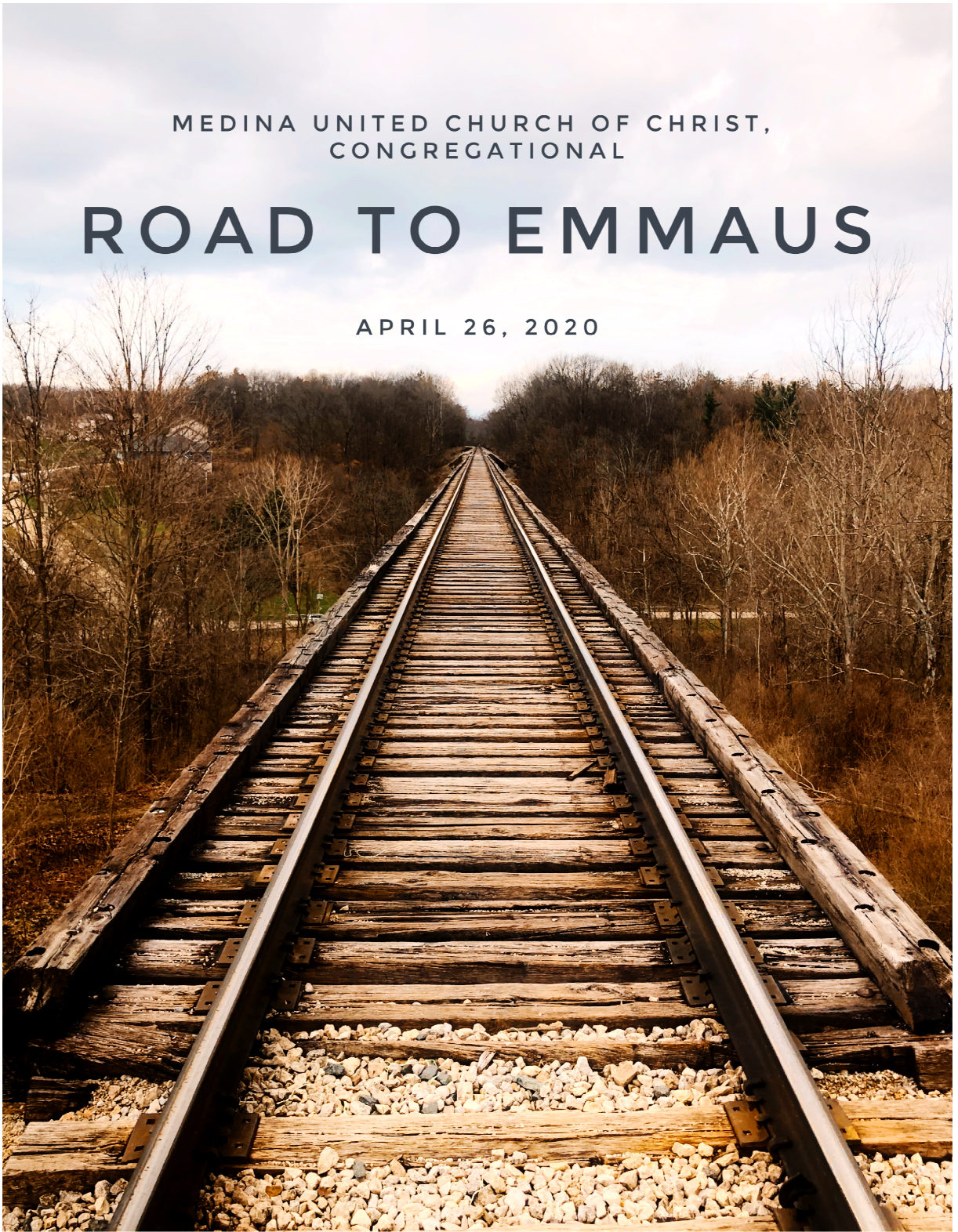


MEDINA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST,
CONGREGATIONAL

ROAD TO EMMAUS

APRIL 26, 2020



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL



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

PRELUDE “Here in This Place” – David Haas Cathy Fafrak, pianist

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 (Reverie by Gerhard E. Frost, *Seasons of a Lifetime*, page 134)

Leader: There are times for doing nothing,

People: **but be sure you do it well--**

Leader: and listen.

