

MEDINA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

thoughts from far away



Live Stream

July 19, 2020

10:30 am

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”

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE “O God, You Search Me” – arr. Janet Vogt Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

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 (The Guest House, by Rumi from *Essential Rumi* translated by Coleman Barks page 109)

Leader: This being human is a guest house

People: Every morning a new arrival.

Leader: A joy,

People: A depression,

Leader: A meanness,

People: Some momentary awareness comes as an unexpected visitor.

Leader: Welcome and entertain them all!

People: Even if they are a crowd of sorrows,

Leader: Who violently sweep your house empty of its furniture,

People: Still treat each guest honorably.

Leader: God may be clearing you out for some new delight.

People: The dark thought, the shame, the malice,
Leader: Meet them at the door laughing,
People: And invite them in.
Leader: Be grateful for whoever comes,
People: Because each has been sent,
 As a guide from beyond.
 Amen.

OPENING HYMN

"Forth in Thy Name"

1. Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go, my dai-ly
 2. The task thy wis-dom hath as - signed, O let me
 3. Thee may I set at my right hand, whose eyes mine
 4. For thee de - light - ful - ly em - ploy what-e'er thy

la - bor to pur - sue; thee, on - ly thee, re -
 cheer - ful - ly ful - fill; in all my works thy
 in - most sub - stance see, and la - bor on at
 boun-teous grace hath given; and run my course with

solved to know in all I think or speak or do.
 pres - ence find, and prove thy good and per - fect will.
 thy com - mand, and of - fer all my works to thee.
 e - ven joy, and close - ly walk with thee to heaven.

OPENING PRAYER (excerpt from *Suzie Bitner Was Afraid of the Drain* by Barbara Vance)

Leader: I once heard an old man say,
People: Shaping vases out of clay
Leader: Into subtle forms sublime
People: "Listen, son, good things take time."
Leader: All my life I've thought of this
People: When a task was lacking bliss
Leader: When the work seemed awfully tough
People: And I thought I'd had enough.
Leader: So I'd give a little more
People: To what sometimes seemed a chore;
Leader: And, you know, without a doubt,
People: Good things always came about.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Lord, make me an instrument" – Jonathan Willcocks Jim Kiser, voice

SCRIPTURES Psalm 139:1-12 and Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

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 "Thoughts from Far Away" 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 sing the doxology to our God, from whom all blessings flow.

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

Holy One, we are too close to our situation. We see through the glass dimly.
We lose track of the wider picture, see the trees and not the forest.
Forgive us. Grant us some temporary solace and a glimpse of the wider view.
May your will be done in us and through us. We pray in Jesus name. Amen.

BENEDICTION (“To Come Home to Yourself”, by John O’Donohue, *To Bless the Space Between Us* page 97)

Leader: May all that is unforgiven in you be released.
May your fields yield their deeps tranquilities.
May all that is unlived in you,

People: **Blossom into a future**
Graced with love.
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 “Be Joyful in the Lord!” – Marc Jordan

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
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

Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool

Jack Sharpe, Maintenance

Joe DeSario, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

JULY 19, 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

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*)

Mon 10:00 am **Gift Card Orders Due**

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 7:00 pm **Congregational Council**
Zoom Meeting

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*)

Worship Highlights: 10:30 Live Stream Only

Scriptures: Psalm 139:1-12 and
Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

Sermon: “Thoughts from Far Away”
Rev. Luke Lindon

Flowers: The altar flowers are given by Carolee
Rafn in memory of her husband, Don Rafn

ARE YOU HAVING TROUBLE WITH THE AUDIO ON OUR LIVE STREAM?

Apparently you are not alone... It seems that if
you are using Internet Explorer to watch our live
stream worship service, it will tend to
automatically mute your audio. You must try to
find the speaker icon on the screen and
uncheck the mute button. Otherwise, try using
another browser such as Google Chrome,
Firefox or Microsoft Edge.

iPads seem to have trouble sometimes as well.
You may want to try to use a phone or a
desktop/laptop.

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
Monday, July 20th at 10:00 am.

A MESSAGE FROM SYD BENSON

I have thoroughly enjoyed acting as leader of Circle of Caring for the last 28 years. I feel blessed to have had the chance to get to know so many members of our congregation – both those who are homebound and those in care facilities as well as so many in our congregation who have reached out in so many ways to support them.

Now that Covid-19 has shut down most of the activities that were part of Circle of Caring, I think that it is time to re-think and make changes in our outreach to church members in need. Hopefully, our congregation will be willing to hire a Director of Connection and Care or find a new leadership team with new ideas to carry on Circle of Caring's mission.

I plan to continue with my personal visitation efforts but am resigning as of now as leader of Circle of Caring. – Syd Benson

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

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.

JUNE FINANCIAL REPORT:

	June	YTD	Annual Budget	YTD as a % of Budget
Income:	\$24,845	\$173,810	\$358,252	48.6%
Expense:	\$26,472	\$172,487	\$372,383	46.3%
Net Income (Loss)	\$(1,627)	\$1,323	(\$14,131)	

- Income for June was lower than prior months, expenses remain under budget.
- We are beyond the half way point for the year, please check to make sure you pledge payments are current. Call or email Kelly if you have questions or concerns.
- The Mission Team met and made a \$500.00 gift to The Society (SHC) for PPE supplies. \$550.00 was added to the OGHs donations to make our total for 2020 \$1,000.00. \$200.00 was added to STC donations to make our total for 2020 \$415.00. \$345.00 was added to Easter Offering (Wolfe Fund) to make our total for 2020 \$600.00
- Thank you to everyone that has sent in donations via mail or on-line.
- Automatic Withdrawal Options are available for your weekly, monthly or even quarterly contributions; contact Kelly for form to complete.

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 13:24-30, 36-43

Wheat and Weeds Together

Jesus taught an agricultural and fishing people who were close to the source of the food they shared and consumed. Most people are many steps separated from the production of the food we eat each day. But, even if we have less understanding of agriculture than our ancestors did, we still understand that Jesus' command to feed one another refers to physical as well as spiritual feeding.

Whether or not they know where or how their food is grown, many United Church of Christ congregations affirm that food once produced is meant to be shared. Food pantries and meals offered by UCC congregations live out the most basic form of care for one another - giving of food.

Windsor Severance Food Pantry at Faith UCC in Colorado gives away the canned goods familiar to many food pantries. But they also offer an evening of fellowship and eating together each Wednesday evening. The pantry truly offers "a place at the table" for anyone in the neighborhood looking for a hot meal. You can find out more about their work at: <https://www.faithunitedchurchofchrist.com/a-place-at-the-table>.

The food pantry in Kirtland, Ohio's Old South United Church of Christ has seen so much need in recent years that they have expanded into three times their former space. Now Kirtland's pantry has moved to a more modern model of providing food. Clients to the pantry now shop the shelves, as if they are in a grocery store. You can read more at: https://www.news-herald.com/news/ohio/kirtland-s-old-south-united-church-of-christ-reopens-food/article_10bbff05-6707-52e0-af30-f795736acf98.html.

In Connecticut, the food pantry in Norfolk United Church of Christ pantry recently expanded not space, but hours, making their food pantry more accessible to those in need in their town. More here: <http://norfolkctucc.org/ucc/norfolk-food-pantry/>.

Wherever you are located, give some thought to your local congregation. How do you follow Christ's lead in feeding people in body as well as spirit? Prayerfully consider if there is some way that you could expand your feeding programs.