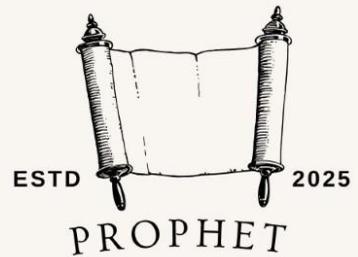




# THE FALL OF SAUL





# 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 “The Church’s One Foundation” – setting, Anne Krentz Organ Cathy Fafrak, Piano

### WELCOME

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

### \*OPENING HYMN

### “The Church’s One Foundation” (vs. 1,2,4,5)

Samuel J. Stone, 1866, alt; St. 2 adapt. Lawrence Hull Stookey, 1983, alt.  
© 1983 The United Methodist Publishing House

AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D  
Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

1. The chur- ch’s one foun- da - tion is Je- sus Christ our Lord;  
 2. Called forth from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o’er all the earth;  
 3. Though with a scorn- ful won - der the world sees us op-pressed,  
 4. Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu- mult of our war,  
 5. We now on earth have un - ion with God the Three in One,

1. we are his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the Word;  
 2. our char-ter of sal - va - tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
 3. by schis- ms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis- tressed,  
 4. we wait the con- sum- ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;  
 5. and mys- tic sweet com- mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

1. from heaven he came and sought us to be his ho - ly bride;  
 2. One ho - ly name pro - fess - ing and at one ta - ble fed,  
 3. yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up, "How long?"  
 4. till with the vi - sion glo - rious our long - ing eyes are blest,  
 5. Oh, hap - py ones, and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we

1. with his own blood he bought us, and for our life he died.  
 2. to one hope al - ways press - ing, by Christ's own Spir - it led.  
 3. And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
 4. and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.  
 5. like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, people of God, let us gather to seek wisdom and discernment.

**We come to listen for God's voice and follow God's call.**

God does not want empty rituals, but hearts committed to each other.

**We open our hearts to the Spirit, ready to act in faithfulness and love.**

Let us worship the One who calls us to humility, justice, and accountability.

**We worship God with our whole selves; walking in justice, love, and truth.**

**ANTHEM** "Jesus, Our Saviour" – Beth Kenreich

Children's Choir

**SCRIPTURE** 1 Samuel 15:10-23 (O.T. pg. 247)

Pete Metzloff, 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 SONG

## "In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful"

*Text: Taizé Community | Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994 | © 1986, 1991, 2011, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent*

In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the Lord I will re -  
 joyce! Look to God, do not be a - fraid; lift up your  
 voic - es, the Lord is near; lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near.

## 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 calls us to live lives of obedience, not just in words but in actions that reflect God's justice and love. As we offer our gifts today, may they be more than a ritual—**May they be a sign of our commitment to God's vision for a just and compassionate world. Let us give with joyful and faithful hearts as we rise in body or spirit for the doxology.**

**\*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**

**Loving and merciful God, we bring these gifts to you, not as a substitute for our agency, but as an expression of it. Use all of our gifts, and use us, to hold leaders accountable, to speak truth to power, and to act with courage in the face of injustice. May these offerings be a seed for your kingdom of equity, peace, and love. We dedicate them to your service, trusting in your wisdom and guidance. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

## \*SENDING HYMN

## "They'll Know We Are Christians"

*Words and music: Peter Scholtes, 1966 © 1966 FEL Publications, assigned to The Lorenz Corp., all rights reserved*

ST. BRENDAN'S 7.6.7.6.8.6. w/ refrain



1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,  
2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,  
3. We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,  
4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,



we are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,  
we will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,  
we will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,  
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:  
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:  
and we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride:  
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:



And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our love,



yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

## \*ANNOUNCEMENTS

## \*BENEDICTION

May you have faith, hope, and love;

**We give thanks for ancient stories and their wisdom and relevance.**

May you eat food made out of food, move your bodies, and sing;

**We are reminded of our agency and our covenant community in Christ;**

Guided by the Holy Spirit;

**Held by the love of God.**

We shall gather around the table for chili, but first the budget meeting!

