
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

“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 “This Is the Day” – arr. Fred Bock

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 (from “All You Need is Love” by The Beatles, 1967)

Leader: There's nothing you can do that can't be done

People: **Nothing you can sing that can't be sung**

Leader: Nothing you can say, but you can learn how to play the game

People: **It's easy**

Leader: All you need is love.

People: **All we need is love.**

Leader: Let us worship our God who is Love.

*OPENING HYMN

“This Is the Day of New Beginnings”

Brian Wren wrote this hymn in 1978 for a New Year's Day service in Oxford, England. The music is by the editor of two hymnals of the United Methodist Church and was composed for the original Wren text.

Tune: **BEGINNINGS 9.8.9.8.**
Carlton R. Young, 1987

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Unison

1 This is a day of new be - gin - nings, time to re -
 2 For by the life and death of Je - sus, God's might - y
 3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the
 4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and

mem - ber and move on, time to be - lieve what love is
 Spir - it, now as then, can make for us a world of
 past and leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -

bring - ing, lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
 dif - ference, as faith and hope are born a - gain.
 griev - ing, seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
 gin - nings — our God is mak - ing all things new.

CONFESSION (from "The Sound of Silence" by Simon and Garfunkel, 1965)

Holy and Gracious Mystery,
 Forgive us when we bow and pray
 To the neon god we've made
 And the sign flashed out its warning
 In the words that it was forming

And the sign said, "The words of the prophets
 Are written on the subway walls
 And tenement halls"
 And whispered in the sounds of silence.

Help us listen to that song and the ancient words of 1 Kings 19,
 to listen for you not in the storm,
 or the earthquake,
 or the fire...But after the fire...
 A still small voice. Amen.

PRAISE RESPONSE

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"



All things bright and beau-ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,



all things wise and won-der-ful: the Lord God made them all.

WORDS: Cecil F. Alexander (1818-1895)
MUSIC: English melody, 17th c.; arr. Martin Shaw (1875-1958)

ROYAL OAK
7.6.7.6.Ref.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"How Great Thou Art" -arr. Lloyd Larson

Logan Yates & Ryan Routh, soloists

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

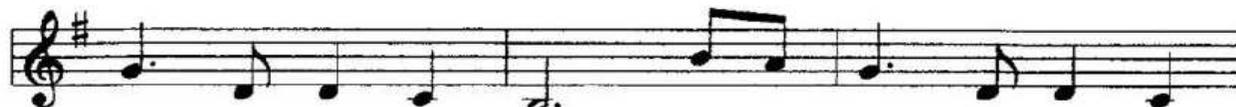
Joys and Concerns, Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer

PRAYER RESPONSE

"Borning Cry"



1. "I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be



there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you



were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold.

SCRIPTURE Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 and Luke 12:54-59 Karen Brocco-Kish, Liturgist

SERMON "The Times" Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offertory Invitation (inspired by "Signs" by The Five Man Electric Band, 1970)

Leader: Our sign says, "Everybody welcome. Come in, kneel down and pray"

**People: But when they passed around the plate at the end of it all,
I didn't have a penny to pay**

Leader: So if you have to get a pen and paper and make up your own little sign,
and I made up my

People: "Thank you, Lord, for thinkin' 'bout me. I'm alive and doin' fine."

Leader: Then offer that during this time.

Offertory Music "Hymn of Promise" – setting by John Carter 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**

Leader: Now we know:

**People: all is grace
all is gift.**

Leader: Holy One, you give us good things:

**People: life and love; daily bread and water that quenches our thirst; friends and faith.
The past and this very real present.**

Leader: Most of all, for your Son, Jesus,
In whom you meet us with a love that will never let us go;

**People: you utter words of mercy and forgiveness that override the hurts,
and heal our brokenness;
you offer new beginnings where we had expected only dead ends.**

Leader: We give you thanks and praise

People: for the mystery of your suffering love that gives us life. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN "Hymn of Promise"**

Natalie Sleeth composed her "Hymn of Promise" first as a choral anthem and then adapted it to this version for congregational singing. It was dedicated to her husband, Ronald Sleeth, who died shortly after she completed it.

Tune: PROMISE 8.7.8.7.D.
Natalie Sleeth, 1985



1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn for ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,



un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

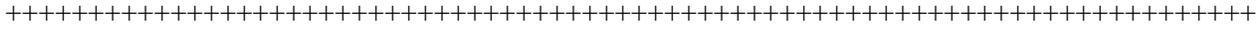
***BENEDICTION**

***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** "All Things Bright and Beautiful" – arr. Anna Laura Page Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"



*Those who are able please stand

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

Please join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the service
Today's coffee hour is hosted by **Ken & Sue Dean**.

