
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

www.uccmedina.org



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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 “How Can I Keep from Singing?” – arr. Barbara Boertje Cathy Fafrak, Organist

***VISIONING PRAYER** by Sharon Alberson

God, help us to be welcoming. God, help us to be loving.
God, help us to see that serving you can lead us to
A place full of grace with no limits where we can be free...
To open our hands, welcoming. To open our hearts, loving.
To be more than church on Sunday, to live in the light from above;
To celebrate in service and love.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (written by Ann Siddall, and posted on the website of the Stillpoint Spirituality Centre)

Leader: Only the hungry search for bread.
Only the thirsty look for water.

People: This is a place for those who are hungry and thirsty in spirit.

Leader: Only those who ache for meaning will pursue it.
Only those who yearn for a deeper life will seek it.

People: This is a place for those who ache and yearn for something more.

Leader: So let us come here today with our hunger and thirst,
our unsatisfied longings, our heart-felt yearnings,

People: and let the God of life satisfy our souls.

***OPENING HYMN** “Let My People Seek Their Freedom”

WORDS: T. Herbert O’Driscoll, 1971 (Dt. 8:14-18)
MUSIC: Thomas J. Williams, 1890

EBENEZER
87.87 D

Words © 1971 The United Methodist Publishing House



1. "Let my peo-ple seek their free-dom in the
2. "Let my peo-ple seek their free-dom in the
3. When we mur-mur on the moun-tains for the
4. In the mael-strom of the na-tions, in the



wil-der-ness a-while, from the slave pens of the
wil-der-ness a-while, from the ag-ing shrines and
old E-gyp-tian plains, when we miss our an-cient
jour-neying in - to space, in the clash of gen-er-



Del-ta, from the ghet-tos on the Nile":
struc-tures, from the clois-ter and the aisle":
bond-age, and the hope, the prom-ise, wanes;
a-tions, in the hun-ger-ing for grace,



so God spoke from out of Si-nai, so God spoke and
so the Son of God has spo-ken, and the storm clouds
then the rock shall yield its wa-ter and the man-na
in our ag-o-ny and glo-ry, we are called to



it was done, and a peo-ple crossed the
are un-furled, for God's peo-ple must be
fall by night, and with vi-sions of a
new-er ways by the Lord of our to -



wa - ters toward the ris - ing of the sun.
scat - tered to be ser - vants in the world.
fu - ture shall we march to - ward the light.
mor - rows and the God of earth's to - days.

***OPENING PRAYER** (from the Lenten series Journey into Wholeness written by Christine Sine.
Published in 2009 by Mustard Seed Associates.)

Leader: God, we believe you have called us to unity, but often we have isolated ourselves from others,

People: God, forgive us for the times we have turned our backs on those who are different.

Leader: God, we believe you have called us to live together as one body,

People: God, forgive us for the times we have created division within your worldwide church.

Leader: God, we believe you ask us to look, listen, and learn from others,

People: God, forgive us for the times we have ridiculed and attacked those with different viewpoints.

Leader: God, we believe you ask us to accept and seek to understand all who are called by your name,

People: Forgive us for the times we have offended you by failing to love others as we do ourselves.

Leader: God, we believe you call us to be one even as you are one,

People: Forgive us for the disunity we have harbored and make us one.

Silence is kept

Leader: God and Creator of all humankind, your son Jesus Christ prayed that your church might be one even as you our God are one. May you renew our minds and rekindle your love in our hearts, so that by the power of the Spirit, we might find the Oneness that you intend for us.

**People: God, may we see in your Oneness our need for unity,
God, may we see in your Three-ness our need for community
God, may we see in your creativity our need for diversity,
God, may we see in your Self our need to love each other. Amen.**

***PRAISE RESPONSE** "Faith of Our Fathers" (vs. 1) Red UCC Hymnal #286

SPECIAL MUSIC "Finally Free" by Nicole Nordeman Ann Nagy, 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, Morning Prayer

PRAYER RESPONSE

"Bless Thou the Gifts"

Bless thou the gifts our hands have brought; bless
thou the work our hearts have planned. Ours is the faith, the
will, the thought; the rest, O God, is in thy hand.

