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# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL



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

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**LIVESTREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT UCCMEDINA.ORG**

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**“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.*

## EASTER SUNDAY

### RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

**PRELUDE** “Christus Resurrexit (Fanfare for Easter Day)” – Gordon Young Cathy Fafrak, Organist

### WELCOME

**\*OPENING HYMN** “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” *arr. by John Rutter*

*Trumpets: Lorna, Bella & Emerson Lindsley*

*Trombone: Max Gabrielsen*

*Tuba: Elliot Avalon*

**\*\*\*The congregation is invited to join with the choir singing verses 1 & 4\*\*\***

#### Verse 1

Christ the Lord is ris’n today, Alleluia!  
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

#### Verse 4

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head; Alleluia!  
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (inspired by "It Don't Exist" by Bayside)

Leader: You were ransomed, I was blue

People: **I was old and you were new**  
**I went willingly to my death with a kiss**

Leader: And if that ain't love then it don't exist

People: **Then it don't exist**

Leader: Then it don't exist.

People: **Seven A.M., Mary comes to my grave**

Leader: Harping on that faithful day

People: **She comes to anoint my body and thinks about how I died**

Leader: And if that ain't love then love's a lie

People: **Then love's a lie**

Leader: Then love's a lie. The sky's not going to fall, well, maybe it will

People: **And even though you never call, I hear you still**

Leader: And, even if the world says there's no god  
and to worship Cesar, and shop all day

People: **I'll take my chances with God's reign.**  
**With the Reign.**

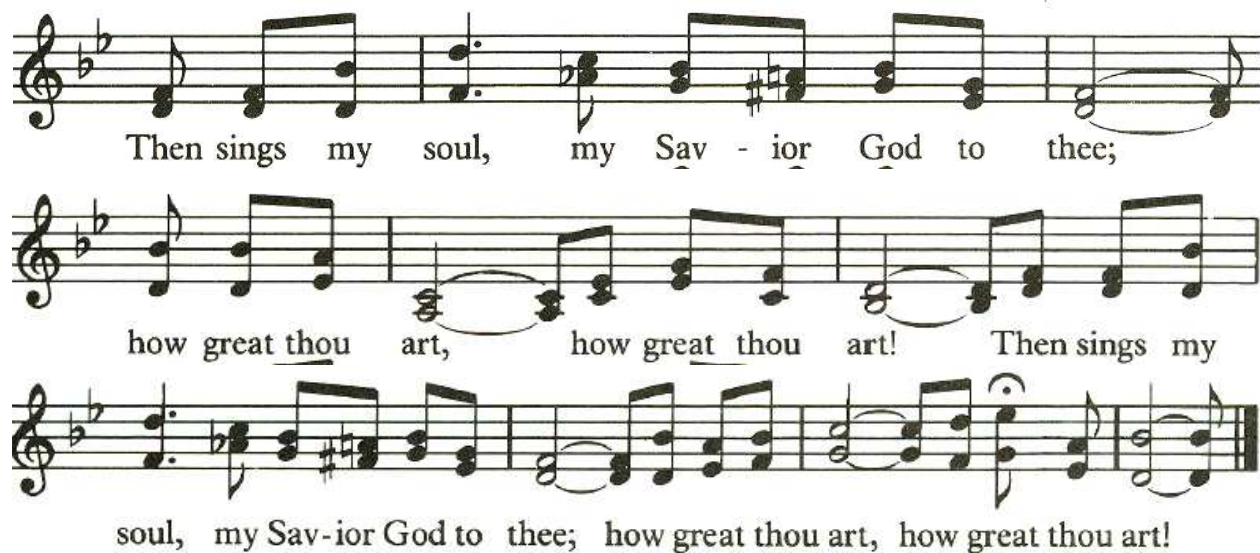
**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**\*PRAISE RESPONSE**

**"How Great Thou Art" (vs. 3)**

3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing,  
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;  
that on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly bear - ing,  
he bled and died to take a - way my sin;

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing,". The second staff continues: "sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;". The third staff continues: "that on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly bear - ing,". The fourth staff concludes: "he bled and died to take a - way my sin;". The score uses various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some notes beamed together. There are repeat signs at the end of the first and third staves.