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PASTORAL STAFF

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

OFFICE STAFF

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - email: office@uccmedina.org
Kelly Charnley, Financial Manager – email: financial@uccmedina.org

PROGRAM STAFF

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education; Michelle Lisco, Co-Director of Youth
Jim Kiser, Director of Music; Cathy Fafrak, Organist
Rebecca Rosen, Nursery Supervisor
Xanthe Phillips, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool

The 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*******

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

JULY 28, 2019

**“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS.
MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY!”**

Live streaming of the Sanctuary Service is available at uccmedina.org

July 28, 2019 thru August 4, 2019

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun 8:15 pm Chapel Worship
9:00 pm Gathering Worship
10:30 am Traditional Worship
2:00 pm JMM @ Medina Meadows
Sing-a-long
7:00 pm JMM @ Western Reserve
Masonic Home

Mon

Tues

Wed 10:30 am Quilters

Thu

Fri 1:30 pm JMM @ Evergreen
7:00 pm First Friday – (on the square)

Sat 4:00 pm Jazz Under the Stars
(ORMACO) Rain Site

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
10:30 am Traditional Worship
11:30 am Hunger Outreach Meeting
(Project Leaders only)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Mark your calendars now for the annual
ALIVE ON THE SQUARE

Worship & Picnic

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25TH @ 10:00 a.m.

Plan to join us and bring your
Family and friends! All are welcome!

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 & Luke 12:54-59

“The Times” - Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are donated by
Lois Tampson in memory of her husband, Felix
Tampson.

STAFF PLANNING RETREAT

The church staff will be holding their bi-annual
planning retreat at the beginning of August.

If your team or group has a date or special event
that needs scheduled on the calendar, **please
submit your dates to the church office no later
than August 1st.**

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED TUESDAY - AUGUST 6TH

The church staff will be off site all day on a Staff
Planning Retreat and tour of Avon UCC. Please
make note that the church office will be closed on
this particular day only.

STAYIN' ALIVE

Our newly-planted trees and bushes need water-
especially in hot weather. Sign up at the table by
the kitchen to take a turn for a week. Just fill the
buckets and water the bushes. Questions? Call the
Zuehlke's, Pam Branscome or Harry Buch.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

Women's Breakfast Group will begin meeting again
on the second Tuesday of every month, starting on
September 9th at Buehler's on River Styx Rd.

**SAVE THE DATE:
SUNDAY, 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. **Sign-up sheets are in the East Room and outside the kitchen.**

DENISON AVE. UCC IN NEED

An article in the June 2nd edition of the Plain Dealer highlighted the good mission work of the Denison Ave. United Church of Christ. They serve about 5,000 people (1,300 families) in the area and their congregation only numbers 40! The church is looking for support to complete repairs to the exterior of the building or face \$5,000/day fine for non-compliance to a citation. According to the article (posted on the bulletin board in the hallway leading to the Sanctuary) they are looking for at least \$57,000. Please give prayerful thought to donating to this need. Funds from our Mission Team budget will match donations by our congregation. **As of July 22nd, the total amount raised is \$700. Deadline for donations is today, July 28th.**

**BICENTENNIAL CHRISTMAS
ORNAMENTS**

The ornaments will be available for purchase in the church office during the week during office hours: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. The price is \$20. We will also have them for sale on the 1st Sunday of the month, from August 4th through December 1st.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH
SUMMER NEEDS**

With children home for the summer, some of our outreach projects have even greater needs. The Community Services Center has asked us to continue giving **toilet paper** and **bar soaps** but also added **liquid dishwashing gel**, **liquid laundry detergent** and **jellies** (peanut butter and jelly sandwiches—basic for kid survival) to the CSC most needed list. Please put these items in the gray BOGO bin across from the elevator. Yes, kids also keep coming to the library during their summer vacation. There are many blanks in our summer library Shop and Drop program. Kindly call Maureen Walker if you are able to help with these needs, 330-321-4944. Many thanks for your generous caring and contributions!

BOOK GROUP

"Educated" is a story about a girl growing up in a survivalist family in Idaho who somehow overcomes her family situation to go on to become highly educated. A powerful memoir! Join us on Tuesday, August 13th at 7:30 pm in the East Room. Anybody can come; you don't have to be a part of the book group—there's no roll call! Just pick up a copy of the book in the office, sign out on the sheet, and join us for an interesting discussion!

