
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*****

LIVE STREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT UCCMEDINA.ORG

“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS”

Please take a moment to sign the attendance pads, (located at the end of each pew) so that you know who is worshipping near you and you may greet them by name.

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PRELUDE “Here I Am, Lord” – arr. Mark Hayes

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

***CHORAL INTROIT**

Chancel Choir

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We offer worship

People: **As an outpouring of gratitude and awe;
A practice of opening ourselves;
To God’s still, small voice of comfort;
To God’s rushing whirlwind of challenge.**

Leader: Through word, music, sacrament, and the rite of confirmation,

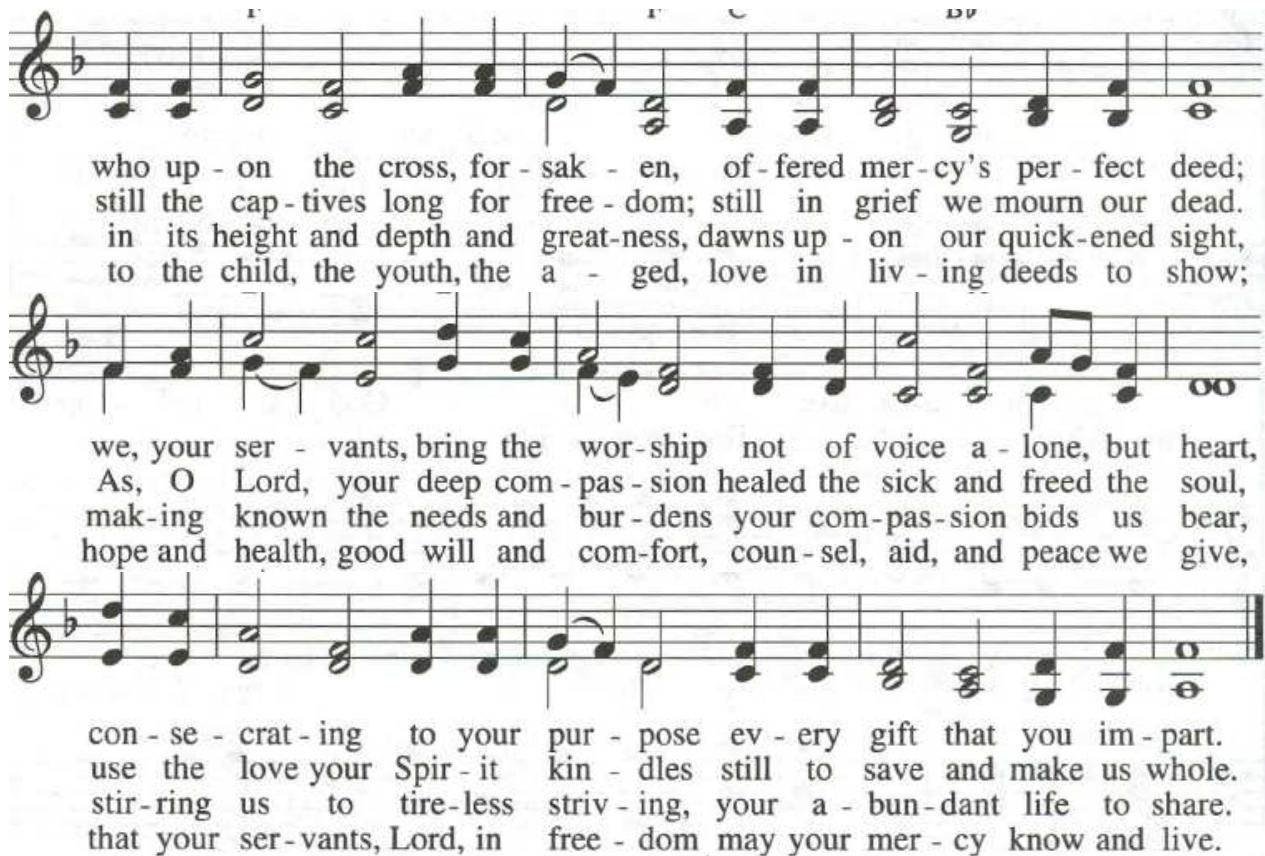
People: **In community and in solitude, God changes our lives, our relationships, and our world.**

Leader: Let us worship together!

