
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559

www.uccmedina.org



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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 “Shine, Jesus, Shine” – arr. Jerry Ray

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

***CHORAL INTROIT**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Today is Transfiguration Sunday

People: Where the disciples see Jesus in a new light.

Leader: We are celebrating 200 years,

People: Looking to our past to see our present in a new light.

Leader: Let us pray:

People: Holy One, enter into our worship today. We can become so comfortable with how things are, we get into a rut. We don't see you for who you are, we see things how we are. Transfigure and transform our senses. Help us feel you near. Help us not take for granted those around us. Let us treat today like an Oscar acceptance speech: full of gratitude and realizing we don't have much time. Dwell with us in our worship. Amen.

***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

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

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,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C C

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

Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

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

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

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

***OPENING PRAYER** #409, Red Hymnal

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

CHORAL ANTHEM "It Is Well with My Soul" – Setting by John Ness Beck Chancel Choir

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Pastor Luke

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, Morning Prayer

PRAYER RESPONSE

"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"

From Psalm 143

George Whelpton (1897)

The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in a 4-part setting. It is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The tempo is marked 'p' (piano). The lyrics are: 'Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord; in - cline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. A - men.' The score consists of two systems of staves. The first system contains the first two lines of the melody, and the second system contains the last two lines. The lyrics are placed below the corresponding staves.

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 34: 29-35

Luke 9: 28-36

2 Corinthians 3: 12-4:2

Deb Waldron, Liturgist

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to our Maker, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

SERMON

"To Look Away from God"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

We know not the plans you have for these gifts. Let us give, not to build a shrine to the past but to help us in our present need.

Offertory Music

"How Good, Lord, to Be Here!" – arr. Berkley Guse

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 (written by Eve Lindon)

God of Life, please help those who are sick and without a home. Let us all be kind to each other. Amen.

SACREMENT 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

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution

Prayer of Blessing

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*SENDING HYMN

"Fairest Lord Jesus" vs. 1 & 4



1 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, rul - er of all na - ture,
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the wood - lands,
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the moon - light,
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior! Lord of the na - tions!

O thou of God and man the Son,
robed in the bloom - ing garb of spring:
and Son of all the twin - kling star - ry host:
of God and Son of man!

thee will I cher - ish, thee will I hon - or,
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,
Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown!
who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
than all the an - gels heaven can boast.
now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

WORDS: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677
MUSIC: *Schlesische Volkslieder*, 1842

CRUSADER'S HYMN
5.6.8.5.5.8.

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: May you trust in God's promises to us:

People: peace, security, blessing

Leader: even when they are difficult to believe.

May you know that God's news is good news,

People: nourishing, true,

Leader: even when people tell you it is not.

And when you encounter doubt,

People: may God give us a vision of a transfigured world

guiding you in Christ's perfect wisdom and counsel.

Go, for this service has ended,

People: 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** "O God Beyond All Praising" – arr. Anna Laura Page

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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*All who are able please stand.

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

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

Today's coffee hour is hosted by the **Cheri Ingraham.**

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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

MARCH 3, 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

March 3, 2019 thru March 10, 2019

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	Middle School Youth Cook for Cups 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
Mon	Cook for Cups - Delivery 7:00 pm Evangelism Team
Tues	2:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study The Book of Luke 7:00 pm Mardi Gras Puzzle & Game Night
Wed	ASH WEDNESDAY – Lent Begins 10:30 am Quilters 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service at First Christian Church
Thu	Garfield Deliveries
Fri	1:30 pm JMM @ Evergreen Elementary Youth Overnight Lock-In
Sat	DON'T MISS CHURCH!!! Set your clocks AHEAD 1 hour Before you go to sleep!
Sun	1st SUNDAY OF LENT Daylight-Saving Time Begins 8:15 am Chapel Worship 9:00 am Gathering Worship 9:15 am Choir Practice 9:15 am 3rd Grade Bible Class 10:30 am Traditional Worship 11:45 am Caring Team 3:00 pm Confirmation Class & Parent's Meeting

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

Exodus 34:29-35 and Luke 9:28-36

“To Look Away from God”- Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: are given by Hope Wilder in memory of her husband, Don Wilder and their two sons, John & Paul.