WORDS: Stuart K. Hine, 1953  
 MUSIC: Stuart K. Hine, 1953  
 © 1953, renewed 1981 Manna Music, Inc.

HOW GREAT THOU ART  
 Irr. with Refrain

**\*OPENING PRAYER** (from *Stages on the Way* by the Iona Community)

**Leader:** Lord God, early in the morning when the world was young, you made life in all its beauty and terror; you gave birth to all that we know. Hallowed be your name.

**People:** **Hallowed be your name.**

**Leader:** Early in the morning, when the world least expected it, a newborn child crying in a cradle announced that you had come among us, that you were one of us. That you are one with us. Hallowed be your name.

**People:** **Hallowed be your name.**

**Leader:** Early in the morning, surrounded by respectable liars, religious leaders, anxious statesmen and silent friends, you accepted the penalty for doing good, for being God; you shouldered and suffered the cross. Hallowed be your name.

**People:** **Hallowed be your name.**

**Leader:** Early in the morning, a voice in a guarded graveyard and footsteps in the dew proved that you had risen, that you had come back to those and for those who had forgotten, denied, and destroyed you. Hallowed be your name.

**People:** **Hallowed be your name.**

**Leader:** This morning, in the multi-colored company of your Church on earth and in heaven, we celebrate your creation, your life, your death and resurrection, your interest in us; so we pray...

**People:** Lord, bring new life, where we are worn and tired;  
 New love, where we have turned hard-hearted;  
 Forgiveness, where we felt hurt and where we have wounded;  
 And the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit where we are prisoners of ourselves.

*Silence is kept*

Leader: To all and to each, on his community and on his friends, where regret is real, Jesus pronounces his pardon and grants us the right to begin again. Thanks be to God!

People: Amen!

## PRAYER RESPONSE

### "In the Garden"

1. I come to the gar - den a - lone while the dew is  
still on the ros - es, and the voice I hear fall - ing on my ear,  
the Son of God dis - clos - es. *Refrain* And he walks with me, and he  
talks with me, and he tells me I am his own; and the  
joy we share as we tar - ry there, none oth - er has ev - er known.

WORDS: C. Austin Miles, 1913 (Jn. 20:11-18)

MUSIC: C. Austin Miles, 1913; adapt. by Charles H. Webb, 1987

Adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

GARDEN  
89.557 with Refrain

## 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

### ANTHEM

"Welcome This Resurrection Day!" by Mark Hayes

Chancel Choir

*Trumpets: Lorna & Emerson Lindsley*

*French Horn: Bella Lindsley*

*Trombone: Max Gabrielsen*

*Tuba: Elliot Avalon*

### SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 65: 17-25 and John 20: 1-18

Dorothe Edinger, Liturgist

### GLORIA PATRI

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

### SERMON

"That Easter Magic"

Rev. Luke Lindon

### OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

#### Offering Invitation

A new heaven and a new earth? Can it be true? Can we believe it before we pick it apart? Or can we contribute to the vision with wonder and awe? That question is before us now.

**Offertory Music** "Now the Green Blade Rises" – setting, Michael Burkhardt 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)

Leader: To each of our "no"

**People: You say "Yes!"**

Leader: While we focus on death,

**People: You create life!**

Leader: Help us walk in your ways,

**People: And raise our Alleluias to you! Amen!**

### \*SENDING HYMN

"The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done"

WORDS: Anon. Latin, 1695; trans. by Francis Pott, 1861  
MUSIC: Giovanni P. da Palestrina, 1591; arr. by W. H. Monk, 1861

VICTORY  
888 with Alleluias

*Antiphon (at the beginning and after stanza 4)*

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



1. The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done;  
 2. The powers of death have done their worst,  
 3. The three sad days are quick - ly sped;  
 4. Lord, by the stripes which wound - ed thee,

the vic - to - ry of life is won; the song of  
 but Christ their le - gions hath dis - persed; let shouts of  
 he ris - es glo - rious from the dead; all glo - ry  
 from death's dread sting thy ser - vants free, that we may

tri - umph has be - gun: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 ho - ly joy out - burst: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 to our ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 live, and sing to thee: Al - le - lu - ia!

