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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)



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

**LIVE STREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT 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 “Aria, Op. 51” – Flor Peeters

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

Leader: Help!

People: **We need somebody!**

Leader: Help!

People: **Not just anybody!**

Leader: Help!

People: **Son of God; our help in ages past, break open our imaginations and surprise us again with your presence.**

Leader: Help!

People: **So we may return the help we have received. Amen.**

### \*OPENING HYMN

**“Help Us Accept Each Other”**

WORDS: Fred Kaan, 1974 (Jn. 15:12)  
MUSIC: John Ness Beck, 1977

Words © 1975 Hope Publishing Co.; music © 1977 Hope Publishing Co.

ACCEPTANCE  
76.76 D

1. Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept - ed us;  
2. Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life  
3. Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved  
4. Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,

teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace.  
we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.  
in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;  
who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for righ - teous - ness and bread,

Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us, and bring us to be - lieve  
Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,  
to prac - tice your ac - cep - tance, un - til we know by heart  
we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on;

we are our - selves ac - cept - ed and meant to love and live.  
to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.  
the ta - ble of for - give - ness and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.  
re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us, make us one!

**CONFESSION** (Psalm 121: paraphrase by Reverend Sarah Agnew. Posted on [pray the story](http://praythestory.blogspot.ca/).  
<http://praythestory.blogspot.ca/>)

Leader: I lift my eyes from world to sky, from where will I find help?

**People: My help will come from Holy One, maker of earth and sky.**

Leader: Beneath your feet the ground may tremble, but you will never fall;

**People: Holy One slumbers not, is watchful ever over the people of God.**

Leader: Holy One will keep you, Holy One will save you, from trouble and from harm.

**People: Fear not the sun's hot flame, nor moon's shards of silver;  
Holy One will be your shield.**

Leader: Holy One will keep you, Holy One will hold you; your life is precious to God.

**People: Holy One will keep you, Holy One will seek you, going and coming and ever more.**

Leader: Lift your eyes towards the light, however thick the dark;

**People: Help will come from Holy One, maker of day and night. Amen.**

**\*PRAISE RESPONSE**

**"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"**

1. O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home!

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719 (Ps. 90)  
MUSIC: Attr. to William Croft, 1708; harm. by W. H. Monk, 1861

ST. ANNE  
CM

**ANTHEM**

**"Your Help Comes from the Lord"**

Chancel Choir

- Words by Herb Frombach, music by Mark Hayes

**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

“Breathe On Me, Breath of God”



1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new,



that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.

WORDS: Edwin Hatch, 1878 (Jn. 20:22)  
MUSIC: Robert Jackson, 1888

TRENTHAM  
SM

SCRIPTURE

John 3:1-21

Pete Metzloff, Liturgist

SERMON

“Look for the Helper”

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

As we look for the helper, may others see us as the helper in the offering we collect now for our community, nation, and world. Will the ushers please come forward?

Offertory Music “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” – arr. Christina Becket 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** (Inspired by John 3, written by Tim Graves, <https://liturgybits.wordpress.com>)

Leader: He sensed something new with this man.

People: **A Breath. A wind swirled and blew.**

Leader: They met as the noise of the day faded.

People: **So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.**

Leader: Open our hearts

People: **To the wind sweeping through this room and waking the sleeper.**

**Open our whole selves to your abundant love through all that we dedicate in this moment. Amen.**

\*SENDING SONG

“Help Somebody Today”

Carrie Elizabeth Ellis Breck, 1904

Public Domain  
Courtesy of the Cyber Hymnal™

Charles Hutchinson Gabriel



1. Look all a - round you, find some-one in need, Help some-bo-dy to - day!  
 2. Ma - ny are wai - ting a kind, lov - ing word, Help some-bo-dy tod - ay!  
 3. Ma - ny have bur - dens too hea - vy to bear, Help some-bo-dy to - day!  
 4. Some are dis - cour - aged and wear - y in heart, Help some-bo-dy to - day!



Though it be lit - tle— a neigh - bor - ly deed— Help some-bo-dy to - day!  
 Thou hast a mes - sage, O let it be heard, Help some-bo-dy to - day!  
 Grief is the por - tion of some ev - ery - where, Help some-bo-dy to - day!  
 Some - one the jour - ney to hea - ven should start, Help some-bo-dy to - day!

*Refrain*



Help some-bo-dy to - day, Some - bo - dy a - long life's way; Let



sor-row be end-ed, The friend-less be - friend-ed, O help some-bo-dy to - day!

**\*BENEDICTION**

Leader: We might not get it when we first hear it.

People: **It takes time for a phrase to work its magic on us.**

Leader: But when that happens, it can feel like you're born again.

People: **Made new. Inspired. Fired up.**

Leader: So hear the sage Mr. Rogers again, "When I was a boy and would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me,

People: **'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'**"

Leader: May we seek and find. Go! For this service has ended!

People: **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.

