
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL



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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 “The Gift of Love” – setting, John Carter

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 gather at the table.

People: **We come from many places,**

Leader: differing in age,

People: **differing in orientation, politics and even religion.**

Leader: As we come together around the table

People: **we discover that our differences are not something we tolerate**

Leader: but that our differences are indeed a blessing,

People: **the more difference we bring, the more fully we experience the presence of the sacred in our midst.**

Leader: So come, children of God, just as you are.

People: **Wherever you are on this journey of life, you are welcome here,**

Leader: here in this place, here in this community, here at this table.

People: **Come, children of God, come and worship with us.**

***OPENING HYMN**

“Jesu, Jesu”

WORDS: Tom Colvin, 1969 (In. 13:1-17)
MUSIC: Chana folk song; adapt. by Tom Colvin, 1969; harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1988
© 1969, 1989 Hope Publishing Co.

CHEREPONI
In. with Refrain

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show *Fine*

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their
 2. Neigh-bors are rich and poor, neigh-bors are black and
 3. These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should
 4. Lov - ing puts us on our knees, serv - ing as though we are
 5. Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash-ing their *D.C.*

feet, Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
 white, neigh-bors are near and far a - way.
 love; all these are neigh-bors to us and you.
 slaves, this is the way we should live with you.
 feet, this is the way we should live with you.

*OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Oh, worshipper... what do you bring to Christ's table?

People: **We bring our joy! Our triumphs and celebrations! The satisfaction at jobs well done. Of kindnesses offered and accepted.**

Leader: What do you bring to Christ's table?

People: **We bring our concerns. Our illness. Aches and pains. Our friends and family and their troubles. The headlines which are written on our face. The images burned into our mind of the suffering around the world.**

Leader: What do you bring to Christ's table?

People: **Our failure. Our guilt. Our resentments and inability to make amends. Our pain at being excluded. Our apathy at who we exclude.**

Leader: Friends, know that no matter what...

People: **The God-In-Christ welcomes us and indwells us in the Holy Spirit. One God. God who is love and is happy to host us with all that we bring this morning. Alleluia and amen!**

PRAISE RESPONSE*"Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee"**

1. Je - sus, the ver - y thought of thee
with sweet - ness fills the breast; but sweet - er far thy
face to see, and in thy pres - ence rest.

WORDS: Attr. to Bernard of Clairvaux, 12th cent.; trans. by Edward Caswall, 1849
MUSIC: John B. Dykes, 1866

ST. AGNES
CM

ANTHEM

"God's Table Divine" – Victor C. Johnson; Pam Branscome, Cello

Chancel Choir

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**"Come to the Table"**

1. Come to the ta - ble of love. _____ Come to the ta - ble of
love. _____ This is God's ta - ble; it's not yours or
mine. Come to the ta - ble of love. _____

CCLI Song # 7034085
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OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS**Offertory Invitation**

The host requires nothing. Nothing but love shown to others. May what you offer both through physical gifts and through the gift of intentions be an act of love that gives glory to God and love to our neighbor

Offertory Music

"Thy Perfect Love" – Michael Shea

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 (unison)**

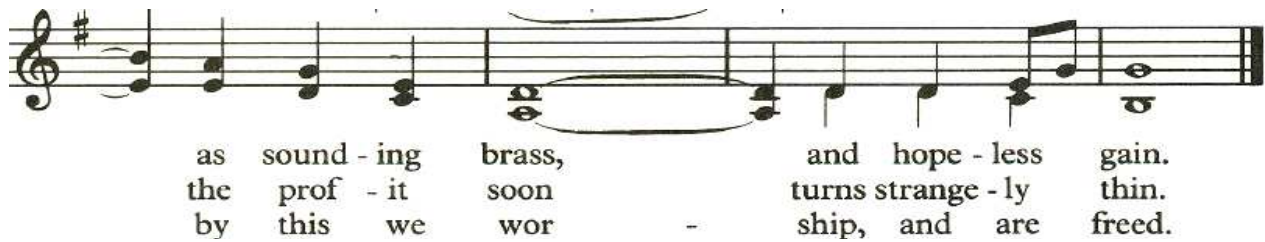
Your gathered children offer these gifts and intentions as an act of faith. Turn our money into food for the hungry. Turn need into compassion. Turn hurt into hope. Through all that we offer in your many names. Amen.

