
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 “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” – arr. Mark Hayes 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: We shall worship the Lord!

People: **We will be reminded of God’s promise made to Abraham.**

Leader: We shall speak of covenant and of faith.

People: **Of God’s faithfulness to an unfaithful people.**

Leader: Before I die,

People: **I shall be changed by God.**

*OPENING HYMN

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”



1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
2. Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our
3. We share each oth - er's woes, our mu - tual
4. When we a - sun - der part, it gives us



Chris - tian love; the fel - low - ship of
 ar - dent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
 bur - dens bear; and of - ten for each
 in - ward pain; but we shall still be



kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
 aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
 oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

WORDS: John Fawcett, 1782

MUSIC: Johann G. Nägeli; arr. by Lowell Mason, 1845

DENNIS
SM

***OPENING PRAYER (Genesis 17:1-2)**

You are the Lord, God Almighty. We seek to walk before you and be blameless. We know of the covenants you have made with us. We recall your promise to increase our numbers.

We confess, Oh Lord; that new people make us nervous. They have other ideas. They are not as safe as those we have known. Help us to be welcoming, loving, and serving. Guide us to live fully into your covenant, and trust in you. Amen.

***PRAISE RESPONSE**

"Amazing Grace"

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
 I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

WORDS: John Newton, 1779; st. 4 anonymous

MUSIC: *Virginia Harmony*, 1831; harm. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

NEW BRITAIN
CM

SPECIAL MUSIC

"How Great Thou Art" – Leah Medley, piano

"Ode to Joy" – Laura Medley, violin

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Stacie Yates

The Lord's Prayer

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

PRAYER RESPONSE

"Be Thou My Vision"

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.

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

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 15:1-17

Nick North, Liturgist

SERMON

"Promise"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Abraham was called to bring a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.

People: We bring to you our time, talent, and treasure, trusting you will covenant with us in our day.

Offertory Music

"Air in D" - Dandrieu

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

Holy One, you establish the covenant and alone are responsible. It is all on you. It is scarce to wonderful to imagine. We have so many questions. Yet we offer our gifts to you, trusting you to use them as you will. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

"How Firm a Foundation"



1. How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,
3. "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
4. "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - ways shall lie,
5. "The soul that on Je - sus still leans for re - pose,



is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!
for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
the riv - ers of woe shall not thee o - ver - flow;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;



What more can he say than to you he hath said,
I'll strength - en and help thee, and cause thee to stand
for I will be with thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,



to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - ni - po - tent hand.
and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

WORDS: "K" in Rippon's *Selection of Hymns*, 1787 (2 Tim. 2:19; Heb. 13:5; Is. 43:1-2)
MUSIC: Early USA melody; harm. from *Tabor*, 1866

FOUNDATION
11 11.11 11

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: Who am I that God is conscious of me?

People: I am a nobody. Like Abraham.

Leader: Hear the promise of God to you.

People: Everybody is God’s somebody.

Leader: You are blessed and treasured.

People: By the Creator of everybody.

Leader: Go to welcome, love and serve, for this service has ended...

People: And our service now begins. 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** “How Firm a Foundation” – arr. Patricia Lou Harris 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 Fazekas, Ron Greinke, Pete Benson*

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

*Today’s coffee hour is hosted by **Lori Price, Maureen Walker & Sari Allen.***

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About the bulletin cover: *This picture was taken at Ash Cave in Hocking Hills by Luke and Kate as they set out on what they thought was a 6 mile round trip hike (it turned out to be 6 miles one way).*

Pastor Luke relates: “The light struck this lone tree in a fascinating way, and I was happy to capture it. It felt like God was saying, ‘Take in this beauty. You’ll remember this walk for a lifetime.’”

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

Jim Kiser, Director of Music; Cathy Fafrak, Organist

Rebecca Rosen, Nursery Supervisor

Xanthe Phillips, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 11, 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

August 11, 2019 thru August 18, 2019

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun 8:15 pm Chapel Worship
9:00 pm Gathering Worship
10:30 am Traditional Worship
11:45 am Caring Team
11:45 am Mission Team
3:00 pm JMM Hymn Sing @ Brookdale N.

Mon

Tues 8:00 am Men's Fellowship
@ P.J. Marley's
7:30 pm Women's Book Group
7:00 pm Worship Team

Wed 10:30 am Quilters

Thu

Fri 1:30 pm JMM @ Evergreen

Sat

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir Practice
10:30 am Traditional Worship
11:30 am Confirmation Parent Meeting
in the Chapel
2:00 pm JMM @ Medina Meadows

ALIVE ON THE SQUARE!

Our annual outdoor worship & picnic will be
SUNDAY, AUGUST 25TH @ 10:00 a.m.
Plan to join us! **Bring your lawn chair,
family and friends! All are welcome!**

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

Women's Breakfast Group will begin meeting again on the second Tuesday of each month at **9:00 am** starting on **September 10th** at **Buehler's on River Styx Rd.**

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

Genesis 15:1– 17

Sermon Series – “Before I Die”
“Promise” - Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are donated by Chuck and Nancy Masi in memory of their daughter, Ann Reed.

