
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

CENTERING MUSIC

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

MOVE 1: PRAY FOR OURSELVES

***OPENING POEM** (“Pry Me Off Dead Center” by Ted Loder, *Guerillas of Grace*. Philadelphia: Innisfree Press, Inc. 1984)

Leader: O persistent God,

People: Deliver me from assuming your mercy is gentle.

Leader: Pressure me that I may grow more human

**People: not through the lessening of my struggles
but through an expansion of them
that will undamn me and unbury my gifts.**

Leader: Deepen my hurt until I learn to share it and myself openly and my needs honestly

**People: Sharpen my fears until I name them and release the power I have locked in them
and they in me.**

Leader: Accentuate my confusion

until I shed those grandiose expectations
that divert me from the small, glad gifts
of the now and the here and the me.

**People: Expose my shame where it shivers,
crouched behind the curtains of propriety,
until I can laugh at last
through my common frailties and failures
laugh my way toward becoming whole.**

Leader: Deliver me from just going through the motions
and wasting everything I have
which is today,

People: a chance,
a choice,
my creativity,
your call.

Leader: O persistent God,

People: Let how much it all matters
Pry me off dead center

Leader: So if I am moved inside

People: to tears
or sighs
or screams
or smiles
or dreams,

Leader: they will be real and I will be in touch with who I am

People: and who you are
and who my sisters and brothers are. Amen.

***HYMN**

"What Wondrous Love Is This"

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul! O my soul! What
2 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to

won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is
God and to the Lamb, I will sing; To God and to the

this! that Christ should come in bliss to bear the heav-y cross for my
Lamb who is the great I Am, while mil - lions join the theme, I will

soul, for my soul, to bear the heav-y cross for my soul!
sing, I will sing; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 69:1-4

Pam Branscome, Liturgist

MEDITATION

Rev. Luke Lindon

QUESTIONS When have you been unfairly labeled?
Falsely accused?
Write the names you were called that you would like to give up.

*HYMN "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love"

Refrain (Unison)

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show
us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.
1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their
2. Neigh-bors are rich and poor, neigh-bors are black and
feet, white, Mas-ter who acts as a slave to them.
neigh-bors are near and far a - way.

WORDS: Tom Colvin, 1969 (pp. 131-17).
MUSIC: Ghana folk song; adapt. by Tom Colvin, 1969; harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1969.
CHERRY-COFFEE
Irr. with Refrain
© 1969, 1989 Hope Publishing Co.

MOVE 2: PRAY FOR OUR NEIGHBOR

SCRIPTURE

Luke 10:29-37

Pam Branscome, Liturgist

MEDITATION

Rev. Luke Lindon

QUESTIONS "The one who showed him mercy." The lawyer couldn't even say the name "Samaritan".
 What relationships need mended in your life?
Write the names of those who need to be forgiven in your life.

***HYMN** "God of the Ages"



Trumpets, before each stanza 1. God of the a - ges, whose al-might-y hand
 2. Thy love di - vine hath led us in the past;



leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band
 in this free land with thee our lot is cast;



of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies,
 be thou our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and stay,



our grate - ful songs be - fore thy throne a - rise.
 thy Word our law, thy paths our cho - sen way.

WORDS: Daniel C. Roberts, 1876
 MUSIC: George W. Warren, 1894

NATIONAL HYMN
 10.10.10

MOVE 3: PRAY FOR OUR COUNTRY

SCRIPTURE 1 Timothy 2:1-2

Pam Branscome, Liturgist

MEDITATION

Rev. Luke Lindon

QUESTIONS What headlines trouble you?
 What would you like to see changed in our country?
Write these on your paper.

***HYMN** "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

1. Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y; hold me with thy
 stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my
 power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en, feed me
 jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer, be thou
 till I want no more; (want no more) feed me till I want no more.
 still my strength and shield; (strength and shield) be thou still my strength and shield.