Upcoming Youth Events:

- ***Mar 3** – No Elementary Youth Group
- ***Mar 3** – Middle School Cook for Cups (4:00-6:00)
- ***March 8-9** – Elementary Lock-In
- ***March 10** – 3rd Grade Bible Class 9:15-10:15
Confirmation Class 3-4:30 (Parent's Meeting)
- ***March 17** – 3rd Grade Bible Class 9:15-10:15

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.

SECRET PAL

The secret pal project has gotten off to a great start! We have two more weeks of exchanging letters. **The big reveal will take place at a special coffee hour on Sunday, March 17th.** Happy Writing!

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 dessert (cookies/brownies, pie, cake) and/or a salad topping. We need your food donations by 5 pm on April 3rd. Sign-up sheets will be available soon!

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.

It's been great to see the boxes of mac & cheese donated already. Let's see if we can get 200 boxes donated in celebration of our Bicentennial!

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.



We are easily conditioned people. We like our routines. We like knowing what to expect. Yet there's this great old Yiddish saying, "We plan. God laughs."

You might love your routine. You might be in a rut. Wherever you're at, Lent is a time to take stock, and do a personal inventory. How are we living? Are we in a rut? Can our routine be better when it comes to loving God and our neighbor as ourselves? Yes. We can always do better. The worship team has cooked up a new theme:

"Not the Same Old Psalm and Dance"

Pastor Luke normally preaches on the Gospel, but for Lent, he will preach on the Psalms. There is also a 40 Day Challenge sheet to help you add a few new dance steps to your routine and see what works. Check out the next few bulletins or email the church office to get your copy of the Lenten Challenge! You will also find it on our website at: <https://www.uccmedina.org/> under "Upcoming Events".

“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.

SOUP COOK OFF THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who cooked a soup and or attended the Youth's Annual Soup Cook Off. There were so many yummy soups and it was wonderful to enjoy fellowship with each other. At the end of the day we made over \$500 for the middle school and high school mission trips. Awesome! Congratulations to our winners – 3rd Place: Tammy Daubner with Chicken and Wild Rice, 2nd place: Jackie Smith with Chicken Noodle Soup and the Golden Ladle winner: Kelly DeSario with Taco Twist Soup. Thank you again to everyone!

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.

ONLINE GIVING ALWAYS AN OPTION!

Don't forget you can always go online to pay your pledges. Use this link: <http://uccmedina.org/give>

- Make a one-time contribution
- Register yourself for recurring giving
- Log in to your profile and update if needed

Feel free to contact Kelly 330-725-4559 if you have any questions.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who graciously donated to the hygiene needs for the Garfield Elementary children! With your donations, many, many children go to school feeling confident and ready to learn! Thank you for reaching out to the children in our community!

BUSY BAGS AVAILABLE

Busy bags for little ones who stay in worship are now available. You can find them under the pew where the bulletins are, near the choir room. The bags have Beanie Babies, board books, crayons and more. Thanks to all who donated items and to Karen Zuehlke who sewed the bags! – Eve Lindon

THANKS FOR AN HISTORIC DAY!

A special *Thank You* to all who shared in the celebration of our Bicentennial Year last Sunday. What a day! A vintage church service, a program of LEGACY LETTERS with a familiar cast, overhead visuals with music, dresses, hats and vests from 1919, a delicious lunch featuring “home cooking” a la 1919, a fashion poster, new banners in the sanctuary, top-notch social media publicity and office support, timely music. We could go on and on! It was a truly important day for an important celebration. A sincere *THANK YOU* to each person who helped make it a special event.



Bicentennial Tidbits

Our 31st pastor was Ormund Schultz, who served for fifteen years; from 1944 until 1957. This was the longest tenure of any of our pastors, at least so far.

