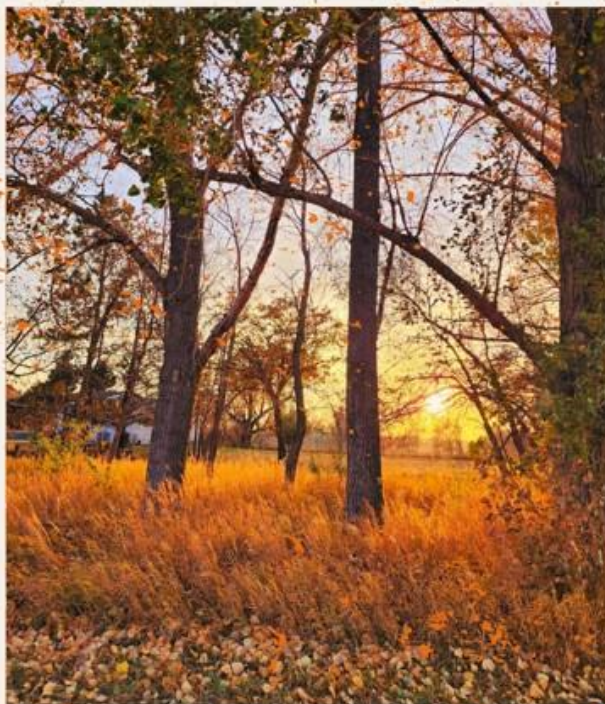


GOD'S OWN FIELD



Sing a song of

HARVEST HOME

12

NOVEMBER

MEDINA UCC, CONGREGATIONAL



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 “Come, You Thankful People, Come” – setting, Becki Slagle Mayo Cathy Fafrak, Piano

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Wild Goose Big Book of Worship Resources* from the Iona Community page 181)

Holy Spirit of God,

We invite you among us.

As we come to celebrate your harvest and pray for your justice

We also ask you to bring your peace.

So that the quiet place inside us may speak.

In stillness, may we be at one with you and our neighbor. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

ST. GEORGE’S WINDSOR 7.7.7.7.D

Henry Alford, 1810-1871

George J. Elvey, 1816-1893

1. Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come, Raise the song of har - vest home;
2. All the world is God's own field, Fruit un - to his praise to yield;
3. For the Lord our God shall come, And shall take his har - vest home;
4. E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come, Bring thy fi - nal har - vest home;

All is safe - ly gath - er - ed in, Ere the win - ter storms be - gin;
 Wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, Un - to joy or sor - row grown;
 From his field shall in that day, All of - fens - es purge a - way,
 Gath - er thiou thy peo - ple in, Free from sor - row, free from sin,

God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide For our wants to be sup - plied;
 First the blade, and then the ear, Then the full corn shall ap - pear;
 Give his an - gels charge at last, In the fire the tares to cast,
 There, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, In thy pres - ence to a - bide;

Come to God's own tem - ple, come, Raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we Whole - some grain and pure may be.
 But the fruit - ful ears to store In his gar - ner ev - er - more.
 Come, with all thine an - gels, come, Raise the glo - rious har - vest home. A - men.

OPENING PRAYER

As we enter more fully into this worship,
 we recognize what you already know, oh God.
 Our lives can be tangled with thorns.
 Thorns of failure and sadness.
 Tangles of duties and demands.
 Lord, cut away the thorns that wound and choke.
 Free us to live and to grow in your light.
 May we be fully at home,
 In this earth, your own field. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" – arr. John Leavitt

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25:14-30 (N.T. pg. 27)

Ashley Bonsell, 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

"Sing a Song of Harvest Home: God’s Own Field"

The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

REFLECTION HYMN

"The Servant Song"

THE SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.
Richard Gillard © 1977, alt
© 1977 Scripture in Song, admin. by Maranatha! Music c/o The Copyright Co.
Richard Gillard, arr. A. Eugene Ellsworth, 1994



1. Sis - ter, let me be your ser - vant, bro - ther,
2. We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, fel - low
3. I will weep when you are weep - ing, when you
4. When we sing to God in heav - en, we shall



1. let me walk with you; pray that I may
2. trav - 'lers on the road. We are here to
3. laugh I'll laugh with you. I will share your
4. find such har - mo - ny, born of all we've



1. have the grace to let you be my ser - vant too.
2. help each oth - er walk the mile and bear the load.
3. joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney thro'.
4. known to - geth - er of great love and ag - o - ny.

