

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

“Jesus Loves Me” – William B. Bradbury
Arr. by Lorie Line; Handbell setting by Kevin McChesney

Alleluia Ringers

*LENTEN INTROIT

Welsh Folk song, arr. Hugh Davies from Psalm 107

mf (unison) (div.)

Praise the Lord, for he is good; for his mer-cies ev - er sure

from e - ter - ni - ty have stood, to e - ter - ni - ty en - dure.

(unis.) (div.)

Let his ran - somed peo-ple raise songs of their Re - deem-er's praise. A - men.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Birdtalker's song, "One.")

Leader: I've played the teacher, the preacher, guru,

People: Maintaining postures separating me and you,

Leader: As if the thoughts of God were mine and mine to speak.

People: I've listened with an agenda so I could prove

Leader: All of the stuff I believe and want to be true

People: Just to hide the fear of being weak, confused, afraid of dying.

Leader: During this hour, burn the scorecards, stop keeping track of the wrongs,
balance out the scales.

People: We are one wind distracted by our different sails

Leader: Underneath what's detectable with eyes

People: Every particle's vibrating with the same life.

Leader: Let us seek unity with God and our neighbor in our worship today.

People: Let us retire from keeping track or keeping-up-with; and pray,
and sing songs to our Creator. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

"O God Our Help in Ages Past" (vs. 1-4)

1. O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2. Un - der the shad - ow of thy throne, still may we dwell se - cure;
3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
4. A thou - sand a - ges, in thy sight, arc like an eve - ning gone;

our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home!
suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing, thou art God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night, be - fore the ris - ing sun.

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719 (Ps. 90)

MUSIC: Attr. to William Croft, 1708; harm. by W. H. Monk, 1861

ST. ANNE
CM

***CONFESSION (unison)** (by Pamela C. Hawkins, in *The Awkward Season: Prayers for Lent*
(Nashville, TN: Upper Room Books, 2009), 30.)

O God, who makes all things new, new stars, new dust, new life; take my heart, every
hardened edge and measured beat, and create something new in me.

I need your newness, God, the rough parts of me made smooth; the stagnant, stirred; the
stuck, freed; the unkind, forgiven. And then, by the power of your Spirit, I need to be turned
toward Love again. Amen.

***PRAISE RESPONSE**

"On Eagle's Wings" – refrain

WORDS and MUSIC: Michael Joncas, 1979

ON EAGLE'S WINGS

© 1979, 1991, New Dawn Music

Irr.

Refrain $\frac{3}{4}$ A7 D

“And I will raise you up on ea - gle’s wings,
 bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the
 sun, and hold you in the palm of my hand.”

Em A7 D D7
 G A Bm Em F#m Em A7 D

ANTHEM “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” – Hamburg Youth Bell Choir
 Used by Lowell Mason; arr. by Frances L. Callahan

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE 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, Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer

PRAYER RESPONSE “Hear Our Prayer, O Lord”

From Psalm 143

George Whelpton (1897)

Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord; in -
 cline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. A - men.

Leader: You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty will say to the LORD,
People: "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."
 Leader: For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
People: and from the deadly pestilence;
 Leader: he will cover you with his pinions,
People: and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.
 Leader: You will not fear the terror of the night,
People: or the arrow that flies by day,
 Leader: or the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
People: or the destruction that wastes at noonday.
 Leader: A thousand may fall at your side,
People: ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.
 Leader: You will only look with your eyes
People: and see the punishment of the wicked.
 Leader: Because you have made the LORD your refuge
People: the Most High your dwelling place,
 Leader: no evil shall befall you,
People: no scourge come near your tent.
 Leader: For he will command his angels concerning you
People: to guard you in all your ways.
 Leader: On their hands they will bear you up,
People: so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.
 Leader: You will tread on the lion and the adder,
People: the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.
 Leader: Those who love me, I will deliver;
People: I will protect those who know my name.
 Leader: When they call to me, I will answer them;
People: I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them.
 Leader: With long life I will satisfy them,
People: and show them my salvation.

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 "Not the Same Old Psalm and Dance: Trust and Protection"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Holy One, may this act of giving our time, talent, and treasure be acceptable to you and an act of radical trust. Amen.

***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**

Lord of Hosts, we dedicate what we offer, what we intend, our success and our failures to you. We trust that while our actions might fall short, the intention to please you and follow your way does in fact please you, and that you will help us. Accept us, as you already have, in Jesus name. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"**

WORDS: Joachim Neander, 1680; sts. 1, 3, 5 trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863
st. 2 by S. Paul Schilling, 1986; st. 4 by Rupert E. Davies, 1983 (Ps. 103:1-6; 150)
MUSIC: *Erneuerten Gesangbuch*, 1665; harm. by William Sterndale Bennett, 1864

LOBE DEN HERREN
14 14.478

Trans. sts. 2 and 4 © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might-y, the King of cre - a -
 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign -
 3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros-per thy work and de - fend
 4. Praise to the Lord, who doth nour-ish thy life and re - store
 5. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore

tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal -
 ing bears thee on ea - gle's wings, e'er in his keep - ing main -
 thee; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at -
 thee, fit - ting thee well for the tasks that are ev - er be -
 him! All that hath life and breath, come now with prais - es be -

va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his tem - ple draw
 tain - ing. God's care en - folds all, whose true good he up -
 tend - thee. Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can
 fore - thee. Then to thy need God as a moth - er doth
 fore him! Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a -

near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 holds. Hast thou not known his sus - tain - ing?
 do, who with his love doth be - friend thee.
 speed, spread - ing the wings of grace o'er thee.
 gain; glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him.