**\*BENEDICTION**

Leader: Jesus your hands still have holes in them,  
**People: Your feet still wet from the dew;**  
 Leader: Your eyes are undimmed by three days of death,  
**People: You meet us and call our name.**  
 Leader: We fail to understand how.  
**People: We puzzle at the reason why.**  
 Leader: But you have come not to answer our questions,  
**People: But to show us your face and give us your love and blessing.**  
 Leader: You are alive! And we can rejoice again! We can spread that blessing and wonder!  
**People: ALLELUIA! AMEN!**

**\*ANTHEM**

"Hallelujah Chorus" – from Messiah by G.F. Handel  
(*Those wishing to sing the Hallelujah Chorus are invited to the Choir Loft during the final verse of the hymn*)

**\*POSTLUDE**

"Toccata" from *Symphony No. 5 for Organ, Op. 42, No. 1* – Charles-Marie Widor  
Cathy Fafrak, Organist

**"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"**

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\*All who are able please stand.

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

**PASTORAL STAFF**

Rev. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister – email: [luke@uccmedina.org](mailto:luke@uccmedina.org)

**OFFICE STAFF**

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - email: [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)  
Kelly Charnley, Financial Manager - email: [financial@uccmedina.org](mailto: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

**NEXT SERMON SERIES...**



# *Easter Lilies*



## *Name of Donor*

*Elly Aberegg*  
*Elly Aberegg*  
*Elly Aberegg*  
*Lois Anderson*  
*Syd & Pete Benson*  
*Mary Bessick*  
*Carol Brenneman*  
*Don & Marilyn Canfield*  
*Dick & Dorie Christy*  
*Jan & Tad Coleman*  
*Kent & Judy Daugherty*  
*Kent & Judy Daugherty*  
*Helen Deuring*  
*Ruth Dunn*  
*Dorothie & Linde Edinger*  
*The Falconer Daughters*  
*& their Families*  
*Gene & Jan Febus*  
*Ruth Gifford*  
*Ruth Gifford*  
*Beth & Craig Hari*  
*The Hofstetter Family*  
*Arnold & Cheri Ingraham*  
*Marilyn Koehler*  
*Frances Lagen*  
*Pete & Alice Metzloff*  
*Barbara Michal*  
*Vicki Miller & Tammie McGivern*  
*Nancy Montgomery*

## *In Memory of*

*Jeanne Link*  
*Sherry Fodor*  
*Lynn Tollafeld*  
*Andy Anderson*  
*Our Parents*  
*Mr. & Mrs. Arthur R. Dunger*  
*Willard H. Brennenman*  
*Grandparents*  
*Our Parents*  
*Mr. & Mrs. Jack Post*  
*Ralph & Ollie Herthneck*  
*Bob & Kay Daugherty*  
*Loved Ones*  
*Jane Schmidt & My Parents*  
*David Edinger*  
*Clair & Ruth F. Falconer*  
  
*Our Parents*  
*Paul & John Wilder*  
*My Husband, George Gifford*  
*Our Parents*  
*Jack*  
*Berneta & Roger Ingraham*  
*Donald R. Koehler*  
*My Sister, JoAnn Merrell*  
*Loved Ones*  
*Doris & Elwood Naragon*  
*Barb Isaacs*  
*My Husband, Roger Montgomery*



## *Easter Lilies*

### *Name of Donor*

*Alan Parkhurst  
Pat Rickard  
Barb Rosen  
L.B. & Jane Schaefer  
Alberta M. Taylor  
Lois Tampson  
Dave & Becky Weber*

### *In Memory Of*

*Sandy & Howard Parkhurst  
Edwin Rickard  
Keith Rosen  
Our Parents & Sisters  
My Husband, Ray, & Parents  
Felix Tampson  
Our Parents*



## *Easter Lilies*

### *Name of Donor*

*Helen Deuring  
Joe & Lori Donnelly  
Ed & Helen Farnham  
Carole M. Fawcett  
Walter & Virginia Hall  
The Johns Family  
Alberta M. Taylor  
Dean & Beth Winquist*

### *In Honor Of*

*Kelly Charnley & Dave & Becky Weber  
Lt. Patrick Donnelly, PA-C  
The Farnham Family  
My Parents, George & Lillian Fawcett  
Our Parents  
Our Family & Friends  
My Daughters, Dianne & Elaine  
Our Family*

# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## APRIL 21, 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](http://uccmedina.org)

