



SUMMER IN THE '60s

The Times

~~re-write~~
~~re-cite~~
~~re-write~~
~~re-write~~
~~re-right~~
REWRITE
SERMON SERIES

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559
www.uccmedina.org Email: office@uccmedina.org

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

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

**Those who are able please stand*

PRELUDE “It Is Well with My Soul” – arr. John Ness Beck/trans. Janet Linker Cathy Fafrak, Organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE 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 All You Need is Love by The Beatles, 1967)

Leader: There's nothing you can do that can't be done

People: Nothing you can sing that can't be sung

Leader: Nothing you can say, but you can learn how to play the game

People: It's easy

Leader: All you need is love.

People: All we need is love.

Leader: Let us worship our God who is Love.

***COMMUNITY PRAYER** (from The Sound of Silence by Simon and Garfunkel, 1965)

Holy and Gracious Mystery,

Forgive us when we bow and pray

To the neon god we've made

And the sign flashed out its warning

In the words that it was forming

And the sign said, "The words of the prophets
Are written on the subway walls
And tenement halls"
And whispered in the sounds of silence.

Help us listen to that song and the ancient words of 1 Kings 19,
to listen for you not in the storm,
or the earthquake,
or the fire...But after the fire...
A still small voice. Amen.

SCRIPTURES

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 and Luke 12:54-59

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


"ReWrite: The Times"

Rev. Luke Lindon

First preached on July 28, 2019 at Medina UCC,C

HYMN

"It Is Well With My Soul" (vs. 1 & 3)



1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way,
2. Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come,
3. My sin, oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought!

when sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll; what - ev - er my
let this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ has re -
My sin, not in part but the whole, is nailed to the

lot, thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is
 gard - ed my help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own
 cross, and I bear it no more, praise the Lord, praise the

Refrain

well with my soul.
 blood for my soul. It is well with my soul,
 Lord, O my soul!

it is well, it is well with my soul.

WORDS: Horatio G. Spafford, 1873
 MUSIC: Philip P. Bliss, 1876

VILLE DU HAVRE
 11 8.11 9 with Refrain

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation (inspired by "Signs" by The Five Man Electric Band, 1970)

Leader: Our sign says, "Everybody welcome. Come in, kneel down and pray"

People: But when they passed around the plate at the end of it all, I didn't have a penny to pay

Leader: So if you have to get a pen and paper and make up your own little sign and write,

People: "Thank you, Lord, for thinkin' 'bout me. I'm alive and doin' fine."

Leader: Then offer that during this time.

***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**

Leader: Now we know:

People: all is grace
 all is gift.

Leader: Holy One, you give us good things:

People: life and love;
 daily bread and water that quenches our thirst;

friends and faith.

The past and this very real present.

Leader: Most of all, for your Son, Jesus,
In whom you meet us with a love that will never let us go;

People: **you utter words of mercy and forgiveness
that override the hurts,
and heal our brokenness;
you offer new beginnings
where we had expected only dead ends.**

Leader: We give you thanks and praise

People: **for the mystery of your suffering love that gives us life. Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

***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 "Hymn of Promise" – setting, John Carter**

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - email: luke@uccmedina.org

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Nicole Rubino, Co-Director of Youth

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Cathy Fafrak, Organist

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Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool

Jack Sharpe, Maintenance

Jack Manhoff, Custodian

Matt Yates, Sound & Video Operator

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 20, 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

September 20, 2020 thru September 27, 2020

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun

8:15 am Chapel Worship (in the sanctuary)
9:00 am Gathering Worship
10:30 am Traditional Worship
4:00 pm **Youth Group**

Mon

Tues

Wed 7:00 pm Zoom discussion on “The Cross and the Lynching Tree”

Thurs 7:00 pm **Congregational Council**

Fri

Sat

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship (in the sanctuary)
9:00 am Gathering Worship
10:30 am Traditional Worship
12:00 pm Circle of Caring meeting
In Fellowship Hall

GREETERS NEEDED

As we re-open, the Evangelism Team could use your help in providing a socially-distant friendly face at the door when people enter before the 10:30 service. You can stand with your mask on behind the table by the downstairs entrance where we'll have free masks available, or you can stand outside, waving “hi” and “welcome back.” Please review the available slots and sign up here: <http://tinyurl.com/uccgreeter>

Worship Highlights: 8:15, 9:00 & 10:30 am

Scriptures: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 & Luke 12:54-59
Sermon: Re-write: “The Times”
first preached by Pastor Luke on July 28, 2019

Flowers: The altar flowers are given by Jim & Jill Hennessey in honor of their 23rd wedding anniversary.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

October 4th at 4:00

Due to Covid-19 we were unable to celebrate with our confirmands on what should have been their confirmation day in May. We have now made plans to have a special confirmation service on Sunday, October 4th. Twelve very special (and patient) young people will be confirming their baptism at a 4:00 pm service. The service is only open to the families and mentors of the confirmands due to social distancing. However, we would love for all of you to join us via live stream to witness them being confirmed and be a part of their special day.

