
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

Leader: Greetings from an empty church building.

People: **Greetings from the couch where I've been for two weeks.**

Leader: Greetings from the familiar

People: **Greetings from these unfamiliar routine of this quarantine time.**

Leader: Greetings from the calmness and stillness of this sanctuary.

People: **Greetings from kids climbing the walls, the feelings of isolation, the health concerns and fear. The wondering of when this will all be over.**

Leader: Let us take time, take a breath. From us here and you there... and us together.

People: **Let us worship even in this time. Even in this place.**

Leader: United and separate.

People: **Individual and yet... together. The Body of Christ, here and now. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (vs. 1 & 2)

1. O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
 2. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -

great Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my
 sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the

God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!
 earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739
MUSIC: Carl G. Gläser; arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839

AZMON
CM

OPENING PRAYER (based on Psalm 130, written by Christine Longhurst, re:Worship)

Leader: If God kept track of all our mistakes—
People: the harmful things we say and do,
 Leader: the callous way we sometimes treat the people around us,
People: the selfishness that puts our needs ahead of the needs of others—
 Leader: if God kept track, what chance would we have?
People: But with unfailing love, God offers us forgiveness—
 Leader: complete forgiveness that erases our sins completely,
People: and allows us to begin again.
 Leader: So be at peace – your sins are forgiven!
People: Praise be to God! Amen!

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

Yes there is fear.

Yes there is isolation.

Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness.

Yes there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise

You can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet

The sky is no longer thick with fumes

But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi

People are singing to each other

across the empty squares,

keeping their windows open

so that those who are alone

may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland

Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know

is busy spreading fliers with her number

through the neighbourhood

So that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples

are preparing to welcome

and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting

All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality

To how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.

To Love.

So we pray and we remember that

Yes there is fear.

But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation.

But there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying.

But there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness.

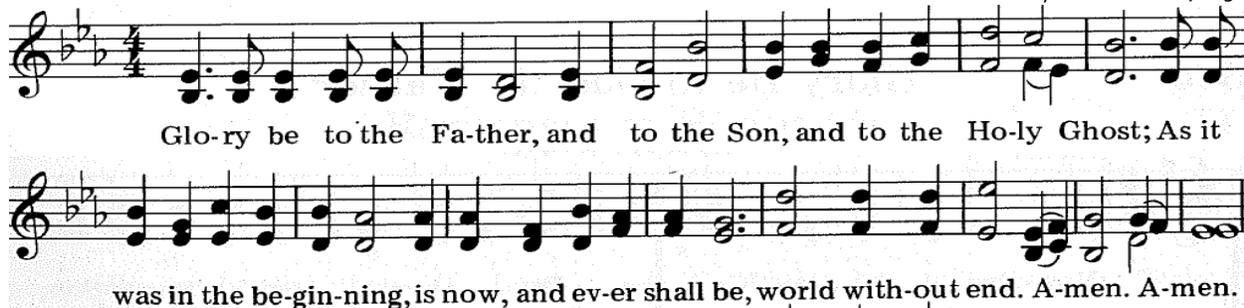
But there does not have to be disease of the soul

Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.
Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing. 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 11:1-45

Pam Branscome, Harry Buch, Stacie Yates, Jim Kiser

SERMON

"Look for Liberation"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offertory Invitation

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 as a convenient way to provide consistent financial support to the church.

As we enter into this time of giving, let us pray:

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

Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, Creator of Life,
You have called us out of our complacency and routine.
This is the purpose of Lent.
You are calling us to take stock of our lives and habits.
Free us from our self-imposed bonds,
Fill us with your spirit of life, compassion and peace.
For our liberation and the liberation of your creation.
This we pray, in your many holy names. Amen.

BENEDICTION (From Birdtalker, Graveclothes, from Just This EP)

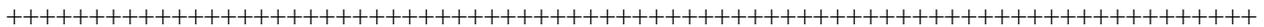
Leader: We don't need no mournful sound
People: **Shake your graveclothes to the ground**
Leader: Thoughts you're thinkin' make you feel like you're dead
People: **But you can grow a garden out the top of your head**
Leader: Shake your graveclothes off, Jesus wept. Then he danced. And you will too.
People: **We will too.**

Leader: When all this is at an end,
People: **and we are able to gather in one place,**
Leader: There will be no mournful sound,
People: **Shake your graveclothes off and follow the Way of Life,**
Leader: Jesus our Christ, Who has blessed us to be a blessing.
People: **To a hurting world. Thanks be to God. 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"



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

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 29th JMM service
- 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

- **All Holy Week and Easter Sunday Worship Services in the building have been canceled**

WE WILL BE LIVE STREAMING EASTER WORSHIP.

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*****

John 11:1-45

Breath of Hope

Today we rejoice with Lazarus and his family as he is invited by his friend Jesus and his community out of the tomb. Having been separated from life, how thankful he must have been to once again be able to smell, taste, hear, see and touch!

Too often, we take our senses for granted. You are invited this week to take a few moments to celebrate each of the senses. If one of the senses is not available to you, or if a sense is diminished, how can you express gratitude for what you *are* able to experience?

Celebrate the gift of smell. Remember your favorite fragrances. What are they? Are they nature's perfumes, like certain flowers? Are they aromas of cooking? Are they smells of a certain place or building? Can you think of a time when your sense of smell helped you to experience God's gifts or Jesus' presence in your life? Take a moment to thank your body for the gift of smell.

Celebrate the gift of taste. Remember ways in which your sense of taste has been a gift. When has your sense of taste brought you joy? Think of your most favorite tastes. Remember salty and sweet. Think of the texture of food on your tongue. Can you think of a time when your sense of taste helped you to experience God's gifts or Jesus' presence in your life? Take a moment to thank your body for the gift of taste.

Celebrate the gift of hearing. Remember ways in which your sense of hearing has been a gift. When has your sense of hearing brought you joy? Imagine now your most favorite sounds. What are they? Think of loud sounds, soft ones, familiar sounds, unfamiliar ones. Can you think of a time when your sense of hearing helped you to experience God's gifts or Jesus' presence in your life? Take a moment to thank your body for the gift of hearing.

Celebrate the gift of sight. Remember ways in which your sense of sight has been a gift. When has your sense of sight brought you joy? Think of your most favorite sights. What are they? Remember colors and contrast. Can you think of a time when your sense of sight helped you to understand God's gifts or Jesus' presence in your life? Take a moment to thank your body for the gift of sight.

Celebrate the gift of touch. Remember ways in which your sense of touch has been a gift. When has your sense of touch brought you joy? Remember textures and shapes. Can you think of a time when your sense of touch helped you to experience God's gifts or Jesus' presence in your life? Take a moment to thank your body for the gift of touch.