
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

“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.

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRELUDE “Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song” – arr. John Carter Cathy Fafrak, Organist

*VISIONING PRAYER by Sharon Alberson

God, help us to be welcoming. God, help us to be loving.
God, help us to see that serving you can lead us to
A place full of grace with no limits where we can be free...
To open our hands, welcoming. To open our hearts, loving
To be more than church on Sunday, to live in the light from above;
To celebrate in service and love.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (written by Caela Wood, Pastor at the First Congregational UCC, Manhattan, KS)

Leader: The heavens open, The Spirit descends.

People: **Jesus emerges from the water.**

Leader: And a voice echoes through the blue expanse.

People: **“This is my child, the Beloved, with whom I am well-pleased.”**

Leader: Jesus is named, Claimed.

People: **We come to the water. We remember we are named. Claimed.**

Leader: Can it be so? What a thing to be named. Claimed.

People: **Let us worship the one who names and claims us still.**

*OPENING HYMN “In the Midst of New Dimensions” (vs. 1-4)

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of “diversity” for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
Julian Rush, 1985
Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994



1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo - ple, war-ring fac-tions and de - spair,
 3 As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with - draw in pain,



Who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples wan-dering in their sep - arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol - ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

Refrain



God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your



peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

***OPENING PRAYER** (inspired by Isaiah 43:2)

This day, this step, this path: you have set me here. So then here I will walk at my best, to your glory. Let the storms wash my soul clean, let the fires be harnessed for warmth, let the raging river inspire passion not fear.

For the LORD is with me as I pass through the waters. By God's mercy, the river shall not overwhelm me. Even in the reckless fires, I will not be consumed. From the prophet's time and now to ours, may this be so. Amen.

***PRAISE RESPONSE** "In the Midst of New Dimensions" (vs. 5)

ANTHEM

"Borning Cry" – John Ylvisaker; arr. by John Helgen

Chancel Choir

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, Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer

PRAYER RESPONSE

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"



1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new,
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.

WORDS: Edwin Hatch, 1878 (Jn. 20:22)
MUSIC: Robert Jackson, 1888

TRENTHAM
SM

SCRIPTURE

Acts 8:14-17 & Luke 3:15-22

Deb Waldron, Liturgist

SERMON

"When God Was Just a Face in the Crowd"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation (see Acts 8:19-20)

We offer our gifts, not because we think we can obtain God's gift with money, but in response for all God has done for us and in the hope of what we can do for our neighbor.

Offertory Music "Waters of New Life" – Kevin Keil

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

***Doxology:** Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Holy One, receive our gifts and intentions. Convert our hearts, give us second birth, set us on fire for you. May our love burn bright for all to see; a light to the world and hope to the nations. Amen!

SENDING HYMN*"O Spirit of the Living God"**

WORDS: Henry H. Tweedy, 1935 (Acts 2)
MUSIC: Trad. English melody; arr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

FOREST GREEN
CMD



1. O Spir - it of the liv - ing God, thou
2. Blow, wind of God! With wis - dom blow un -
3. Teach us to ut - ter liv - ing words of
4. So shall we know the power of Christ who



light and fire di - vine, de - scend up - on thy
til our minds are free from mists of er - ror,
truth which all may hear, the lan - guage all may
came this world to save; so shall we rise with



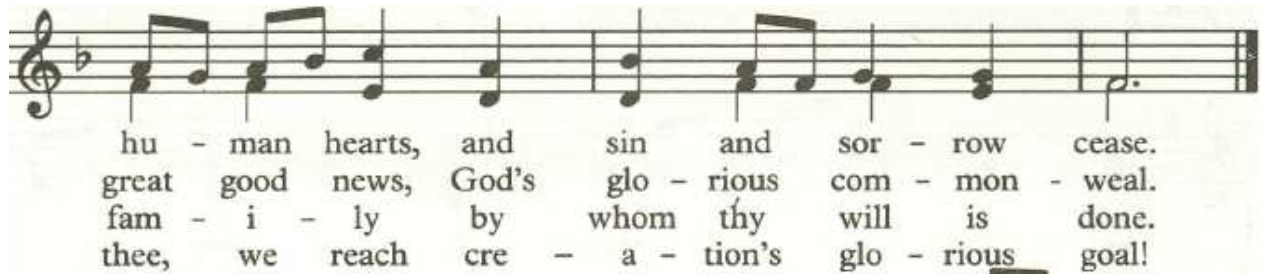
church once more, and make it tru - ly thine.
clouds of doubt, which blind our eyes to thee.
un - der - stand when love speaks loud and clear;
him to life which soars be - yond the grave;