***OPENING HYMN “Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service”**



1 Lord, whose love through hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
2 Still your chil - dren wan-der home-less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love’s re - veal-ing light
4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, of - fered mer - cy's per - fect deed;
 still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
 in its height and depth and great - ness, dawns up - on our quick - ened sight,
 to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;

we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart,
 As, O Lord, your deep com - pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
 mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com - pas - sion bids us bear,
 hope and health, good will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,

con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - ery gift that you im - part.
 use the love your Spir - it kin - dles still to save and make us whole.
 stir - ring us to tire - less striv - ing, your a - bun - dant life to share.
 that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

WORDS: Albert F. Bayly (1901-1984)

MUSIC: Attr. B. F. White (1800-1879); *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. Ronald A. Nelson (1927-)

BEACH SPRING

8.7.8.7.D.

Words © 1981 Oxford University Press

Music Harm. © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship* (Admin. Augsburg Fortress)

***OPENING PRAYER** (*Serenity Prayer, long version*, by Reinhold Niebuhr, often associated with many twelve step programs)

Leader: God grant me the Serenity

People: To accept the things I cannot change,
 Courage to change the things I can,
 And the Wisdom to know the difference.

Leader: Living one day at a time,

People: Enjoying one moment at a time.

Leader: Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,


People: Taking, as he did, this sinful world as it is,
 Not as I would like it.

Leader: Trusting that he will make all things right,

People: If I surrender to his will.

Leader: That I may be reasonably happy in this world

People: And supremely happy in the next. Amen.

PRAISE RESPONSE*"For the Fruit of All Creation"**


1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.

For God's gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,

Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.

This text was written in response to a request for a new harvest hymn for an existing tune. After its publication in England in 1970, it became popular in many countries and can be found set to various tunes.

Words Copyright © 1970 by Hope Publishing Company

Tune: AR HYD Y NOS 8.4.8.4.8.8.8.4.
Welsh traditional melody
Musical Relicks of the Welsh Bards, Dublin, 1784
Harm. L. O. Emerson, 1906
For another harmonization, see 82

ANTHEM**"Amazing Grace" – arr. by John Rutter**

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, Morning Prayer

PRAYER RESPONSE**"Jesus Loves Me"**

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Anna B. Warner collaborated with her sister, Susan, on several novels. In one, Say and Seal, this hymn was sung to comfort a sick child. Two new stanzas have been provided by Canadian David R. McGuire, an Anglican priest.

Tune: JESUS LOVES ME 7.7.7.7. with refrain
William B. Bradbury, 1862

SCRIPTURE Leviticus 19:11-19

Deb Waldron, Liturgist

SERMON "Church in Society: Prohibition"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

May we commit ourselves anew to God's service through our gifts and offerings. Let us gather this morning's offering.

Offertory Music "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart" – arr. Gordon Young

***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

Thank you for the gift of life. Take what we offer this day and multiply it for your use. We commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our Lord. Amen.

ORDER FOR CONFIRMATION

Invitation to the Confirmands

Questions of the Confirmands

Prayer of the Confirmands

Act of Confirmation

Prayer of Consecration

Question about Participation in the Life of the Church

Congregational Promise (In Unison)

We offer you this promise... We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and help one another be Christ to the world.

