

HOPE

Journey to JOY

PEACE

*Finding Our Way*

MEDINA  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL



# 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](http://UCCMEDINA.ORG)

- *During the service, Jesus Vibes Sunday School is available for ages 3-8<sup>th</sup> grade*

## “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** “A Stable Lamp Is Lighted” – Ana Hernandez

*Pam Branscome, cello; Harry Buch, guitar & voice; Jenny Cochran, voice*

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

### \*INTROIT

### “Come, O Long-Expected Jesus”

STUGGART 8.7.8.7.

*Charles Wesley, 1744, alt.*

*Melody attrib. to Christian F. Witt, from Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715*



3 Born all peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, you came to reign!



Born to rule on earth for - ev - er, come, be known to us a - gain.

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

We have lost our way.

**We feel distant from joy**

We struggle with grief and sometimes feel numb.

**We join together to hold each other up, and to find our way back to joy.**

Holy God, help us find our way to you. Amen.

## \*OPENING HYMN

### "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

*Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710,*

*Based on ancient antiphons from Advent Vespers*

*Trans. J.M. Neale, 1851 and others; alt. St. 2 trans. H.S. Coffin, 1916, alt.*

VENI EMMANUEL L.M. with refrain

*Melody from a 15-century French "Processional"*

*Arr. Thomas Helmore, 1854*

5 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and  
6. O come, O Day - spring, come and cheer our  
o - pen wide your heaven - ly home; Make safe the path to  
spir - its by your ad - vent here; Love stir with - in the  
end - less day, to hell's de - struc - tion close the way.  
womb of night, and death's own shad - ows put to flight.  
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING – JOY

*Readers: The Medley Family*

Let us light the candle of joy as we pray:

**Author of Divine Joy, we look to you as the light continues to grow. There is true joy in knowing we do not travel this way alone. Enliven our worship together with words that remind us of all that is good and holy. Guide us on our path with steps that seem easier because you give us ways to laugh and skip towards your truth even as we carry burdens that seek to weigh us down. Amen.**