Fill it with love and joy and power, with
Burn, wing - ed fire! In - spire our lips with
till ev - ery age and race and clime shall
and earth shall win true ho - li - ness, which



righ - teous - ness and peace; till Christ shall dwell in
flam - ing love and zeal, to preach to all thy
blend their creeds in one, and earth shall form one
makes thy chil - dren whole; till, per - fect - ed by



***BENEDICTION**

- Leader: May the blessing of the three-in-one God be yours.
- People: **May the Spirit bless you with hope poured out like water and flowing as the river.**
- Leader: May Jesus bless you with discomfort at injustice and oppression.
- People: **May the Creator who holds the Earth as an artist holds brush and palette fill our imaginations so that we always find the world inspiring and wonderful.**
- Leader: May God whose beauty shines on you, journey with you. God says to you,
- People: **"You are my beloved!"**
- Leader: Be blessed this day and always.
- People: **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 "Trumpet Tune in D Major" – David N. Johnson Cathy Fafrak, Organist**

MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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* Those who are able are asked to please stand

***Ushers:* Dick Christy, Darlene Bagley-Fazekas, Pete Benson, Ron Greinke**

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

Today's coffee hour is hosted by the Johns Family.

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PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - email: luke@uccmedina.org

OFFICE STAFF

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - email: office@uccmedina.org
Kelly Charnley, Financial Manager - email: financial@uccmedina.org

PROGRAM STAFF

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education; Michelle Lisco, Co-Director of Youth
Jim Kiser, Director of Music; Cathy Fafrak, Organist
Rebecca Rosen, Nursery Supervisor
Xanthe Phillips, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

JANUARY 13, 2019

“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS.

MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY!”

Live streaming of the Sanctuary Service is available at uccmedina.org

January 13, 2019 thru January 20, 2019

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	9:15 am	Choir Practice
	10:30 am	Traditional Worship
	10:30 am	JMM @ Brookdale South
	11:45 am	Mission Team
	3:00 pm	Confirmation Class
Mon	10:00 am	GIFT CARD ORDERS DUE
	6:30 pm	Women's Bible Study
Tues	2:00 pm	Pastor's Bible Study –
		“Theological Worlds”
	7:00 pm	Worship Team
Wed	9:15 am	Hobby Horse Preschool
		Team Meeting
	10:30 am	Quilters
	7:00 pm	Discipleship & Education
Team		
	7:30 pm	“The Cheezies” in Concert
Thu		Garfield Deliveries
	6:00 pm	Pastor's Study -
		Marriage Series
Fri	1:30 pm	JMM @ Evergreen
Sat		Leave for the Costa Rica Mission Trip
Sun	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	9:15 am	Choir Practice
	10:30 am	Traditional Worship
	2:00 pm	JMM @ Medina Meadows
	4:00 pm	MLK Service
	4:00 pm	Youth Group

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

Scripture: Acts 8:14-17 and Luke 3:15-22

“When God Was Just a Face in the Crowd”
Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: Please sign up to sponsor the Altar Flowers. This is a wonderful way to honor or remember someone or to celebrate a special occasion. Please fill in your name and write “church” to order the flowers or “self” if you will be ordering them yourself. The cost of the flowers ordered through the church office is \$22.50.

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED ON MONDAY, JANUARY 21ST IN
OBSERVANCE OF MLK DAY**

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Would you like to join our church family!? Join us for our next new member class! The next classes will be held: **Monday, January 21st & Monday, January 28th**. Class will be held from 7 pm – 9 pm in the East Room. New members will join the church on Sunday, February 3rd. Childcare is provided if needed. Please contact the Church Office at 330-725-4559 if you are interested and let us know if you will be in need of childcare.

ANNUAL REPORTS AND MEETING

Save the date!

Our Annual Budget Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 27th immediately following the 10:30 service.

Upcoming Youth Events:

***January 20 – Youth Group 4-6 pm** – Make Valentines for residents at Medina Meadows.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you requested offering envelopes they are available on the table in the East Room.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED

Thank you to those who have signed up to host a Coffee Hour! Please consider hosting a Sunday after the 10:30 service in the future. Sign-up sheets are in the East Room. Please remember this is supposed to be a snack with coffee or punch. Doughnut holes, cheese and crackers, fresh fruit or anything you like may be served. **KEEP IT SIMPLE.** Thank you and if there are questions, please contact Beth Hari @ 330-242-1807.