*BENEDICTION

*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 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" – Johann Walther 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, Ron Grienke, Pete Benson

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

Today's coffee hour is hosted by **Don and Marilyn Canfield.**

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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



Romans 8:28

TETELESTAI

"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

Cleveland Performing
Arts Ministries
P O Box 670605 Northfield, OH 44067

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THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

MARCH 10, 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 10, 2019 thru March 17, 2019

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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
Mon	6:30 pm Women's Bible Study
Tues	8:00 am Men's Fellowship-P.J. Marley's 2:00 pm Bible Study: Book of Luke 7:00 pm Worship Team Meeting 7:00 pm Gathering Team Meeting 7:30 pm Women's Book Group
Wed	10:30 am Quilters 6:00 pm Lenten Dinner & Worship “The Beatitudes” @ Medina Presbyterian Church 6:00 pm Youth Bell Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
Thu	Garfield Deliveries
Fri	1:30 pm JMM @ Evergreen 8:00 pm “TETELESTAI”
Sat	9:30 am ALL CHURCH MINI REREAT 8:00 pm “TETELESTAI”
Sun	2nd SUNDAY OF LENT 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 Mission Team 2:00 pm JMM @ Medina Meadows 2:00 pm “TETELESTAI” 4:00 pm Youth Group

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

Psalm 91

“Not the Same Old Psalm and Dance:
Trust and Protection“- Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: are donated by Kelly Charnley in memory of her husband, Doug Charnley.

Upcoming Youth Events:

- ***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
- ***March 17** – Special *Secret Pal* Coffee Hour 11:30

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 one more week 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

Our daytime Bible study of the book of Luke continues on Tuesdays at 2:00 pm in the new library. No experience necessary! Come & join us!

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

LAST DAY TO DONATE BOXES OF MAC & CHEESE! 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! We only need 13 more boxes to reach our goal of 200 boxes!



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".

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and development activities. Our gifts become part of a loving legacy in ways we can't foresee. Our gifts become blessings to people we don't know and blesses in ways we can't expect. We can make a difference more than we can imagine. On March 31, 2019, give with thanks and with joy.

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

TICKET SALES... TICKET SALES... TICKET SALES... LADIES AND GIRLS TEA

Please plan to **purchase your ticket(s) for the Ladies and Girls Tea** which will be held on Saturday, April 27th from 12-2pm. The luncheon will begin in the Fellowship Hall and will be followed by a Tea Talk. The World of Tea program will be presented by certified Tea Specialist, Sue Swain, of Secret Tea Society. You will learn about the origins of the world's most consumed beverage, tea. It will also be fun to learn the difference between tea categories – white, green, oolong, black, and herbal blends. Join us to enjoy the aroma of tea as it will surely brighten up your lovely April day!

Tickets are \$10 and \$5 for girls under 10 years of age. Sales will begin on Sunday, March 31st in the East Room after the services. You may also purchase a ticket from the church office after March 31st. Tickets must be purchased by April 15th. Please contact Beth Hari, Becky Weber, or Darlene Bagley-Fazekas if you have questions.

“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 16th at 9:30 a.m.** 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.

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.

ANNUAL LENTEN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

The Annual Lenten Women's Fellowship Luncheon will be held Wednesday, April 10th at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall. Please come and join us for this special event and bring a dish to share. Rev. Pam Branscome will be our speaker and will extend communion. Please sign up on the sheet on the table outside the kitchen.

HELP! PHONE CALLERS NEEDED

The Easter Bag Project provides Easter Bags for children who have a parent or caretaker in the Medina County Jail. The "Both Sides of Prison" group is preparing to put bags and children's names out on Sunday, March 24th. But before that happens, we in the "Both Sides of Prison" group could use a few helpers for a necessary task:

- We call the children's families or caretakers to verify the accuracy of addresses and children's information
- We supply a short script for each caller
- The more helpers we have, the fewer calls for each volunteer
- In past years, our callers have had fewer than 6 phone calls to make
- It's an easy job and quickly done!

Please look for the sign-up sheet in the downstairs lobby, near the elevator. Or email Jeannine Murray at Jmw597b@yahoo.com

GARFIELD FAMILY FOOD DONATIONS

Thank you all for continuing to purchase food for our Garfield Families. Please remember when you bring in your **produce to place it in the refrigerator**. Also, if you purchase bread or anything in advance be mindful of the use by date. Some of the things that have come in early have gone bad very quickly. Thank you again for your continued support.

