
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

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 “Bread of the World in Mercy Broken” – arr. Peter Benjamin Cathy Fafrak, Organist

*CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from the service, Eating Humble Pie at the Lord’s Table on 9/1/19)

Leader: We are “Factus Non Victus.”

People: **Broken not defeated.**

Leader: We come heavily burdened looking for the promised rest.

People: **We come floating with good news.**

Leader: We come not knowing exactly why, but expecting something.

People: **Stir us up, Holy Spirit.**

Leader: Humble us, O God.

People: **Teach us your ways, O Christ.**

Leader: And be with us as we worship around your table.

*OPENING HYMN

“Gathered In”

Text: 77 67 9, © 2012, Owen Alstott. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.
Music: HARK MY SOUL; Early American folk song.



1. Gath - ered in from ev - ery land, wom - en,
2. Gath - ered in by Christ to find ev - ery
3. Gath - ered in and free - ly giv'n love un -
4. Gath - ered in, all dreams re - stored, in - to
5. Gath - ered in to share the feast where the



1. men to - geth - er stand filled with hope.
 2. val - ue re - de - fined— blest the weak,
 3. meas - ured, glimpse of heav'n, place in time
 4. ev - ery spir - it poured strength a - new,
 5. great - est and the least join as one,



1. Search-ing hearts seek the peace that faith im - parts.
 2. blest the poor, blest the child in spir - it pure.
 3. to in - crease ho - ly wis - dom, ho - ly peace.
 4. vi - sion fresh, words of life from Word-made - flesh.
 5. hand in hand, march - ing towards that prom - ised land.



1-5. All is read - y. Come to the ta - ble.

***GATHERING PRAYER**

Leader: Author of our Lives, we come to your table today from the north.

People: **The wild reaches of forests, the polar caps. Even those from Brunswick.**

Leader: We give thanks for those who come from the South.

People: **For Wadsworth. For the Caribbean. For our brothers and sisters south of the equator in South America.**

Leader: For those in the East, both near and far.

People: **In Fairlawn and Akron. For those on our East Coast. Thank you for the culture of Europe. For our sun-kissed brothers and sisters in Africa.**

Leader: For the West and your children there.

People: **We pray for our family in Spencer. The West Coast. For India, China, and Japan.**

Leader: Holy One, for your church in the world, we give you thanks.

People: **Even while we acknowledge the vast diversity can intimidate us.**

Leader: We become tribal and show prejudice and not love.

People: **Forgive us. Remind us again of your global church and the table where all your children gather.**

Leader: As you prayed, "Make them one as you and I are one."

People: **Yet we confess that hell is other people.**

Leader: When we don't serve one another, when we only try to feed ourselves. Yet we hear the good news!

People: **Heaven is also other people! When we serve, when we feed one another.**

Leader: Help us to reflect you in our world and see your face in every face, no matter what.

People: **Your ways, O Lord. Your ways and yours alone. Thank you for your invitation to come to your table and spend time with you. Amen.**

***PRAISE RESPONSE**

"As We Gather at Your Table" (vs. 1)

1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 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.
 where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been lost and lost
 Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 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.
 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."

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

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ANTHEM

"Taste and See" – Michael Helman

Chancel Choir & Alleluia Ringers

Congregation is asked to join in singing the following refrain when prompted

Refrain

Taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the
 Lord. Bread of life, cup of sal-va - tion,
 come to the ban-quet of love.

From *Taste and See* (CGA1046 Choral Score; CGB408 Full Score)
 Text: Michael Helman.
 Music: Michael Helman.
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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.

WELCOME AND RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Nicole Davis, Myra Fabian, Gregory & Barbara Shaffer
Unable to attend today: Adam Krause, Ryan & Lynnea Jodway

Congregation: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this Church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the Church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns
 Silent Prayer
 Morning Prayer

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS**Offering Invitation**

We now gather around your table and offer our gifts.

Offertory Music "Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life" – setting, Charles Huddleston Heaton

***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**

Good and gracious God, take all that we offer and use it to build your kingdom. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 2:1-13 and Matthew 21:23-32

Pete Metzloff, Liturgist

SERMON

"The Table of Joy"

Rev. Luke Lindon

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. Please join in singing the verses of the following song during the Invitation when prompted.



