



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*****

LIVESTREAMING 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 “Blessed Assurance” – arr. Roger Summers

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

***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** (inspired by the Green Day song, *21 Guns*)

Leader: When you're at the end of the road and you lost all sense of control;

People: **Our thoughts have taken their toll.**

Leader: When your mind breaks the spirit of your soul;

People: Our faith walks on broken glass.

Leader: Nothing's ever built to last, and you're in ruins;

People: In this state, we can turn to God.

Leader: And in that state, true worship can happen.

People: We come as we are and we throw our arms up to the sky to find comfort in this hour.

*OPENING HYMN

"Holy, Holy, Holy"



1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark-ness hide thee,
4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
though the eye of sin - ful man thy glo - ry may not see,
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
which wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
per - fect in power, in love and pur - i - ty.
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

CONFESSION (unison) (written by Tim Graves and posted on LiturgyBits: Little bits for worship)

Leader: We've been in exile.

People: We've allowed ourselves to be tempted by the idols of things and power.

Leader: We've found it isn't what we thought. Retail therapy and yearning for a soda pop does nothing to build up our world.

People: They are all fizz and sugar, satiating only temporarily.

Leader: We're left with the same emptiness.

People: We're left without the spirit-words of God. We're alone in harshness and brokenness.

Leader: Acknowledging our idolatry and mistakes, we turn back to the living water.
We turn back to the love that flows forward bringing justice and hope to all of humanity.

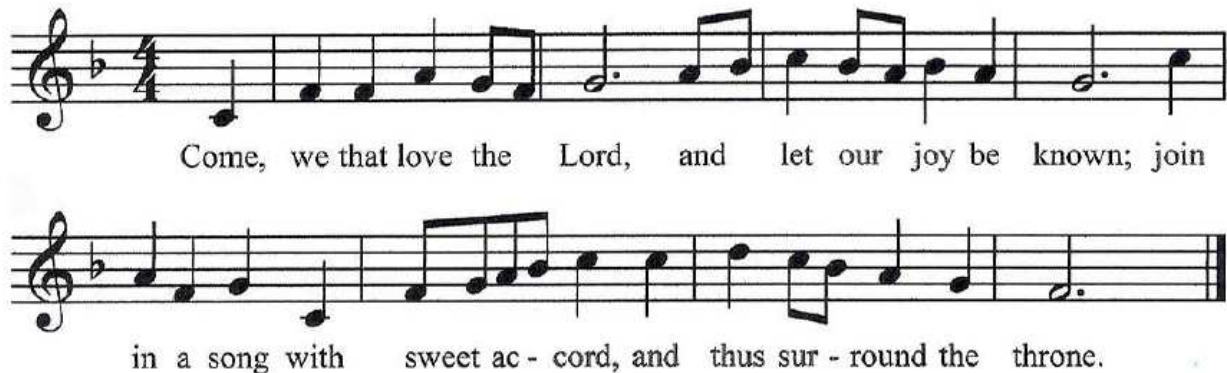
**People: The word that comes from God's mouth does not return empty.
God's word does as God intends.**

Leader: Always.

People: Always. Amen.

PRAISE RESPONSE

Come, We That Love the Lord



CHOIR ANTHEM

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" - Hans Leo Hassler;
arr. by Arnold Sherman

Chancel Choir

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

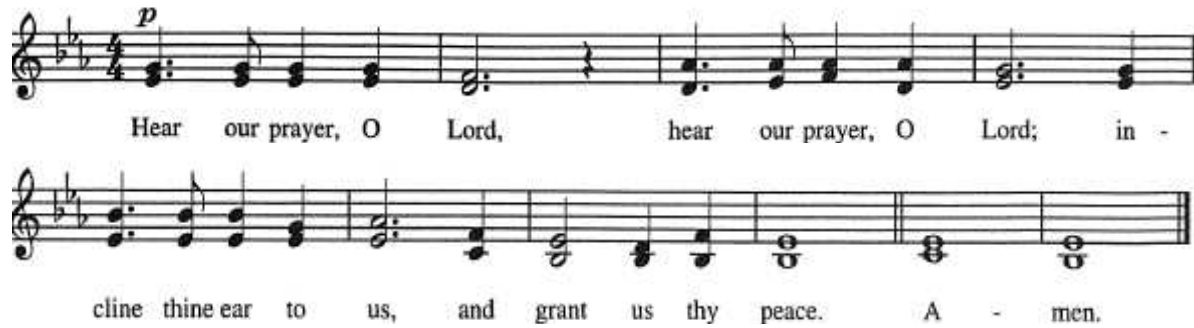
Joys and Concerns, Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer

