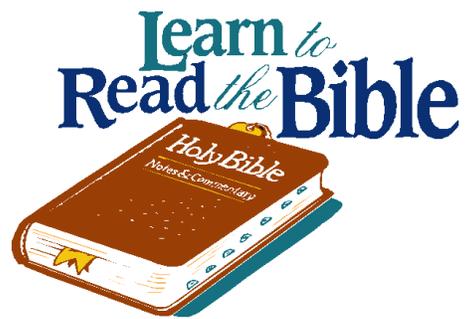
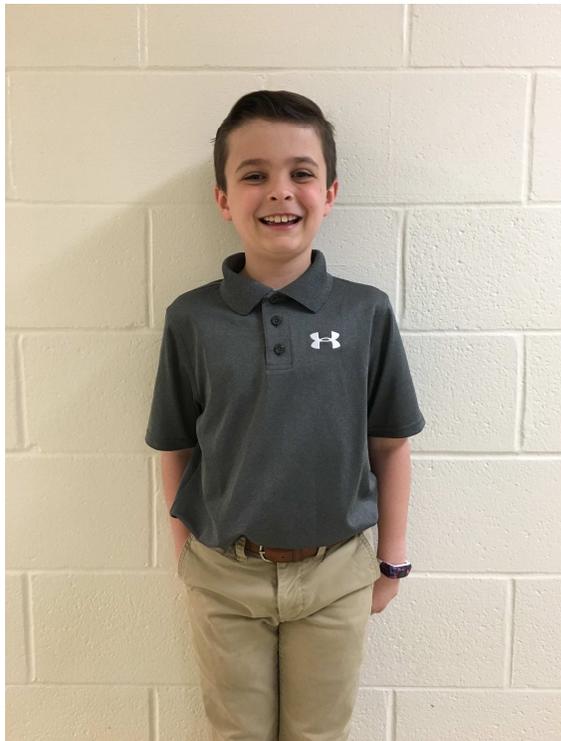


THIRD GRADE BIBLE SUNDAY



APRIL 28, 2019

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 3RD GRADERS



Price Bilikam

Parents: Ryan & Melissa

Bible Sponsor: Melissa Bilikam



Julia Black

Parents: Mike & Kerri

Bible Sponsor: Maureen Walker

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 “Give Me Jesus” – arr. Lloyd Larson

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

CHORAL INTROIT

Youth Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus came and told us his mission statement. He unrolled the scroll and found where it was written,

People: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...”

Leader: Alright! I like that! What else?!

People: “Because he has anointed me...”

Leader: We like anointing and blessing and baptizing. What else?!

People: “He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives...”

Leader: Wait... What about the bad guys in jail?

People: “Recovery of the sight to the blind...”

Leader: But our premiums might go up. Isn't this a preexisting condition that we don't cover anyway?

People: “To let the oppressed go free...”

Leader: This is politics from the pulpit. I'm going to complain.

People: “To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

Leader: I don't know about all of this.

People: Jesus Christ is our one foundation, and to his work and word we witness.

Leader: Then that is what we shall do, not because we agree, but because we object.

People: Let us worship the Chain Breaker, the Holy One of God, our Risen Savior Jesus Christ.

Refrain
C6 F Bb F $\frac{Bb}{F}$ F C

Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, com-ing for to car-ry me home;

C7 F F7 Bb F Dm $\frac{Bbm}{Db}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ C7 $\frac{Bb}{F}$ F

swing low, sweet char - i - ot, com-ing for to car-ry me home.

F Dm Bb F

1 I looked o - ver Jor - dan, and what did I see,
 2 If you get there be - fore I do,
 3 I'm some - times up, I'm some - times down,

F C C7 F F7

com-ing for to car - ry me home? A band of an - gels
 com-ing for to car - ry me home; tell all my friends I'm
 com-ing for to car - ry me home; but still my soul feels

Bb F Dm $\frac{Bbm}{Db}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ C7 F

com-ing af - ter me, com-ing for to car - ry me home.
 com-ing too, com-ing for to car - ry me home.
 heav - en - ly bound, com-ing for to car - ry me home.

WORDS and MUSIC: African-American spiritual

SWING LOW
10.8.10.8.Ref.

