

# KEEP THE LIGHTS ON



Sing a song of



HARVEST HOME

# 19

# NOVEMBER

MEDINA UCC, CONGREGATIONAL



# 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 “A Medley of Thanks” – Kevin Keil

Cathy Fafrak, Piano

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

### \*OPENING HYMN

### “We Gather Together”

Lavon Bayler, 1992 © The Pilgrim Press

KREMSER 12.11.12.11  
Netherlands Folk Hymn, 16<sup>th</sup> century

1. We gath - er to - geth - er to ask for God's bless - ing, to  
 2. Be - side us, for - giv - ing, en - a - bling, sus - stain - ing, you -  
 3. All praise to the Spir - it, pro - vid - er, de - fend - er. You

live in com - mu - ni - ty, seek - ing God's will. We come now, as  
 call us, O Sav - ior, to life that is new. You draw us a -  
 of - fer us free - dom, to fol - low or stray. Em - pow - er - ing

sis - ters and broth - ers con - fess - ing the sins that di - vide and the  
 way from self - cen - tered comp - plain - ing, You lead us and guide us in  
 all by the hope you en - gen - der. Grant wis - dom and cour - age to

wrong ways fol - in that low us are your still. true. way.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

We are waiting,  
 as evening falls,  
 our lamps flickering in the twilight,  
**Waiting for peace,**  
**waiting for every life to be called sacred,**  
 We are watching,  
 holding our breath,  
 peering into the cold night sky,  
**Watching for glimpses of gentleness and care,**  
**Praying for hearts to be softened.**  
 As we keep this sacred watch,  
 we will trim our lamps,  
 and bring our extra oil.  
**We will keep the lights on for everyone finding their way home.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** “We Give Thanks Unto You” – Marty Haugen Children’s Choir  
*adapted by Jennifer Cochran; Harry Buch, guitar*

**SCRIPTURE** Matthew 25:1-13 (N.T. pg. 26) Nick North, 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

**SERMON** “Sing a Song of Harvest Home: Keep the Lights On” Rev. Meghan Malone

**REFLECTION HYMN** **“Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning”**

*African American spiritual, arr. Jennifer Kerr Budziak © 2016 GIA Publications, Inc.*

KEEP YOUR LAMPS



1. Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your  
 2. Dark - er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er  
 3. For the morn - ing soon is break - ing, for the



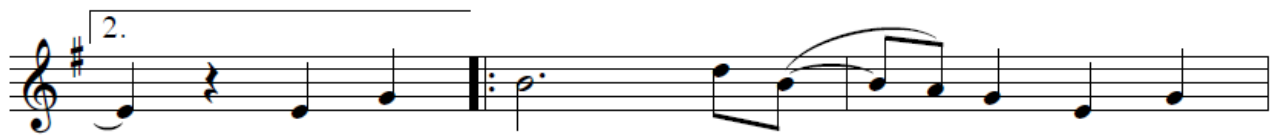
lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your  
 mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er  
 morn - ing soon is break - ing, for the



lamps trimmed and burn - ing, the  
 mid - night lies be - fore us, the  
 morn - ing soon is break - ing, the



day is draw - ing nigh. Keep your  
 day is draw - ing nigh. Dark - er  
 day is draw - ing nigh. For the



Chil - dren, don't get wea - ry, chil - dren,



don't get wea - ry, chil - dren, don't get wea -



ry till your work is done. Chil - dren, done.

## OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

*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. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!*

**Stewardship Moment** Pete Metzloff

**\*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.**

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Holy One,  
We thank you for faith that can move mountains,  
**Not with bulldozers, but with the strength of our joined hands.**  
We thank you for hope that rises above,  
**Not like missiles, but like a sunrise glowing pink on the horizon.**  
We thank you for love that perseveres,  
**Not like walls, but like the people who will someday tear them down.**  
Amen.

## \*CLOSING HYMN

**"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"** (vs. 1-3)

Henry Alford, 1810-1871

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR 7.7.7.7.D  
George J. Elvey, 1816-1893

1. Come, ye thank-ful peo-ple, come, Raise the song of har-vest home;  
2. All the world is God's own field, Fruit un-to his praise to yield;  
3. For the Lord our God shall come, And shall take his har-vest home;  
4. E-ven so, Lord, quick-ly come, Bring thy fi-nal har-vest home;

All is safe-ly gath-ered in, Ere the win-ter storms be-gin;  
Wheat and tares to-gether sown, Un-to joy or sor-row grown;  
From his field shall in that day, All of-fens-es purge a-way,  
Gath-er thou thy peo-ple in, Free from sor-row, free from sin,

God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide For our wants to be sup - plied;  
 First the blade, and then the ear, Then the full corn shall ap - pear;  
 Give his an - gels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,  
 There, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, In thy pres - ence to a - bide;

Come to God's own tem - ple, come, Raise the song of har - vest home.  
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we Whole - some grain and pure may be.  
 But the fruit - ful ears to store In his gar - ner ev - er - more.  
 Come, with all thine an - gels, come, Raise the glo - rious har - vest home. A - men.