PRAYER RESPONSE

"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"

From Psalm 143

George Whelpton (1897)



SCRIPTURE

Psalm 63

Pete Metzloff, Liturgist

Leader: O God, you are my God, I seek you,
People: **my soul thirsts for you;**
Leader: my flesh faints for you,
People: **as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.**
Leader: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
People: **beholding your power and glory.**
Leader: Because your steadfast love is better than life,
People: **my lips will praise you.**
Leader: So I will bless you as long as I live;
People: **I will lift up my hands and call on your name.**
Leader: My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
People: **and my mouth praises you with joyful lips**
Leader: when I think of you on my bed,
People: **and meditate on you in the watches of the night;**
Leader: for you have been my help,
People: **and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.**
Leader: My soul clings to you;
People: **your right hand upholds me.**
Leader: But those who seek to destroy my life
People: **shall go down into the depths of the earth;**
Leader: they shall be given over to the power of the sword,
People: **they shall be prey for jackals.**
Leader: But the king shall rejoice in God; all who swear by him shall exult,
People: **for the mouths of liars will be stopped.**

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.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offertory Invitation

Let us gather our offering to provide comfort for others.

Offertory Music "Andante cantabile" – William Stickles

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

*Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below;

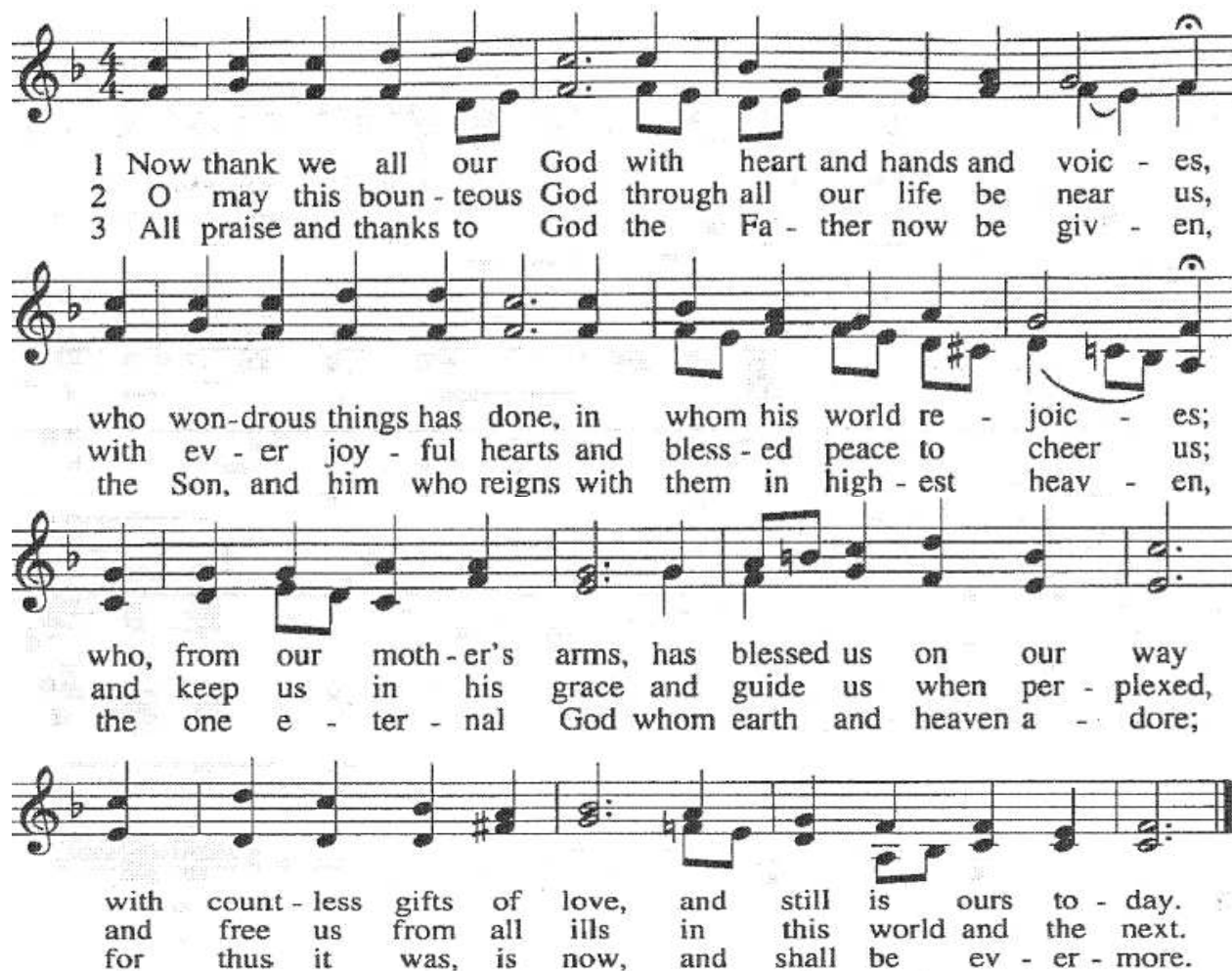
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Holy One, guide our offering today to bless the poor in spirit, those mourning, the meek, those who are hungering and thirsting for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake. In your many Holy Names, we pray. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