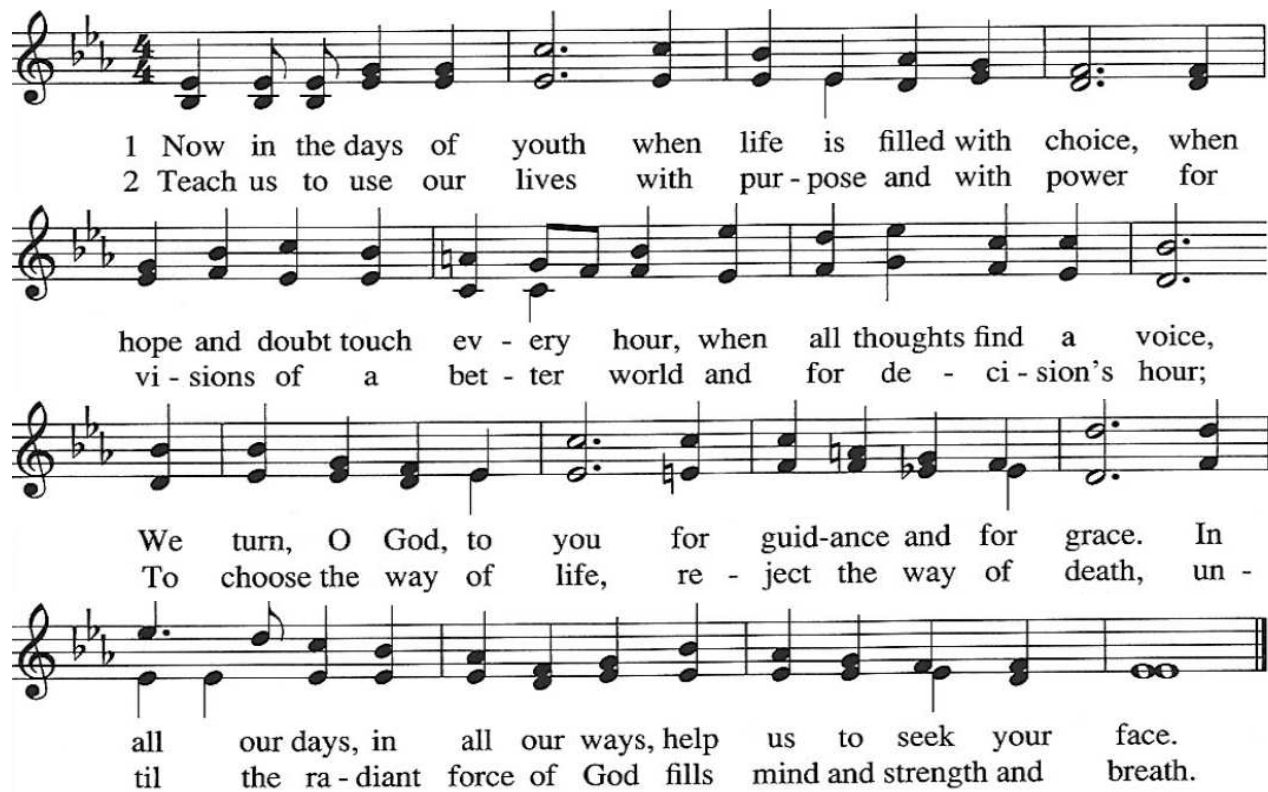
Greeting of Christian Love

*RESPONSE

"Now in the Days of Youth" (vs. 1 & 2)

When the Rev. Walter J. Mathams of London wrote this hymn for use at Christian Endeavor and Sunday School conventions, he did not realize it would receive wide circulation. It was introduced in the United States in 1913 in Worship and Song.

Tune: DIADEMATA S.M.D.
George J. Elvey, 1868



1 Now in the days of youth when life is filled with choice, when
 2 Teach us to use our lives with pur - pose and with power for
 hope and doubt touch ev - ery hour, when all thoughts find a voice,
 vi - sions of a bet - ter world and for de - ci - sion's hour;
 We turn, O God, to you for guid - ance and for grace. In
 To choose the way of life, re - ject the way of death, un -
 all our days, in all our ways, help us to seek your face.
 til the ra - dian - t force of God fills mind and strength and breath.

SACREMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. You do not need to be a member of the United Church of Christ to partake in the Holy Sacrament

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution

Prayer of Blessing

Distribution of the Elements (served by confirmands)

