

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

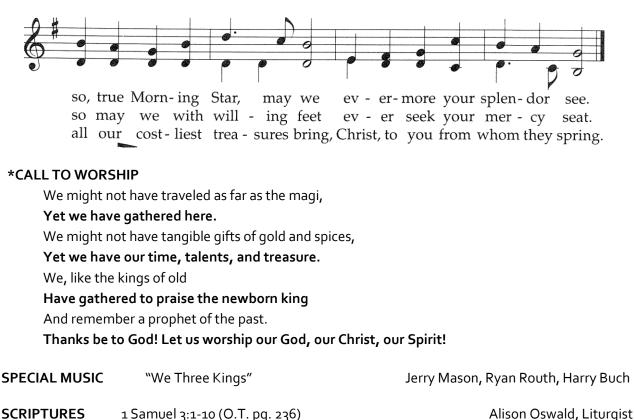
WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***OPENING HYMN**

"As With Gladness"





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

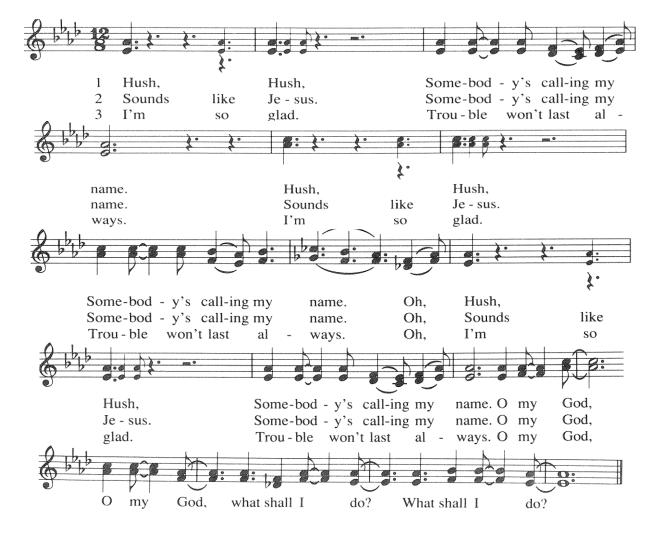
Pastoral Prayer

SERMON "Called by Name"

The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

COMMUNION HYMN African American spiritual "Hush, Hush, Somebody's Calling My Name"

arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1993



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)

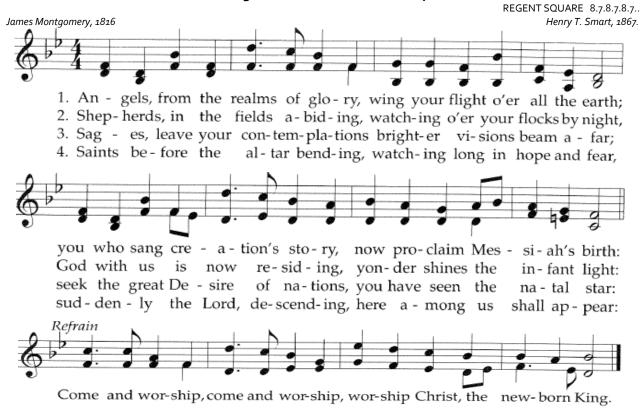
Praise God, the Source of life and birth; Praise God, the Word, who came to earth; Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame; All glory, honor to God's Name! Amen.

*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.

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*SENDING HYMN
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"Angels from the Realms of Glory"



*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"

Please join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the service Coffee Hour is hosted this week by the Metzloff family 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 - <u>luke@uccmedina.org</u> Rev. Meghan Malone, Associate Pastor of Youth & Mission - <u>meghan@uccmedina.org</u> Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor – <u>karen@uccmedina.org</u>

OFFICE STAFF

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

PROGRAM STAFF

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education – <u>stacie@uccmedina.org</u> Jennifer Cochran, Director of Music - <u>jenny@uccmedina.org</u> Cathy Fafrak, Organist & Office Assistant – <u>cathy@uccmedina.org</u> Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – <u>jen@uccmedina.org</u> 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

<u>Sun</u>	9:00 am 10:00 am 10:30 am	Chapel Worship Gathering Worship Blake Donations Due Sanctuary Worship Jesus Vibes
		OWL Parent Meeting
		Youth Group
<u>Mon</u>	on Cook for Cups	
		Men's Breakfast Kids Book Club
Tues		
<u>Wed</u>		Quilters Gathering Band Rehearsal DELTs Meeting
<u>Thur</u>		Bible Study Congregational Council
<u>Fri</u>	7:00 pm	Mental Health Support Group
<u>Sat</u>	9:00 am	"Turning Conflict Into Conversation" Educational Workshop
	4:30 pm	Promise of Christmas Dinner & Worship Service
<u>Sun</u>	8:15 am 9:00 am 9:15 am 10:00 am 10:30 am 10:30 am 11:45 am	Gathering Worship Chancel Choir Rehearsal Children's Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary Worship Jesus Vibes Mission Team Meeting Safety Team Meeting

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

<u>Communion Table:</u> 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 <u>office@uccmedina.org</u>.

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 or 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 <u>https://tinyurl.com/raverAngelsLMC24</u>. 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 <u>office@uccmedina.org</u> CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9 am – 3 pm MONDAY THRU THURSDAY; FRIDAY 9 am – 12 p



January 5, 2025 Second Sunday after Christmas

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.