

HOPE

*Finding Our Way*



Journey to PEACE

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** “When the King Shall Come” – tune: Gaudeamus Pariter; arr. J. Cochran  
*Maggie Bixler, violin, Ruby Gabrielsen, viola, Cathy Fafrak, piano*

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

#### \*INTROIT

*Charles Wesley, 1744, alt.*

#### “Come, O Long-Expected Jesus”

STUGGART 8.7.8.7.

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

2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope to all the earth im - part;  
Dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, en - ter ev - ery long - ing heart.

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

We have lost our way.

**We feel distant from peace**

We can't see our way to justice.

**We join together in community for this journey.**

Holy God, help us find our way to your peace. Amen.

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING – PEACE

*Readers: The Nolan Family*

Let us light the candle of peace as we pray:

**Holy God, as find our way forward on this unexpected journey,  
help us to hear the clear voice of the one crying in the wilderness.**

**May we be surprised by the message in your Word today.**

**May we be challenged to reach out in peace to others in our path. Amen.**

### \*OPENING HYMN

### “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*Psalterium Cantionum 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*

3 O come, O come, O A - do - nai, who  
4 O come, O shoot of Jes - se, free your  
came to all on Si - nai high, And from its peak a  
own from Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny, From depths of hell your  
sin - gle law pro - claimed in maj - es - ty and awe.  
peo - ple save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.  
Re-joyce! Re-joyce! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR "Christ is Coming" – Edward V. Bonnemere

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Medina United Church of Christ presents:

**“Christmas at the Clubhouse”**



Sunday December 4, 2022

### **Scene 1 – “The Clubhouse”**

First Child – Sam Lindon  
Second Child – Laura Medley  
Third Child – Rosie Bauer  
Fourth Child – Kallie Armbrust  
Fifth Child – Mason Rusyniak  
Sixth Child – Bobby Nolan

### **Scene 2 – The Christmas Play – “The Prophets”**

Narrators – Price Bilikam and Blake Stepsis  
Prophet 1 – Madeline Bauer  
Prophet 2 – Gianna Davies

### **Scene 3 – The Christmas Play – Mary and the Angel**

Narrators – Price Bilikam and Blake Stepsis  
Angel – Laura Medley  
Mary – Kallie Armbrust

### **Scene 4 – The Christmas Play – “The Innkeepers”**

Narrators - Price Bilikam and Blake Stepsis  
Census Counter – Bobby Nolan  
Innkeeper 1 – Addisyn Miller  
Joseph – Sam Lindon  
Mary – Kallie Armbrust  
Innkeeper 2 – Madeline Bauer

### **“Silent Night”**

All Children

Silent Night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright.  
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

CONGREGATION JOIN IN vs. 2  
**Silent Night, holy night!**  
**Shepherds quake at the sight.**  
**Glories stream from heaven afar**  
**Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,**  
**Christ the Savior is born!**  
**Christ the Savior is born!**

**“Happy Birthday to Jesus”**  
Angel Choir

**Scene 4 – The Christmas Play – “The Shepherds”**

Shepherd 1 – Mason Rusyniak  
Shepherd 2 – Paige Rusyniak  
Shepherd 3 – Lilah Wolff

**“Joy to the World”**  
All Children

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.

CONGREGATION JOIN IN vs. 2  
**Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!**  
**Let men their songs employ;**  
**While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains**  
**Repeat the sounding joy,**  
**Repeat the sounding joy,**  
**Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.**

**Scene 4 – The Christmas Play – “The Three Kings”**

Narrators – Price Bilikam and Blake Stepsis  
King 1 – Milo Armbrust  
King 2 – Sammy Ockunzzi  
King 3 – Rosie Bauer

**"Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star"**

Angel Choir

**"We Wish You a Merry Christmas"**

All Children

**Angel Choir**

Josie Bilikam, Finnley Armbrust, Max Ockunzzi, Rhett Behler, Jett Behler, Kaelyn Miller, Colin Bixler, Grant Bixler, Finn Bixler, Brielle Davies, Evelyn Rader, Domenic Stalter and Drew Stalter

**Thank you**

A HUGE thank you to Melissa Bilikam for all your help and support with the production of the pageant. It couldn't have been done without you.

