

medina united church of christ,
congregational

seeds



Live Stream

July 12, 2020

10:30 am

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

LIVE STREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT UCCMEDINA.ORG

“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS”

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE “Prayer” from *Suite Gothique* – Léon Boëllmann/ed. Linker Cathy Fafrak, Organist

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP (from B Atkinson, found online: <https://twitter.com/nowakro/status/1144933365772095489>)

Leader: And the dandelion does not stop growing

People: **because it is told it is a weed**

Leader: The dandelion does not care

People: **what others see**

Leader: It says,

People: **“One day,
They’ll be making wishes,
Upon Me.”**

Leader: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

Unison



1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co-oons, a hid-den prom-ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn for ev-ery dark-ness, bring-ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys-ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

un-re - vealed un-til its sea - son, some-thing God a-lone can see.
 un-re - vealed un-til its sea - son, some-thing God a-lone can see.
 un-re - vealed un-til its sea - son, some-thing God a-lone can see.

Natalie Sleeth composed her "Hymn of Promise" first as a choral anthem and then adapted it to this version for congregational singing. It was dedicated to her husband, Ronald Sleeth, who died shortly after she completed it.

Tune: PROMISE 8.7.8.7.D.
 Natalie Sleeth, 1985

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OPENING PRAYER (from "Let America Be America Again" by Langston Hughes, found on <https://poets.org/poem/let-america-be-america-again>)

Leader: O, let America be America again—
 People: **The land that never has been yet—**
 Leader: And yet must be—
 People: **the land where every man is free.**

SCRIPTURE Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

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

SERMON

"Seeds"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering 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 sing the doxology to our God, from whom all blessings flow.

Special Music

"My Offering" – Nichole Nordeman

Ann Nagy, voice

Prayer of Dedication

Holy and Gracious Sower,
We cast out our time, talent, and treasure.
May they take root and grow.
We have tilled the soil, prepared, and watered,
But only you can make grow.
You promise the harvest will be plenty.
We intended to be your laborers. Amen.

BENEDICTION (first two lines from poet Dinos Christianopoulos)

Leader: When they tried to bury us,
People: **They didn't know we were seeds.**
Leader: Go in the blessed name of Christ,
People: **The Great Sower,**
Leader: and the Holy Spirit,
People: **One God!**
Leader: Who invites you to grow,
People: **To rise.**
To thrive.
Amen!

POSTLUDE

"For the Fruit of All Creation" – arr. Barry L. Bobb

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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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
Matt Yates, Sound and Video Operator

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

JULY 12, 2020

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

July 12, 2020 thru July 19, 2020

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun 10:30 am WORSHIP LIVESTREAM

GO TO: www.uccmedina.org/live

You may give online or mail in your offering

7:00 pm Outdoor Vesper Service

Under the Pergola (*Weather permitting*)

Worship Highlights: 10:30 Live Stream Only

Scriptures: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sermon: “Seeds” – Rev. Luke Lindon

Flowers: The altar flowers are given by Elly Aberegg in honor of her sister, Elizabeth Holmen

Mon

Tues

Wed 2:00 pm Zoom Book Study

“Unbinding Christianity”

Contact Pastor Luke or the Church Office for
a link to connect to the meeting

7:00 pm White Privilege – Adult Talk

Zoom Meeting

Thurs

Fri

Sat

Sun 10:30 am WORSHIP LIVESTREAM

GO TO: www.uccmedina.org/live

You may give online or mail in your offering

7:00 pm Outdoor Vesper Service

Under the Pergola (*Weather permitting*)

SUNDAY EVENING VESPERS WILL CONTINUE

Under the leadership of Matt Yates and Maureen Walker, we've gathered a team of folks who are in the medical field. Suzanne Kanner, Paul DeSario, Stephanie Young, and Rob Wilder. They will draft policies, determine tasks, and staff teams to carry out the tasks to keep us safe during the pandemic.

Because the pandemic is still happening. We're not even in a "second wave" as we're not done with the first. While cases are declining, a friend stated that even in our decline, every 5 days we reach Italy's numbers. That's concerning. Advice comes out only to be rolled back a day later. It's a baffling time. And I know I'm impatient to get back to some sort of normal. I'm sure many of you are, too. I feel like we're on shifting sand and if anyone gets this virus due to my impatience, it would be very hard to forgive myself.