Let us transition for this service has ended;

**And our budget meeting now begins! Amen!**

**\*\*\*CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING\*\*\***

**\*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      "They'll Know We Are Christians" – arr. Wilbur Held**

**Cathy Fafrak, Organ**

**"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"**

\*\*\*\*\*  
*\*\*\*There is no Coffee Hour today due to the Chili Cook-Off\*\*\**  
\*\*\*\*\*

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Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian

# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## JANUARY 26, 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](http://www.uccmedina.org/live)

**January 26 thru February 2, 2025**

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**Sun** 8:00 am Blake Donation List Posted  
10:00 am 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Parent Meeting  
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 Annual Budget Meeting  
12:00 pm Chili Cook-Off  
3:00 pm Confirmation Class

**Mon** 1:00 pm Breadmakers  
**2:00 pm Prophet & King Bible Study**  
**7:00 pm Prophet & King Bible Study**

**Tues** 6:30 pm Bible Study

**Wed CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**  
10:30 am Quilters  
6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal  
6:00 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal  
**7:00 pm New Member Class**  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Thurs**

**Fri** 5:30 pm Confirmation Trip to Temple Israel

**Sat**

**Sun NEW MEMBERS JOIN**  
8:15 am Chapel Worship  
9:00 am Gathering Worship  
9:45 am Children’s Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 am Blake Donation Items Due  
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship  
10:30 am Jesus Vibes  
4:30 pm Youth Group

**The church office will be closed on  
Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. Your  
church staff will be busy planning for  
the coming year!**

**Worship Highlights:** One service only at 10:30 am

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 15:10-23

Sermon: “The Fall of Saul”  
The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

**Communion Table:** The communion table flowers are given by John & Joan Walschon in memory of Joan’s parents, Dr. Charles & Ruth Mackenbach.

### **ONE SERVICE TODAY!**

**JANUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>: ONE SERVICE at 10:30 am**  
**ANNUAL MEETING at 11:30 am**  
**CHILI COOK OFF TO FOLLOW at noon**

### **PARENT MEETING FOR 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE BIBLE CLASS TODAY**

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

### **NEW MEMBER CLASSES**

**Join us for our next New Member Class!** 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.

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

## SAVE THE DATE

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It's time to mark your calendars for the Ladies and Girls Tea on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. More information will follow concerning the event. Ticket sales will begin in April. Please plan to attend!

## LAST WEEK FOR BROKEN CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

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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 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## FOUNDERS DAY IS FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>

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Every February, the ENDOWMENT FUND asks our church family to share in the growth of the fund by making a loving donation in honor or memory of a loved one or special friend. What better way to show we care than to recognize loved ones with a donation! Dollars are used for the special projects throughout the church that are not covered by the Operating Budget.

Gifts may be made by cash or check made payable to UCC, Congregational, with Endowment Fund in the memo line. Gifts may also be made on the Realm app by choosing Endowment Fund in the Fund dropdown when making a gift.

In honor of Founders Day, the Endowment Committee will be hosting coffee hour after the 10:30 service on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

## JANUARY DONATION

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The donation of the month for January is fleece fabric! The youth group is going to make blankets for Project Linus on February 2<sup>nd</sup>! 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!

## HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER TRIP WITH OTHER+WISE

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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 are June 26<sup>th</sup>-July 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the cost will be \$180 per student (entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade and up). Register in Realm by the end of January!

## JANUARY BIBLE STUDY

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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.

Continuing Mondays at 2:00 and 7:00 PM in the downstairs library, we'll study all the way until Lent! Come when you can! No pre-reading is expected. 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

## EXCITING NEWS! – KITCHEN UPDATE...

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Our Property and Grounds team has been hard at work, and we have some exciting updates to share! With contributions from our healthy capital fund, support from the Endowment, and the memorial gifts in memory of Mary Ann Andrews and Sally Bauer, we are thrilled to announce that construction on our kitchen will begin soon!

