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# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

[www.uccmedina.org](http://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 “Prelude from Three Short Moods for Lent” – A. Okolo-Kulaks Cathy Fafrak, Organist

\*CHORAL INTROIT

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (from *Prayers for an Inclusive Church, 2009* found on the Anglican Church of Canada website)

Leader: God of the Wilderness,

People: **Your Spirit leads us to face the truth, unprotected and exposed:**

Leader: In our times of trial,

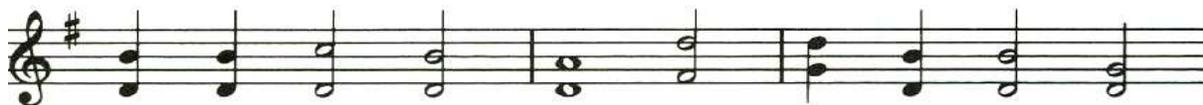
People: **Help us to resist the worship of empty power, so that we may find our true food in Jesus Christ, the broken bread. Amen.**

\*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

**\*CONFESSION** (confession and assurance written by Nancy Townley and posted on the Worship Connection page of [www.ministrymatters.com](http://www.ministrymatters.com))

Lord, you know how easy it is for us to sit here, tethered to our darkness and fear. We get bound up by chains of mistrust. We dare not to hope, for so many times before we have been disappointed. So we sit here and wonder where you are. We are not unlike the disciples who wondered also. Who feared.

Lord, come to us in our darkness. Flood us with your powerful light of love and mercy. Help open our eyes to the good news of your eternal glory. Give to us visions of the place where love and hope will reign. Forgive our stubborn resistance to your mercy and love. For we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

**\*ASSURANCE**

Leader: Let the light of God's eternal love flood into your hearts this day.  
 Feel the healing presence of God in your lives.  
 Accept God's love and hope for you.

People: This is the gift freely given to us by Jesus Christ, God's risen Son, our Lord. Amen.

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

**ANTHEM** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" – arr. By Mark Hayes

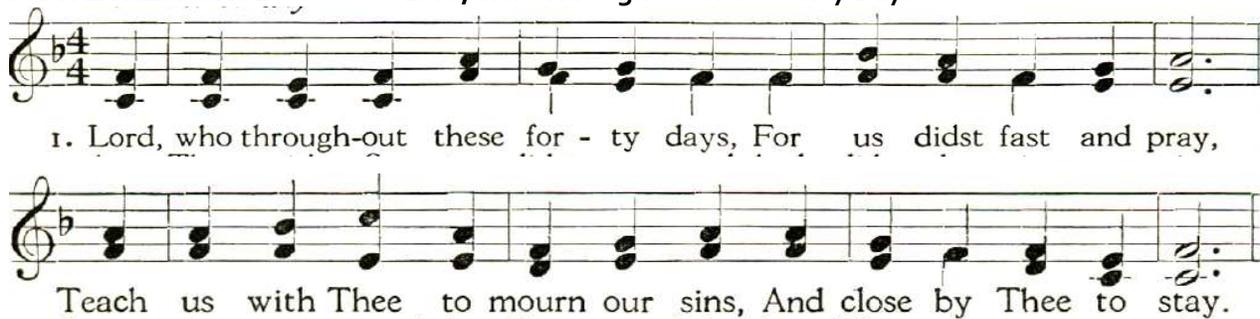
Chancel Choir

**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 "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"**


1. Lord, who through-out these for - ty days, For us didst fast and pray,  
Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins, And close by Thee to stay.

ST. FLAVIAN  
*Day's Psalter*, 1562 CLAUDIA F. HERNAMAN, 1873

**SCRIPTURE** Psalm 32 and Matthew 4: 1-11

Deb Waldron, Liturgist

**SERMON** "Look for the Resister"

Rev. Luke Lindon

**OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS****Offering Invitation**

Our last worship series, we asked, "Who are you?" If you have an answer, tell a neighbor while the offering is collected. If you would like to write your mission statement on a slip of paper and offer it, you are free to do that as well. Will the ushers please come forward?

**Offertory Music** "Lonesome Valley" – arr. Edward L. Good

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**

It is so easy to fill ourselves with other things, to pursue the love of money, to follow vain desires. In a world of great inequality, give us thankful acceptance of the gift of life, and recognition of the common wealth of sharing. Holy One, help us resist as you did. 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

### "Seek Ye First"

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of three systems of music. The first system contains two verses of lyrics. The second system continues the lyrics. The third system concludes with a double bar line and includes the 'Alleluia' refrain. The music is in the key of D major (two sharps) and 2/2 time. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal lines.