SENDING HYMN*"The Gift of Love"**


1. Though I may speak with brav - est fire,
 2. Though I may give all I pos - sess,
 3. Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol,

and have the gift to all in - spire,
 and striv - ing so my love pro - fess,
 our spir - its long to be made whole.

and have not love, my words are vain,
 but not be given by love with - in,
 Let in - ward love guide ev - ery deed;



***BENEDICTION**

Leader: You have heard what the promise is

People: that when we are together,

Leader: when we tell the story and give the blessing

People: when we gather at the table

Leader: We are the foretaste

People: of love made real and of a world made whole.

Leader: You have been blessed to be a blessing!

Go and mend the world 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 "Toccata on Oh, Love, How Deep" – setting, Michael Helman 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, Pete Benson

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

Today's coffee hour is hosted by **John & Kathi Kavouras.**

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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 15, 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 15 thru September 22, 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
11:45 am Caring Team
11:45 am Mission Team
2:00 pm JMM @ Medina Meadows
4:00 pm Youth Group Kickoff

Mon 9:00 am “Hope for the Future”
Art Exhibit, 9-3:00, Mon. thru Fri.
1:00 pm Breadmakers

Tues **10:00 am GIFT CARD ORDERS DUE**

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
6:15 pm Youth Bell Choir Practice
6:45 pm Youth Choir Practice
6:45 pm Adult Bell Choir rehearsal

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
2:00 pm JMM @ Medina Meadows
Sing-a-long
3:00 pm Confirmation Class
7:00 pm JMM @ Western Reserve
Masonic Home

The church is missing a grey and purple back pack vacuum! Have you seen it? Please notify the church office if you have seen it or if you know anything about it.

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

Romans 13:8-10 and Matthew 18:20

“The Table of Love” - Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are donated by MaryAnn Andrews in memory of her husband, Joe.

CHECK OUT THE NEW BULLETIN BOARDS IN THE EAST ROOM HALLWAY

Thank you to Harry Buch and his lovely assistant, Pam Branscome, for making the East Room Hallway a little more visually appealing!!! The new bulletin boards are lovely!

All signups for all church activities are to be posted on the new, smaller bulletin board in the East Room hallway. This includes flowers, greeters, liturgists, coffee hour and special activities during the year. All church information and upcoming activities will be posted on the larger bulletin board. Please do not put newspaper articles on these boards. Newspaper clippings and community activities may be posted on the bulletin board near the kitchen. New informational racks will be coming soon and will be installed near the name tag boxes by the church office. Questions? Contact the church office.

YOUTH GROUP KICK OFF

The first day of youth group will be **Today, 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. We will gather at the Avalon's home: 5280 Summerwood Dr., Seville, 44273. Bring a friend to join in the fun! You will be getting an email with more detailed information. Looking forward to seeing you there!

COIN JARS NOW AVAILABLE

It is time again for our change collection that provides funds to Mobile Meals (county wide) to benefit the seniors in our community. It is truly amazing how all those coins can add up to provide some much needed food for our food insecure seniors. **Coin jars are due by Sunday, October 27th**. Pick up your jar in the East Room today!

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Would you like to join our church family!? Join us for our next new member class! The next classes will be held: **Monday, September 23rd & Monday, September 30th**. Class will be held from 7 pm – 9 pm in the New Library. New members **will join the church on Sunday, October 6th**. Childcare is provided if needed. Please contact the Church Office at 330-725-4559 if you are interested and let us know if you will be in need of childcare.

GOSPEL GALLEY MEDITATIONS SETS SAIL IN OCTOBER!

In honor of, and in memory of Dave Weber, Gospel Galley Meditations is being made ready to launch on Sunday, October 6th.

Dave's legacy and vision for this worship ministry is to bring the "Gospel" (Word of God) via the "GALLEY" (vessel/the Pilgrim Messenger, propelled by many writers) through "Meditations" (messages of hope, inspiration, knowledge and insight and more) to others.

WRITERS ARE NEEDED. Interested? A signup sheet for October will be on the board in the East Room hallway. Alice Metzloff is coordinating and will contact you with details. GOD IS STILL SPEAKING!

THE SANYUKA CHILDRENS CHOIR

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Tuesday, September 17th from 12 pm – 3 pm.

