

NEW

YEARS

DAY



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

- *During the service, Jesus Vibes Sunday School is available for ages 3-8th 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 “Fanfare and Proclamation for a New Year” – Phil Lehenbauer Cathy Fafrak, organist

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come into this world with nothing, and we take nothing with us when we go.

All: **We are passing through. What we have is only ours for a time. We are stewards of all life's gifts to us.**

One: O God, come to our assistance when we are afraid.

All: **Help us to embrace a new year with hope and joy.**

One: Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit. You alone can set us free, and you will.

All: **You are not standing still. You are on the move. As you have been since the beginning, you are now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN

“This Is a Day of New Beginnings”

BEGINNINGS 9.8.9.8.

Brian Wren, 1978, rev. 1987

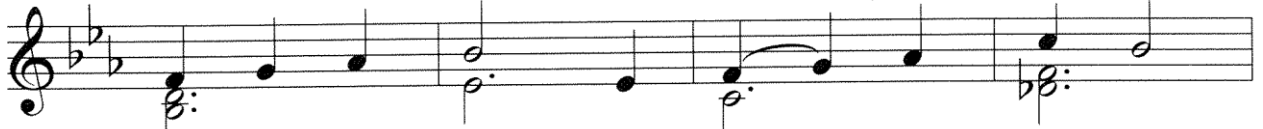
Carlton R. Young, 1984 © 1983, 1987 Hope Publishing Co.

Unison

1. This is a day of new be - gin - nings,
2. For by the life and death of Je - sus,
3. Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing,
4. In faith we gath - er round the ta - ble

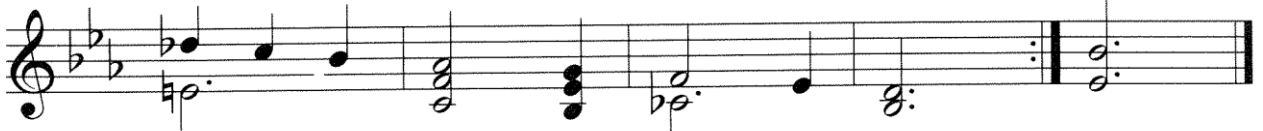


time to re - mem - ber and move on,
 God's might - y Spir - it, now as then,
 step from the past and leave be - hind
 to taste and share what love can do.



time to be - lieve what love is bring - ing,
 can make for us a world of dif - ference,
 our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and griev - ing,
 This is a day of new be - gin - nings;

1-3 4



lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
 as faith and hope are born a - gain.
 seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
 our God is mak - ing all things new.

CONFESSION

One: I confess to almighty God that which is already known

All: And to you my kin in Christ,

One: that I have sinned through my own fault,

All: in my thought, word, and deed and in what I failed to do.

One: I ask you, my beloved community,

All: to pray for me to the Lord our God

Silence is kept

One: Let us resolve to keep this resolution:

**All: that more kindness, mercy, and justice will flow from my life.
 More fruit of the spirit and less jealousy, anger, and other sin.**

One: And when we fail,

All: Not if... when we fail.

One: Then let us view it as opportunities to practice the faith that gathers us.

**All: A chance to reconcile and love all the more.
 And may grace lead us home. In Jesus Name. Amen.**

HYMN

"Lamp of Our Feet Whereby We Trace"

BARTON CM

Bernard Barton

Composer Unknown

1. Lamp of our feet, where-by we trace Our path when wont to stray;
2. Bread of our souls, where-on we feed, True man-na from on high;
3. Word of the ev-er-last-ing God, Will of His glo-rious Son;
4. Lord, grant us all a-right to learn The wis-dom it im-parts;

Stream from the fount of heaven-ly grace, Brook by the travel-er's way;
Our guide and chart, where-in we read Of realms be-yond the sky;
With-out Thee how could earth be trod, Or heaven it-self be won?
And to its heaven-ly teach-ing turn, With sim-ple, child-like hearts. A-MEN.

LITANY OF PRAYER

One: In 1788, Quakers in Pennsylvania freed their slaves some 75 years ahead of the rest of the country. Together with free blacks, abolitionist people of faith, and slaves who were willing to risk their lives, Quakers led one of America's most vibrant faith-based justice movements: the Underground railroad. Our ancestor H.G. Blake and other Congregationalists were a part of this movement of faith and freedom.

