
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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LIVESTREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT UCCMEDINA.ORG

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

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING MOMENT OF THANKSGIVING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Ian Morgan

Leader: We gather seeking comfort and assurance of life after death.

People: Yet you call us to find life and life abundant before death.

Leader: We gather unconscious of the ways we follow death.

People: Holding grudges.

Being critical of our neighbor.

Judging ourselves.

Wishing harm.

Thinking evil thoughts.

Leader: You know us better than we know ourselves, oh Lord.

People: We turn away from your way, thinking we know better.

Leader: We sacrifice one another to our perfectionism.

People: Drugs. Alcohol. And things that are less apparent such as our routines which become ruts.

Leader: We sacrifice our children to screens.

People: Hyper-scheduled lives with little freedom that we helicopter over.

Leader: Call us to worship you and you alone.

People: Cry to us. So we might shout to you.

*OPENING SONG

“Shout to the Lord”

Darlene Zschech CCLI #14,06918 © 1993 Hillsong

My Jesus, my Savior
Lord there is none like You,
All of my days, I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter,
Tower of refuge and strength,
Let every breath, all that I am,
Never cease to worship You.

*Shout to the Lord
All the earth let us sing.
Power and majesty
Praise to the King.
Mountains bow down
And the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name.
I sing for joy
At the work of Your hands.
Forever I'll love You,
Forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.*

(Repeat verse and chorus)

***PRAYER (by Holly Holden)**

Jim Kiser

Leader: Today I asked my body what she needed,
People: Which is a big deal
Leader: Considering my journey of
People: Not Really Asking That Much.
Leader: I thought she might need more water.
People: Or protein.
Leader: Or greens.
People: Or yoga.
Leader: Or supplements.
People: Or movement.
Leader: But as I stood in the shower,
People: Reflecting on her stretch marks,
Leader: Her roundness where I would like flatness,
People: Her softness where I would like firmness,
Leader: All those conditioned wishes
People: That form a bundle of Never-Quite-Right-Ness,
Leader: She whispered very gently:
People: Could you love me like this?
Leader: Friends, God accepts you just as you are. With all your frustrations and complaints.
With all your unloved parts.
People: Thanks be to God, Amen!

***SONG OF PRAISE**

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Steve Merkel CCLI #2989578 © 2000 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

I who made the stars of night, I will break their hearts of stone,
Fin-est bread I will pro- vide I will make their dark-ness bright.
give them hearts for love a - lone. till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you call-ing in the
night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will
hold your peo-ple in my heart. heart.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION (Micah 6:8)

Leader: Life is hard.

People: **And we make it harder.**

Leader: There is that old German saying...

People: **Why be simple, when we can be complicated!**

Leader: Remember, oh mortal, what the Lord requires of you:

People: **To act justly.**

To love mercy.

And to walk humbly with your God.

Leader: Amen?

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.

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"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

*Those who are able please stand

**PLEASE REMAIN ON THE SQUARE
FOR A PICNIC AND FELLOWSHIP
MEALS PROVIDED BY THE MEDINA KIWANIS
(FREE WILL OFFERING)**

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***About the bulletin cover:** This picture was taken by Luke on his vacation with Kate to Hocking Hills at the end of a 6 mile hike, half way through the unexpected 12 mile trek. It is a shot of the steps leading up from Old Man's Cave. Luke relates, "It reminded me of Abraham's climb up the mountain with Isaac and how hard that must have been."*

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
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

AUGUST 25, 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 25, 2019 thru September 1, 2019

WEEK AT A GLANCE

- Sun** 9:00 am Choir Practice
10:00 am Alive on the Square Worship
ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP
ON THE SQUARE
2:00 pm JMM Medina Meadows
Sing-a-long
7:00 pm JMM @ WRMC
- Mon** 6:30 pm **Hobby Horse Parent**
Orientation
6:30 pm Women's Bible Study
- Tues** 6:30 pm **Hobby Horse Parent**
Orientation
- Wed** 10:30 am Quilters
- Thu**
- Fri** 1:30 pm JMM @ Evergreen
- Sat** 9:00 am - 4:00 pm - "Hope for the Future"
Cleveland Photographic Society Exhibit
- Sun** 8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir Practice
10:30 am Traditional Worship
11:30 am Hunger Outreach Meeting
(Project Leaders only)

NOISY COIN OFFERING

Sunday, September 8th

The proceeds of our noisy coin offering will go to Innocent, the boy that the youth began sponsoring 13 years ago. So, start looking in those couch cushions, pockets and cars and find all that spare change and bring it with you to church on September 8th. Let's make a lot of noise that day!

