



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559

www.uccmedina.org

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LIVESTREAMING 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 “Petite Prelude, Op. 43, No. 1” – Glière/arr. David Sarandon 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: As we gather around the table, can we offer grace?

People: Like a prayer? Or like offering grace to one another?

Leader: Yes.

People: Oh. Does it have to be both or can we choose?

Leader: What would Jesus do?

People: Good call.

Leader: Let us pray:

People: Holy One, hear our grace before the meal and help us offer grace to those gathered for worship.

Leader: From the restless little ones,

People: who worship and pray through squeals and cries and fidgets.

Leader: To your older children,

People: With all that we bring. May what we offer be acceptable to you and should you find anything that is unloving, remove it from us. Test us and refine us through our worship to our action in your world. In Jesus name, amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

"As We Gather At Your Table"



1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast

help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.

Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,

teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

In this hymn, commissioned by an Episcopal parish in Virginia for the celebration of its tricentennial, Carl P. Daw, Jr., utilized a familiar phrase from Isaac Watts' "Joy to the World," which was the motto for the celebration: "Repeat the sounding joy."

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Tune: BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7.D.
 The Sacred Harp, 1844
 Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1992

OPENING PRAYER (Lack of Faith, poem by Anna Kamieńska)

Leader: Yes, even when I don't believe—
People: there is a place in me inaccessible to unbelief,
 Leader: a patch of wild grace,
People: a stubborn preserve,
 Leader: impenetrable,
People: pain untouched by the sleeping body,
 Leader: music that builds its nest in silence.

ASSURANCE

Leader: Take a breath and remember...

People: **God's grace is independent on our action or our belief in it.**

Leader: It is a brute fact of existence.

People: **My grace is sufficient, says the Lord.**

Leader: And that sounds like assuring good news!

People: **Amen! Again, we say, Amen!**

*PRAISE RESPONSE

"Give Thanks"

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of eight staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is simple and repetitive, using mostly quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "Give thanks with a grate-ful heart; Give thanks to the Ho-ly One; Give thanks be-cause He's giv-en Je-sus Christ, His Son. Give thanks with a grate-ful heart; Give thanks to the Ho-ly One; Give thanks be-cause He's giv-en Je-sus Christ, His Son. And now let the weak say, 'I am strong;' Let the poor say, 'I am rich,' be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. And us. us. Give thanks!"

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart; Give thanks to the Ho-ly One;

Give thanks be-cause He's giv-en Je-sus Christ, His Son.

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart; Give thanks to the Ho-ly One;

Give thanks be-cause He's giv-en Je-sus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong;" Let the poor say, "I am rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. And

us. us. Give thanks!

TEXT: Henry Smith
MUSIC: Henry Smith

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GIVE THANKS
Irregular meter

ANTHEM "How Gracious Are Thy Mercies, Lord" –trad. English; arr. Helen Danner Alleluia Ringers

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

"Come to the Table"

CCLI Song # 7034985
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1. Come to the ta - ble of grace. Come to the ta - ble of
grace. This is God's ta - ble; it's not yours or
mine. Come to the ta - ble of grace.

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 1:25-26 and Matthew 20:1-16

Pam Branscome, Liturgist

SERMON

"The Table of Grace"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offertory Invitation

We who have been long working in your vineyard now offer grace and not resentment to those who have just shown up. We who have been working a short-time now offer our gifts of our time, talent, treasure.

Offertory Music

"Amazing Grace" – arr. David Cherwien

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**

Dear God, I am determined to commit my total life into your service; I will serve you always. Please give me your grace and empowerment to faithfully follow you, so that I can prosper in all my ways. Please give me all it takes to remain your true child forever! For in the name of Jesus Christ I pray. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

"Amazing Grace"

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears re-lieved;
3 The Lord has prom-ised good to me, his word my hope se-cures;
4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils and snares I have al - read - y come;
5 When we've been there ten thou-sand years, bright shin - ing as the sun,

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.
how pre - cious did that grace ap - pear the hour I first be-lieved!
he will my shield and por - tion be as long as life en-dures.
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

WORDS: John Newton (1725-1807), alt.; vs. 5, anonymous
MUSIC: Virginia Harmony, 1831; adapt. Edwin O. Excell (1851-1921)

NEW BRITAIN
C.M.

***BENEDICTION** (the last line comes from 2 Corinthians 13:14)

Leader: Call the laborers and give them their pay!

People: Give us all this day our daily bread.

Leader: Are we envious because God is generous?

People: Yes, but we're trying to offer the grace we have received from God to our neighbors and enemies.
Leader: Yeah. Me too. Let us fake it until we make it.
People: Let us fake it until we become it.
Leader: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
People: And also with you! 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** "God of Grace" –arr. Paul Manz Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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*Those who are able are asked to 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 **Arnold & Cheri Ingraham.***

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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
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 29, 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 29 thru October 6, 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 1:15 pm JMM @ Brookdale North
Mon	9:00 am “Hope for the Future” Art Exhibit, 9 am-3 pm, LAST DAY! 7:00 pm New Member Class in the East Room
Tues	6:30 pm Bible Study
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	Garfield Deliveries
Fri	1:30 pm JMM @ Evergreen 5:00 pm 1 st Friday Medina – “Bark”-toberfest
Sat	
Sun	Neighbors in Need Offering NEW MEMBERS JOIN 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 3:00 pm Confirmation Class 4:00 pm Youth Group

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

Philippians 1:25-26 and Matthew 20:1-16

“The Table of Grace” - Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are donated by Kellie and Crell Johns in honor of Katherine’s 11th birthday.