## MESSAGE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY OF GOD

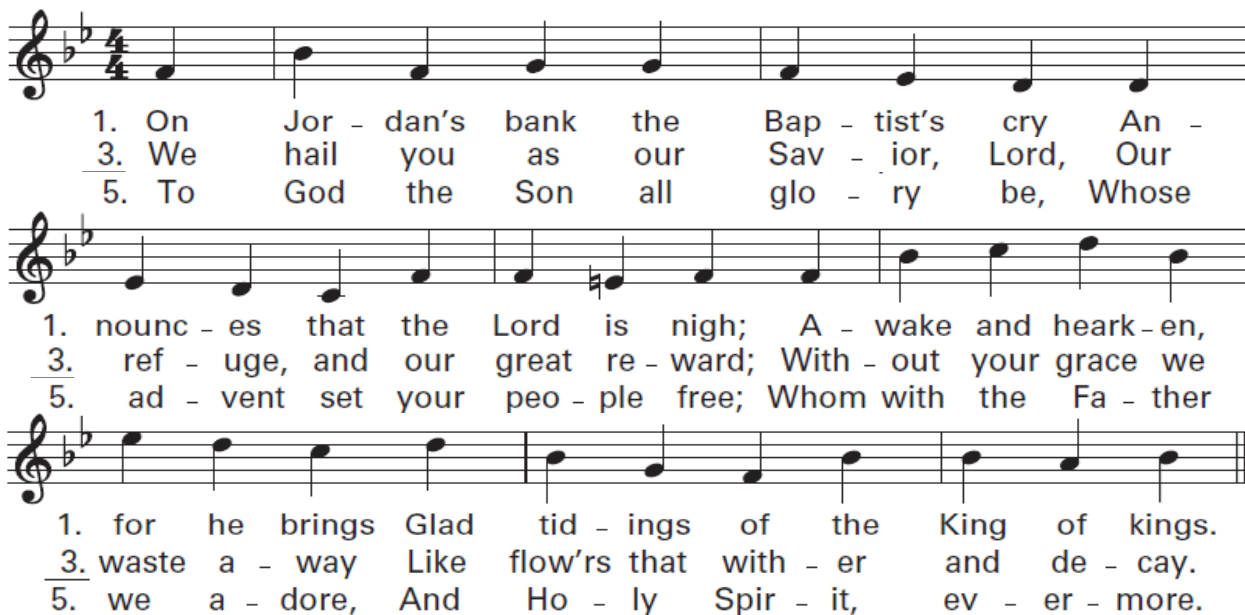
## HYMN

### "On Jordan's Bank"

*Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. John Chandler, alt.*

*Georg Wittwe's Musiklaishes Hand-Buch, Hamburg, 1690; adapt. William H. Havergal,*

WINCHESTER NEW L.M.



1. On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An -  
 3. We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our  
 5. To God the Son all glo - ry be, Whose

1. nunc - es that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and heark - en,  
 3. ref - uge, and our great re - ward; With - out your grace we  
 5. ad - vent set your peo - ple free; Whom with the Fa - ther

1. for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings.  
 3. waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
 5. we a - dore, And Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (*sung to the tune of "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"*)

Our Father, Lord of heav'n's high throne

Most holy be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done

On earth in heav'n the same.

Give us this day the food we need;

Forgiven may we be.

Into temptation do not lead

From evil set us free.

Yours is the kingdom; unto you

In grateful love we bow;

And yours the pow'r Lord, let us view

Your mighty presence now.

The glory yours; your praise be sung

By angel hosts and men

In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue

Forevermore! Amen.

## SCRIPTURES

First Reading: Isaiah 35: 1-10 (O.T. pg. 623)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11: 2-11 (N.T. pg. 10)

Deb Waldron, Liturgist

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

There is an offering plate if you feel led to deposit your envelope or an offering there. You can also give through our Realm app or get the link to give by texting UCCMEDINA to 73256. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

Offertory Invitation

What will you give towards the journey we take here together? We can be cheerful givers no matter the difficulty of our circumstances. All that we have are God’s gifts joyfully shared with us. God encourages us to share those gifts with others so that our delight is multiplied. Let us give out of our abundance with joy in our hearts.

**\*Advent Doxology** (words, Paula Meador Testerman)  
O Glorious God, to you we bring Praise, treasures, lives as offering;  
Spirit of Peace, within us dwell; Come, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Amen.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**  
Generous God, you share so much with us. In this moment we offer up our gifts, and we share them back with you. We smile in hope that you can take what we offer and multiply it to do your work of love and justice in our hearts and in the world. Let our giving truly make a difference and bring joy to others this day. Amen.

\*CLOSING SONG "Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming"

Jim Miller, 1993

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D  
Joshua Leavitt’s Christian Lyre, 1830



1. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, draw-ing near in

2. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, call-ing you to

3. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, he will rise up

4. Chris-tians all, your Lord is com-ing, hope for peace is



ho - ly birth. Ring the bells and sound the trum-pets,

serve in deed. See the ones who hurt and suf-fer,

from the dead. Lift the cup, of sin for-giv-en;

now at hand. Let there be no hes-i-ta-tion,



let your mu - sic fill the earth. Dance and move to  
hear their cry and act with speed. Set all self - ish  
bless the host and eat his bread. Mend the ways where  
walk in faith where life de - mands. Bear the word that



show God's glo - ry; kneel and pause to hear God's word.  
ways be - hind you. Purge your hearts of sin - ful greed.  
peace is bro - ken, give your - selves to true Sha - lom.  
God has giv - en; share the birth that stirs your soul.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and let your songs be heard.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ in you will meet their need.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Dwell as one in church and home.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ will come and make you whole.

#### **\*ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **\*BENEDICTION**

May you find your way to joy in the name of our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.  
**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**

"Come, O Long-Expected Jesus" – Charles Wesley & Christian Witt  
*Harry Buch, guitar & Pam Branscome, cello*

# **“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”**

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*\*\*\*Please join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the service.  
Coffee Hour is hosted this week by Sue & Ken Dean.*

## **Finding Our Way Advent Series by:**

This is the Day: Liturgy for Love and Justice. Formation for Faith and Renewal.