1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God and his  
2. Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and

righ-teous - ness, and all these things shall be  
ye shall find; knock, and the door shall be

add-ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!  
o-pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: Karen Lafferty, 1972 (Mt. 6:33; 7:7)

MUSIC: Karen Lafferty, 1972

© 1972 Maranatha! Music

SEEK YE  
Irr.

**\*BENEDICTION**

Leader: Holy One of Blessing! Grant us strength to be part of a holy uprising

People: **A resistance against the forces of destruction**

Leader: For we stand in witness of the unity of Creation.

People: **Grant us patience to work well with others.**

Leader: Grant us wisdom to practice self-care

People: **So we may travel through this wilderness with you**

Leader: May God grant you clarity between right and wrong.

People: **May Christ grant us courage from our ancestors who walked with You and inspiration from our children who reach toward Your love.**

Leader: May Your Spirit open our hearts and the words of Your prophets move our feet.

People: **One God forever and ever! 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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\*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 **Diane Stoll.***

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**PASTORAL STAFF**

Rev. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister – email: [luke@uccmedina.org](mailto:luke@uccmedina.org)

**OFFICE STAFF**

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager – email: [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)  
Kelly Charnley, Financial Manager – email: [financial@uccmedina.org](mailto: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

## MARCH 1, 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](http://uccmedina.org)

March 1, 2020 thru March 8, 2020

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

<b>Sun</b>	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	9:15 am	Choir Rehearsal
	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Class</b>
	10:30 am	Traditional Worship
	<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Mission Team</b>
	4:00 pm	Youth Group
<b>Mon</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Evangelism Team</b>
<b>Tues</b>	6:30 pm	Bible Study
<b>Wed</b>	10:30 am	Quilters
	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Lenten Dinner &amp; Worship</b> <b>St. Paul's Episcopal Church</b> 317 E. Liberty St.
	6:15 pm	Youth Bell Choir
	6:45 pm	Adult Bell Choir
<b>Thurs</b>	Garfield Deliveries	
	7:00 pm	Financial Peace University
<b>Fri</b>	<b>WORLD DAY OF PRAYER</b> <b>Confirmation Overnight Retreat</b> <b>@ Tempel Hills</b>	
	1:30 pm	JMM @ Evergreen
<b>Sat</b>		
<b>Sun</b>	<b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS @ 2am</b>	
	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	9:15 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:30 am	Traditional Worship
	<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Second Sunday Safety Team</b>
	2:00 pm	“Lousy Bowlers”

### TIME CAPSULE CONTENTS

The contents of the Time Capsule are plentiful and interesting! If you would like to see a listing of the contents, there are some lists in the rack outside the church office. Feel free to pick one up!

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

Scriptures: Matthew 4:1-11  
Psalm 32

Sermon: “Look for the Resister”  
Rev. Luke Lindon

**Altar Flowers:** The altar flowers are given this week by Hope Wilder in honor of her family.

### COMMUNION

The bread being served during Communion today was baked by the loving hands of our Breadmakers' Ministry.

*“And though we are many, we all eat from one loaf of bread, showing that we are one body.”*  
- Corinthians 10:17

### Upcoming Youth Events:

- \*March 1 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Class 9:30-10:15
- \*March 1 – Youth Group 4:00-6:00
- \*March 6-8 – Confirmation Retreat
- \*March 13-14 – Elementary Youth Lock-In  
7:30 pm – 9:00 am
- \*March 15 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Class 9:30-10:15
- \*March 22 – Confirmation 3:00-4:30
- \*March 29 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Class 9:30-10:15

### LENTEN SOUP & SALAD DINNER

We are hosting the Lenten Soup and Salad Dinner Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Please sign up to bring a crock pot of soup, salad topping and/or brownies/cookies to the event. Please have your crock pot of soup to the church no later than 5 pm. Sign-up sheets are available in the East Room. A service will follow at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

## **ANNUAL EASTER BAG PROJECT**

### **CALLING ALL PEOPLE WITH A HEART FOR KIDS:**

Our Congregation will continue the beloved tradition of providing Easter Bags to the children of incarcerated people in Medina County and we can only do it with your help. We are looking for volunteers to help make phone calls, organize the supplies and bags, and deliver the bags on April 11th. The family and children have loved this ministry every year. Sign-ups are available and you can contact Ryan Collins for more information: [rpcollins1@gmail.com](mailto:rpcollins1@gmail.com) or 330-321-7028.

### **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 15<sup>th</sup> before and after the 10:30 service in the East Room. If you have questions, please contact Beth Hari or Darlene Fazekas.