It was during his pastorate that the Christian Education Building was added. Planning and fund raising occurred some five years before the actual construction, which occurred from 1955 until 1957, such that \$100,000 was available in cash the rest was held in pledges even before construction began. The snapshot at the left shows Joy and Howard Hunter at the ground breaking for the new CE building.

Sunday school and youth activities were held in the Ohio Fuel Gas Company (A.K.A. the I.O.O.F. Temple) offices during the two years required for construction.

By 1955, our facility was being used for 700 meetings during the year, with membership reaching a new high of 738. Ron & Vivian Ekberg served as co-assistant pastors.

In 1955 more classrooms were needed and the CE unit was added. It gave seven classrooms, kitchen, fellowship hall, two offices and two restrooms. The old kitchen and dining room in the basement were turned into more classrooms and a chapel. The cost of the addition and remodeling was \$165,000. (Source: Carl Jessie's 1974 History)



The fruit of the Spirit is... Joy

The Apostle Paul tells us that the Holy Spirit produces joy in our lives, just as apples grow on apple trees.

The Psalmist said: "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." Psalms 16:11 ESV

One of the characteristics of a healthy Christian is general happiness or joy. Doubtless there is pain, grief and suffering in the world; but through that suffering, many find joy when they tap into that new life God sends into their innermost being - when they surrender to God.

That joy derives from more than just an expectation of future peace. It comes from the presence of God himself - the Holy Spirit. It is God's own joy, which remains unquenched even when faced with unspeakable opposition. It's a powerful joy.

I remember the explosion of joy I experienced the night I first surrendered my life to God. When I allow God to be squeezed out of my life, the joy evaporates. However when I get quiet and surrender and give God some space, it returns.

"In his presence is fullness of joy!" Are you giving him enough room?

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*****

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**

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

Romans 8:28



TETÉLESTAI

“It is finished”

A musical portrayal of the Trial, Execution & Resurrection of
Jesus the Messiah. Script and Lyrics by Joel Nagy - Music by Russ Nagy.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL OF MEDINA
217 E. Liberty St, Medina, OH 44256

Friday, March 15 at 8:00 pm
Saturday, March 16 at 8:00 pm
Sunday, March 17 at 2:00 pm

FREE Admission—Donations Accepted

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Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)

Astounding Glory

From time to time it is good to stop talking and listen. Just as an awestruck and babbling Peter was reminded by God, "This is my Child, my Chosen; listen!" we also sometimes need a reminder. How glorious Peter's reminder must have been on that day!

During our days, we consume ourselves with the crush of work, news of the world, and other obligations. We forget the divine is all around us, a still-speaking God who leads and guides us.

Let's commit to listening this week and trying these 7 things:

Sunday: Spend some time with God today and commit to letting grace speak through your life.

Monday: Ask God to shake off our complacency and forgive us for failing to listen for the Holy One's voice.

Tuesday: Spend time with God at the end of the day reflecting on what has happened and examining your thoughts, intentions, and heart.

Wednesday: Listen to what God is calling you to do this week: help the elderly, welcome a new friend, volunteer at a women's shelter, clean up the neighborhood.

Thursday: Spend time not only seeking God, but sharing God among your circle of friends; find the Holy One's Voice together.

Friday: Spend time outdoors listening to the sounds of God's magnificent creation.

Saturday: Journal about what gets in the way of hearing God's call for your life.

This is Women's Week at the United Church of Christ

This week, think of Queen Vashti, who was summoned to an elaborate party by King Xerxes that she refused. Not allowing herself to become objectified, she lost favor and was banned from the King's presence, but maintained something more valuable, her dignity. Think of Queen Esther, who risked her life to foil a plot to annihilate her fellow Jewish people. As you celebrate Women's Week, remember Queen Vashti and Queen Esther. Their lasting legacies inspire not only women, but all who stand up for justice and freedom. (Book of Esther)