FEBRUARY FINANCIAL REPORT:

	FEB	YTD	Annual Budget	YTD as a % of Budget
Income:	\$25,542	\$56,937	\$354,026	16.1%
Expense:	\$31,007	\$59,989	\$365,608	16.4%
Net Income (Loss)				
	(\$5,465)	(\$3,052)	(\$11,582)	

- Blanket Sunday Offering was \$724.00
- Automatic Withdrawal Options are available for your weekly, monthly or even quarterly contributions; contact Kelly for form to complete.
- Thru March 3rd \$500.00 in Birthday Gifts to the Endowment Fund have been given.

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**



Bicentennial Tidbits

Here is another picture of construction of the CE Building in 1955. In 1958, we started to have two services, a practice which apparently lasted from 1958 until 1985. It was also necessary to add a second parsonage (at 434 East Washington St., lower photo) to provide for the housing needs of our co-assistant pastors, Ron & Vivian Ekberg.

Our senior minister from 1986 until 1995 was Dr. Don Nichols. He makes some interesting points in his 1989 annual report:



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR MINISTER 1989: continued

Several years ago (March '85) the church dropped the second service which had long been a tradition in this very large membership church. (Did you know that of the about 6,200 churches of the U.C.C., that about only 350 are larger than 800 members?) Shortly after I arrived the Pastoral Board gave the green light to a plan to start an 11 a.m. service. We tried it for a time with faith results but not numbers. We failed, I believe, for the same reason that the former 11 a.m. service was dropped in 1985, namely, because the service lacked all the necessary components to sustain itself and to attract some of those other folks who normally cannot fit into a one service format. This dilemma of having 900 persons near to our place of worship, coupled with the fact that we can only seat about 350 persons comfortably at one service, prompted me to ask for a special ...

GOSPEL GALLEY

by Linda Turek

Some of you may have heard this song before, but last fall I heard it for the first time. The lyrics had meaning for me at the time and now that we are in the season of Lent, a time of reflection, moving toward the cross, I wanted to share the lyrics with you.

Thankful

Songwriters: David W. Foster/ Richard James Page/ Carole Bayer Sager

Some days, we forget to look around us. Some days, we can't see the joy that surrounds us. So caught up inside ourselves, We take when we should give.

So for tonight we pray for What we know can be, And on this day we hope for What we still can't see.
It's up to us, to be the change. And even though we all can still do more, There's so much to be thankful for.

Look beyond ourselves There's so much sorrow. It's way too late to say, I'll cry tomorrow.
Each of us must find our truth. It's so long overdue,

So for tonight we pray for What we know can be And every day, we hope for What we still can't see.
It's up to us to be the change. And even though we all can still do more There's so much to be thankful for.

Even with our differences There is a place we're all connected. Each of us can find each other's light.

So for tonight, we pray for What we know can be And on this day, we hope for What we still can't see.
It's up to us to be the change. And even though this world needs so much more There's so much to be thankful for.

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

Luke 4:1-13

Wilderness Companions

Lent begins in the deserted wilderness, where we are given another opportunity to deepen our understanding of who Jesus is. Today's lesson is about the way and the why of the ministry of Jesus: we might say that the ground rules are set. The Son of God is not here to grab power for himself, or to show off how much he matters to God, or to work magic for the masses. Jesus spends forty days struggling alone and wandering, tested by the seductive voice of evil that is backed up by scripture. This reminds us how easily the Bible can be used for wrong purposes and to be mindful of seductively good things that can lead away from God.

Jesus leaves the wilderness, filled as always with the Holy Spirit, assured that he is God's beloved, and ready for what lies ahead. As our own Lenten journey begins, we too are sure of Jesus, our companion in whatever wilderness we face, and we walk with trust in him.

This Lent, contemplate tests you have faced in your journey of faith and what path you will take in the Lenten season ahead. Even better than giving up chocolate, we might develop a daily spiritual practice of reflection on God's provision, God's abundance, and God's power in our lives.

"The greatest temptations are not those that solicit our consent to obvious sin, but those that offer us great evils masking as the greatest goods." (*Thomas Merton, No Man Is an Island*)

Take the UCC Environmental Justice Quiz!

Did you know that UCC ministers coined the phrase "environmental racism" and played a leading role in giving birth to the environmental justice movement in the 1980s?

During a six week campaign of civil disobedience in 1982, a movement was born that made national headlines and introduced the world to the issue of environmental racism.

Did you know that the UCC is building a powerful environmental network that stays connected through a blog and e-newsletter called The Pollinator?

The Pollinator is a digital platform of the UCC for the sharing of ideas and inspiration, so that we might become more fruitful in the pursuit of environmental justice. Its focus is the building of a faith-filled and faith-rooted movement for the care of creation.

Did you know that UCC churches are deepening and expanding their commitment to the environment by becoming Creation Justice Churches?

Whether it is taking on climate change or addressing the lead poisoning of children, environmental justice ministries could not have a higher purpose or calling than they do now.

Learn more at ucc.org/environmental-ministries and get involved.