



ESTD

2025

PROPHET & KING

EPIPHANY



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 “As With Gladness” – arr. Janet Linker

Cathy Fafrak, Organ

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“As With Gladness”

DIX 7-7-7-7-7.

William C. Dix, 1861; alt. © 1993 The Pilgrim Press

Conrad Kocher, 1838; arr. William Henry Monk, 1861



1. As with glad-ness sag - es bold did the guid-ing star be-hold;
2. As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly man-ger bed,
3. As they of - fered gifts most rare at the man-ger plain and bare,



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;
there to bend the knee be - fore One whom heaven and earth a - dore;
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,



so, true Morn-ing Star, may we ev - er-more your splen-dor see.
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek your mer - cy seat.
all our cost-liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We might not have traveled as far as the magi,

Yet we have gathered here.

We might not have tangible gifts of gold and spices,

Yet we have our time, talents, and treasure.

We, like the kings of old

Have gathered to praise the newborn king

And remember a prophet of the past.

Thanks be to God! Let us worship our God, our Christ, our Spirit!

SPECIAL MUSIC

"We Three Kings"

Jerry Mason, Ryan Routh, Harry Buch

SCRIPTURES

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (O.T. pg. 236)

Alison Oswald, Liturgist

Matthew 2:1-12 (N.T. pg. 1)

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

"Called by Name"

The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

COMMUNION HYMN

"Hush, Hush, Somebody's Calling My Name"

African American spiritual

arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1993



1 Hush, Hush, Some-bod - y's call-ing my
 2 Sounds like Je - sus. Some-bod - y's call-ing my
 3 I'm so glad. Trou - ble won't last al -

name.
 name.
 ways.

Hush,
 Sounds like
 I'm so

Hush,
 Je - sus.
 glad.

Some-bod - y's call-ing my name. Oh, Hush,
 Some-bod - y's call-ing my name. Oh, Sounds like
 Trou - ble won't last al - ways. Oh, I'm so

Hush,
 Je - sus.
 glad.

Some-bod - y's call-ing my name. O my God,
 Some-bod - y's call-ing my name. O my God,
 Trou - ble won't last al - ways. O my God,

O my God, what shall I do? What shall I do?

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
- Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

Every gift we have comes as part of God's good creation. Let us honor and participate in the Creator's vision of true peace, flourishing, and abundance by prioritizing the needs of others over the excesses of self.

Let us embrace gift-giving as our love language and commitment. May our generosity be a witness to the world of the Living God among us.

*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

Giving God, may these gifts reveal your greatness, generosity, and glory. We give thanks for the privilege of being in communal and covenantal care with our neighbors by sharing our resources. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

James Montgomery, 1816

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7..

Henry T. Smart, 1867.



1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2. Shep- herds, in the fields a-bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3. Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4. Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear,



you who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light:
seek the great De - sire of na - tions, you have seen the na - tal star:
sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, here a - mong us shall ap - pear:

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

*ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BENEDICTION**

May you keep your ears open to hear the call of God.
May we hear the divine call us by name.
May you be a true prophet of the Lord,
For Prophets are those who hear the voice of God.
May you be fearless in your trust in God
To be guided where our gifts are most needed.
Go, 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 “The Magi” – setting by Kenneth T. Kosche 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

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
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Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education – stacie@uccmedina.org
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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 5, 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 5 thru January 12, 2025 WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	10:00 am	Blake Donations Due
	10:30 am	Sanctuary Worship
	10:30 am	Jesus Vibes
	11:30 am	OWL Parent Meeting
	4:30 pm	Youth Group
Mon	Cook for Cups	
	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast
	5:00 pm	Kids Book Club
Tues		
Wed	10:30 am	Quilters
	6:00 pm	Gathering Band Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	DELTs Meeting
Thurs	6:30 pm	Bible Study
	7:00 pm	Congregational Council
Fri	7:00 pm	Mental Health Support Group
Sat	9:00 am	“Turning Conflict Into Conversation” Educational Workshop
	4:30 pm	Promise of Christmas Dinner & Worship Service
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
	11:45 am	Mission Team Meeting
	11:45 am	Safety Team Meeting
	3:00 pm	Confirmation Class

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Mark your calendars for the next Men's Breakfast on Monday, January 6th at Buehler's River Styx at 8:00 am. **All men of the church are invited.** No reservations required. We hope to see you there!

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

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 and Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon: “Called By Name” Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The communion table flowers are given by the church in honor of Pastor Luke's birthday.

SAVE THE DATE

JANUARY 26TH: ONE SERVICE at 10:30 am

ANNUAL MEETING at 11:30 am

CHILI COOK OFF TO FOLLOW at noon

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

As of December 31, 2024, we have received 112 pledges for the 2025 Operating Fund, totaling \$219,264. This is 72% of the pledges we had last year and the amount represents 73% of our goal. Of those that pledged in both 2024 and 2025, giving has increased by 3%.