WORDS: William Williams, 1745; trans. from the Welsh by Peter Williams and the author, 1771
 MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907
 CWM RHONDDA 87.87.87

MOVE 4: PRAY FOR OUR WORLD

SCRIPTURE Revelation 22:1-5 Pam Branscome, Liturgist

MEDITATION Rev. Luke Lindon

QUESTIONS "The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations."
 What needs healed in our world?
Write these on your paper.

ANTHEM "I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry" – John Ylvisaker; arr. John Helgen Chancel Choir

MOVE 5: CONNECT WITH YOUR BELOVEDNES

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 42:1-5 and Matthew 3:13-17 Pam Branscome, Liturgist

A TIME TO REMEMBER OUR BAPTISM

*HYMN

"Amazing Grace"



1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears re-lieved;
 5 When we've been there ten thou-sand years, bright shin - ing as the sun,



I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.
 how pre - cious did that grace ap - pear the hour I first be-lieved!
 we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

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

NEW BRITAIN
 C.M.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Let us now freely give this morning's offering.

Offertory Music "Baptized in Water" – setting, Lynn Trapp

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

*BENEDICTION

Leader: Here the words of God given to us from the Prophet Isaiah;

People: I have called you in righteousness;

Leader: I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

People: I have given you as a covenant to the people,

Leader: A light to the nations,

People: To open the eyes that are blind;

Leader: To bring the prisoners from the dungeon;

People: We have been blessed to be a blessing!

Leader: May you hear the voice of God saying,

People: "This is my child, in whom I am well pleased."

Leader: Go and spread this good news to a hurting 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.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***POSTLUDE** "Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters" – arr. Mark Hayes 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 **Beth Hari.***

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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
JANUARY 12, 2020**

“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS.

MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY!”

January 12, 2020 thru January 19, 2020

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	BAPTISM OF CHRIST
8:15 am	Chapel Worship
9:00 am	Gathering Worship
9:15 am	Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am	Traditional Worship
11:30 am	Safety & Security Meeting
3:00 pm	Confirmation Class
Mon	6:30 pm Women’s Bible Study
	7:00 pm New Members Class
	7:00 pm Evangelism Team
Tues	8:00 am Men’s Fellowship @ PJ Marley’s
	9:00 am Women’s Breakfast
	2:00 pm Tuesdays @ 2:00 pm
	Bible Study
	7:00 pm Worship Team
Wed	9:15 am Hobby Horse Team Meeting
	10:30 am Quilters
	6:15 pm Youth Bell Choir rehearsal
	6:45 pm Adult Bell Choir rehearsal
	6:45 pm Youth Choir rehearsal
	7:00 pm Discipleship & Education Team (DELTs)
Thurs	Garfield Deliveries
	7:00 pm Financial Peace University
Fri	1:30 pm JMM @ Evergreen
Sat	
Sun	8:15 am Chapel Worship
	9:00 am Gathering Worship
	9:15 am Choir Rehearsal
	10:30 am Traditional Worship
	11:45 am Caring Team
	11:45 am Mission Team
	2:00 pm JMM @ Medina Meadows
	4:00 pm Youth Group – Make Valentines

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

Scripture: Isaiah 42:1-5 & Matthew 3:13-17

Sermon: Rev. Luke Lindon - “Who Are You?: Connect with Your Belovedness”

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are given this week by the church in honor of the baptism of Christ.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, JANUARY 20TH IN OBSERVANCE OF MLK DAY

2020 BUDGET UPDATE

We are still waiting on 60 or so 2020 pledge cards, which means we are **\$84,000 short** for the proposed budget. Online givers and monthly and bi-monthly EFT givers should still submit an updated pledge card for the records to be current and up to date. Pledge cards are available in the pew racks.

Call or email Kelly in the office at 330-725-4559 or at financial@uccmedina.org.

