
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

www.uccmedina.org



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

LIVESTREAMING 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

Take a moment to think about the people who sit beside, behind, and in front of you in church. Connect with them by phone, email, or text to pass the peace of Christ and offer support and encouragement. Write "Peace" on our Facebook live or turn to someone in your house and offer peace.

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 (based on Psalm 23)

Leader: The Lord is my Shepherd

People: I shall not want.

Leader: I seek the grace of God and my cup runneth over

People: I seek the will of God and my cup runneth over

Leader: I seek the strength of God and my cup runneth over

People: How generous is God's love so much the world cannot contain it

Leader: The Lord is my Shepherd

People: and I lack nothing

Leader: Let us begin our worship,

People: Knowing that our God is with us here and now.

OPENING HYMN

"Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us" (vs. 1 & 2)



1. Sav-ior, like a shep-herd lead us, much we need thy ten-der care
 2. We are thine; do thou be- friend us; be the guard-ian of our way
 in thy pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use thy folds pre- pare.
 keep thy flock; from sin de- fend us; seek us when we go a- stray.
 Bless-ed Je- sus, bless-ed Je- sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are;
 Bless-ed Je- sus, bless-ed Je- sus, hear thy chil- dren when we pray;
 bless-ed Je- sus, bless-ed Je- sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.
 bless-ed Je- sus, bless-ed Je- sus, hear thy chil- dren when we pray.

WORDS: Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1836
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1859

BRADBURY
 87.87D

OPENING PRAYER (written by Jonny Baker, <http://jonnybaker.blogs.com/jonnybaker/2012/07/wake-up.html>)

God of justice, peace and righteousness come into our midst this morning.
 Breathe your breath, your Spirit of prophecy,
 your energy, your enlivening,
 your imagination on us.
 Wake us up
 Open our eyes
 Unplug our ears
 That we might hear
 That we might see
 That we might grieve
 That we might dream
 That we might follow the ways of your extraordinary kingdom
 Amen.

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

Pastoral Prayer (written by Rev Karla, and posted on RevGalBlogPals. <https://revgalblogpals.org/>)

Leader: Loving Shepherd,

People: You lead and guide, You walk alongside,

Leader: You prepare, you feed, you call,

People: all of your sheep, even those of us who are lost,

Leader: those of us who stray constantly, those of us who stay close to you.

People: We are grateful for the lush green pastures of our lives, and we pause now to offer our thanksgivings for the goodnesses in our lives...

Leader: There are so many who walk in the shadows of fear and suffering and despair,

People: and we pause now, to offer our prayers for the broken and bleeding places in this world...

Leader: We also offer our prayers for the sheep of our own flocks,

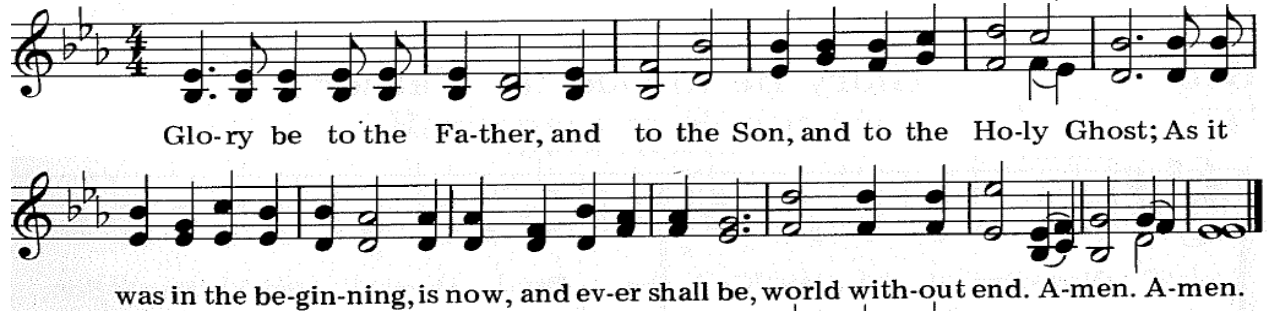
People: in our families and friends, in this our church and our community... *(pause)*

Leader: O Loving Shepherd,

People: We have all we need, as we live in You. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE**"Gloria Patri"**

Traditional/Henry W. Greatorex, 1851



Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost; As it
was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men. A-men.

SCRIPTURE

John 10:1-6, 11-18

SERMON

"Look for the Shepherd"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offertory Invitation

Leader: While we may not be together this Sunday, the work and mission of Medina UCC, Congregational continues. Our Garfield mission continues and your gifts will be used for that. Our Mission Team and their gifts to food ministries like CUPS and Feeding Medina County continue. Our recovery and support groups that are especially vital during these stressful times will continue to meet at the church. Our staff is still ministering to our beloved community and beyond. Please continue to financially support the church as we offer sanctuary and support to each other and the wider community. Mail your contribution to the church or give online through www.uccmedina.org/give. You can set up a recurring online gift that is a convenient way to provide consistent financial support to the church.
As we enter into this time of giving, let us pray:

People: Holy One, we your gathered flock give you this small offering for the sake of your larger flock, for you have other sheep than these.