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) _____

Invitation to the Table

The Words of Institution

Distribution of the elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord of Hosts, we give you thanks for this time at your table with you and with our neighbor. May we act as you and host others at our table. Where they may find what we have. Love. Peace. Grace. And Joy. Through these things, you will be with us for when two or three are gathered, you are in our midst. Thank you our Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer. Amen!

***SENDING HYMN**

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

*Edward Perronet, 1779
 Alt. by John Rippon, 1787*

CORONATION C.M.
Oliver Holden, 1792



1. All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
 2. Crown him, ye mar - tyrs of our God, Who from his al - tar call;
 3. Ye seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race, Ye ran - somed of the fall;
 4. O that, with yon - der sa - cred throng, We at his feet may fall;



1. All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
2. Crown him, ye mar - tyrs of our God, Who from his al - tar call;
3. Ye seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race, Ye ran - somed of the fall;
4. O that, with yon - der sa - cred throng, We at his feet may fall;



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, And crown him Lord of all.
 Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod, And crown him Lord of all.
 Hail him who saves you by his grace, And crown him Lord of all.
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, And crown him Lord of all.

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: The salvation of the world is not in a final battle or in getting beamed up to heaven.

People: **The salvation of the world was found around the table.**

Leader: And on the cross.

People: **And back at the table in the upper room and on the road to Emmaus.**

Leader: Jesus is still found at the table! For he has gathered us in worship and blessed us, and now we are sent!

People: **Having been blessed, we are to be a blessing.**

Leader: At whatever table you find yourself... Go! Heal 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** "Scherzo on All Hail the Power" – Janet Linker Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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*All 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 **Maureen Walker.**

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

OCTOBER 6, 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 6 thru October 13, 2019

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun **NEW MEMBERS JOIN**
Neighbors in Need offering
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

Mon Cook for Cups
1:30 pm Circle of Caring Meeting
7:00 pm Evangelism Team

Tues 8:00 am Men's Fellowship
At P.J. Marley's
9:00 am Women's Breakfast Group
At Buehler's River Styx
2:00 pm Tuesdays Bible Study
6:30 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team
7:30 pm Women's Book Group

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 **Pastor Luke out of town**
1:30 pm JMM @ Evergreen

Sat **Pastor Luke out of town**

Sun **Pastor Luke out of town**
8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir Practice
10:30 am Traditional Worship
3:00 pm JMM @ Brookdale North

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

Philippians 2:1-13 and Matthew 21:23-32

“The Table of Joy” - Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are donated by Kelly and Paul DeSario in honor of their 22nd anniversary.

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.

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!

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 6** – 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

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.

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

The group will meet next on the second Tuesday, October 8th at 7:30 pm in the East Room. The book is "Homegoing" by Yaa Gyasi. It is a multi-generational story of a family in Ghana. The books are in the office and available for sign out. Questions? Call Carolee Rafn.

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

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

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.



Bicentennial Tidbits

In 1998, Rev. James Chapman, the recently retired pastor of the Bath UCC church, was hired on a part-time basis to serve as our Minister of Calling and Church Fellowship. Although he was with us for only a brief time, one of his initiatives was to start the Breadmakers Ministry, which continues to this day.

According to the 2001 Annual Report, "The Breadmakers delivered 275 hot loaves of bread to new church visitors, members recovering from illness, or those welcoming new babies."

GOSPEL GALLEY

"Faith and Duty"

by Alice Metzloff

On Thursday, September 19, 2019 the Garfield School Food Basket Support Program began. We delivered to fourteen families September 19th and September 26th. This program is handled by teams who focus on one aspect of the entire program: Church-Garfield School Liaison, Meal Plan and Signup, Meal Preparation and Shopping, Donations Preparation and Check, Sandridge Pick-Up and Delivery, Thursday Food Basket Packing, and Thursday Food Basket Delivery Drivers. On the website for the UCC Liturgical Calendar, one of the Scriptures listed is Luke 17:5-10. These ten verses talk about how FAITH and DUTY go hand in hand. Verses 5-8 talk about having FAITH as small as a mustard seed that called to work in service to others. The Medina United Church of Christ, Congregational Community Hunger Outreach Mission program gathers each week on Thursdays to put into action the answer to the questions asked in the Gospel of Matthew 24:44-45, "When did I feed you, clothe you, comfort you, or took care of you when you were sick?" Jesus answers, "Whenever you do this for the least of my brothers and sisters...you do this for me." Garfield School is our answer to these questions. Go, for our service now begins. Jesus is our guide...Friend...Servant...Master. May we be and do likewise. Remember, GOD IS...JESUS IS... Omnipresent. Comforter. Trustworthy. Obedient. Beautiful. Eternal. Redeemer.

