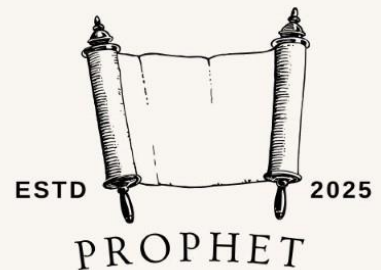




THE WEIGHT OF LEADERSHIP





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, Thou Almighty King” – trad./arr. Phillip Keveren

Cathy Fafrak, Piano

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Come Thou Almighty King”

ITALIAN HYMN 6.6.4.6.6.4.

Words: Anonymous, c. 1760 Music: Felice de Giardini, 1769, desc. Charles H. Webb

Desc. © 1965 (renewed) Shawnee Press, Inc. (ASCAP)

1. Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy
2. Come, thou in - car - nate Word, gird on thy
3. Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred
4. To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal

name to sing; help us to praise: one God, all
might - y sword; our prayer at - tend: come, and thy
wit - ness bear in this glad hour! Thou who al -
prais - es be hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - ereign



glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic - to - ri - ous,
 peo - ple bless, and give thy word suc - cess;
 might - y art, now rule in ev - ery heart,
 maj - es - ty may we in glo - ry see,

come, and reign o - ver us, an - cient of days.
 Spir - it of ho - li - ness, on us de - scend.
 and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of power.
 and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, people of God, seeking wisdom for the journey.

We come, longing to hear God's voice in a noisy world.

Come, as those called to participate in God's unfolding story.

We come, ready to embrace our shared responsibility for justice and love.

Let us worship the One who calls us to lead with humility and serve with courage.

We come to worship, to listen, and to respond.

ANTHEM

"Simply Alleluia" – based on a canon by William Boyce; music by Donald Moore

Chancel Choir; Jen Vilimonovic, violin

SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 8:4-22 (O.T. pg. 239)

Kimberly Gallagher, 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

REFLECTION HYMN

"Jesus Call Us O'er the Tumult"

GALILEE 8:7,8,9.
William H. Jude, 1874

Cecil F. Alexander, 1852

1. Je - sus calls us o'er the tu - mult of our
 2. Long a - go a - pos - tles heard it by the
 3. Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
 4. In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
 5. Je - sus calls us! By thy mer - cies, Sav - ior,

1. life's wild rest - less sea, day by day his sweet voice
 2. Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home, and toil, and
 3. vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
 4. toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
 5. may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thine o -

1. sound - eth, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me";
 2. kin - dred, leav - ing all for his dear sake.
 3. keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
 4. plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
 5. be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

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!

Offering Invitation

God has given us the gifts of life, love, and community. We are called to share these gifts generously, participating in the transformation of the world.

Let us bring our offerings with gratitude and joy here, and in all places in our lives.

*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.

*Give Thanks

God of abundance, we give thanks for the gifts we bring today—time, treasure, and talent.

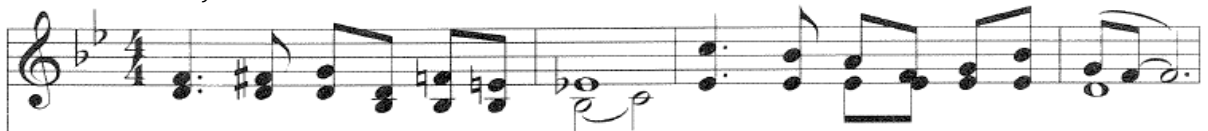
Use these offerings to further Your work of justice, mercy, and love in the world. Empower us to live as your hands and feet, co-creating with you a world where all are seen, valued, and cherished. In the image and imitation of your son, our Christ. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