Pledges for the Mission Fund and the Capital Fund are \$36,460 and \$12,892, respectively.

If you have already returned your pledge, THANK YOU! It helps us have an accurate plan for next year. If you have not yet made a pledge, please consider doing so. You can make a pledge on-line through REALM, by a paper form available in the office, or by contacting Pete Metzloff at pete@uccmedina.org.

OUR WHOLE LIVES CLASSES

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 join us in the library on Jan. 5th after church for more information and to register.



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!

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 PROMISE OF CHRISTMAS

Thank you to all those who have signed up to bring food, supplies or to volunteer your time!

- If you have signed up for soup, please bring it to the church between 9 & 1pm on Saturday, January 11th.
- If you have signed up for cookies, please have them at the church on Friday, January 10th between 9 & noon or Saturday between 9 & 1pm.
- If you have volunteered to help setup please be here at noon on Saturday, January 11th.

If you'd like to help clean up, please call or email Cindy in the office at office@uccmedina.org. This event "promises" to be a heartwarming celebration for those who were devastated by the hurricane in North Carolina.

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!

DECEMBER MISSIONS REPORT

The Missions Team would like to thank each and every one who has made this year's impressive record of giving so successful. Your contributions in time, talents, and monetary gifts have made a very positive impact on our local and global communities. This month's sharing includes:

Cups Café, Operation Homes, Prospect Pantry, The Juvenile Detention Center, Blake Families, and with our special offering...Veterans of the Cross.

Many thanks for your caring generosity and for the opportunity you allow our team to act in your name and share the love that makes such a difference. Happy New Year to all and may our outreach in 2025 match or exceed what we have accomplished in 2024!

THANK YOU

What a difference the generous donations from this season's Giving Tree have made to the Prospect Closet. The addition of the warm hats, gloves, scarves, and socks that we received will surely benefit all those that need help to stay warm this winter. Thank you, most sincerely, for the generosity and love you have shared and for all the warm hands, ears, and feet you have helped achieve in what looks like a very cold January and throughout the winter season. You all are so appreciated and greatly valued in this venture to help our community. Happy Healthy New Year to all and thank you so very much!

The Prospect Closet

Chet & Jan Simmons

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.

TURNING CONFLICT INTO CONVERSATION

The last in a series in partnership with Braver Angels, this session is designed to teach strategies for how to share and discuss political values and viewpoints online in a constructive way that doesn't contribute to the issue of polarization. It will be held here at Medina UCC on January 11th from 9am – 12pm. Registration is free but required. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/raverAngelsLMC24>. Space is limited.

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 p



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!

John 1: (1-9), 10-18

“Another Road”

Today is Twelfth Night, an oft-overlooked celebration bringing an end to the 12 days of Christmas. In olden days, it was the last holiday hoorah marked with feasting and merriment. It was also believed to be bad luck if the holly and the ivy were taken down before Jan. 5.

Twelfth Night, also known as Epiphany Eve, is an important transitional time, shifting our focus from the birth to the life of Christ. The word “epiphany” comes from the Greek *epiphaneia*, meaning “appearance” or “manifestation.”

In many cultures, Epiphany is a feast day celebrated with great fanfare on Jan. 6, with gifts exchanged commemorating the ones the Magi presented to Jesus.

They were among the first to recognize the appearance of the Promised One as foretold in Hebrew scriptures. And after paying homage to the Christ Child, they returned to their homelands via another road. (The Magi were warned in a dream to do so, as Herod, the jealous and dangerous earthly ruler wanted to know the whereabouts of this new king.)

Christ’s appearance in our lives often does that — puts us on another road that we never could have imagined being on.

It is an uncertain road that requires faith. But it is on this road where we discover “darkness cannot overcome” the light of Christ that shines on our paths. For, as John’s gospel proclaims for us today, “his is the life that was the light of all people.”

This road, too, calls us to testify to that light. Just as John did.

No, not John from our gospel lesson, but another man named John who died in an accident in the prime of his life. At his funeral, the minister opened her homily with the words from John’s gospel.

There was a man sent by God whose name was John. He was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

The minister then spoke how this young man led many to the light of Christ — inviting people to church, always making time to be there for a friend in need, even mentoring a child who had lost his way.

No, John was not the light, but he did his best to testify to it in the days he was given. He chose to walk on another road, always looking for Christ among us.

It’s time for us now to step onto another road this year. It’s time to see, embrace and testify to that light in our world.

For there was a person sent by God whose name was ...

Loving and gracious God may the light of Your Son, Jesus, shine brightly on the paths You are calling us to step onto this year. May our words and actions testify to Your glory that is all around. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.