MIAMI UNIVERSITY CHEEZIES

Kyle Root and The Miami University *Cheezies* are doing a home town tour this winter and will be making a stop right here at the church on **January 16, 2019**. They are thrilled to offer an evening of fun *a cappella* selections as well as guest performances by several members of the church. The performance will start at **7:30 the evening of the 16th** and will conclude with a reception so you can meet some of the talented performers. How much does this cost? It is 100% FREE! Come enjoy the music and we will offer a donation plate if you think it was amazing!

THANK YOU

Thank you to all those who stayed after church to help put all the Christmas decorations away. Many hands found us completed by 1:00 pm. We took the time to re-label some of the storage boxes and tagged the wreaths and garlands so that next year's set-up task will be a bit easier. Happy New Year to all! – Jan Coleman

SAVE THE DATE

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, April 27, 2019 from 12-2 pm for the Ladies and Girls Tea. The program will be a special one featuring Angela Strach-Gotthardt from the Secret Tea Society of Hudson, Ohio. Join this certified Tea Specialist to share the flavors of the tea leaf and learn the wonderful traditions of sharing tea and conversation with moms, daughters, family and friends. You will learn about the world's most consumed beverage, tea! It will surely brighten up your lovely April day. More information will follow but plan on joining us.

BLANKET SUNDAY ~ 1/27/19

Church World Service (CWS) has distributed thousands of blankets around the world in 2018. Your congregation can be part of an even greater response in 2019. You will reach families fleeing their homes, recovering from disaster and more. Share blankets, warmth and comfort with your neighbors. Your contributions go a long way to help families in need so please be generous in your support for Blanket+ Sunday. Thank you!

1819 COMES ALIVE!

Please complete your cabin model by January 31st, as we will have the diorama placed in the corner of the East Room shortly. Once tables are available you can place your cabin on them and complete the place cards from the box. The diorama has our present church in place. We are planning a token of appreciation for each cabin or wagon by Founders' Day, Sunday, February 24th.

Founders Day 2019----WORSHIP, LEGACY LETTERS, AND LUNCH

SAVE THE DATE-ONE SERVICE ONLY

Be sure to save the date of **Sunday, February 24th!!**

Join the church family in a special service at 10:00 am to re-enact a typical worship service from 1919. This to be followed by a READERS THEATRE show, concluding with an old fashioned pot-luck lunch as might have been served in 1919. Sounds like fun! Plan to be there!

SPIRITUALITY OF MARRIAGE

Thursdays at 6:00 pm, all couples are invited to explore the Spirituality of Marriage. Part Bible study, part couples exercise, part discussion with other couples; we'll explore what it means to be married and what it takes to sustain the covenant promise made at the wedding date.

Childcare will be provided. Topics are as follows:

- January 17: The Zimzum of Marriage
- January 25: AWKWARD Communication
- January 31: Sex and What Can Result (Parenting)
- February 7: The Unfolding Mystery

New Bible Study **TWOSDAY** Tuesdays at 2 p.m.

A new Bible Study for those who don't like to drive in the dark! Beginning on Tuesday, January 15th at 2:00 pm, Pastor Luke will host a Bible Study in the new library.

The first topic will be: THE THEOLOGICAL WORLDS: Why there are so many types of Christians?

GIFT CARD ORDERS

Plan ahead now for Special Occasions and place your Gift Card order soon. Please see the Yellow Retailer List on the table near Fellowship Hall or visit www.glscrip.com and click on the Retailer List on the left side to view or print your own list. Complete a Green Order Form, also available on the table near Fellowship Hall and return to Kelly or Stacie with payment.