OUR ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING WILL BE ON JANUARY, 26TH AT 11:30 A.M. PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND FOR THE PURPOSE OF VOTING TO PASS THE 2020 BUDGET.

Upcoming Youth Events:

*January 12 – Confirmation 3:00-4:30

*January 19 – Youth Group 4:00-6:00

*January 24 – Confirmation Trip to Temple Israel
6:00 pm in church parking lot

*January 26 – Confirmation 3:00-4:30

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Would you like to join our church family!? Join us for our next new member class! We are

trying something new with our class to start the New Year! We will have only ONE class that will include covering all aspects of membership. It will also include filling out all your paperwork and having your photo taken in this one and only class. Please come expecting to have your picture taken!

Our one class will be held: **Monday, January 13th from 7 pm – 9 pm.** This class will also include a tour of the church and access to the many people who are involved in our Leadership Teams, Committees and activities in the church. You will have the chance to interact with them and ask questions to see what you might like to get involved in! Childcare is provided if needed. **New members will join the church on Sunday, January 26th.** 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.

HOBBY HORSE REGISTRATION

Our church owned preschool will begin registration online for the 2020-2021 school year on Sunday, January 26th, 2020. You may review our curriculum, classes offered, and fees by visiting our school website at: www.hobbyhorsepreschool.org. If you are interested in scheduling a tour or receiving registration information, please contact our Director, Xanthe Phillips, at 330-722-1445.

Families that are members or friends of our church may register prior to January 26th by contacting Xanthe or stopping by the Hobby Horse Preschool office during school hours.

Families currently enrolled in Hobby Horse may register beginning January 26th at 3:00pm. Registration for former families and Open Community Registration will begin online at 10:00am on Monday, January 27th. This will be done by going to our website and clicking on the "Register" tab.

BLANKET SUNDAY ~ 1/26/20

SENIOR SPOT

Church World Service (CWS) has distributed thousands of blankets around the world in 2019. Your congregation can be part of an even greater response in 2020. You will reach families fleeing their homes, recovering from disaster and more. Share blankets, warmth and comfort with your neighbors. Your contributions go a long way to help families in need so please be generous in your support for Blanket+ Sunday. Thank you!

HELP WITH GARFIELD FAMILIES 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.

CALLING ALL LOUSY BOWLERS!!!

It doesn't matter if you bowl a 200 or a 20. We will bowl on the 2nd and 4th Sundays opposite the youth group meetings @ 2PM in Medina Lanes. The league will start January 26th for 8 sessions. We need 20 people or 5 teams to start! A team consists of 4 people, sign up yourself or with a friend and you can be assigned to a team. The fee will include a Lousy Bowler T-shirt and free games to bowl during the week. **Signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the East Room hallway.** If you are interested or have questions please contact me at PEDESARIO@GMAIL.COM or text me @ 330-591-5868. All ages welcome, no bumpers. An official email will be sent out with fees and other details when we meet our goal of teams.

POT LUCK BREAKFAST

Sunday, January 26, 2020 – 12 pm

Good eats, good fellowship, good times! Come join your church family for our inaugural Pot Luck Breakfast following the church's annual meeting. Stop by the table set up in the Crossroads to sign up for what you would like to share. Any questions, see Darlene Fazekas or Linda Turek.

Social isolation and loneliness are among top concerns for older adults. Mobility challenges or hearing loss can exacerbate loneliness. The National Poll on Healthy Aging found one in three older adults say they lack regular companionship. A recent survey conducted by Great Call showed that 21% of seniors feel lonely every day.

BOARD GAME NIGHT

Saturday, January 25, 2020 – 5-9 pm in Rooms 9 & 10

Come challenge fellow board game enthusiasts for a Sunday night of fun, skill and strategy. Bring your favorite game or come and try a new one. Pizza & drinks will be provided... bring a snack to share! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. If you have any questions, please see Jim Kiser.

