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# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

[www.uccmedina.org](http://www.uccmedina.org)



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## **“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 “Morning Prayer” – Laura Bergquist

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 (written by Johnny Baker, and posted on [jonnybaker](http://jonnybaker.com)

<http://jonnybaker.blogspot.com/jonnybaker/2013/10/your-grace-is-enough.html>)

Leader: This is a table of new expectations

People: **This is a table where everyone can come to receive**

Leader: This is a table for those who haven't met Jesus before

People: **This is a table with the Lord of the harvest and catch**

Leader: This is a table where the host is often in the dependent position

People: **This is a table where we are reconciled**

Leader: This is a table where there is safety and acceptance

People: **This is a table which welcomes, invites, provides, unites**

Leader: This is a table where uncomfortable things happen

People: **This is a table that was the natural place to be**

Leader: This is a table that was the place to meet people

People: **This is a table where strength is restored. This is a table, this is our community.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

**"Come to the Table"**



1. Come to the ta - ble of love. \_\_\_\_\_ Come to the ta - ble of  
(2. peace) \_\_\_\_\_  
(3. grace) \_\_\_\_\_  
(4. joy) \_\_\_\_\_



love . \_\_\_\_\_ This is God's ta - ble; it's not yours or  
(peace) \_\_\_\_\_  
(grace ) \_\_\_\_\_  
(joy) \_\_\_\_\_



mine. Come to the ta - ble of love . \_\_\_\_\_  
(peace) \_\_\_\_\_  
(grace ) \_\_\_\_\_  
(joy) \_\_\_\_\_

CCLI Song # 7034085  
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**\*OPENING PRAYER**

Jesus we recall that you were always around the table.  
Always the guest.  
In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, Joanna and Susanna.  
At the meal tables of the wealthy where you pled the case of the poor,  
You were always the guest.  
Upsetting polite company,  
Befriending isolated people,  
Welcoming the stranger,  
You were always the guest inviting others to the tables of your hosts.  
Now you are the host.  
We are the guest.  
Thank you for the invitation and for these guests.  
We await your wisdom.  
Amen.

**\*PRAISE RESPONSE**

**"As We Gather at Your Table"**

*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



1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,  
 help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
 Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;  
 teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.

**ANTHEM** "Come Find Forgiveness and Love" Chancel Choir  
 Music by Don Besig & Nancy Price ; Deanna Ockunzzi, flute

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS** Stacie Yates

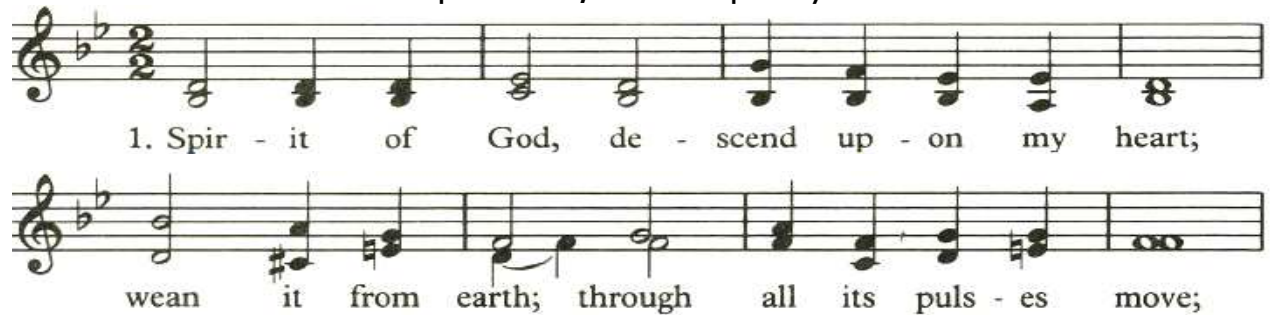
**The Lord's Prayer**

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** "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"



1. Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;  
 wean it from earth; through all its puls - es move;



stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art,  
and make me love thee as I ought to love.

