
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

www.uccmedina.org



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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

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

*CHORAL INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: What does the Lord require of you..?

People: **Hey! What’s with the pop quiz?!**

Leader: God has told you, O mortal, what is good.

People: **Mortal? Not me. I’m not going to die.**

Leader: Listen here, future dead people! Jesus is going to speak and teach us just who are blessed in this worship. So calm down. Take a breath. And buckle your pew-belts.

People: **We have been gathered. We are ready. Teach us, Blessed and Gracious Mystery!**

*OPENING HYMN

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” (vs. 1-4)



1. O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
2. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -
3. Je - sus! the name that charms our fears, that
4. He breaks the power of can - celed sin, he
5. He speaks, and listen - ing to his voice, new



great Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my
 sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the
 bids our sor - rows cease; 'tis mu - sic in the
 sets the pris - oner free; his blood can make the
 life the dead re - ceive; the mourn - ful, bro - ken



God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!
 earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.
 sin - ner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.
 foul - est clean; his blood a - vailed for me.
 hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739
 MUSIC: Carl G. Gläser; arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839

AZMON
 CM

***OPENING PRAYER (unison)** (tweeted by Jessica Kantrowitz, @jfkantrowitz)

Peace to those who are so tired, whose backs hold more than backs were meant to.
 Whose arms wrap around too many expectations. Too many people who depend on you.
 Whose spirits are heavy with hopelessness. Peace to the weary at the end of this long day.
 Peace & rest for the morning. Amen.

***PRAISE RESPONSE** "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (vs. 5)

ANTHEM "Blessed Are Those (The Beatitudes) – Benjamin Harlan 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 "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new,
 2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
 that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
 un - til with thee I will one will, to do and to en - dure.

WORDS: Edwin Hatch, 1878 (Jn. 20:22)
 MUSIC: Robert Jackson, 1888

TRENTHAM
 SM

SCRIPTURE Micah 6: 1-8 and Matthew 5: 1-12 Deb Waldron, Liturgist

SERMON "Embody Beatitude Living" Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Through this offering, may we each do justice, love kindness and walk humbly.

Offertory Music

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**

Use what we offer, Holy One. Brighten this bleak world with our time, talent, and treasure. May you use everything we offer, even what we struggle to give, to say to our world, "Blessed are..." Amen.

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.

Invitation to the Table

The Words of Institution

Distribution of the elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***SENDING HYMN** "Forth in Thy Name, O Lord"



1. Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go, my dai-ly
2. The task thy wis-dom hath as - signed, O let me
3. Thee may I set at my right hand, whose eyes mine
4. For thee de - light-ful - ly em - ploy what-e'er thy



la - bor to pur - sue; thee, on - ly thee, re -
cheer - ful - ly ful - fill; in all my works thy
in - most sub - stance see, and la - bor on at
boun-teous grace hath given; and run my course, with



solved to know in all I think or speak or do.
pres - ence find, and prove thy good and per-fect will.
thy com - mand, and of - fer all my works to thee.
e - ven joy, and close-ly walk with thee to heaven.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1749
MUSIC: John Hatton, 1793

DUKE STREET
LM

***BENEDICTION** (Benediction Beatitudes reimagined by Nadia Bolz-Weber)

Leader: Blessed are the agnostics. Blessed are they who doubt.

People: **Those who aren't sure, who can still be surprised.**

Leader: Blessed are they who are spiritually impoverished and therefore not so certain about everything that they no longer take in new information.

People: **Blessed are those who have nothing to offer.**

Leader: Blessed are the preschoolers who cut in line at communion.

People: **Blessed are the poor in spirit. You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.**

Leader: Blessed are they for whom death is not an abstraction.

People: **Blessed are they who have buried their loved ones, for whom tears could fill an ocean.**

Leader: Blessed are they who have loved enough to know what loss feels like.

People: **Blessed are the mothers of the miscarried.**

Leader: Blessed are they who don't have the luxury of taking things for granted anymore.

People: Blessed are they who can't fall apart because they have to keep it together for everyone else.

Leader: Blessed are those who "still aren't over it yet."

People: Blessed are those who mourn. You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.

Leader: Blessed are those who no one else notices.

People: The kids who sit alone at middle-school lunch tables.

Leader: The laundry guys at the hospital.

People: The sex workers and the night-shift street sweepers.

Leader: Blessed are the forgotten. Blessed are the closeted.

People: Blessed are the unemployed, the unimpressive, and the underrepresented.