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!

Stewardship Moment Todd Bauer

***Doxology** (words, Ruth Duck, ©2005, GIA Publications)

**Praise God, the Source of life and birth; Praise God, the Word, who came to earth;
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame; All glory, honor to God's Name! Amen.**

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Your world is an island of life and beauty
Formed of stardust and warmed by the sun
Below us lies molten rock, above us the cold vacuum
We live between, our home-
this thin strip of soil, water, and air.
We share our lives together, united by your Holy Spirit
Upon this field you lived in Christ, died and rose again.
We thank you for our home on earth.
We thank you for our lives together.
We thank you for your love and care.
We thank you for the harvest. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"We Plow the Fields"

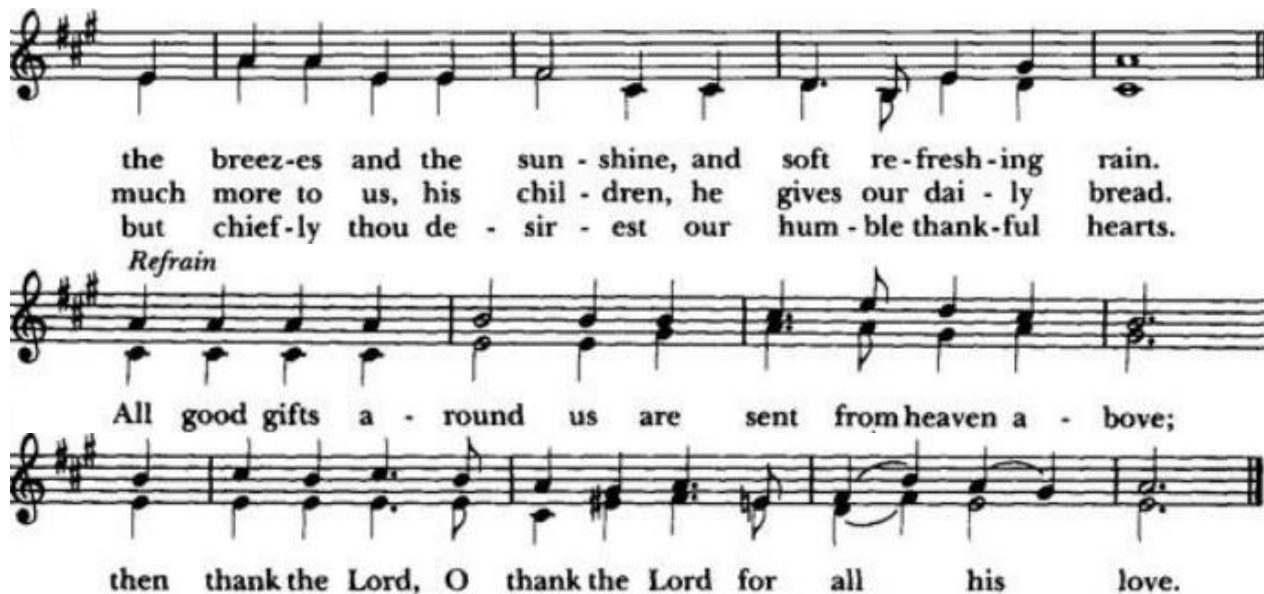
Matthias Claudius (1740-1913); tr. Jane Montgomery Campbell (1817-1878); alt.