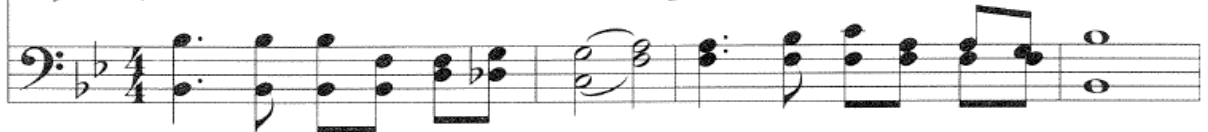
"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

Words & Music: Anonymous

CLOSER WALK Irr. w. refrain



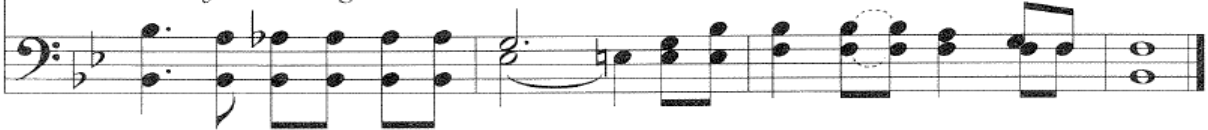
1. I am weak, but thou art strong; Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
2. Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
3. When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;
Refrain: Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it, Je - sus, is my plea,



D. C. for Refrain



I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore.
dai - ly walk - ing close to thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



*ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BENEDICTION**

In the tradition and blessings of our ancestors, we believe in the power of the local, covenant community.
The blessing of having both community and autonomy.
No king over us.
No lord but Christ.
The comfort and the challenge of our agency,
No one can live our life for us!
Life is a gift,
and gifts are meant to be used and enjoyed.
Life is a gift
Life is meant to be lived!
So go! Live your life! Reflecting God’s love, Christ’s way, and following the Spirit wherever she may lead you! 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 “Rigaudon” – David H. Hegarty Cathy Fafrak, Organ**

“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”

+++++

****Please join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the service****

Coffee Hour is hosted this week by Beth Hari & Becky Weber

+++++

Music in this bulletin reprinted/podcast/streamed with permission under:
ONE LICENSE, License #A-605137. All rights reserved and CCLI, License #1637380 & #213338

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - luke@uccmedina.org
Rev. Meghan Malone, Associate Pastor of Youth & Mission - meghan@uccmedina.org
Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor – karen@uccmedina.org

OFFICE STAFF

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - office@uccmedina.org
Pete Metzloff, Church Treasurer - pete@uccmedina.org

PROGRAM STAFF

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education – stacie@uccmedina.org
Jennifer Cochran, Director of Music - jenny@uccmedina.org
Cathy Fafrak, Organist & Office Assistant – cathy@uccmedina.org
Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – jen@uccmedina.org
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

JANUARY 12, 2025

**“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

January 12 thru January 19, 2025

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun 8:00 am Blake Donation List Posted
8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Children's Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
10:30 am Jesus Vibes
11:30 am Undecorate the Church
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting
11:45 am Safety Team Meeting
11:45 pm Hospitality Team Meeting
3:00 pm Confirmation Class

Mon 2:00 pm **Prophet & King Bible Study**
5:00 pm Kids Book Club
7:00 pm **Prophet & King Bible Study**

Tues 6:30 pm **OWL Class for Teens**
6:30 pm **Parent OWL Class**
7:00 pm Worship Team Meeting

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
6:00 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal

Thurs

Fri

Sat

Sun 8:00 am Blake Donation List Due
8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Children's Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
10:30 am Jesus Vibes
4:30 pm Youth Group Snow Tubing
Boston Mills Ski Resort

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

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 8:4-22

Sermon: “The Weight of Leadership”
Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The communion table flowers are given Ken & Liz Wolff in honor of their wedding anniversary.

UNDECORATE THE CHURCH

If you'd like to help take down all the Christmas decorations, please stay after the 10:30 service this morning. Many hands make light work!

OUR WHOLE LIVES CLASSES

2 classes: High Schoolers and Parents

Our first OWL classes will take place Jan 14th - Feb. 18th on Tuesday nights, 6:30-7:30 pm in the Youth Room. **This class is for high school students** and will be co-facilitated by Pastor Meghan and Logan Yates. Pastor Luke will lead a **group for parents happening at the same time upstairs in the East Room!** If you are interested, please reach out to Pastor Meghan.