Leader: Blessed are the teens who have to figure out ways to hide the new cuts on their arms.

People: Blessed are the meek. You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.

Leader: Blessed are the wrongly accused, the ones who never catch a break, the ones for whom life is hard,

People: for Jesus chose to surround himself with people like them.

Leader: Blessed are those without documentation.

People: Blessed are the ones without lobbyists.

Leader: Blessed are foster kids and special-ed kids and every other kid who just wants to feel safe and loved.

People: Blessed are those who make terrible business decisions for the sake of people.

Leader: Blessed are the burned-out social workers and the overworked teachers and the pro bono case takers.

People: Blessed are the kindhearted football players and the fundraising trophy wives.

Leader: Blessed are the kids who step between the bullies and the weak.

People: Blessed are they who hear that they are forgiven.

Leader: Blessed is everyone who has ever forgiven me when I didn't deserve it.

People: Blessed are the merciful, for they totally get it.

Leader: And blessed are you, made in love for blessing others and for the healing of the world. Go now and live the beatitudes, 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**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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*All who are able please stand.

Ushers: Darlene Fazekas, Julie Gilliland, Pete Benson, Dick Christy

****Please join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the service***
Today's coffee hour is hosted by **Pete and Alice Metzloff**.*

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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
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2, 2020

**“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS.
MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY!”**

Live streaming of the Sanctuary Service is available at uccmedina.org

February 2, 2020 thru February 9, 2020

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun “SOUPER” Bowl Sunday Offering

Mission Trip to Costa Rica
8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir Rehearsal
9:30 am 3rd Grade Bible Class
10:30 am Traditional Worship
11:30 am All Youth Groups Cook for
Cups Cafe
3:00 pm Confirmation Class

Mon Cups Delivery
7:00 pm Evangelism Team

Tues

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

Thurs Garfield Deliveries
7:00 pm Financial Peace University

Fri 1:30 pm JMM @ Evergreen

Sat 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal

Sun Return from Costa Rica
8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir Rehearsal
9:30 am 3rd Grade Bible Class
10:30 am Traditional Worship
11:30 am Safety & Security Meeting
2:00 pm Sunday Church Bowling League
3:00 pm JMM @ Brookdale North
3:00 pm Youth Group Valentine Delivery
to Medina Meadows

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

Scripture: Micah 6:1-8 and Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon: “Embody Beatitude Living”
Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are given this week by Marlee Winters in memory of loved ones.

Upcoming Youth Events:

- *February 2 – 3rd Grade Bible Class 9:30-10:15
- *February 2 – Cooking for Cups: All Youth 11:30
- *February 2 – Confirmation Class 3:00-4:30
- *February 9 – 3rd Grade Bible Class 9:30-10:15
- *February 16 – 3rd Grade Bible Class 9:30-10:15
- *February 16 – **Soup Cook-off 11:30**
- *February 16 – Confirmation Class (with Parents)
3:00-4:30

“SOUPER” BOWL TODAY

Are you ready for some football? Well, it's not the actual Super Bowl, but it is time again for “Souper” Bowl Sunday. This is a mission project that our youth participate in every year. Everyone is asked to bring a can of soup and \$1 on Sunday, February 2nd. The money collected will be going to help feed our Garfield Families. The soup will be given to the food pantry at the Medina Methodist Church. Please help support our youth and this mission project **today!**

BOOK SALE!

Stewart Jones will be selling his newest book “More Simple Thoughts” next Sunday, February 9th. You may catch him following all three services. The cost of books is \$10 and you can even have him personally autograph one for you!

WANTED: SOUP

Soup Cook-off ~ Sunday, February 16th

The youth will be hosting a Soup Cook-off on February 16th immediately following the 10:30 service. We are now looking for people who would like to enter their favorite soup! A prize will be awarded for the best soup along with the Golden Ladle Award! If you have a soup you would like to enter, please sign up on the bulletin board in the East Room hallway. We hope you will plan on joining us on this day for some yummy soup, great fellowship and friendly competition!

POTLUCK BRUNCH FEBRUARY 23RD @ 11:00 am

COME JOIN US FOR POTLUCK BRUNCH SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD FOLLOWING THE 10AM SERVICE.

YOU MUST RSVP IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND. Stop by the table set up in the East Room to sign up for what you would like to share. Good eats, good fellowship, good times!

HAVE WE OVERLOOKED ANYONE?