Thank you to Kenzie Armbrust, Summer Scaggs and Olivia Miller for your help.

Thank you to Matt Yates for all your technical help.  
Thank you, Cathy Fafrak, for giving your time and talent to accompany the music for the program.

Thank you to all the parents for your help and support.  
And finally, a BIG thank you to all the youth.  
What a gift you are to our church. You all are amazing!!

***God Bless You and Merry Christmas***

*Stacie Yates*



## 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.**

## 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. All bread served is gluten free.*

### Invitation

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

### The Words of Institution

### Distribution of the Elements

### Prayer after Communion

**Holy God, we are grateful-for this journey to manger and table, for your bread of hope, for your cup of blessing, and for your presence among us as we find our way. Amen.**

## 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!*



**\*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.

**\*Dedication**

God of the stranger and the wanderer, thank you for calling to us out of the wilderness to give of ourselves toward your peace in the world. Bless these gifts and all those who will receive ministry from them, that we all might draw nearer to you this season. Amen.

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

**"People, Look East"**

BESANÇON 8.7.9.8.8.7.

Eleanor Farjeon, 1928, © 1957 Harold Ober Assoc., Inc.

Trad. French carol; harm. Martin Shaw, 1928

1. Peo - ple, look east, the time is near of the  
2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more  
3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more  
4. An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are  
seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to  
light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y  
brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

a - ble, trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.  
nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.  
weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.  
hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

Peo- ple, look east and sing to- day:

Peo- ple, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 Peo- ple, look east: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

**\*ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Go now to find your way, remembering God's peace goes before and behind you, as both source and destination. 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** "When the King Shall Come" – tune: Gaudeamus Pariter; arr. J. Cochran  
*Maggie Bixler, violin, Ruby Gabrielsen, viola, Cathy Fafrak, piano*

**"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 the Discipleship & Education Leadership Team (DELTs)*

**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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# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## DECEMBER 4, 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 4, 2022 thru December 11, 2022 WEEK AT A GLANCE

#### Sun 2<sup>nd</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 -  
**Children's Christmas Program**
- 4:30 pm Confirmation Class  
Attend Advent Family Night
- 4:30 pm Men's Group
- 4:30 pm **Advent Family Fun Night**

#### Mon Cook for Cups

- Tues 8:00 am Men's breakfast
- 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 Evangelism Team
- 7:45 pm Choir rehearsal
- 9:15 pm Soloist rehearsal

#### Thurs 7:00 pm Hobby Horse Preschool Team

#### Fri

#### Sat

#### 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

#### Worship Highlights: 8:15 am & 9:00 am

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

Sermon: Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

**10:30 am** Sanctuary Worship and Children's  
Pageant

Communion Table: The flowers are given by  
Pete & Alice Metzloff in memory of their  
granddaughter, Sahara Jade Pettit.

### ADVENT FAMILY FUN NIGHT TONIGHT!

This evening at 4:30 pm, we will be gathering in Fellowship Hall to kick off the Advent season. We will be making ornaments to decorate our trees and trees that our church will be giving to our Garfield families. After the ornament making is finished, we will decorate some cookies and have hot chocolate and cookies as we watch a short Christmas show. If you have any questions, please contact Stacie Yates. Please sign up on [Realm here](#) if you are planning on coming. Hope to see you there!

### PLEDGE CARDS

Stewardship Sunday has passed, but you can still turn in your pledge cards or sign up on Realm for automated giving. 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!

**\*\*\*Giving Envelopes WILL NOT be automatically ordered.** If you want envelopes, you must notify the church office **no later than TODAY, December 4<sup>th</sup>.**

## **ANNUAL REPORTS DUE SOON**

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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.

## **LAST CHANCE FOR POINSETTIAS**

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It's time to order your beautiful poinsettia again! You may donate a poinsettia to decorate the church for Christmas services and claim it afterward, or you may donate a poinsettia to be delivered by the Flower Committee to a shut-in to be enjoyed before the holiday. The cost is \$10.00. **Deadline for ordering is December 5<sup>th</sup>.** Please fill out a green poinsettia order sheet (from the ushers) and turn it in to the church office or you may order through [REALM here](#).

## **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM TODAY** "Christmas in the Clubhouse"

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It's that time of year again! The children have been practicing for our annual Children's Christmas Program today, Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> during the 10:30 service. Come join us and be a part of the fun.