"Now Thank We All Our God"



1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
 2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,

who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
 the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,

who, from our mother's arms, has blessed us on our way
 and keep us in his grace and guide us when perplexed,
 the one eternal God whom earth and heaven adore;

with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
 and free us from all ills, in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: Holy God, we are thirsty for more of you;
People: We ask you to reveal more of yourself to us
to take us beyond the confines of familiar habits
to free us from the restrictions and distortions of our language
to expand our understanding of you
beyond the confines of our culture
so that we can love you wholeheartedly,
we can communicate you faithfully,
and we can reflect your full image to a world that needs you.

***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** "Now Thank We All Our God" – JS Bach/arr. Wilbur Held Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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*Those who are able please stand

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

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

Today's coffee hour is hosted by **Pete and Syd Benson**.

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PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Luke Lindon, Senior Pastor – 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 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

March 24, 2019 thru March 31, 2019

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT

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
Sing-a-long
7:00 pm JMM @ Western Reserve

Mon

Tues 2:00 pm Bible Study: Book of Luke

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
6:00 pm Lenten Dinner & Worship
“The Beatitudes”
@ First Christian Church
6:00 pm Youth Bell Choir
6:30 pm Youth Choir
6:45 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Thu Garfield Deliveries
7:00 pm Congregational Council

Fri 1:30 pm JMM @ Evergreen

Sat

Sun 4th SUNDAY OF LENT
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir Practice
10:30 am Traditional Worship
11:30 am Bicentennial Fund &
Stewardship Meeting
1:15 pm JMM @ Brookdale North

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

Psalm 63, a Psalm of David

“Not the Same Old Psalm and Dance:
Comfort and Assurance” - Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: are donated by Charlie Owens
in memory of Sherry Fodor.

Upcoming Youth Events:

- *April 7– Bible Class 9:15-10:15
Youth Group 4:00 – 6:00
- *April 14 –Bible Class Presentations and
Rehearsal 11:30
Confirmation Class 3:00-4:30
- *April 17 – Stuff Easter Eggs @ First Christian 5:30
- *April 20 – Easter Egg Hunt at First Christian 1:00
- *April 21 – NO F.I.S.H. & NO YOUTH GROUP
Happy Easter!
- *April 28 – Bible Sunday
Confirmation Dinner & Rehearsal 6:00

CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTOS

Sign up now! It's time for a new church photo directory, and we want to include YOU! LifeTouch will be at the church April 30-May 4 (weekdays from 2-9, Saturday from 10-4). Everyone who signs up will receive a free 8x10 photo! Please sign up after church at the table in the CrossRoads or online at www.uccmedina.org (click on the blue rectangular “Sign Up Now” button).

SECRET PAL THANK YOU

Thank you to all the youth and adults who participated in the secret pal project. I hope everyone had fun and enjoyed getting to know a new friend in our church family. I hope everyone will keep in touch with their new friend.

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), soup and/or a salad topping. We need your food donations by 5 pm on April 3rd. Watch for opportunities to sign-up!



"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. Donations also accepted thru the on-line giving option on our website.

EASTER CANDY NEEDED

We need candy to fill our eggs for the Easter egg hunt. If you are willing to donate a bag of candy it would be greatly appreciated. There is a box in the welcoming area where you can put your donation. The only requirements are that the **candy must be individually wrapped (no jelly beans), that the candy is able to fit into an egg and NO CHOCOLATE CANDY** that could melt if it gets warm enough the day of the hunt. Thank you for your help.