In this time of fear and uncertainty, let us be reminded of the power of community and worshipping together. To give our re-opening team a chance to work (and they've met twice by the time you read these words), I propose a **Sunday Evening Vespers Service**.

Starting on **June 28th at 7 p.m.** we'll worship in the pergola, weather permitting. If it's drizzling or raining, then we won't have vespers.

Come as you are, summer attire of t-shirts and shorts (think summer camp vespers). Bring your own chairs. We'll practice social distancing and wear masks. Tell a friend!

We will have two songs from various musicians in our congregation, a prayer, and a brief meditation. The meditations will focus on the Fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23.

Blessings to you. Looking forward to seeing you in real time!

Yours in Christ,

-Pastor Luke

"JUST MERCY" MOVIE TALK

Pastor Luke will lead a Zoom virtual discussion about the movie "Just Mercy" on **Tuesday, July 7th at 7:00 pm.** A powerful and thought-provoking true story, "Just Mercy" follows young lawyer Bryan Stevenson and his history-making battle for justice. You can stream the movie for FREE through 6/30 on iTunes, Amazon Prime, YouTube and other platforms. Email luke@uccmedina.org to sign up/for more info.

ZOOM BOOK STUDY - 2 p.m. Wednesdays, May 27th – July 29th

Join Pastor Luke for a ZOOM book study session! The Book: "Unbinding Christianity"
Choosing the values of Jesus over the beliefs of the church.

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?

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.

SUMMER MUSIC SIGN UP

Please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4fafa62fa3fc1-uccsummer> to provide summer music for the Sunday worship live stream. All instruments are welcome-- piano, violin, vocal, trumpet, flute, guitar, etc! **We have slots left in July and August!** If you are a singer and need piano accompaniment from Cathy, Pastor Luke can record the 2 of you ahead of time in the sanctuary; let him know. Please send a landscape video of your song ONE WEEK PRIOR via <http://wettransfer.com> or Google Docs to Pastor Luke luke@uccmedina.org. Assume worship will be virtual unless you hear otherwise. Thank you, and we can't wait to hear your musical gifts!

White Privilege: Let's Talk—A Resource for Transformational Dialogue

Have you ever heard of the term "White Privilege" before and wonder what it means? Or maybe you have heard it and understand it but don't know what to do next. Maybe you have never heard it before but are interested in healing racial divides. If you fall anywhere on this spectrum, this class is for you!

White Privilege: Let's Talk—A Resource for Transformational Dialogue is an adult curriculum from the United Church of Christ that's designed to invite church members to engage in safe, meaningful, substantive, and bold conversations on race.

Divided into four focused parts, each one introduces a different aspect of the dynamic of white privilege:

1. The Spiritual Autobiography Told Through the Lens of Race
2. Whiteness as the Norm: Five Loci of Insights on the Binary of Light/Dark and Black/White
3. The Cash Value of Whiteness or Whiteness as a Tax-Exempt Status
4. On Becoming an Ally

Ryan Collins will be facilitating the class online using the curriculum provided by the UCC. Each class should last about 1.5 hours and last 6 weeks, but it is designed to be flexible so we can work to shorten the class and extend the amount of meetings if needed. Please sign up at this link <http://eepurl.com/g8xTy1>

Teen Class: Please check with Ryan Collins on the new schedule

Adult Class will begin Wednesday, July 8th at 7:00pm

(Days and times can be changed depending on a majority preference of the attendants)

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*****

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

A House Divided

The story begins,

"Listen! A sower went out to sow..."

And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up...

There was the time I did not get very far. I had just started on the path, just begun to follow Christ, when I got scared and stalled out. I was eaten up by worry and doubt.

Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away...

There was a time when I believed if only I studied or thought enough, I would be able to understand Christ's way. I did not know that Christ's way had to be grounded in my heart as well as my head. My faith withered away.

Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.

Another time, I tried to turn toward Christ, but became distracted. It wasn't too long before I was choking on the expectation of our consumerist culture and my own grasping heart.

Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

And yet again, I arrived in a community, a congregation like this one. Sometimes there were weeds and rocks. But like rich soil, that community nurtured me, helped me to grow strong in my faith.

Let anyone with ears listen!

We aren't, any of us, only one thing. Most of us have had all of these experiences at one time or another. Let this be our prayer: "Whether we get carried away or wither, suffocate or grow strong, help us to remember that you are with us always, Holy God. Amen."