WORDS: Samuel Longfellow, ca. 1886
MUSIC: *Grenoble Antiphoner*, 1753; adapt. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906;
harm. by Basil Harwood, 1908

DEUS TUORUM MILITUM
LM

SCRIPTURE

John 17:20-26 and Acts 16:16-34

Deb Waldron, Liturgist

SERMON

"At the Table with Prisoners"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation (inspired by Acts 8:20)

We know we cannot obtain God's gift with money. Yet out of what has been provided, we now provide for others.

Offertory Music

"Amazing Grace" – arr. David Cherwien

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

Help us to see your presence burning in the hearts of others; grant that we may be united in a fellowship of love and prayer; give us the courage to pick up our cross and respond to the needs of the world, give us the stamina to follow you, to be your hands and heart in the world; enable us to witness to your grace and mercy. We pray all this through the love of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SERVICE 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

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***SENDING HYMN**

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"



1. O Je - sus, I have prom-ised to serve thee to the end;
2. O let me feel thee near me! The world is ev - er near;
3. O let me hear thee speak-ing in ac - cents clear and still,
4. O Je - sus, thou hast prom-ised to all who fol - low thee



be thou for-ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my friend.
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt-ing sounds I hear;
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
that where thou art in glo - ry there shall thy ser - vant be.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if thou art by my side,
my foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
And Je - sus, I have prom-ised to serve thee to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if thou wilt be my guide.
but Je - sus, draw thou near - er, and shield my soul from sin.
O speak, and make me lis - ten, thou guard-ian of my soul.
O give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my Friend.

***BENEDICTION** (written by Rev. Elizabeth Dille, and posted on the **United Church of Christ's Worship Ways**)

Leader: Go now in peace, for Christ has called you to live in peace

People: among our brothers and sisters.

Leader: Go now in courage, for Christ has called you from the places of your life

People: to be agents of redemption and partners in healing.

Leader: Go now in joy and thanksgiving,

People: for Christ is our light!

Leader: Go now as one body, to love and serve God as you love and serve the world!

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**

"Sing Praise to God" – arr. Paul Laubengayer

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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*All who are able please stand.

Ushers: Dick Christy, Fazekas, Julie Gilliland, Ron Greinke

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

Today's coffee hour is hosted by Dave & Becky Weber.

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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

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

JUNE 2, 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

June 2, 2019 thru June 9, 2019

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Sr. High Mission Trip to Pipestem, WV

8:15 pm Chapel Worship
9:00 pm Gathering Worship
10:30 am Traditional Worship
11:30 am Hunger Outreach Meeting
(Project Leaders only)
7:00 pm Bicentennial Music Program

**Mon Cook for Cups
7:00 pm Evangelism Team Meeting**

Tues 7:00 pm Worship Team Meeting

Wed 10:30 am Quilters

Thu Garfield Deliveries

Fri 1:30 pm JMM @ Evergreen
7:00 pm First Friday on the Square

Sat

Sun PENTECOST
Strengthen the Church Offering
8:15 pm Chapel Worship
9:00 pm Gathering Worship
10:00 am Mission Team Meeting
10:30 am Traditional Worship
**11:45 pm Historical Marker Unveiling
& Dedication Ceremony**
3:00 pm JMM Hymn Sing @ Brookdale N

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

John 17:20-26 and Acts 16:16-34

“At the Table with Prisoners”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: *There are still Sundays available to sign up and sponsor the altar flowers. Please check the bulletin board in the East Room hallway.*

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 10:1

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH PENTECOST SUNDAY, JUNE 9

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

...God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young shall see visions, and your old shall dream dreams...

-Acts 2:17 (NRSV)

BOOKS FOR 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.* Other children's book that you may have are also welcome. 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 this Friday, June 7th.** To date, generosity has been great!

MISSING TEA CUP!!!

One tea cup and saucer is missing from the Ladies and Girls Tea. It belongs to Tammy Daubner and has blue flowers as the decoration. If you know anything about this tea cup, please let the office now. Thank you!

ONE SUNDAY REMAINING!

Summer is here and the choirs are 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 only 1 Sunday left**, so sign up on the sheet in the East Room as soon as possible! If you have questions, or need assistance, please contact Jim Kiser to make arrangements.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

It's hard to believe, but June 10th thru June 13th, Monday through Thursday, is Vacation Bible School. 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.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The time is quickly approaching for our time to 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!

