

withdraw

to

pray

medina united church of christ, congregational

live stream

august 9, 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

“Precious Lord” arr. Wilbur Held

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.

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

Leader: Through the webs and nets and wires,

People: Through our streaming services on Facebook and the website,

Leader: Your Spirit moves and beckons,

People: It goes wherever it wills.

Leader: May You flow through our worship today,

People: to every heart that needs peace,

Leader: To every place where there is no peace,

People: We turn our heart, mind, and being to you now in this time,

Leader: For you to speak.

People: Our prayers, intentions and actions throughout the week will be an act of worship.

COMMUNITY PRAYER (inspired by Donna Schaper, *Blessings and Rituals for Unsheltering* page 43)

How do we find meaning and purpose in times like these, oh Lord?

We don't know how to name the time.

What was the name of the old times of restaurants and in person gatherings?

What is the name for the new times that will be?

What is the story we shall tell about ourselves during these times?

I was fine.

I survived.

I coped.

Or...

I found myself beloved, and You called my name back to me.

Let us in this silence, hear your voice, oh Gracious Mystery...

Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)"
by Matt Crocker, Joel Houston & Salomon Ligthelm

Logan Yates, voice

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 14:22-33

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

"Withdraw to Pray"

Rev. Luke Lindon

HYMN

"Dear Lord and Father of Mankind"



1. Dear Lord and Fa - ther of man - kind, for -
2. In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, be -
3. O sab - bath rest by Gal - i - lee, O

give our fool - ish ways; re - clothe us in our
 side the Syr - ian sea, the gra - cious call - ing
 calm of hills a - bove, where Je - sus knelt to

 right - ful mind, in pur - er lives thy
 of the Lord, let us, like them, with -
 share with thee the si - lence of e -

 ser - vice find, in deep - er rev - erence, praise.
 out a word, rise up and fol - low thee.
 ter - ni - ty, in - ter - pret - ed by love!

WORDS: John Greenleaf Whittier, 1872
 MUSIC: Frederick C. Maker, 1887

REST
 86.886

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.

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 strain to hear your voice. Our hearts scream at you at the injustice. The face of a hungry child. The tears of a grieving person. The worry of parents. The loneliness of the elderly. Help us see that those faces are you, speaking to us, to love more. Give generously. And to wage peace boldly. In your many Holy Names, we pray. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Leader: Our worship has ended,

People: But its gifts remain:

Leader: Tuck its praise inside you.
Take its goodness with you.

**People: We shall remember it and live by its light, its courage and grace,
and we shall not be afraid.**

Leader: Seek to serve.

People: In plenty or want, we will find ways to share.

Leader: Discern the truth and tell it,

People: And we will pray when we're unsure.

Leader: Regard all people as your people.

People: We shall take care of ourselves, our people, and we won't be afraid.

Leader: And may the blessing of God,

People: our life

Leader: the friendship of Christ,

People: our example,

Leader: and the daring of the Spirit,

People: our truth,

Leader: Lead you out onto the waters, where you will walk in blessing.

People: Having been blessed, we shall be a blessing.

Leader: Go! For this service has ended,

People: And our service now begins! Amen.

POSTLUDE "How Firm a Foundation" – arr. Steven Scott

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
Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance
Jack Manhoff, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 9, 2020

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

August 9, 2020 thru August 16, 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

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 FINAL Outdoor Vesper Service

Under the Pergola (*Weather permitting*)

**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

Worship Highlights: 10:30 Live Stream Only

Scriptures: Matthew 14:22-33

Sermon: “Withdraw to Pray”

Rev. Luke Lindon

Flowers: The altar flowers are given by Arnold & Cheri Ingraham in thanks and with love and gratitude to “the streaming team and staff for presenting worship throughout the Covid-19 shutdown.”

CALL FOR SANITIZING CREW VOLUNTEERS

We need your help! As part of our reopening, volunteers are needed to sanitize the pews in the Sanctuary each Sunday, between the 8:15 and 10:30 service. Our goal is to have enough volunteers to have at least a couple crews so the same folks aren't sanitizing every Sunday. A training will take place after the Alive on the Square service on August 23. If you are interested, please contact Maureen Walker at rini72@zoominternet.net.

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!

THERE IS A NEW SCAM IN TOWN... PLEASE BE CAREFUL!

Apparently, we need to prepare for these phone calls ... just in case!

READ THE CONVERSATION BELOW. THIS IS HOW IT WORKS. DO NOT FALL FOR IT!

"Good morning. According to our system, you are likely to have been in close proximity to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. This means that you now need to self-isolate for 7 days and take a COVID-19 test."

"OK. Can you tell me who that person was?"

"I'm not able to tell you that. That is confidential information."

"Right. Um... so"

"But you do need to be tested within the next 72 hours. So can I just get the best mailing address so that we can send a kit to you?"

"Ok (gives address)"

"Thank you - and I just need to take a payment card so that we can finalize this and send the kit to you."

"Sorry - a payment card? I thought this was all free?"

"No - I'm afraid not. There is a one-off fee of \$50 for the kit and test results. Could you read off the long card number for me, please, when you're ready."

"No - that's not right."

"I'm afraid it is. Can you give me the card number please - this is very important, and there are penalties for not complying."

This is how scammers work. And vulnerable people will fall for it! Don't fall for it!