Congratulations to:

Owen Alber	Elliott Avalon
Sarah Burdick	Carleigh Johns
Owen Kurjian	Sophia Kurjian
Emerson Lindsley	Sydney Lindsley
Jacob Masi	Amanda Nevi
Aidan Rubino	Ian White

F.I.S.H.

We will be offering an at home Sunday school for the children this fall starting in October. The DELTs are finalizing plans this week. Stay tuned for more information!

CIRCLE OF CARING MEETING – Sunday, 9/27/2020 at 12 pm

Circle of Caring will be holding an **in-person meeting** in the Fellowship Hall, Sunday, September 27th at 12:00 noon. Unfortunately, the Fellowship Hall is not able to have either Zoom Meet or a Live Stream option. Alternative forms of communication are being researched, and we hope to have something up and running in time for the meeting for at-home attendees to connect with in-person attendees during the meeting so they will be able to present Team reports, ask questions, comment and discuss, and share ideas. Any thoughts? Please share them with Alice Metzloff...330-242-3602. Thank you for your ideas. ****For everyone's safety...COVID-19 safety measures protocol requires that masks be worn when in close proximity to others, hands washed/sanitized before entering or leaving Fellowship Hall...and maintain social distancing at all times.***

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING

Sunday, October 4, 2020

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities. **Please consider giving to this fund on October 4th.**

ZOOM DISCUSSION ON “THE CROSS AND THE LYNCHING TREE”

A connection so obvious, we missed it. A past so painful, some deny it. Let's explore together as we read and discuss James Cone's seminal work, “The Cross and the Lynching Tree”. The discussion groups will be held Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm via Zoom starting on September 9th then every 2nd and 4th Wednesday following for a total of 5 weeks.

Contact Ryan Collins by emailing at rpcollins1@gmail.com or text/call 330-321-7028, or go to <https://forms.gle/WW7zUavYjn8ttjmm6> to sign up.

The Conversation on Diversity Book Club – Monday, 9/21/2020

Meetings on ZOOM - 3rd Mondays, 6:30 – 7:30pm

Have you noticed there are few opportunities to meet, talk and get to know people outside of our homogenous neighborhoods? There just aren't many things we black and white folk do together! So, in the hope of providing a friendly meeting place where we can talk and learn more about our neighbors, the Conversation on Diversity Book Club has been created. The fictional stories we read are intended to spark conversations about how racial and cultural imprints may influence our reactions to events. The Book Club is a collaboration of the AAUW Diversity Project, the Medina Diversity Project and Leadership Medina County, with support from the Medina UCC.

For more information about The Conversation on Diversity Book Club, this month's book, “The Hate U Give” by Angie Thomas and to pick up one of the reserved library books, contact Jeannine Murray, 440-759-8806.

YOUTH GROUP

"We will be gathering for youth group this Sunday **September 20th**. We will meet at the Avalon's where we will have plenty of space to maintain a safe distance. The weather looks beautiful to have some ice cream sundaes and play a game of kickball! I will need an RSVP if your youth will be attending so I can be sure to have enough ice cream for all.

I will have youth group registration forms for anyone that needs to fill one out, for example, if you have any changes to your information or you have a 3rd grader new to youth group please be sure to grab a form. Also, I will need to collect youth group fees to cover the cost of snacks as well as other expenses. Usually the fee is \$20 per child but we decided to start by only collecting \$10 per child since we are unsure of what youth group will look like come winter.

When: Sunday, September 20th from 4-6 p.m.

Where: The Avalon's 5280 Summerwood Dr. Seville 44273

What to bring: Water bottle, Face mask 🤒, \$10 per child youth group fee (cash or check payable to UCC Medina)

Additional: RSVP required

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Bring your pet to be blessed during Medina's First Friday "Barktober" on Friday, October 2nd from 5-7 p.m. outside the church! Any pet that is safe to bring is welcome. Each pet will be individually blessed by Pastor Luke. Please wear your mask and invite your friends and neighbors! Free pet treats from One Lucky Dog Bakery, bandannas and blessing cards while supplies last! Let's celebrate God's compassion and concern for all creatures.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET THE PILGRIM MESSENGER EVERY WEEK?

We have now resumed our weekly Pilgrim Messenger mailing! We have about 60+ people that are on our mailing list already from prior to the COVID outbreak.

I know that some of you are still not comfortable coming to church and you do watch the live stream service, but if you would like for us to send you the Pilgrim Messenger by regular mail please let us know. Also, if you already receive the mailing and wish to no longer be on the list, please let the office know.

