



C O N G R E G A T I O N A L  
S t o r y   P r o j e c t

Most Cherished  
October 11, 2020

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# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

[www.uccmedina.org](http://www.uccmedina.org)



**\*\*\*Assisted Listening Devices Available – Please Ask Your Usher\*\*\***

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

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

*\*Those who are able please stand*

## RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

**PRELUDE** “I Love to Tell the Story” – arr. Dale Wood

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

**People:** We gather to seek your purpose for our lives.  
**Leader:** To remind ourselves of your story we are caught up in.  
**People:** Thank you, Author of our Lives, for writing us in your cosmic love story.  
**Leader:** Yet with the talk of a global flood and blotting life out.. can we say that..  
**People:** We have questions.  
**Leader:** What meaning can we find?  
**People:** Are we cherished by you, Our God?  
**Leader:** Be with us in our questions, ponderings, and in our gathering this day.  
**People:** As you already are. Amen.

**SPECIAL MUSIC** “Be Thou My Vision” -setting by Craig Courtney

Kellie Johns, solo

## 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 6:9-16 *as interpreted by Eve and Sam Lindon with an introduction by Miss Stacie*

**SERMON & VIDEO** "Cherished?"

Rev. Luke Lindon

## HYMN

"God, We Thank You for Our People" (verses 1 & 2)



1 God, we thank you for our peo-ple, roots dug deep with - in the soil,  
2 Thank you, God, for gen-tle plea-sure: les - sons learned and se-crets told,  
3 Still we must con-fess be - fore you, some-times, Sav - ior, we have failed;  
4 By your Spir - it of cre - a - tion keep us bold for risk-ing still,



har - dy spir - its, rich in lov - ing, strong for strug - gle, bold for toil.  
hopes and mem-ories saved as trea - sure, passed to young ones by the old,  
though we wor-ship and a - dore you, some-times love has not pre-vailed.  
ea - ger in an - ti - ci - pa - tion, ev - er strong to do your will.



Faith - ful Rock of gen - er - a - tions, you whom par - ents' par - ents praised:  
Pranks and glo-ries, songs and sto-ries, food by lov - ing hands pre - pared.  
Tem - pers rac - ing, dev - il chas-ing, hearts es - tranged by ice or flame  
Bind us close to one an - oth - er, shar-ing life and death and birth,



Here in hope as we re - mem-ber may our song to you be raised.  
God, we bless you for your pres - ence in our tears and laugh - ter shared.  
You trans-form by ways for - giv - ing. Grace a - maz-ing! Grace, your name!  
Wel-com - ing as sis - ter, broth-er, all your chil-dren on the earth.

## 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. We have offering plates in the back of the sanctuary, as well as an online option at [uccmedina.org/give](http://uccmedina.org/give). 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

Gracious Mystery, forgive us for continuing to begrudgingly build arks. We are trying to take this life in. To revel in it. To celebrate it. It can feel so fleeting. So precious. Thank you for collecting our memories and remembering us in love. May these offerings build your kingdom where no one is forgotten. Where every tear will be wiped away and we shall live in a joy that no one can take away. To this end...To your end...we gladly give of our time, talent, and treasure. Amen.

### \*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 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" – arr. David Lowe

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

## **MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"**

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***PASTORAL STAFF***

Rev. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - email: [luke@uccmedina.org](mailto:luke@uccmedina.org)  
Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor

***OFFICE STAFF***

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - email: [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)  
Kelly Charnley, Financial Manager - email: [financial@uccmedina.org](mailto: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

## OCTOBER 11, 2020

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

October 11, 2020 thru October 18, 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** 10:00 am Gift Card Orders Due

6:30 pm Women's Bible Study  
7:00 pm Evangelism Team

**Tues**

**Wed**

**Thurs**

**Fri**

**Sat**

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

### **PASTOR APPRECIATION**

*“Pastor Luke,  
On behalf of the Moderators, Julie Gilliland,  
Maureen Walker, Matt Yates, and your entire  
church family, please know how much we  
appreciate you and all your hard work! You,  
Kate, Eve and Sam all give of your time, your  
hearts, and so much more to Medina UCC,C.”*

Please take a moment this week to send Pastor Luke, Kate, Eve and Sam a thank you note, email, text, or post on their social media pages.

Let them know how much we love and appreciate them

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

Scriptures: Genesis 6: 9-16

Sermon: “Cherished” - Rev. Luke Lindon

**Flowers:** The altar flowers are given by Don & Marilyn Canfield in honor of their 58<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### **CONGREGATIONAL STORY PROJECT – Stewardship 2020**

Oh, the memories! What is your most cherished memory of our church? Was it when your children were baptized here? Maybe you were married here? Maybe you (or your kids) have great memories of youth lock-ins. Here is where you made new friends. Here is where you deepened your relationship with Christ.

This year as part of our stewardship program, we're collecting memories (and still money...can't forget about that). We're asking two things:

1. Share your story of great memories this week, either on social media (a post will be coming from the church for you to use) or via email at [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org).
2. We need more memories! Your financial support of our church in 2021 allows us to continue to make lasting and cherished memories as well as continue the work of Jesus Christ here on Earth.