Thank you all so much for your generous contributions and donations so far.

It seems **we still need:**

- 9 more pies (no cream pies)
- Brownies/cookies
- 11 more 5 lb. bags of ice
- Volunteers to set up, serve & clean up!

If you would like to help out or provide any of the needed items, please contact Darlene Fazekas at 330-697-8520.

50 YEAR MEMBERS SAVE THE DATE!

If you've been a member of our church for 50 years or more, please save **Saturday September 28, 2019 from 11:30 am to 2 pm** for a **CELEBRATION LUNCHEON**. Invitations will be mailed out early in September.

*If you haven't yet been here for 50 years and want to help with the luncheon...put this date on your calendar and contact the office, Becky Weber or Sue Dean.

Sunday, June 9: Bicentennial Celebration - Historic Marker Unveiling

On Founders' Day, 2018, our congregation voted on which proposed Bicentennial projects should have priority. The result, by a vast margin, was to place a historical marker in front of the church building. A few weeks later, we undertook the long application process to obtain an official State of Ohio historical marker, and to also apply for a funding grant from the Wm. Pomeroy Foundation. By October, we received news that the marker was on its way, and essentially paid-for. Last week, the 150-pound bronze marker arrived. (Many thanks to Brad Root and Root Candles for their generous support in taking delivery of the marker and transporting it safely to the church.) Soon the marker will stand in its permanent place, concealed (**no peeking!**) until the **Big Day** on June 9, Pentecost Sunday: the birthday of the Church. Upon the conclusion of that morning's 10:30 worship service, we will gather on the Liberty St. lawn for a festive ceremony of dedication (and the "ta-da" moment of unveiling), with perhaps a spot of lemonade and a nosh or two afterwards. This is a "Once-In-A-Lifetime" event (unless you have the fortitude to endure until the Tricentennial in 2119). Please plan to attend.

COLLEGE RIDING TEAM LOOKING FOR SOME HELP! (RIDING FOR CLEAN WATER CRISIS)

My name is Val Cox and I am one of the drivers for this year's Ride for Water team (rideforwater.com). We are a group of 9 college students who are riding our bikes from California to New York City to raise awareness and money for the global water crisis. We are doing this as a charity for Water Supporter, so any money we receive will go to some of their clean water projects.

Our women's team will be biking through the Medina area around June 30th! We are currently looking for housing for that night and wanted to know if you have any church members who would be able and willing to house us while we ride through your city.

***This is an email I received last Monday, at the beginning of their journey. If you would like information on the riders or what it is they are doing, please visit the website above. If you are interested in hosting a rider, please contact the church office and I will give you the contact information.

Thank you!, Cindy Korecky

330-725-4559 * office@uccmedina.org

ORDER YOUR GIFT CARDS TODAY FOR GRADUATIONS, BIRTHDAYS OR EVERY DAY!

Plan ahead now for Special Occasions and place your Gift Card order soon. Please see the Yellow Retailer List on the table near Fellowship Hall or visit www.glscrip.com and click on the Retailer List on the left side to view or print your own list. Complete a Green Order Form, also available on the table near fellowship hall and return to Kelly with payment.

Due date is, Monday, June 17th

The next order will be on Monday, July 15th.

A Limited Supply of \$10.00 Panera, Chipotle and Starbucks Gift Cards are available from Kelly in the office for Teacher or Graduation Gifts. Checks made out to UCC or cash.



Bicentennial Tidbits

The chapel was added as a part of the 1973 reconstruction. A few of the original pews (see lower photograph) from the 1882 sanctuary were recycled for use in the Chapel.

From 1974 until about 1999, this beautiful worship space was only used regularly during the summer months.

BASEMENT

In the 1940's, a room in the basement was dug out by church members. It was accessed by an exterior stairway with simple earthen walls but it had no other foundation. It was furnished by a family named Lowe, and most younger people when referring to the area thought it was the "low room," a commentary on the height of the ceiling. This area became modernized and strengthened as a part of the 1973 reconstruction.