We do email the Pilgrim Messenger to some folks as well. If you wish to be on that list, please let the office know.

We want to keep in touch with as many of you as we can and let you know some of what is happening in the life of the church! Hopefully someday soon we can all be together again in the building but until then, stay safe, stay healthy, and stay informed!

You may contact the office at 330-725-4559 or office@uccmedina.org

A few days ago I saw a Star Wars/Church meme that said “Long ago in a Galilee far, far away...”. I thought it was funny – and it got me thinking about humor in the Bible. Human nature almost requires us to use humor in our daily lives – and I can’t believe a bunch of guys, hanging out together 24/7, didn’t joke around with each other. We, rightfully so, idealize the Disciples and Jesus, but they were “guys” too. There was a lot of walking from town to town and I’m pretty sure some of the day went like this: “Hey Peter – what kind of man was Boaz before he got married? He was Ruthless!!!” or “Hey Jesus – if Mary had you and you are the lamb does that mean Mary had a little lamb??”. Maybe it didn’t go quite like that, but you get my point. Jesus was a commanding figure and like any good public speaker, he had to use humor to keep the audience’s attention. That humor also had to have translated into the events described in the Bible. I think either we read with such reverence that sometimes we miss the joke or we just can’t understand the subtle barbs and one liners the same way our ancient brothers and sisters did. I went looking for evidence of humor in the Bible and there is a lot of it. It just depends on how you are hearing the story. Take for example this excerpt from Robin Gallaher Branch’s “On the lighter side of the Bible”:

In the home of Jairus’, a synagogue ruler, Jesus uses practical knowledge to break a tense situation. Jairus’ twelve-year-old daughter just died. Jesus, three of his disciples and the child’s parents fill the room (Mark 5:40). Jesus goes to the body, picks up the girl’s hand, says to her, “Talitha koum!” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, get up!” (v. 41). The girl immediately gets up and walks around the room (v. 42a). Mark records the reaction of those in the room as “completely astonished” (v. 42b); in other words, they’re probably stunned and silent. Jesus responds with something practical: He tells them to give her something to eat (v. 43). A natural human reaction—when grief is turned to unexpected joy as when a dead girl is brought back to life—is something loud like laughter or shouting. Here, Jesus cracks a joke by reminding everybody that a girl who has been sick, experienced death, and is now alive is hungry! Of course she needs to eat! All twelve year-olds have ravenous appetites! This practical, timely and kind statement from Jesus breaks all the tension, pent-up grief and amazement present in the room among the girl’s parents and Jesus’ three disciples. I read this scene as Jesus’ cracking a joke. And the proper appreciation of a joke is laughter.

So – in this somewhat tense time of Covid and Politics – don’t forget to laugh. Find the humor – it’s always there somewhere.



FALL FLOWER POT

Once again the Evangelism Team has decorated a fall flower pot on the Medina square. Stop by the Bicentennial Commons on the NW corner of the square by the public restrooms to check it out! It's even lit up at night as you're driving north on Court St. This year's "pot people" are meant to encourage the idea of a just world for all. Thanks to Karen and Ken Zuehlke, Elaine McCarroll, Sari Allen, Wendy Swantek, Diane Stoll and Cathy Fafrak for their amazing creation!

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

Exodus 16:2-15

Tensions in the Wilderness

In a congregational meeting, during which the congregation was discerning about becoming a Just Peace congregation, someone once asked, "How can we say we are *just* for peace? We are for so much more than that."

Just Peace as a designation does not mean that a congregation is merely "for peace." It means that the congregation understands that Justice and Peace are inevitably bound together - so closely entwined that it is impossible to separate them.

Peace and justice both require careful tending and loving attention. As the scripture reading this morning reminds us, peace is easily lost. The people grumble among themselves and with their leaders. But they are not just grumbling out of dissatisfaction or irritability. They are grumbling because they are hungry. The peace issue (conflict among the people) cannot be addressed until the justice issue (people need enough to eat) is met. Justice and Peace, hand in hand, are then able to move forward into the wilderness.

The Just Peace website, (https://www.ucc.org/justice_just-peace) states, "Justice and Witness Ministries is committed to a revitalized Just Peace Church movement and to empowering and resourcing congregations to create a stronger justice and peace witness. Now is the time to rekindle our commitment to Just Peace and make visible our longstanding witness to this approach...Does your church consider itself to be a Just Peace congregation? What is your church doing to live out its calling to be a Just Peace Church? What does it mean to be a Just Peace Church in times like these? I hope you will take the time to update your church's information on our site and offer your responses to these questions. Your energy and voice is needed to reinvigorate and shape the direction of our collective movement."

If your congregation is not a Just Peace Church, maybe now is the time to begin a conversation about this important movement for merging justice and peace to be about the creation of God's reign here on earth.