PARENT MEETING FOR 3RD GRADE BIBLE CLASS

There will be a meeting for parents of third graders who are interested in receiving a Bible. The meeting will be at 10:00 on Sunday, January 26th. We will meet in the library to discuss expectations, schedule and other important information. Please see Stacie Yates with any questions.

**The church office will be closed on
Monday, January 20th
in observance of MLK Day**

SAVE THE DATE

JANUARY 26TH: ONE SERVICE at 10:30 am
ANNUAL MEETING at 11:30 am
CHILI COOK OFF TO FOLLOW at noon



WOMEN'S RETREAT

Pastor Meghan and Kim Gallagher will lead a women's retreat on Saturday, Jan. 25th from 10:00 am – 3:30 pm. Our theme is "Held" based on Psalm 94:17-19. We'll spend the day being held in community, being held by God, and holding space for each other. This event is free for all the feminine folks in our church, but please register on Realm so we'll have plenty of supplies. Youth in 6th grade and up (who don't mind a lot of sitting-still activities) are welcome to join us. If you'd like to help with lunch, please bring a cold salad to share (pasta, fruit, veggie, whatever!) and we'll have a nice light potluck. Other than that – dress comfy and simply bring your beautiful selves!

HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER TRIP WITH OTHER+WISE

This summer's trip is going to be a bit different. This is not a service or mission trip, but a cross-cultural experience to broaden our understanding. We will travel to Tahlequah, Oklahoma to be immersed in Cherokee culture and indigenous spirituality with the organization Other+Wise, run by Lutheran pastors. This trip will be both enlightening and fun! The dates for this trip are June 26th-July 3rd, and the cost will be \$180 per student (entering 9th grade or higher next school year). Please register for this trip on Realm by the end of January!



YOUTH GROUP SNOW TUBING



For Youth Group on January 19th, we will go tubing at Boston Mills from 4:30-6:30pm. Youth who want to participate must register on Realm (Cost is \$15). Meet at the church at 3:45pm for carpooling! Scan the QR code for registration!

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Join us for our next New Member! We believe anyone is welcome to gather with us, but there is something special about making a deeper commitment to contribute to what God is doing in and through Medina UCC – and these classes are a great place for us to cast this vision, hear your story, and help you take the next step to commit to calling UCC your church home.

New Member class will be on **Wednesday, January 29th at 7 pm in the new library**. New members will join the church on Sunday, February 2nd. If you wish to participate, you may contact the church office at 330-725-4559.

JANUARY DONATION

The donation of the month for January is fleece fabric! The youth group is going to make blankets for Project Linus on February 3rd! Project Linus distributes blankets to children in hospitals, shelters, social service agencies, or anywhere else children might be in need of a big hug. **Please note:**

- Must be "blizzard" or "anti-pill" fleece.
- Must be 1 & 1/2 yard pieces of fleece that is 58" - 60" wide.
- Fun, colorful, happy prints with children in mind are best!

NEW JANUARY BIBLE STUDY

We're going through the books of Samuel! First and Second Samuel contain some of the most important and consequential characters of Israel: Samuel, King Saul, and King David among many others.

Starting Monday, January 13, 2025 at 2:00 and 7:00 PM in the downstairs library, we'll begin our study all the way until Lent! Come when you can! No pre-reading is expected. The study will follow the progression of the sermon series, starting in January with the life of Samuel and transitioning in February to David's rise and reign.

Each session will correspond to the upcoming weekly sermon text, giving us an opportunity to dig deeper into the Scripture and themes. You may even hear your insights from the pulpit!

Yours in Christ,
-Pastor Luke

HOBBY HORSE PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

Families that are members of our Church are welcome to register their children for the 2025-2026 school year starting Monday, January 13, 2025. You may review our curriculum, classes offered and fees by visiting our website at www.hobbyhorsepreschool.org. Please contact Jennifer Vilimonovic at 330-722-1445 with any questions or email her at jen@uccmedina.org to request the registration link.

