



KENZIE ARMBRUST AND PASTOR LUKE



LOVE  
*Kindness*  
DO  
*Justice*  
WALK  
*Humbly*  
STEWARDSHIP  
**MICAH  
SIX:EIGHT**



# 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 10:30 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 “We Gather Together” – Netherlands Folk Tune/arr. Victor Labenske Cathy Fafrak, Piano

### WELCOME

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

### \*OPENING HYMN

### “We Gather Together”

KREMSER 12.11.12.11.

Wilt heden nu treden; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, alt.

Neder-landsch Gedenckclanck, 1626




1. We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing; He
2. Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing, Whose
3. We all do ex - tol you, our lead - er tri - um-phant, And



1. chas - tens and has - tens his will to make known; The
2. king - dom calls all to the love which en - dures. So
3. pray that you still our de - fend - er will be. Let



1. wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing: Sing
2. from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning: You,
3. your con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion: Your



1. prais - es to his name; he for - gets not his own.  
 2. Lord, were at our side; all \_\_\_\_ glo - ry be yours!  
 3. name be ev - er praised! O \_\_\_\_ Lord, make us free!

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Today, we gather to strengthen the ties that bind us.  
**We bring our pledges, our talents, and our time.**  
 Together, we build a community of love and service.  
**With God’s love, Christ’s way, and the Spirit’s guidance, we worship.**  
 Come, let us worship God with humble hearts and open hands.

**ANTHEM**      “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” – Janet Linker & Jane McFadden                      Alleluia Ringers

**SCRIPTURE**              Micah 6:1-8              (O.T. pg. 816)                      Alice Metzloff, Liturgist

**TOM EVANS AWARD**

**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.

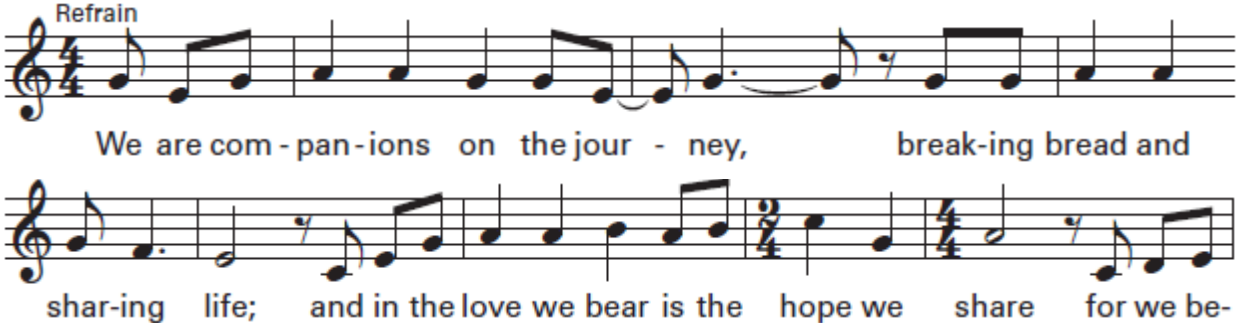
**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

**SERMON**                      “Walk Humbly”                                              Kenzie Armbrust & The Rev. Dr. Luke Linton

**HYMN**                                              “Companions on the Journey” (vs. 4)

*Text and music © 1985, Carey Landry and OCP. All rights reserved.*



Refrain  
 We are com - pan - ions on the jour - ney, break - ing bread and  
 shar - ing life; and in the love we bear is the hope we share for we be -

lieve in the love of our God, we be-lieve in the love of our God.

Verse 4

4. We are made for the glo-ry of our God, for ser-vice in the name of

4. Je-sus; to walk side by side with hope in our hearts, for we be-

to Refrain

4. lieve in the love of our God, we be-lieve in the love of our God.