Do you know any older church member or friend of the church who might enjoy visits from a Circle of Caring member? If so, please call the church office (330-725-4559) or Syd Benson (330-725-5540).

VALENTINE VISITATION

Make someone's Valentine Day Special! The craftmakers have created small Valentine boxes to hold notes from visitors to our older member and friends of the church. Please pick up one or more of the crafts displayed in the East Room. Each box has the name, address and phone number of someone on our visitation list. Please call the person to arrange your visit sometime before February 14th. **Also, don't forget to take a Time Capsule form** with you and help them fill one out to be included in the Time Capsule box!

If you have any questions call Syd Benson at 330-725-5540.

SAVE THE DATE

Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 25, 2020 from 12 - 2pm for the Ladies and Girls Tea.** The program will be presented by Women in History from Lakewood, Ohio. Tickets will be the same price as last year, \$10 per person and \$5 for those under 10. Ticket sales will begin on Sunday, March 15th before and after the 10:30 service in the East Room. If you have questions, please contact Beth Hari or Darlene Fazekas.

HELP WITH GARFIELD FAMILIES FOOD SIGNUP

We are looking for a few good souls to man the Garfield Families food table on Sunday mornings. You should be there from 10:00 to 10:25 am to assist those signing up for donations. There will be a sign up list on the Garfield table by the elevator. Thank you, Kathy Goodwin.

Hobby Horse Preschool

Dear Church family,



I have some news that I would like to share with you. At the end of this school year, I will be retiring as the Director of Hobby Horse Preschool. My teaching career began in 1993, and in these last 27 years I have been a teacher, advisor or coach to children ranging from preschool to high school. I love teaching, and I have been fortunate enough to have spent the last 14 years of my career at Hobby Horse Preschool. I have loved being part of such an incredible staff and having a church family who loves and supports our school. So much joy has been brought to my life from having met so many wonderful children and their families over the years. Although I will miss Hobby Horse greatly, I know that you, the UCC church family, will continue to love and support your school under new direction.

With sincerest gratitude,
Xanthe S. Phillips

SUGGEST HOW WE CLOSE OUR BICENTENNIAL YEAR

Our 365 days of celebration began on Founder's Day 2019, and concludes on Founder's Day, February 23, 2020. On that Sunday our choir will premiere a specially-commissioned anthem with an easy-to-learn melody (hint, hint) and we will place a time capsule in a very well-remembered location as our fond bequest to a future generation who unlocks it 25 years from now.

What will they discover in that time capsule? For starters, a stack of archive-quality "Memory Cards" currently being collected by Jan Coleman, also a copy of our most recent photo directory, along with our congregational portrait taken last summer.

What else will our descendants discover? You are invited to submit your suggestion for that *One Item* which will lead them to being delightfully-flabbergasted and react with some familiar utterances: "Oooh..." and "Ah-ha!" and "Huh??" and [*gasp/sigh...*] "Awww..."

In early February we will post the results and conduct a congregational poll to prioritize your ideas. The "Bicentennial Time Capsule Suggestion Box" now in the East Room, is ready and waiting to receive your suggestions. -Harry Buch (Mr. Bicentennial Guy)

BICENTENNIAL "TIME CAPSULE"

The yearlong observance of our 200th anniversary will culminate on Founders Day with the ceremonial dedication/deposition of the Time Capsule. Memory Cards are available near the drop off collection box (not the actual time capsule box) in the East Room. Members are asked to fill out this form with pertinent family information, as well as favorite memories, stories, or experiences that connect you to this church. They are printed on non-acetone paper so that the ink will not fade after the first 25 years. Please do not simply discard this form. Fill it out and drop into the box.

ADD YOUR NAME TO OUR BICENTENNIAL CONGREGATIONAL PORTRAIT

Many of us will recall Sunday, May 19 as the day we gathered after worship for a Bicentennial "family photo." That congregational portrait has shown up in various places including the church's website and the cover of this year's pictorial directory. An archive quality print of this portrait will be placed in the Bicentennial Time Capsule, and we want to make sure that those who open the time capsule many years from now will be able to identify everyone pictured. In the East Room is a copy of the portrait on which each participant has been labeled with a number. A corresponding "roll-call" book will list the name of those present. The next time you visit the church, please stop by the East Room, take a moment to locate yourself in the portrait, and add your name to the roster.

“PRESENTATION”

Definition: The giving of something to someone, as part of a formal ceremony. A speech or talk in which a new product, idea, or piece of work is shown and explained. A formal introduction of someone.

