

Future



MEDINA
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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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 “Intrada and Chorale” – Edward Broughton

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**

Leader: Keeper of the Future, you call us from beyond the horizon.

People: You lead us with a pillar of smoke and fire.

Leader: Just beyond our grasp,

People: Yet closer than our next breath.

Leader: You keep our steps, mark our time.

People: And guide us.

Leader: Thanks be to you, Our God,

People: Our Maker and Author of all our stories. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”
Arranged by Craig Courtney

Jerry & Elizabeth Mason, duet

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 6:18-22a *as interpreted by the Ockunzzi family with an introduction by Miss Stacie*

SERMON & VIDEO "Future"

HYMN

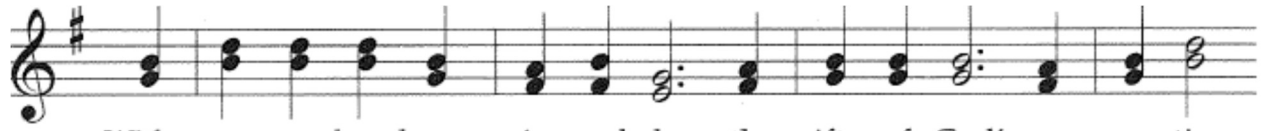
"We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky"



1. We can-not own the sun-lit sky, the moon,the wild-flow'rs grow-ing,
2. When bod-ies shiv - er in the night and, wea-ry, wait for morn-ing,
3. God calls hu-man - i - ty to join as part-ners in cre - at - ing



for we are part of all that is with-in life's riv - er flow-ing.
when chil-dren have no bread but tears, and war-horns sound their warn-ing,
a fu - ture free from want and fear, life's good-ness cel - e - brat-ing.



With o - pen hands re - ceive and share the gifts of God's cre - a - tion,
God calls hu - man - i - ty to wake, to join in com-mon la - bor,
That new world beck-ons from a - far, in - vites our shared en-deav-or,



that all may have a - bun-dant life in ev - 'ry earth - ly na - tion.
that all may have a - bun-dant life in one-ness with their neigh-bor.
that all may have a - bun-dant life and peace en-dure for - ev - er.

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. 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, only you know what is coming. Only you know what the future holds. We give to that future day where your kingdom has come in its fullness. May we give in faith of our time, talent, and treasure to that future day. And give us the senses to perceive the glimpses of you breaking into our present moment. In joy and thanksgiving, we pray. 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 "All Creatures of Our God and King" – arr. Timothy Albrecht Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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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
Matt Yates, Sound & Video Operator

CONGREGATIONAL STORY PROJECT - WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR ANSWERS!

HERE IS THE QUESTION FROM WEEK 1 (October 4, 2020)

What originally led you and your family to our church?

Julie Gilliland

Growing up in TX, I was unaware of the UCC. I moved to Denver and married my hubby, whose father was a UCC minister. I started attending his church and fell in love with the social justice, and the open and affirming beliefs.

Mary J Murray

I auditioned a lot of churches: The Baptist Church on the Square had a mean minister who made the congregation sing louder and louder, repeating the hymn until he was satisfied. The Lutheran Church didn't feel welcoming (maybe one of those "off" Sundays?) The Methodist church on South Court had green walls in the sanctuary and it made me feel creepy.

I finally came to the Church on the Square because Carl Jessie and Joy Hunter were really nice people and bought plants from my plant store. So I figured if they were nice, then the people at their church were probably nice too.

The Sunday I attended for the first time, I immediately felt like I was home: The choir was led by Leonard Machles, I liked the sermon, a bird flew into the sanctuary (God's messenger!) and the final hymn was one of my favorites - "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart". That was forty-one years ago and it still feels like a family home. Please never paint the walls green!

Alan Parkhurst

We moved to Medina from Minneapolis in 1962, I had been baptized in the Presbyterian church when I was born in Texas but the UCCC was right across the street from our home in Minn. It was a natural choice when coming to Medina. My mother was active with the church as well. LOVE our church and always have found it a positive experience. All our great ministers, and associate ministers kept me active over the years as a child/young adult. I even used to teach with the likes of Clarence Anderson and George Gifford. Our church used to have an outreach with a youth organization for the Northeast Ohio called Torch that exposed us to volunteering in inner city projects, Mental institutions and bible studies. Rev Luke and his family now are simply the icing on the cake!

Elaine Taylor

My mom and grandmother became members of the UCCC when they moved to Medina around 1939. I was baptized and raised in this church, as were my two sons. I spent some years away at college and thru the years visited other churches, but the UCCC is home. You can feel the love and support of people here.



An Interactive Sermon Series

We welcome your feedback and want to hear the answers to the questions we're asking in this year's stewardship series: The Congregational Story Project.

This series features interviews from the Nolan, Ingraham, and Swantek families. We want to hear your answers to the questions, too!!

Post your answers on social media or email them to: office@uccmedia.org
If you're joining us in person, there will be opportunities to respond in worship as well.

WELCOME

Rob Cervenak

Val's father is a UCC member and we would go to his service on Christmas Eve when we were dating and I always enjoyed it. When Val was pregnant we wanted to find a good open welcoming church to raise our child in. We tried here, liked it, and 12 years later here we are.