This organization seeks to exercise the love of Jesus Christ and change lives in Uganda by giving the most vulnerable children a family, a home, and an education in an environment that is self-sustaining. We build families for children in need, help them shape their own futures and share in the development of their communities.

LOOKING FOR WRITERS/RESEARCHERS

We are looking for help in writing and researching short Church History Narratives. Examples of previous narratives can be seen on the church website under the Bicentennial Banner by clicking on "Narratives". If you would like to try your hand at authoring some narratives, please call either Rev. Harry Buch or Terry Rhodes for Information.

CIRCLE OF CARING MEETING

Monday, October 7th

1:30 pm in the East Room

All members and anyone who would like to find out more about Circle of Caring, please come and share refreshments and ideas for growing our outreach. What is Circle of Caring? It is a group of friendly visitors who enjoy calling on older members in their homes or in residential facilities. It is also a resource group for those who are already visiting older friends and family members. We visit, share ideas and offer encouraging words and ways to help everyone to continue to feel valued.

FEEDING GARFIELD FAMILIES

A new school year has begun and the UCCC is ready to mitigate food instability for families at Garfield Elementary. As the church brings in food from our weekly donation lists we need helpers to check deliveries on Wednesday night and emergency shop if anything has not arrived for Thursday deliveries. This is a GREAT age inclusive volunteer opportunity for anyone who is passionate about feeding the hungry, for families with young kids who like to put checkmarks on lists, and for high school youth who want a meaningful way to complete service hours, and anyone who has a family member involved with Wednesday night music rehearsals. More information and sign-ups can be found electronically (check church social media) **OR** in person at the Garfield food sign-up table. Thank you for feeding the kids in our community! Ellen Nolan ellenknolan@gmail.com

RETURN OF TUESDAYS AT TWO BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday at Two returns on September 17th at 2 pm in the new library. It's a new bible study for those who don't like to drive in the dark! We'll be diving into the book of Luke. No experience necessary. Come & join us anytime! Meetings are every Tuesday at 2 pm except for the 1st Tuesday of the month.

CHAOS IN THE PARKING LOT!

Please be aware that Hobby Horse Preschool has begun a new pickup routine. Parents will be using the Welcome Area while waiting for their children to be released from classes. Dismissals are at 11:15 am and 2:45 pm each school day. Please be aware of increased traffic and parking issues during these times.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds supports the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities. Please consider giving to this fund on October 6th.

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). 10% of the sale of each photograph will be donated back to the church. Invite your friends and family to check out the show!

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

Bicentennial Tidbits - 2006

Hurricane Katrina was in Aug 2005. According to the annual report for 2006, "... several of our members partnered with Bath UCC and made two trips to Biloxi to help in their rebuilding efforts." Returned trips to assist in the reconstruction of Back Bay Mission of Biloxi, Mississippi occurred in 2009 and 2010.



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*******

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Growing in God's Love

1 Timothy 1:15-17 (New International Version) Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Holy One, we confess.

We confess that we miss the mark as often as we hit it. We confess that we gaze longingly down the road that branches the other way, not Your way. We confess that our thoughts and our actions separate us from You, from Your beautiful creation and from our own true selves.

We confess that we separate from You whenever we are captivated by consumerism, by violence, by political polarization, by all our addictions and resentments. Remind us always that we cannot serve You and those other gods.

We confess that we do all that we can to separate ourselves from the rest of your creation. We ignore the crisis of the changing climate on this beautiful planet which you have placed in our care. We foment division among peoples, making war with neighbors across the street and across the globe.

We confess that we are separate even from our own true selves, the beings of love and light that you created.

We confess that we hate to confess. Unlike your follower Paul, who proudly proclaimed that he was “the worst” of sinners, we shudder at the word sin. Maybe it’s because we believe that if we confess that we sin, we will somehow be confessing that all we are is sinful. Maybe we even believe that’s true.

We confess, then, that we have forgotten that we were born of your love, in order to live in your love. We confess that we need reminding that You created us in Your image, holy and pure. Free us to see that confession is the path to freedom from shame, not the piling on of it. Give us the courage to look at our broken places and name them, bringing them into the light. Unchain us by this act of confession from both our sin and the shame we feel about our sin, so that we can move forward into your transformation. In your Holy Name we pray, Amen.