THE SEASON OF DESCENT by Vicki Miller

Costa Rica Update

“Making a House a Home”

After the house is built the family immediately starts to move in. Generally they have very few possessions and almost nothing is new. The team always tries to bring down some gifts for the family to help make their new house a home. This last week we have been talking with Maximo about the family's needs and he has shared a few things with us. They need sleeping space, so the team will be building bed frames. This means the family also needs mattresses (we won't be bringing those down with us ☺). Maximo would also like to get them a kitchen sink (an American that lives in Nosara is going to build a cabinet but they need a sink). They need sheets for their new beds, simple kitchen utensils, towels etc. We also try to bring down personal items like soaps, shampoos, toothbrushes, etc. This Sunday, January 12th, we will have a sign-up sheet if you are interested in purchasing some of the items the family needs (please **only** bring things on the sign-up sheet since we have to carry everything down with us). There will also be a basket if you would like to donate money for the purchase of the larger items. So, basically they need everything AND the kitchen sink!

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. Cards will be collected through the last week of January.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Planning for the future is hard when you're still paying for the past! Listen – there's a better way! Join our Financial Peace University class and we'll learn how to beat debt and make a plan for the future...together! Interested? **Join us for our next class at Medina UCC starting Thursday, January 16th at 7:00 pm.** Feel free to contact Rob Kaiser at 330-421-9636 or robkaiser3@gmail.com with any questions or sign up at www.fpu.com/1107564.

CHECK OUT THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE EAST ROOM HALLWAY!

We have several signup sheets on the bulletin board for you to check out! We have lots of open spaces on the **Flower Chart** for you to sign up to sponsor the altar flowers, you can sign up to be a Sunday worship **greeter**, volunteer to host a **coffee hour** or sign up to be a **liturgist!** There are several volunteer opportunities for you to check out. If you would like to find out more about any one of these things, you may call the church office at 330-725-4559. We also have **signup sheets for church activities** throughout the year hanging on this board so check them out!

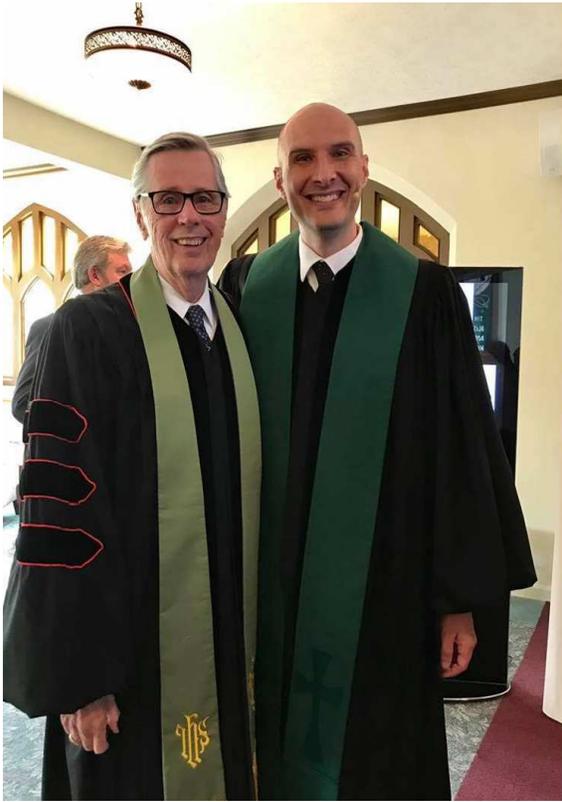
GARFIELD STUDENT NEEDS

We are working to support the Garfield students. The following items have been requested: **Full size toothpaste and deodorant.** Please help us to meet their needs. Place items in the bin at the bottom of the staircase.

