



CONGREGATIONAL
Story Project



October 25, 2020

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL



217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559
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*****Assisted Listening Devices Available – Please Ask Your Usher*****

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 “Gratitude” – John Purifoy 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** (“Whose Dream Am I?” by Gerhard Frost, *Seasons of a Lifetime*, Page 123)

Leader: I enjoy the moving picture from the highway:
People: mile on mile of theatre and my own wandering mind.
Leader: Whose dream was this abandoned house?
People: Who laced the picture window?
Leader: Who chose the color, and when?
People: How old is old for a nourished dream, a house, a home?
Leader: How many children played on this porch when it was new?
People: My journey’s over, and I’m home again.
Leader: I stand before the mirror.
People: Whose dream am I?
Leader: Who thought my life when it began?
People: Who shaped me in my mother’s womb?
Leader: Who gives the years?

People: Who makes the days and fills the moments?

Leader: Who holds the future?

People: Who says, "Enough"?

Leader: I hear the voice. It speaks to me:

People: "I don't abandon, for my dream is you." Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Before You Go" Ann Nagy, voice; Molly Jones, cello; Cathy Fafrak, piano
Lyrics by LeeAnn Nagy; Music by LeeAnn Nagy & Roberta Whitely

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 8:1-12 *as interpreted by the Nolan family with an introduction by Miss Stacie*

SERMON & VIDEO "Time"

HYMN

"Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song"



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her
2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the
3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
Vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our
prayer, with the power to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might:
midst as gift and sign: Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
peace be - yond com - pare:

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

Gracious Mystery, thank you for this worship. For this time to sing our way through constant change and a chance to be joyful in the flow of life. Thank you for this breath, this time, this struggle and celebration that is our life, together. Thank you for dreaming us into being and inspiring us with the dream of your coming Kin-dom. In the name of our Christ, 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 "God of the Ages" – arr. Steven Scott

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

CONGREGATIONAL STORY PROJECT - WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR ANSWERS!

HERE IS THE QUESTION FROM WEEK 2 (October 11, 2020)

What is your most cherished memory about our church?

[Katy Medley](#)

I've really enjoyed watching and reading the responses to the questions. What a wonderful way to foster connection! My most cherished memories are the countless times that my children, Leah and Laura, have been loved and supported by the church. Two times that stand out are when they hugged Stacie at the end of their very first time at church and when Maureen and Kellie wrote them such incredibly thoughtful letters as part of the secret pen pal project.

[Rob Cervenak](#)

My most cherished memories are the ones we make every week playing music for the Congregation. Jimmy's baptism would have to be the best moment though.

[Ken Zuehlke](#)

I have two cherished memories. The first was Christmas Eve 1991. I was working road patrol at the Police. And even though I was voluntarily working I was still a little down since I was hundreds of miles from family. It was a beautiful winter night, not too cold but still a chill in the air and a "sugar coating" of snow covered the ground and it was a picture perfect Christmas Eve in our quaint town of Medina and the candle luminaries lined the square. I stopped for a red light on the square just outside the front door of the church. I had the window slightly ajar in the cruiser as I always do, despite the temperature, so I can hear noises outside the car. While waiting at the light I witnessed a gentleman walk from his parked car on the square in front of the Court House toward the church. As he was crossing Liberty Street where I was waiting for the traffic light he walked out of the walkway and approached the cruiser. My initial and somewhat jaded thought was "what does he want to complain about on Christmas Eve?" So imagine my surprise and utter self shame when he said "Merry Christmas" and passed on a very special thank you for being out working that evening and keeping the community safe and he understood and appreciated the sacrifice I was making being away from my family on Christmas Eve. As quickly as he approached the car he walked away and disappeared inside the church. To this day I don't know who it was and if he is still a member of our church or not. If he is and reads this it was that simple act that made working the rest of that night both humbling and enjoyable. It was also a major reason why many years later when we as a family were looking for a church home we came to and now call Medina UCC our home. And the second most cherished memory was Greg's Eagle Court of Honor when so many friends and family were able to share his accomplishments with us.

[Ann Nagy](#)

One of my most cherished memories was when I wandered into the church and attended the first Gathering service and then went right up to the band to audition to sing with them!



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

Dorie Christy

My harp story left me with one of many cherished memories over the years. When my Dad died suddenly, at the funeral home was a harpist performing. For a long time after, any harp music resulted in my immediate click off or station change. Then one Sunday years later, two local, talented, and compassionate harpists, Sarah Schwartz and Melanie Brown, did a Harp Therapy program in the East Room after services. They brought large harps, as well as one small one to pass around and try. It was amazing; I felt something happened to me. They brought joy out of sorrow and were touched when I shared my experience with them. I got unstuck.

Dick Christy

My love of history made the Bicentennial Worship Concert "The Music of Faith" especially meaningful and faith-strengthening.
Hallelujah!

The history of our Church Bell intrigues me, and "Saving the Bell" became a top priority. Bell-Ringing will always express my praise to God personally, as well serving Medina UCC. I love to see loyal Jimmy Cervenak popup Sundays to ring that Bell, always with a big smile, and other youngsters who join in.