NEW PICTORIAL CHURCH DIRECTORIES ARE HERE!

If you had your photo taken back in May for the church pictorial directory, then you have a copy waiting for you! Each of them has a label with your name on it and will be in alphabetical order. **We will not mail these due to the cost, but you can pick up your copy in the East Room.**

Also, if you visit someone on our Circle of Caring list, you can pick up their copy for them.

If you did not have your photo taken, but you would still like a copy, or if you would like an extra copy the cost will be \$5.00. You may get your copy from the church office. This is to cover the extra copies purchased.

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!

SUMMER COLLECTION OF NON-PERISHABLES

It was proposed that the Community Hunger Outreach Ministry collect non-perishable food during the summer recess. Kathy Goodwin is the new coordinator for the Garfield menu and church sign-ups. To ensure variety, she will have a list of items to choose from at the Garfield Family table. Contributions can be left anytime on the table under the stairs in the welcoming area. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry.

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.

GREAT FOR ANY SHOPPING

Please support the youth and purchase gift cards. Many vendors and denominations are available. 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 our own list. Complete a Green Order Form, also available on the table, and return to Kelly with payment.

**The next order is due on
August 19th by 10 am.**

BICENTENNIAL CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

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

COME JOIN YOUR HEARTS AND VOICES AS ONE AND/OR YOUR UPPER BODY STRENGTH

Did you know that singing in a choir not only gives individuals a feeling of harmony, both spiritually and musically, but also physically? A recent Swedish study has found that when you sing in a choir both breathing and heart rate variability becomes synchronized when the group is singing together. When the choir members are singing, the heartbeat for the whole group has a tendency to be in the same rhythm and can have the same effect on you as yoga breathing. Why not try it out on Aug. 18th at 9:15 in the Chapel? That is when the adult choir begins rehearsals for the fall and Christmas season. In addition, if you want to work on your upper body strength, you could try out the bell choir. Ringing can give you a good workout for your arms and upper body, not to mention the spiritual and musical harmony you will enjoy in the group. The bells will begin rehearsals for the fall and Christmas season at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, Sept. 4th. I encourage you to grow spiritually, musically and physically by joining one or both of the choirs. If you have any questions, let me know. I look forward to seeing you in the choirs! - Jim Kiser, Music Director

NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

Hey Church!

I will start writing monthly messages here to talk about upcoming events. A space to sing the praises of your good deeds, tell tales of our communal life together, and maybe even find some wisdom.

August has had some exciting meetings! This past school year, I ran a Dungeons and Dragons game over at the library for middle and high schoolers. Elijah Walker helped me out as we hosted around 8-12 kids each Thursday. The goal was to help these youth develop their math, reading, and team work skills all under the guise of playing a game. I threw in some fun ethical quandaries to help develop critical thinking as well. The middle school and library loved it! So now they want to build the next step. On July 30, the OSU Extension hosted a meeting with the schools, libraries, Feeding Medina County, Ohio Guide Stone, the juvenile courts, and other communities leaders to work towards a holistic program to help with the youth showing up at the library. Our next meeting will be later this month and I will keep you posted. It is EXCITING! Good things are afoot!

The staff retreat was this past week. It was a chance for your staff to gather and put dates on our calendar. We went up to Avon Lake United Church of Christ, a growing church that is vibrant in so many ways. The Rev. Kelly Brill leads my Excellence in Ministry group and I have the utmost respect for her. Nate Taylor is a friend of mine who runs the youth group there that is just exploding. We also met their graphic designer who happens to be the grandson of the Rev. Ormund Schulz who was pastor of Medina in the 1950s! We got "God-bumps" and just loved our time away to plan and dream.

