
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL



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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 “My Song Is Love Unknown” – setting, Michael Burkhardt 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** (written by Leonard Sweet referencing Psalm 95:6, Psalm 24:1 and Isaiah 9:2)

Leader: O come let us worship and lift our hearts . . .
People: Not because the world is good and last week was awesome,
Leader: but because the earth is the Lord’s and everything in it,
People: the God of the whole Earth.
Leader: O come let us worship and raise our hands . . .
People: Not because our lives are all sweetness and light,
Leader: But because even those who walk in darkness
People: can see a great light,
Leader: the Bright and Morning Star
People: O come let us worship and bow down . . .
Leader: Not because God gives us what we want,
People: But because God gives us what we need –
Leader: the holy child Jesus, God’s Unspeakable Gift.



1. Shall we gath-er at the riv - er, where bright an-gel feet have
 2. On the mar-gin of the riv - er, wash-ing up its sil - ver
 3. Ere we reach the shin-ing riv - er, lay we ev-ery bur-den
 4. Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv - er, soon our pil-grim-age will



trod, with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow-ing
 spray, we will walk and wor-ship ev - er, all the
 down; grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro -
 cease; soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the



by the throne of God?
 hap - py gold - en day. Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er,
 vide a robe and crown.
 mel - o - dy of peace.



the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er; gath - er with the



saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

WORDS: Robert Lowry, 1864 (Rev. 22:1-5)
 MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1864

HANSON PLACE
 87.87 with Refrain

***OPENING PRAYER (unison)** (written by Ann Siddall and posted on the **Stillpoint Spirituality Centre** website. <https://stillpointsa.org.au/>)

O God, help us to use this season of Lent to examine our attachments, and to sense where You invite us to live more simply and deeply.

Shine the light of Your love into the private corners of our lives where we have acquired so much clutter that it has begun to restrict our freedom.

Grant us the strength to free ourselves from appetites and needs that drive us into taking, having and wanting more than we need or have time for.

Teach us that in letting go we become free, rather than deprived, generous rather than covetous, and spacious rather than restricted.

We offer You our Lenten observance, and today we place our feet on the road to Easter, and walk the Way that You have walked before us. Amen.

***PRAISE RESPONSE** "Shall We Gather at the River" (Sing the Refrain Only)

ANTHEM "As the Deer" – Words and Music by Martin Nystrom; Chancel Choir
Choral Setting by Buryl Red

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 "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

The image shows a musical score for the prayer response "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness". It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first staff contains the melody and lyrics: "Spir - it, spir - it of gen - tle-ness, blow through the". The second staff contains the bass line and lyrics: "wil - der-ness, call - ing and free,". Chord symbols are placed above and below the staves: D, G, A, Dsus4, D, Bm, E7, Asus7, and A7.



1. Where cross the crowd-ed ways of life, where sound the
2. In haunts of wretch-ed - ness and need, on shad-owed
3. From ten - der child-hood's help - less - ness, from wom-an's
4. The cup of wa - ter given for you still holds the
5. O Mas-ter, from the moun - tain - side make haste to
6. Till all the world shall learn , your love and fol - low



cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of
thresh-olds dark with fears, from paths where hide the
grief, man's bur - dened toil, from fam - ished souls, from
fresh- ness of your grace; yet long these mul - ti -
heal these hearts of pain; a - mong these rest - less
where your feet have trod, till, glo - rious from your



self - ish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of man.
lures of greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.
sor - row's stress, your heart has nev - er known re - coil.
tudes to view the sweet com - pas - sion of your face.
throngs a - bide; O tread the cit - y's streets a - gain,
heaven a - bove, shall come the cit - y of our God!

***BENEDICTION** (by Kevin Anderson, *Noble Nature; Meditations on the abundant wisdom of creation*, CLB Press. 2014.)

Leader: Noble River, cracking up again

People: **at spring's retelling of the only joke she knows**

Leader: Your floe revealing

People: **The flow that through the season of death never ceased below your hardened surface**

Leader: Your energy swelling now

People: **RISING**

Leader: Spilling over your banks
People: Littering the forest floor with shards,
Leader: Fragments of a shattered spell—
People: Teach us how to be in this world. 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** "Concerto in a minor (1st Movt.) – Vivaldi/Bach/arr. VD Thompson
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 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

MARCH 15, 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

March 15, 2020 thru March 22, 2020

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	Third Sunday in Lent 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 11:45 am Caring Team 2:00 pm JMM @ Medina Meadows
Mon	10:00 am GIFT CARD ORDERS DUE
Tues	2:00 pm Tuesdays @ 2:00 Bible Study
Wed	10:30 am Quilters 6:00 pm Lenten Dinner & Worship “Half Truths” @ First Christian Church 6:15 pm Youth Bell Choir Practice 6:45 pm Adult Bell Choir Practice 7:00 pm Discipleship & Education Team
Thurs	Garfield Deliveries
Fri	1:30 pm JMM @ Evergreen
Sat	5:00 pm Game Night
Sun	One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Pastor Luke – vacation thru March 27 Fourth Sunday in Lent 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 2:00 pm JMM @ Medina Meadows Sing-a-long 2:00 pm “Lousy Bowlers” League 2:50 pm Jr. & Sr. Youth Outing to Sky Zone (meet at church) 3:00 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm JMM @ WRMC

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

Scriptures: John 4:1-30

Sermon: “Look for the Thirst Quencher”
Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are given this week by Syd & Pete Benson celebrating their twin grandson’s 12th birthdays (3/17).

