



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

October 4, 2020



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

www.uccmedina.org



*****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 “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” – arr. Marilyn Reimer 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, we have no idea why you chose us.

People: **We are humbled that you would pay us any mind.**

Leader: We are thankful to hear your call,

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 into your cosmic love story.**

Leader: May we play our part well.

People: **May we love. Offer kindness. And listen to parts not our own.**

Leader: For it is all your story.

People: **Thanks be to you, our God. Amen!**

SPECIAL MUSIC “In Times Like These” – Ruth Caye Jones

Alice Metzloff, voice

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 6:5-8

as interpreted by Eve and Sam Lindon with an introduction by Miss Stacie

SERMON & VIDEO

"What Led You Here?"

Rev. Luke Lindon

HYMN

"Blessed Assurance"



1 Bless-ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a fore - taste of
2 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, vi - sions of rap - ture now



glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of God,
burst on my sight; an - gels de - scend - ing, bring from a - bove



born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love. This is my sto - ry,



this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long; this is my



sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

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, in whatever way 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, thank you for leading us here. This people. This time. This place. It is a gift. This is the day you have made. There will only ever be one like it. Just as our stories belong to us. We marvel at the way they overlap and intertwine. Thank you, our God for our neighbor. Thank you, Our God, for your story. 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.**

"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
Matt Yates, Sound & Video Operator

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

OCTOBER 4, 2020

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

October 4, 2020 thru October 11, 2020

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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
(Live stream as well)

Mon **HOBBY HORSE PRESCHOOL
BACK IN SESSION!**
6:30 pm Women’s Bible Study
7:00 pm Evangelism Team
7:00 pm Worship Team Zoom meeting

Tues

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

Thurs

Fri

Sat

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship (in the sanctuary)
9:00 am Gathering Worship
10:30 am Traditional Worship
4:00 pm Youth Group

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: Genesis 6: 5-8

Sermon: "God Choses Noah" - Rev. Luke Lindon

Flowers: The altar flowers are given by Paul & Kelly DeSario in honor of their 24th anniversary.

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.**

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>

CRAFTS READY FOR VISITATION TEAM DELIVERY

Today, Sunday October 4th through Sunday October 11th. 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

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.

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/WW7zUavYjn8ttjmm6> to sign up.

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

GIFT CARD ORDERS

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 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 12th at 10:00 am.**

CONGREGATIONAL STORY PROJECT - STEWARDSHIP 2020

For 201 years, our church has been welcoming people from all backgrounds to our little corner of the square. So, what led you to our church? Was it the pastor, the children's programming, the beautiful building, our community outreach, the nagging of a friend?

This year, we're collecting stories (we're also collecting money, can't forget about that!) We're looking for 2 things...Share your story either on social media (a post will be coming from the church for you to use) or via e-mail (office@uccmedina.org). Then, think about the resources that you can give in 2021 that can help contribute to leading others to our church as well as sustaining the things that we hold dear. Together, there is so much that we can do in spreading the message of Jesus Christ.

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

Welcome October! My holy month.

I am really excited by the response to our last worship series, REWRITE. Many of you have taken the time to write emails, letters, and social media messages of what you found meaningful. Jan Linn wrote about The Times REWRITE from the Summer in the 60s, "Just listened to yesterday's sermon. I came of age in the 60s while in college and my first year in seminary. It was a turbulent time and we survived many traumas, which is why I have not lost hope today. Thanks for the memories and challenge." Thank you all for the feedback.

Our next worship series is our Stewardship series entitled, Congregational Story Project. This series will have interviews from 4 families from the congregation. Our children will present the scriptures for us in creative ways. And you will have the chance to answer the following questions:

October 4: Genesis 6:5-8, God chooses Noah	What originally led you and your family to our church?
October 11: Genesis 6:9-16, Build the Ark	What is your most cherished memory about our church?
October 18: Genesis 6:18-22 Animals 2x2	What do you see in the future of our church?
October 25: Genesis 8:1-12. The Waters Subside	How have you given of your time at church?
November 1: Genesis 9:12-17 Rainbow Covenant	What were/are you involved in?
November 8: Mark 8:1-10 Feeding of the 4,000	What Will You Do? Stewardship Sunday, Pledges Due.

The church is never the building, the budget, or the denomination. The church is the people. I hope this will remind us of the miraculous way God has woven us together. May it strengthen the ties that bind and inspire to provide our time, talent, and treasure to our work together as we dream a new world into being. Part of dreaming that new world into being, is hiring Karen Brocco-Kish as our visitation pastor. Karen brings so many gifts to our congregation on so many levels. Her real gift is her listening presence. She will visit and maintain our visitation list as well as head up our Circle of Caring. The Circle of Caring is our visitation team of the church visiting the church, reaching out with phone calls, craft-deliveries and sending cards. All we need to provide Karen is an office space and to cover her mileage. I am so thankful for God for sending Karen to us and putting this call on her heart.

A great way to welcome Karen to the role is to sign up for the Circle of Caring! Or send her a welcome card by mailing to the office.

