



Advent 1

Sunday December 3, 2023
Medina UCC, Congregational
uccmedina.org



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 10:30 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 “My Soul in Stillness Waits” – Marty Haugen

Jennifer Cochran, voice & flute; Cathy Fafrak, Piano

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Cloth for the Cradle*, Iona Community 1997, Glasgow G51 3UU Scotland)

Behind the corridors of space, before the world began,

Beyond all understanding... God.

Gloria

Fathering Time, Mothering Creation

parenting all people... God.

Gloria

Waiting for the right moment and preparing the way,

asking the right woman... God.

Gloria

We believe in One God,

Maker and Mover of heaven and earth. In whom we move and have our being.

In the light of our morning, we direct this worship. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710
Based on ancient Antiphons from Advent Vespers*

VENI, EMMANUEL L.M. with refrain
*melody from a 15th century French processional
arr. Thomas Helmore, 1854*

Unison

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, and
ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly
or - der all things far and night; To us the path of
ex - ile here, un - til the Child of God ap - pear.
knowl - edge show, and help us in that way to go.
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Lighting a candle in the darkness helps us find our way. In darkness we lose direction.

We cannot see where we have been or where we are going.

A single candle, flickering brightly, helps us find our way again.

"Stir up your might and come to save us.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved" (Psalm 80:2b-3).

The Candle of Hope is lit.

Light one candle; see it glow

Brightly, so that all may know

How one candle shows the way

Making our darkness bright as God's day.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

**Dear God, on this first Sunday in Advent, let this light shine brightly as the days grow shorter,
so that we will be ready for your face to shine upon us at Christmas.**

In the Savior's name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 64:1-9 (O.T. pg. 652) & Mark 13:32-37 (N.T. pg. 48)

Deb Waldron, Liturgist

MESSAGE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY OF GOD

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

SERMON

"You Do Not Know When"

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

COMMUNION HYMN

"Life Giving Bread"

Words & Music: Ricky Manolo

MANOLO Irr. with refrain
© 1994 GIA Publications, Inc.

Life - giv - ing bread, _____ as our
 hearts are trans - formed a - new, _____ and life -
 giv - ing wine, _____ may we share in a
 life with you. _____

To stanzas 2 Last time

Fine

1. Com - ing to - geth - er we cel - e - brate life,
2. Tast - ing and see - ing the good - ness of God
3. Trans - form our lives with a heart that is new,
4. Called now to wit - ness your love, so di - vine,



we are a peo - ple gath - ered as one.
 bids us to bless the Lord at all times.
 we are the bro - ken, we are the blessed.
 we are the branch - es, you are the vine.



Com - ing to - geth - er with Christ as our
 Tast - ing and see - ing the fruit of the
 Trans - form our hearts with a heart that is
 Called to be ser - vants, called to be -



head; life - giv - ing word _____ to
 vine; life - giv - ing joy _____ in
 true; life - giv - ing hope _____ we
 come salt for the earth _____ and



life - giv - ing bread! _____
 life - giv - ing wine! _____
 of - fer to you! _____
 light for the world! _____

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 to the Table

The Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

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!

Offering Invitation

There is so much we don't know,

We walk by faith not by sight.

We offer our gifts as we have been gifted,

To the building of the kingdom. For the arrival of God's promised one!

***Doxology** (words, Christina G. Rossetti, 1872; music, Gustav Holst, 1906)

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Gracious Mystery, you know the appointed time. May what we offer hasten it. Through our giving, may folks be given daily bread and find you waiting in love. In Jesus name. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"Come, O Long-Expected Jesus"

STUTT GART 8.7.8.7.

Charles Wesley, 1744, alt.

Melody attrib. to Christian F. Witt (1660-1716) from Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715



1 Come, O long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set all peo - ple free;

2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope to all the earth im - part;



From our fears and sins re - lease us; grant us your true lib - er - ty.
Dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, en - ter ev - ery long - ing heart.

***ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***BENEDICTION**

***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 "Besançon Carol – People, Look East" – arr. Charles Callahan Cathy Fafrak, organ**

"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 Caring Team.