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED

Thank you to those who have signed up to host a Coffee Hour! **There are 2 Sundays remaining: September 8th and September 29th.**

Please consider hosting a Sunday after the 10:30 service in the future. Sign-up sheets are in the East Room. Please remember this is supposed to be a snack with coffee or punch. Doughnut holes, cheese and crackers, fresh fruit or anything you like may be served. **KEEP IT SIMPLE.** Thank you!

July 15, 2019

Dear Luke,

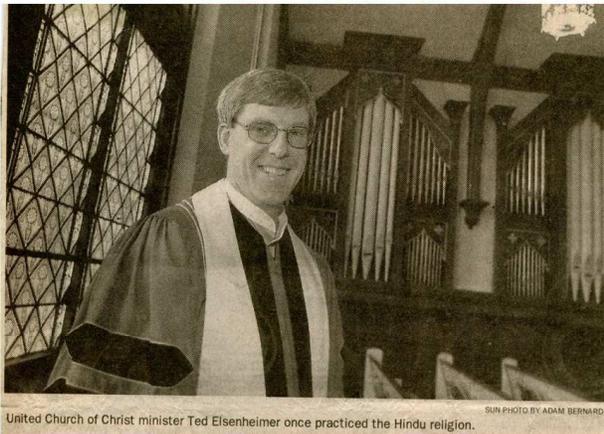
Please accept this letter as my formal notification that I am resigning from my position as Co-Director of Youth Group with Medina United Church of Christ. After lengthy, heartfelt consideration, I have made this difficult decision to depart on July 31, 2019.

While my journey with God is continual, my journey in the position as Co-Director of Youth Group must end. I believe that since 2014, I have given most of my time and talents to our youth. When I accepted this position, I was working as a part time teacher for Hobby Horse Preschool. As the years have passed, I have been blessed with the means and support to pursue my teaching license and continue to further my education while taking master's courses, teaching full time, raising two teenagers, and keeping our Lisco family team strong. I feel that the UCC Youth Group program leadership needs more structure, organization, and time than I am able to give. There are two quotes that have inspired me as I go through life's twists and turns: "When patterns are broken, new worlds emerge." ~Tuli Kupferberg and "If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got." ~Henry Ford.

I want to thank you and the church for believing in my abilities and spirit to lead our children on His chosen path. What I have learned and how I have grown as a leader, fellow believer, sister, friend, and mentor has been invaluable. As my faith journey continues, I will continue to seek His guidance and serve Him as I am called to do so.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement.

With Kindest Regards,
Michelle Lisco



United Church of Christ minister Ted Elsenheimer once practiced the Hindu religion. SUN PHOTO BY ADAM BERNARD

Bicentennial Tidbits

Ted Elsenheimer was our 36th pastor, serving from 1997 until. 2006.

Accident began a journey *Finding himself took some unusual paths for pastor*

By HEATHER L. BERRY
Staff Writer

A 13-year-old boy was walking to choir practice on a March day in 1967 in his small, upper New York town. Winter was nearly over and spring on the way.

As he was crossing the street, a Toyota hit the little boy, throwing him 30 feet from where he was standing.

His sister witnessed the accident from the side of the road. The boy landed in the front yard of his church, one foot from the church's sign. This event changed the direction of the boy's life.

The little boy eventually became a minister. Ted Elsenheimer is a minister. He joined the United Church of Christ more than a year ago, moving here with his family from Michigan.

Elsenheimer lives now in Medina with his wife Nancy, also a minister and their two daughters, Jessica, 14, and Kaitlin, 10. The family is very active with outdoor sports, enjoying everything from tennis to white water rafting.

"Our family likes to have fun," said Elsenheimer.

It's easy to imagine the boy's injured body lying on the lawn of the church and that somehow God reached down and told him at that moment he should give his life to service.

But, the Lord works in mysterious ways. That would be too easy.

The event was a turning point in a different way. It was the beginning of a journey toward finding peace with the life Elsenheimer was given.

See JOURNEY, page A10

MEDINA SUN Thursday, November 19, 1998

The Rev. Dr. Theodore Elsenheimer began his ministry here in May 1997. The Assistant Minister resigned that same year, leaving us without an Assistant until 2008. Paid and/or lay members assumed leadership of the church school and youth activities. ... What had been only "summer service" in the chapel became a year-round opportunity.

(Source: Betty Zarney's 2015 History)

GARFIELD MINISTRY

Ken, our immediate past moderator announced on 7/21/19 at our 9 and 10:30 services that Darlene and Linda tendered their resignations as leaders of the Garfield 14 Food Ministry. This timing gives this very important and public ministry a short opportunity for the church to reset so we can come back stronger than ever.

Two things that you need to know and understand about this transition:

First and foremost, the fourteen families that we are committed to will still be provided for with gift cards to local grocery and retail stores.