Upcoming Youth Events:

*March 15 – 3rd Grade Bible Class 9:30-10:15

*March 22 – Confirmation 3:00-4:30

*March 29 – 3rd Grade Bible Class 9:30-10:15

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and development activities. Our gifts become part of a loving legacy in ways we can’t foresee. Our gifts become blessings to people we don’t know and blesses in ways we can’t expect. We can make a difference more than we can imagine. On March 22, 2020, give with thanks and with joy!

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

LENTEN SCHEDULE 2020

- March 4th – April 1st - **"HALF/TRUTHS"**
WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT
6:00pm Dinner & Lenten Worship
- April 2nd – **Women's Fellowship Lenten Luncheon & Communion**
Speaker: Karen Leidy
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**

Congratulations!

Steve & Jane Anderson have a new granddaughter. Elsie Jane Abernathy was born on 2/18/20.

WOMEN'S LENTEN LUNCHEON

The Annual Women's Fellowship Lenten Luncheon will be held on Thursday, April 2nd from 12-2 pm in Fellowship Hall. Please come and join us for this special event and bring a dish to share. Our speaker will be Karen Leidy and she will extend communion. Please sign-up in the East Room so we can plan on seating.

EASTER LILY ORDERS

It's time to order your Easter Lily! If you would like to place a lily on the altar in honor or memory of someone, please fill out a yellow order form found in the rack by the church office (or you may ask an usher for a form) and return it to the church office no later than March 30th.

CIRCLE OF CARING MEMBERS TRIP

Here is a great opportunity to get together and learn what is available to senior members of our community. On Friday March 27th, a senior transit bus will come to our church at 11:00 am. and take 14 Circle of Caring members and their friends to the senior center for lunch made at the center. A tour and information about transit day trips will be available. The cost of the lunch is \$4.00 and the cost of the round trip bus trip is \$2.00. Payment must be made by 3/22 to Syd Benson, Jackie Smith or Cindy Korecky. If you know of a senior hesitant to use the bus, bring them along. A sign up for this event will be in the East Room on Sundays starting March 8th and on 3/15 and 3/22. **The deadline is March 22nd**. You can also sign up by phone to the church or in the office on weekdays.

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 on Monday March 16th at 10:00 am.

NEXT BOARD GAME NIGHT!

Saturday, March 21, 2020 – 5-9 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.

Can't make it this time??? Our next game night will be on Saturday, April 11th from 5-9 pm.

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 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)

*A free will offering will be taken each week and will go to the
MMA Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship.*

SENIOR SPOT

- One in three older adults will fall this year.
- An older Ohioan is injured in a fall every five minutes on average.
- Two older Ohioans are hospitalized each hour.
- Three older Ohioans die each day because of a fall-related injury.

Save these dates for our upcoming balance class: April 15th – June 3rd from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.
Class will be free if 8 people finish it. Sign up on the bulletin board beginning March 22nd.

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*****

John 4:5-42

Thirsty Voices

Your people are thirsty for justice, Holy God. Hear our cry.

On this *Amistad Sunday*, we remember those who thirsted for justice aboard the slave ship *Amistad*. We remember how women, children and men were stolen from their homes, were loaded like cargo onto a ship, were mocked and tortured. We remember the horrors of that terrible voyage and we say never again will the cry for justice go unanswered.

Your people are thirsty for justice, Holy God. Hear our cry.

We remember how those imprisoned aboard the *Amistad* were strangers to each other, and did not even speak the same language, yet still worked together to plan and execute an escape. We remember how the prisoners took control of the ship. We remember how the ship *Amistad* was then captured a second time, and how those children of God were imprisoned once again, this time on American soil. We remember the indignity of imprisonment and we say never again will the cry for justice go unanswered.

Your people are thirsty for justice, Holy God. Hear our cry.

We remember how a legal battle then began, to send those imprisoned on the *Amistad* home to the African soil from which they had been stolen. We remember those, many of them our ancestors in faith, who worked for justice both from within and outside of prison bars. We remember those who have fought for freedom from unjust confinement and we say never again will the cry for justice go unanswered.

Your people are thirsty for justice, Holy God. Hear our cry.

We remember and give thanks for these, our ancestors in faith who fought for freedom from sea and land. We celebrate their courage and we honor their dedication. We join them here and now as we say with one voice that never again will the cry for justice go unanswered.

Your people are thirsty for justice, Holy God. Hear our cry, now and forever. Amen.

Find out more about the *Amistad* case of 1839 at the National Archives:
<https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/amistad>