## BUILDING THE TALENT BANK

### OFFERING OUR PLEDGES

*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. You can also give through VENMO. Look for our Venmo QR codes by the offering plates. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!*

**\*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.

**\*Giving Thanks**

Gracious Mystery, you have shown us what is good: to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you. For the blessings of life and community, for opportunities to serve and grow, we give you thanks. May our gifts, large and small, be used to further your justice and mercy in this world. Accept our offerings and bless our intentions, as we seek to walk in your way. Amen.

### \*SENDING HYMN

"Thank You, Lord"

*Traditional spiritual; arr. Stephen Key (2) 2000 GIA Publications, Inc.*

1. Thank you, Lord, thank you, Lord,  
 2. Been so good, been so good,

thank you, Lord,  
 been so good, I just want to thank you, Lord.

# **\*ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **\*BENEDICTION**

As we go forth, may we do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.  
**May our lives reflect the love of Christ, and may the Spirit guide our steps.**  
 Go now in peace, to love and serve for this service has ended;  
**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    "Now Thank We All Our God" Op. 65, No. 20 – Sigfrid Karg-Elert      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 Metzloff Family***

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### ***PASTORAL STAFF***

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Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian



# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## NOVEMBER 24, 2024

**“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS.  
MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY!”**

Live streaming of the 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary service is available at [www.uccmedina.org/live](http://www.uccmedina.org/live)

### November 24 thru December 1, 2024 WEEK AT A GLANCE

**Sun** 8:15 am Chapel Worship  
9:00 am Gathering Worship  
9:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 am Blake Food Donations Due  
10:00 am Children's Choir Rehearsal  
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship  
10:30 am Jesus Vibes  
10:30 am Teen Church  
**11:30 am DECORATE THE CHURCH!**

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

**Tues**

**Wed** 10:30 am Quilters  
6:00 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal  
7:00 pm Finance/Stewardship Meeting

**Thurs**



**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

**Fri** **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

**Sat**

**Sun** 8:00 am Blake Food List Posted  
8:15 am Chapel Worship  
9:00 am Gathering Worship  
9:45 am Children's Choir Rehearsal  
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship  
10:30 am Jesus Vibes  
4:30 pm Advent Family Fun Night

### NOTICE!

**WE WILL NOT BE MAILING THE PILGRIM  
MESSENGER THIS WEEK.**

You can still read the Pilgrim Messenger **online!**  
Just go to our website at: [www.uccmedina.org](http://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 & 10:30 am

Scripture: Micah 6:1-8

Sermon: “Walk Humbly” with Kenzie Armbrust  
and the Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

**Communion Table:** The communion table flowers  
are given by Ken & Karen Zuehlke in honor of their  
anniversary.

### IT'S POINSETTIA TIME!

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. **The deadline for  
ordering is December 9<sup>th</sup>.** Pick up an order slip from  
one of the ushers, call the church office or download  
one off the [church website here](http://www.uccmedina.org) under “Upcoming  
Events” or you may order through [REALM here](http://www.REALM.org).

### CHURCH DECORATING

With Advent quickly approaching, we need to turn our  
attention to the Christmas decorating process of our  
beautiful church. We plan to assemble immediately  
**after the 10:30 church service today, November  
24<sup>th</sup>. Please come and join us if you would like to  
help!** Photos and instructions will be provided for  
each area. With the help of our veteran volunteers,  
we should be completed well before 3:00 pm. Thank  
you in advance.

### ADVENT FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Families of all ages are invited to come to Fellowship  
Hal on December 1<sup>st</sup> from 4:30-6 pm to have some  
Advent-themed fun. There will be crafts for all ages,  
sugar cookies to decorate, and plenty of hot cocoa for  
all!

## GIVING TREE

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Our Giving Tree will be on display upstairs next to the elevator until December 18<sup>th</sup>. The items on the tree will be distributed to the eight families we support from Blake Elementary, the Juvenile Detention Center and Prospect Pantry. Please return unwrapped gifts on or before December 18<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your continued support.