The updates will include a new dishwasher, a state-of-the-art oven and range, and a redesigned layout that makes the space more functional and welcoming. As a church, we know the heart of our ministry is Jesus, who so often gathered with others around the table to share meals and meaningful conversations. This kitchen will be a vital tool for fostering connection, hospitality, and discipleship in Christ's name

# HUGS IN A BOX

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Help us create LOVE themed boxes to show our young adults that they are in our hearts no matter where they are! We are piloting outreach to the young adults active in our congregation who have recently graduated from high school. View the list here: <https://wshl.st/iseibp>

You do not have to buy from the linked vendors. If you want to add any small items not on the list please buy in quantities of 16. If you prefer to donate towards supplies or mailing costs use the church Venmo: @uccmedina (last four phone number digits: 4559)

Please deliver these items to a marked bin in the mission area by **Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>** so our Youth Groups can help us assemble the packs!

With gratitude, Ellen Nolan and Liz Wolff

## OUR WINTER WEATHER POLICY

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**Level 1:** Roadways are hazardous with blowing and drifting snow. Roads are also icy. Drive very cautiously.

\*\*Scheduled Teams, Committees, Groups: Check with chairperson, leader or Facilitator of Group.

\*\*Worship Services: Will be held.

**Level 2:** Roadways are hazardous with blowing and drifting snow. Only those who feel it is necessary to drive should be out on the roadways.

\*\*Church Closed.

\*\*NO Church meetings or gatherings.

\*\*Worship Services: Cancelled.

**Level 3:** All roadways are closed to non-emergency personnel. No one should be out during these conditions unless it is absolutely necessary to travel.

\*\*Church Closed.

\*\*NO Church meetings or gatherings.

\*\*Worship Services: Cancelled.

\*if indications appear that conditions will deteriorate and move to a level 2 or 3, check the church web site, call the church office and/or chairperson. If conditions appear that they will improve, decision will be based on the level two hours before the event.

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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

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January 26, 2025  
Third Sunday after Epiphany

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Luke 4:14-21

**“Good News, Good Ways”**

The first inauguration of a United States president took place on April 30, 1789, with George Washington assuming the role of a fledgling nation’s commander in chief. His second inauguration was on March 4. It wouldn’t be until 1937 that the inauguration date would change to what we are familiar with today — January 20.

On this day, the elected leader delivers an inauguration speech, casting a four-year vision for the country. The speech is a pivotal and defining moment for both leader and the people. (No pressure at all on the speech writers.)

Here in Luke’s gospel, we have Jesus’ defining moment — the divine inauguration speech — as he unrolls the scroll in his hometown synagogue and lays out God’s vision for humankind, as echoed in the words of the prophet Isaiah.

*Bring good news to the poor. Proclaim release to the captives. Recover the sight of the blind. Set the oppressed free.*

Retired Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson of New Hampshire once said that if we ever wanted to know what being a follower of Jesus was about, all we had to do was listen to Jesus’ inaugural speech. For in it we learn that God’s vision comes with action points that we are all being asked to carry out. When was the last time, though, we preached the good news?

No, not from a pulpit but in the sharing of stories of God’s redemption and restoration with friends and neighbors. And remember, preaching the good news doesn’t need words. The best sermon illustration is the life we live. How have we proclaimed release to captives?

That is, when have we spoken a word of hope, providing someone a glimmer of freedom from whatever was imprisoning them?

When have we recovered the sight of the blind, pointing out the beautiful God moments that are all around? Or, set the oppressed free by finding the courage to speak for someone long silenced?

Two thousand years ago, Jesus inaugurated his ministry outlining a call to action — and it is still one of the most promising, hopeful, inspiring — and timely — inaugural speeches today.

May we once again share the vision for a new day dawning in our communities as we remember what Jesus’ ministry was about. May we ask ourselves this day: What is my role to play in shaping the destiny of God’s kingdom?

*Loving God, empower us to builders of Your Kingdom, where the good news is heard, sight is restored, and captives are freed. Help us remember that just as the Spirit of the Lord was upon Jesus, so it is with us this day and always. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.*