



CONGREGATIONAL
Story Project

Involved
November 1, 2020

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559

www.uccmedina.org



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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 “Above All” – arr. David Hamilton

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.

*OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Holy One, thank you for involving us in your story.

People: **We know you can do it all on your own,**

Leader: But you invoke, inspire, and instigate.

People: **Your methods aren't direct,**

Leader: Working with and through, instead of for.

People: **Calling us to be co-creators.**

Leader: Remind us, Oh Lord, for when we inevitably complain about injustice and why someone doesn't do something.

People: **That we are someone. And we can do something.**

Leader: In your name. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC “Polonaise no. 1 in C# minor” - Chopin

Ian Morgan, piano

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

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.

SCRIPTURE Genesis 9:12-17 as interpreted by the Bixler family with an introduction by Miss Stacie

SERMON & VIDEO "Involved"

Rev. Luke Lindon

HYMN "In the Midst of New Dimensions" (vs. 1, 3 & 5)

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 87,87, with refrain
Julian Rush, 1982
Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994



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,
4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with - draw in pain,



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.
Each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung.
May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.



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.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

We give to our God. We give to our neighbor. Upon these rest all our scriptures, tradition, and history. This is the moral of our story. Please prayerfully consider how you generously give of your time, talent, and treasure. In whatever way you can, give of what you can. This is how God's kingdom shall come. Let us now sing our doxology.

***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**

Holy One, we freely give to you our time, talent, and treasure. Set us on fire. Help us build your kingdom here. Thank you for making us agents of your love. And should we fall to the temptation that all is lost, remind us that there is no defense against love. It wins every. Single. Time. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. You do not need to be a member of the United Church of Christ to partake in the Holy Sacrament.

Invitation to the Table

The Words of Institution

Partaking of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*BENEDICTION

Leader: We might not know the full reason why we are here,

People: **For we see through the glass but dimly,**

Leader: But thanks be to our God for blessing us with each other!

People: **We celebrate our stories and our community!**

Leader: Each a gift from our Creator Sustainer, Redeemer, let us go from here to welcome, love and serve, 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 "Rigaudon" – David H. Hegarty

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - email: luke@uccmedina.org
Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor

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

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 1, 2020

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

November 1, 2020 thru November 8, 2020

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS**
8:15 am Chapel Worship (in the sanctuary)
9:00 am Gathering Worship
10:30 am Traditional Worship

Mon **7:00 pm Evangelism Team Mtg.**

Tues

Wed 7:00 pm Zoom Discussion on
"The Cross and the Lynching Tree"

Thurs

Fri

Sat

Sun **STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY**
8:15 am Chapel Worship (in the sanctuary)
9:00 am Gathering Worship
10:30 am Traditional Worship
11:45 am Safety Team Zoom Mtg.

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

Scripture: Genesis 9: 12-17

Sermon: "Involved" - Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are given by Kellie & Crell Johns in honor of Crell's 50th birthday.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTIONS FOR CONGREGATIONAL STORY PROJECT – Stewardship 2020

We're more than church on Sunday and you're more than a member of this church. Our worship experiences don't start and end on Sunday mornings. Opportunities for involvement come every day of the week ranging from work on one of our teams, adult education or even just lifting another in prayer. Involvement does not have to be measured in hours and does not even have to take place in our building.

This week, we'd love to hear from you about what you've involved in. Share things that you do in the life to our church on social media (posts will be forthcoming) or e-mail your thoughts to the church office (office@uccmedina.org). Let's tell some good stories!

UPPER ROOM

New Upper Room daily devotionals for November/December are in! Pick up a regular or large print format on the table in the Welcome Area.

DON'T FORGET NEXT SUNDAY IS STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

You should be receiving your pledge card/pamphlet in the mail in the next few days, if you have not already. Please return your pledge cards to the church office next Sunday! Thank you for your consideration.

THANK YOU

The family of Tom Evans would like to thank all those who sent cards and memorials following Tom's death earlier this month. These gestures of sympathy and remembrance are warmly appreciated.

ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund Committee is pleased to invite Teams and Committees within the church to complete a *Request for Funding* packet, to request financial support for a special project for the mission of our church. The packet has easy-to-follow directions to provide details of the funded project that will be proposed. There is over \$18,000 available for allocation and we celebrate the generosity of the church family that has made this possible via their donations to the Endowment Fund over the last two decades. **Deadline for application is Monday, November 30, 2020.** The *Request for Funding* packet is available in the rack outside the church office. An electronic copy is also available by contacting the church office.

WORSHIP PODCAST

Want an easy way to listen to worship while driving, vacuuming, raking leaves, or walking the dog? Our worship audio is now available in podcast form! Search for "UCC Medina" in Apple Podcasts or Google Play on your phone. Coming to Amazon Echo devices soon as well! You can also find the feed at uccmedina.podbean.com. The audio will be posted by Monday morning each week.

