
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

“Servant Medley” – Mark Hayes

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: Holy One, why do we often forget who we are?

People: In the hustle and bustle, we become what we do.

Leader: Yet you call us beyond.

People: You call us to be.

Leader: May the worship of you and your ways help us recall who we are.

People: May these words of our mouth and this meditation of our hearts be acceptable to you, o Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service”

WORDS: Albert F. Bayly (1901-1984)

MUSIC: Attr. B. F. White (1800-1879); *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. Ronald A. Nelson (1927-)

Words © 1961 Oxford University Press

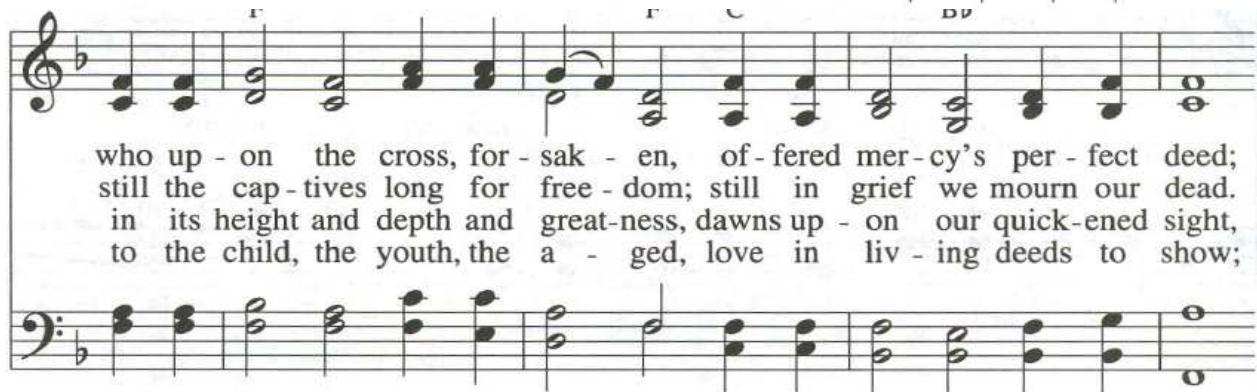
Music Harm. © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship* (Admin. Augsburg Fortress)

BEACH SPRING

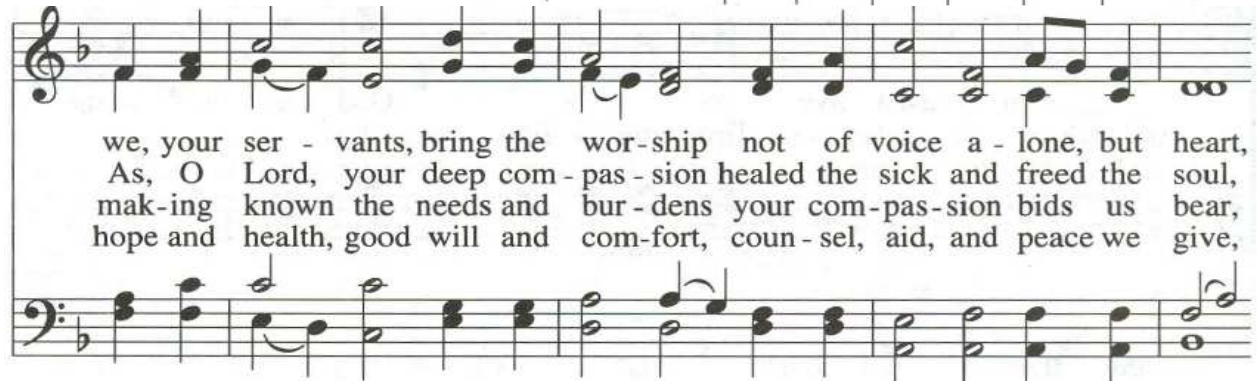
8.7.8.7.D.



1 Lord, whose love through hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
 2 Still your chil - dren wan-der home-less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
 3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal-ing light
 4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, of - fered mer - cy's per - fect deed;
 still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
 in its height and depth and great-ness, dawns up - on our quick-ened sight,
 to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a - lone, but heart,
 As, O Lord, your deep com - pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
 mak-ing known the needs and bur - dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,
 hope and health, good will and com-fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - ery gift that you im - part.
 use the love your Spir - it kin - dles still to save and make us whole.
 stir-ring us to tire-less striv - ing, your a - bun-dant life to share.
 that your ser-vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

OPENING PRAYER (from "Help us Remember", by unknown, found at:

<https://www.beliefnet.com/prayers/protestant/compassion/help-us-remember.aspx>)

Heavenly Father, help us remember that the jerk who cut us off in traffic last night is a single mother who worked nine hours that day and is rushing home to cook dinner, help with homework, do housework, and spend a few precious moments with her children.

