
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.

About the bulletin cover: This picture was taken on the Grandma Gatewood Trail at 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!

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRELUDE “Come, Now Is the Time to Worship” – arr. Carol Tornquist 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: Who am I that God is conscious of me?

People: I am a nobody.

Leader: Before I die...

People: I shall worship the Lord.

*OPENING HYMN

“Nearer, My God, to You”

Sarah Flower Adams, daughter of a well-known English editor, was a successful actress in London. During her short life she wrote prose and poetry for religious publications, a five-act drama, and a children's catechism.

Tune: BETHANY 6.4.6.4.6.6.6.4.
Lowell Mason, 1856

1 Near - er, my God, to you, near - er to you. I'll bear the
 2 When I am wan - der - ing as Ja - cob did, and in the
 3 Let Ja - cob's lad - der fill the sky a - bove, and an - gels
 4 Then, wak - ing from the night to morn - ing air by Beth - el's

cross as Christ calls me to do and pray each day a - new:
 deep - est night the path is hid, my dreams will bring me, too,
 car - ry down the faith and love to keep this goal in view:
 stone, I'll know you heard my prayer, and how my yearn - ing grew:

1-4 Near - er my God, to you, near - er my God, to you, near - er to you.

***OPENING PRAYER** (Deuteronomy 16:5 and Galatians 3:8)

Leader: Then you shall declare before the LORD your God:

People: **"My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous."**

Leader: The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying,

People: **"All Nations will be blessed in you."**

Leader: Forgive us God, when we want to bless just our nation. Our people.

People: **Guide us into your ways, as you did our ancestor Abraham. Amen.**

***PRAISE RESPONSE**

"It Is Well With My Soul"

WORDS: Horatio G. Spafford, 1873
MUSIC: Philip P. Bliss, 1876

VILLE DU HAVRE
11 8.11 9 with Refrain

1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way,
when sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll; what - ev - er my
lot, thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is
Refrain
well with my soul.
It is well with my soul,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Joyful Joyful, We Adore Thee" - Beethoven

Eve Lindon, Piano

"When the Saints Go Marching In" - traditional

Sam Lindon, Piano

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

"Be Still, My Soul"

WORDS: Katharina von Schlegel, 1752; trans. by Jane Borthwick, 1855 (Ps. 46:10)
MUSIC: Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. from *The Hymnal*, 1933

FINLANDIA
11 10.11 10.11 10

Arr. © 1933, renewed 1961 Presbyterian Board of Christian Education



1. Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side.
Bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain;
leave to your God to or - der and pro - vide;
in ev - ery change God faith - ful will re - main.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heaven - ly friend
through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 11:27-12:9

Ashley Bonsell, Liturgist

SERMON

"Begin"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

It is a hard thing to turn from selfishness to generosity. Let us care for our neighbor and worship our God through what we give in this moment.

Offertory Music

"In This Holy Place" –Bertha Frick

Cathy Fafarak, 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**

Gracious Disturber. You come to us saying we are blessings to the nations! We feel so small and insignificant. Surprise us again, oh God, with the stories of the faithful and how they felt the same way. Help us walk with Abraham. Help us see how a nobody can become a somebody of three world religions. Inspired by your ways, we dedicate what we give, intend, and pray for. In your many Holy Names, we pray. Amen.

SACRAMENT 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

Leader: Life has been going on a lot longer than we have.

People: We walk into a story that is already in progress.

Leader: And this life, it's ours, but yet...

People: It belongs to others.

Leader: To our family. To our friends. To God.

People: May we treat each person as a gift.

Leader: When we begin our lives...

People: We begin our understanding of relationships.

Leader: Our relationship to our family.

People: Our relationship to one another.

Leader: Our relationship to God and God's creation.

People: Our place in the world.

Leader: It can be so overwhelming that sometimes,

People: We feel like a nobody.

Leader: Hear this good news. God is a God of nobodies like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Rebecca, Leah, and Mary. God came to us in Jesus of Nazareth.

People: Can anything good come from Nazareth?

Leader: We know that answer. And it is simply...

People: Divine.

The Words of Institution

Distribution of the elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***SENDING HYMN**

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

UCC Red Hymnal #234

***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** “Rejoice!” – Peter Burkhardt Cathy Fafrak, Organist

“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”

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*All who are able please stand.