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MEDINA

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST. CONGREGATIONAL

UPCOMING EVENTS



ADVENT FAMILY FUN NIGHT 4:30 P.M.



YOUTH TALENT SHOW 10:30 A.M.



JAZZY CHRISTMAS CONCERT 7 P.M.



CHRISTMAS CANTATA 10:30 A.M.



ADVENT WORSHIP 10:30 A.M.
CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 6 & 9 P.M.



NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP 10:30 A.M.

217 E. LIBERTY ST. ~ UCCMEDINA.ORG

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

DECEMBER 3, 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

December 3, 2023 thru December 10, 2023

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:15 am Chapel Worship 9:00 am Gathering Worship 9:45 am Children's Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am Sanctuary Worship 4:30 pm Men's Group 4:30 pm Advent Family Fun Night
Mon	Cook for Cups Café 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study
Tues	7:00 pm Worship Team Meeting
Wed	10:30 am Quilters 6:00 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal 6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Evangelism Team Meeting 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
Thurs	
Fri	6:00 pm Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal 7:00 pm Mental Health Support Group
Sat	
Sun	2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:15 am Chapel Worship 9:00 am Gathering Worship 9:45 am Children's Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am Sanctuary Worship 11:30 am Mission Team Meeting 3:00 pm Confirmation Class 4:30 pm Podcast Talkback

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

Scriptures:

Isaiah 64:1-9 and Mark 13:32-37

Sermon: “You Do Not Know When”
The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The communion table flowers are given by Pete & Alice Metzloff in memory of loved ones.

ADVENT FAMILY FUN NIGHT IS TONIGHT!

Families of all ages are invited to come out today, December 3rd, 4:30-6pm to have some Christmas-themed fun together. There will be sugar cookies to decorate, hot cocoa to drink, crafts to make, games to play, and stockings to fill for our Garfield families! Please sign up to help us fill the stockings:

<https://tinyurl.com/2023adventfamilyfun>.

LAST CHANCE FOR POINSETTIAS

Pick up an order slip from one of the ushers, call the church office or download one off the church website at: www.uccmedina.org under “Upcoming Events” or you may order through [REALM here](#). They are \$10 each and the deadline to order is December 4th.

A TALENT FILLED CHRISTMAS

Please join us on Sunday, December 10th at the 10:30 service as our youth help to get us all in the Christmas spirit by sharing their amazing talents with us. You will not want to miss this special day!

GIVING FOR GARFIELD

(and other local organizations)

The Giving Tree is now on display upstairs next to the elevator through December 17th. The items on the tree will be distributed to the nine families we support at Garfield Elementary, the Juvenile Detention Center and Prospect Pantry. Please return unwrapped gifts on or before December 17th. Thank you for your continued support.

JAZZY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

You are invited to a wonderful evening of holiday music on Friday, December 15th at 7:00 pm! The "Jazzy Christmas" concert will feature the Gateway Band, led by our Music Director and vocalist Jennifer Cochran. Gateway Band has a unique musical style that has entertained audiences in the greater Cleveland area and on the east coast for some 20 years now! The band's musical arrangements are energetic and sentimental. This concert will get your toes tapping and your heart in the mood for Christmas! To support the choirs at Medina UCCC, a freewill offering will be taken during the concert and there will be a bake sale and raffle following the concert in Fellowship Hall! Hope to see you there!

COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

The 2024 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.

TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

The Tuesday Night Bible Study will be taking a holiday break during the month of December. We will start back up on Tuesday, January 2nd at 7 pm and continue with the book of Joshua.

COFFEE HOUR

Please consider hosting coffee hour one Sunday. Signups for December through February 2024 are available in the East Room hallway. Never hosted before? No worries! You'll receive a letter and a call from a Caring Team member should you have any questions. Hosting is meant to be simple, so would you please consider hosting Coffee Hour one Sunday?