**The next order will be due a week early on
Monday, January 14th at 10:00 am.**

ANGEL TREE

We had a few new angels added to our welcome area this season. The ones that I know of were from Dianna Huffman, Cindy Korecky, the Avalon family, and the Charnley family in memory of Doug. These names have been added to our master list. If you happened to add an angel to the tree and would like your name on the master list, please let the office know. Thank you! – Jan Coleman

Bicentennial Tidbits – The budget 58 years ago

\$66,075.00

PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET FOR 1961-1962

Benevolences

Our Christian World Mission		
Ohio Conference (17.5%)	4,875	
American Board (23.1%)	3,993	
Home Board (22.1%)	3,003	
Council for Social Action (3.3%)	455	
Service Committee (6.9%)	897	
Annuit Fund (5.9%)	797	13,000
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Pilgrim Hills	200	
Christian Higher Education Fund	3,000	
Schools and Colleges	500	
Miscellaneous Benevolences	75	
TOTAL BENEVOLENCES	\$16,775	

We as a church are growing in size, stature and purpose here in the community, the nation and also the world. Our responsibilities as members of this church are also expanding. Let each of us help by carrying his share according to the blessings and abilities given by God.

Elsie R. Zoroff
Stewardship Chairman

Local Expenses

Ministry and Services		
Salary and Expense of Minister	8,400	
Salary of Associate Minister	4,800	
Ministers' Annuities	1,995	
Guest Speakers and Ministers	150	
Music	2,000	
Stewardship Education	200	
Our Christian World Mission	1,000	18,250
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Church Properties		
Debt Retirement and Interest	10,400	
Furnishings and Equipment	100	
Landscaping	200	10,800
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Christian Education		
Church School	2,500	
Youth Conference and Family Camp	400	2,900
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Administration and Operational Costs		
Organ Maintenance	200	
Workmen's Compensation and OAR	325	
Salary of Custodian	4,000	
Salary of Office Secretary	1,800	
Denominational Expense	720	
Printing and Office Supplies	3,600	
Utilities, Insurance and Taxes	4,500	
General Maintenance	2,400	
Miscellaneous Expense	200	17,545
TOTAL LOCAL EXPENSE		\$49,300



On behalf of the Costa Rica Mission team we wanted to thank you for your financial and spiritual support. We have received \$4,125.00 in panel donations!! The generosity of this Congregation never ceases to amaze me. Because of the support for the panels we are going to be able to actually build additional internal walls to separate bedrooms and living space. We'd like to introduce you to the family whose home you are helping to build. Mariana Briceno is 81 years old. Living in the home is her son, her granddaughter and boyfriend, her grandson and a great grandson. The ages range from 81 years to 8 months. Their home has dirt floors (that flood ankle deep during rainy season) and simple dividers to separate the bathroom from the living space. It sounds like they will keep their current home and we

will build the new home next door. That gives the family more space and a dry place to live in the rainy season. Thank you again for your wonderful support- these homes are truly life changing for the families.

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: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm MONDAY THRU FRIDAY*******

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Affirmed by Love

How many sacraments does the United Church of Christ celebrate? Don't look ahead! Do you know the answer? Ask a pew mate. See if they know. Any more, or less than two is the wrong answer. Yes, other Christian denominations have more. No, marriage is not a sacrament in our tradition. We celebrate Baptism and Holy Communion. Both are, for us, about community, about being gathered and called by the grace of God and about sharing in the life of Christ.

For Baptism, it's all about the water. We all use water. It's just that some of us use different amounts. It can happen at any age – from 1 hour old to 125 years – any age works. And, you only get one...no do-overs. Finally, baptism is a communal affair. It's a ritual and a sign about belonging to one another so, most of us, celebrate baptisms during worship. Here's a rundown of some of our practices.

THE WATER: It cleans and purifies. We speak of the one baptized as dying and rising with Christ. Thus, the water is a vehicle for going under it and rising up. Some people sprinkle water on the head of the person three times for each part of the Trinity, and some dip into the water with fingers and make a sign of the cross on a forehead and some, like Reverend Amy Lignitz Harken, Minister, Mattapoisett Congregational Church, have baptized in the waters of the Ocean. You can read her story on the Massachusetts Conference Blog. She says, "Standing on a beach under an overcast sky was as much a naked expression of faith as an ashy forehead smear on Ash Wednesday. And it moved them, and me, deeply."

ANY AGE: Our tradition makes it possible for infant baptism. Parents speak the promises about faithful participation and discipleship and then, when the child is confirmed they repeat those promises. But, anyone can be baptized at any age. Who was the oldest person you ever saw baptized?

NO DO-OVERS: Some traditions say that you need to be baptized in their tradition. We don't believe that the still speaking God keeps records about what words were used by what denomination when everyone was baptized. No do-overs are ever necessary.

If you want to know more about Baptism and the United Church of Christ you can find resources by going to uccresources.com.