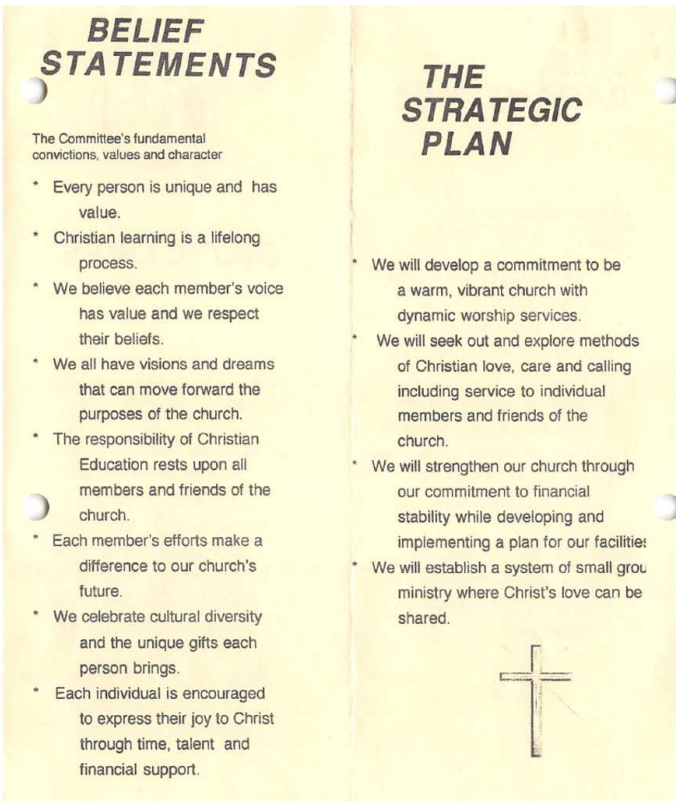
We are currently in the "Before I Die, Life Before Death" worship series. "Before I Die" is a global art project that invites people to contemplate death and reflect upon their lives. When I saw this project, I thought of Abraham. A man who before he died established three major world religions. We can each have goals and priorities at every stage of life that can lead us to find life before death. An interactive wall will be in our new welcoming area all this month as well as at the Medina Fest and Alive on the Square for you to view and write your own dream on. More information can be found at www.beforeiedieproject.com.

Alive on the Square will be the capstone to our "Before I Die" worship series. One worship service at 10 a.m. on the Square with a picnic lunch afterwards. Please bring a chair and your entire family and friends as it is just a great day! Rain location will be our sanctuary, but I am praying for blue skies with low humidity.

I look forward to our photo exhibit coming to us and having Hobby Horse back in session.

Good things are happening on our corner of the Square! God be with you until we meet again!

-Pastor Luke



Bicentennial Tidbits

One of the first things done after the arrival of Ted Elsenheimer was the creation of a long-term strategic planning committee.

Their summary report from 1998 reads pretty well, even twenty years later.

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ENTERTAINMENT NEEDED! HOMECOMING PICNIC AT BUNKER HILL

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 at 7 pm

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.**

RESERVE YOUR SPOT AT THE HOMECOMING PICNIC

Come out and join us as we celebrate the church's Bicentennial year with a homecoming picnic at the Bunker Hill Golf Course Pavilion on Sunday, September 8th from 4:30-8:30 pm. Enjoy games, lively conversation, a delicious buffet dinner and cash bar, then stay for the musical extravaganza, campfire and s'mores!

The cost of the dinner is \$20 for adults, \$15 for kids ages 5-11 and free for children under 5. You may call or come in to the church office to reserve your spot, or you may go to the church's website at www.uccmedina.org and click on the Homecoming Picnic link. **Reservations are required by Sunday, August 25th.** Hope to see you there!

JULY FINANCIAL REPORT:

	July	YTD	Annual Budget	YTD as a % of Budget
Income:	\$23,355	\$201,793	\$354,026	57.0%
Expense:	\$26,235	\$198,550	\$365,608	54.3%
Net Income (Loss)				
	(\$2,880)	\$3,243	(\$11,582)	

- Income for the year is a little behind and expenses are under budget.
- Sunday School Offerings thru July are \$47.00
- As of July 31st we have received 49 Commitments \$45,401 and one Memorial Gift for our Additional Building for the Next 100 Years and Bell Repair Funds

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*******

Luke 12:32-40

Living into the Promise

In today's reading, Jesus gives several commands to his disciples and followers. Spend some time each day of the coming week meditating on one of the commands that Jesus offers in this short reading. As you try to put these commands into practice, ask yourself which (if any) seem easy and obvious, and which (if any) seem too difficult to undertake.

Monday: "Do not be afraid." The passage begins with what is perhaps one of the often repeated commands in the Bible, "do not be afraid." Why do you think this is such a common greeting in the Bible? Consider the things you fear. Are there any fears that you might be ready to outgrow or put behind you?

Tuesday: "Sell your possessions and give to the poor." You may have heard it said that what you own ends up owning you. How are your possessions coming between you and a deeper relationship with God or neighbor? What would it take for you to give of your own abundance to someone who has less than you?

Wednesday: "Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail." In this passage, Jesus invites you to put your confidence in God's promise, rather than the false promises heaped on you by advertisements and media. What do you put your confidence in? What would it take for you to know that you could rely on God?

Thursday: "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning." Sometimes an opportunity to serve God or neighbor passes by just because we are not expecting such an opportunity to arise. How can you prepare for service's call, and how can you respond to it when it comes?

Friday: "You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." Just as we sometimes miss an opportunity to serve, so too do we miss opportunities to recognize the face of Christ. Can you think of a time that you recognized Christ when you were not expecting to?

In the United Church of Christ, we often say that we take the bible "seriously but not literally." How does reading this passage in this deliberate way, over the course of a week, help you take the Bible more seriously? Are there other passages you might want to approach this way? How can slowing down in your Bible study help you slow down in the rest of your life?