GOSPEL GALLEY

by Vicki Miller

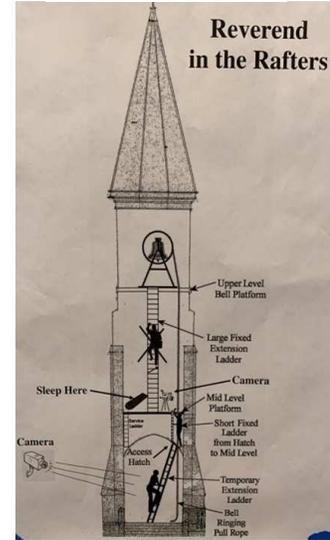
And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. I don't want to disagree with Paul but I believe every now and then the greatest of these is faith. Faith runs rampant through our daily lives – in small and large ways. I don't really feel love for my fellow highway travelers as much as I have faith that they are good drivers and won't involve me in an accident. When I was in Army Airborne School I didn't really love the parachute packer as much as I had faith they had done their job well. I do believe that love makes the "world go round" but without faith in each other the world would truly stop. I have great love for my friends, family and church community; but honestly, faith is the emotion I initially have with strangers – faith that they are good, honest, kind and, if needed, qualified at what they are doing. Letting go of control and turning over your life to strangers is an ultimate show of faith. For me this show of faith is most evident with the Mission Families in Costa Rica. Days before the Team arrives, the recipient family must tear down their existing "house" and have faith that a group of strangers from America are actually going to show up and build them a new one. I can't even imagine the emotions those families feel as they watch their home disappear. The beauty of the mission trip is the transition from Faith that someone is coming – to the Hope when they see the house starting to take shape – to the Love we all feel on dedication day.



Bicentennial Tidbits

Luke Lindon joined us as our 38th pastor on Easter Sunday, April 16 2017; his formal installation was held on September 13, 2017, shown here with Rev. David Anderson, a mentor from his previous congregation.

Luke's ministry with us reached new heights on November 27, 2019 when, at the conclusion of a fund raising campaign to retire the mortgage for the new entrance and complete some emergency bell repairs, Luke spent the night in the Bell Tower.



Matthew 3:13-17

Possibilities Unfolding

The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, (recently elected) Associate General Minister of Global Engagement and Operations of the United Church of Christ, raised her prophetic and poetic voice addressing General Synod delegates (last June). She shared a memory of a clock without hands she'd seen in Clujj-Naropa, Romania, which became for her an image of the contemporary Church. It looks useless, she noted, unable to perform its stated function of telling passers-by the time. Yet it retained power and relevance.

"That clock in Clujj was a source of inspiration for me as a poet and a theologian," she said. "It reminded me of what the church is and is supposed to be. That clock did not have the ability to tell time anymore, but I could tell from its location and the fact that it was still there that it pointed to a time when things were different."...

Thompson wove the theme of time throughout her address. Memory of other times comes relatively easy to the Church. Old stories inspire us with the faith and courage of people who have gone before. There is also a history we would prefer to forget, times when the Church has been on the side of injustice. Misunderstood history, anxiety over loss of numbers and resources, and the rise of fascist dogmas all diminish the Church's faithfulness and effectiveness.

She stressed the power of ecumenical partnerships for addressing these challenges. As the UCC's Minister for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, she has seen these strengths first hand. In an interview, she contrasted this vision with the one dominating domestic politics, obsessed with closing borders. "I think that's a challenge to our theologies of love of neighbor and love of neighbor as self," she said. "We need to be something different."

Thompson told the delegates: "Yes, the world is changing. Yes, our communities are changing, too. Yes, the resources that are available for ministry and mission are shrinking. None of these markers name or define the relevance of the church, the possibilities we have for ministry, and the services that can be provided in partnership with the communities we serve locally and globally."

"The time we have is now," she declared. "The decisions we make are for today. We are living on borrowed time with the commitment to change the world."*

**Excerpted from an article by Anderson, Eric S. (June 22, 2019) A Vision of Endless Possibilities for Changing the World. Retrieved from https://www.ucc.org/news/a-vision-of-endless-possibilities-for-changing-the-world_06212019*