Second, Luke and the three moderators, Maureen, Julie and Ken are fully engaged and committed to bringing this incredibly important and public ministry back online within the first couple of weeks of the new school year.

We have already begun the process of identifying and recruiting new leaders; identifying ways that we can expand the ministry within our own church with multi-generational support so that it's important work can continue.

We wish to sincerely thank Darlene and Linda for their commitment to our ministry, and to ask all of us for blessings of rest and healing on these two faithful servants who have worked tirelessly every week for the past year and now deserve their rest, and our respect and blessings for the choices they have prayerfully made.

1st FRIDAY MEDINA – August 2nd

Stop by our corner of the square outside for an evening of fun! We'll have a children's craft from 5-7 pm. Middle schoolers Aidan Rubino (from our church), Ryan Livingston and Deven Pawar will be playing rock music from 6-7 pm. The businesses on the square will also be open, and there will be more children's activities on the square

GOSPEL GALLEY

by Vicki Miller

I wrote a meditation about miracles before- but this past week I have used the word "miracle" a lot and it got me thinking. I used the word for an insignificant daily experience- "it's a miracle traffic wasn't backed up on 271 going home from work Tuesday". I used the word for a medical achievement beyond my comprehension – "it is a miracle that doctors were able to do an in vitro fetal MRI to see how a brain was developing". My Mom used the word miracle when I was growing up. I heard, "it's a miracle you didn't kill yourself" or "it's a miracle that I can see the floor of your bedroom" a lot! I can't even count the number of times I have said some version of "it's a miracle..." to describe some event, action or location. I got curious and went to Google to get the official definition of a miracle. I've decided that it will be an actual miracle if everyone can agree on what one is and how one happens. Merriam-Webster defines a miracle as "an extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs". Google's definition is "a surprising and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore considered to be the work of a divine agency". Catholics, Protestants, Muslims and Jews all have rules that define a miracle and the criteria for establishing if a miracle took place. When you start getting into "miracle" debates this is where the disagreements happen. For example, I believe that the ability to do an MRI on a fetus is truly a miracle. God provided for the scientists and doctors to develop the knowledge to do something like this. However, an MRI can be explained by science and therefore doesn't meet the definition of a miracle. I think I see miracles around me every day, but in a religious debate I wouldn't be able to prove them as true miracles. So, after reading dozens of definitions of miracles I have decided my favorite miracle definition is from Lemony Snicket's *The Lump of Coal*: "Miracles are like pimples, because once you start looking for them you find more than you ever dreamed you'd see."

Luke 11: 1-13

Shaped by Prayer

Conversation with God is a two-way street. You talk some, and you listen some. Then you listen some more and talk some more. When we say "God is still speaking!" we remember the importance of listening to what God has to say. But what about the other half of the conversation, the part where we are speaking back?

Maybe you just don't know how to talk to God. Luckily, if you are at a loss, Jesus gave you a formula in the prayer found in the scripture reading today.

First, say the Divine name. Jesus begins with "Our Father," but there are lots more. Mother, Creator. Sophia, Spirit. Beloved, Comforter. Rock, Eagle. Prayer is about building relationships and you call the people you want to have relationships with by name. So start with a Name.

Second, give thanks and praise. Jesus continues with "Hallowed be your name." With these words Jesus praises God's name. We can give God praise by offering our gratitude, too. What do you have to be thankful for? Start a list. Your list can be short, just gratitude or two, or it can go until you run out of paper, or breath, or ideas.

Third, reflect on what needs improving. Jesus prays, "Lead us not into temptation." We wouldn't have to have this one if we hadn't already encountered temptation. God loves us just as we are and loves us too much to let us stay like that, the old slogan goes. So whether it's your own relationship blunders or the deep failures of your nation, say them out loud.

Fourth, hope for the future. Jesus asks that "Your kingdom come." We are co-creators in the reign of God. As you imagine what could be, you are taking the first step toward living into it. Let your imagination lead you toward the actions you are going to take to make the changes you know must come.

Immediately after teaching the prayer in today's scripture, Jesus tells a tiny parable. A man goes to his neighbor late at night and, pounding on the door, asks for bread to feed some unexpected guests. Although the neighbor and his family are already asleep with the doors locked, finally because of (what is usually translated as) persistence, the neighbor gets the bread. But the word that's translated as "persistence" actually means "impudence" or "shamelessness."

The neighbor finally got up to give the man the bread he needed because of the man's shamelessness. So don't be ashamed. Speak, holler, or whisper. However you do it, take part in your half of the conversation. Yes, God is still speaking. And, God is most definitely still listening.