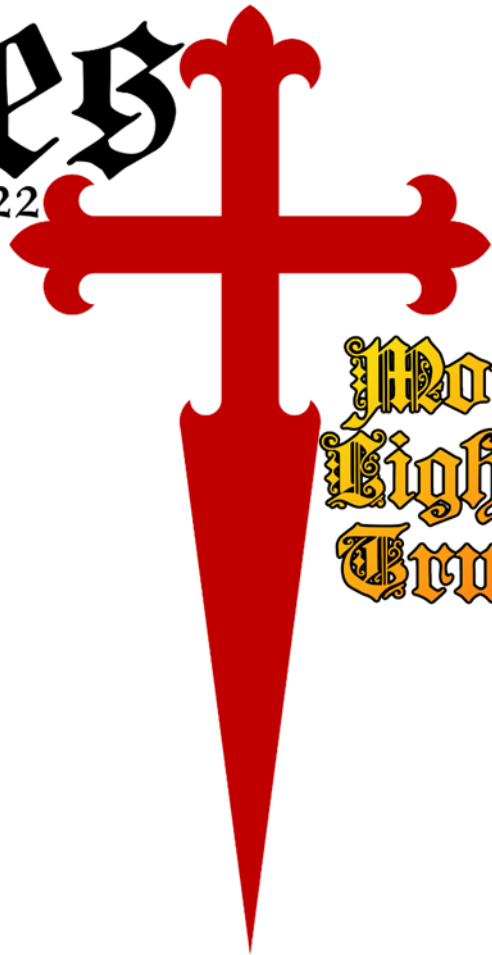


James

February 6, 2022



**More
Light &
Truth**

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 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 BELL

PRELUDE “Shout to the Lord” – Darlene Zschech/arr. Carol Tornquist

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***OPENING RESPONSE** (From the Iona Community, Monday January 24, 2022 <https://youtu.be/ZibUPS356uc>)

Leader: The world belongs to God

People: The earth and all its people

Leader: How good it is, how wonderful

People: to live together in unity

Leader: Love and faith come together

People: Justice and peace join hands

Leader: If Christ’s disciples keep silent

People: These stones would shout aloud

Leader: Open our lips, O God


People: And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

*OPENING HYMN

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”



1	Im - mor - tal,	in - vis - i - ble,	God on - ly	wise,
2	Un - rest - ing,	un - hast - ing, and	si - lent as	light,
3	Your life is	life - giv - ing— to	both great and	small;
4	So per - fect	your glo - ry, so	bril - liant your	light,



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;
in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;
your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove,
We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,
All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do:

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.
your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers.
in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you.

Walter C. Smith, 1867; alt.

ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.

Adapt. From a Welsh ballad in John Roberts' Caniadaeth y Cysegr, 1839

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (From the Iona Community, Monday January 24, 2022 <https://youtu.be/ZibUPS356uc>)

Leader: Move among us, God; give us life

People: Let your people rejoice in you

Leader: Give us again the joy of your help

People: With your Spirit of freedom sustain us

Leader: God, make our hearts clean

People: Restore us in body, mind, and spirit.

Leader: Let us gather ourselves, settle down in our seat, and join our spirits in prayer,

People: acknowledging our part in the pain of the world.

Please be seated

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Before God, with the people of God,

I confess to turning away from God,

in the ways I wound my life, the lives of others and the life of the world.

People: May God Forgive you, Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

Leader: Amen.

People: Before God, with the people of God,
we confess to turning away from God in the ways we wound our lives,
The lives of others, And the life of the world.

Leader: May God forgive, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

People: Amen.

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**

ANTHEM "May the mind of Christ My Savior" – Lloyd Larson

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE James 1:19-27

Deb Waldron, Liturgist

SERMON "James"

Rev. Luke Lindon

HYMN "Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls"

AZMON C.M.

William G. Tarrant, 1892; alt.

Carl G. Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, in Modern Psalmody, 1839



1 Come, let us join with faith-ful souls our song of faith to raise;
2 Faith - ful are all who love the truth and per - fect truth pro - claim,
3 And faith-ful are the gen - tle hearts to whom the power is given
4 O God of hosts, our faith re-new, and grant us, in your grace,



One fam - i - ly in heart are we, and one the God we praise.
Who stead-fast stand at God's right hand and glo - ri - fy God's name.
Of ev - ery hearth to make a home, of ev - ery home a heaven.
To join the songs sung by the saints in ev - ery time and place.

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

Leader: This is the day that God has made

People: We will rejoice and be glad in it

Leader: We will not offer to God

People: Offerings that cost us nothing

***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**

Leader: With the Whole Church,

People: We affirm we are made in God's image.

Leader: Befriended by Christ,

People: Empowered by the Spirit.

Leader: With people everywhere,

People: We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity, planted more deeply than all that is wrong.