GOSPEL GALLEY

“Right, Privilege, Responsibility”

Alice Metzloff

On Tuesday, November 3rd we the people of this United States go to VOTE our conscience as to whom will be our country's next President. What is voting? A right? A privilege? Or a responsibility? A website called FairVote is “a nonpartisan champion of electoral reforms that give voters greater choice, a stronger voice, and a representative democracy that works for all Americans”. Excerpts from a blog article called “Right to Vote” written by Dean Searcy on April 19, 2011 says:

“When Americans talk about their democracy, they typically emphasize the importance of the *right* to vote. But the fact is that, unlike other democratic *rights* protected in the First Amendment, voting *rights* do not have clear constitutional protections.” “This essay invites readers to question whether the ability to vote should be a right, a privilege, or a responsibility.” Searcy defines the terms: “1. Privilege (n): An immunity or benefit enjoyed only by a person beyond the advantaged of most. 2. Right (n): That which is due to anyone by just claim, legal guarantees, or moral principles. 3. Responsibility (n): Being answerable or accountable for something within one's power, control, or management.” “Many people view the ability to vote as all three simultaneously, and weigh “right” after “privilege” or “responsibility”. For the full blog article, go to: <https://www.fairvote.org/voting-a-right-a-privilege-or-a-responsibility>.

So, what does rights, privileges, and responsibility mean for us Christians? The Old Testament book of Micah 6:8 states... “*You have been told, O mortal, what is good, and what the LORD requires of you: Only to do justice and walk humbly with your God.*” What IF WE CHOOSE NOT to vote? Remember...voting is a CHOICE...and a right...and a privilege...and a responsibility. Micah 4:1 states: “*Let us trust in the LORD and His steadfast care: for what He gives and for what He takes away, that in all things, all persons may seek the LORD and walk in His ways.*” Voting is...

Necessary Opinioned Valued Empowering Majestic Bold Elective Reactionary

LOOKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

We have subscribed to a communication system that will allow us to efficiently send telephone and/or email messages to our church family. The system is called “**One Call Now**” and is similar to systems used by local schools. Sometime early next week, you should receive an automated phone call, which will be identified as a “message from the United Church of Christ, Medina.” Our first use of this new communication system is to try to get an idea of how many people are likely to be attending in person Christmas Eve services this year. You will be asked to respond (by entering a single digit) to the telephone call. The system will automatically record and tabulate your response.

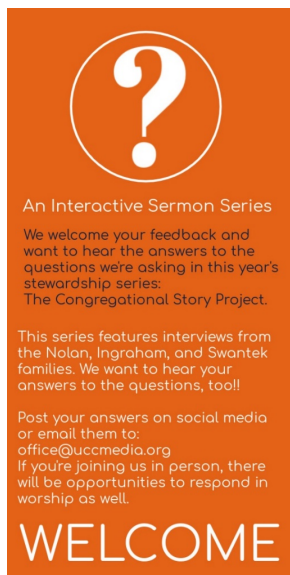
CONGREGATIONAL STORY PROJECT - WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR ANSWERS!

HERE IS THE QUESTION FROM WEEK 3 (October 18, 2020)

What do you see in the future of our church?

Dick & Christy

For the future of Medina UCC, both Dick and I are hopeful that in 200 years it will still be on the Square serving the community. It will be keeping the story of God’s love alive. Through all the unknowns it will continue to be the ark, a safe place, as described by Pastor Luke.



We are reminded of the magnificent dramatization of *Noah’s Ark* in Lancaster, PA. The theater was designed as a huge ark, with actors and some live animals coming down the aisles. Thinking about a delightful song, “What do you do on a rainy day in the ark?” brings a smile. Inexplicably, traveling home on the tour bus, someone called out “look!” There was a rainbow.

We pray for renewed energy to be better stewards of God’s creation, expecting that hard work will be necessary for the benefit of future generations.

Julie Gilliland

I think the young people we see growing up in our church today will be leading us in committee roles and projects that will strengthen us and help us continue to do good in the world. I am so optimistic about future generations. They are harnessing so much of the knowledge at their feet for so much good, for everyone and the planet.

Elaine Taylor

Spreading kindness, being a light in dark times, keeping our doors open to all so that everyone who wishes can worship, and continuing to reach out to our seniors so they will feel connected to the church family.

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**

November 1, 2020
Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
All Saints Day

Matthew 23:1-12

Partners in Service

Today in many of our churches, we celebrate the service of communion, and we gather around the common table.

This table is the table of anticipation. As we gather here, we look ahead in joyful hope and exultant expectation of the day to come, when all God's people gather around the table of justice. By coming together around this table, we express our yearning to be a part of that kingdom by our deeds, words and thoughts.

This table is the table of celebration. As we gather here, we are aware that around the world, on this day and in just this way, we gather with siblings, brothers and sisters in the faith who gather around a table just like this one. By coming together around this table, we express our desire to become one with all who follow Christ.

This table is the table of remembrance. As we gather here, we look backwards in time, and we glimpse Christ, gathered around a table like this one with his friends and chosen family. By coming together around this table, we express our willingness to follow Christ in all things. And above all things, he asked us to remember him when we ate and drank as we do here today.

As we anticipate, celebrate and remember on this All Saints Day, we also call to mind all those who have gone before us, especially those who have died in the past year. It has been a year of great losses for many of us, and as we call to mind those we have lost, we give thanks for their lives here.

Come from the east and the west, the north and south,
Come from among the living and the dead,
Come from the future and the past and this sacred precious moment,
Come and gather at this table.
Come, for all things are made ready.