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.

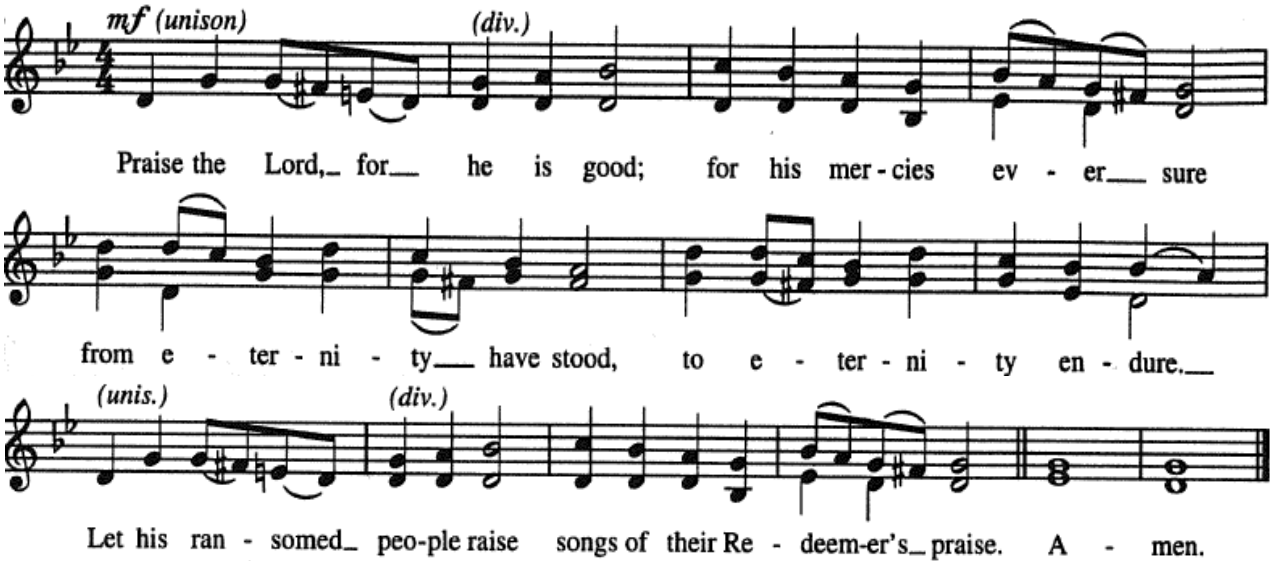
RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PRELUDE "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" – arr. Christina Becket Cathy Fafrak, Organist

***LENTEN INTROIT** Welsh Folk song, arr. Hugh Davies from Psalm 107



***CALL TO WORSHIP** (inspired by "Marching Bands of Manhattan" by Death Cab for Cutie)

Leader: Sorrow drips into your heart through a pin hole
People: Just like a faucet that leaks and there is comfort in the sound
Leader: But while you debate half empty and half full
People: It slowly rises, your love is going to drown.
Leader: We are full of faults and regrets.
People: Joys and sorrow. Comfort and trouble.
Leader: Be with us in this hour as we turn toward you, our Lord and our God. Amen

***OPENING HYMN** **"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"**

Elizabeth Clephane was known during her short lifetime for her charitable work in her hometown of Melrose, Scotland. After her death, this hymn was compiled from several stanzas of a longer poem that had appeared in a popular Scottish religious magazine.