Leader: With all of creation

People: We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life the unfolding purposes of God

Leader: Forever at work in ourselves and the world

People: Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. You do not need to be a member of the United Church of Christ to partake in the Holy Sacrament.

Communion Liturgy written by The Rev. Kelly Brill, Avon Lake UCC

Leader: We remember, Gracious God, that Jesus ate and drank

People: with the poor and the wealthy, with sinful and righteous alike.

Leader: When he saw the multitude that followed him with nothing to eat,

People: he took some loaves of bread, and a few fish,

Leader: and after giving thanks to you,

People: he divided the bread and gave it to the disciples.

Leader: and all ate and were filled.

People: We were there. We remember.

Leader: When his arrest seemed near, Jesus sat at table in an upper room,

People: with his closest friends and relatives.

Leader: As he had done so many times before,

People: He took the bread,

Leader: and after giving thanks to you, he shared it among the disciples,

People: vowing to continue the struggle in spite of the risk.

Leader: Likewise after the meal,

People: he took the cup,

Leader: And after giving thanks he gave it to them saying,

**People: "Truly I tell you, I will never drink of the fruit of the vine,
until I drink it new with you in the Beloved Community of God."**

Leader: For a time, it seemed all was lost.

People: Jesus was executed by the authorities,

Leader: and his disciples scattered in fear and despair.

People: But at an evening meal in Emmaus,

Leader: and at a breakfast campfire by the Sea of Galilee,

People: Jesus once more took the bread, and after giving thanks to you,

Leader: Gave it to his disciples, opening their eyes,

People: binding up their wounds,

Leader: continuing the meal,

**People: And revealing plainly that your steadfast love is stronger even than death,
and your work with us continues,**

Leader: for the sake of your realm.

People: We were there. We remember.

Leader: Holy God,

**People: may this bread and cup be for us spiritual nourishment. May this meal remind us
of the abundance of your gifts of unconditional love, forgiveness, and grace. May
this meal prepare us for justice and compassion. In the name of Jesus our example
and friend, amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

John E. Bode, 1868; alt.

ANGEL'S STORY 7.6.7.6.D.

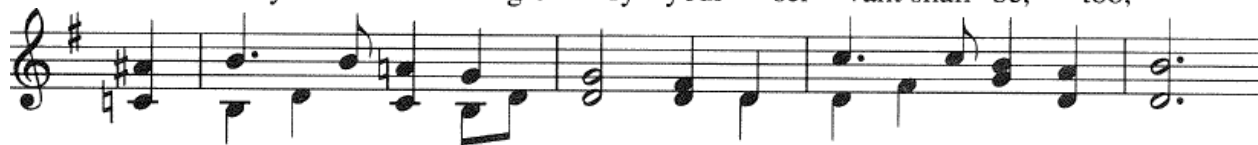
A.H. Mann, 1883



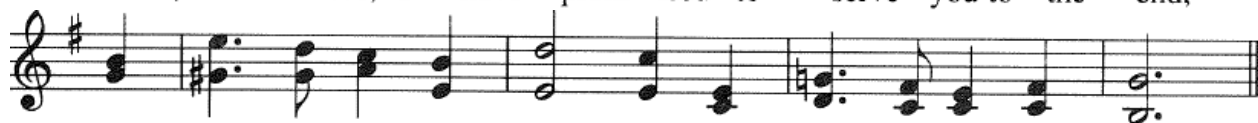
1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
2 O let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still,
3 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my Sav - ior and my Friend:
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will!
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be, too;



I shall not fear life's strug - gles if you are by my side,
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol!
 And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, O guar - dian of my soul!
 O give me grace to fol - low my Sav - ior and my Friend!

*BENEDICTION

Leader: Go in peace to welcome, love and serve,

People: We shall be hearers and doers of the word

Leader: There is no part too small, no kindness given freely

People: To aid in the healing of the world and mending of lives.

Leader: Depart in peace my friends,

People: We will seek peace and pursue it

In the name of the Trinity of Love,

God in Community. Holy and one. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "God Be with You"

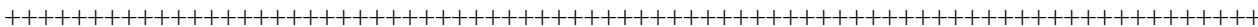
God be with you 'til we meet again; By His counsels guide uphold you;

With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you 'til we meet again.

*POSTLUDE "Con Spirito" – Thomas Arne/ed. C.H. Trevor

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"



THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 6, 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

February 6, 2022 thru February 13, 2022

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	9:15 am	Choir rehearsal
	9:30 am	3 rd & 4 th Grade Bible Class
	10:30 am	Traditional Worship
	4:00 pm	Youth Group
Mon	Cook for Cups	
	1:00 pm	Bible Encounter
	7:00 pm	Bible Encounter
Tues	7:00 pm	Bible Study
	7:00 pm	Worship Team
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	10:00 am	Caring Team
Sun	FOUNDERS DAY	
	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	9:15 am	Choir rehearsal
	9:30 am	3 rd & 4 th Grade Bible Class
	10:30 am	Traditional Worship
	3:00 pm	Confirmation Class (with Mentors)

JESUS VIBES STILL 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 still in need of people to be with children as they learn and create.** There is no prep work for this. You just how 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.