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

****Please join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the service***
Today’s coffee hour is hosted by **The Avalon Family.***

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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
Jim Kiser, Director of Music
Cathy Fafrak, Organist
Rebecca Rosen, Nursery Supervisor
Xanthe Phillips, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 4, 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 4, 2019 thru August 11, 2019

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

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

Tues **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED TODAY**
OFF SITE STAFF RETREAT
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
10:30 am Traditional Worship
11:45 am **Caring Team**
11:45 am **Mission Team**
11:45 am **BCC-Mini Campaign Meeting**
3:00 pm **JMM @ Brookdale North**
Hymn Sing

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.

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

Genesis 11: 27 – 12: 9

Sermon Series – “Before I Die”

“Begin” - Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are donated by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their 71st wedding anniversary.

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."

I Corinthians 10: 17

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.

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.

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! **Bring your lawn chair, family and friends! All are welcome!**

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

Note: correction of date & time

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.**

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.**

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!

50 YR 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.

“He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”” Mark 4:40 NIV

How much fear is in your life? How much worry, anxiety and trouble in your mind? I know mine gets troubled sometimes.

Psychologists have discovered that nothing kills happiness as much as fear (including anxiety and worry). Fear is just about the opposite of faith.

Here's a thought from Dallas Willard: *“Great faith, like great strength in general, is revealed by the ease of its workings. Most of what we think we see as the struggle OF faith is really the struggle to act as IF we had faith when in fact we do not.”*

God, who made heaven and earth, loves us and came to us. It makes sense to trust him. After all, God made arrangements for the sun, moon and stars. He lived and died...and lived. He kept his promises, all through history.

But we still get fearful – irrationally.

He understands. He even described us as sheep.

But how do we stop being fearful sheep day-to-day?

Well, there's wisdom in the old hymn: “Turn your eyes upon Jesus...and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.”

Turn your attention away from the raucous noise of the world – its sound and fury. Turn it towards God.

Remember how he's proved himself trustworthy. That will help.

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 12:13-21

Soul Investment

The man in today's story has a perfectly sturdy barn where he stores what he needs. He figures if he tears down this structure, he can make a bigger one, so he can store not only what he needs, but also a pile of extra stuff. If you read the story again, you may notice that *there's nothing wrong with the barn*, but he's going to knock it down anyway. The Rich Fool (as he is known) is not the first person, nor likely the last, to believe that destruction is the path to abundance. And it's not surprising that this parable was told in response to a dispute between two people over an inheritance. From the squabbling of siblings to wars that ravage the planet, if you scratch the surface of many disputes, it's fair to say that many of them are based in what Jesus calls greed.

Sadako Sasaki was two years old when the United States dropped an atom bomb on her home town of Hiroshima. Buildings all around her were destroyed and lives were lost, but the toddler survived, only to contract cancer from radiation poisoning ten years later. In her hospital bed, she became inspired by the ancient Japanese legend that if one were to fold one thousand origami paper cranes, their wishes would come true.

She began folding, with the wish, "I will write peace on your wings and you will fly all over the world." When Sadako became too weak to continue her work, her classmates and family vowed to continue the project she had begun. She became a symbol of the desire for peace that transcends national boundaries, and in the seven decades since her untimely death, thousands of peace cranes have been folded and sent into the world with "peace on their wings."

In 2011, Saron United Church of Christ members in Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin, folded the cranes on the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. But this act of devotion could not be contained. Six months later they were sent to Pilgrim Christian Church UCC in Chardon, Ohio, after a shooting at Chardon High School in February 2012. Later they flew on to Newtown Congregational UCC in Newtown Connecticut, to Old South Church UCC in Boston, to Christ The King UCC in Florissant, Missouri to Everett United Church of Christ in Washington state and beyond. Each of these communities had been wracked by violence. Each was reminded of the fullness of God's abundance and the care of Christ's community by a gift they were able to continue to pass on.

The Rich Fool believed that the path to abundance was destruction. Sadako and those who follow her example teach us another way. The only way to the abundance, the new life, the love and the peace promised by Jesus is creation. Each crane that is folded is an act of creation that connects us to Christ, to one another, and to our own true selves.

This week – August 6 – is the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. This act of destruction did not bring about Christ's abundance. But our prayerful response can.