Live Stream Worship **July 26, 2020** **10:30 a.m.**

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 "Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord" – arr. Carol Tornquist 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 (From "We are Called" by David Haas, and a regular staple at the Gathering Service)

Leader: Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
People: We are called to be light for the kingdom,
Leader: To live in the freedom of the city of God!
People: We are called to love tenderly.
Leader: We are called to serve one another,
People: to walk humbly with God.
Leader: Let us be called to worship,
People: here in communion with one another and with our God.

OPENING HYMN **"Jesus, Priceless Treasure"**

A contemporary of German pietist Paul Gerhardt, Johann Franck was a lawyer and a poet. Modeled on a love song by Heinrich Albert, "Flora, meine Freude," this hymn has had many translations, including one in Russian attributed to Peter the Great in 1724.

Tune: JESU, MEINE FREUDE 6.6.5.6.6.5.7.8.6.
Johann Crüger, 1653
Arr. J. S. Bach (1685–1750)

OPENING PRAYER

Holy One, this year hasn't gone the way we wanted it. We are feeling numb. Tired. Done with the pandemic. We are feeling out of control.
Yet we pray each Sunday, from youngest to the oldest; "Thy will be done…"
Your will. We are called to surrender to your will. And not to worry.
As author Elizabeth Gilbert pointed out, we are afraid of surrender because we don't want to lose control.
But we never had control; all we had was anxiety.
Help us follow her wisdom. Your wisdom. You're in control. It's hard for us to admit. But maybe we will be less anxious if we do.
Be with us.
Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Shadows on the Moon" *Ruby Gabrielsen, piano*

"Improvisation" *Max Gabrielsen, piano*

SCRIPTURES Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Rev. Luke Lindon

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 "Unwanted" 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

We want it easy. Angels to attend to us. Pearly Gates. Streets of gold.
You give us dirt and digging.
Unlawful bread.
A weed and unwanted birds.
May we dig into the values you have set before us in Jesus.
May we follow the urgings of your spirit.
May what we offer reflect your will. Amen.

BENEDICTION (From Isaiah 55:8-9)

Leader: God's ways aren't our ways.
People: Nor are God's thoughts our thoughts.
Leader: As the heavens are higher than the earth,
People: So are God's ways higher than ours.
Leader: If we value this and believe it to be true,
People: Then maybe we can trust, learn and grow.
Leader: Go forth to follow our God who might not give us what we want
People: But gives us what we need, and attends to us in our joy and our sorrow.
Leader: Go to trust, learn, and be a blessing, for this service has ended,
People: And our service 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 "Fanfare" – Michael Helman 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
Jim Kiser, Director of Music
Cathy Fafrak, Organist
Terry Rhodes, Sound & 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
Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance
Joe DeSario, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER
JULY 26, 2020

"Welcoming, Loving, Serving, Where God Has No Limits. More Than Church On Sunday!"

July 26, 2020 thru August 1, 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

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)*

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Stop by to see our Christmas in July tree outside the church through 8/1! The Evangelism team created our cute summer-y tree with the help of our very own crafty tree artists Karen Z. and Diane S. We've invited the public to post a pic with the tree on social media with the hashtags #ucctree #mainstreetmedina and tag our church to be entered to win a Sully's Irish Pub gift card (donated to us by Sully's!). Join in the fun and check out our tree!

Worship Highlights: 10:30 Live Stream Only

Scriptures: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
Sermon: "Unwanted"
Rev. Luke Lindon

Flowers: The altar flowers are given by Lois Tampson in memory of her husband, Felix Tampson.

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Plan ahead and mark **August 23rd** on your calendars. This will be our **Annual Alive on the Square Worship**! This will be the first time we gather in person for Sunday morning worship. We will meet at the Gazebo on the square of Medina at 10:00 am. Bring your own chairs. We'll practice social distancing and wear masks. Grab your neighbor too if you want to! Weather permitting and no COVID spikes permitting, we hope to see you there!

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

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

VIRTUAL VBS THANK YOU!

We did it! We held our virtual VBS the week of July 6 and it was a success. The kids had fun listening to the live bible stories every day and then doing the crafts, learning the music, eating the yummy snacks and doing the science experiments. On Friday we had a drive through celebration parade where the kids were given ice cream donated by Dairy Queen and other small gifts. Like every year, it took a village to pull it off. A huge thank you to Tracy Gabrielsen who helped me get the VBS set up virtually. It never would have happened without her. Also, thank you to everyone who helped with ideas and did videos for music, snacks, crafts and science. Also, I want to say a special thank you to Eve Lindon. She made a video of all the pictures every day and she put together the one that we watched last week during church! They were awesome Eve! Thank you to the DELTS who helped put together the take home kits, pass out the kits and the ice cream! Thank you to the families who registered and thank you especially to the children who participated. It was wonderful spending the week with you. Thank you again to EVERYONE who helped make the Virtual VBS a hit! Fingers crossed that we can be together next year for VBS 2021!!

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 your 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*******

July 26, 2020
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Weaving the Future

The National Youth Event (NYE), which met earlier this week at Purdue University in Indiana, brought together thousands of young people from across the United Church of Christ for a week of worship, fellowship and engaged service, built on 6 pillars. As you read more about each of these pillars, consider what your youth will find at home. How will the youth continue to build on the foundation that they have begun to build? Will they find these pillars in place in their home church? How do the adults in your community make the youth, and their ongoing faith journey, a priority?

Faith
NYE grounds youth in the love and power of the Gospel as well as the identity and community of the United Church of Christ through worship and spiritual journey.

Reflection
NYE empowers youth through courageous reflection and the critique of systems and power that diminishes the humanity and God-image of every person and community.

Encounter
NYE calls youth to serve and demonstrate the Gospel's solidarity and radical pastoral accompaniment, recognizing we are already connected to that which we engage.

Justice
NYE lives into the mission of the United Church of Christ, sustained by grace, to build a just world for all.

Community Building
NYE sustains youth through community building and celebration of life, building strong connections for a lifetime journey.

Leadership
NYE cultivates the leadership of our youth, from its planning to realization, calling youth to create and problem solve towards a just world for all.