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GOSPEL GALLEY

"Weeds of the Garden"

by Dave Weber

At this time of year as I prep the flower beds and vegetable gardens, I consider all the weeds. Just think of the weed (No...not *That* weed!). I mean the kind that mar the landscape, take sustenance from other plants, and will generally overrun everything if I let them.

But weeds are amazing creations. Just like other creations, they only seek to grow and flourish. Some of them are really quite beautiful. Consider the scorned dandelion. Take a moment to look 'up close' at one – that yellow-faced flower is made up of dozens of individual little sunshine-bright shafts that together make it a wonder of God's creation. But, my rule is... 'a weed is any plant growing where I don't want it.'

Sadly, I have many troublesome weeds. I keep plucking them out thinking my work is done. But, either from seeds or those nasty roots, they keep coming back. Often, I want to surrender to them; they seem to overwhelm me.

I know that if I want to have a beautiful 'weed free' garden, I must keep at it. So, every day I tend to the weeds – plucking and hoeing. I doubt I'll ever get them all. Some particular ones are more persistent than I'd like. Time to get the garden gear on and consider my weeds. I'd like to think that the Master Gardener is at least pleased that I am trying.

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 MEDINA UCC HOMECOMING PICNIC AT BUNKER HILL

Gathering and Games: 4:00-5:00
Fully Catered Dinner: 5:00-6:00
The Entertainment: 6:00- 7:00 or whenever

And what's the entertainment? YOU! If you have a musical talent to share, join us in a talent show/hootenanny. Cathy is available if you need an accompanist. We will make sure there are mics and speakers so everyone can be heard. Kids and amateurs are welcome! Do you play an instrument? Sing? Can you do a magic trick? Get together with a friend to work up an act or perform on your own. There's no shortage of talent in our congregation, so this will be FUN! Interested? Pam Branscome is coordinating. 440-479-6814. There will be a sign-up sheet later in the summer.

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*******

**Medina United Church
of Christ, Congregational**

**Bicentennial
Worship Concert**

Sunday, June 2

7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

“The Music of Faith”

*Where does the music come from?
Where does it go?
Come join us and find out.*

“A splendid time is guaranteed for all.”

Acts 16:16-34

Breaking Chains

There's a reason The Book of Acts is not called The Book of Hanging Around Doing Nothing. This book, which tells the story of the second generation of Jesus' followers, is definitely the adventure story of the New Testament. Full of perilous journeys, sometimes-deadly confrontations, and miraculous encounters, you can almost picture it as a comic book, "Kapow!" and "Blam!" exploding in bright colors from the margins.

Having freed a slave and, in so doing, robbed the slave-owner of his ill-gotten livelihood, Paul and his trusty sidekick Silas are taken prisoner! Dragged to the center of town, attacked by a crowd, stripped of their clothing and beaten, our heroes find themselves thrown into the local slammer! Kapow! Blam! In a comic book, Paul and Silas would use their superpowers (Invisibility? Incredible strength? Shooting magma out of their ears?) to escape the prison and exact revenge on those who have wronged them.

But Acts is not a comic book after all, because the story doesn't end here. Indeed, God's story is just beginning. Once in prison, Paul and Silas draw on one of the most transformative superpowers of God's people – they begin to sing together. When they sing, they strengthen themselves after a painful ordeal. When they sing, they bring a measure of comfort to those around them, who have also suffered unimaginable trials. When they sing, walls crumble and chains are broken. And look! It's not just the prisoners who are freed by their hymns. The jailer, too, is freed from the bondage of being a cog in the machinery of punishment. In the song God helps them sing, there is not such a neat division between the good guys and the bad guys – just people, together, in need of freedom and redemption.

In a moment, you will raise your voices together in song. Remember when you sing in a community, that you are not just making your way through a series of notes and words. You are using one of your most potent superpowers, stronger than any kapow or blam. So, sing like it's your superpower. Sing to warm yourself. Sing to comfort the imprisoned. Sing to knock down walls. Sing to break chains. Sing to bring people toward the Holy One. Sing because we all, whether powerful or powerless, await salvation.

Holy Spirit - We raise our voices in song. May the words and the tunes together fill us with joy and comfort, strengthen us with resilience and courage, lead us toward freedom and salvation. And may we, through our songs, bring those gifts to all the world. Amen.