Worship Highlights: 10:00 am

Genesis 22:1-14

Sermon Series – “Before I Die”

Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are donated by Arnold and Cheri Ingraham in honor of their 26th wedding anniversary.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBIT

We will host the judged photographic exhibit “Hope for the Future” August 24th-September 30th. This show, presented by the Cleveland Photographic Society, is open to the public during church office hours and on Sunday mornings. Come to the opening reception **Friday, September 6th** from 5-8 pm (Church member Jen Cockrell's photography has been selected to be on display **and Jessika & Bennett Petersen will sing/play guitar at 5:30**). 10% of the sale of each photograph will be donated back to the church. Invite your friends and family to check out the show!

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday, September 8th

Have your child/children bring their backpacks to church on this day. We will bless them for a fun and safe school year with lots of learning, growing and friendships!

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.**

RALLY DAY!

It's hard to believe that school year is starting. When school starts we know that the start of F.I.S.H. will be close behind. We will kick off our year of F.I.S.H. on **Sunday, September 8th**. We will have a special treat, play some games, meet our teachers for the year and see where our classrooms will be. Make sure to mark this important date on your calendar. We are looking forward to another great year.

TEACHERS NEEDED FOR F.I.S.H.

It is time to get ready for F.I.S.H. to start up again. I am looking for people who would be willing to teach the young kids in our church. We have an easy to use curriculum. Are you willing to be part of a team and teach one time a month? That is all you would have to do. If it is something you are interested in or if you have any questions, please contact Stacie Yates.

CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT

Do you like to play corn hole? Like some friendly competition? The youth will be hosting a corn hole tournament during the picnic after "Alive on the Square". There is a \$5 entry fee for each 2 person team that plays. We are hoping to have a lot of participants and a lot of fun! Sign up will be the day of. Contact Stacie Yates with any questions.

YOUTH GROUP KICKBALL KICK OFF

The first day of youth group will be Sunday, **September 15th** from 4:00-6:00 pm. If you are of youth group age (3rd grade-12th grade) mark this day on your calendar. The place is yet to be determined. Bring a friend to join in the fun! You will be getting an email with more detailed information. Looking forward to seeing you there!

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
ON SEPTEMBER 2ND
IN OBSERVANCE OF
LABOR DAY**

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.

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.

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!

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

After a refreshing summer break, all choirs will be beginning rehearsal for the fall and Christmas seasons. Adult Chancel Choir practice takes place on Sunday mornings at 9:15 in the Chapel. The Youth Bells will begin rehearsals at 6:15 pm in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, September 4th, followed by the adult Alleluia Ringers from 6:45-7:45 pm. If you have any questions, contact Jim Kiser.

RETURNING AGAIN IN 2020 - Friendship Trip to Costa Rica

Our congregation plans to return to Costa Rica next year to build a simple mercy home for the poorest of the poor. We will work again with Maximo, Rebeca, Mauricio, Manuel and our other friends to provide a family in need the security, comfort, and dignity of a simple new house. We are returning to Nosara, the rural village near the beautiful beach along the Pacific Coast. We fly in and out of Liberia, Costa Rica. The dates of the trip are January 31st-February 9th, 2020. No construction skills are needed to participate. Anyone can learn the simple skills needed. Each year, in addition to building houses, we make new friends, deepen our relationships with old friends, gain a new understanding of another culture, think deeply about our own lifestyles and goals, and renew our commitment to serving all of God's people.

Interested or need more information?

Kent/Judy Daugherty	330-722-5380	jad4120@zoominternet.net
Tammie McGivern	330-285-9599	tamohio1@aol.com
Vicki Miller	440-865-1516	tamvic1@aol.com

LAST CHANCE TO SECURE YOUR DINNER RESERVATION 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 Today, August 25th**. Hope to see you there!