Offering Meditation "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" – setting John Ness Beck

Prayer of Dedication

**Loving Shepherd, you know our names; you care for us.
When we face darkness and death, walk beside us.
When we hunger for your love, fill us with your presence.
When we are fearful, feed us at your table.
May what we offer help all dwell in the house of goodness and mercy all the days of our lives.
Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Leader: Holy God, you call us to be

People: your light in the darkness,

Leader: your voice

People: in the wilderness,

Leader: your hope

People: for the hopeless.

Leader: You give us strength in our weakness,

People: peace and gentleness, words and boldness,

Leader: to proclaim more of you

People: and less of us.

Leader: May your people depart in peace.

People: Knowing your justice is our peace.

Leader: My friends, the Good Shepherd has blessed you to be a blessing,

People: And this service has ended, 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.

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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Participating in the service

Rev. Luke Lindon, Sr. Pastor
Rev. Pam Branscome
Rev. Harry Buch
Cathy Fafrak, Organist
Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education
Jim Kiser, Director of Music

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Luke Lindon, Senior Pastor – 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
Joe DeSario, Custodian

My Dear Church,

We are kept physically apart from one another. Has this ever happened before? Yes! The Apostle Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians from jail, a different type of separation. He wrote, "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now." (1:3) Paul wrote letters to keep in contact with the early church. We live in a time when our options for keeping in contact are unparalleled. We have letters, cards, notes, and email. And phone calls and texts. And Skype, Zoom, Facetime, and Google Hangouts. And social media! I encourage you to reach out to each other and keep in contact. I thank God for you reaching out to one another. Checking on one another. And still being the church and welcoming, loving, and serving.

Our corporate life will continue using digital means. Here's the plan for the next two weeks:

Streaming Sunday Worship

We'll meet online at 10:30 am on Sunday, March 22 and March 29 for a worship service. You can join us at www.uccmedina.org/live or on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/medinaucc. Join us and invite others! If you miss the 10:30 time, you can visit www.uccmedina.org/archive or check the entire sermon archive at www.uccmedina.org/sermons

Tuesday and Thursday Bible Studies

I will be doing two FACEBOOK LIVE Bible studies on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The 11 a.m. one will be "A Trip through the Bible!" geared more for kids. The 2 p.m. Bible study will be a continuation of the Tuesdays at Two study through the Gospel of Luke.

You do not need to be a Facebook user to watch these videos, and they are archived in the video section on our Facebook page.

Beyond March

We hope and pray that the COVID-19 crisis will be behind us in April and we will be able to gather for Palm Sunday April 5, but we are preparing like we will be streaming this service as well. We are figuring out a way to do a drive-through communion where we will hand out palms. We will keep you posted.

I am praying and so thankful for each of you. We are still the church, the Body of Christ, and nothing can cancel that. Let our unity be shown online, in prayer, or in a phone call, and let our lives reflect that we belong to one another. May God be with you until we meet again.

Grace and Peace,

-Pastor Luke

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

MARCH 22, 2020

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

March 22, 2020 thru March 29, 2020

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Fourth Sunday in Lent
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

You may give online or mail in your offering

10:30 am WORSHIP LIVESTREAM

GO TO: www.uccmedina.org/livestream

Mon 10:00 am GIFT CARD ORDERS DUE

Tues 2:00 pm Tuesdays @ 2:00 Bible Study
Join us via facebook livestream (Tues. & Thurs.)
@ <https://www.facebook.com/ucc>

Wed

Thurs

Fri

Sat

Sun Fifth Sunday in Lent
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

You may give online or mail in your offering

10:30 am WORSHIP LIVESTREAM

GO TO: www.uccmedina.org/livestream

EASTER LILY ORDER UPDATE

It is looking more and likely that we may not be able to hold regular services in the coming weeks and possibly through Easter.

Due to the uncertainty of things at this point, we have decided to order a small quantity of Easter Lilies. If you have already placed your order, thank you. If not and you would like to contribute to the 24 lilies we plan to order you may. Any orders we receive will be listed in honor of or in memory of a loved one in the Pilgrim Messenger Easter Week. If you have questions, please call the church office. 330-725-4559

Worship Highlights: 10:30 Live Stream Only

Scriptures: John 10:1-6, 11-18

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

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 blessings to people we don't know, blesses in ways we can't expect and become part of a loving legacy in ways we can't foresee. We can make a difference more than we can imagine. On March 22, 2020, give with thanks and with joy!