ALL-CHURCH HAYRIDE & FUN AT BOYERT’S Sunday, October 27th

One of the most anticipated events of the year is just around the corner. The annual fall hayride is on Sunday, October 27th at Boyert’s from 5:00-8:00 pm. The cost for the evening is \$12 for 7 years old and up and \$8 for 6 years old and under. This includes a dinner (hot dogs, chips, apples and apple cider), hayride, pumpkin, s’more’s and lots of other great fall fun. You need to sign up for this event and pay in advance. There is a signup sheet on the board in the East Room hallway. Make checks payable to Medina UCC and put “Hayride” in the memo. You can give your money to Stacie Yates or you can place it her mailbox in the church office. We had a great time last year and are looking forward to another great year. Sign up now!!

Upcoming Youth Events:

- *October 6 – Youth Group 4:00-6:00
- *October 13 – Confirmation Class 3:00-4:30
- *October 20 – Youth Group 4:00-6:00
- *October 27 – Confirmation Class 3:00-4:30
Annual All Church Hayride 5:00-8:00 pm
- *November 3 – Rake-N-Run 1:30-5:00

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.

GARFIELD STUDENT NEEDS

We are working to support the Garfield students. The following items have been requested: Goldfish snacks, Playdough and stress balls. Please help us to meet their needs. Place items in the bin at the bottom of the staircase. Thank you.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Would you like to join our church family!? Join us for our next new member class! The next class will be held **Monday, September 30th from 7 – 9 pm in the East Room**. 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.

RETURN OF TUESDAYS AT TWO BIBLE STUDY

It's back! An afternoon 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.

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

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!

HURRICANE RELIEF OFFERING

The hurricane destruction in the Bahamas has been devastating and the people are in dire need of everything as a result. The UCC National Office has a fund for hurricane relief. The Mission Team is requesting anyone who is interested in donating to this fund to put their donation in the offering plate or send it to the church office designating on the check that it is for hurricane relief. The Mission Team will match the amount donated up to \$1000.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Bring your pet to be blessed during 1st Friday Medina's "Bark"-toberfest on Friday, October 4 from 5-7 outside the church on the corner! Any pet that is safe to bring is welcome. Each pet will be individually blessed by Pastor Luke. Please invite your friends and neighbors! Free bandanas while supplies last and a children's craft! Let's celebrate God's compassion and concern for all creatures.

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS!

Help is needed to construct a Fall Craft. Look for the Sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board outside the Sacristy. Coordinator, Alice Metzloff, will contact everyone with construction date details.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBIT – LAST 2 DAYS!

This show, presented by the Cleveland Photographic Society has been 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! Today and Monday, September 29th & 30th are the final days!

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!

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.

Bicentennial Tidbits – honoring 50+ year members

The 150th Anniversary program held in 1969 listed the names of seventy persons who had been members for 50+ years; there were 28 with 60+ years (a Miss Jessie Shepard was over 80 years!), and another 42 members of 50+ years.

Since at least 1995, we have honored such long-time members of our Congregation with a special luncheon.



Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

Surprising Investment

Jeremiah, faced with a people and a situation devoid of hope did what you would expect a man of God to do. He engaged in a risky real estate transaction.

Okay, you're right. That's actually the very last thing you'd expect a man of God to do when faced with the destruction of his people, his holiest place of worship, his city and his culture.

You'd expect him to exercise prudence, to be careful, to guard what little he had against the coming difficulties. Instead Jeremiah negotiated the purchase of a piece of land.

Chief Seattle, leader of the Suquamish and Duwamish people in the Pacific Northwestern United States, said "humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect."

Today's passage reminds us that God's children have not always gotten land ownership right. We have too often used land ownership as a mode of severing ourselves from our connection with all things. We have made land ownership a tool or a weapon, forgetting that our God is the God of all the world, not just the God of a single people. Forgetting the connection that binds us with all humanity, we have made land ownership a divine right in our own minds, even committed terrible atrocities to control the land we think we own.

Too often, land ownership has been a matter of greed controlled by violence, instead of a reason for hope and opportunity to experience God's grace and joy. What if we thought of stewardship of the land as our part of the web of a connected creation, rather than the opportunity to acquire resources? What if land ownership was not a divinely ordained right, but instead, we approached our care of all land as the joyful result of our interconnection with all beings.

Imagine if our approach to land ownership came from an attitude of abundance and grace. How would this have changed our history? Is there a way that we could bring that attitude with us into the future?

Today on American Indian Ministry Sunday, we recognize The Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). According to caimucc.com, CAIM "is comprised of five ministries with 22 congregations in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota...We are an integral part of the life of the United Church of Christ. We maintain our Indian traditions by employing our Native values and cultures to witness in our communities through authentic and postcolonial Indian expressions of the Christian faith. We are a gathering 'place' for all UCC Indian people who seek such a place.