Tune: ST. CHRISTOPHER 7.6.8.6.8.6.8.6.
Frederick C. Maker, 1881

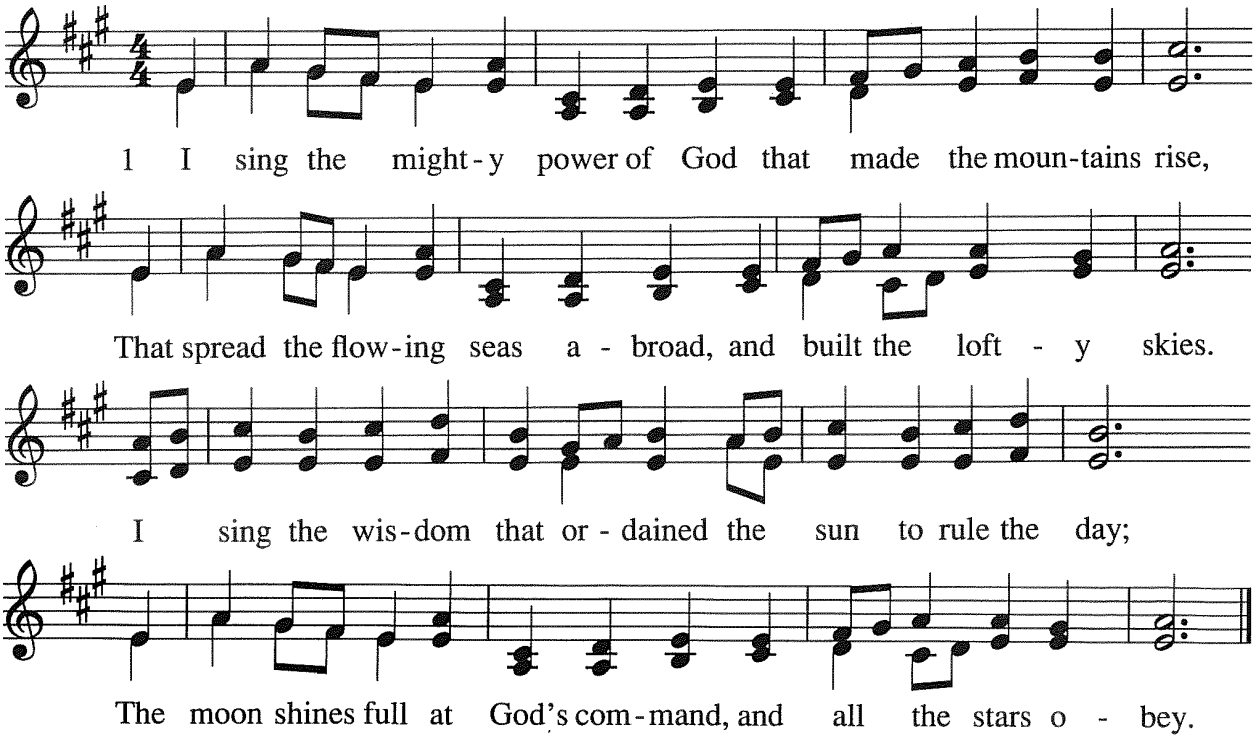
OPENING PRAYER (unison) (Cheryl Lawrie and posted on http://holdthisspace.org.au/)

Holy One, we are not so holy.
We are sinners…we are not only sinners
We are weak…we are not only weak
We fail…we are not always failures
We have destroyed…also we have loved.

[Silence is kept]

You, God, do not limit us to the stories by which the world knows us
You see much more in us than the labels we give ourselves
Give us courage to defy all expectations –especially our own –
and in your love become all of who we are. Amen.

***PRAISE RESPONSE "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"**



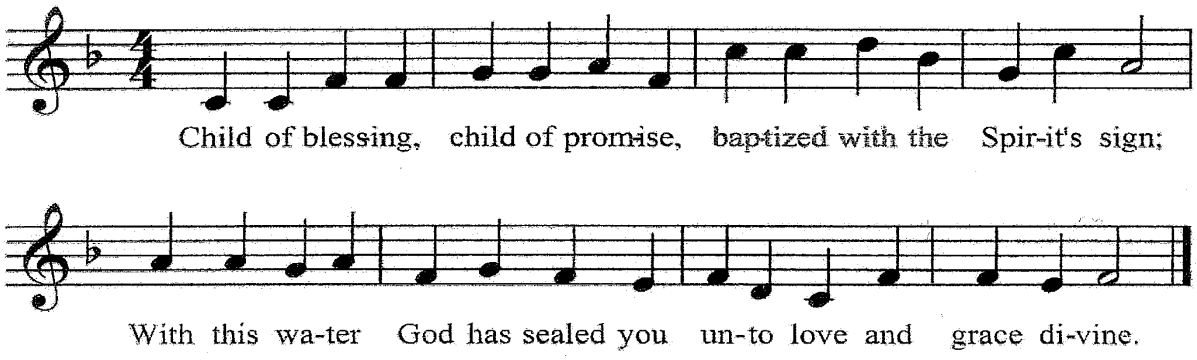
The tune Ellacombe *was named for a place in Devonshire, England. It was first published in a collection of tunes used in the private chapel of the Duke of Wirtemberg, and was possibly sung with the text "Ave Maria, klärer."*

Tune: ELLACOMBE C.M.D.
Gesangbuch der herzoglichen Wirtembergischen katholischen Hofkapelle, *1784*
Descant, The New Century Hymnal, *1993*

CHOIR ANTHEM "Softly and Tenderly" Chancel Choir
Words and Music by Will L. Thompson; Setting by Joel Raney

BAPTISM Olivia Bracey Stevenson and Sadie Baker Stevenson

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise



Question to the Congregation

I commend to your love **Olivia Bracey Stevenson and Sadie Baker Stevenson** whom we receive as children in the family of God. Through your lives and example, will you support these parents in their desire to guide **Olivia and Sadie** in the knowledge and love of God and of our savior Jesus Christ?