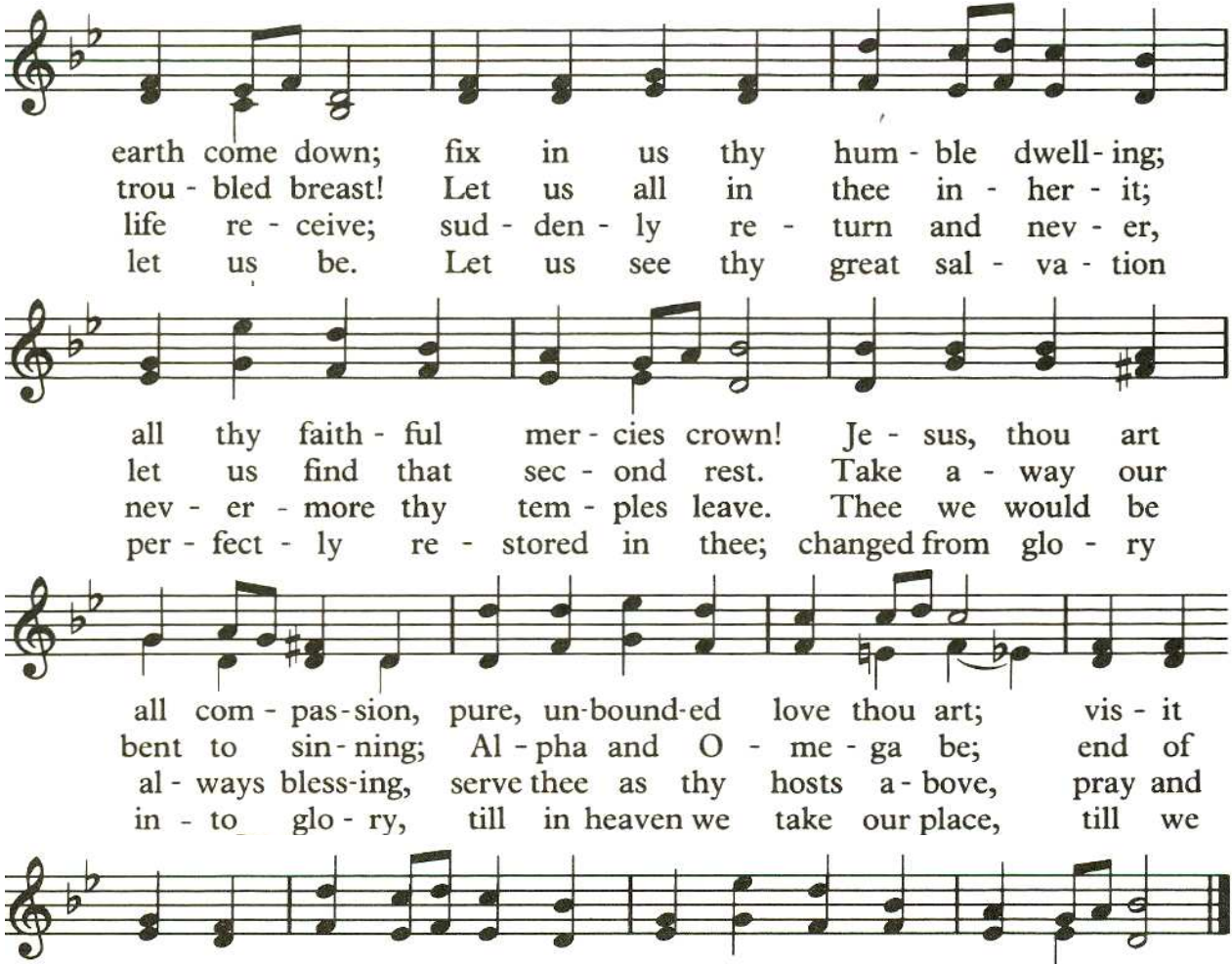
Prayer of Thanksgiving

*SENDING HYMN

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"



1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
 3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
 4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down; fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing;
 trou - bled breast! Let us all in thee in - her - it;
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn and nev - er,
 let us be. Let us see thy great sal - va - tion

all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown! Je - sus, thou art
 let us find that sec - ond rest. Take a - way our
 nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be
 per - fect - ly re - stored in thee; changed from glo - ry

all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it
 bent to sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of
 al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray and
 in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place, till we

us with thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1747
 MUSIC: John Zundel, 1870

BEECHER
 87.87 D

*BENEDICTION

Leader: Blessings in the joining, blessings in the breaking, blessings in the cup.

People: **Being joined, being broken, being contained, we are blessed.**

Leader: Blessings from God. Blessings to the self in community. Blessings to the community in the self.

