
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL



217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559
www.uccmedina.org Email: office@uccmedina.org

*****Assisted Listening Devices Available – Please Ask Your Usher*****

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 “O Perfect Love” – Joseph Barnby/arr. Janet Linker 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 (inspired by Deuteronomy 30:15-20)

Leader: God has set before us life and death.

People: We long to choose life.

Leader: God has set before us blessings and curses.

People: We long to choose blessings.

Leader: So we gather this morning for worship.

People: We gather to form the body of Christ and remind ourselves of who we follow.

Leader: Let us breathe together, In. Out.

People: Let us worship God with joy!

*OPENING HYMN

“O Perfect Love”

WORDS: Dorothy F. Gurney (1858-1932), alt.
MUSIC: Joseph Barnby (1838-1896)

○ PERFECT LOVE
11.10.11.10.

1 O per - fect Love, all hu - man thought tran - scend - ing,
 2 O per - fect Life, be now their full as - sur - ance
 3 Grant them the joy which bright - ens earth - ly sor - row;

low - ly we kneel in prayer be - fore your throne,
 of ten - der char - i - ty and stead - fast faith,
 grant them the peace which calms all earth - ly strife,

that theirs may be the love which knows no end - ing,
 of pa - tient hope and qui - et, brave en - dur - ance,
 and to life's day the glo - rious un - known mor - row

whom you for - ev - er - more u - nite in one.
 with child - like trust that fears no pain or death.
 that dawns up - on e - ter - nal love and life.

PRAYER RESPONSE

"Creating God, Your Fingers Trace" (vs. 3)

3. Re - deem - ing God, your arms em - brace all
 now de - spised for creed or race; let peace, de - scend - ing
 like a dove, make known on earth your heal - ing love.

WORDS: Jeffery Rowthorn, 1974

MUSIC: Thomas Tallis, 1561

TALLIS' CANON

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SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 and Matthew 5:21-37

Dorothe Edinger, Liturgist

SERMON

"Right Relationships"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offertory Invitation

This offering time will be a little different. We'll pass the plate as is our habit, but in this time, we can praise our neighbor. An offer of positive words and a celebration of right relationships.

Offertory Music

"Prayer" – Sylvia Riggs

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 (unison)**

Holy One, thank you for our loved ones. All of them. Those who are with us. Those who are far from us, but close in our hearts. Those who have gone home to you, who await us at your great banquet, yes even hold our enemies. May what we offer today work to bring our awareness to your great banquet set in our world. Places where heaven kisses earth and it is here, as it is there. In your many Holy Names, we pray. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

"They'll Know We Are Christians"

WORDS and MUSIC: Peter Scholtes (1938-); para. John 13:35

Words and Music © 1966, 1967 F.E.L. Publications. Assigned 1991 Lorenz Publishing Company



1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come.



We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
And all praise to Christ Je - sus, his on - ly Son.



And we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored.
And to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
And we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride.
And all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one.



And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our love.



Yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

***BENEDICTION** (A New Creed, United Church of Canada, 1968)

Leader: We are not alone,

People: **we live in God's world.**

Leader: We believe in God:

People: **who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,**

to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

Leader: We trust in God. We are called to be the Church:

People: to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

Leader: In life, in death, in life beyond death,

People: God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

***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** "Grand Triumphal March" – Guilman/arr. Mark L. Williams 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 the **Soup Cook off** in Fellowship Hall following the service***
Proceeds go towards the summer youth trip*

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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 16, 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 16, 2020 thru February 23, 2020