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.

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.

PASTOR'S CORNER...

Hey Church!

My holy month is October. October where the trees catch fire and neighbors pass out candy and my blood type is pumpkin spice. I love it!

There's a lot coming up for us. We have spent time around the table in our worship series "Come to the Table". We will celebrate the fact that God has placed a table in the world and invited everyone to it on World Communion Sunday on October 6. You can revisit past sermons or catch up if you missed a Sunday by heading to www.uccmedina.org/sermons

Our upcoming series is entitled "Good Stewards." It's based on Walter Brueggemann's book *Money and Possessions*. Here are the Sunday themes and readings:

- October 13: Biblical Economics, 1 Timothy 6:10
- October 20: Thou Shalt Covet the Sabbath..?, Genesis 2:1-4, Exodus 18:14-23
- October 27: The Amnesia of Success, Deuteronomy 8:11-20
- November 3: Walking Away from a Love Story, Mark 10:17-31
- November 10: Stewardship Sunday, Acts 2

For Medina First Friday's on October 4, I was out on the corner blessing pets! We gave out free bandannas while supplies lasted and had a children's craft! Let's celebrate God's compassion and concern for all creatures and for the love they bring to us. I'm so thankful for the experiment of the First Fridays and all who came out to cheer on and listen to our musicians. A special thanks to Ian Morgan and the Churchills, Adian Rubino, Ron Greinke, Jessika and Bennett Petersen.

To further clarify what I wrote last month about my email routine, while I won't necessarily check emails over the weekend, I am available by phone or text in case of emergency or any pressing questions. I will be away for OU's homecoming on October 13. Pastoral coverage will be provided by the Rev. Laura Fitt-Baird from First Christian and we'll have a great line up that will be preaching that Sunday.

Two words that you'll get sick of hearing: Safety and Structure. The Moderators are hard at work on assembling a Safety Team to look at a comprehensive emergency plan. I have asked each committee to look at their bylaws and what they are following and what needs to be added or taken away to our almost 10-year-old structure. It is the work of each committee and council to determine how we shall live together. This process will be slow and deliberate to make sure our covenant together is clear and able to be lived into. The idea is that our structure works for us, instead of us working for the structure.

Karen Brocco-Kish has felt God's call to explore more pastoral counselling and visitation. Karen, the association's Lay School, and I are hard at work on the learning covenant for this internship with our church. It is my hope that all will be in place so that Karen can start a 9-month internship focusing on visitation of our church members and help with the Circle of Caring in November. Please pray for wisdom and guidance for Karen and her new adventure with us!

Yours in Christ,
Luke



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*****

October 6, 2019
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Neighbors in Need Offering - World Communion Sunday

Psalm 137

Free to Grieve

Some years ago, there was a bumper sticker popular with members and friends of the United Church of Christ, "To believe is to care, to care is to do." This slogan was a reminder that love is not passive. Love is an action word. Those bumper stickers aren't around anymore, but we are still encouraged to focus on active love as we lift up Three Great Loves – love of neighbor, love of children and love of creation.

According to www.ucc.org/nin, 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 and this year will focus on one of the #3greatloves, love of children.

One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Local Church Ministries (JLCM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants, which 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.

There are many ways for individuals and organizations to be inspired to work with these types of programs and projects. There are many paths toward justice. One of these is the path of grief born of love.

Parents whose children have been lost to school gun violence may become local or even national advocates for gun safety. Others grieving the destruction of a favorite wetland to unfettered development may become climate rights activists. Still others experience the pain of racism against those they love and become Black Lives Matter activists.

Of course, sometimes, as in the psalm today, the action born of our grief and love can be destructive. Jesus modeled for us another way. Jesus shows that action originating in loving grief can be generative, creative, and sustainable.

On this World Communion Sunday, we recall our connection with Christians around the world. As we do so, let us remember that communion was an act originated by Jesus that grew from his love and his grief. As he ate with his friends for what he knew would be the last time, he broke bread and took up the cup.

Those actions anticipated the justice of the reign to come, when all will gather at the table of plenty. Those actions, born in a moment of grief, remain one of the most powerful ways those who live in this name can continue to recall that love is an action word.