WIR PFLÜGEN 7.6.7.6.D. with refrain
Johann Abraham Peter Schulz (1747-1800)

1 We plow the fields, and scat - ter the good seed on the land,
2 He on - ly is the Ma - ker of all things near and far;
3 We thank thee, then, O Fa - ther, for all things bright and good,

but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand;
he paints the way-side flow - er, he lights the eve - ning star;
the seed - time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food:

he sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,
the winds and waves o - bey him, by him the birds are fed;
the gifts we have to of - fer are what thy love im - parts,



*ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION

Holy Spirit of God,
may the space within that we keep for you become ever deeper and wider.
May the busyness of our brains
and the cares of our hearts give way to the light of your presence.
May the Triune God: Creator, Christ, and Spirit
Come home with us this harvest time and evermore. 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 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" – J. Walther/ed. J. Linker 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 Beth Hari

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Nick Brlan, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 12, 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

November 12, 2023 thru November 19, 2023 WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	10:00 am	Children's Choir rehearsal
	10:30 am	Sanctuary Worship
	11:30 am	Mission Team Meeting
	3:00 pm	Confirmation Class
Mon	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
	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thurs	7:00 pm	ONA Task Force Meeting
	7:00 pm	Bible Study
Fri		
Sat	4:30 pm	CE Bake Sale
Sun	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	9:45 am	Children's Choir rehearsal
	10:30 am	Sanctuary Worship
	11:45 am	Caring Team Meeting
	4:30 pm	Youth Group
	4:30 pm	Men's Group

NOTICE!

WE WILL NOT BE MAILING THE PILGRIM MESSENGER THANKSGIVING WEEK.

You can still read the Pilgrim Messenger in its entirety **online!** Just go to our website at: www.uccmedina.org. Scroll down until you find Worship Bulletins and Pilgrim Messenger on the right side of the page.

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

Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30

Sermon: "Sing a Song of Harvest Home: God's Own Field" – The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The communion table flowers are given by Edward Farnham in memory of his wife, Helen W. Farnham.

STEWARDSHIP SEASON IS HERE

Some of you may have noticed that the QR code in the stewardship mailing was directing you to a phony site. **The problem has been corrected and the code will take you directly to Realm.** You may also use this link to connect you to the giving portion of Realm:

<https://onrealm.org/uccmedina/give/2024PLEDGE>

You can also text "UCCMEDINA 2024 PLEDGE" to 73256 to give using your mobile device or fill out a traditional pledge card and drop it in the box in the office. Additional cards can be found in the pews and in the office.

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 to be simple, so would you please consider hosting Coffee Hour one Sunday?

IT'S POINSETTIA TIME!

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](#).

CANDLELIGHT WALK BAKE SALE

Calling all bakers! The Discipleship & Education team will once again be hosting a bake sale during the Candlelight Walk on Saturday, November 18th from 4:30 - 7:00 pm. If you would like to donate a yummy baked good for the bake sale, please sign up here and let us know what you are bringing:

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

All baked goods should be labeled and pre-wrapped for individual sale and dropped off at the church kitchen on Friday, November 17th between 9:00 am – Noon. Past patrons have been very grateful for allergy safe treats. Funds collected from the bake sale will be used for Christian education and youth programming. Thank you so much for your support.

YOUTH TALENT SHOW

We are excited to bring back a youth talent show in place of a Christmas pageant this year on Sunday, December 10th! We will have a dress rehearsal with pizza on Friday, December 8th. Please sign up at:

<https://tinyurl.com/2023youthtalentshow> **by today, Sunday, November 12th** if your youth plan to participate. Youth of all ages are welcome! Those who are hesitant to share a talent "on stage" are needed as narrators and stage crew.

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.

ENDOWMENT FUND REQUEST DEADLINE

The Endowment Fund Committee is pleased to announce that applications are available to apply for funding for special projects and improvements for operating year 2024. Each Fall, Endowment provides financial support from the Endowment Fund earnings to underwrite mission trips, property and grounds improvements, outreach projects and any additional items not covered within your Team Budget. Copies of the Grant Application Form are available in the Church Office, East Room and Fellowship Hall. **Deadline for submission: Friday, November 17, 2023.** Questions? Contact Matt Yates at 330-321-9679 or Kelly Charnley at 330-421-3313.

