
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL



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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 “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” – arr. Teresa Wilhelmi 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

Leader: Holy One, you call us from the future.

People: As you have in the beginning, do now, and will continue to do in the future.

Leader: You are with us every step of our journey.

People: For we see through a dark glass dimly.

Leader: Often times our only answer to our questions of purpose and life is,

People: “I don’t know.”

Leader: Let us enter into the mystery of this worship time together, for all we know...

People: Is that it is now. And we are here. And that is enough.

*OPENING HYMN

“O God of Vision” (vs. 1-4)

WORDS: Jane Parker Huber, 1981
MUSIC: *Erneuerten Gesangbuch*, 1665

LOBE DEN HERREN
14 14.478

1. O God of vi - sion far great - er than all hu - man schem -
 2. Pour out your Spir - it on all now as - sem - bled be - fore
 3. Grant to us in - sight, O God, for this time of de - ci -
 4. Break the sun's rays in - to col - or, a rain - bow a - round
 5. Grate - ful, we come now by Christ's in - vi - ta - tion clear - spo -

1. ing, gath - er us now in your pres - ence, re - fresh - ing, re -
 2. you. May our di - ver - si - ty here be a means to a -
 3. sion. May we dream chal - leng - ing dreams of both depth and pre -
 4. us. Storm clouds, though real and near, are not e - nough to con -
 5. ken. We seek the nour - ish - ment found in fruit crushed and bread

1. deem - ing. Show us a - new life in your breath - tak - ing
 2. dore you. Wom - en and men, young, old, and youth - ful a -
 3. ci - sion. Speak through the dark. Dis - pel by light - ning's bright
 4. found us. Arched in the sky, beau - ty and pro - mise are
 5. bro - ken. Christ for us all! Come, let us an - swer the

1. view, love - ly be - yond all our dream - ing.
 2. gain, make us as one, we im - plore you.
 3. spark what - ev - er clouds dim our vi - sion.
 4. high, giv - ing us hope to as - tound us.
 5. call, of - fering our lives as the to - ken.

*OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Holy One, we give you thanks for our ancestors who answered your call.

People: They worked to liberate the oppressed.

Leader: Help us see where abolition is needed in our world today.

People: They nurtured families through temperance.

Leader: Help us hold our boundaries and prohibitions gently,

People: for hard cover catechisms are no match for our loose-leaf lives.

Leader: May we honor and value women.

People: Through our words and actions, may we show that women have our vote!

Leader: And may we boldly speak and act in our society today.

People: May our politics reflect your Kingdom Politics.

Leader: We long for the day and commit to working towards where the nation shall not lift up sword against nations

People: And we won't learn war anymore. Amen.

*PRAISE RESPONSE

"O God of Vision" (vs. 5)

ANTHEM "Marchin' On Up" – arr. by Mark Hayes

Chancel Choir

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Stacie Yates

WELCOME AND RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Kathy Goodwin, Rob Kaiser, Patrick Mann, Bennett Petersen, Jessika Petersen,
Karen Sopko, Ashley Stromack

Congregation: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this Church. We promise you our 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 be witnesses of our risen Savior.

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, Here Are Your Disciples, from *Stages on the Way*, Iona Community)

PRAYER RESPONSE

"Be Thou My Vision" (vs. 1)

WORDS: Ancient Irish; trans. by Mary E. Byrne, 1905; versed by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912, alt.

MUSIC: Trad. Irish melody; harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1963

SLANE
10 10.9 10

Alt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House; harm. © 1964 Abingdon Press

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
 Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.

SCRIPTURE Judges 17:1-6 and Luke 24:13-35 Ken Zuehlke, Liturgist

SERMON "Church in Society: Next" Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offertory Invitation (unison)

While we may not know what's next in our lives, we do know what's next in our liturgy. Let us gather this morning's offering. Will the ushers please come forward.

Offertory Music "Reflection" – Charity Boyles 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)**

For a world free of shootings in places of worship and in schools,
 Slavery, Sexism, Racism, Idolatry,
 And our own sense of certainty that makes enemies out of our neighbors,
 We offer you our time, talent, and treasure for the building of your Beloved Community in
 the land of the living. In Jesus' name. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN "In the Midst of New Dimensions"**

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo - ple, war-ring fac-tions and de - spair,
 3 As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with - draw in pain,

Who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples wan-dering in their sep - arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol - ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

Refrain

God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

***BENEDICTION** (from *Stages on the Way*, Iona Community)

Leader: Today and tomorrow.

People: Today and tomorrow!

Leader: Lo, I am with you always,

People: When we try to do your will.

Leader: I am with you always,

People: When we go where we do not know.

Leader: I am with you always,

People: When we meet one we do not recognize.

Leader: I am with you always,

People: **Where faith ends and doubt begins.**

Leader: I am with you always,

People: **And should we forget you...**

Leader: I am with you always,

People: **Today and tomorrow. You are with us always until the end of the age.**

Leader: Having been blessed by this good news go and be a blessing! For this service has ended...

People: **And our congregational portrait now begins. Amen!**

*****Please remain seated for the Congregational Portrait and Annual Meeting*****

***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 "Praise the Lord on High" – Rachel Sawyer**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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* Those who are able are asked to please stand

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

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Bicentennial Tidbits

The time required to study the structural soundness of our 87-year-old building, vote by a wide margin to stay on the square, then complete detailed architectural drawings to add the Chapel, as well as perform the actual construction of the entire insides of the 1882 sanctuary was four years, from 1969 through 1973. Here are a few photos – many more can be found on our website: uccmedina.org > about us > our history, then click the photo link at the bottom of the page and look for "sanctuary photos during reconstruction." The dedication service for our "new old church" was during the January 1974 annual meeting.



THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

MAY 19, 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 19, 2019 thru May 26, 2019

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun **New Members will join at
One Joint Service**
9:00 am Choir Practice
10:00 am **ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP**
11:00 am **Congregational Portrait
Congregational Meeting**
2:00 pm JMM @ Medina Meadows
4:00 pm Youth Group Year-end Picnic
& Senior Send-off

Mon 10:00 am GIFT CARD ORDERS DUE
1:00 pm Breadmakers
6:30 pm Women's Bible Study

Tues 2:00 pm Bible Study: Book of Luke

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
6:00 pm **Bicentennial Music Program
Rehearsal**

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

Fri 1:30 pm JMM @ Evergreen

Sat

Sun **FIRST DAY OF SUMMER F.I.S.H.**
8:15 pm Chapel Worship
9:00 pm Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir Practice
10:30 am Traditional Worship
2:00 pm JMM @ Medina Meadows
 Sing-a-long
7:00 pm JMM @ Western Reserve
 Masonic Home

**JOIN US FOR THE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE
WE WILL BE PASSING OUT
FREE POPCORN & LEMONADE**

Worship Highlights 10:00 am

Judges 17:1-6 and Luke 24:13-35

“Church in Society: NEXT”
Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: are donated by Jim Kiser in honor of the choirs.

**THERE WILL ONLY BE ONE SERVICE
OF WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM TODAY**

**Followed by
THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The annual reports are printed and ready if you would like to review one prior to our annual meeting. You can pick up a copy in the hallway near the kitchen.

Remember Our Bicentennial Portrait - TODAY

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.

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.

Upcoming Youth Events:

*May 19 – End of the Year Youth Group Picnic

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Registration for Vacation Bible School is underway! Forms are located in the Crossroads Hallway or can be found on the church's website. Questions? Please see Stacie Yates. **The deadline for registration is May 20th.**

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 Friday, June 7th.

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!

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 are only 4 Sundays remaining** so sign up on the sheet in the East Room soon! 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...



Michelle & Antonio Colon announce the birth of their grandson. Lincoln Michael Colon was born on April 4th to Alex Colon & Cassidy Kovacek!

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.

GOSPEL GALLEY

by Alice Metzloff

Today, May 19th, is observance of *Mental Health Sunday*. This upcoming Friday, May 31st, I celebrate my fourth anniversary of my own personal mental challenge episode. I can't explain what happened back in 2015, other than it was as if a CD disc that had years of information of how to take care of "my personal and family life" was there one day...THEN ZAP the next day, GONE... wiped clean...deleted! It took two years with help of God, my immediate family, my church family, and medical professionals, to get out of the dark chasm. TODAY, with grateful than, I "was rebuilt – Better! – Stronger! – Faster!" Yep..."The Six Million Dollar Man" TV show reference...LOL! In Mark 5:1-14 and 9:14-26, and Luke 4:31-35 and 8:26-38, we read about Jesus healing many people struggling with mental challenges, aka the "Demon possessed". Even as late as the 19th Century, mental health issues were not well understood...feared. In this 21st Century we KNOW SO MUCH MORE about mental health issues and brain disorders. However, *the societal stigma of 2000 years persists!* Our UCC denomination, and two associated entities of The UCC Mental Health Network, and "W.I.S.E. UCC Mental Health Network" are diligently working together with UCC congregations across the country to help reduce or eliminate the stigma people face daily with mental health challenges issues. Quiz time...Are we: **W**ise to learn about others with mental Challenges issues? **I**nclusive of ALL who come to our doors seeking entry? **S**upportive of ALL persons with mental health challenges issues and their families, *who wish to a part of our fantabulous congregation?* **E**ngaged in being a friend with, to, of, and for ALL membership who face Mental health challenges/issues? Will we look ahead towards the next 200 years to be a UCC congregation who is...**M**ission driven? **A**ctive oriented? **Y**-clept – called? I say YES... We can and we are! Why? Because when I was "away" recovering...my church family was WISE, there for=with my family and me. I close my meditation dissertation with the Gospel of Mathew 25:40: "The least yo do for your brethren...also, you do for ME". Peace be with you and yours.

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*****

Revelation 21:1-6

Imagine

The book of Revelation was born on the Island of Patmos, a place where the Roman world dumped all those people it considered vagrant and disturbers of the peace and used them as slaves in the Island's quarry. It could not have been a pleasant life there and yet out of its misery comes these words of hope and miraculous possibility. Some scholars of religion have suggested that the words of this book were spoken out loud, recited as litanies in worship services intended to bring visions of hope alive so the island inhabitants might feel an embodied realized hope.

Embodied hope would be a hope that was real and present and touchable. Homelessness is a great destroyer of hope in our communities. When LGBTQ individuals near the campus of Clemson University, in the areas of upstate South Carolina unexpectedly find themselves without a home or a place to feel safe, Peace Congregational United Church of Christ is ready to meet them.

Congregation members and the Clemson community are working side-by-side in the design and construction of a tiny house, a mobile residency for a person in the LGBTQ community who is no longer welcome at home. The project received a \$10,000 Grasstop Grant from UCC Justice and Witness Ministries through the Neighbors in Need special mission offering.

In today's scripture from Revelation, God is no longer remote but visible among the people, wiping their eyes, and lifting pain and sadness. "See," says God, "I am making all things new;" and later in the passage, "To the thirsty I will give water as a gift" Water in the desert, or on a remote rocky island, is embodied hope indeed. How more embodied a hope is there than a clean and welcoming home?

In providing such assistance, churches offer that visible, tangible message that God is love, born in our deeds encouraged by grand visions of what a world graced by God would look like. We are not separated from God. God is with us, embodied and tangible in a warm bed and a safe place.