

First Congregational Church

Medina, Ohio



Sunday, February 24, 1919



Rev. Lucas V. Lindon, Pastor
Mrs. Mary P. Ament, Foreign Missionary
(At home on furlough at present)
Mrs. Cyndra Korecky, Church Secretary
Miss Catharine Fafrak, Church Organist
Mr. James Kiser, Choir Director
Mrs. Kelly Charnley, Financial Director
Mrs. Stacie Yates and Mrs. Michelle Lisco, Youth Ministries



Our ideal of church WORTH WHILE is one that endeavors to PRACTICE as well as preach; that believes in the HERE as well as in the here-after; that believes in YOU as well as in God; that tries to develop MEN as well as angels; that believes that God's will should be done on EARTH as well as in heaven; that is fearlessly opposed to wrong, injustice, and sin wherever it appears. YOU need such a church; such a church needs YOU. LET'S GET TOGETHER!

Sunday, February 24, 1919

Order of Worship

10:00 a.m.

Organ Prelude, "Adagio from Sonata Op. 65, No. 1" - Mendelssohn

*Hymn No. 21

*Call to Worship and Invocation

Choir, "Universal Praise" - W^m Billings

Responsive Reading, Psalm 90 (Hymnal 405), with Gloria Patri

Scripture Lesson, Luke 6:27-38

Pastoral Prayer, with Response by Choir

*Hymn No. 23

Sermon, "Christ and Evolution"†

Prayer, A Litany of Remembrance and Commitment, Hymnal 441

Offertory

*Doxology

*Benediction

Organ Postlude, "French Military March, Op. 60, MM. 4" - Saint-Saëns

* Congregation stands

† A sermon by Rev. H. Samuel Fritsch, pastor of Congregational Church Medina, Ohio from 1911-1918. The closest sermon from our history Rev. Lindon could find to 1919.

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 24, 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

February 24, 2019 thru March 3, 2019

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun 10:00 am ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP*
THEATER PROGRAM* WITH COVERED
DISH LUNCH TO FOLLOW

Founder's Day – 1919 Worship Style Service

9:00 am Choir Practice
9:30 am High School Mission Trip Parent Mtg.
2:00 pm JMM @ Medina Meadows
Sing-a-long
3:00 pm Confirmation Class with Parents
7:00 pm JMM @ Western Reserve

Mon 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study

Tues 10:00 am

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
6:00 pm Youth Bell Choir
6:30 pm Youth Choir
6:45 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Thu Garfield Deliveries

Fri WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
Confirmation Retreat at Temples Hills
Elementary Youth Lock In
1:30 pm JMM @ Evergreen

Sat Confirmation Retreat at Temples Hills
Elementary Youth Lock In

Sun TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY
Confirmation Retreat at Temples Hills
Middle School Youth Cook for Cups
No Elementary Youth Group
8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir Practice
10:30 am Traditional Worship
11:30 am Hunger Outreach Meeting
(Project Leaders only)
4:00 pm Youth Group

Worship Highlights 10:00 am

Luke 6:27-38

“Christ and Evolution”

Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: are given by Kellie & Crell
Johns in honor of their 15th anniversary.

NEW “WEEKLY” STORIES

Hopefully you have seen our “Cabin” diorama and listened to the narrative of our Church's beginnings. Each week we plan on providing a new “story” narrative that can be heard on the diorama. Stop by in the East Room and listen to learn something new of our Church heritage each week.

DRESS-UP FOR A VINTAGE DAY

History comes alive as we invite all to join in the festivities of the “*LEGACY LETTERS – Remembrances of a Church in 1919.*” Presented as a Readers' Theatre, the story of a Congregational Church family will warm your heart and recall familiar facts and not so familiar history of our town. Exciting visuals and music of the times have been integrated into the production for all to see. We have a cast of dedicated readers to draw you into the life of a family. Come meet Uncle Evan, Aunt Rose and the Doughboy! See little Eve and Joel at their best! Circle February 24th at 10:00 am on your calendar. By the way—stay for lunch and share a typical 1919 hot lunch as shared by our fictional family. Such fun! See you there!

Upcoming Youth Events:

- *Feb. 24 – High School Mission Trip Parent Meeting 9:30 am
- *Feb 24 – Confirmation Class (3:00-4:30) with Parents
- *Mar 1-2 – Elementary Youth Lock-In
- *Mar 3 – No Elementary Youth Group
- *Mar 3 – Middle School Cook for Cups (4:00-6:00)

HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP PARENT MEETING

Today, February 24th at 9:30 am

There will be an informational meeting for parents and High School students who plan to go on the annual mission trip. The mission trip will be the week of June 2nd and we will be heading to Pipestem, West Virginia. Come and find out all of the details.