People: In joyful response to God's grace, we promise our love, our support, and our care.

'Borning Cry" Jim Kiser, Soloist

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"**

SCRIPTURE Psalm 32 Ashley Bonsell, Liturgist

Leader: Happy are those
People: whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
Leader: Happy are those
People: to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
Leader: While I kept silence,
People: my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.
Leader: For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
People: my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.
Leader: Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
People: and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.
Leader: Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;
People: at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.
Leader: I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
People: I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
Leader: Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
People: whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.
Leader: Many are the torments of the wicked,
People: but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.
Leader: Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,
People: and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

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: Sin and Joy" Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offertory Invitation

A saint once said, "No one has ever gone broke through giving." Let us attempt to now.

Offertory Music "Fantasia" – Johann Krieger 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)** (Church of Scotland's **Starters for Sunday** suggestions for Lent 4C)

We are part of a proud and hard-hearted people who hoard what the earth provides and seem loathe to share the fruits of our labours, who live for today with little thought for tomorrow who are afraid to let pain and suffering affect us. Spirit of God open our hearts and minds that we may grasp your forgiveness, and forgiven seek to forgive others and to live a life of reconciling love modelled on the example of Jesus Christ in whose name we make this prayer. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"**

Giv - er of im - mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day!
chant - ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth-er, lift us to the joy di-vine.
joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun-ward, in the tri-umph song of life.

WORDS: Henry Van Dyke, 1907; st. 4 alt. 1989
MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; arr. by Edward Hodges, 1864

HYMN TO JOY
87.87 D

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: In Christ Jesus we are a radically renewed community.
People: Thanks be to God!
Leader: Old things are done away with, all things become new.
People: Thanks be to God!
Leader: We are agents of grace and reconciliation.
People: Thanks be to God!
Leader: With every step or stumble, Christ will be with us.
People: Thanks be to God!
Leader: Go from here as a forgiven people, released upon an unsuspecting world to forgive and bring peace. 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** "Recessional for a Joyful Day" – Dale Wood Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"More Than Church on Sunday"

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*Those who are able are asked to 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 ***Maureen Walker.***

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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 31, 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 31, 2019 thru April 7, 2019

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun ***4th*** **SUNDAY OF LENT**
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir practice
10:30 am Traditional Worship
1:15 pm JMM @ Brookdale North

Mon **7:00 pm Evangelism Team**

Tues **2:00 pm Bible Study: Book of Luke**
7:00 pm Worship Team

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
6:00 pm Lenten Dinner & Worship
"The Beatitudes"
@ UCC Tonight

Thu **Garfield Deliveries**

Fri 1:30 pm JMM @ Evergreen

Sat

Sun **5th SUNDAY OF LENT**
High School Youth Cook for Cups
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
11:30 am Hunger Outreach Meeting
(Project Leaders only)
4:00 pm Youth Group

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

Psalm 32

"Not the Same Old Psalm and Dance:
Sin and Joy" - Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: are donated by Steve and Jane Anderson in honor of their mothers.

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

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. We give **TODAY** with thanks and with joy. Donations also accepted thru the on-line giving option on our website.

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.

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!

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).

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 Worshp

"BEATITUDES"

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

April 10 – United Methodist Church
4747 Foote Rd.

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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 CLOSES @ 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 Sunise – **Spring Grove Cemetery Chapel**

8:15 am **- UCC Chapel**

9:00 am - **Fellowhip 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!!

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

BICENTENNIAL TIDBITS AND NARRATIVE VIDEOS NOW ON THE CHURCH WEBSITE

To view some of our History, from the home page, click on the Bicentennial banner, then select either TidBits or Narratives and view! A big thank you to Kate Lindon for creating the web page!