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

OCTOBER 25, 2020

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

October 25, 2020 thru November 1, 2020

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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**

Mon

Tues

Wed

Thurs

Fri

Sat

Sun **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS**

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1st



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.

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

Scripture: Genesis 8: 1-12

Sermon: "Time" - Rev. Luke Lindon

CONGREGATIONAL STORY PROJECT – Stewardship 2020

Our church would not run without volunteers. Stewardship is more than just money. Stewardship is involvement. There are many visible volunteer roles in our church on our teams, but so many others too that are just as important. How does the grass get mowed? Who fills those little communion cups? The banners in the Sanctuary don't change themselves and neither do the candles on the altar. It takes all of us, working together, to literally bring this church to life. What's your passion? What can you contribute? Got an idea? Let's hear it! Simply speak with any member of the staff, send them an e-mail, call, text, or message them on social media.

This week, we'd love to hear from you about what you've done for the life of our church. Let's recognize the lawn mowers, the communion cup fillers, the banner hangers and those altar candle changers. Share the little (and big) things that you do that bring life to our church on social media (posts will be forthcoming) or e-mail your thoughts to the church office (office@uccmedina.org).

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>

THANK YOU SYD & PETE BENSON!

On behalf of the Moderators Julie Gilliland, Maureen Walker, Matt Yates, and your entire UCC family, Pete and Syd Benson, we celebrate your decades of dedication to the church and Circle of Caring. Your many, many hours of organization and sending love through visitation to our homebound and our ill family members is deeply appreciated. Syd led the group for twenty-seven years. Pete also served as an usher for the 10:30 am service for many years. It is our honor to HONOR the two of you with a plaque on the bench at the front of the church, off the parking lot side, as well as a tree adopted in your names through the Medina County Historical Society. Thank you for caring for and inspiring so many of your church family members!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

As the service began, Pete and I were so surprised when Julie came up front and announced that there would be a plaque on the bench by the parking lot and an adopted tree at the McDowell Phillips House!! Thank you so much! It was the perfect time to present it with Scott by our side. Pete and I love the church and getting to know so many wonderful people during our 48 years here. We look forward to when Covid-19 issues are over, and we can mingle with our church members again. Syd & Pete Benson

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. ☹️ You can still pick up a F.I.S.H. packet for the month of October. We are 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.

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.

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

That's one crowded boat! Exactly 400 years ago today our Church Ancestors were more than halfway through their 66-day Atlantic crossing. By this time in the voyage two people had died, one baby was born, and one man was tossed overboard (and miraculously survived). They were intending on bringing two ships, but the Speedwell ended up not being seaworthy. This delayed their departure, and they crossed the ocean at the height of storm season. The seas were rough, and the rain was almost constant. Sickness prevailed and most passengers never went above board. Their living space on the Mayflower was about 58' x 24' for 102 people. I can't help but imagine at least some of the conversation talked about Noah's journey and the similarities between the two voyages (bad weather, cramped quarters, the smell). I'm sure at least one disgruntled passenger pointed out that Noah only had to stay on his boat 40 days... I'm also sure that they discussed God's promise to Noah and were looking forward to a similar promise when they reached their new world. They had a dream for their congregation, their community, and their individual lives – just as we have similar dreams. Governor Bradford wrote of their landing: *“Being thus arrived in a good harbor and brought safe to land, they fell upon their knees and blessed the God of heaven, who had brought them over the vast and furious ocean, and delivered them from all the perils and miseries thereof.”* We aren't traveling a vast and furious ocean, but we are navigating perils. Like the Pilgrims, we should also be thankful to God – for getting us to the point we are at and traveling with us on our future journey.

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

Matthew 22:34-46

The Compassionate Life

Dear Christ, our Teacher.

Instruct us, we pray.

The world teaches us to compete for the right answer.

The world teaches us to be better, faster, stronger.

The world teaches us that bigger is better.

The world teaches us to put the pedal to the metal.

The world teaches us to live fast and die young.

The world teaches us to go big or go home.

The world teaches us to work harder and smarter.

The world teaches us to put our nose to the grindstone.

The world teaches us to work hard and play hard.

The world teaches us that the world is our oyster.

The world teaches us to pull ourselves up by the bootstraps.

The world teaches us to put on our stiff upper lip.

The world teaches us no pain, no gain.

Instruct us, Teacher Christ.

Silence all those other voices so we can hear your teaching.

So simple, it can be shared in just a few words.

So sophisticated, it can take a lifetime to master.

So that one day, we can live what we are taught and

Love our God with all our heart and mind and soul and our neighbor as our self.

Amen.

Today is UCC Higher Education Sunday. There are 48 educational institutions related to the United Church of Christ, including academies, colleges, universities, and seminaries. They span the United States. Each is independent, self-governing, and fully accredited... These institutions provide opportunities to explore moral values, the importance of social responsibility, an ethic of service, and the ability to think critically. Many have campus ministries that are ecumenical and interfaith. Each embodies the UCC ethos where God is Still Speaking... Find out more at <https://www.ucc.org/higher-education>.