WEEK AT A GLANCE

- 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 Soup/Chili Fundraiser
11:30 am Caring Team
2:00 pm JMM @ Medina Meadows
3:00 pm Confirmation Class
- Mon** CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
- Tues** 10:00 am GIFT CARD ORDERS DUE
2:00 pm Tuesdays @ 2:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Stewardship Team
- Wed** 10:30 am Quilters
6:15 pm Youth Bell Choir practice
6:45 pm Adult Bell Choir practice
7:00 pm Discipleship & Education Team
- Thurs** Garfield Deliveries
7:00 pm Financial Peace University
- Fri** 1:30 pm JMM @ Evergreen
- Sat** 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal
- Sun** FOUNDERS DAY
9:00 am Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Founders Day Worship
ONE SERVICE ONLY
11:30 am ALL CHURCH BRUNCH
2:00 pm JMM @ Medina Meadows
Sing-a-long
2:00 pm Sunday Church Bowling League
7:00 pm JMM @ WRMC

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

Scriptures: Deuteronomy 30:15-20
and Matthew 5:21-37

Sermon: “Right Relationships”
Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are given this week by Syd & Pete Benson in honor of their 55th wedding anniversary.

**The church office will be closed on
Monday, February 17th in observance of
President’s Day**

TODAY!! SOUP COOK OFF

Please plan on staying after church for our annual soup cook off. Come taste all the yummy soups and vote on your favorites. It is a fun day where the winner will be awarded the Golden Ladle. Come join us for some great fellowship and friendly competition. All the proceeds will go to our youth trip this summer.

POTLUCK BRUNCH February 23rd @ 11:00 am

COME JOIN US FOR POTLUCK BRUNCH
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD

FOLLOWING THE 10:00 AM 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!

Upcoming Youth Events:

- *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
- *March 1 – 3rd Grade Bible Class 9:30-10:15
- *March 1 – Youth Group 4:00-6:00
- *March 6-8 – Confirmation Retreat

“SOUPER” BOWL SUNDAY THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who brought in a can of soup and/or money for “Souper” Bowl. Together we collected 100 cans of soup for the Food Pantry at the Methodist Church and \$100 to help feed our Garfield families. Thank you for helping those in need right here in Medina.

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.

GIFT CARD ORDERS

Plan ahead now for Special Occasions and place your Gift Card order soon. Please see the Yellow Retailer List in the rack outside the church office or visit www.glscrip.com and click on the Retailer List on the left side to view or print your own list. Complete a Green Order Form, also available in the rack by the church office and return to Kelly or Stacie with payment.

The next order will be due a day later on Tuesday, February 18th at 10:00 am.

LENTEN SCHEDULE 2020

February 26th – **Ash Wednesday Service**
UCC, Congregational – 7:00 pm

March 4th – April 1st
WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT
6:00pm Dinner & Lenten Worship
“HALF/TRUTHS”

April 2nd – **Women’s Fellowship Lenten Luncheon** 12pm – 2pm

April 5th – **Palm Sunday** Palm Parade 10:30am

April 9th – **Maundy Thursday** 7:00pm
First Christian Church
4797 Sharon-Copley Rd.

April 10th – **GOOD FRIDAY**
OFFICE CLOSED @ NOON

April 10th – **Good Friday service** - 7:00pm
UCC, Congregational, Chapel

April 11th – **Easter Egg Hunt** 1:00pm
First Christian Church
4797 Sharon-Copley Rd.

April 13th - **Easter Monday** – OFFICE CLOSED

Easter Services: April 12, 2020



7:00 am Sunrise – **Spring Grove Cemetery Chapel**
8:15 am – **UCC Chapel**
9:00 am – **Fellowship Hall**
10:30 am – **Sanctuary**

BOARD GAME NIGHT

Friday, February 21, 2020 – 6-9 pm
in Rooms 9 & 10

Come challenge fellow board game enthusiasts for a Friday 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.

Bicentennial Tidbits: 6-11-2019 Historical Marker Dedication



BICENTENNIAL “TIME CAPSULE” LAST CHANCE!

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.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 26th - 7:00 p.m. Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

The Lenten season begins with the annual Ash Wednesday service. Lent is the 40 day season prior to Easter (not including Sundays) that has been observed by Christians since ancient times. During this season, through prayer and reflection, Christians prepare their hearts and lives to receive the risen Christ on Easter morning.