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GOSPEL GALLEY

by Dave Weber

Spring officially arrived Wednesday, March 20th. A day that saw equal daylight and equal darkness. The equator was on a perfect horizontal plane. People ran out of their homes breathing the fresh spring air and throwing flower petals in the air. Well ok, maybe not. But it is a special day. We really begin anticipating the first burst of crocus, emergence of daffodils and not long after tulips. There is a real freshness that opens each day. Soon, the trees will begin to bud, and ornamentals like plum and cherry will light up the day and gift us with their wonderful scents. We are nearing Easter. As we have waited expectantly for Mother Nature's spring, so too we await the coming of Easter. A ride on a humble donkey, shouts of "Hosanna", a garden of prayer and meditation, and a rising to eternal life are all elements of what we know is to come. No matter that this happens every year. We still bathe ourselves in it. This is a time of expectation, a time of deep reflection, a time of joy. And so, we await not only nature's spectacular show, but a time of spiritual renewal. We come out of our winter hibernation to live in Christ's love. Yes, "morning has broken like the first morning…blackbird has spoken like the first bird…Praise for the singing…Praise for the morning…Praise for them springing fresh from the Word…Praise with elation, praise every morning God's recreation of the new day."

Bicentennial Tidbits

In 1961, the congregation voted to accept the constitution of the newly merged Evangelical and Reformed Church with the Congregational Christian Church, to become the United Church of Christ. Each local congregation was given the privilege of choosing its own official title. Our congregation chose to retain the word Congregational in its title, thus becoming the United Church of Christ, Congregational of Medina, Ohio.

Why a Local Congregational Christian Church

Should Become a Part of the

United Church of Christ

1. To become part of the United Church of Christ is to act consistently with the prayer of Christ for the oneness of His Church.
2. To become part of the United Church of Christ is to act consistently with Christ's constant emphasis upon the common fatherhood of God and the common brotherhood of man.
3. To become part of the United Church of Christ is to act significantly, and relevantly, to the needs of the "one world" effected by science, industry and mass media of communication.
4. To become part of the United Church of Christ is to act consistently with the world wide trends toward the re-union of the Church.

What is the meaning of the UCC symbol?

The symbol of the United Church of Christ comprises a crown, cross and orb enclosed within a double oval bearing the name of the church and the prayer of Jesus, "That they may all be one" (John 17:21).

It is based on an ancient Christian symbol called the "Cross of Victory" or the "Cross Triumphant." The crown symbolizes the sovereignty of Christ. The cross recalls the suffering of Christ - his arms outstretched on the wood of the cross - for the salvation of humanity. The orb, divided into three parts, reminds us of Jesus' command to be his "witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). The verse from Scripture reflects our historic commitment to the restoration of unity among the separated churches of Jesus Christ.

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*******

March 31, 2019
Fourth Sunday of Lent
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Embracing Love

Jesus' story about a precious son lost and recovered was a response to self-righteous religious authorities who questioned the company he was keeping, but it's also appropriate for Lenten reflection on our own lives. Where do we find ourselves in this story? Why do we so often identify with the older brother? Are we, like that older brother, perhaps stuck in scarcity thinking, when we'd be much happier, much freer, trusting that there is more than enough for all, and great cause for celebration?

One Great Hour of Sharing

You arrive home in the evening, tired from a long day, and on the news comes a bulletin about an earthquake, or refugee crisis, or typhoon, or famine that has struck. You watch it on the television, or your computer screen and say to yourself, "There's so much misery in the world." Then, you change the channel. After all, what can you do? You have work the next day, and your life to live. In your wallet might be twenty or forty dollars. How far could that go to help thousands of people? You can do something other than look in your wallet and feel powerless. We have a way to reach into that news story and make a difference. You can watch but you don't have to stand still; you can run toward the one who needs you and give to One Great Hour of Sharing.

One Great Hour of Sharing is more than a helping organization. It's part of the mission of the Christian church. More than just the United Church of Christ, we join with eight other Christian denominations in this work. Together, with those partners, we raise approximately 12 million dollars a year. Of each dollar given, more than 90 cents is used directly for mission services on the ground in areas of need.

Imagine yourself separated from your family by a disaster and there are only strangers all around you. Then picture someone handing you something warm to drink, a blanket and a way to get home again. Give to One Great Hour of Sharing because when we join our gifts with others we can make a difference in the world. Share in this ministry because it's a way we can share the love of Christ with others.

Give generously so we can all be there to offer hope to those suffering and to restore home the lost.