CONFESSION (from "Slavery Still Exists," an awareness program sponsored by the Illinois Women Religious Against Human Trafficking)

God of compassionate love, you listen to the cries of our brothers and sisters whose lives are held bound through the evil of human trafficking in our day. In our prayer and sharing this day, we ask that our ears and hearts be open to the voice of your Spirit calling us to hear the cries for freedom throughout the world and within our own neighborhoods. Grant us the courage to reach out in your name through the ways and means available to us to be instruments of hope and new life to others. Be near to us as we unite in prayer and strive to meet the challenges presented to us to be your compassion and love to these our suffering brothers and sisters. We pray with confidence in your assistance in our need. Amen.

PRAISE RESPONSE "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"

Unison

1. He's got the whole world in His hands, He's got the
 2. He's got the wind and the rain in His hands, He's got the
 3. He's got the ti - ny lit - tle ba - by in His hands, He's got the
 4. He's got you and me, broth - er, in His hands, He's got

whole world in His hands, He's got the whole
 wind and the rain in His hands, He's got the wind and the
 ti - ny lit - tle ba - by in His hands, He's got the ti - ny lit - tle
 you and me, sis - ter, in His hands, He's got you and me,

world in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands.
 rain in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands.
 ba - by in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands.
 broth-er, in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands.

TEXT: Traditional Spiritual
 MUSIC: Traditional Spiritual; arranged by Eugene Thomas

WHOLE WORLD
 Irregular meter

Arr. © Copyright 1986 by Word Music (a div. of WORD MUSIC). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

CHOIR ANTHEM

"The Church's One Foundation"
Tune: Aurelia; by Samuel S. Wesley, arr. by Frances L. Callahan

Youth Bell 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

"God Be In My Head"
*By Andrea Ramsey; Words adapted from the Book of Hours,
a 1514 service book used in Clare College, Cambridge*

Youth Choir

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 21:2-11 and Luke 10:13-16

Pam Branscome, Liturgist

SERMON

"Church in Society: Abolition"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS**Offertory Invitation**

For those who long for freedom. For those yearning to breathe free. For those in bondage, we now gather our offering.

Offertory Music

"Andante Religioso" – Herbert C. Morris

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 (from "Slavery Still Exists," an awareness program sponsored by the
Illinois Women Religious Against Human Trafficking)**

Leader: Creator God, we come to you, needing your light to shine in the darkness of human trafficking, sexual exploitation and slave labor conditions.

People: Thank you for your light

Leader: We confess that many times the daily items we buy and consume are produced by persons working as slaves.

People: Forgive us for not letting your light shine bright enough to eliminate labor exploitation and slavery.

Leader: Your wonderful gifts, Creator God, have been used to abuse the most vulnerable among us: women, children, the homeless and immigrants.

People: Your gifts of time, talents and treasures of the human body are being destroyed for the sake of selfish profit.

Leader: Creator God, we commit to consider this evil, take counsel and speak out, bringing your light into the darkness of slavery in our world today.

People: We commit to educate ourselves, even when it is uncomfortable.

Leader: We acknowledge our need to learn about items that we buy that have been made by enslaved workers.

People: We commit to spending more of our money on products produced by adult workers receiving fair wages.

Leader: O God, you have given us voices, words and resources that enable us to speak, write and act against economic and political systems that support human trafficking.

People: We commit to consider the evil of human trafficking, take counsel and speak out.

Commitment

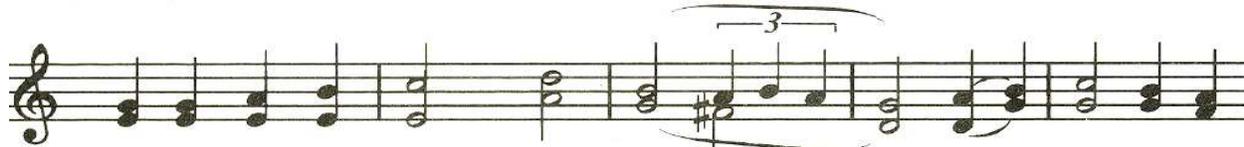
All: I commit myself to fulfilling the action I have just chosen in order to show solidarity with members of the human family who are trafficked.

*SENDING HYMN

"We Shall Overcome"



1. We shall o - ver - come, we shall o - ver - come,



we shall o - ver - come some - day! Oh, deep in my



heart I do be - lieve we shall o - ver - come some - day!

2. We'll walk hand in hand.
3. We shall all be free.
4. We shall live in peace.
5. The Lord will see us through.

WORDS: Afro-American spiritual

MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. by William Farley Smith, 1986

MARTIN

Irr.

Adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: Creating and compassionate Source of Life,

People: **God of all Nations and People, we thank you for your love of each of us.**

Leader: May we model your love by our concern for our trafficked sisters and brothers.