Did you know that February 2 is when the PRESENTATION OF JESUS to the Temple of Jerusalem at eight days old occurred? Why is Luke the only one of the Four Gospels to present the Jewish ritual of b'rit milah or b'ris - the Covenant Circumcision of an eight-day old male child? B'rit milah is a holy moment of joy, a ritual way for Jews to keep their history ongoing. Why Eight days? In Judaism, the number eight represents the suprarational and the infinite, that which is beyond the natural order of this world. Symbolic of an entity that is above the natural order, higher than all natural limitations. The brit milah symbolizes the Jewish nation's supernatural and logic-defying **covenant** with God. A covenant is a relationship based upon mutual commitments, which involves promises, obligations, and rituals. Mary and Joseph were devout and faithful traditional Jewish parents, who strongly believed in the Commandment of Genesis 17:11-14...where God tells Abraham that he will have descendants as numerous as the stars, the Jewish people will be given the land of Canaan, and that kings will come from his lineage. And as a sign of this special ongoing relationship between Abraham, and his descendants and God...God commands Abraham to be circumcised, and all male children for generations to come. What does this phrase PRESENTATION OF JESUS mean for us Christians, as we do not practice the ritual of Covenant Circumcision in the physical sense. Believe Luke 22:20..."In the same way after the supper he took the cup saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you". Hanging on the cross, dying, and rising again, our circumcision ritual is believing his sacrifice manifests the wiping away of our sin, and we being... **F**orgiven. **E**mbraced. **B**lessed. **R**edeemed. **U**nited. **A**wed. **R**eclaimed. **Y**earn-free.

THE SEASON OF DESCENT by Vicki Miller**Costa Rica Update**

All work and no play...I'm going to share one of the best kept secrets of the Mission Trips; we have a lot of fun! Don't get me wrong, building a house is hard work. However, we also make room for a lot of fun as well. We generally stay in very nice accommodations and at the end of the day (after we've showered the sweat and dust away) we explore the local restaurants and have fantastic dinners. The monkeys and birds greet us every morning and cheer us on during the day. Church on Sunday is very informal and right on the beach (one time the service started late because the Pastor caught a good wave surfing). We have a goal, but usually never achieve it, to see the sunset every night during the "work week" – but always get to sunset during R&R. Yes – we have Rest and Relaxation time! Since each team member is paying for their airfare, room and board we always spend two extra days onsite for a little vacation. We've taken surfing lessons, zip-lined, gone on nature hikes, milked cows, taken cooking lessons, rode horses – all kinds of fun things. If you want to relax you can't go far without finding a hammock or beach to lie around in/on. If you are looking to "give back" but still want some vacation time – a Mission Trip might just be for you! Keep an eye on the Church Facebook page for live streaming updates from Costa Rica!!!



Bicentennial Tidbits

The official Bicentennial Celebration was held on Founders' Day, February 24, 2019. The theme was set in 1919 (not 1819) and everyone was encouraged to dress in period garb. A published sermon from Rev. Samuel Fritsch on "Christ and Evolution" was preached, followed by a beef stew dinner and program called *Legacy Letters: Remembrances of a Church in 1919*.



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*******

February 2, 2020
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

The Vision Beautiful

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed is the family bankrupted by medical costs. Blessed is the elder who stands with a cardboard sign asking for money at the end of the on-ramp.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed is the one who has lost loved ones to preventable illness. Blessed is the one who grieves the loss of a job to retirement or restructure.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed is the one who flees the violence of war in one nation, only to experience the violence of detention in another. Blessed is the one who cannot speak for himself, whose only language is the anguish in his eyes.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed is the one who travels by three busses to find affordable groceries in her city. Blessed is the one whose kitchen is empty, but who can't find a food pantry in his rural area.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed is the one on social media who asks a genuine question rather than starts a fight. Blessed is the one who offers solace to the addict without demanding proof that she is worthy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed is the one who tells the truth, even when a lie would be easier. Blessed is the one who receives the truth with grace and curiosity.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed is the one who marches in the streets for peace in the world. Blessed is the one who sits on a prayer cushion for peace in their heart.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed is the one who is wrongfully accused and imprisoned. Blessed is the one who has served time, only to find himself barred from housing and work upon his release.

These blessings from Christ, known as the Beatitudes, continue to have resonance in our world today. Spend some time in prayerful consideration of the Beatitudes you have witnessed in your community.