NEW BIBLE STUDY

THE BOOK OF LUKE

We will continue with our daytime Bible Study at 2:00 pm on Tuesdays in the new library. Our next topic will be to dive into the book of Luke. No experience necessary! Come & join us!

MARDI GRAS - DESSERTS GAMES AND PUZZLES

MARCH 5th 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Join us for a fun night of yummy desserts, games, puzzles and fellowship before we prepare for the solemn season of Lent. Please bring a dessert to share!! Hope to see you there!

LENTEN SOUP DINNER PLAN AHEAD NOW

Wednesday, April 3rd at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Service will follow in the Sanctuary. Please sign up to bring a Crock Pot of soup (for at least 7-10 servings), Dessert (cookies/brownies, pie, cake) and/or a salad topping. When you bring in your Crock Pot of soup, please provide us with a printed copy of your soup recipe. We need your food donations by 5 pm on April 3rd. Sign-up sheets will be available after the Bicentennial Founders day event.

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS SHORT MOVIE!

The 1945 film "Medina - Main Street USA" that was mentioned in worship has been uploaded to the uccmedina.org website. Just look under "**Media > Sermons**" for the link.

FEEDING MEDINA COUNTY FOOD DRIVE

Over the next four weeks United Way is hosting a food drive for Feeding Medina County. Our Mission Team will be collecting boxes of macaroni & cheese as our church's participation. Please consider purchasing a box of macaroni and cheese and placing it in the box labeled "Feeding Medina County" by March 10th.

The box is in the entry downstairs next to the BOGO box. The Mission Team needs to deliver the food to United Way by March 15th. If you are interested, you can also collect food items at your place of business and bring them to the church by March 10th for delivery to United Way.

A BIRTHDAY GIFT TO THE CHURCH

Our Bicentennial celebration is celebrating a birthday—the birth of our church in Medina. The Endowment Committee is inviting you to consider giving a

BIRTHDAY GIFT

to the Endowment Fund to honor this special time. We invite you to be a wise builder as we would read in 1 Corinthians 3:10

"I laid a foundation like a wise master builder...but someone else is building on top of it. Each person needs to pay attention to the way they build on it"

Won't you consider making a gift to the Endowment Fund? Just as others built this church for us, so we become builders for the future church on the Square.

“THE REST OF THE STORY”

For almost two years now, Pete Metzloff has been preserving the documents that help to tell the story of our church's founding and history. Among those many documents are two hard-bound books from 1894, 1909, and a thinner "Centennial Pamphlet" from 1919.

25 years ago, Betty Zarney contributed her own summation of the history found in those prior documents. To this, Betty added her own succinct description of the ministries of several pastors from 1931 to the time of Betty's writing, along with some facts about the changes and additions to the church building over the years. Without Betty's contribution, it would appear that there was not much more to the church's history than what was described in the pamphlet from 100 years ago—unless, of course, you have at your disposal a large staff of researchers to review all of Pete Metzloff's document scans and all of the newsletters and all of the minutes of all the meetings of all the Committees and Church Council and so forth and so on...

Meanwhile... since last summer, several volunteers have taken on the task of adding to the story by interviewing older members of the church to include their recollections. But unless you have a special aptitude for this kind of work...well, it can get to be more than you signed up for. So...

As part of our Bicentennial celebration, all of us will be given an opportunity to gather in the Community Room on the morning of Saturday, March 16 to add our own memories to fill in "the rest of story" about our church. This two-hour "mini-retreat" of memory gathering will be guided by Pam Branscome and her ever-faithful sidekick, Harry Buch. It will make use of a large-scale timeline to prompt our recollections, and promises to be a fun way of adding to the church's history. And even if you don't think that you have anything to add, consider attending anyway, just to hear what others have to contribute! Please add your name to the sign-up sheet now posted in the East Room, or call the church office to reserve your spot.

THANKS FOR NEW SANCTUARY BANNERS

As we kick off our Bicentennial year, we have much to celebrate. Our congregation's steadfast presence in the community is certainly something to commemorate. But in so doing, we may be tempted to look only in one direction—to the past 200 years. We do well to remember that the founders of this congregation were not looking only to their past and to recreating the "Good Old Days" in Connecticut. They settled in this neck of the woods and endured the challenges of pioneer life in order to **build a future**.

So, our Bicentennial celebration takes a two-fold focus: of looking to our past, **and** also remembering that we, like our forebears, are in the business of building the church's future. This is the theme of the new sanctuary banners that highlight the church's Bicentennial:

“Celebrate the Past ~ ~ Remember the Future”

These banners were created by Sharon Domchick, Lois Tampson, Shirley Nowak and Carolee Rafn. I am grateful for their creative energy and their dedication to skillfully producing these works of liturgical art to enhance the congregation's worship. Please join me in saying "Thank you!"

-Harry Buch ("Mr. Bicentennial")

LADIES & GIRLS TEA SAVE THE DATE

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, April 27, 2019 from 12:00-2:00 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.