People: **May they experience in their lives the power of being treasured by us and our efforts to free this world, locally and globally, of slavery.**

Leader: This we ask in great confidence now and in the future. Let us go and be of service,

People: **For this service has ended 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**

"Christ Is Alive" – arr. Alice Jordan

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

*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 **the DELTs.***

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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

APRIL 28, 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

April 28, 2019 thru May 5, 2019

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun BIBLE SUNDAY
8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir Practice
10:30 am Traditional Worship
11:45 am Mission Team
11:45 am Stewardship Team
2:00 pm JMM @ Medina Meadows
Sing-a-long
6:00 pm Confirmation Dinner & Rehearsal
7:00 pm JMM @ WRMC

Mon ANNUAL REPORTS DUE TODAY!

Tues Pictorial Directory Church Photos
2:00 pm Bible Study: Book of Luke

Wed Pictorial Directory Church Photos
10:30 am Quilters
6:00 pm Youth Bell Choir
6:30 pm Youth Choir
6:45 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Thu Pictorial Directory Church Photos
Garfield Deliveries

Fri Pictorial Directory Church Photos
1:30 pm JMM @ Evergreen

Sat Pictorial Directory Church Photos

Sun CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir Practice
10:30 am Traditional Worship
11:30 am Caring Team
11:30 am Hunger Outreach Meeting
(Project Leaders Only)
4:00 pm Youth Group

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

Exodus 21:2-11 & Luke 10:13-16

“Church in Society: Abolition” - Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: are donated by Alan Parkhurst in honor of Hope Wilder.

TODAY IS BIBLE SUNDAY

Join us today at the 10:30 Sanctuary service as two very special third graders receive their very own Bible. They have worked very hard for this day and are very excited about receiving their Bible. Please join us at a special coffee hour to help them celebrate.

ANNUAL REPORT TIME IS HERE!

Teams, Committees and Leadership of the church are being asked to write up their **Annual Reports** to be presented at the

May 19th ANNUAL MEETING

immediately following

ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP at 10:00 am.

The due date for your report is TOMORROW... APRIL 29TH.

I am still missing some reports. Please email or drop off your reports to me in the church office. Please try to limit your reports to one page for the purpose of space limitations.

I appreciate all your efforts in **getting these to me on time.**

Please email to: office@uccmedina.org or uccoffice@zoominternet.net.

HEIRLOOM BIBLES

Today is Bible Sunday. If you have brought in an heirloom bible, please place it on the table set up in the East Room. There are cards available to fill out so that you can share a story or highlight something about your Bible.

Upcoming Youth Events:

- *April 28 – Bible Sunday
Confirmation Dinner & Rehearsal 6:00
- *May 5 – Confirmation Sunday – NO F.I.S.H.
Youth Group 4:00-6:00
- *May 19 – End of the Year Youth Group Picnic

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

On Sunday, May 5th three very special young people will be confirming their baptism during the 10:30 service. Plan on joining us on this very special day for these young people!

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 10-13. 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.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Would you like to join our church family!? Join us for our next new member class! The next classes will be held: **Monday, May 6th & Monday, May 13th. Class will be held from 7 pm – 9 pm** in the New Library. New members **will join the church on Sunday, May 19th**. Childcare is provided if needed. Please contact the Church Office at 330-725-4559 if you are interested and let us know if you will be in need of childcare.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Registration for Vacation Bible School begins today! Forms are located in the Crossroads Hallway or can be found on the church's website. Questions? Please see Stacie Yates.

2019 EASTER BAGS: THANK YOU TO ALL THE HELPERS!

To everyone involved with this year's 2019 Easter Bags to children with parents in Medina County Jail – thank you!

- Thank you to those who made verification and reminder calls to ensure that we had correct delivery information.
- Thank you to those who helped at the beginning of the project and at the end, on delivery day.
- Most of all, thank you to this wonderful congregation who took children's names and lovingly prepared and prayed over the Easter Bags, and to the drivers who delivered them all over Medina County.

Over the years we've heard that these bags are remembered by the children, caretakers and former inmates as bright moments during a dark time.

SPRING CRAFTS READY FOR DELIVERY

Spread some cheer to our older members and friends of the Medina UCC by making a visit and delivering a spring craft made by the craft group. Each craft has the name, address and phone number of the person to visit on the back. Spring crafts will be displayed in the East Room by April 27th. For more information, call Syd Benson at 330-725-5540.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Our next selection is My Dear Hamilton; it is in the office ready for pick up NOW! Our next meeting is Tuesday, May 14th at 7:30 pm. Questions? Call Pam Branscome at 440-479-6814.