Help us to remember that the pierced, tattooed, disinterested young man who can't make change correctly is a worried 19-year-old college student, balancing his apprehension over final exams with his fear of not getting his student loans for next semester.

Remind us, Lord, that the scary looking bum, begging for money in the same spot every day is a slave to addictions that we can only imagine in our worst nightmares.

Help us to remember that the old couple walking annoyingly slow through the store aisles and blocking our shopping progress are savoring this moment, knowing that, based on the biopsy report she got back last week, this will be the last year that they go shopping together.

Mother of Us All, remind us each day that, of all the gifts you give us, the greatest gift is love. It is not enough to share that love with those we hold dear. Open our hearts not to just those who are close to us, but to all humanity. Let us be slow to judge and quick to forgive, show patience, empathy and love. Amen.

PRAISE RESPONSE

"Take My Life, God, Let It Be"

1 Take my life, God, let it be con - se - crat - ed faith - ful - ly.

Take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease-less praise.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff has the lyrics '1 Take my life, God, let it be con - se - crat - ed faith - ful - ly.' and the second staff has 'Take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease-less praise.' The music is written in a simple, accessible style with block chords and single notes.

Frances R. Havergal wrote her hymn following a visit to Areley House in Worcestershire, England. Among the ten persons at the house were "some unconverted . . . some converted but not rejoicing." Before she left, "everyone had got a blessing."

Tune: VIENNA 7.7.7.7.
Justin H. Knecht, 1797
Alternate tune: HENDON

ANTHEM "For the Beauty of the Earth" – arr. by Michael R. Keller

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

"Make Me a Servant"

Make me a ser-vant, hum-ble and meek; Lord, let me lift up those who
are weak. And may the prayer of my heart al-ways be: Make me a
ser-vant. make me a ser-vant, Make me a ser-vant to - day.

The musical score is written on three staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and an irregular meter. The lyrics are written below the notes.

TEXT: Kelly Willard
MUSIC: Kelly Willard

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SERVANT
Irregular meter

SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 8:11-20

Ellen Nolan, Liturgist

SERMON

"The Amnesia of Success"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offertory Invitation

We give as this is what it means to be neighborly. We give to remember that to remember that we are humans like our neighbors. We give to help the vulnerable. Let us offer what we have to the Lord.

Offertory Music "Prayer" – James Southbridge

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

God of the Harvest, you provide for all your children. Guide us to your beloved community where all have enough. There are no needy. There is no want. And every tear will be wiped from our eyes. Amen.

1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life

We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
 Help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 That sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.

May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,

E - qual part - ners in our car-ing to ful - fill God's cho - sen end.
 Blend-ing hu - man skills to - geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un - fold.
 Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 Mes - sen - gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: May we not forget,
People: That we are all children of God.
Leader: That we have been blessed,
People: To be a blessing!
Leader: We are all invited to the Table of Christ,
People: And there is enough for all!
Leader: That each of us is haunted...
People: By the Holy Spirit who is ever with us and guiding us.
Leader: One God!
People: Forevermore! 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 in e minor" – Johann Pachelbel Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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*Those who are able 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 **Darlene Fazekas.****

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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
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

OCTOBER 27, 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

October 27 thru November 3, 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
2:00 pm JMM @ Medina Meadows
Sing-a-long
3:00 pm Confirmation Class
**5:00 pm All Church Hayride at
Boyert's Farm**
7:00 pm JMM @ WRMC

Mon 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study

Tues **2:00 pm Tuesdays Bible Study**
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

Sat **Living Water Association Annual
Meeting**

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir Practice
10:30 am Traditional Worship
1:30 pm Annual Rake-n-Run
(Confirmation & All Youth)

COIN JARS ARE DUE TODAY!

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 today, October 27th. Be sure to bring yours in full of coins!**

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

Scripture: Deuteronomy 8:11-20

Sermon: The Amnesia of Success
Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are donated by Carol and John Sandora in honor of their 40th anniversary.

SERMON SERIES

Good Stewards

10/27: The Amnesia of Success
11/3: Walking Away from a Love Story
11/10: Stewardship Sunday

PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST

Be sure to look at the display of the pumpkins in the Crossroads hallway. They were decorated by the youth. The congregation is to vote on their favorite. So, make sure to bring some change so you can vote. **All the money collected for the voting will be donated to the Senior Mobile Meal project.** Thanks so much for your support.

Upcoming Youth Events:

*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
*November 10 – Confirmation 3:00-4:30
*November 17 – Youth Group 4:00-6:00
*November 24 – Confirmation 3:00-4:30

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.

WANTED: A FRIENDLY VISIT!