People: **For God, in silent spaces,**

Leader: Has something great to tell.

People: **Come let us worship our God!**

OPENING HYMN

“Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us”



1. Sing of one who walks be - side us and this day is
2. We have walked with him as strang - ers through the jour - ney
3. Ris - en one, stay with us, raise us, once a - gain the



liv - ing still, one who now is clos - er to us
of the day, and have told him of the vi - o - lence
night is near. Dine with us and share your wis - dom,



than the thoughts our hearts dis - till, Christ who once up -
that has swept our hope a - way. He has of - fered
free our hearts from ev - 'ry fear. In the calm of



on a hill - top, raised a - gainst the power of sin,
words of com - fort, words of en - er - gy and light.
each new eve - ning, in the fresh - ness of each dawn,



died in love as his own crea - tures cru - ci - fied their God and Friend!
Did our hearts not blaze with - in us as he broke the bread this night?
if you hold us fast in friend - ship we will nev - er be a - lone.

WORDS: Ralph Wright, 1989, alt.

MUSIC: William Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; harm. Charles Anders, 1969, alt.

HOLY MANNA

87.87D

Words © 1989 GIA Publications, Inc.; harm. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship,
used by permission of Augsburg Fortress

PRAYER

God of the Journey, our eyes have been kept from recognizing you.
Recognizing you in the first testament of your creation.
Recognizing you in ourselves and our neighbors.
Can the scales fall from our eyes?
Can we sense your living presence?
Hear your still-speaking voice?
Not just in the skin-thin pages of our sacred stories,
But also in the skin-thin pages of our sacred lives?
Be with us.
As you already are.
We just don't know it...
Yet.
Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC "A Mozart Canon" – based on a melody by W.A. Mozart; arr. by Donald Moore

SCRIPTURE Luke 24:13-35 *Video clip*

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

Pastoral Prayer (“What I don’t like about Jesus” by Gerhard E. Frost, *Seasons of a Lifetime*, page 144. Poem in italics, Pastor Luke’s prayer follows.)

Let me tell you what I don't like about Jesus.

*He calls me to follow; I like to run around.
he lets me see a single step,
and sometimes even less than that;
I like to know the end.*

*I choose to travel
By sunlight or headlight;
He gives me only starlight.*

*I like to set the pace:
He asks me to hurry, or worse---
Sometimes to wait.*

*He embarrasses me and gets me into trouble;
he sometimes makes a scene.*

*And just when I feel strong
He calls me to a cross;
I want a crown.*

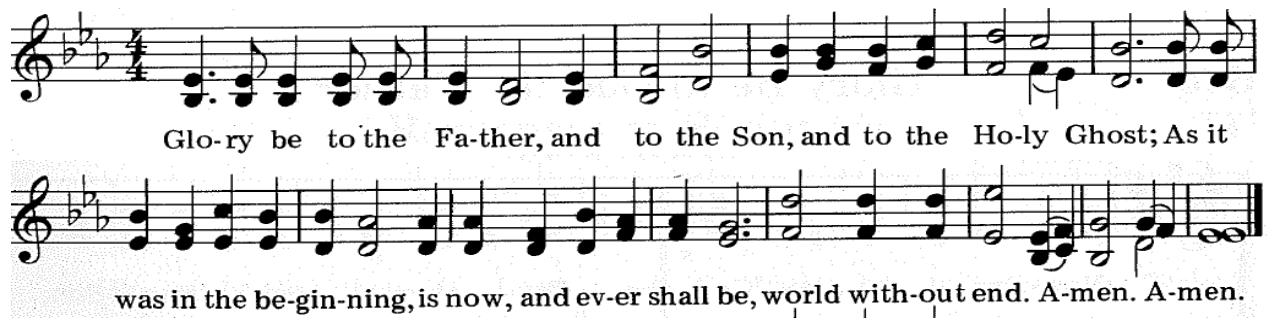
Thank you Jesus for the community you have given us to help each other keep strong and bear one another's burdens. Help us shoulder the cross. For it is way less than what you shouldered for and from us. In spite of all the things we don't like about you... we love you. And want to spread love around.