\*POSTLUDE "Chorus in c minor" – George Blake

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 **Carol & John Sandora.***

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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

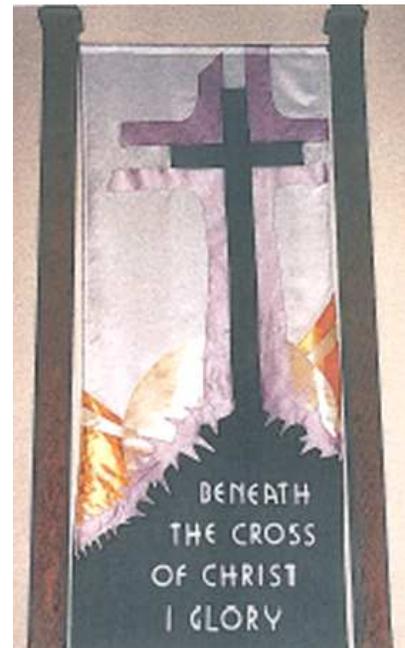
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance

## SOME INFORMATION ABOUT THE SANCTUARY BANNERS:



### **"Lent Lamb"**

The halo distinguishes the Lamb as Christ. The Lamb of God was sacrificed on the cross for the forgiveness of all sins. Violet represents the sorrow and suffering of the Lenten season.



### **"Now Is the Day of Salvation" (Ash Wednesday Cross)**

The verse is taken from the periscopes for Ash Wednesday. Violet (liturgical color for Lent) indicates sorrow for the sins that put Jesus on the cross. The thorns reinforce the earthly reality of Jesus' suffering. The sunrise of Easter morning appears in the background showing the completion of God's promise of salvation for all.

# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## MARCH 8, 2020

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

March 8, 2020 thru March 15, 2020

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**Sun** DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS @ 2am

**Second Sunday in Lent**

**Confirmation Retreat**

8:15 am Chapel Worship

9:00 am Gathering Worship

9:15 am Choir Rehearsal

10:30 am Traditional Worship

**11:30 am Second Sunday Safety Team**

2:00 pm “Lousy Bowlers”

**Mon** 6:30 pm Women’s Bible Study

**Tues** 8:00 am Men’s Fellowship @ PJ Marley’s

2:00 pm Tuesdays @ 2:00 Bible Study

7:00 pm **Worship Team**

**Wed** 10:30 am Quilters

**6:00 pm Lenten Dinner & Worship  
@ UCC Congregational**

**Thurs** Garfield Deliveries

7:00 pm Financial Peace University

**Fri** Elementary School Youth Lock-In

1:30 pm JMM @ Evergreen

**Sat** Elementary School Youth Lock-In

**Sun** **Third Sunday in Lent**

8:15 am Chapel Worship

9:00 am Gathering Worship

9:15 am Choir Rehearsal

9:30 am **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Class**

10:30 am Traditional Worship

**11:45 am Caring Team**

2:00 pm JMM @ Medina Meadows

4:00 pm Youth Group (no Elementary)

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

Scriptures: John 3:1-21

Sermon: “Look for the Helper”

Rev. Luke Lindon

**Altar Flowers:** The altar flowers are given this week by Joan & John Walschon in memory of Joan’s parents, Charles & Ruth Mackenbach.

### **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!

### **Upcoming Youth Events:**

\*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> - "HALF/TRUTHS"  
**WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT**  
6:00pm Dinner & Lenten Worship

April 2<sup>nd</sup> – **Women's Fellowship Lenten Luncheon & Communion**  
Speaker: Karen Leidy  
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**

### **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 30<sup>th</sup>.

# 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 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.*

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

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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!

## 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, April and May sign-up sheets have been posted on the bulletin board outside of the Sacristy. The first and third Sundays are signed up for on a regular basis. Topics are unlimited! Interested? No special requirements needed! Minimum Criteria: Clean verbiage, 350 words 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. Questions/more info...contact Alice Metzloff. Email and phone number are in the directory.

## SENIOR SPOT

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- 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.

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

## **CIRCLE OF CARING MEMBERS TRIP**

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Here is a great opportunity to get together and learn what is available to senior members of our community. On Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, a senior transit bus will come to our church at 11:00 am and take up to 14 Circle of Caring members 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 bus is \$2.00. Payment must be made by March 20<sup>th</sup> to Syd Benson or Jackie Smith. 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 starting March 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **NEXT BOARD GAME NIGHT!**

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**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.

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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\*\*\*\*\***

John 3:1-17

### **Bold Blessing**

At one time, it was fairly common to see signs at football games and other sporting events that read "John 3:16." If you have been a part of a community that emphasizes memorizing verses, this might be one that you memorized. The words have a familiar cadence even to those who don't attend church much:

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.*

John 3:16 became a creed, a manifesto and most of all a test for many Christians. Becoming a John 3:16 Christian means that Christ envisions for all people one of two extreme outcomes – perish or have eternal life.

But John 3:16 does not stand on its own. In fact, it's just one phrase in a much longer conversation that Jesus is having with his disciples. Continue just one more verse and John 3:17 reads,

*Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*

Taken by itself, John 3:16 can seem like the map to a pretty narrow road. But together with John 3:17, it is a promise that Christ did not come to us to blame or shame. Christ did not come to earth to test if you are worthy enough, holy enough or even faithful enough. Christ came to love, feed, heal and embrace. Christ came to save the world. Not just some of the world – all of the world. And Christ came to do those things using the tools he left his followers – those who heard his words for the first time, and you and me today – prayer, healing, conversation, and breaking bread together.

We don't need to carry a sign that says "John 3:16." By our words, actions and the prayers of our hearts, we can be John 3:17 people today and every day.