**\*ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Holy Spirit of God,  
 may the space within that we keep for you become ever deeper and wider.  
 May the busyness of our brains  
 and the cares of our hearts give way to the light of your presence.  
 May the Triune God: Creator, Christ, and Spirit  
 Come home with us this harvest time and evermore. 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** "Let All Things Now Living" – arr. Gerhard Krapf 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 Evangelism Team  
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***PASTORAL STAFF***

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - [luke@uccmedina.org](mailto:luke@uccmedina.org)  
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Jack Sharpe, Maintenance  
Nick Brlan, Custodian

# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## NOVEMBER 19, 2023

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

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

### November 19, 2023 thru November 26, 2023 WEEK AT A GLANCE

**Sun** 8:15 am Chapel Worship  
9:00 am Gathering Worship  
9:45 am Children’s Choir rehearsal  
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship  
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting  
4:30 pm Youth Group  
4:30 pm Men’s group

**Mon** 1:00 pm Breadmakers

**Tues** 7:00 pm Bible Study

**Wed** 10:30 am Quilters  
6:00 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal  
6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal  
**7:00 pm Finance/Stewardship Meeting**  
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

**Thurs** **THANKSGIVING DAY  
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

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

**Sat**

**Sun** **STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY**  
8:15 am Chapel Worship  
9:00 am Gathering Worship  
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship  
10:30 am Teen Church  
**11:45 am Caring Team Meeting**  
3:00 pm Confirmation Class

**Worship Highlights:** 8:15, 9:00 & 10:30 am

Scripture: Matthew 25:1-13

Sermon: “Sing a Song of Harvest Home: Keep the Lights On” – Rev. Meghan Malone

**Communion Table:** The communion table flowers are given by Arnold & Cheri Ingraham in memory of Cheri’s mother, Carol Brenneman.

### NOTICE!

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

You can still read the Pilgrim Messenger in its entirety **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.

### COFFEE HOUR

Please consider hosting coffee hour one Sunday. Signups for December through February 2024 are available in the East Room hallway. Never hosted before? No worries! You’ll receive a letter and a call from a Caring Team member should you have any questions. Hosting is to be simple, so would you please consider hosting Coffee Hour one Sunday?

### IT'S POINSETTIA TIME!

Pick up an order slip from one of the ushers, call the church office or download one off the church website at: [www.uccmedina.org](http://www.uccmedina.org) under “Upcoming Events” or you may order through [REALM here](#).



## **YOUTH TALENT SHOW**

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We are excited to bring back a youth talent show in place of a Christmas pageant this year on Sunday, December 10th! We will have a dress rehearsal with pizza on Friday, December 8th. Please sign up at:

<https://tinyurl.com/2023youthtalentshow> **by today, Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>** if your youth plan to participate. Youth of all ages are welcome! Those who are hesitant to share a talent "on stage" are needed as narrators and stage crew.

## **COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS**

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The 2024 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 \$22.50.

**Also, please write what you would like printed in the Messenger and if you want to claim your flowers** after the 10:30 service.

## **CONNECTION OUTREACH CIRCLE NEEDS YOUR HELP**

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Connection Outreach Circle (CoC) keeps in touch with our most senior adult (80+ year old) church membership who are in residential care facilities, homebound, and shut-in, and keeps in touch with our congregation-at-large.

Interested in service outreach, though unsure of where to serve? Do you like to visit with others? How about the Visitation Team? Do you like sending flowers? How about the Seasonal Flowers Team? Do you like to send cards and notes? How about the Sunday Greeting Cards Table Team? Do you like to handcraft, sew, knit, or crochet? How about the Craft Makers Group (Seasonal Crafts, Fidget Aprons/Warm Hugs Wraps, Prayer Shawls)? **Take a purple pamphlet to learn more about CoC and its teams!** A sign-up sheet of teams is posted in the East Room Hallway.

## **TEEN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY**

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On the last Sunday of each month, teens in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and up can head to the youth room during the 10:30 service for quality time, snacks, and conversations that are just for them.

