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MEDINA
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST. CONGREGATIONAL

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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 “Servant Medley” – Mark Hayes 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 (by Rev. Dr. Cynthia Landrum is the minister of the Universalist Unitarian (UU)
Church of East Liberty in Clarklake, Michigan.)

Leader: Spirit of life and love,
we gather together in different ways this morning,
from computer screens,

People: **from telephones, from car radios; we gather,
reaching out across the wires, waving from a safe distance,
to come together in religious community.**

Leader: From living room to front porch to car seat,

People: **we gather as we are able,**

Leader: ready to be of service to each other,

People: **to the world,**

Leader: ready to build the community of hope and of love,

People: **as we face this bright morning.**

Leader: We are apart,
 People: but we are together, offering our love, our commitment, our hope, and our prayers,
 in service to one another and this world.
 Leader: It is a new way,
 People: but an old way,
 Leader: that we come together in worship today.

OPENING HYMN "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God"



1. I sing a song of the saints of God, Pa-tient and brave and true,
 2. They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, And his love made them strong;
 3. They lived not on - ly in a - ges past, There are hun-dreds of thou-sands still;



Who toiled and fought and lived and died For the Lord they loved and
 And they fol-lowed the right, for Je - sus' sake, The whole of their good lives
 The world is bright with the joy - ous saints Who love to do Je - sus'



knew. And one was a doc - tor, and one was a queen, And
 long. And one was a sol - dier, and one was a priest, And
 will. You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, In



one was a shep - herd - ess on the green: They were all of them
 one was slain by a fierce wild beast: And there's not an - y
 church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea; For the saints of



saints of God, and I mean, God help - ing, to be one too.
 rea - son, no, not the least, Why I shouldn't be one too.
 God are just folk like me, And I mean to be one too.

Lesbia Scott, 1929, alt.

*GRAND ISLE Irregular
 John H. Hopkins, 1940*

OPENING PRAYER (~ author unknown, found on www.re-worship.blogspot.com)

Leader: Loving God,
 People: we place into your care all our doctors,
 nurses and healthcare workers.
 Give them courage of heart and strength of mind and body.
 Keep them safe from harm.
 May they know our deep gratitude for all they are doing to heal and help those
 affected by the coronavirus.

God of all consolation
 may they know your protection and peace.
 Bless them in these challenging days and bless their families.
 Amen.

RESPONSE "For All the Saints" (vs. 1)

1. For all the saints, who from their labors rest, who
 thee by faith before the world confessed, thy
 name, O Jesus, be forever blest.

Refrain
 Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: William W. How, 1864 (Heb. 12:1)
 MUSIC: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

SINE NOMINE
 10 10 10 with Alleluias

SCRIPTURE 1 Peter 3:13-22

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 ("Quarantine Kyrie" by Pastor Nissa Petersen, Chatfield & Root Prairie Lutheran Churches)

Seeking peace in a broken world,
but also knowing God's peace through God's presence,
we pray to the Lord
Lord, have mercy.

Seeking peace in suffering, illness, and pain,
but also feeling God's peace through healing, prayer, and those who help,
we pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Seeking peace through our distress, depression, isolation, and fear,
but also feeling God's peace through the words of loved ones
and the hope we see in the world,
we pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Seeking peace through the pain of worshipping separately,
longing for our holy community to be gathering,
but also feeling peace through God's presence with each of us
as we worship together distantly,
we pray to the Lord.
Lord have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, loving Lord.
We need you now, as we have needed you every day.
We cannot live without you.
Amen.

ANTHEM

"Simply Alleluia"
based on a canon by William Boyce; arr. by Donald Moore

The Coronavirus Chorale

SERMON

"Essential"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offertory Invitation

Thank you for continuing to financially support the work and mission of the church! You can give in many ways of your time, talent and treasure. You can send your offering via mail or online at www.uccmedina.org/give. You can also give of your time and talent of writing and calling one another to strengthen the ties that bind. Let us now reflect in this time of silence of what we will offer to God and our neighbor.

Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

**Your love for us is essential to our lives. And we are not built to be alone. May what we offer
bridge the divide and repair the breach. May love flow among your people, through the
guidance of your Holy Spirit, for love... love is essential. Amen.**

BENEDICTION (Pandemic, by the Rev. Lynn Ungar, pastor of Church of the Larger Fellowship and posted on
www.jewishjournal.com)

Leader: What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath —
the most sacred of times?

**People: Cease from travel.
Cease from buying and selling.**

Leader: Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world
different than it is.

**People: Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.**

Leader: Center down.

**People: And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.**

Leader: Know that we are connected
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.

People: (You could hardly deny it now.)

Leader: Know that our lives
are in one another's hands.

People: (Surely, that has come clear.)

Leader: Do not reach out your hands.

**People: Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.**

Leader: Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch.

People: Promise this world your love —

Leader: for better or for worse,

People: in sickness and in health,

Leader: so long as we all shall live.

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 "For All the Saints" – arr. Wilbur Held

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

STAY TUNED FOR THE "PARADE OF PETS" VIDEO!

"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

Matt Yates, Sound & Video Operator

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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

Joe DeSario, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

MAY 17, 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

May 17, 2020 thru May 23, 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 10:00 am Gift Cards orders due

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 Tuesdays & Thursdays

11:00 am Children's Bible Study

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2:00 pm Tuesdays & Thursdays

@ 2:00 Bible Study

Join us via facebook livestream @

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

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

Scripture: 1 Peter 3:13-22

Sermon: "Essential"

Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are given this week by Kellie & Crell Johns in honor of Carleigh's 14th birthday.