Kate Winther Lindon

We saw it on the list of minister openings in 2016, and liked that it was in NE Ohio! We drove through town to check it out that summer and loved the church's location right on the square (right by great food & the library!). When we came for Luke's candidating sermon in December 2016, it was also Advent Family Fun Night. Miss Stacie was so kind to Eve & Sam and said she couldn't wait to see them again after we moved... they didn't want to leave! Also at that worship service, Dorie Christy said, "Well, we'll be praying for your old church as well, because we know it will be hard for them to let you go." Caring and welcoming atmosphere all around!

Dick & Dorie Christy

Our story begins when Dick and I were 20-something with a new baby and just moved to Medina. Attending Medina UCC, we were inspired by Pastor Whitaker. He raised the bar in our spiritual life.

We were ready to grow. Wonderful church members drew us in to become active; the Hunters, Marilyn Koehler, the Komjatis, the Naragons, and many more. Medina UCC became our home away from home.

Jen Cockrell

"My family moved to Valley City. It was hard to find a church that accepted handicapped people. Some ministers wouldn't even speak to my family. We found Medina UCC when I moved out on my own. I met with Pastor Ted who said that he would come and pick me up. Pastor Neal put the question to the congregation, and I've been getting rides since 2009. I've been here ever since."

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

OCTOBER 18, 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

October 18, 2020 thru October 25, 2020

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues

Wed

Thurs 7:00 pm Council Meeting (Zoom)

Fri

Sat

Sun **Reformation Sunday**
8:15 am Chapel Worship (in the sanctuary)
9:00 am Gathering Worship
10:30 am Traditional Worship
11:45 am Mission Team
4:00 pm Youth Group

HELP HOBBY HORSE MAKE SOME DOUGH

Help our preschool raise some funds and enjoy a delicious local pizza at the same time!

Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at Courthouse
Pizza from 12:00 pm – 8:00 pm, bring your flyer in or show it on your phone. 25% of your pre-tax sales will be donated to Hobby Horse Preschool. (alcohol sales excluded).

You can pick up a flyer in the welcome area of the church or go on the church facebook page and print one or simply show it on your phone.

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

Scriptures: Genesis 6: 18-22a

Sermon: “Future” - Rev. Luke Lindon

Flowers: The altar flowers are given by Elly Aberegg in memory of her father, Walter Hess.

CONGREGATIONAL STORY PROJECT – Stewardship 2020

Do you think that our founders envisioned that our church would still be active and vibrant 201 years later? They planted a seed, and MANY others through the years watered that seed with their time, talent and treasure and so it grew and prospered. Guess what? We still need water! Your gift to the church in 2021 will provide new opportunities for growth, allow new ministries to flourish, and set us on the path for another 201 years. The future...it's up to us and it's in our hands.

This week, think about what you envision to be the future of our church. Share your thoughts on social media (posts will be forthcoming) or email your thoughts to the church office (office@uccmedina.org). Together, we will BE the church of the future.

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.

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. 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-5th grade. Please contact Stacie Yates with any questions or concerns.

SPECIAL MUSIC

We are looking for vocal and instrumental soloists or small groups that would like to share their talents during our worship service. If you would like to participate, please sign-up online at the following website:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4FAFA62FA3FC1-uccsummer>

Choose the date you want and then you can video yourself or Cathy and I can help you. Thanks!- Jim Kiser

ZOOM DISCUSSION ON "THE CROSS AND THE LYNCHING TREE" 2 WEEKS LEFT!

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/WW7zUavYjn8ttjmm6> to sign up.

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

Meetings on ZOOM – 3rd 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 Celeste 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

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!

IT'S TIME TO TRICK OR TREAT!

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

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>

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

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Living Messages

Abigail Henderson, formerly pastor at Northfield United Church of Christ in Northfield, Minnesota learned that not just a good feeling, but actual data supported a queer/trans youth group (CYAN) she had started.

She reports that "a coalition of non-profits in the town received a grant to track and work to improve health and well-being outcomes for children and youth in the community. One of the people connected to that grant contacted me... 'I wanted to share some data with you that we are finally getting from the Minnesota Student Survey (MSS) that all 5-12th graders took last year... As I am sure you recall the 2016 numbers were quite concerning; 25% of LGB youth reported a Positive Identity and Outlook score that was deemed to meet the threshold to be equipped for learning as compared to 60% of all youth. For the Social Competence numbers, they were 55% for LGB youth as compared to 74% for all youth.

Well - I am so happy to be able to tell you that the numbers for LGB identifying youth have seen a significant increase! While still below the numbers for all youth they are the only group where we are seeing growth. In 2019 the Positive Identity and Outlook had increased to 43% for LGB youth as compared to 51% for all youth (an 8% difference in 2019 vs 35% in 2016) and the Social Competence number had increased to 63% for LGB youth as compared to 70% for all youth (a 7% difference in 2019 vs a 19% difference in 2016). Although I wish we didn't see any difference in numbers (and that we saw higher numbers overall), I believe this growth has been remarkable and is noteworthy! I also believe that this growth is because of you, Abby. You started something absolutely remarkable with CYAN that has made, and continues to make, a huge difference in the lives of so many. Thank you. Thank you for being a champion for youth when they needed it most, for changing the conversation in our community, and for being an authentic role model. You have left an incredible mark and I hope that you know that you changed lives. I am so glad that CYAN has been able to continue on the strong foundation that you built - it is needed in our community and for our youth."

All those of you who pour heart and soul into work with youth without knowing the outcome, take heart! Here's actual data to show that the work you're doing really matters.