WORDS: George Croly, 1867 (Gal. 5:25)  
MUSIC: Frederick C. Atkinson, 1870

MORECAMBE  
10 10.10 10

**SCRIPTURE** Romans 12:9-21

Pam Branscome, Liturgist

**SERMON** "Come to the Table"

Rev. Luke Lindon

**OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS**

**Offering Invitation**

All of life is a gift. Accept what we offer in gratitude, oh Lord.

**Offertory Music** "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee" – arr. Christina Becket 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**

Loving God, take this day our fears our worries, distractions, scarcity mindset and all.  
Turn them into abundance. May we love as you love. Amen.

**\*SENDING HYMN**

**"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"**



1. My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of
2. May thy rich grace im - part strength to my
3. While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs a -
4. When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold,



Cal - va - ry, Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me  
faint - ing heart, my zeal in - spire! As thou hast  
round me spread, be thou my guide; bid dark - ness  
sul - len stream shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior,

while I pray, take all my guilt a - way,  
died for me, O may my love to thee  
turn to day, wipe sor - row's tears a - way,  
then in love, fear and dis - trust re - move;

O let me from this day be whol - ly thine!  
pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!  
nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.  
O bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

WORDS: Ray Palmer, 1875  
MUSIC: Lowell Mason, 1831

OLIVET  
664.6664

**\*BENEDICTION**

Leader: We have heard the call to dine with Jesus.  
**People: And we know we're in for more than a meal.**  
Leader: Be fed and be challenged,  
**People: To reflect God's way.**  
Leader: May you say yes and find your place at Christ's table.  
**People: May we find love, peace, grace, and joy!**  
Leader: And find each in abundance that you may spread it around!  
So go! Go on! Get! 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** "Be Joyful in the Lord!" – Marc Jordan 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, Julie Gilliland, Pete Benson

**\*\*\*Please join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the service\*\*\*  
Today's coffee hour is hosted by **Diane & Brian Howard.****

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# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER SEPTEMBER 8, 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](http://uccmedina.org)**

September 8 thru September 15, 2019

## WEEK AT A GLANCE

- 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**
- Mon** 6:30 pm Women’s Bible Study
- Tues** 8:00 am Men’s Fellowship at PJ Marley’s  
 9:00 am Women’s Breakfast Group  
**7:00 pm Worship Team**  
 7:30 pm Women’s Book Group
- Wed** 10:30 am Quilters  
 6:15 pm Youth Bell Choir rehearsal  
 6:45 pm Youth Choir rehearsal  
 6:45 pm Adult Bell Choir rehearsal
- Thu**
- Fri** 1:30 pm JMM @ Evergreen
- Sat** 10:00 am Field Trip to Bagdad Rd &  
 lunch at Courthouse Pizza
- 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 at Medina Meadows  
 4:00 pm Youth Group Kickoff

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

Romans 12:9-21

“Come to the Table”

-Rev. Luke Lindon

**Altar Flowers:** The altar flowers are donated by Jim Kiser in memory of Barb.

## NOISY COIN OFFERING

**Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**

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 8<sup>th</sup>. Let’s make a lot of noise that day!

## 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 8<sup>th</sup>**. 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.

## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

**Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**

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!

## **CHECK OUT THE NEW BULLETIN BOARDS IN THE EAST ROOM HALLWAY**

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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 KICKBALL KICK OFF**

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The first day of youth group will be Sunday, **September 15<sup>th</sup>** from 4:00-6:00 pm. If you are of youth group age (3<sup>rd</sup> grade-12<sup>th</sup> 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!

## **NEW MEMBER CLASSES**

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Would you like to join our church family!? Join us for our next new member class! The next classes will be held: **Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> & Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>**. Class will be held from **7 pm – 9 pm** in the New Library. New members **will join the church on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**. 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.

## **STAYIN' ALIVE We still need you!!!**

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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.

## **RING THE CHURCH BELL FOR THE 18<sup>th</sup> YEAR ON 9-11**

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On the first anniversary of 9-11, Dave Edinger rang the church bell at the specific time of each of the four tragic events. He subsequently did so for 15 years. On the 16<sup>th</sup> year, his daughter Susan and her children rang the bell. Keeping this church tradition alive, Dorothea Edinger and Luke, along with volunteers, rang the bell in 2018. This year again Dorothea and son, Jon, along with Luke will ring the bell starting at 8:46 am, the moment the North Tower was struck. Please come and help us commemorate this historical event.