## **GIFT CARD ORDERS**

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Plan ahead now for Special Occasions and place your Gift Card order soon. Please see the Yellow Retailer List in the rack near Fellowship Hall or visit [www.glscrip.com](http://www.glscrip.com) and click on the Retailer List on the left side to view or print your own list. Complete a Green Order Form, also available in the rack near Fellowship Hall and return to Kelly or Stacie with payment.

**The next order will be a week early and due on Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.**

## **GREETERS NEEDED**

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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>

## **CRAFTS READY FOR VISITATION TEAM DELIVERY**

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Today, Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup> through Sunday October 11<sup>th</sup>. Crafts are located on the table under the first floor stairs. Please sign out the craft(s) you will deliver. Write your name down next to the recipients' name(s). For recipients living in Care Facilities: Please, call ahead to the facility (phone number listed on the sheet) about its COVID restrictions regarding visits. Then, call the recipient (phone number listed on the sheet) to make arrangements for a day and time for delivery drop-off.

Thank you... *Circle of Caring*

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

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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. You can 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-5<sup>th</sup> grade. Please contact Stacie Yates with any questions or concerns.

## **ZOOM DISCUSSION ON "THE CROSS AND THE LYNCHING TREE"**

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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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm via Zoom for a total of 5 weeks.

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

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

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The music staff would like to extend a big "Thank You" to all those who offered their musical talents during our online worship. Their time, talent and willingness to record themselves singing and/or playing an instrument brightened our worship during these times!

Maggie Bixler  
Tracy Gabrielsen  
Sam Lindon  
Ian Morgan

Max Gabrielsen  
Cheri Ingraham  
Alice Metzloff  
Ann Nagy  
Logan Yates

Ruby Gabrielsen  
Eve Lindon  
Pete Metzloff  
Nick North

## IT'S TIME TO TRICK OR TREAT!

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Calling church members who would like to safely give candy to costumed church youth at a socially distanced "Trick or Treat". The CDC is cautioning against traditional trick or treating, so this year we'd like to offer a safe alternative!

**WHEN:** Saturday, 10/31 from 1-2 pm Rain date: Sunday, 11/1 from 1-2 pm

**WHERE:** Medina County Admin Parking Lot (144 N. Broadway St.)

**UCCC TREAT GIVERS:** can park in the lot every few parking spaces, bring lawn chairs, masks, and candy. You can also park facing the aisle, put TREATS on your hood, and watch and wave safely from your car!

**UCCC TRICK OR TREATERS:** you can park at UCCC and walk to the county admin lot. Wear costumes and mask up!

Questions? Contact Ellen Nolan (814) 282-8493 or [ellenknolan@gmail.com](mailto:ellenknolan@gmail.com)

## OCTOBER'S CONVERSATION ON DIVERSITY BOOK CLUB "Little Fires Everywhere"

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**Meetings on ZOOM – 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays, 6:30-7:30 pm**

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! 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.

Conversation this month will focus on the book "Little Fires Everywhere" by Elizabeth Ng. The Book Club has reserved copies of the popular book published in 2017. The story has also been made into a limited drama series on Netflix and Hulu.

The Conversation on Diversity 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 October's book, or to join October's Zoom conversation on Monday, 10/19, contact Jeannine Murray (440-759-8806).





## FALL FLOWER POT

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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!

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**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](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)**  
**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm MONDAY THRU FRIDAY**

Philippians 4:1-9

### **Praiseworthy Living**

In today's reading, Paul sends a letter of encouragement and hope to his beloved friends in Philippi. For centuries, letters have been the way that we reach across the divide of geography to offer solace and challenge with our words. As people of the Word, we continue that tradition whenever we send a letter.

Last March, as the world braced for a pandemic, The Council of Conference Ministers as well as The Officers of the United Church of Christ (The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer, The Rev. Traci Blackmon and The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson) sent a letter in the Pauline tradition. As news of the COVID-19 pandemic first began to break, these pastor leaders reached across geography with words to bring hope and comfort.

"As leaders in our beloved United Church of Christ, we write to speak a word of tender care to our congregations, our clergy, and our members...

Remember that we are a Christmas people, and that Jesus is incarnated in every act of love and kindness we extend to one another.

Remember that we are an Easter people and we know that God can reach us beyond all the barriers the world can create.

Remember that we are a Pentecost people who know that the Holy Spirit can revive us and who will be our strength in times of great distress.

We can do this. We are the Church, the body of the risen Christ. As leaders called to serve you, we pledge to you that we will continue to draw on every resource available to us that will help you through this season.

In the love of our blessed Redeemer, we remain as always your humble servants and your beloved covenant partners."

More thoughtful than an email, more lasting than a phone call and further reaching than in-person conversation, letters were not just for Paul's time. They have the power to move and change us even today.

*You can find the full text of this letter at:*

[https://www.ucc.org/news\\_commentary\\_a\\_pastoral\\_letter\\_in\\_a\\_time\\_of\\_pandemic\\_03262020](https://www.ucc.org/news_commentary_a_pastoral_letter_in_a_time_of_pandemic_03262020)