## **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!**

## **SEND A CHRISTMAS CARD**

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The church office has updated our UCC Christmas card list for Circle of Caring. Please pick up a card list and reach out to our homebound members and those in care facilities with the Spirit of the Season-LOVE.

## **CRAFTS READY FOR DELIVERY**

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Visit the table in the Welcome Area to sign out a craft to deliver. Please call the recipient ahead to make delivery arrangements. Thank you for spreading God's love by visiting with our most senior church membership who are homebound, shut-in, and in residential care facilities.

## **GREETING CARD TABLE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

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As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, many of our Circle of Caring Greeting Card Table members will retire. This ministry is in need of people to come to the church to pull and set up greeting cards each Friday for a month. Volunteers are needed for the months of April, July, October, November and December. Training and supplies are provided. Interested? Contact Alice Metzloff at 330-242-3602 or [iamalsblugown@gmail.com](mailto:iamalsblugown@gmail.com).

## **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>!**

## 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**

### **PASTORAL STAFF**

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

Rev. Meghan Malone, Associate Pastor of Youth & Mission - [meghan@uccmedina.org](mailto:meghan@uccmedina.org)

Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor – [karen@uccmedina.org](mailto:karen@uccmedina.org)

Ryan Collins, Ministerial Intern - [ryan@uccmedina.org](mailto:ryan@uccmedina.org)

### **OFFICE STAFF**

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)

Jeff Miller, Financial Director - [jeff@uccmedina.org](mailto:jeff@uccmedina.org)

### **PROGRAM STAFF**

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education – [stacie@uccmedina.org](mailto:stacie@uccmedina.org)

Nicole Rubino, Co-Director of Youth – [nicole@uccmedina.org](mailto:nicole@uccmedina.org)

Jennifer Cochran, Director of Music - [jenny@uccmedina.org](mailto:jenny@uccmedina.org)

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



# MEDINA

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST. CONGREGATIONAL

## UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER  
4

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT 10:30 A.M.

DECEMBER  
4

ADVENT FAMILY FUN NIGHT 4:30 P.M.

DECEMBER  
16

JAZZY CHRISTMAS CONCERT 7 P.M.  
BAKE & CRAFT SALE 5:30 P.M.

DECEMBER  
18

SING SUNDAY! WORSHIP 10 A.M.

DECEMBER  
18

YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS  
PARTY 4:30 P.M.

DECEMBER  
24

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 6 & 9 P.M.  
MESSIAH PRELUDE 8:30 P.M.

DECEMBER  
25

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP 10 A.M.

JANUARY  
1

NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP 10 A.M.

Isaiah 11:1-10

### **Vision of Peace**

On this second Sunday of Advent, we welcome the prophet Isaiah into our midst. The Biblical prophets are not those who foretell the future. Instead, like all of the Biblical prophetic voices on record, Isaiah reveals what is hidden in this present moment. Because it is timeless, his writing is as potent and powerful on this first Sunday of December in the year 2022 as it was in the year that he first wrote them, about three thousand years ago.

Like his sister and brother prophets, the reality that Isaiah reveals brings difficult and joyful news together. So being willing to hear the prophets is really about being able to receive both Divine challenge and Holy comfort. That's because the world as we know it, and the world as Mary and Joseph knew it as they began their journey to Bethlehem, and the world that Isaiah knew it as he put ink to papyrus may seem different, but really they are much the same.

Like Isaiah, like the Christ child's parents, we also yearn for a time when the meek will receive equity and children will not experience the terror of violence as they make their innocent way in the world. Like them, it is our yearning that brings us to the hope of a Messiah, one to show us the way where our human imagination has come to an end. And so, we draw close to the manger, to the one who will bring us the comfort, as well as, the challenge that the prophets foretold.

As you hear the words of the prophet today, in all their joy and difficulty, take some time to reflect on these questions:

Who are the prophets - the ones who reveal truth, even if it is uncomfortable - in your own life? In the life of your church congregation?

What does your community do to respond to the yearning that Isaiah expresses and that so many feel for equity and justice? What could you do that you are not doing yet?

How does the coming arrival of the Christ child fill you with hope? What other responses might the arrival of the Messiah bring up for you?