## **GOSPEL GALLEY MEDITATIONS SETS SAIL IN OCTOBER!**

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

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**

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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

### - 2005



On September 29, 2005, after prayerful consideration at a special meeting, the Congregation approved the purchase of the successful Hobby Horse Pre-School, which had rented space in our facility since 1997, for a payment to the previous owner of \$45,000. The vote was 139 to 4.

The School was started some 22 years earlier by Ellie Blain who prior to 1997 had operated the school in space leased from St. Paul's.

Vicki Marty was the first Director.



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### **RETURN OF TUESDAYS AT TWO BIBLE STUDY**

Tuesday at Two returns on September 17<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month.

### **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 rehearse on Wednesdays from 6:45-7:45 pm and the **Youth Bells will begin this Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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.**

### **PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBIT**

We will host the judged photographic exhibit "Hope for the Future" August 24<sup>th</sup>-September 30<sup>th</sup>. 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

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### 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 31<sup>st</sup>-February 9<sup>th</sup>, 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	<a href="mailto:jad4120@zoominternet.net">jad4120@zoominternet.net</a>
Tammie McGivern	330-285-9599	<a href="mailto:tamohio1@aol.com">tamohio1@aol.com</a>
Vicki Miller	440-865-1516	<a href="mailto:tamvic1@aol.com">tamvic1@aol.com</a>

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**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](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)**

**\*\*\*\*\*CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm MONDAY THRU FRIDAY\*\*\*\*\***

#### **PASTORAL STAFF**

Rev. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister – email: [luke@uccmedina.org](mailto:luke@uccmedina.org)

#### **OFFICE STAFF**

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager – email: [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)  
Kelly Charnley, Financial Manager – email: [financial@uccmedina.org](mailto: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

Philemon 1:1-21

### **A New Identity**

Rev. Caela Wood of First Congregational Church in Manhattan, Kansas learned about Blessing of the Backpacks from another United Church of Christ colleague, the Rev. Jennifer Mills Knutsen. Five years ago, Wood's congregation started a regular ritual of backpack blessing on the same day Sunday School re-starts for the fall.

"We wanted to create space for kids to find comfort from their faith community when we know they might be filled with back-to-school jitters," Rev. Wood says. "We encourage adults who are going back to school to bring along backpacks, laptop bags, and briefcases, too. Our congregation has a lot of teachers and professors, so we also bless them on that same Sunday."

"The kids hand out the bookmarks to our many teachers. Lifting up our 'outside work' in the world helps us feel connected to the ways the Spirit journeys with us throughout the week...in classrooms and cubicles and in our homes and everywhere we go."

"We typically put out notecards during fellowship hour for each child/youth/college student who has recently moved away. We ask anyone who feels so moved to take a card and write a note to college students, children and youth who have moved away in the past few years. Then we stick a backpack tag in for them and mail it to them. I have heard from several parents that this is very meaningful to them as the kids are adjusting to life in a new community."

Unlike most other epistles which are addressed to communities, Philemon is a short letter addressed to a single individual. In today's reading Paul sends his adopted child Onesimus forth with this letter of blessing indicating how he would like Philemon to treat the youngster. The message of this letter, that Onesimus is trustworthy and hardworking, is perhaps as much for his student as it is for the man who will receive the letter. Onesimus knows that he has been loved, appreciated and supported and that he will continue to be. The young man has been sent into the world by himself, but he does not go alone. He goes with the knowledge that he has been truly seen and appreciated.

Today, on this Faith Formation Sunday, we celebrate the teaching that happens within our four walls. This day is also an opportunity to remember that the messages we send with our young people into the world teach them as much as any curriculum, maybe even more.

What messages do you give the young people in your congregation as they head out into the world? How can you let them know that they are valued, loved and supported even when they are not within the confines of the four walls of your church building?