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

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Mark your calendars now for the annual Christmas Program. On Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, the children and youth will present "Manger Tales." We've all heard the stories of Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and wise men, but what about the others who were there when baby Jesus was born? We will introduce you to the animals that were there to hear the Christmas story from a different point of view and give you a fresh perspective on the Wonder of Christmas.

## NOVEMBER DONATION

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During the month of November, we will be accepting donations of new and gently used games and activities for Claggett Middle School. They need these for the kids' lunch periods.

## A GLORIOUS CHRISTMAS!

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Join us as the Chancel Choir performs Mark Hayes' exciting three-movement "Gloria" on December 15<sup>th</sup> during the 10:30 service. The Alleluia Ringers will add the delight of an energetic handbell version of "Do You Hear What I Hear?" The morning will feature some delightful offerings from our organist, Cathy, and a vocal cameo from Music Director, Jenny Cochran.

## ANNUAL REPORTS DUE SOON

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Annual Report time is near! As we are working on our 2025 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 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

## JACKIE'S JARS

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The Mission Team is putting out Jackie's jars during this season of giving. Collect all your loose change and give it to a place it is needed. In honor of our own saint, Jackie, these donations will be given to the Medina County Office for Older Adults which offers Monday, Wednesday, and Friday lunches for county residents. Jars are due back on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## ENDOWMENT FUND GRANT APPLICATIONS – FINAL WEEK

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The Endowment Committee is pleased to announce that there is over \$51,000 available for distribution. Grant applications are still available for any 2025 projects that may not fall in the 2025 Budget for Operations, Mission or Capital. Applications are in the rack near the church office and need to be completed and returned to the Endowment Committee mailbox in the church office by **Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup>**. Any questions contact Kelly Charnley 330-421-3313 or Matt Yates 330-321-9679.



## DELT SURVEY

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The Discipleship & Education Leadership Team (DELT) is beginning to develop a strategic plan for the future of the children and youth ministry. We have created a survey to help us gain information about our current programming. We would appreciate your honest feedback — constructive criticism is welcome! Your opinion is valued even if you do not have a child participating. The survey can be found through the QR code or at the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/MUCCyouthministrysurvey>

Thank you!

## 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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Today, Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> – December 15<sup>th</sup> the Circle of Caring Outreach winter crafts will be available for delivery. Visit the display in the Welcome Area to sign out a craft. Please call ahead to make arrangements.

## HOBBY HORSE PRESCHOOL

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Thank you to all who placed a butter braid order during our Butter Braid Fundraiser. We raised a grand total of \$1,997.70. These funds will be used to purchase new air conditioning units for the preschool classrooms. Hooray! We will hold our annual Butter Braid Fundraiser again, same time next year. You won't want to miss it! They are yummy!

## JAZZY CHRISTMAS

### Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm

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Gateway Jazz Band will once again delight the audience with a spirited concert of holiday fare, performed in the band's unique style! Featuring Jennifer Cochran and greater Cleveland area jazz musicians, the concert will also feature our church's Chancel Choir bookending the concert with two lively Christmas offerings. A free will donation will be taken and a bake sale at intermission will support our music program.

## YOUR STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

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This year, your gifts have allowed our church to bring comfort to grieving families through 11 funeral services. Your generosity provided resources for memorial arrangements and receptions, where families could gather, share memories, and find solace. With your support, our Hospitality Team served meals, and our pastors created spaces for reflection and offered compassionate care. Each family felt the love and support of our church community in their time of need. Thank you for making this ministry possible, bringing peace to those in their darkest hours.

Furthermore, we formed a lot of faith, too. The Rev'd Up! With Meghan and Luke podcast reached 730 people. The Sermoncast has 450 views. Our Monday Bible studies averaged 25 attendees at both 2 and 7 pm. Many thanks to Melanie Schwieterman, Deacon Paul Kipstuhl, and Kimberly Gallagher for their contributions. Special thanks to the Endowment Team for sponsoring Colby Martin's talk, "The (Not So) Secret of Life," which drew 92 people, half from outside our congregation, including visitors from Avon Lake and Millersburg! And the WATOTO Children's Choir Concert had 221 people attend and we raised \$2,470 for this important ministry!