STEPHEN MINISTERS

AFTER the funeral, the divorce, the diagnosis, the job loss, the tragedy, Stephen Ministers can help. How can our congregation provide care for all the "afters" in life? After being trained, Stephen Ministers can give Christ centered care and support to hurting people in an effective and biblical way. Do you want to learn more about Stephen Ministers and their wonderful caring ministry? Come to a half day introductory workshop on Saturday, March 2nd from 9:00 am–1:00 pm at the United Methodist Church of Berea (170 Seminary St., Berea, Ohio 44107). The cost is \$15 per person or \$50.00 per congregation (four or more). Registration forms are available in the office or call Stephen Ministries at 314-428-2600 between 8:00-5:00 Central Time or visit stephenministry.org/workshop

"Christian Faith in Action"
THE POSTWAR EMERGENCY PROGRAM
of the Congregational Christian Churches
1945 ★ THIRD AND LAST YEAR ★ 1948

Our Postwar Emergency Program is now in its third and final year. We have done much, but much remains to be done. The needs, as outlined in P.E.P., must be given a priority in our church programs if we are to succeed fully by December 31, 1948.

Status of the Fund as of January 1, 1948

Total Amount Being Sought (1946-1948)	
For War Victims and Reconstruction.....	\$4,280,755
For Increased Apportionment Giving.....	2,534,158
	\$6,614,913
Received as of December 31, 1947	
For War Victims and Reconstruction.....	\$2,811,066
For Increased Apportionment Giving.....	1,083,276
	\$3,894,342
Balance Needed in 1948	
For War Victims and Reconstruction.....	\$1,469,689
For Increased Apportionment Giving.....	1,250,882
	\$2,720,571

What is at Stake in the Successful Completion of This Fund?

1. Life or death for thousands of children, women, and men. In spite of all we have done, hunger, cold, poverty and consequent diseases are still the postwar lot of millions.
2. The recovery of the Christian Community, the churches and the church life, in many areas of Europe and Asia. Without our aid the Church and its work are threatened.
3. Here at home, building new churches, strengthening our leadership, rehabilitating our schools and colleges, promoting good will and understanding—to meet critical needs today.
4. Keeping faith with our sister churches on the mission fields. Sending and maintaining new missionaries, strengthening national leadership. Helping to meet inflationary costs.

The completion of this task in this year is not just another program. It is life or death for persons for whom Christ died; it is survival or defeat; it is keeping faith with peoples who look to us and with God who counts on us; it is renewed strength for sinful neglect of the task that confronts us.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

First—You can find out what your church has done toward the minimum goal of a 40% increase in budgeted-apportionment-giving for each of the years, '46, '47, '48—and a minimum of \$2.00 per member per year for War Victims and Reconstruction.

Second—you can ask that the leaders of your church be called together to plan the completion of your full church share of this program in this, its final year.

Third—you can make a personal gift—promptly, loyally, and sacrificially—to our Postwar Emergency Program.

Bicentennial Tidbits

Some highlights from the immediate post-war years:

- Through 1948, our denomination had its own "Marshal Plan" as described at left, to assist war victims and displaced persons. Our Medina Church's total for this emergency mission program is \$3,157, an amount twice the per member amount being requested, representing 30% on top of the regular budget.
- There are 11 separate Ladies' Benevolent Society groups functioning.
- Hope Wilder is instrumental in organizing "The Wedding Band," an organization for young married couples to meet monthly for fellowship activities such as picnics, a square dance, bible study and guest lecturers.
- A bible is presented to the jail for use of the prisoners.
- A committee is established to study and provide information on "Gifts and Endowments."

This weekend Tammie and I will be heading off for a wonderful trip to South East Asia. Like all vacations it will be filled with fun, adventure and the excitement of new things. We will be visiting friends in Bangkok the first week and my brother will join us in the Vietnam the second week. As wonderful as the first 11 days will be, the driving force behind this trip will be the last 3 days. We will be visiting Quang Tri Province, near what was the DMZ during the Vietnam War. After lots of study and research we have found the exact location where Billy (Tammie's big brother) was killed. The official report is "misadventure" but the reality is that two bombs were mistakenly dropped on Billy's Marine unit. Going through this process obviously brings up a lot of emotion, even for me; only knowing Billy through pictures and stories. When I was in the Army I used to have a picture hanging on my wall. It was of flagged draped caskets with the quote "Greater love has no one than this, to lay his life down for one's life for one's friends". Although I've only ever associated those lines with fallen military, this is actually John 15 when Jesus is giving some of his last instruction to his Disciples. This was his "goodbye" before giving the greatest gifts ever given. Jesus knew he was going to die. His Father knew he was going to die- "for God so loved the world that he gave his only Son". They willingly sacrificed for us – that we may have eternal life. Perhaps it is the emotional preparation for this trip, perhaps it's the timing, but moving into this Easter Season I am going to focus on the "others" that were impacted by the death of Jesus. He was the Son of God- but he was also the son of Mary and Joseph. He was a Big Brother, an Uncle and Nephew. He was a kid from the neighborhood and a friend. Simeon had told Mary when Jesus was just a baby that she would come to feel as if "she were run through by a long sword". Even though I can't begin to imagine the pain of a mother losing her son, 33 years later, that had to be exactly how she felt. I've never considered their heart break, their pain and their sorrow. This year I want to give my thanks to his family for the sacrifice they also made.