CONNECTION OUTREACH CIRCLE NEEDS YOUR HELP

Connection Outreach Circle (CoC) keeps in touch with our most senior adult (80+ year old) church membership who are in residential care facilities, homebound, and shut-in, and keeps in touch with our congregation-at-large.

Interested in service outreach, though unsure of where to serve? If you enjoy visiting and chatting...how about the Visitation Team? Love flowers...how about the Seasonal Flowers Team? Enjoy sending cards and notes...how about the Sunday Greeting Cards Table Team? Enjoy handicrafts, sewing, knitting, and/or crocheting...how about the Craft Makers Group (Seasonal Crafts, Fidget Aprons/Warm Hugs Wraps, Prayer Shawls)? **Take a pamphlet to learn more about CoC and its teams!** A sign-up sheet of teams is posted in the East Room Hallway.

LEFTOVER CANDY?

Are you wondering what to do with all that leftover Halloween candy you always have? The Mission Team will be collecting all your candy and treats throughout November. We plan to make goodie bags with the candy and distribute them to various groups in our community over the next few months. Thank you!

DONATION OF THE MONTH

November's donation of the month will be supplies to fill Church World Service Emergency Cleanup Buckets, which will be assembled during youth group on November 19th. Our goal is to fill 20 buckets! It is important that the supplies are exactly what CWS has asked for, so please check the description of each item on their official website before buying.

<https://cwskits.org/assemble-kits/emergency-cleanup-buckets/>. Please sign up to donate by following this link: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8eexp6>. Scan the QR code with your phone's camera to open our amazon wish-list, where you can purchase items from the list and have them sent directly to the church!



NO MONDAY CLASSES WITH LUKE AND MEGHAN

Dear friends, thank you all for taking the time to come out and learn with us over the past month. We originally planned to extend our classes to meet again this Monday 11/13. However, the past few weeks have been very busy, and we pastors need a little time to catch up on our rest. So, we are cancelling this last class session. We still hope that if there are topics you want to discuss, and ideas you have for future classes, you will let us know by email, text, carrier pigeon, telegram, or by sharing a cup of coffee. We would love to hear your thoughts and keep these conversations going. Blessings!

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

November 12, 2023
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Stewardship Sunday

Matthew 25:1-13

Tending God's Light

Today's story reminds us that we all carry the light of Christ within us, and it is our joy as well as our responsibility as followers of Christ to tend to that light so that it can shine brightly in service of God and the world.

As this year's stewardship materials remind us, because of YOU and the light you shine in the world, our church changes lives. The materials claim, "It is a statement both bold and simple. It boldly expresses the truth about the ultimate nature and the purpose of the church: to engage in acts of transformation. It boldly asserts that we see our mission as one that gives assurance to every individual that their life matters, not because we say so, but because the gospel says so.

...We can be bold because we know it's true. Our own life stories bear witness that being a part of the beloved community in some way has either made us different or causes us to fervently believe that it will. It gives us hope, reminds us of our value, calls us to discover and claim our purpose, clarifies the moral Right and Wrong, motivates us to be a part of something bigger than ourselves all for the sake of change! Change that can more closely align us and our world with the values of the Realm of God. Our church matters because of you.

Our theme, Because of YOU, our church changes lives, is also simple. It recognizes that each of us, by our gifts and the decisions we make to employ them, power this sacred work. Our resources make ministry happen. The arithmetic is not complex. Our choice to grow in our generosity to the church increases the impact of the difference it makes.

By choosing to give even a little bit more, we will expand our shared quest to change lives - even our own. Be bold! Take a step forward in your generosity. It's simple! The choice is yours!"

God has given you a light to tend. How will you tend that light today and into the year to come? The choice to let your light shine is as simple as it is bold. Let it shine!