Through your generosity, the grieving are comforted and the good news proclaimed! Thank you! Make sure to get your 2025 pledge into the office as soon as you can.

-The Finance & Stewardship Team

## COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

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The 2025 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 \$25.00, which is due prior to the date you sponsor**. Also, please write what you would like printed in the Messenger and if you want to claim your flowers after the 10:30 service.

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## COFFEE HOUR

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Please consider signing up to host a coffee hour. **Most of December, January and February are available!** If you have any questions, Liz Wolff will be your “go to” person for help. **If no one signs up to host, we will not have coffee hour.** Signups are in the East Room Hallway.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW & SAVE THE DATE!

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The Chili Cook-Off is back once again! Mark your calendars and plan to join us! Details coming soon...

**JANUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>:**

**ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP at 10:30 a.m.**

**ANNUAL MEETING at 11:30 a.m.**

**CHILI COOK-OFF TO FOLLOW MEETING at 12:00 p.m.**

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## ADVENT STUDY

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*Together, let's embrace this Advent with eyes wide open and hearts ready to receive whatever comes—whether it's the comfort of a quiet moment, the challenge of an unanswered question, or the joy of a small, unexpected gift. May our waiting be filled with a hope that is both honest and defiant, a hope that holds space for all that is still broken while believing in a love that will one day make everything right.*



**You can access this study with the link below. If you need a printed copy of the booklet, please contact the church office. We will be happy to print one for you!**

If you'd like to print your own or share this journey with others, feel free to share this link:

[katebowler.com/advent](http://katebowler.com/advent)

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

John 18:33-37

### **“A Wise Reign”**

Today is Christ the King Sunday, a festival on church calendars that brings our attention once again to the why God sent his Son to us — to reign with righteousness, justice, peace and love.

It's a day we hear Jesus in John's Gospel telling Pilate, an earthly ruler, that the kingdom that Jesus has come to establish is not from here. It is beyond policies, agendas and elections. Perhaps that is why the use of the word “kin-dom” rather than “kingdom” is better suited for our time, as it emphasizes a reign where we are indeed kin, a family called to care for one another.

The celebration of Christ the King Sunday, though, is not an ancient church festival like Epiphany or Pentecost.

Christ the King Sunday was created by Pope Pius XI in 1925 to address the rise of communism and fascism that was taking place in Europe. He had envisioned his papacy to be “the reestablishment of the Kingdom of Christ by the peace of Christ,” and sought ways to lead people back to loving God first in a world that was being divided by politics.

Almost a century later, it is not hard to imagine the fears felt in the uncertain and volatile world of 1925. In many ways, they are the same. What will tomorrow bring for my family? Will my children be safe? When will the fighting end? Will there be jobs? Food? Housing?

Our world is still filled with power grabs and political loyalties that pit families, friends and congregations against one another. The Reign of Christ seems so distant. The reign of love so elusive. The reign of peace so impossible.

Yet here we are. Christ the King Sunday 2024. Where have we placed our trust for a hopeful tomorrow? If that trust is in the hands of mere mortals, we are in trouble. But if that trust is in God who reigns now and forever, then we just might have a chance in seeing peace in our lifetime.

In The Lord's Prayer there's a line recited that says, “thy kingdom come.” What if today we stop right there and ask ourselves what is this kingdom we are praying for? Have we given it any thought to what it really looks like? How is this kingdom asking us to change how we live — how we use your resources to help others?

Jesus' kingdom is not from here. It is a kingdom foretold by the prophet Isaiah as one where the poor hear good news, the brokenhearted are comforted and prisoners are set free. It is a kingdom where all are welcome, and no one is without.

*God, You so loved the world that You gave us Your Son who is our Lord, Savior, Redeemer and King. May today we catch the vision of Christ's reign here in our time, and may our words and deeds help to usher in thy kingdom. Amen.*