ANNUAL EASTER BAG PROJECT

The Easter Bags are going on as planned! This is a great opportunity in this difficult time to lighten your life, and the life of a child going through an especially tough time, by filling an Easter bag for children of an incarcerated parent. The bags will be available to pick up shortly during office hours and will be located in the welcome area. Directions will be available, but they are simple! Decorate the plain bags any way you want, and fill them with up to \$20 worth of goodies based on the age of the child you select.

Contact Ryan Collins for more info. Call or text 330-321-7028 and rpcollins1@gmail.com.

GARFIELD HUNGER OUTREACH UPDATE

The MUCCC Community Outreach Garfield Hunger Support Program (GHSP) wants to thank the congregation for their heartfelt, generous support of our Garfield Elementary School families. For health safety of all participants of GHSP, the committee has made the executive decision to temporarily suspend our Garfield menu sign ups until further notice. We will continue to support the families with gift cards during this time.

Anyone interested in providing “indirect” support of GHSP is welcome! Please make checks payable to “Medina United Church of Christ, Congregational” and write “Garfield Hunger Support Program” in the memo line and mail to the church. An online donation option is also available. Thank you for your cooperation, understanding, and continued support of Garfield Hunger Support Program.

COSTA RICA THANK YOU



On behalf of the Costa Rica Mission Team we wanted to thank everyone in the congregation for their support! The build was a great success and the family was wonderful. Cesar (the father) worked with us every day. That is the first time, in my experience, that a recipient family worked so closely with the team building their own house. We fell in love with Cesar and his entire family – so much so that we wanted to do something special for them. When we finish building, the homes have a cement floor – usually rough and uncomfortable to walk on. The team pitched in and bought the family floor tile and Cesar installed it the week after we left. The house turned out beautifully

and the teenage girls love their new beds (and the baby loves the tile floor) ☺. The congregation did an amazing job donating additional funds and we were able to purchase Mercy Homes a new table saw – which was wonderful for us (and will be greatly appreciated by the groups that follow us). I’ve included a couple pictures with the team standing on the “front porch” before and after the build as well as Kent using the new saw. Just a side note – the team was “adopted” by a stray dog. We fell in love with her and all felt horrible leaving her behind. We talked with the family and they adopted her – so she got a new house, too (that is why there is a dog in the “after” picture). Thank you again for all of your support!



IMPORTANT CHURCH INFORMATION AND UPDATES!

CANCELLATIONS: ALL CHURCH IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES

Join us for Live Stream at 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mornings <https://www.uccmedina.org/live/>

- Women's Lenten Luncheon
- Wednesday Dinner and Worship Lenten Series (Until further notice)
- Ladies & Girls Tea
- March 21st Game Night
- March 22nd and 29th JMM services
- All Choir & Bell Choir Practices
- 2:00 pm Bible Study – Join us on Facebook for live streaming on Tuesdays & Thursdays at 2:00 pm <https://www.facebook.com/uccmedina/live>

We will also provide a Children's Bible Study "A Journey Through the Bible" on Facebook Live every Tuesday and Thursday at 11:00 am

- Easter Sunday **Sunrise Service** (at this point, only this service is cancelled)

**Information on Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Sunday Worship
will be updated as the time nears.**

Please check out facebook, the church website or call the church office for further updates as things unfold in this time of uncertainty.

<https://www.facebook.com/uccmedina/> *** www.uccmedina.org *** 330-725-4559

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*****

March 22, 2020
Fourth Sunday in Lent
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

John 9:1-41

Restored

When Jesus and his followers encounter a man born blind, Jesus is asked “Whose fault is this?” Jesus reminds those with him then, as he reminds us now, that the right question to ask is “How can God’s work be seen in this?” Through this story, Christ challenges us to remember that rather than pointing fingers, we are called as Christians to extend a hand of love, healing and generosity.

One Great Hour of Sharing® is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and development activities. Although we receive this offering during the holy season of Lent, the work of the *One Great Hour of Sharing*® (OGHS) fund goes on all year long. Whenever there is a hurricane, flood, tornado, earthquake or fire that affects the lives of people, OGHS is there to lend a helping hand.

Follow OGHS on Twitter at https://twitter.com/OGHS_at_UCC to see how the money from this fund travels around the world, wherever the need is greatest. Six months ago, the fund was used to help in places in California devastated by wildfire. Look back to a year ago today and you can read about how you could “Find current disaster information and learn about the UCC's response to flooding in Nebraska and the Cyclone Response in Mozambique and Zimbabwe...” Scroll back further, and in March of 2018, you could read about how OGHS funds were helping those in the paths of hurricanes in Texas and the Virgin Islands.

Too often, the news and social media can be sources of conflict, despair and isolation. OGHS on Twitter is an island of hope. It reminds us that what binds us together is greater than what separates us. It reminds us that while none of us can do everything, all of us can do something. And most of all, it reminds us that we are in community not just with those next to us in the pews, but with those next to us on this small and fragile planet we call home.

Give generously to *One Great Hour of Sharing*® here: <https://www.ucc.org/oghs>.