NEW SOUND EQUIPMENT

Folks attending the Sunday evening Vespers service have had the joy of utilizing the new audio system that was purchased from the funds allocated by the Endowment Committee. The unit includes a new sound board and speakers/accessories, plus cases for storage. This new equipment allows us to prepare for ALIVE ON THE SQUARE set for August 23. Thank you to all the generous donors to the Endowment Fund who made this "boost in sound" possible!

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.

SUNDAY EVENING VESPERS WILL CONTINUE THROUGH 8/16

In this time of fear and uncertainty, let us be reminded of the power of community and worshipping together. **Every Sunday evening at 7 pm** we'll worship in the pergola and side yard of the church, weather permitting. If it's drizzling or raining, then we won't have vespers.

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.

In anticipation of in-person worship beginning, **Sunday August 16th will be our last Vespers service.**

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! Hope to see you there!

One of our parishioners found the following article to share as a feeling of faith and hope. The article, "In a Garden Lives Hope, Always" is from Horticulture Magazine. www.hortmag.com If you cannot read the article below, it will also be attached in the emailed messenger. If you do not get the messenger by email, you can simply email the office if you would like it sent to you.

deep roots

In a Garden Lives Hope, Always

EACH TIME YOU come home with a new plant and give it a good home in your ground you perform an act of faith for a better future. When you move a struggling perennial from here to there, likewise. In your basement late in winter, you plant tomato seeds with eager anticipation of many delicious fruits hot from the vine in July. Even as we enter into our fall cleanup, gardeners work with confidence in the promise of next year's season of beauty and abundance. Such expectations for new and better are a part of every gardening decision. They're part of every gardening motion.

As much as gardens provide bounty, they also yield hope, and we need hope for our spirits as much as we need nutrition for the body. Each new season, every emerging bud, any packet of seeds—these are vessels of hope. Anticipation of the day a cherry tree will burst into bloom with every petal seemingly amplifying the sun's light fortifies your will to prove more determined and persistent than winter itself.

Even the old man from the proverb "who plants a tree under whose shade he will not sit" does so envisioning a future of summer days when today's children—all grown up—will. With their children. And then they with theirs. As he finishes the job, he might imagine folks from the neighborhood a century hence



Planting is an act of faith in the future, and one that erases, for a time, any present worries.

marveling at his sapling's size and conjecturing its age. Maybe one or two might wonder about who planted it, and, just as important, why.

It should come as no surprise, then, that in stressful times people have historically turned to gardens. Apart from any practical considerations, the therapy is so primal and so rich. To be outside, to touch the earth, breathe fresh air and feel the sun's warmth on the back of the neck is the sweetest reset. Creating something of beauty and abundance is a profoundly positive act of defiance in the face of all that is wrong.

The garden speeds through the season with such determination. Spring's emerging shoots yield quickly to a succession of dazzling flowers, which attract comically hard-working bees, whose efforts give us fruits. Fruits bring their own beauty, sustenance for us and for wildlife,

and seeds. Seeds are perhaps the most precious gift. Vessels of new life, they are small but mighty assurance that a new day will come, a better season, and the cycle will continue.

Busy, modern living removes us from such essential connections, but every minute one devotes to the magic of growing God's green plants from Mother Nature's sweet earth renews our spirit. Best of all, it clears your head as you do it. Noisy thoughts stagger off. Worries wither. Fear is forgotten. There is no room in your mind for these things while you're planting rows of corn, or finding just the right spot for a new hibiscus, or carefully determining the exact right depth to plant that sapling oak. ☼

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SCOTT BEUERLEN is a horticulturist and Manager of Botanical Garden Outreach for the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. Find more of his writing at <http://www.gardenart.com>.

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

When All Seems Lost

Human trafficking is a real, terrible and often invisible component of our daily life. The United Church of Christ is working to shine light on this hidden human rights crisis.

According to the UCC's justice webpage, https://www.ucc.org/justice_womens-issues_human-trafficking, *"As of 2016, an estimated 24.9 million people were in modern slavery, not including the 15.4 million that were forced into marriage. Traffickers prey on those from vulnerable communities and force them into labor, and/or exploit them into commercial sexual enterprises. The influx of immigrants crossing the border into America are most susceptible to modern slavery, as traffickers use their vulnerability as immigrants as tools to manipulate and coerce.

Trafficking in persons is a crime against humanity and ultimately a sin. Human trafficking denies the values of human life, exposes victims to serious health risks, endangers the mental well-being of victims and impedes the ability of victims to reach their full God-given potential. As Christians, we believe that every human being is created in the image and likeness of the divine Creator, of God. The prophets cried out against the exploitation of the poor and of laborers who are not treated fairly and compensated justly (Job 24:1-12, for example).

The United Church of Christ has consistently upheld the rights and dignity of workers and of women and children, believing that God calls us into community with each other as sisters and brothers, not as exploiters and exploited. The violence done to the physical, psychological and spiritual wellbeing of children and women who are forced into prostitution, the pornography industry, sex tourism and other forms of exploitation are violations of the call of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to love our neighbors as ourselves. The kingdom of God among us requires us to provide protection for those most vulnerable and to seek conditions which support wholeness and health for everyone."

In today's reading from Genesis, Joseph is sold into slavery by his brothers and trafficked across national borders. For him, this was the first step on the road to a new life, but he needed a lot of helping hands to get him there. May we, as a denomination, as local congregations, and as individuals be that helping hand for those who need it.

*Accessed January 2020. https://www.ucc.org/justice_womens-issues_human-trafficking