People: **Being blessed by God, we love our unlovable selves. In loving ourselves we can love our neighbor as ourselves.**

Leader: Upon these rest all the law and prophets.

People: **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** "Postlude on Hymn to Joy" – Gordon Young

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

*All who are able please stand.

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

+++++

*Please join us in Fellowship Hall immediately following the service
for a special reception to honor our Confirmands.*

****The reception is being hosted by the Congregational Council****

+++++

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister – email: luke@uccmedina.org

OFFICE STAFF

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager – email: office@uccmedina.org

Kelly Charnley, Financial Manager – email: financial@uccmedina.org

PROGRAM STAFF

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education

Michelle Lisco, Co-Director of Youth

Jim Kiser, Director of Music

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

Rebecca Rosen, Nursery Supervisor

Xanthe Phillips, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool

CONFIRMATION CLASS 2019

Congratulations to our Confirmands



Julianne Virginia Harbath
Parents: Jay & Megan Harbath
Mentor: Vicki Marty



Mitchell James Hennessey
Parent: James & Jill Hennessey
Mentor: Matt Yates



Chloe Grace Morgan
Parents: Douglas & Laurie Morgan
Mentor: Maureen Walker

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

MAY 5, 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

May 5, 2019 thru May 12, 2019

WEEK AT A GLANCE

- Sun** **CONFIRMATION SUNDAY**
8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir Practice
**10:30 am Traditional Worship
& Confirmation**
11:30 am Caring Team
11:30 am Hunger Outreach Meeting
 (Project Leaders only)
4:00 pm Youth Group
- Mon** Cook for Cups
7:00 pm Evangelism Team
7:00 pm New Member Class
- Tues** 2:00 pm Bible Study: Book of Luke
7:00 pm Worship Team
- Wed** 10:30 am Quilters
6:00 pm Youth Bell Choir
6:30 pm Youth Choir
6:45 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
- Thu** **Garfield Deliveries**
- Fri** 1:30 pm JMM @ Evergreen
- Sat** **Come & Join Us! ALL CHURCH
Spring Cleanup**
- Sun** **Happy Mother's Day**
Friends in Need Offering
8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir Practice
10:30 am Traditional Worship

**THERE WILL ONLY BE ONE SERVICE OF
WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM ON MAY 19th**

**Followed by
THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

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

Leviticus 19:11-19

“Church in Society: Prohibition”
Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: are donated by Beth & Craig
Hari in memory of their parents.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Today, 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!

Upcoming Youth Events:

*May 5 – Confirmation Sunday – NO F.I.S.H.
Youth Group 4:00-6:00

*May 19 – End of the Year Youth Group Picnic

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.

COMMUNION

The bread being served during Communion today was baked by the loving hands of our Breadmakers' Ministry.

"And though we are many, we all eat from one loaf of bread, showing that we are one body."

-Corinthians 10:17

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.

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.

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.

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

SUMMER REINFORCEMENT PROGRAM

During the month of May the United Way is requesting the donation of children's books for the Summer Reinforcement Program. This program works with children during the summer to keep their reading skills from falling behind. It is a very beneficial program for these children. The donated books are given to the children who often own no books of their own. Used books in good condition and new books are welcome. Some of the teacher recommended books are: *Charlotte's Web, Where the Wild Things Are, The Giving Tree, Green Eggs and Ham, Good Night Moon, I Love You Forever, Because of Winn Dixie, Oh! The Places You Will Go, The Little House, The Polar Express*. Let's try for 200 in honor of our bicentennial as we did for the donations of mac and cheese. We did a great job! There is a box for donations next to the Bogo box near the entry. All books need to be donated by Friday, June 7th.

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.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Our church will once again host the Ice Cream Social on the Square
Please mark Friday, June 14th on your calendar and plan to help out
or just come and have some ice cream! More information to follow soon...

PERGOLA LANDSCAPING INSTALL

Saturday, May 11, 2019 at 9 AM – 1 PM

An all generation event! Come on out to help [Greg Zuehlke](#) put the finishing touches on his Eagle project. We will be installing landscaping, so bring gloves, shovels, and garden tools. **We welcome those who can crawl in the grass and those who can sit and direct, and everyone in between!** Spend time with your church family and the pizza's on us!