April 21, 2019 thru April 28, 2019

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

#### **EASTER SERVICES: April 21, 2019**

7:00 am - **Sunrise Service**  
Spring Grove Cemetery Chapel  
8:15 am - **UCC Chapel**  
9:00 am - **Fellowship Hall**  
10:30 am - **Sanctuary**

**Mon CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

**Tues** 2:00 pm Bible Study: Book of Luke  
6:30 pm **Hobby Horse Art Show**

**Wed** 10:30 am Quilters  
6:00 pm Youth Bell Choir  
6:30 pm Youth Choir  
6:30 pm **Hobby Horse Art Show**  
6:45 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

**Thu** **Garfield Deliveries**  
7:00 pm **Congregational Council**

**Fri** 1:30 pm JMM @ Evergreen

**Sat** 12:00 pm **Ladies Tea**

**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

**Worship Highlights** 7:00, 8:15, 9:00 & 10:30 am

Isaiah 65:17-25 & John 20:1-18

“That Easter Magic” - Rev. Luke Lindon

### **EASTER OFFERING – APRIL 21<sup>st</sup>**

The Mission Leadership Team thanks you for your continued support of special offerings this year! The **Wolff Fund** was created for Recruitment and Funding for Theological Education. Through this fund, financial assistance is given to members of the Ohio Conference who will be attending UCC seminaries and entering ministry in our denomination. The Fund was established by UCC ordained Minister Rev. Richard Wolff and his wife, Rachael, a church educator. Please give generously on April 21<sup>st</sup> to this special offering to ensure the education of future UCC ministers.

### **BIBLE SUNDAY**

**Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**

Join us on Sunday, April 28 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 to help them celebrate this very special day.

### **Upcoming Youth Events:**

**\*April 21 – NO F.I.S.H. & NO YOUTH GROUP**  
**Happy Easter!**

**\*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**

## **THANK YOU!**

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I want to thank everyone who donated candy for our annual Easter egg hunt. We had a great turnout for the hunt and the children enjoyed finding all the candy-filled eggs! Thank you also to everyone who helped stuff the eggs. Many hands make light work!

## **CONFIRMATION SUNDAY**

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On Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> 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 REGISTRATION**

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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.

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

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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.

## **HELP NEEDED!**

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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.

## **NEW MEMBER CLASSES**

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Would you like to join our church family!? Join us for our next new member class! The next classes will be held: **Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup> & Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. Class will be held from 7 pm – 9 pm** in the New Library. New members **will join the church on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**. 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.

## **HEIRLOOM BIBLES**

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Next Sunday, April 28, 2019 is Bible Sunday. If you have a family heirloom bible, please bring it to Church next week. We will have a table set up in the East Room, along with cards so that you can share a story or highlight something about your Bible.

## **ACTION – ACT**

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"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.

## **CIRCLE OF CARING MEMBERS**

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If you were unable to attend the April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, please pick up an updated copy of the Circle of Caring Visitation and Membership list on the information rack by the kitchen. Please call the office (330-725-4559) or Syd Benson (330-725-5540) with any additions or corrections.

## ANNUAL REPORT TIME IS NEAR!

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**Teams, Committees and Leadership** of the church are being asked to write up their **Annual Reports** to be presented at the **May 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting** immediately following **ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP** at **10:00 am**.

**The due date for your report is NEXT MONDAY... APRIL 29<sup>TH</sup>.**

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](mailto:office@uccmedina.org) or [uccoffice@zoominternet.net](mailto:uccoffice@zoominternet.net).