October also marks the official start of my Doctoral project with council. The idea is to turn council from a round-robin group that reports on the past into a future-oriented leadership team. We've already done this! The Property and Grounds Team found that our bell needed a lot of work done. Finance Team needed to close out our mortgage. It was the Caring Team that came up with the idea that if we raised the needed funds, then I would have to sleep in the bell tower. We called this "The Rev. In the Rafters." Evangelism Team made up t-shirts and Stewardship set up a campaign. It was wildly successful and fun and energizing! Not just council and the church were talking about it, but the whole town! There is great power in unity and connectedness.

That's the idea. So your prayers will be appreciated as we experiment with purpose!

That's our October! We have lots of fun things happening beyond this so make sure to keep reading all the great things in the Messenger and on our various social media platforms.

Yours in Christ,
-Pastor Luke



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!

GOSPEL GALLEY

Rewritten, Revised, Redeemed!

Alice Metzloff

Over these past weeks, we have been hearing sermons in Pastor Luke's "Rewrite" series about "Faithfulness", "Tomato", "Gifts", and most recently, " Foolishness". Separately, they do not mean much. Collectively, they have more impact.

Taking each word on its own...

FAITHFULNESS: *the quality of being loyal, devoted, committed, steadfast.* IE: like a beloved dog or "Horton the elephant" sitting on an egg: *"He said what he meant! He meant what he said, 100%"*.

TOMATO: a fruit, not vegetable. Plentiful, and the least toxic variety of the poisonous Nightshade plants. A bright red color with both negative and positive connotations. Some negatives of "red" are anger, desire, lust. Some *positives are passion, confidence, courage, love.*

GIF: we really LIKE to get them...anytime! *The best Gift is freely given...no strings attached, with Love.*

FOOLISHNESS: the misuse of God-given intelligence, stupidity, wicked, impious. A lack of good sense or judgment. The *positive side...Wise, having Good Sense, Discerning, Astute, insightful.*

So...what do these negatives and positives have to do with Jesus? Everything! Please! Do not take The Cross [capitalized] for granted, irreverently, or out of context! The real negative side of the cross [uncapitalized] is a cruel, brutal, merciless form of execution that inflicted extreme pain for a lingering tortuous death, hanging in humiliating, unprotected nakedness. A visual graphic message stating PAY ATTENTION PEOPLE! Take heed. This person is an example of WHAT NOT TO DO! "Shape up or suffer the same consequences!"

So, collectively...what is a Faithful red Tomato which has been Gifted with Foolishness...to be?

Answer: **POSITIVE in The Cross...confident passionate, courageous.** **FAITHFULLY** steadfast, loyal, committed. Thankfully accepting of **ALL GIFTS** which have been, are, and will always be **freely given by God.** **FOOLISH...with God-given** Wisdom and intelligence to *discern what Jesus was, and is, and always will be.* Through Jesus Christ, we are **rewritten, revised, redeemed.**

Omnipresent. **C**ourageous. **T**rustworthy. **O**mniscient. **B**eloved. **E**ternal. **R**edeemed.

October 4, 2020
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Neighbors in Need Offering
World Communion Sunday

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Wisdom for the Way

Why ten commandments? Why not eleven or thirty-nine or a hundred? Some scholars have speculated that there were ten because, even if the devout could not take the heavy stone tablets with them, they would always have their fingers. As long as one can count all one's fingers, the thinking goes, you could remember all the commandments. But why remember them anyway, if you can just look them up? Memorizing, or learning a text by heart, is a way to take it deep within. In this case, we memorize the commandments to take their messages of radical connection with God and others into our lives.

Brian Sirchio, ordained United Church of Christ pastor and beloved church musician and composer, believes that an even better way to memorize the commandments than counting on one's fingers is to set them to music. As his song *Live the 10* demonstrates through music, the commandments aren't just words to be learned, but ways for living that are more deeply understood as they are more deeply known and practiced.

*In the 20th chapter of Exodus, it's plain what God expects of us
It says 1--no other gods; 2--no graven image; 3--don't take God's name in vain;
4--honor the Sabbath; 5--honor your parents; 6--thou shalt not kill; 7--no adultery;
8--thou shalt not steal; 9--don't bear false witness; 10--thou shalt not covet...
Now check this out...now remember right off there's only one Lord,
And I didn't say two and I didn't say four and whatever you do you don't bow down
before anything you make with your hands. And when you smack your thumb hard with
a hammer someday don't get all mad and shout out God's name, 'cause God's not to
blame for your lousy aim and that's right--that's right!
And remember the Sabbath, or whatever you call it, that means pray and rest--don't be
a playaholic--and you love mom and dad even when they're not wise and don't ever kill
(does that go for flies? Hey that's a good question man.) And when you marry someday
don't you be a cheat, and don't you ever steal, and don't lie through your teeth, and
don't want the things that your friend's got so bad you'd take it if you could...*

You can learn Bryan Sirchio's song about the Ten Commandments, and other scriptures worth knowing by heart by checking out his music on his website <http://www.sirchio.com/>.