For several years Medina UCC and First Christian have joined together for the Ash Wednesday worship experience. Medina UCC is hosting the service in our sanctuary this year. During the service participants are invited to receive on their foreheads, if they desire, the mark of the cross in ashes. The ashes are a sign of our mortality and penitence. Holy Communion, as a symbol of God's deep love, is also offered. The service is for the whole family.



2020 LENTEN DINNERS & WORSHIP

6:00 pm Wednesdays ** March 4th – April 1st MMA Lenten Series: Half/Truths

Based on the series by Adam Hamilton: They sound Christian—like something you might find in the Bible. We've all heard these words. Maybe we've said them. They capture some element of truth, yet they miss the point in important ways.

Join local area churches in searching for the whole truth by comparing common Christian clichés to the message and ministry of Jesus. The clichés include:

- March 4** - **St. Paul's** - Love the sinner, hate the sin.
- March 11** - **Medina UCC** - God said it, I believe it, that settles it.
- March 18** - **First Christian** - God won't give you more than you can handle.
- March 25** - **St. Matthew's** - God helps those who help themselves.
- April 1** - **Medina Presbyterian** - Everything happens for a reason.
- April 10** - **On the Square of Medina** - Good Friday - Stations of the Cross

Free will offering will go to the MMA Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship.

A BIRTHDAY GIFT TO THE CHURCH

As we conclude our Bicentennial celebration the Endowment Committee is inviting you to consider giving a

BIRTHDAY GIFT

to the Endowment Fund to honor this special time. We invite you to be a wise builder as we would read in 1 Corinthians 3:10

"I laid a foundation like a wise master builder...but someone else is building on top of it. Each person needs to pay attention to the way they build on it"

Won't you consider making a gift to the Endowment Fund? Just as others built this church for us, so we become builders for the future church on the Square.

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*******

Matthew 5:21-37

From the Heart

Today's scripture contains some of the most challenging sayings of Jesus. Not only does Jesus implore us to take care with our behavior, we are even challenged to watch our thoughts. What if we were able to recognize Christ's forgiveness extends even to the violence of our thoughts?

Try this guided meditation as a place to start that radical forgiveness.

Imagine a beautiful hill and imagine yourself climbing it, never tired in your body, never tired of looking around at this gorgeous place....

Now imagine that you get to the top of the hill, and the view of the valleys and plains around you opens up. You can see a long way. Imagine that the place spread before you is the country of your inner life....

It is populated with all the people you have known and every place you have ever been and everything you have ever done. As you look over it, you can see it at a distance, yet you can see it all clearly....

Take a few moments to locate someone precious, or something that brings you joy, or someplace that brings you peace from sometime in your life. Enjoy your memories and feelings as you look upon that beloved person, object or place....

Now turn your gaze. Somewhere in the vast country of your inner life, there is something that still feels out of place. Somewhere is stored those thoughts that bring you regret.

From your safe place, high on the hill, you can look upon those thoughts with fresh eyes. You can see them for what they are – one part of the country of your inner life, not the whole of it....

Look at it from this distance and with this clarity. See again how the thing you thought, that once seemed so huge, is only one place in the country of your inner life, one part of all the vastness that you have seen and known....

Allow yourself to imagine how it would change the geography of the country of your life if you were to recognize that Christ forgives the thing that needs forgiving....

Would the thing change in shape or color? Would it reflect or absorb the light in a different way?

Would it become smaller? Would it disappear altogether, leaving room for something new?...

Allow yourself to know that it is already forgiven by a God whose love is more powerful than any human thought....

Notice if anything in you has changed. You might notice that you feel lighter now....

You might feel more satisfied about the future of the country of your life – ready for whatever lies ahead. Renewed, you return back down the hill. You might find yourself walking more quickly now – almost running, your feet almost flying off the ground...

You might want to journal about your experience of entering this meditation, or share it with friends or a spiritual guide like your pastor. Does imagining Christ's forgiveness help it seem closer to you?