## **LEFTOVER CANDY?**

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Are you wondering what to do with all that leftover Halloween candy you always have? The Mission Team will be collecting all your candy and treats throughout November. We plan to make goodie bags with the candy and distribute them to various groups in our community over the next few months. Thank you!

## **ADVENT FAMILY FUN NIGHT**

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Families of all ages are invited to come out on December 3rd, 4:30-6pm to have some Christmas-themed fun together. There will be sugar cookies to decorate, hot cocoa to drink, crafts to make, games to play, and stockings to fill for our Garfield families! Please sign up to help us fill the stockings:

<https://tinyurl.com/2023adventfamilyfun>.

## **JAZZY CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

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You are invited to a wonderful evening of holiday music on Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm!

The "Jazzy Christmas" concert will feature Gateway Band, led by our Music Director and vocalist Jennifer Cochran. Gateway Band has a unique musical style that has entertained audiences in the greater Cleveland area and on the east coast for some 20 years now! The band's musical arrangements are energetic and sentimental. This concert will get your toes tapping and your heart in the mood for Christmas! To support the choirs at Medina UCCC, a freewill offering will be taken during the concert and there will be a bake sale and raffle following the concert in Fellowship Hall! Hope to see you there!

## DONATION OF THE MONTH

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November's donation of the month will be supplies to fill Church World Service Emergency Cleanup Buckets, which will be assembled during youth group on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Our goal is to fill 20 buckets! It is important that the supplies are exactly what CWS has asked for, so please check the description of each item on their official website before buying.

<https://cwskits.org/assemble-kits/emergency-cleanup-buckets/>. Please sign up to donate by following this link: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8eexp6>. Scan the QR code with your phone's camera to open our amazon wish-list, where you can purchase items from the list and have them sent directly to the church!



## STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

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by Corey Raub

Matthew 23:1-23

Be a humble servant and honor God. Be a humble servant to others, not ourselves. Fill yourself with humility; humble ourselves. Don't be a religious pretender.

To honor God is to live as a servant leader. Jesus is asking us to remain humble, give ourselves to God, and be good stewards to our neighbors...to serve others is to serve God. We can all serve God by giving our time, talents and gifts to support our church, our neighbors, and our community.

Stewardship is the act of sharing God's blessings with others and is more than a simple effort to raise money to keep the lights on. It is this spiritual movement that should motivate all of us, our church and its committees to focus on our mission within and beyond the local community.

Thank you all for your continued support so we can improve the mission, ministry, and finances within our congregation.

As you consider a pledge for 2024 and beyond, know that any gifts you provide will be prayerfully and thankfully received by the church.

Bring in your pledge to the office as you are able, use this link to connect you to the giving portion of Realm: <https://onrealm.org/uccmedina/give/2024PLEDGE>, text "UCCMEDINA 2024 PLEDGE" to 73256 to give using your mobile device or call Jeff to set up your giving.

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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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November 19, 2023  
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
*Thanksgiving Sunday*

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Matthew 25:14-30

### **Extravagant Opportunity**

What if Jesus were telling this story now? Might it sound a little like this?

So, the reign of God is like a businesswoman, preparing to leave for the airport on a business trip, who called three of her employees into the conference office. The employees sat somewhat nervously around the conference table, not sure what to expect. The businesswoman arrived in a hurry and took her customary place at the head of the table. Only then did they notice the large box that sat in front of her on the table.

Then, one by one, she pulled three items out of the box. To the first employee, she gave a small but powerful video camera. That employee immediately left the conference room and began conducting interviews with her coworkers, asking them what had brought them to work at that company. She was amazed about what she learned about people she worked with every day. This employee uploaded the videos onto social media and a couple of them even went viral.

To the second employee, the boss gave a compact typewriter in a carrying case. The next day, during lunch, he offered to type a poem about any subject his coworkers might choose. One by one, his coworkers told him stories about the people they loved, the animals that made them laugh, the mountains that inspired them. And this second employee wrote poems for them all. They shared the poems with each other, delighted to get to know each other in this new way.

To the third employee, the businesswoman gave a pencil. But the third employee didn't know what to do. She stayed in her office alone many nights, just looking at that pencil and wondering what the boss could have meant by giving her such a small and worthless gift.

When the boss came back, she praised the social media campaign of the first employee and thanked the second employee for the increase in morale and sense of comradeship in the office. But with the third employee, who, with a sheepish expression, tried to give her back the pencil, the boss was visibly disappointed. "There are so many ways you could have used this tool, but you chose to do nothing. This is a place for people to take risks and express their creativity, but you have twiddled your thumbs. Next time, the gift will go to someone else altogether.