All: **Jesus, teach us not to shun what is of you in everyone.**

One: George Fox, founder of the Religious Society of Friends, wrote, "People must be led out of captivity up to God.

All: **Be patterns, be examples that your carriage and life may preach among all sort of people, and to them.**

One: Then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone."

All: **Jesus, teach us not to shun what is of you in everyone.**

Sharing of joys, concerns, and hope for the new year

Pastoral Prayer

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.

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

The Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God who spoke us into being, you are making all things new. Let this new year be an opportunity for us all to become more like Christ. Give us hearts that are full of love for each other, compassion for our neighbors, peace with our inmost selves, and hope for our future. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Go, Tell It On the Mountain"

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN Irr. w/ refrain

African-American spiritual; adapt. John W. Work, Jr., 1907

African-American spiritual; arr. William Farley Smith, 1986;

arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

Refrain

Chord symbols: F Bb F Dm C Dm C F Am C7

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev-ery-where;

Chord symbols: F Bb F Dm F7 Gm F C7 F Fine

go, tell it on the moun-tain, that Je-sus Christ is born.

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si-lent flocks by night,
 2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled, when lo! a - bove the earth,
 3. Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born,

be - hold through - out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light.
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed the Sav - ior's birth.
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

***BENEDICTUS (Zechariah's Song)**

One: Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, who shepherds the people and sets them free.
 God raises from David's house a child with power to save.

**All: Through the holy prophets God promised in ages past to save us from enemy hands,
 from the grip of all who hate.**

One: The Lord cared for our ancestors, recalling the sacred covenant with Abraham,
 to free us so that we might worship without fear and be holy and just in all our days.

**All: And you, child, will be called Prophet of the Most High, for you will come to prepare a
 pathway for the Lord, by teaching the people how salvation is found in forgiveness.**

One: Out of God's deepest mercy a dawn will come from on high,
 A light for those shadowed by death, a guide for our feet on the path of peace.

**All: May the Lord bless us and keep us from all harm,
 And may our lives be a reflection of Christ, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
 Let us depart from here blessed to be a blessing.**

One: Go! For this service has ended.

All: 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** **“Cold December Flies Away”** – Catalanian carol/ setting by Lynn Arthur Koch
Cathy Fafrak, Organist

“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”

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THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

JANUARY 1, 2023

**“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

January 1, 2023 thru January 8, 2023

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun NEW YEARS DAY
10:00 am One Service Only

Mon CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Cook for Cups

Tues 8:00 am Men's Breakfast
7:00 pm Bible Study

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
7:00 pm Evangelism Team

Thurs

Fri

Sat

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:45 am Children's Choir
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
3:00 pm Confirmation Class

OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The church office will be closed on Monday, January 2nd in observance of the New Year.

Worship Highlights: 10:00 am

Communion Table: The flowers are given by Cheri & Arnold Ingraham with New Year's blessings to our congregational family.

WELCOME BAGS

The Evangelism Team would like to welcome first time visitors to our church! We're so glad you are here. Please be sure to grab a welcome bag before you leave which is our gift to you. The white handled welcome bags are located near the tower doors in the sanctuary, located near Fellowship Hall and in the East Room. Thank you for visiting Medina UCC today where we are welcoming, loving, and serving.

SAVE THE DATE

IT'S BACK, so please mark your calendars as the Ladies and Girls Tea will be held on Saturday, May 13th. "All The Tea In China" will be the program presented by our own Vicki Miller. More information will be coming, and ticket sales will begin in April. Please direct questions to Beth Hari, Becky Weber, or Darlene Fazekas.

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 6th. Thank you.

COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

We have several openings to sponsor the communion table flowers. Please consider signing up today! 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.

CIRCLE OF CARING GREETING CARDS TABLE

This group is a volunteer outreach ministry who send greeting cards of Birthday (80+ years), Get Well, Thinking of You, and Sympathy to keep in touch with our congregation-at-large, and with our most Senior Adult church membership who are homebound, shut-in, and in resident care facilities.

