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07.05.20

Medina, Ohio



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 “America, the Beautiful” – arr. by John Carter

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME 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 (based on Once the World Was Perfect by Joy Harjo,
from *Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings*, pages 14 & 15)

Leader: Once the world was perfect, and we were happy in that world.

People: Then we took it for granted.

Leader: Discontent began to rumble in the earthly mind.

People: Then Doubt pushed through with its spiked head.

Leader: And once Doubt ruptured the web,

People: All manner of demon thoughts jumped through.

Leader: Each stone of jealousy,

People: each stone of fear, greed, envy, and hatred put out the light.

Leader: There we were, right back where we had started.

People: We were bumping into each other in the dark.

Leader: Then one of the stumbling ones took pity on another and shared a blanket.

People: A spark of kindness made a light.

Leader: The light made an opening in the darkness.

**People: And everyone began working together,
everyone’s children and children’s children to now,**

Leader: into this morning light to you.

OPENING HYMN

"This Little Light of Mine"

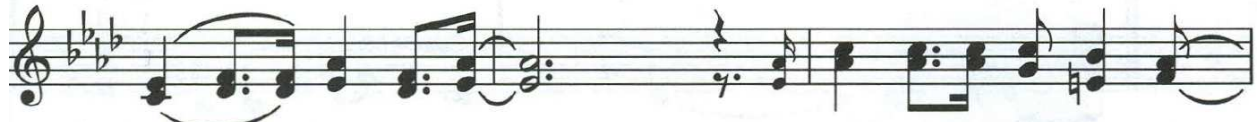
Tune: THIS JOY Irr.
African-American spiritual
Arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1993



1 This lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine.



This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine.



This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, (oh let it shine.)

- 2. Everywhere I go...
- 3. All through the night

OPENING PRAYER (Posted on the Monthly Prayers page of the Christian Aid website.

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>)

Loving God,
 in Jesus you offer life to the world
 and love to its people.
 When we see life only for ourselves,
 forgive us.
 Help us to hear your transforming love
 speaking to us of respect, dignity and worth,
 telling us that we are loved
 and that we are to love one another.
 In the knowledge of this love
 work through us to bring your justice to the world,
 in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Heal Our Land" by Michael Card

Nick North, voice

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

"Independence Day"

Rev. Pam Branscome

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 (posted on the Children's Society website.)

Leader: Thank you, Lord, for all who care

People: Bless them with your love

Leader: Thanks for mothers everywhere

People: Bless them with your love

Leader: For those who brighten up our day

People: Bless them with your love

Leader: Who always have the right words to say

People: Bless them with your love

Leader: Thanks for hugs, and love and smiles

People: Bless them with your love

Leader: Thanks for all those extra miles

People: Bless them with your love

Leader: And when they feel they're not enough

People: Bless them, bless them, with your love.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

The Words of Institution

Virtual Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

BENEDICTION

Leader: Chain-breaking God, you side with the oppressed.
Christ Jesus, you free those yearning to breathe free.
Gracious Spirit, your voice carries on the wind saying, "Justice! Freedom!"
People: **You have blessed us to be your hands and feet in this world.**
Guide us in the work you have set for us! 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

"God of the Ages" – arr. by John Carter

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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Participating in the service:

- Rev. Pam Branscome, Guest Preacher
- 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 5, 2020

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

July 5, 2020 thru July 12, 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 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED UNTIL
JULY 13TH**
9:00 am VIRTUAL VBS WEEK!
7:00 pm Evangelism Team Zoom Meeting

**Tues 7:00 pm Zoom Movie Talk on
“JUST MERCY”**

**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 VBS FINAL DAY: DRIVE THRU ICE CREAM!

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*)

Highlights: 10:30 Live Stream Only
Scriptures: 1 Samuel 8:4-22
Sermon: “Independence Day”
Rev. Pam Branscome

Flowers: The altar flowers are given by Joan & John Walschon in memory of John's mother Bette Robertson.

**EVEN THOUGH THE OFFICE IS CLOSED
THIS WEEK THE TUESDAY “JUST MERCY”
MOVIE TALK AND WEDNESDAY ZOOM
BOOK STUDY WILL GO ON AS PLANNED!**

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Please join Council in thanking our dedicated office staff for all their hard work, especially during this pandemic. As a thank you, to show them how much we love and value Pastor Luke, Cindy, Kelly and Cathy, the Medina UCC office will be closed Monday, July 6 (for the holiday), then stay closed until Friday July 10. Vicki Marty has graciously volunteered to check phone messages, emails, and mail during the hours of 9am and noon on Tuesday thru Friday. In the event of a true emergency, something that cannot wait, please contact Pastor Luke on his cell phone at 330-663-1804. Join me in wishing them a relaxing week! – Julie Gilliland, Medina UCC Moderator

**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*******

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**.

We started on **June 28th at 7 p.m.** worshipping 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 one slot left in 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://wetransfer.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 has been postponed for now. Stay tuned for updates on the new day and time!

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

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

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE SERMONS MAILED TO YOU EACH WEEK:

Sermons will not be mailed out this week due to the office closing and having a guest preacher. We will resume the following week.

**THERE WILL BE NO PILGRIM MESSENGER FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 12TH
We will resume on July 19th.**

UPPER ROOMS

There are still some large print and regular print Upper Rooms available. If you would like one, they are on the table in the Library. Please feel free to pick one up!

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Chosen Journeys

On this day after Independence Day, we remember that as God's people, we are called to community and covenant. In short, we are called to INTERdependence over independence. One of our responsibilities and our joys as a covenant people is to face the problems in our world head on.

According to the UCC initiative "Our Faith, Our Vote" (<https://www.ucc.org/ourfaithourvote>), *"The problems in our world often seem too big to confront. We see injustice every day and feel that change can't or won't happen. But our faith is infused with hope and built on a foundation of action. By serving the vulnerable, feeding the hungry, and standing in solidarity with the oppressed, we serve as God's hands.

Voting is a natural extension of faithful action. The decisions made by our representatives have a wide-reaching impact. We have enormous potential to make positive change. We must engage our legislators, vote, and encourage everyone in our communities to do the same.

Our faithful voice is needed. It is tempting to disengage from the political process. As people dedicated to creating a just world for all, we know we must be involved.

Visit <https://www.ucc.org/ourfaithourvote> to join the Our Faith, Our Vote campaign. Discover how your congregation can participate in the electoral process through faithful, nonpartisan engagement. You can find out more about how your congregation can be legally involved in elections at: https://www.ucc.org/ourfaithourvote_be-active. In addition, the United Church of Christ can help with resources on civic engagement, voter registration information, issue education, and voter mobilization.

This election season it is essential that people raise their voices and vote."

*Accessed January 2020. <https://www.ucc.org/ourfaithourvote>