Please spread the word to friends and family who may be interested in registering that we will hold our annual Open House for new families on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 from 5:30-7:00. This is a great way to meet our staff and get important preschool information. No registration is required for this event.

BROKEN CHRISTMAS LIGHTS?

Rhett Behler is collecting broken, non-working, or used holiday lights for recycling to benefit the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and their efforts to support the lion and cheetah conservation program! Please look for the labeled box if you'd like to donate from now until February 2nd, 2025.

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



MEDINA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Chili COOK OFF

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26TH
12PM

free to attend with free will offering accepted

SIGN UP
TODAY!

Bring the Heat!

RSVP
BY
Jan. 19TH

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: ALL ATTENDEES AND PARTICIPANTS SHOULD RSVP/SIGN UP ONLINE OR AFTER ANY CHURCH SERVICE ON 1/5, 1/12, OR 1/19. PARTICIPATING CHILIS SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO CHURCH (WARMED/IN CROCK-POT) BY 10AM ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 26TH.

MENU: CHILI SAMPLES, BOWLS OF PREVIOUS WINNING CHILIS, CORN BREAD, HOT DOGS/CHILI DOGS, DESSERTS, DRINKS & TOPPINGS BAR!

ATTENDEES:
YOU BE THE JUDGE!
CHILI SAMPLES
TOPPINGS BAR

Register/RSVP at: <https://tinyurl.com/38n7y6s7>
CONTACT LIZ WOLFF AT LIZWOLFF@GMAIL.COM WITH ANY QUESTIONS!

January 12, 2025
First Sunday after Epiphany
Baptism of the Lord

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

“Affirmed by Love”

The teen waded into the cold lake. With words of being joined with Christ and the community of believers through the waters of baptism, under she went — emerging seconds later with the most radiant smile anyone had ever seen.

Her father captured that smile, memorializing the day with a photo in a frame that was inscribed with the words God spoke at Jesus’ baptism, “This is my beloved.”

Now, in a shoebox apartment with a toddler getting into mischief and overdue bills piling up on the kitchen counter, the girl with the once radiant smile, wondered where it all went wrong.

Tired and defeated, she sat on the couch, staring at the wall of pictures before her. It was then she spotted her younger self staring back at her with a smile that time had forgotten.

She shifted her gaze to the words on the frame. Only this time what she heard in her heart was a whisper, “You are STILL my beloved.” Just then she did something strange. She smiled — radiantly — remembering who was still holding her.

Today is the Baptism of Our Lord Sunday. It is a day that follows the celebration of Epiphany, underscoring the season of Christ appearing to us, revealing the love he has for us and the hope that is found when we clasp our hand in his.

Here, in Luke’s gospel, Jesus is recognized as God’s beloved, emerging from his baptism in the Jordan River to God’s voice thundering praises and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. It is a new beginning for Jesus. The start of his earthly ministry.

Baptism is an invitation to new life. But as we know, life’s newness — its bright prospects, endless possibilities and hopeful promises — can fade with time.

That is why on this day we remember not only Jesus’ baptism, but our own. For the very act of remembering that we have been claimed as God’s beloveds has the power to revive us once again. It is said that on his most difficult days and times of great trials, 16th century German Reformer, Martin Luther, would repeat these words: “I am baptized.” It was Luther’s way of reminding himself that no matter how off course life got, he was still held by a loving God who was always making all things new.

We all need that baptismal reminder.

So today, fill up a sink or a bowl with water. Dip, submerge, splash your hands in it. Then close your eyes and hear God whisper to you, “You are my child, the beloved, with you I am well pleased.” And as you do, may you find a radiant smile sweeping across your face.

All-knowing and All-Loving God, may the cleansing waters of baptism wash over our lives, reviving hope for our tomorrows. May we hear Your voice this day reminding us that we are Your beloveds. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.