FRIENDS IN NEED OFFERING

May 12th, 2019

The **Friends in Need Fund** was established by the Mission Leadership Team in 2003 to provide financial assistance to Medina UCC members with basic living expenses. Please give generously to help our church family members. On Mother's Day, we usually have asked for donations to the Amanda Fund. However, due to the generosity of so many, the Amanda Fund is well funded at this time. The Mission Leadership Team has found that the Friends in Need Fund is in need of additional support, so we are seeking your donations for the Friends in Need Fund this Mother's Day. The Amanda Fund continues to be available to provide assistance with medical bills and other related costs that arise due to pressure put on families during hospitalizations of their children. Please pass this information along to your friends and family, or make your need known by sending a written request to:

Mission Team - Amanda Fund, 217 E. Liberty St., Medina, OH 44256

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.

SUMMER MUSICIANS WANTED

Summer is approaching and the choirs will be taking time off from singing and playing for the 10:30 service. We need people who can provide special music during the summer services. If you sing, play an instrument, do interpretive dance, or want to combine forces into a small group to enhance our summer services, we would appreciate it. There is a signup sheet in the East Room for all of the Sundays of the summer. If you have questions, or need assistance, please contact Jim Kiser to make arrangements.

ACTION – ACT

"ACTION – ACT In Our Neighborhood" is a new Action group that is forming to help address needs in the Church community as well as our neighboring communities. We need your help. We would like to have a list of volunteers that would be willing to help when a need is identified. We don't know the needs or when they'll arise but when Action is needed we could then call on a large group of church volunteers to assemble a small team to address the task at hand. There is a sign-up sheet on the table near the kitchen. Signing up for this list doesn't commit you to helping; it only commits you to receiving a call/email/text when help is needed.

Remember Our Bicentennial Portrait - May 19

Before our Annual Meeting begins, please remain in your seats so we may pose in the Sanctuary with other members and friends of the congregation for our

Bicentennial Congregational Portrait.

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GOSPEL GALLEY

by Mark Armstrong

Shortly before his death and resurrection, Jesus told his followers he had a “new commandment” for them to obey. Love one another, not only “as you love yourself”, which was already a commandment. No. Something more. It’s something new to go with the new covenant and new life in the Spirit. Love one another “as I have loved you.” That’s a higher standard, and we need God’s grace to do it.

Throughout the New Testament, the Apostles filled in the details with additional “one another” instructions – such as this one:

“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.” Colossians 3:12-13 ESV

Sometimes it’s hard to forebear one another. It’s like carrying around a heavy backpack, filled with stones put in it by other people. We need God’s grace. We need the Spirit’s help.

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*******

April 28, 2019

Second Sunday of Easter - *Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries Sunday*

Acts 5:27-32

Resurrection Witness

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him." Acts 5:27-32

Today we sing a song of joy and thanksgiving for a new day. The psalmist calls the people to rise up and rejoice as branches bursting with renewed life. After the night of persecution, confusion and death, there is new light and hope! The risen Jesus enters our fearful lives, offers us peace, and sends us to cooperate with God's abundant grace throughout the whole of creation.

Faithful witnesses all of them, Peter and the Apostles, risking death and public humiliation because they must preach what they preach. New church starts are kind of like that, though usually without the death part, because they have no building or traditions born of "we've always done it this way." They have only the way in which they proclaim their faith and their hope. Just like Peter in the Book of Acts, pastors planting new churches have only themselves and the genuine message of their personal testimony to convince and invite. Such is the ministry of The Lighthouse Church of Chicago.

The Lighthouse Church is 5-year-old church plant called by God to be, "passionate about Jesus and serious about Justice." Lighthouse is a predominately African American LGBT-inclusive church that welcomes all people. They follow the life, teachings, and ministry of Jesus Christ, believing that God has offered the greatest love story in all of human history: the story of a God who has come to us in human form, lived, died, rose, and is soon to come again. From faith, Lighthouse takes serious the call towards Justice. Lighthouse welcomes people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, races, ethnicities, and class—beloved not in spite of the gospel, but because of the gospel. And anywhere they experience –isms or –phobias at work in the world, they commit to work to uproot them, inspired by the example of Christ. Pastor Jamie Frazier says of the Lighthouse Church of Chicago: "It is wonderful to be so utterly supported by all levels of the United Church of Christ, including National! Words cannot express the pleasure and honor it is to pastor the incredible folks at Lighthouse."