### **GARFIELD HUNGER SUPPORT PROGRAM:**

Thank you all for providing menu donations, and delivery driving. GHSP appreciates this very much. Visit the GHSP table in the upper hallway, next to the elevator. Menu, sign-up sheets, and delivery driver sign-up sheets are posted for the "Current week" and for the "Upcoming week". Sign up occurs Sunday - Thursday by 1:00pm. ***When signing up on the menu sheets, please take note of the DATE signing up for, and what items to bring in. "REMINDER" slips are set with the sheets for your convenience. \*Please note that any and all perishables have an expiration date. All donations need to be dropped off by Thursday at 1:00 pm.***

Deliveries are every Thursday afternoon, and there are open routes available.

Please consider driving as schedules allow. Questions or more information...please contact Alice Metzloff. Email and phone number are in the directory.

## **LENTEN SCHEDULE 2020**

March 4<sup>th</sup> - April 1<sup>st</sup>

### **WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT**

6:00pm Dinner & Lenten Worship

### **"HALF/TRUTHS"**

April 2<sup>nd</sup> - **Women's Fellowship Lenten Luncheon** 12pm - 2pm

April 5<sup>th</sup> - **Palm Sunday** Palm Parade 10:30am

April 9<sup>th</sup> - **Maundy Thursday** 7:00pm

First Christian Church

4797 Sharon-Copley Rd.

April 10<sup>th</sup> - **GOOD FRIDAY**

OFFICE CLOSED @ NOON

April 10<sup>th</sup> - **Good Friday service** - 7:00pm

UCC, Congregational, Chapel

April 11<sup>th</sup> - **Easter Egg Hunt** 1:00pm

First Christian Church

4797 Sharon-Copley Rd.

April 13<sup>th</sup> - **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**

### **NEXT BOARD GAME NIGHT!**

**Saturday, March 21, 2020 - 6-9 pm  
in the Community Room**

Our Board Game Nights have been quite successful! Come challenge fellow board game enthusiasts for a Saturday 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.

# 2020 LENTEN DINNERS & WORSHIP

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## 6:00 pm Wednesdays \*\* March 4<sup>th</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup> 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** - "Love the sinner, hate the sin." - St. Paul's Episcopal (317 E. Liberty St)

**March 11** - "God said it, I believe it, that settles it." - Medina UCC (217 E. Liberty St)

**March 18** - "God won't give you more than you can handle." - First Christian Church  
(4797 Sharon Copley Rd)

**March 25** - "God helps those who help themselves." - St. Matthew Lutheran  
(400 N. Broadway St)

**April 1** - "Everything happens for a reason." - Medina Presbyterian (5020 Burgundy Bay Blvd)

**April 10** - Good Friday – Worship in UCC Chapel 7:00 pm

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

## SIGN UP TO WRITE FOR GOSPEL GALLEY!

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The adage states "The pen is mightier than the sword"! How true. GOSPEL GALLEY Meditations is looking for writers. ALL THREE SERVICES ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. March dates have been posted on the Sign Up Bulletin Board outside of the Sacristy. The first and third Sundays are signed up for on a regular basis. INTERESTED? No special requirements needed! Topics are unlimited! Minimum Criteria: Clean verbiage, 350 words count maximum, and the deadline article submission is due into the church office is Sunday evening by 5:00pm, the week ahead of the actual Sunday signed up for. Sundays where there has been no sign up, means no Gospel Galley that week. APRIL and MAY Sign Up sheets posted. Questions/more info...contact Alice Metzloff. Email and phone number are in the directory.

## SCAMS TARGET SENIORS

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- Unexpected calls or emails that claim to be from the government or a utility asking or demanding payment. If this were true you would get letter in the mail. This is a scam.
- Emails or calls that say you've won a prize or gift but must pay a fee to receive it. If this were true you would get a letter. If this were true there would be no fees. This is a scam.
- Requests that you use unusual means to submit payment, such as putting money on pre-paid gift cards, wiring money or sending money by courier. If this were true you will never be asked to do this. This is a scam.
- Request for bank account, checking account, ATM or credit card numbers. The bank already has this information and won't ask you to give it again.
- The individual pressures you to act immediately or expresses urgency when you ask for additional information. No! This is NOT your grandchild. This is a scam.

We are in the season of Lent! The lectionary for Lent offers many images of where love, grace, forgiveness, righteousness and healing can really be found. And it's not in the "usual places." We often look for love in the wrong places that only offer a temporary satisfaction. Lent is a wonderful time to re-assess where we are searching for meaning, for redemption. We'll move through our sacred stories to find out who offers the real deal. The worship series, "Looking for Love in all the Wrong Places" will help us look for love by looking for:

- March 1: Look for the Resister
- March 8: Look for the Helper
- March 15: Look for the Thirst-Quencher
- March 22: Look for the Shepherd
- March 29: Look for Liberation
- April 5: Look for the Unexpected
- April 12: Easter Sunday! Looking in all the Wrong Places

Jim continues his game nights in the community room from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m.! Hope you'll come out!