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.**

LIFETOUCH MOBILE DIRECTORY

Good News! Our new Lifetouch Mobile Directory is ready! This contains contact information for all the families of UCC, Congregational Church who participated in our recent photography event. Plus, you will see portraits of all the families that had their photos taken. You will find the link under the staff portion of our website. Please contact the church office for the access code to see the information. You may call or email the office at: office@uccmedina.org or 330-725-4559.

If there is any information that you do not want seen by anyone else, please let Cindy in the office know so she can set privacy and security options on your information. The information on the Mobile site is what is printed in the church directory. No children's names will be seen, unless you listed them separately with their own phone number. Those have been blocked.

CONGRATULATIONS ** Neal and Carolyn Sadler announce the birth of their granddaughter. Anna Caroline Macrae Sadler was born on August 14th (6 weeks early) weighing 4 lbs. 13 oz.

Bicentennial Tidbits - 2003

(#81)

"We planned for Pastor Ted's three-month Sabbatical to take place in 2003. ... In October, we found that the First Christian Church – Disciples of Christ would not be able to occupy their new facility and that they would like to share our facility until theirs is complete. We were extremely enthusiastic about this possibility! At the close of our service on December 31, 2002 many of our congregation went to First Christian to welcome them to our facility and to process with their "Ark of the Covenant" and congregation to our church. Their pastor, Rev. Dr. Theresa Dulyea-Parker, will serve both congregations during the January and March parts of Pastor Ted's Sabbatical."

(Source: the Annual Report for 2002)

Both organizations agreed not to "steal" any members, staff or choir singers during the joint worship period. The whole endeavor proved to be a most successful and rewarding experience for all participants. The two congregations shared services for 13 weeks. When their new facility was ready to be dedicated, the congregation from First Christian worshiped in our sanctuary for a final time, then had a police-escorted pilgrimage down Route 3 to convey their Ark to its new home.



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*In memory of Dave Weber, this is the last submission he wrote for the Gospel Galley on June 2, 2019. We would like to share it again with you...*

### **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.

Luke 13:10-17

### Healing Reign

*The right time for healing is now. The right place for healing is here. And the right person to receive healing is the one in front of you.*

A missionary from the Evangelical Protestant Church of the Ukraine, Louis Nollau was heading for the Pacific Northwest in 1852, when he was somehow waylaid in St. Louis, Missouri. Even by today's travel methods, Missouri is pretty far from Oregon, but Nollau did not let his dislocation stop him from following God's call. Soon he had started a church and began ministering among the German immigrants in St. Louis.

*The right time for healing is now. The right place for healing is here. And the right person to receive healing is the one right in front of you. Even if you are two thousand miles from where you planned to be.*

When he heard that the local hospital had turned away 200 patients in a single year because of lack of space, Nollau saw another need. He would found a hospital, but not one that would heal only certain people when the conditions were favorable. The Good Samaritan hospital, operating in a pre-Civil War slave state, had a mission statement that stated that "No distinction of creed, race, nationality or color would be made in the acceptance or treatment of patients."

*The right time for healing is now. The right place for healing is here. And the right person to receive healing is the one right in front of you. Regardless of "creed, race, nationality or color."*

St. Louis in the 1850's was a dangerous place. Cholera epidemics and fires swept the city. When Nollau proposed to the congregation that they meet a growing need by opening an orphanage, he was met with protests that it was not possible. "Pastor," a church member protested, "we don't have what we need to start an orphanage." "Yes, we do," Nollau replied, "We have an orphan." The German Protestant Orphan's Home was formally incorporated just three years later.

*The right time for healing is now. The right place for healing is here. And the right person to receive healing is the one right in front of you. Even if you think you are not enough.*

When Jesus healed a woman in the temple on a Sabbath day, he brought the wrath of the establishment down upon him. In their eyes, this was not the right time, not the right place, not the right person. Jesus showed them, showed Louis Nollau nearly two hundred years ago and shows us today that *this* is always the right place, the right time, the right one.