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*****

In regards to the Missionary listed on the front cover

Mrs. Mary P. Ament, Foreign Missionary

(At home on furlough at present)

Mrs. Ament was listed on the original bulletin cover from 1919.

We chose to honor this woman for her hard work and dedication
 by leaving her listed on today's bulletin.

2019 Lenten Dinners & Worship

Wednesdays - 6:00 pm Dinner 7:00 pm Worship

March 13th – April 10th

We will continue the tradition of partnering with Medina churches in the ministerial group as we journey together through Lent. A light supper will be provided at 6 p.m. followed by worship at 7 p.m.

This year's theme: The Beatitudes

March 13: Medina Presbyterian, 5020 Burgundy Bay Blvd

March 20: St. Matthew Lutheran, 400 N Broadway St

March 27: First Christian, 4797 Sharon Copley Rd

April 3: Medina United Church of Christ Congregational, 217 E Liberty St

April 10: Medina United Methodist Church, 4747 Foote Rd

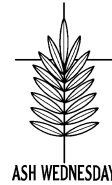


There will be childcare available on April 3rd

LENTEN SCHEDULE 2019

March 5th - **Mardis Gras** - Games/Puzzles/Desserts
Fellowship Hall 7:00 – 8:30 pm
(Please bring a dessert to share)

March 6th - **Ash Wednesday Service**
First Christian Church - 7:00pm
4797 Sharon-Copley Rd.



March 13th – April 10th – **WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT**
6:00pm Dinner & Lenten Worship
“BEATITUDES”

April 10th – **Women’s Fellowship Lenten Luncheon**
12pm – 2pm – Fellowship Hall

April 14th - **Palm Sunday** – Palm Parade - 10:30am

April 18th - **Maundy Thursday**
UCC, Congregational – 7:00 pm

April 19th – **GOOD FRIDAY** - OFFICE CLOSED @ NOON

April 19th – **Good Friday service** - 7:00pm
UCC, Congregational, Fellowship Hall



April 20th – **Easter Egg Hunt**
First Christian Church – 1:00pm
4797 Sharon-Copley Rd.

April 22nd - **Easter Monday** – OFFICE CLOSED

Easter Services: April 21, 2019

7:00 a.m. Sunrise - **Spring Grove Cemetery Chapel**

8:15 a.m. - **UCC Chapel**

9:00 a.m. - **Fellowship Hall**

10:30 a.m. - **Sanctuary**



Luke 6:27-38

Love Your Enemies

It's Seminary Sunday! Yay! Have you planned a church vocations party? What? You haven't? Well, maybe next year.

In general, church attendance may be down across the country, it's also probably true that most people think the basic code of compassionate living espoused by we followers of Jesus is worth preserving. What about you? Do you think that loving your enemies and showing mercy to the whole world is a way of living that is, at the very least, worth preserving for the future of the world? You probably do. So, why don't we celebrate church vocations more loudly?

Without new leaders, trained leaders, and leaders who can inspire others and help us learn new ways of articulating this ancient faith tradition our churches will starve spiritually. The 21st century is already a century that looks like it is going to need a hopeful word and a compassionate agenda. We need to raise up leaders who will feel called to empower that agenda and we need to install them ASAP.

Where do you think the next generation of clergy and lay leaders will come from? Do you think seminaries manufacture them or find them going door to door? No. They come from the local church. They come because you see among you those who have gifts for this kind of work and you invite them into a process of discernment that may lead them to seminary or another path toward ministry. The larger church needs all of us to pay attention to those in our pews who could help the church and spread the gospel and change the world.

Aspiring clergy begin in discernment and begin with your pastor and your church leadership. It is up to you to bring them to your Conference for further work and discernment. It is part of our job as congregations to encourage the gifts of our members and to develop them. There are many seminaries around the country that are particularly affiliated with the UCC. See if one is near you. Some of them have lay leader programs, some allow for auditors and all would be glad to give you a tour. They are:

Andover-Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, MA; www.ants.edu

Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL; www.ctschicago.edu

Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO; www.eden.edu

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, PA; www.lancasterseminary.edu

Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, CA; www.psr.edu

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, New Brighton, MN; www.unitedseminary.edu