
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.

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRELUDE “Prayer” from *Suite Gothique* –Leon Boëllmann

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

*CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God said, “Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

People: But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord.”

Leader: Jesus said, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden,

People: And I will give you rest.”

Leader: We come in the name of the Spirit, resting from our labors,

People: Let us worship God this day!

*OPENING HYMN

“Take My Gifts”

Shirley Erena Murray recounted that Colin Gibson composed this tune for her stewardship text “almost instantaneously.” Gibson has served as professor at the University of Otago, as well as organist and choir director in nearby Dunedin, New Zealand.

Tune: TALAVERA TERRACE 8.7.8.7.D.
Colin Gibson, 1991

Alternate tune: HOLY MANNA

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1 Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
2 Take the fruit that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed,
3 Take what-ever I can offer— gifts that I have yet to find,



gave me light and food and shel - ter, gave me life and set me free,
har - vest of your own com - pas - sion, juice that makes the wine of God,
skills that I am slow to sharp - en, tal - ents of the hand and mind,



now be - cause your love has touched me, I have love to give a - way,
spiced with hu - mor, laced with laugh - ter— fla - vor of the Je - sus life,
things made beau - ti - ful for oth - ers in the place where I must be:



now the bread of love is ris - ing, loaves of love to mul - ti - ply!
tang of risk and new ad - ven - ture, taste and zest be - yond be - lief.
take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

***PRAYER FOR WORKERS** (posted on ucc.org)

Leader: Loving, Working God, On this Sunday we ask your special blessing on all people who labor, either for pay or as volunteers, in jobs or at school.

People: **We especially pray for your blessings on workers who do not have jobs and for those whose inadequate pay does not allow them to live the full life you intend for each of us.**

Leader: Creator God,

People: **help us to build a new world in the midst of the old.**

Leader: A world where all workers are valued.

People: **A world where those who clean houses are also able to buy houses to live in.**

Leader: A world where those who grow food

People: **can also afford to eat their fill.**

Leader: A world where those who serve and care for others

People: **are, themselves, also served and cared for.**

Leader: We pray for the coming of a world where all workers everywhere

People: **share in the abundance that you have given us.**

Leader: We ask these things knowing that you give us the courage and strength

People: **to live out our faith in the workplace and the marketplace, as well as in the sanctuary.**
Amen.

***PRAISE RESPONSE**

"What Wondrous Love Is This"

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul! O my soul! What
 won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is
 this! that Christ should come in bliss to bear the heav-y cross for my
 soul, for my soul, to bear the heav-y cross for my soul!

This anonymous folk hymn, with its modal (dorian) tune, has appeared in many versions. William Walker, compiler of Southern Harmony, one of the most important nineteenth-century tune books in the United States, lived and died in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Tune: WONDROUS LOVE 12.9.12.12.9.
 (CHRISTOPHER)
 Appendix to Wm. Walker's Southern Harmony, c. 1843
 Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1993

ANTHEM

"A Special Place for You"

Chancel Choir

Words by Bert Stratton & Roger Thornhill; music by David Ashton

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

"O Grant Us, God, a Little Space" (vs. 2 & 3)

John Ellerton's hymn, written for a noonday service in a city church, is one of the earliest to speak of science and art as part of God's creation. Thomas Este was a famous English printer and music publisher.

Tune: WINCHESTER OLD C.M.
 Este's Whole Book of Psalmes, 1592



1 O grant us, God, a lit - tle space from dai - ly tasks set free.
2 A - round us rolls the cease-less tide of busi-ness, toil, and care,
3 Yet this is not the on - ly place your pres-ence may be found;



We meet with-in this ho - ly place and find se - cu - ri - ty.
And scarce-ly can we turn a - side for one brief hour of prayer.
On dai - ly work you shed your grace, and bless-ings all a - round.

SCRIPTURE

Sirach 10:12-18 & Luke 14:1, 7-14

Ashley Bonsell, Liturgist

SERMON

"Eating Humble Pie at the Lord's Table"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

You lift up the lowly. You bring down the rulers. May we put aside our pride in this moment and be willing to serve you.

Offertory Music "Meditation on Chereponi" –Richard Blake

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: Your way, Oh Lord,

People: and not ours.

Leader: Your way, Oh Christ,

People: and not ours.

Leader: Your way, Oh Spirit,

People: and not ours.