In this time. In this place. With our very lives.
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.

SERMON

"The Road to Emmaus"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offertory Invitation

Thank you for continuing to financially support the work and mission of the church! Let us now reflect in this time of silence of what we will offer to God and our neighbor.

***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

In the breaking of the bread, we can see you. In the giving of our time, talent, and treasure we can be broken open as well. And see your living-presence everywhere. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Leader: May your plans be frustrated!

People: May we never make it to where we think we're heading!

Leader: May you turn back and run and tell the others what you have experienced!

People: We have experienced the Divine! The Risen Christ!

Leader: Did not our hearts burn within us?!

People: And they shall again!

Leader: In the words of the old Irish Blessing, May the road rise to meet you,

People: May the wind be always at our back,

Leader: May the sun shine warm upon your face.

People: And until we meet again...

Leader: May God be with you.

People: 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

"He Is Risen" - Edward Broughton

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

Participating in the service

Rev. Luke Lindon, Sr. Pastor

Rev. Pam Branscome

Rev. Harry Buch

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education

Jim Kiser, Director of Music

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

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

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

APRIL 26, 2020

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

April 26, 2020 thru May 3, 2020

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun You may give online or mail in your offering

10:30 am WORSHIP LIVESTREAM

GO TO: www.uccmedina.org/live

Mon

Tues

Tuesdays & Thursdays

11:00 am Children's Bible Study

Join us via facebook livestream @

<https://www.facebook.com/uccmedina/live>

2:00 pm Tuesdays & Thursdays

@ 2:00 Bible Study

Join us via facebook livestream @

<https://www.facebook.com/uccmedina/live>

Wed

Thurs

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Join us via facebook livestream @

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Fri

Sat

Sun

You may give online or mail in your offering

10:30 am WORSHIP LIVESTREAM

GO TO: www.uccmedina.org/live

Worship Highlights: 10:30 Live Stream Only

Scriptures: Luke 24:13-35

Sermon: "The Road to Emmaus"

Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are given this week by Earle & Medith Olson in honor of their First Anniversary.

ANNUAL REPORT TIME IS HERE!

Teams, Committees and Leadership of the church are being asked to write up **their Annual Reports** to be presented at the

ANNUAL MEETING

(Stay tuned for updates...)

**The due date for your report is
TOMORROW APRIL 27TH.**

I am still missing some reports. Please email or drop off your reports to me in the church office. Please try to limit your reports to one page for the purpose of space limitations.

I appreciate all your efforts in **getting these to me on time.**

Please email to: office@uccmedina.org or uccoffice@zoominternet.net.

WANTED: PHOTOS WITH MOM

In our Mother's Day live stream on 5/10, we'd like to do a slideshow of photos of church members with their moms (or aunts, grandmas, or another "mother figure" in your life as we honor the Divine Feminine). If you're a mom, a photo with your kid(s) welcome, too. Please send it via email to office@uccmedina.org or Facebook message to Pastor Luke.

IMPORTANT CHURCH INFORMATION AND UPDATES!

CANCELLATIONS: ALL CHURCH IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES AND MEETINGS

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

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 <https://www.facebook.com/uccmedina/live>

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

*** NEW ALL CHURCH EMAILS ***

WE WOULD LIKE TO BE SURE WE CAN REACH YOU ALL WITH IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

This email was sent out on Tuesday, April 14th. If you did not receive the email, please check your spam folder or junk mail folder. If it is in there, please make sure that you have your email set to accept emails from uccmedina.org domain. You must add us to your "Allow Sender" List. Also, if you did not get the email and would like to, please send your email to the church office. If you need to change an email, please notify the church office. We hope to implement this in the very near future for church updates.

MAY / JUNE "UPPER ROOM" IS IN

Just to let you know, we now have the new Upper Room booklets for May & June. Since we are not worshipping in the building right now, no one has been here to get one. If you would like your copy, you can either stop in and grab one during office hours, or if you are "quarantined" or are not allowed visitors and you would like your copy just call the church office and we can mail you your copy. As always, there is a limited amount of copies, so they will be first come (call), first served!