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

Scripture: James 1:19-27

Sermon: “James” – Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The flowers on the communion table are given by Darlene & Steve Fazekas in honor of Marilyn Koehler’s 95th birthday!

FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION FEBRUARY 13TH

Every February, the ENDOWMENT FUND asks our church family to share in the growth of the fund by making a loving donation in honor or memory of a loved one or special friend. What better way to show we care than to recognize loved ones with a donation! Dollars are used for the special projects throughout the church that are not covered by the Operating Budget. Please consider a gift today. In honor of Founders Day, the Care Team is distributing cupcakes after each service. Make sure you pick one up in the welcome area on your way out.

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 16th & 23rd. Classes will be held from 7 pm – 9 pm** in the New Library. New members **will join the church on Sunday, February 27th**. 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.

YOUTH GROUP SKATING TODAY

We are going to Medina Skateland Sunday, February 6th from 4-6 pm or a fun evening of roller skating!

Parents can drop off youth at the skating rink (3789 Pearl Road). Pickup is promptly at 6 pm.

The cost is \$5 per youth. We will cover the skate rental cost. Bring extra money if you want to buy snacks at the concession.

Be sure to bring and wear your mask - it will be required! Come join us!

THE BIG BIBLE BUY Begins February 13th

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.

ANNUAL MEETING RESULTS

At the 203rd Annual Meeting, approximately 85 members were present to receive the financial reports for 2021 and approve the 2022 Budget. The Congregation also approved the formation of a search team for a Pastor for Youth + Mission. We ended 2021 with an excess of revenue over expenses of \$20,816 against a projected budget deficit of \$14,033. Finance Director Jeff Miller indicated that non-pledge gifts have been increasing and actual operating expenses were less than the budget due primarily to the effect of Covid. Expected giving for Mission and Property + Grounds "capital" items are also up.
– Pete Metzloff, Church Clerk

COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

The 2022 Flower Chart is now hanging in the East Room Hallway. **We still have 14 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

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.



OUR WINTER WEATHER POLICY

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.

****Live Stream at 10:30 a.m.**

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.

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

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - email: luke@uccmedina.org

Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor – email: karen@uccmedina.org

OFFICE STAFF

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - email: office@uccmedina.org

Jeff Miller, Financial Director - email: jeff@uccmedina.org

PROGRAM STAFF

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education – stacie@uccmedina.org

Nicole Rubino, Co-Director of Youth – nicole@uccmedina.org

Jim Kiser, Director of Music – jim@uccmedina.org

Cathy Fafrak, Organist – cathy@uccmedina.org

Rebecca Rosen, Nursery Supervisor

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

Sharon Perry, Custodian

Luke 5:1-11

A Surprising Catch

Today's scripture story tells how Jesus called the first disciples to be evangelists or "fishers of people." Although we have our roots in the evangelical tradition, many United Church of Christ congregations shy away from proudly evangelizing. In their book, *Glorify*, published by The Pilgrim Press, Rev. Emily Heath encourages the UCC to reclaim the title of evangelist. In chapter two, they write,

"I sometimes describe myself as a liberal evangelical. I'm sad that the public understanding of the word "evangelical" forces me to use a qualifier, but so be it. I believe in spreading the good news of God's love to all. But how I hope to do that looks very different from what most (at least in our North American context) might expect from an evangelical. To me, evangelism looks like this: marching in the local gay pride parade, growing vegetables to donate to the local food pantry, advocating for fair labor practices, working for peace, protesting racial injustice, providing good quality health care to those who don't have it, and so much more.

All of these things help spread the good news of God's love. All of those things are evangelism. We do them not just because we want to be good people, but more importantly because we are God's people...

When we are talking about evangelism, it's important to make sure we clear up one popular misconception: evangelism is not about church growth.

We do not do the work of evangelism in order to recruit new members for the team. This is not about adding to our membership rolls. And if the only time your church talks about evangelism is as a way to get more money in the offering plates and "save the church," trust me when I say it just won't happen. People will walk into the doors of your church and see the ulterior motivations from a mile away.

The point of sharing the good news is just this: to share the good news."*

How can you reclaim the title of evangelist and share the good news in your community?

*Heath, Emily C., *Glorify: Reclaiming the Heart of Progressive Christianity*, Cleveland, Ohio, The Pilgrim Press, © 2016, Pages 26-27, Used by permission.