## GOSPEL GALLEY

by Alice Metzloff

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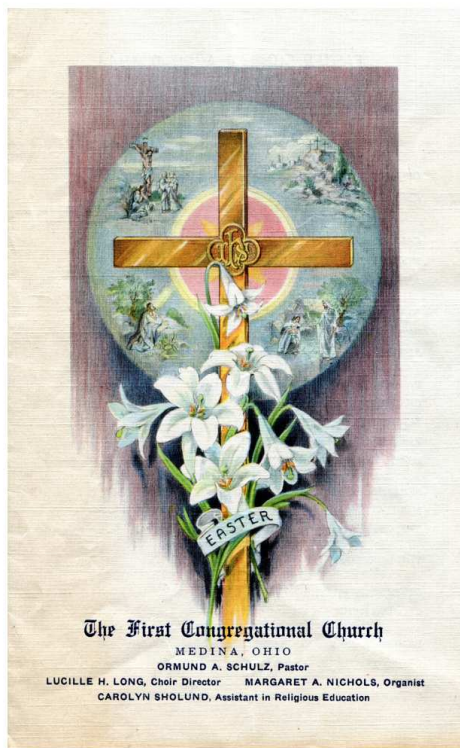
**EASTER** – The Christian festival which commemorates the Resurrection of Christ, celebrated on the Sunday that follows immediately after the first full moon on or after March 21st. **RESURRECTION** – Rebirth, Renewal, Restoration. To rise from the dead in a glorified way to a new bodily state of existence, where death is no more, as Christ rose after three days. A website I found that records when full moons rise each month is [www.calendar-12.com/moon\\_phases/2019](http://www.calendar-12.com/moon_phases/2019). It reports that the vernal (Spring) equinox full moon is Wednesday, March 20th when Spring begins. **EASTER** culminates today, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019...**EASTER SUNDAY**. Many hymns were written about Easter Sunday. Have you heard of, or sung, the Hymn “UP FROM THE GRAVE HE AROSE” written by Robert Lowry in 1874? Verse 3 and the refrain express Resurrection and Easter quite well. Verse 3: “Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior; He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord?” Refrain: “Up from the grave he arose! With a mighty triumph o’er his foes! He arose a victor from the dark domain, and he lives forever, with his saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!” How will we celebrate this fantastical day after all the plastic eggs with surprises are found, recover from tummy-aches from eating too much candy, and munching on marshmallow Peeps? You have been invited to a great celebration! **SING** and **DANCE**, and **SHOUT**...Hallelujah, Christ arose! **EASTER** is real...tangible. **ARISE! PRAISE! REJOICE! INTERACT! LIBERATE!**

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**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](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)**

**\*\*\*\*\*CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm MONDAY THRU FRIDAY\*\*\*\*\***



APRIL 1944

THE EASTER CLASS OF NEW MEMBERS

OUR HEARTS are always cheered when friends find inspiration and encouragement for Christian living within our fellowship. As they come confessing the leadership of Christ with enthusiasm and loyalty, may we help them to find great joy of living through this, their church. We rejoice to welcome the following people into full membership in our church:

**BY CONFESSION OF FAITH**

Laura Lee Beall	Gene R. Hanshus
Barbara Luella Beebe	Burton Ludwig Houseman
Carter Timothy Bennett	Arthur Brent Huffman
Thomas Joseph Doyle	Paul Merritt Jones
Thomas James Evans	Richard David Komjati
Robert Dale Gardner	Jean Carolyn Nichols
Douglas Kay Hanshue	Dallas Richard Yost
Viola Mae Yost	

**BY RE-AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Louise A. Hadlock	Florence Lydia Jennrich
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**BY LETTER**

James Beall	Priscilla Sedlak Komjati
Emma Beall	Beatrice M. Lovejoy
Jean Elizabeth Crombie	Harry O. Lovejoy
Janie Hollow	Harold L. Williams
Robert Hollow	Mary E. Williams

THE FOLLOWING children were welcomed into the spiritual care of our church through the rite of Christian Baptism at the Palm Sunday Vesper service.

Kay Laurene, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Chidsey.  
 Bonnie Faye, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Hoover.  
 Kay Frances and Richard Ernest, children of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Kaszian  
 George Andrew, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Laurenz.  
 Patricia Ann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Masek.  
 Michael Gardner, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Radigan.

## Bicentennial Tidbits

For many years, communion was celebrated four times a year, not monthly or weekly as is our current practice. In addition, new members were received and baptisms were conducted only in conjunction with special "Holy" days such as Easter or Christmas.

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April 21, 2019  
Easter

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John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

Resurrection Joy



*Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her. -John 20:1-18*

### **Facing the "Tombs" of our Lives**

When we face life's losses, disappointments, heartbreaks, and failures, Jesus shares those with us. He also shares new life and new hope with us - resurrection. It isn't a one-time thing, but the dawning of a new day, and new life. Jesus is risen!

No matter what things look like now, this Easter morning says, "Wait. We are part of something greater than ourselves, and our lives are lived in a new age of hope."

"Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget the joy of Christ risen."

--Mother Teresa