In 2023, we need help for the months of April, July, October, November, and December due to volunteers retiring.

Circle of Caring thanks all the volunteers who served with Greeting Cards Table. You are greatly appreciated and will be missed.

Interested? Contact Alice Metzloff at iamalsblugown@gmail.com or 330-242-3602.

LITURGIST SIGN-UP

Check out the bulletin board in the East Room hallway to sign up to be a liturgist during the 10:30 Sanctuary service. The new sign-up sheets are up for January, February & March.

OPERATION HOMES GUESTS RETURN JANUARY 9th-16th

Please see the sign-up sheets in the downstairs entryway to see how you can volunteer to be a part of this important housing ministry.

SENIOR HIGH SUMMER SERVICE TRIP INFORMATION SESSION

If you are interested in participating in our trip to Back Bay Mission, July 9th-15th, please come to this informational session in the library **after worship on Jan. 22nd**! This trip is for youth who are entering 9th grade in 2023, and older. We also need adult volunteers who can help with driving, home repairs, and preparing group meals. See you there!

PLEDGE UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who has pledged for 2023. We have \$239,645 pledged of our \$400,000 goal and a total of 120 pledges. If you have not yet pledged, you are still invited to! Pledges are used to make our projected budget as accurate as possible, so they are very important for the life and ministry of the church. There are pledge cards available or Realm online where you can set up automatic electronic donations. Any amount helps keep our church beautiful and ministries growing!

DEFENSE AGAINST THE DARK ARTS

In this class, Pastors Luke and Meghan will instruct you one how to defend yourself against the Dark Arts of using scripture to support acts of homophobic cruelty. Join us as we practice reading the Bible with flexibility and curiosity together on Tuesdays at 2pm and 7pm. All youth and adults welcome!

MLK SERVICE DAY OPPORTUNITY

On Monday January 16th you're invited to join the mission team in a day of service at the Hope and Healing Survivors center in Medina. Their space is being renovated to better serve the families they support. More details coming soon.



MEDINA

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST. CONGREGATIONAL

Upcoming Events

January
1

One Worship Service, 10 a.m.

January
4

Hobby Horse Preschool Open House, 5:30 p.m.

January
8

Heavily Burdened Worship Series Begins
A Series on Mental Health with Guest Speakers

January
10

Defense Against the Dark Arts Begins
Tuesdays through Feb 7th, 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

January
15

Youth Group, Rise Above! 4:30-6 p.m.

January
16

MLK Service Day at Hope & Healing

January
17

Hobby Horse Preschool church
member registration opens

January
29

Annual Budget Meeting, 11:30 a.m.

January
30

New Member Class, 7:00 p.m.

February
5

Church Wide Game Night, 4:30 p.m.

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

Psalm 148

Cosmic Praise

Some people make resolutions at this time of year. Others prayerfully select a word or phrase to guide them into the days ahead. Still others prefer to find renewal every day, not setting aside only the first of the year as a day to intentionally promise a fresh start to God or self. Whichever camp you fall into, take your cue from Psalm 148, and begin with PRAISE.

In difficult times (and for many of us these mid- and post-pandemic days are definitely difficult times) praise can feel unnecessary or even inappropriate. Praise - the outward expression of gratitude - can seem like an extra we can't afford. But scientists today affirm what people of faith have known for centuries. Praise is not just good for God, it's good for you, as studies continue to show that gratitude felt and expressed lowers stress and increases overall happiness. Here are some ways to make your New Year praise-full:

- ❖ Find and maintain a regular prayer practice.
- ❖ Notice God in the glory of creation, whether your vista of nature is a vast desert landscape, a stand of towering trees, a small city park, or simply the sun rising and setting.
- ❖ Make praise a part of your giving to your United Church of Christ congregation. (Haven't pledged what you plan to give this year to your church? It's never too late!)
- ❖ Bring your praise to social media, which too often trades in snark and unhealthy competition. How can you notice what is praise-worthy and uplift that instead?
- ❖ Look for ways that family members or friends shine God's light in the world through their own acts of praise. Make sure to notice and thank them.
- ❖ Keep a gratitude journal, writing down what you are grateful for each evening or morning.