JACKIE'S JARS FOR SENIORS

It's time again for our change collection that provides meals to seniors in our community. Jackie Smith started this, so let's continue this collection in her memory! Coin jars are available in the East Room and are **due back by Sunday, December 10th**.

MUSIC SUNDAY

Please join the Chancel and Bell Choirs on Sunday, December 17th for a service filled with beautiful music of the Advent and Christmas season. The Alleluia Ringers will perform a rousing version of "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" by arranger Lloyd Larson. The Chancel Choir will sing five musically stirring pieces from the Cantata "What Sweeter Music: A Christmas Cantata ", arranged by John Leavitt. The piece will be accompanied by our tremendously talented pianist/organist, Cathy Fafrak, and will feature several instrumentalists, the Alleluia Ringers, and narrators, all from our church congregation. It will be a glorious Sunday morning filled with inspirational sounds of the season!

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. **We will need an annual report from our Church Clerk, Church Treasurer, the Finance/Stewardship Team, and the Endowment Team.** Please have your report to the office no later than Wednesday, December 29th. Thank you.

SAVE THE DATE

Chili Cook Off - Sunday, January 28, 2024

Brrr, it's getting chili! Mark your calendars for the Medina UCC Chili Cook Off following one service of worship at 10:30 and the Annual Meeting. Signups will begin the second week of January. Stay tuned for more details!

A fun fact about chili:

According to "What's Cooking America," the first recorded batch of chili con carne in America was made in 1731 by a group of women who had emigrated from the Spanish Canary Islands, which historians noted not as "chili" but as a "spicy Spanish stew."

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 am – 3 pm MONDAY THRU THURSDAY; FRIDAY 9 am – 12 pm

PASTORAL STAFF

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

Rev. Meghan Malone, Associate Pastor of Youth & Mission - meghan@uccmedina.org

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Jennifer Cochran, Director of Music - jenny@uccmedina.org

Cathy Fafarak, Organist & Office Assistant – cathy@uccmedina.org

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

Jack Sharpe, Maintenance

Nick Brlan, Custodian

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Where Are You, God?

This is the first Sunday of Advent, the season when we set time aside to express the human longing for God to be right here with us. There are many moods in this season. Some of us are too busy and some of us are too lonely. Some of us take joy in all that there is, some of us grieve all that is lost. Some of us find comfort in the same story told a new way each year, some of us just want to hurry along to the turning of the year. Some of us find deep peace in the rituals of this season, and some of us feel very anxious. And many of us feel all these things! On each of our Advent Sundays, we are invited to sink deeply into our spiritual lives with a time of devotion and contemplation, knowing that God meets us exactly where we are - busy and lonely, joyful and grieving, comfortable and hurried, peaceful and anxious.

*Give us life, and we will call on your name. / Restore us, O God:
Let your face shine, that we may be saved. Psalm 80:18b-19*

First, read the focus scripture for this day. Read it again, more slowly, perhaps even out loud. Now read it a third time. What are the questions or images that come to mind? Here are some to get you started. You may have others.

- With one voice, the people call for life, meaning that they have felt in some way dead or numb to the world and to God. Have you or your community ever felt far from God or God's purpose for you? What was that like? Remember that people in all times and places have had seasons of feeling far from God, but that did not stop them from seeking God's face.
- The people cry out to be restored, brought back to life. What would it look like to be restored or renewed? What is your most audacious hope for the future of yourself or your faith community? Make it your intention, in these next weeks until the coming of the Christ Child, to imagine without limits all the good that God has in store for you.
- The people ask for God's face to shine upon them. Remember now a time that you felt God's presence very close and near. Where were you? What did it look, sound, smell like? Who were you with? It might be a time and place very far away; it might be the place where you are right now. Allow yourself to bask in the warmth of God's close companionship.
- The people ask to be saved. Some traditions proclaim the idea of being "saved" more than others. Does the notion of being saved resonate with your spirituality? Why or why not? Is there another word you would use in place of this one?

End your time with this prayer: *God, sometimes we are too busy to find you. Sometimes we are lonely, and you feel far away. Wherever we are, come near to us we pray. Amen.*