
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL



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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*

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE “Holy Ground” – arr. Carol Tornquist

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

GREETINGS 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 Erasmus (1469-1536)

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ,

People: You are the sun that rises, but never sets.

You are the source of all life, creating and sustaining every living thing.

You are the source of all food, material and spiritual,

Nourishing us in body and soul.

Leader: You are the light that dispels the clouds of error and doubt,

People: And goes before me every hour of the day, guiding my thoughts and actions.

May I walk in your light,

Be sustained by your mercy,

And warmed by your love. Amen.

***COMMUNITY PRAYER** From *A Book of Worship for Free Churches* (1948)

Almighty and everlasting God, always more ready to hear than we are to pray, always willing to give more than we desire or deserve: pour upon us the abundance of your mercy; forgiving those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and meditation of Jesus Christ, our Sovereign. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Exodus 33:12-23

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 2020"

Rev. Luke Lindon

RESPONSIVE PRAYER Benedict of Nursia (480 – 543 or 547)

Lord God, protect us from the pointing finger and malicious talk. Give us the courage to win over our enemies by our love and to wear them down with grace. Amen.

HYMN

"In the Midst of New Dimensions"



1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo - ple, war-ring fac-tions and de - spair,
3 As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,



Who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples wan-dering in their sep - arate ways?
Who will lift the ol - ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
Grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.

Refrain

God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your
 peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

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 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

O God, most merciful and gracious, of whose bounty we have all received: accept, we pray, this offering of your people. Remember in your love those how have brought it and those for whom it is given; and so follow it with your blessing, that it may promote peace and goodwill among all people and advance the realm of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

*BENEDICTION

Leader: There is no going back.
People: There is only going forward.
 Leader: As our African kindred say, If you want to go fast, go alone.
People: If you want to go far, go together.
 Leader: 2020 isn't over yet,
People: We still have miles to go.
 Leader: We shall face them together.
People: With faith in God and in each other,
 Leader: The gates of hell will not prevail against us.
People: We have been blessed to be a blessing.

Leader: So go and bless this hurting world! For this service has ended.

People: **And our service now 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** "Toccata in e minor" – Johann Pachelbel

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"



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

Laura Garcia, Assistant Director of Hobby Horse Preschool

Jack Sharpe, Maintenance

Jack Manhoff, Custodian

Matt Yates, Sound & Video Operator

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

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

September 27, 2020 thru October 4, 2020

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues

Wed

Thurs

Fri 5:00 pm Blessing of the Animals

Sat

Sun World Communion Sunday

8:15 am Chapel Worship (in the sanctuary)
9:00 am Gathering Worship
10:30 am Traditional Worship
4:00 pm Confirmation service

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: Exodus 33:12-23

Sermon: "Rewrite 2020"
Rev. Luke Lindon

Flowers: The altar flowers are given by Pete & Alice Metzloff in memory of loved ones.

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:

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

CIRCLE OF CARING MEETING – TODAY at Noon

Circle of Caring will be holding an **in-person meeting** in the Fellowship Hall, **Today, Sunday, September 27th at 12:00 noon**. What is Circle of Caring? It is a group of friendly visitors who enjoy calling on older members in their homes or in residential facilities. It is also a resource group for those who are already visiting older friends and family members. We share ideas about visiting, offering encouraging words and ways to help everyone continue to feel valued. Please bring your mask and join us as we share ideas for growing our outreach.

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.**

F.I.S.H. PACKETS ARE READY FOR PICK UP

Due to Covid-19 we are unable to meet in person for our F.I.S.H. classes. ☹️ I have put together a F.I.S.H. packet for the month of October. We will be looking at the story of Noah's Ark. Every week in October, my children's moment will have something to do with Noah's Ark. In your packet you will have four activities (one for each Sunday in October). Most of the supplies have been provided for you in the packets. The packets will be available at church this Sunday, September 27. You can also pick up the packets at the church anytime during the week from 9-3. They will be right inside the doors on the table in the welcoming area. Each child gets one packet. These are for children Pre-K-5th grade. Please contact Stacie Yates with any questions or concerns.

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.

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 continue to be held every 2nd and 4th Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm via Zoom 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/WW7zUJavYjn8ttjmm6> to sign up.



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

September 27, 2020
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
American Indian Ministry Sunday
United Samoan Ministries Stewardship Sunday

Exodus 17:1-7

God's Sustaining Presence

Holy God,
Thank You for Your sustaining presence above, below, before, behind and within us.

Sometimes we cry out in suffering.
We are thirsty, we are grieving, we are lost.
We struggle to find You.
Hear us when we cry, we pray.
Sustain us with like a cool spring of water appearing unexpectedly in a dry desert.

Other times we are in the flow of things.
We are moving, we are creative, we know right where we are.
We know right where You are too.
See us as we progress, we pray.
Sustain us like a burbling and flowing river moving with swift clarity on its own beautiful path.

And, then, there are those times when we are stopped in awe.
We are struck by Your power and majesty; we recognize how small we are.
We feel how grand You are.
Touch us with sand and salt, we pray.
Sustain us like a mighty ocean taking our breath and then giving back, over and over.

Water in the Desert,
Flowing River,
Mighty Ocean,
Three in One,
One in Three,
Sustain us, we pray.
Amen.