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.

ALL CHURCH MEMBERS INVITED TO HEAR REV. WENDLING

Monday, April 8th at 1:30 – East Room

Circle of Caring is sponsoring Rev. Dennis Wendling, full-time Chaplain at Medina Hospital, as a speaker who will talk about how to support people in the hospital and what he does as a hospital chaplain. Bring your own questions about hospital visitations or Circle of Caring. Refreshments will be served. Call Syd Benson with any questions at 330-725-5540.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

It's hard to believe, but it is time to start thinking about Vacation Bible School. This year VBS will be June 10-14. Our theme this year is "To Mars and Beyond" and it will be tons of fun! As always, many hands make light work. We are in need of people to help make sure it is a success. If you are interested in helping out with VBS, please see Stacie Yates or sign up in the Crossroads Hallway.

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.

CHILDREN OF INMATES – 9TH ANNUAL EASTER BAG PROJECT

March 24th – April 14th

You are invited to participate in our church's effort to share encouragement and comfort to children whose parents are incarcerated in Medina County Jail. There are not many children this year so grab one before they are gone! Beginning on Sunday, March 24th and ending with a blessing of the filled Easter Bags on Palm Sunday, April 14th, you can help reach out to a hurting young person by providing an Easter Bag which will be delivered during Easter weekend. Instructions and children's names can be found in the East Room and on the table near the kitchen. We are also looking for volunteers to help deliver the bags to families on Saturday, April 20th. A sign-up sheet to help with this effort is on the table in the hall next to the kitchen. During this season of re-birth and hope, let us share the good news of new life with an outpouring of love and kindness to Medina County children. Questions? E-mail Jeannine at jmw597b@yahoo.com or call the church office (330-725-4559).

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 20th

1 pm at First Christian Church

It's almost time for our annual Easter egg hunt at First Christian Church! Come and see the sea of colors as the grounds of First Christian Church are covered with plastic eggs filled with goodies. The egg hunt is for 1 year olds through the fifth grade. We have different egg hunts for different age groups. Bring your own baskets to collect all your eggs. Mark this date on the calendar and join the fun. Please make sure to be there by 1:00 or you will miss it!

LENTEN SCHEDULE 2019

March 13th – April 10th

WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT

6:00 PM Dinner & Lenten Worship
"BEATITUDES"

March 27th – First Christian Church
4797 Sharon-Copley Rd.

April 3 – UCC, Congregational Church
217 E. Liberty St.

April 10 – United Methodist Church
4747 Foote Rd.

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

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

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

April 19th – **GOOD FRIDAY** – OFFICE CLOSING
@ NOON

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

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

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

Easter services: April 21, 2019

7:00 am Sunrise – **Spring Grove Cemetery Chapel**

8:15 am - **UCC Chapel**

9:00 am - **Fellowship Hall**

10:30 am **Sanctuary**

EASTER LILY ORDERS

It's time to order your Easter Lily! If you would like to place a lily on the altar in honor or memory of someone, please fill out a yellow order form found on the table near the kitchen (or you may ask an usher for a form) and return it to the church office no later than April 8th.

CROSSROADS

Fifteen additional crosses have been added to "COMPLETE" our beautiful Crossroads Wall. Thank you to everyone who contributed these special and unique pieces to enhance our Hallway to fellowship. WE truly have created a visual "WOW" Factor to behold!!



CARL JESSIE
CUSTODIAN

In 1960, the year I started working here, the sanctuary was remodeled. An eight foot lighted cross was added to the Chancel. It is now in the chapel. A library was build under the balcony. The East Room was enlarged by removing the three small classroom.

(Source: Carl Jessie's 1974 History)

Bicentennial Tidbits

The Rev. Truman D. Whitaker was installed as pastor in 1957 and served until 1969. As during prior pastorates, renovation and remodeling took place. The exterior walls of the church were cleaned by sandblasting, a library was created at the rear of the sanctuary under the closed balcony classrooms and the basement classrooms were remodeled. In 1961 the church's first Assistant/Associate pastor was hired.

