show our gratefulness for the inspired word, the Endowment Fund, the Worship Team and the Caring Team will sponsor a new initiative to replace the Bibles in the pews, many of which are torn, faded and damaged. We want to call this the BIG BIBLE BUY because it is a big way to show our commitment to the Holy Bible that we cherish. We are seeking a \$25.00 donation for each bible. \$5.00 of that amount will be allocated to the Endowment Fund. **If you would like to make your donation in honor of someone and have the names printed in the front of the bible you may do that** by filling in the sign-up sheet in the East Room hallway or sign up and [pay through REALM here](#). What better way celebrate the month of hearts than by making a gift of \$25.00 to lift up the living word.

## COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

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The 2022 Flower Chart is now hanging in the East Room Hallway. **We still have 16 Sundays open throughout the year.**

Please fill in your name and **check “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.**

## MEDINA POINT IN TIME COUNT

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Medina County conducts an annual count of the homeless in January, called the Point in Time Count (PIT). The count is scheduled for February 22, 2022 in the evening/night. This count is one of those unfunded mandates to count those who are homeless so that Medina County can receive funding to help with our homeless situation. PIT relies on volunteers to make it happen. What do volunteers do? Volunteers receive training on how to conduct the count and are assigned an area to search. Volunteers drive their own cars and can bring a friend for their "team." Interested volunteers should contact Kelly Parker, Program Director at Medina Metropolitan Housing Authority at 330-725-7531 or [kelly@mmha.org](mailto:kelly@mmha.org).



# AFTER THE CLERGY RETREAT

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This past Monday and Tuesday, I co-led a clergy retreat at Bellwether Farm. It was an amazing time.

The purpose of the retreat was to remind and rekindle a sense of call. I was reminded of my call. I'm on a mission to re-humanize the church. The church is not the structure, the budget, the building (those all help), but the church is and has always been the people. We are the church, the body of Christ in the world. And who exactly is the church? Those who come to the Lord's Table to talk about and try to model Jesus. Jesus, the host of our table, who sets a place for us, anoints us, and our cup overflows. Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of this faith of ours who told us, "These things I can do, you can do; and greater than these."

I wondered, why don't I do this with my congregation? Why don't we head out to a rustic/modern, Ikea/Farmhouse place with amazing food and spend time together? Oh yeah.... Pandemic.

And also.... We've been doing this for going on five years together.

Everything we do together is an act of co-creation. The Encounter Bible Study is a mini-retreat to remind ourselves of our own sense of self, our sacred stories, and our neighbor. We had one amazing session three weeks ago and then snow and this retreat have kept us from gathering again. This class is an act of co-creation: creating a space to listen and speak and hold one another in Christian care. We've had other classes like it in the past.

Our Sunday morning worship services are acts of co-creation. Sure there's a liturgy, yet we bring the energy to make those words come alive. To sing the songs. To look at our lives and be changed after these experiences.

Our work with Garfield Food Program and the work of our Mission Team is an act of creating a little more of heaven here on earth with the giving of our time, talent, and treasure.

The creation of the annual budget is an act of co-creation of our common life together. These are the hopes and dreams for the year and here's what we need to accomplish these goals. The stewardship and finance teams help keep us on track and be good stewards of what we hold in common.

Property and Grounds creates the space which we gather together. They maintain the building and improve it to better our life together. Our Caring Team fills the space with love.

Each team, and each one of us is gifted by God. Showing up is 90% of the job. The other 10% is figuring out what God is calling us to do together. I have faith that whatever lies ahead in this new year, we already have everything we need. It might not be in the right place, but we have all we need as God has planted those seeds a long time ago.

Together, we get to co-create and it is the great call and honor of my life to be your pastor to help in whatever way I can. We got this, church.

All praise, glory, and honor to our Creator, our Teacher, and the Spirit that constantly inspires us, One God forever and ever. Amen.

# 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 30, 2022  
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
*Health and Human Service Sunday*

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Luke 4:21-30

### Prophet on the Edge



This is the logo of Health and Human Service Sunday, which many churches celebrate today.

The logo shows a circle of hands of many colors reaching for each other. This circle of hands reminds us that we are all involved in the circle of care - sometimes giving, sometimes receiving, always included in some way in the circle.

In recent years we have begun to use the phrase "essential worker" to describe some workers whose work in the circle pandemic helped us realize we could not live without. As we honor essential

workers on this day, we give thanks for all who are involved in the circle of care.

"The UCC and its predecessor denominations courageously founded schools, hospitals, and orphanages during times of pandemic, war, and social upheaval. Now, there are more than 400 UCC affiliated health care centers, hospitals, affordable housing and retirement communities, transitional housing for those experiencing homelessness or domestic violence, and service centers for children, youth, families, and those with developmental disabilities. These ministries continue to show up in the most challenging circumstances—and do so with the fervor of healing and justice."\*

\*"Council for Health and Human Service Ministries | Home." CHHSM, [www.chhsm.org/](http://www.chhsm.org/). Accessed 7 July 2021.