ENDOWMENT GIFTS

Do consider a special gesture to honor your mother on MOTHER'S DAY.
Please make a gift to the Endowment Fund to remember her love.

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.

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*****

Bicentennial Tidbits - 1962



To conclude with some items about Rev. Truman Whitaker (1957 – 1969), he was known for his humor and apparently (from this portion of his annual pastor's report) he did not mince words:

If a minister is prone to look to statistics as indicators of the effectiveness of his ministry, which, of course, is not necessarily a valid sign, the attendance at public worship during the summer months could have said loudly that it was time to worry. And he must confess, he did a little. But being a person easily swayed, the last three months of the year did much to lift his spirits. The attendance during the summer was terrible!

It was at this time that Rev. Whitaker started a process by which a lay person would read the scripture each Sunday. Perhaps that scared some away. That same summer, a new thing for us called "Vacation Bible School" was held for two weeks; by 1967, VBS was being done jointly with First Christian, the United Methodists and the Fellowship Baptists, with an attendance of 200. A living creche was presented on the church lawn during the Christmas Eve service that year. We also helped start a new UCC church in Brunswick.

Tom Arnold recently shared with us that the teenage youth served as the ushers; they would often leave as soon as the sermon started in order to get a coke at the drugstore across the square. One Sunday, Rev. Whitaker changed the order of the service, so the offering came before the sermon and mysteriously, the ushers were nowhere to be found!

GOSPEL GALLEY

by Dave Weber

What is all this confirmation stuff? Think about these things. You will own all your daily actions and comments. You will be standing on your own. Who are you and what are you about? As Michael Jackson said, "I'm starting with the man in the mirror...no message could be clearer." Jesus' wish for our lives is to 'Love your God and Love one another.' What will you see in the mirror?

Do you recognize that everywhere in popular culture, movies we watch, songs we listen to, casual conversation, may lead you to believe that happiness is getting enough wealth, enough pleasure, enough power, and enough honors? If you fill your heart with these will you have lived the life Jesus wanted for you? To Whom and to What will your life be given? Who will you serve?

Bob Dylan memorably put it, "You gotta serve somebody/ It may be the devil or it may be the Lord/ But you're gonna have to serve somebody...so who will it be?"

So, answer these in your own words:

This confirmation means I am...

As a member of this faith family, I...

Every day, I will seek to...

Loving and serving others means I...

In times of trouble I will...

Loving life and inner peace I will...

Every day, I will see God in...

Will you be that 'bridge over troubled water', the 'friend who comes when I call out your name,' 'you can count on me,' be 'the wind beneath my wings'...Wait. Are these about me or Jesus? Or all of us?

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)

The Way Forward

"Saul got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength."
Acts 9:20

"Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Feed my sheep....'" John 21:17

In an act of compassionate faith, the followers of the risen Christ share a meal with Saul, their former persecutor. Sharing food is a ritual long associated with peace-making. More than simple nutrients, food is imbued with the legacy of local soil, the people's covenant with the land, and the just or unjust practices of the community. Each morsel is laden with the culture, identity, and values of the communal body and the spirit of those who have gathered, grown, prepared and offered it. When Christians share food, we share the blessing and power of the body of Christ.

This has been true for Rev. Randy Mayer, pastor of Good Shepherd United Church of Christ in Sahuarita, Arizona, who welcomed an asylum-seeking family escaping domestic and gang violence in Honduras into his home in 2018. This was at the time the Department of Justice began changing the rules indicating that domestic and gang violence may not qualify families for asylum. "Having an Asylum Family sitting at your dinner table and on your couch watching TV in your living room is quite the experience as you are listening to the evening news," Mayer said. "Maybe that is the best way to get through an experience like this —having the stranger sitting right in front of you, loving her family and proving right before your eyes that the ugly rhetoric and hate filled comments have nothing to do with the truth."

As you walk in faith this week, consider taking the following acts to welcome others into the circle of God's grace:

- Meet your neighbors and invite them to enjoy a meal together.
- Work through your church to plan an immigrant welcoming dinner.
- Lift up in prayer those who seek asylum and those who would turn them away.
- Prepare food from a culture that is new to you and share with friends.