HOORAY FOR ALL OUR GRADUATES!

High school and college graduations have gone virtual this spring. Please consider sending a note of congratulations to our church grads to brighten their spirits as they experience this milestone from home! You can email or call the church office for the names and addresses. office@uccmedina.org / 330-725-4559

GIFT CARD ORDERS

Plan ahead now for Special Occasions and place your Gift Card order soon. Please visit www.glscrip.com and click on the Retailer List at the bottom of the page to view or print your own list. Please call the church office between 9 & 3pm to place your order or bring it to the office with your payment.

**The next order will be due a day later on
Tuesday, May 19th at 10:00 am.**

APRIL FINANCIAL REPORT:

	APRIL	YTD	Annual Budget	YTD as a % of Budget
Income:	\$32,797	\$122,668	\$358,252	34.2%
Expense:	\$26,768	\$118,212	\$372,383	31.7%
Net Income (Loss)	\$6,029	\$4,456	(\$14,131)	

- One Great Hour of Sharing donations are \$400.00, still accepting donations
- Easter Offering donations are \$205.00, still accepting donations
- Thank you very much for all of the mail-in and on-line donations
- Automatic Withdrawal Options are available for your weekly, monthly or even quarterly contributions; contact Kelly for form to complete.

*** NEW ALL CHURCH EMAILS ***

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

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 we do not have your preferred email, 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!



The Strengthen the Church Special Offering supports the expansion and growth of UCC local congregations.

It will be received on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2020.

As God calls our congregation to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new initiatives in existing churches, and develop the spiritual life of our youth and young adults in our quest for a just world for all. Because of your gift, we all grow stronger. Thank you.

IMPORTANT CHURCH INFORMATION AND UPDATES!

Our Children's and Adult's Bible Studies will continue on line. Join us on Facebook for live streaming on Tuesdays & Thursdays at 11:00 am for the Children's study & 2:00 pm for the Adult study at <https://www.facebook.com/uccmedina/live> .

NEW BOOK STUDY TO BEGIN SOON!

Join Pastor Luke for a ZOOM book study session!

The Book: Unbinding Christianity

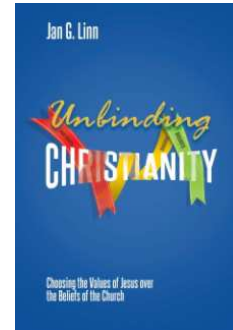
Choosing the values of Jesus over the beliefs of the church.

It's by his friend and mentor, the Rev. Jan G. Linn.

Why?: Let's discuss a more open-handed way of approaching our faith. What would church look like if we focused not on what you believe, but on how we live like Christ?

When? Wednesday's at 2 p.m. **starting on May 27th** and going chapter by chapter.

Interested? The send an email to Luke letting him know you want the Zoom link! luke@uccmedina.org
(Facebook messages, tweets, and texts also will be accepted)
Can't make the time? We'll have a recorded archive at your request.



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 14:15-21

Witness of Love

WHEREAS, most people believe that mental illnesses are rare and “happen to someone else,” when in fact, mental illnesses are common and widespread with an estimated 61.5 million Americans (1 in 4) experiencing some form of mental illness in a given year;

WHEREAS, there continues to be strong stigma and discrimination in society against people with these brain disorders in housing, employment, social relationships, (including how they are treated in our churches);

WHEREAS, many uninformed people believe people with mental illnesses are likely to be violent, while in reality, people with mental illnesses are more likely to be victims of violence than perpetrators;

WHEREAS, the public mental health system, which previously served as a safety net for people with the most severe mental illnesses, has suffered from dramatic funding cuts in the last decade, and our prisons and county jails now house more people with mental illnesses than psychiatric hospitals do;

WHEREAS, faith and spirituality can be an important component of recovery from mental illnesses and addictions;

WHEREAS, a mental illness or brain disorder in the family affects not only the ill family member, it profoundly affects other family members and loved ones and the entire family structure;

WHEREAS, people having a diagnosable brain disorder and/or substance abuse disorder are potentially at a higher risk for suicide;

WHEREAS, the church is called to be a community that breaks through fear and isolation to offer love, hope, care and healing;

WHEREAS, Jesus showed us the way to reach out to those who are ill or marginalized to offer companionship, compassion and support;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Thirtieth General Synod encourages United Church of Christ congregations to adopt covenants to be WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged) Congregations for Mental Health.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Thirtieth General Synod encourages congregations to work to eradicate stigma around mental illnesses/brain disorders, and to offer support to persons with and those impacted by mental health challenges, including their family members, loved ones and others concerned.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Thirtieth General Synod encourages advocacy by all settings of the church for broader and more just access to quality mental health services including private and public insurance coverage. This advocacy includes services for all persons with mental illness who are falling through the fraying safety net, especially persons in jails/prisons, and persons who are homeless.

This “Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged” (WISE) resolution was adopted in 2015 at the 30th Annual UCC General Synod. Is your church community a WISE congregation? Learn more at: <http://moredomainsforless.com/mhnucc/becomingaWISEcongregationformentalhealth2019ed.pdf>