Leader: For you are The Way,

People: And the truth. And the life. Now and forever. 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

The Words of Institution

Distribution of the elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***SENDING HYMN**

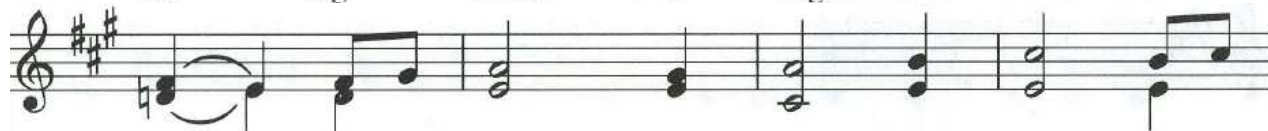
"The Church of Christ, in Every Age"



1 The church of Christ, in every age be -
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a



set by change, but Spir - it led, Must
vic - tims of in - jus - tice cry For
car - ing church that longs to be A



claim and test its her - i - tage and
shel - ter and for bread to eat, and
part - ner in Christ's sac - ri - fice, and



keep on ris - ing from the dead.
nev - er live be - fore they die.
clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.

Poet Fred Pratt Green has been a chaplain, parish minister, administrator, and playwright. Since retiring from parish responsibilities in 1969, he has been an active hymnwriter and makes his home in Norwich, England.

Tune: WAREHAM L.M
William Knapp, 1738

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***BENEDICTION** (© Connie Epp)

Leader: The Spirit of God is upon you and has anointed you.
You are the salt of the earth and you bring light to the world.

You are not too young or too old,
People: you are not too rich or too needy
Leader: to bring good news to the impoverished,
People: to give a hand to the broken-hearted,
Leader: and to live out freedom and pardon
People: through the gifts you have been given.
Leader: So remember to pack peace in your toolbox,
People: hope in your briefcase, love in your lunch box,
Leader: and may integrity, honesty, and joy be your designer wear of choice.
Do not be frightened, for you are never alone.
People: The God in whose image you are made
Leader: will walk with you and guide you today, tomorrow, and every day.
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.

***POSTLUDE** "Con Spirito" – Thomas Arne 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 **Ken & Sue Dean**.*

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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
Nicole Rubino, Co-Director of Youth
Jim Kiser, Director of Music
Cathy Fafrak, Organist
Rebecca Rosen, Nursery Supervisor
Xanthe Phillips, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 1, 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

September 1 thru September 8, 2019

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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)

Mon **LABOR DAY – OFFICE CLOSED**

Tues

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
6:45 pm Adult Bell Choir rehearsal

Thu

Fri 1:30 pm JMM @ Evergreen
5:00 pm Opening Reception of the
Cleveland Photographic
Society Art Exhibit
5:00 pm First Friday Medina

Sat 9:00 am Confirmation Class
Ropes Course

Sun **RALLY DAY!**
F.I.S.H. SUNDAY SCHOOL
8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir Practice
10:30 am Traditional Worship
**4:30 pm All Church Homecoming
Picnic @ Bunker Hill**

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

Sirach 10:12-18 and Luke 14:1, 7-14

“Eating Humble Pie at the Lord's Table”
-Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are donated by Jerry & Laverne McGuire in memory of Laverne's brother, Bob Fox.

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.”

Corinthians 10:17

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 (Mon-Fri from 9-3) and on Sunday mornings (Church member Jen Cockrell's photography has been selected to be on display). NOTE: The church will be closed on Labor Day. Come to the opening reception **Friday, September 6th** from 5-8 pm and hear Jessika & Bennett Petersen sing and 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!

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.

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!

STAYIN' ALIVE We still need you!!!

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.

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 from 9:15-10:15 in the Chapel. The adult Alleluia Ringers will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 4th from 6:45-7:45 pm and the Youth Bells will begin the following Wednesday, September 11th at 6:15 pm in the Sanctuary. If you have any questions, contact Jim Kiser. The Youth Choir will also be returning this fall, under the direction of Tracy Gabrielsen, and will practice on Wednesdays after youth bell rehearsal.

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!

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

50 YEAR 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 or Sue Dean.

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.**

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.

PASTOR'S CORNER...

Dear Church!

School is back in session. Hobby Horse is starting up. It must be September!

We have a lot to look forward to and much to accomplish. The first is a note about when I'm in the office and when I'll check email. I'm typically in the office Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. My sabbath days are Friday and Saturday. I do not check emails on Friday and Saturday as to be fully present with my family. If you send an email Thursday after 5 p.m. it will be read on Monday morning, so please plan accordingly.

We had a great Alive on the Square worship and we are moving into the Come to the Table worship series. In this "Come to the Table" series, we hear the call to dine with Jesus—an invitation that means much more than a simple eating experience. It never was with Jesus. The table was the place where he not only fed people, but challenged them to acts of hospitality that reflect God's way. When we say "yes" to the place at Christ's table, we accept a way of life that embraces God's definition of love, peace, grace and joy. This series will culminate on World Communion Sunday, October 6, 2019.