<https://thisistheday.net/>

Liturgy by Rev. Amber Henry Neuroth. Graphics by Ellen Ebeling.

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**PASTORAL STAFF**

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - [luke@uccmedina.org](mailto:luke@uccmedina.org)

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## **OFFICE STAFF**

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## **PROGRAM STAFF**

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Cathy Fafrak, Organist – [cathy@uccmedina.org](mailto:cathy@uccmedina.org)

Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – [jen@uccmedina.org](mailto:jen@uccmedina.org)

Rebecca Rosen, Nursery Supervisor

Sharon Perry, Custodian

# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## DECEMBER 11, 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)

**December 11, 2022 thru December 18, 2022**

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

#### **Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

8:15 am Chapel Worship  
9:00 am Gathering Worship  
9:45 am Children's & Youth Choir  
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship  
11:45 am Mission Team  
1:00 pm Soloist & Instrumental Rehearsal  
3:00 pm Confirmation Class

**Mon** 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study

**Tues** 7:00 pm Bible Study

**Wed** 10:30 am Quilters  
6:15 pm Bell Choir rehearsal  
6:30 pm Gathering Band rehearsal  
7:00 pm DELT Meeting  
7:00 pm WISE Team Meeting  
7:45 pm Choir rehearsal  
9:15 pm Soloist rehearsal

#### **Thurs**

**Fri** 5:30 pm Bake & Craft Sale  
7:00 pm **Jazzy Christmas Concert**

#### **Sat**

#### **Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

10:00 am **One Service Only – Christmas Music Program**  
12:30 pm Instrumental rehearsal  
4:30 pm Men's Group  
4:30 pm Youth Group Christmas Party

### **JUST A REMINDER**

**All 2022 contributions must be postmarked by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022, to be eligible for tax deductions.**

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

Scriptures: Isaiah 11:1-10 and Matthew 3:1-12

Sermon: “Joy, the Third Sunday in Advent”  
Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

**Communion Table:** The flowers are given by Lori Price in memory of her husband, Trip Price.

### **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

**Christmas Eve** Worship Services will be:

6:00 pm – Family Candlelight Service  
9:00 pm – Candlelight Service with selections from Handel's *Messiah* beginning at 8:30 pm.

The 9 pm service will also be live streamed.

**One service of worship at 10 a.m. on**

Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> - Pajama Worship  
Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> - Communion

### **OFFICE CHRISTMAS HOURS**

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>  
FOR A STAFF PLANNING RETREAT.**

The church office will be closed at noon on Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> and will reopen at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup> due to the Christmas holiday.

### **ANNUAL REPORTS DUE SOON**

Annual Report time is near! As we are working on our 2023 budget, we will also need a few other reports to put this together. **I will need an annual report from our Church Clerk, Church Treasurer, the Stewardship Team, and the Endowment Team.** Please have your report to me no later than Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.



## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

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**Thank You** to those of you who have returned your pledge cards for 2023! Pledges help us make an accurate budget for next year and are an important tool for planning how to cover basic costs and allows us to expand our ministries and plan new ways to serve our congregation and the community. Thank you for being an irreplaceable part of our budget planning process and helping us grow for the future! If you have not yet turned in your pledge card, blank cards are available in the pew racks and on the website. You may also sign up in REALM.

## JAZZY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

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The Music & Performing Arts Ensembles will be hosting a Bake & Craft Sale on Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, the night of our "Jazzy Christmas" Concert beginning at 7 pm. The concert will feature the Handbell Choir, Chancel Choir, and Jennifer Cochran & Gateway Band. **The sale will be held pre-concert at 5:30 pm and at intermission.** The whole evening will end with Santa who will invite us to bundle up and enjoy hot chocolate, donuts, and Christmas Caroling around the square! **All proceeds from the concert and sale will go to support the music and future performing arts events at Medina UCC, Congregational! So please offer your talents of baking and crafting!**

## YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY

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**December 18<sup>th</sup>, 4:30-6pm**

For our last youth group of the season, we are celebrating Christmas with games, gingerbread houses, and Christmas jams. Please, bring a gift-wrapped pair of funny, wacky, crazy socks for our gift exchange!