"Pestilence, Public Forums & Passion" – (Part 1 of 3)

Please excuse the length of this meditation...a lot to say! To help MAKE LEMONADE from "sour lemons" during these prolonged shut-downs, my meditation will be presented as a three-part series.

Welcome to Part 1 of 3:

In searching on the UCC Denomination website for a topic to write about, I came across this Daily Devotional for Small Group Discussion: "The Mercy Seat", written on March 6, 2017 by Kenneth Samuel, Pastor of Victory for the World Church of Stone Mountain, GA. Pastor Samuel posed questions: (1) "Have you ever experienced your place of worship as a place where the forces of human tragedy and personal guilt are touched and transcended by God's mercy?" (2) "Is a church or place of worship, a place to bring "the madness of our lives" seeking mercy?" (3) "If so, is this true only for our personal, individual lives, or is it also true for our lives as a society, nation, and world?"

Pastor Kenneth quotes 1 Chronicles 21:14-17...

"So the Lord sent a pestilence on Israel; and seventy thousand persons fell in Israel. And God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it; but when he was about to destroy it, the Lord took note and relented concerning the calamity; he said to the destroying angel, "Enough! Stay your hand." The angel of the Lord was then standing by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. David looked up and saw the angel of the Lord standing between earth and heaven, and in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell on their faces. And David said to God, "Was it not I who gave the command to count the people? It is I who have sinned and done very wickedly. But these sheep, what have they done? Let your hand, I pray, O Lord my God, be against me and against my father's house; but do not let your people be plagued!"

Think on this question of David's, we'll visit it later.

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*******

Luke 24:13-35

Breaking Bread

"My name is Cleopas. I'm like lots of other disciples whose names are mostly forgotten. But, just like the more memorable followers, we believed in Jesus. He healed us and loved us. And then, just when we thought everything was going as well as it could go, something terrible happened. We were heartbroken. And with loss and that grief came fear for us, too, so we knew we had to get out of town.

As we were on the road, walking and talking and trying to make sense of it, a man came up to us and asked what we were talking about. I don't know about you, but when I'm afraid, and when I'm sad, it seems like my loss is all there is in the world. But we told him the story about how our friend Jesus had died, how his body had gone missing, and how very sad we were. The stranger looked at us so gently that we should have known him right then, but we didn't. And he spoke so kindly, saying, "Don't you remember what it said in the scriptures?" Then the stranger reminded us of the old, old stories because we had forgotten, because our grief had made our world so small, because our fear had made it so hard to remember or look back.

As he spoke, it was like my heart, which was hard and covered with some strong thing, burst open just a little bit. I don't know what to call it, but it felt a little bit like hope. So, we continued on the road. As it began to get dark as we got near the place where we lived, Emmaus. We invited him in and sat around the table and after a time, that stranger took up the bread and he blessed it. That's when we saw him. That's when we realized he had been with us all the time, but our fear had kept us from seeing. It was really him all right! It was Jesus!

And just like that, he was gone. But not exactly. He's still here, because I don't forget the time that we walked on the road. I don't forget that in the time when I thought there was no hope left, a man came and spoke some words to me that cracked my heart open and lit a fire inside.

Why didn't we recognize him at first? Well, he had changed. He changed and we had too. We had changed and gotten smaller. We thought that because he had touched *us*, had healed *us*, had spoken with *us*, had loved *us*, that he belonged just to *us*. But we were wrong.

Jesus came wearing a face and a shape we didn't expect and so we didn't recognize him. And you know what? He hasn't stopped doing that for any of us! Listen. If there's anything I want you to know from that day, where we walked on the road and we met a stranger, and that stranger was Christ, it's this: Jesus doesn't belong to any of us, not to our time, not to our place, not to our beliefs, not to our people. He's so much bigger than that. Someday, when the world seems dark, and all you can see are the shadows and all you can feel is the fear, that's the day to open your door to a stranger and say, 'Come in. Come in, and eat with me.'"