Church members needed to deliver fall decorations made by the youth for our homebound and nursing home members and friends. The fall crafts are on a table in the East Room. Each has the recipient's name, address and phone number on the back. Please call the person and arrange a time for a friendly visit during which time the gift may be delivered. Thank you for taking some time to brighten someone's day!

COMING SOON: TWO MORE BICENTENNIAL EVENTS

The year-long observance of our Bicentennial will highlight two festive celebrations during the upcoming holidays.

****Saturday, November 23:**

Candle Light Walk Open House

From 12:00 Noon to 5:00 pm, we will open our doors to welcome the public for a guided tour of the church. Along the way, take a turn at ringing the tower bell, listen to holiday selections played on the organ, join in a caroling singalong that will feature the voices of The Medina Chorus, and warm up with a cup of hot cider or cocoa in our Fellowship Hall. If you are willing to help out, please add your name to the sign-up chart posted in the Sanctuary hallway.

****Sunday, December 8:**

All-Church Worship Service & Concert

This holiday worship service will begin at 10:00am and feature a unique concert that employs narrative, projected images and the talents of all our church musicians and singers. This is a holiday version of the concert performed in June, and tells the story of the church's music, beginning with the earliest days of the Christian tradition and continuing up to the present day. Of course, the congregation will have ample opportunities to join in the music making.

YOUTH GROUP PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

Bring your appetite and we will provide the butter and syrup! The Youth Group will be flipping flapjacks on Sunday, November 10th from 11:45-1:00. Come help us raise money for our Youth Group mission trips by eating your weight in pancakes! Free will offerings will be accepted to cover the pancake breakfast as well as donations towards youth mission trips. In honor of Veterans Day we will also be taking some time to recognize our church members who have served in the US Armed Forces. We hope to see you after church in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday November 10th.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The Women's Book Club will not be meeting in the future as our attendance has not been sufficient for fruitful conversations about the books. Keep reading on your own!

DID YOU KNOW?

Harold Thoburn, a member who passed away in 1997, is recognized with an inscription on the granite bench leading up to the pergola. When Harold retired he was instrumental in working with the city's shade tree commission. That is why Medina is designated a "Tree City USA". In 10 years of working with the commission the tree population grew from 1,000 to 9,000. So when you rest on "Harold's" bench, think about the efforts of one of our members.

CIRCLE OF CARING MEMBERS

There have been many changes on our Circle of Caring lists lately. If you were unable to attend the October 7th meeting, please pick up your newly updated Circle of Caring Visitation and Membership list on the new information rack across from the coat rack (next to the nametag boxes). Please call the office (330-725-4559) or Syd Benson (330-725-5540) with any additions or corrections.

A BENCH IN MEMORY

A bench has been placed in the pergola in memory of Alice Tollafeld. Think of Alice as you relax and contemplate.

JUVENILE DETENTION COLLECTION DRIVE

United Way of Medina County and the Juvenile Detention Center will be collecting white socks, T-shirts and thermal long sleeve shirts. All sizes (small to XXL) are needed for both male and female students. The items must be white and the socks are to be crew socks. The thermal long sleeve shirts may be off-white as it is hard to find white. **Collection will be final on November 22nd** on which day they are to be delivered to the United Way for the Juvenile Detention Center. Please deposit the items in the box next to the BOGO box at the bottom of the stairs. We did so well on the previous drives for the Reading Reinforcement Program and the Mac and Cheese. Let's see if we can do as well again in recognition of our bicentennial year!

REVEREND IN THE RAFTERS!

Our Capital Finalizing Campaign (AKA "Save the Bell") to close out our mortgage started hot and then cooled off. We reached 89% of our goal in the late spring/early summer. We have \$8,500 left to end our campaign. Darlene Bagley-Fazekas and Maureen Walker had the idea that if we reached the goal, then maybe Pastor Luke would spend the night in the bell tower. Pastor Luke thought this would be a great idea!

So here's the challenge: Raise \$8,500 by Tuesday, November 26th at 3 p.m. and Pastor Luke will spend the night in the bell tower on Wednesday, November 27th from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. the next day. Put "Save the Bell" or "Capital Campaign" in the memo line of your checks. Head to uccmedina.org/give and select "Building for the Next 100 Years" to pay online via credit card. Let's get our good sport of a pastor up in the tower!



SAVE THE BELL SHIRTS

Do you want to support our capital finalizing campaign? Have you always wanted a way to show your pride for your church? Are you running low on t-shirts? If you answered yes, please consider buying a "Save the Bell" t-shirt. Shirts are \$15 each. All proceeds from the sale of the t-shirts will go towards our capital campaign AND will count towards our goal of getting Pastor Luke to spend the night in the bell tower.