Another series we traditionally do during Lent is to worship with other churches in the Medina Ministerial Association. The theme this year is entitled, "Half-Truth: Things the Bible Doesn't Say" which is 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 our fellow churches each Wednesday in searching for the whole truth by comparing common Christian clichés to the message and ministry of Jesus. We will begin with dinner at 6:00 pm and follow with worship at 7:00 pm.

3/4	St. Paul's	Beth Frank	Love the sinner, hate the sin
3/11	Medina UCC	Luke Lindon	God said it, I believe it, that settles it.
3/18	FCC	Laura Fitt-Baird	God won't give you more than you can handle.
3/25	St. Matt's	Bill Diehm	God helps those who help themselves
4/1	Medina Prez	Henry Pierce	Everything happens for a reason

There is plenty more, but that's what I'm working on at the present. I will also be away for spring break with my family as well as to attend an Art of Hosting training in Washington D.C. for my doctorate. I'm really looking forward to both! More on that in the next pastor's corner!

Psalm 32 (NIV Student Bible translation)

**"Blessed** is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. **Blessed is the man whose sin** the Lord does not count against him, and in whose spirit is no deceit.

**While I kept silent**, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night **your hand was heavy upon me**; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then, I **acknowledged my sin** to you, and I did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will **confess my transgressions to the Lord**," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Therefore **let everyone who is godly pray** to you while you may be found; surely when the mighty waters rise...they will not reach him. **You are my hiding place, you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance**. I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. **Do not be like a horse or a mule, which has no understanding**, whose temper must be controlled by bit and bridle, or they will not come to you.

Many are the woes of the wicked, but **the Lord's unfailing love surrounds the man who trusts in Him**. **Rejoice** in the Lord and **be glad**, you righteous; **Sing**, all you who are upright in heart. "

Psalm 32 has a very pointed message. The season of Lent is a time for us to reflect on what God gave... "His only begotten son, so that who-so-ever believeth in him will not perish, but have everlasting, abundant life."

Will we be needing a bit and bridle to learn how He will make us new? Hope not! So...SING!

Magnify! Attest! Rejoice! Cue in! Hosanna!

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**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](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)**

**\*\*\*\*\*CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm MONDAY THRU FRIDAY\*\*\*\*\***

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March 1, 2020  
First Sunday in Lent  
*UCC Women's Week, March 1-7*

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Matthew 4:1-11

**Abundant Grace**

It's the first Sunday in Lent, the season when we act in deliberate ways to help us move closer to God. You may have learned that Lent is a time to give something up, but it can also be a time to take something on. Maybe this is the year you will take on a new commitment to faithful learning and activism. If so, consider registering now for Ecumenical Advocacy Days ([advocacydays.org](http://advocacydays.org)), coming up in Washington DC on April 24-27, 2020.

Every April more than a thousand Christians, including many in the United Church of Christ, descend on Washington DC for Ecumenical Advocacy Days. According to their website ([advocacydays.org](http://advocacydays.org)), this "...is a movement of the ecumenical Christian community, and its recognized partners and allies, grounded in biblical witness and our shared traditions of justice, peace and the integrity of creation." The goal of Ecumenical Advocacy Days is, "...through worship, theological reflection and opportunities for learning and witness, is to strengthen our Christian voice and to mobilize for advocacy on a wide variety of U.S. domestic and international policy issues." The United Church of Christ and Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are proud to be sponsors of this important weekend of learning, prayer and action.

This year, the theme of Ecumenical Advocacy Days (EAD) is "Imagine! God's Earth and People Restored."

"Temperatures are rising dramatically and dangerously everywhere, disrupting ecological systems and every type of human activity. The generations of tomorrow depend on what we do today. EAD 2020 will explore the intersection of climate change and economic injustice. This will galvanize our advocacy on behalf of policies and programs to chip away at the systems of oppression that keep people in poverty and push all life on earth to the brink of destruction.

...Churches continue to respond actively to the climate crisis with disaster relief to support low-income communities and ecosystems most impacted by climate-related disasters. They are also working to build resilient and sustainable communities and economies that can create jobs and prevent future disasters. Churches are partnering with youth, indigenous communities, civil and human rights organizations, the international community, and others to address inequality and strengthen the movement for climate justice."\*

\*"2020 National Gathering." Ecumenical Advocacy Days. <https://advocacydays.org/2020-imagine-gods-earth-people-restored/>