Youth Group 2023 will kick off on January 15<sup>th</sup> when we begin our new series "Rise Above." Together we will explore bible passages that teach us how to rise above during tough situations through love and spiritual strength.

## THE GIVING TREE

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This year our giving tree will provide items for families that are enrolled in the WIC program. The WIC program provides food, nutrition education, and health care referrals to low-income families in Medina who have children from newborn to age 5. Food and education are provided but many times the children go without because of medical bills. Take a gift tag off the tree and buy the item or items listed on the back of the tag. The tag is just a reminder. You do not need to bring the tags back with your items. Please do not wrap these gifts. The staff at the WIC office will assemble gift bags for the children. There are many tags on the tree! Let's work together to provide for the children in our Medina neighborhoods who need a little joy this holiday season! **All items need to be placed under the tree by Sunday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>!**

## COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

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The 2023 Flower Chart is now hanging in the East Room hallway. This is a wonderful way to honor or remember someone, or to celebrate a special occasion. Please fill in your name and **write "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.

## MUSIC CELEBRATION

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Join us on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> for "Music Celebration Sunday". You'll enjoy a beautiful service of Advent and Christmas music played and sung by our tremendously talented UCC, C musicians. The Gathering Band, Alleluia Ringers, and Chancel Choir will fill the air with glorious sounds of the season! You'll also enjoy a lovely liturgical dance by two of our youth. See you Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00, when we light the 4<sup>th</sup> Advent candle and "serenade your hearts with song"! - Jenny

## **A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFT?**

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Do you need a special gift for someone this holiday season? How about a new bible? We have several of the new bible's that we purchased, left over, and all our pews are full along with some extras. If you would like to purchase one to take home or give as a gift, they will be for sale beginning this week. You may stop by during the week and purchase one in the office. Cost of one bible is \$15.00.

## **THE VETERANS OF THE CROSS OFFERING**

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The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years! These funds provide emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. The generous financial offerings given at Christmas time by United Church of Christ congregations enable the Pension Boards' Ministerial Assistance Team to provide financial support to those who serve and have served the Church. Please consider offering a monetary amount, on Christmas Eve, to help support the Veterans of the Cross.

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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 1:46b-55

### Heartbeat of Justice

On this third Sunday of Advent, we hear the stirring words known as the Magnificat spoken by the mother of Jesus, Mary. Through her words, Mary paves the way for the ministry of Jesus. His life is a reflection of her teaching and vision as found in the song she sings today. Although Mary is such an important person in our faith story, there is but one United Church of Christ community that carries the name of Mary, St. Mary's United Church of Christ in Westminster, Maryland. The origins of the name are lost to time, but the legacy of the name is a long one.

The area around Silver Run was settled predominantly by Germans who made their way across the Atlantic Ocean to Philadelphia and then south to the rich fertile land of this vicinity.... There are still families in this congregation whose roots go back to these early residents of the Silver Run area in the mid 1700's.

A union agreement between a Reformed and Lutheran congregation dated 31 May 1762 is the earliest contemporary record of the congregation. That document states clearly that a church was already standing, and that it was named Saint Mary's. Even the German documents from the eighteenth century are unanimous in calling the church Saint Mary's, and not *St. Maria* or *die Marienkirche*, German forms by which both Protestant and Catholic churches dedicated to the mother of Jesus are known.

The first church building in place by May of 1762 was most likely a log structure covered with clapboard siding and hardly to be distinguished on the outside from the modest first-generation residences of the area. Nearly sixty years later the cornerstone was placed on a new structure. Among Pennsylvania Germans a church was usually not consecrated until it was both finished and paid for. It was on this occasion that a name was given to the building. One pastor usually was given the honor of selecting the name and of announcing it as a surprise during the consecration ceremonies. Names thus selected did not always "take", however, and local nicknames could prevail instead. In the case of St. Mary's church, the name of the circa 1762 building was automatically applied to the new one.

Three hundred years later, the name still sticks.

Information adapted from: <https://www.germanmarylanders.org/churches/st-marys-united-church-of-christ-silver-run>