We will continue the tradition of praying on 9/11 that was started by Dave Edinger and continued on in his memory and the memory of that fateful day by Dorothea Edinger. Our prayers start at 8:30 a.m. in the front entrance of the church. We will ring the bell at the time of each of the events, ending at 10:30 when the last tower fell. We will pray for the healing of our nation, the care of our first responders, and in remembrance of the victims and their families. I hope you will make time to observe this day with us.

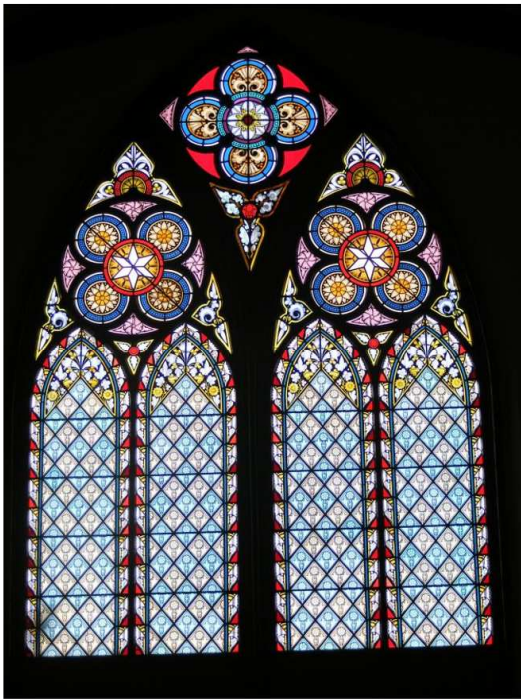
Confirmation is starting up, and that's always an amazing time with our youth who are our future and very real present. I would like to invite everyone to join the confirmands on Saturday, September 14th as we will take a road trip to two early church locations. The first being the log cabin and then to Courthouse pizza. Meet at 10 a.m. in the church parking lot to join up!

New members classes will be held on September 23 and 30th in the new library starting at 7 p.m. New Member Sunday will then be October 6th, World Communion Sunday. What a great way to celebrate new folk joining than welcoming them to the table of Christ!

We will also lift up our 50 Year Members with our annual luncheon on Saturday, September 28th. The history and stories shared at this event have lifted my spirit each and every time.

God be with you until we meet again!

-Luke



Bicentennial Tidbits - 2004

By 2004, our 120-year-old stained glass windows were greatly in need of repair and renovation. A “window committee” consisting of Rick Bock, Bruce Bauer and Dave Edinger was formed. Utilizing portions of two significant bequests from the estates of Helen Thomas and Florence Wilcox, nearly \$166,000 was earmarked, along with gifts from many others in the congregation. The restoration work was done by the Whitney Stained Glass Studio of Cleveland. The work was done in several phases through 2011. In 2012, it was estimated that the replacement value of our “new” stained-glass windows was over \$600,000.



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 14:1, 7-14

Open Table

Jesus ate with everyone, including people who were marginalized by others. He ate with women and he welcomed children at his table. He ate with tax collectors, who were considered the worst kind of sinners because they collaborated with the empirical forces against their own people.

And, in the last meal he ate with his friends, Jesus shared food even with one who he knew would betray him to his death. As he did so, he offered words not of condemnation but of forgiveness and promise.

In the United Church of Christ, we practice an open table at communion. In most of our denomination's congregations, you do not have to follow any particular creed, or profess any specific beliefs to practice communion. You need only to seek the new life that comes in Christ to participate in this sacrament.

What is a sacrament? A sacrament is a ritual action in worship which lowers the barrier between holy and mundane. A sacrament is sometimes called a "thin place," where the barrier between every day life and divine life is lowered. In a sacramental moment, we participate in a ritual that was begun by Jesus and has been practiced by Christ followers for generations.

When we receive communion, we also receive the forgiveness that Christ promised, and we have the opportunity to extend that forgiveness to others. Whether you receive communion gathered around a table or seated in a pew, communion is at its root communal. Around you are those with whom you share the open table. As you take the bread, as you sip the cup, hear again the words of Christ who welcomed all to his table, and who promised forgiveness for all who chose to eat and drink with him.

Receiving communion is an opportunity to be grateful for those moments when we are especially invited to brush up close to the holy. It is a chance to remember that throughout Christ's life, and even when he was close to death, he ate with those who were excluded by others. It is a place to be grateful that even at the end Christ Jesus offered grace and forgiveness to all, including the one who betrayed him. Communion is more than an opportunity to receive Christ's grace and forgiveness with humility and gratitude. It is also an opportunity to extend those gifts to all in our congregation, in our community and in our world.

Questions to consider:

- Does your congregation practice an open table? How can you tell?
- How would someone visiting your worship service for the first time know they are welcome at the open table?
- Are there ways that your congregation could extend the idea of open table beyond this sacrament, beyond these walls?