(Source: Betty Zarney's 1995 History)



TRUMAN D. WHITAKER
MINISTER

ROBERT J. OTTAWAY
ASSISTANT MINISTER

HAROLD E. GENTZLER
MINISTER OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

GOSPEL GALLEY

by Vicki Miller

I remember as a child getting completely confused about "Psalm Sunday" and the "Book of Palms". I thought it was a spelling or pronunciation error. As I got older and started to study the bible, I just couldn't get into the "Book of Psalms". I have never enjoyed reading poetry- I think I'm a "lazy reader" who just likes to get to the point and not have to work at interrupting the meaning of what's being said. I'm also not musically inclined, so to try and read the psalms as a type of song or chant didn't work for me either. When I read that Luke would be focusing on the Psalms this Lenten season I was willing to give it another try. I have to be honest; I think I have read most of the Psalms this weekend and none of them spoke to me. So, I googled "why don't I like to read the Psalms". I got a great answer and a good suggestion to get past my ambivalence. The writer used the analogy of the Psalms as a type of music or radio station you may or may not like. We all have our favorite stations and tend to bypass the stations that play music we don't enjoy. I like pop music and I really don't care for country; but if I'm stuck in a car with a country music lover, and open my mind, I'll probably find a lot of things that actually speak to me in a country song. Psalms are the same – I need to learn to open my mind, give them a chance and learn from them. Google suggested that I follow a 3 step process ☺:

1. **Read Them.** First simply read and enjoy the Psalm. Kind of like taking a walk... What do you notice about the Psalm? What is the mood? Is it a lament or psalm of praise? What strikes you about the Psalm? What is happening?
2. **Pray Them.** Remember, the Psalms are prayers to teach us to pray. Notice how personal it is... Simply pray the Psalm back to God and personalize it.
3. **Apply Them.** Then pay attention to how the Holy Spirit might be speaking to you in the Psalm.

Enjoy the Psalms, and may they lead you into a deeper and richer life of prayer!

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.

COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER UPDATE

Michelle Lamar from the Community Services Center sends her heartfelt thanks to all who have so generously provided peanut butter and jelly these past weeks. Now the Center has managed to arrange buying these basics from the Akron Canton Food Bank at a price the Center can afford. Currently, the Community Services Center's most needed items are TOILET PAPER and BAR SOAPS. Please place your kind donations in the BOGO bin across from the elevator. Thank you. -Community Outreach Ministry

HELP NEEDED!

Help is needed to operate the video and/or sound consoles. If you would like to help once a month or as a sub, we could use the help. Our video streaming averages 15 to 20 viewers each week. Our video streaming has been viewed in 90 cities, in 18 states and China! But, don't be intimidated, we will offer training and assistance. If you can help with this valuable service, please contact the office or Matt Yates.

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*******

Isaiah 55:1-9

Open Invitation

Isaiah offers in nine verses the heart of the biblical message: God loves us, no matter what, reaching out to us even (or especially) in the worst of times, making promises that are not pie-in-the-sky, not theoretical. God promises what we most deeply yearn for: homecoming when we're lost, a rich feast when we're hungry, fresh water to satisfy our thirst, and a community of hope when we long for meaning—something greater than ourselves through which we might be a blessing to the world. There's no price of admission to this feast, and everyone (even the most unexpected) will be invited to the party.

A Litany for Amistad Sunday (*based on Isaiah 43*)

The 1839 slave revolt aboard the *Amistad* brought Congregationalists from New England together to defend the rights of these slaves to their freedom. That defense finally came before the U.S. Supreme Court. When it was finished, the slaves were freed and the American Mission Society (a forerunner of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries) was formed.

One: In the hold of the ship, the *Amistad*, the slaves were chained and rowed together.

MANY: But God made a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters.

One: Chains were broken, slaves revolted,

But God said, "Do not remember the old ways I am about to do a new thing."

MANY: The slaves were recaptured, prisoners again, but not alone. A committee was formed to support and defend. Advocates, lawyers, ministers and more. People of faith who brought clothing and money and food.

One: Now it springs forth; do you see it?

MANY: Before the court, the Supreme Court, justice, this time, prevailed,

One: "I will make a way through the wilderness," said the God of the slaves.

MANY: And the slaves were acquitted. All were set free.

One: God gave water and rivers in the desert so the thirsty could drink.

MANY: The slaves went home but their friends persisted.

One: For abolition, for education, for liberty. The American Missionary Society was born, and continues today as part of the United Church of Christ.

MANY: So says God, "These are the people whom I formed for myself. So they might declare my praise."

One: Let us worship our God, a God of freedom and justice. Oh God of the *Amistad*,

MANY: Give hope to our prayers and make true our hope, that liberty and equality and fairness bless this land.