Look for our table between the 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM services to see a picture of the shirt, pick up an order form, and place your order. Please make checks out to "Medina UCC" with "T-Shirt" in the memo. Orders can also be dropped off to the church office during the week. Shirts will be available at the beginning of November.



**SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR
THIS SUNDAY –
OCTOBER 27TH AT 11:30 a.m.**

Join us for a special coffee hour after the 10:30 service this Sunday in honor of Pastor Luke, with cake and breakfast bakes. Let's show him gratitude for all he does for our church family and community. Please take a few minutes over the rest of October to write some inspiring words to Luke--a basket of note cards is in the East Room for you to write on and place your notes. Maybe a prayer, a moment where your heart was touched, something that moved you through his sermon, a funny moment, a joke--anything that will bring him joy and show him how much he is appreciated.

GOSPEL GALLEY

Geography is Everything!

by Vicki Miller

I am blessed that I have the job, the financial means and the curiosity to be able to travel. I was in Nicaragua last week and I wanted to get out of the hotel. I took a walk and ended up sitting in the town square, eating some ice-cream and watching life in Leon go by. As I was sitting there I started thinking, like I often do when I travel, what my life would be like if I had been born here. Surely I would be Catholic, most likely poor and would have lived through the revolution between the Sandinista's and the Contra's (or perhaps I would not have lived through it...). I was born in an upper middle class, almost all white, Midwestern town. I never went hungry, I never felt unsafe and there was never any doubt I was going to college. I wasn't spoiled – my parents made me work for what I wanted, instilled in me a sense of compassion and smacked any feelings of entitlement right out of me. However, entitled I am. All my ancestors were Pilgrims – they came to America on the Mayflower or during the Great Migration soon after. The next 400 years set my course in life. But what if my Ancestors had come over on different ships- not from Europe but from Africa? What if I had been born in downtown Detroit rather than Grand Rapids? How different would my life have been? What if I had been born in the Middle East? I would most likely be Muslim and, again – probably poor by American standards. I would have been born into a society that would have initially allowed me to be educated but transitioned into one that placed extreme fundamentalist restrictions on me just because I was a woman. How different would my life have been? Would I have fled Central America to the United States to make a better life for my family? Would I have found my way through the oppression of being poor and black to make a better life for myself? Would I have stood up to a system that devalued me as a person just because I was a woman? It is easy for me to answer yes, of course I would have. I know me; I have a history of doing just that. But that is the "Grand Rapids" me. I don't know what the poor, under-educated, scared, "not born here" me would have done. It's easy to judge people from your location on a map – but remember "geography is everything". If you were blessed to be born in the "right place" on a map – what can you do to help others not so fortunate?

Bicentennial Tidbits – Mission Trips

One of the earliest mission trips to a foreign country occurred in 2006 to Puerto Rico, funded partially by Memorial Gifts. The first adult mission trip to Costa Rica was in 2009 and since then there have been annual trips to build simple, modular panel homes there.



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 18:9-14

Just Worship

Jubilee USA is a loosely organized group of faith and advocacy groups – including many United Church of Christ churches – that work toward lowering debt of all kinds, particularly student debt. According to their website, www.jubileeusa.org, “The stats are sobering. Graduating American college seniors have an average student loan debt of nearly \$35,000. Total student loan debt in the United States is at \$1.3 trillion. Jubilee USA works to change these statistics by bridging religious, political and generational divides to promote responsible student lending and borrowing and stop predatory student loan and debt collection practices.”

“On July 1, 2013, student loan interest rates were set to double for almost 7 million college students. The year prior, when Congress was about to double the interest rates on students, 45 Jubilee faith communities prayed, acted and stopped the increase. In 2013, over 60 religious communities across the nation joined us in prayer to stop the increase.”

Proposals to reduce the current student debt have sometimes been met with cries that debt reduction in this generation is not fair to those who have already paid their debts. Like the Pharisees, those who want others to suffer are not able to see that in God’s grace everyone is to be received and cared for. The Pharisee sniffed at the misfortune of the tax collector praying sadly in the temple, and believed that his own elevation was proportional to the downward spiral of his neighbor. He had not yet learned that the affliction of some does not lessen the misery of others.

Instead of seeking others’ suffering, you are invited on this Higher Education Sunday to pray this prayer, also found on the Jubilee USA website.

“We pray for students who are our future, may they not be burdened with unjust and unsustainable debts as they seek to expand their knowledge and prepare to take up the responsibilities as tomorrow’s leaders. We pray for those who currently struggle with student loan payments, and those who may struggle in the future.”

“We pray for the Members of Congress who must make hard decisions in hard economic times, that they will support and maintain student loan affordability and help to make a more fair and just future.”

“We pray that Congress will act in a way that supports students and broader social equity and justice across our communities.” Amen.