

TALENTS



NOVEMBER 15, 2020

10:00 am Live Stream Only

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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*

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE “Prayer” – Fred B. Binckes

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.

THE TOM EVANS AWARD

*OPENING CONFESSION (posted on the Pacific Pilgrim website. <https://pacificpilgrim.com/>)

Leader: Lord of Creation,

People: we confess that we have squandered your gifts
and used them as if they had been given for us alone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,

we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray.

People: Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Hear the Good News:

We have not been faithful in all things.

People: **But our God still welcomes us with patience and kindness.**

Leader: Therefore, as people of God's promise,

People: **let us receive forgiveness,
embrace hope,
and faithfully respond,**

Leader: through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Glory be to God!**

We are forgiven.

We have hope.

We will respond. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Matthew 25:15-30

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Stacie Yates

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

SPECIAL MUSIC

Katherine Johns

SERMON "Talents"

Rev. Luke Lindon

HYMN

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" (vs. 1 & 3)

This hymn came into being when composer Doreen Potter asked poet Fred Kaan to write a text for her adaptation of a Jamaican folk melody. It was first used at the World Council of Churches Assembly in Nairobi (1975), and in Vancouver (1983).

Copyright © 1975 by Hope Publishing Company

Tune: LINSTEAD L.M. with refrain
Jamaican folk song
Adapt. Doreen Potter, 1975



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em-ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,
 bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 teach-ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - ery-where!
 Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a-bound!

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Crell Johns

*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 (written by Joanna Harader, and posted on the Spacious Faith blog.

God, whose giving knows no ending, <http://spaciousfaith.com/>
 we offer up the treasure that you have entrusted to us;
 we offer up the skills and time that you have graciously given to us;
 we offer up ourselves in service and praise.
 Receive these gifts by your grace.
 Multiply and use them through the power of the Holy Spirit
 to accomplish Christ's work of love in the world. Amen.

*BENEDICTION (from *Hope in God's Future: Christian Discipleship in the Context of Climate Change* Report & Study Guide, Methodist Publishing 2009)

Leader: God's blessing be upon us as we leave changed.

People: **May we strengthen and encourage one another in our shared vision.**

Leader: And may the blessing of our adventurous Creator God

People: **go with us.**

Leader: And may the blessing of the Son,
People: **who showed us how to live, re-shape us.**
Leader: And may the blessing of the dancing Spirit
People: **joyfully enable us in our renewed living. 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 "With Joy Unending" – Edward Broughton

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

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Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor

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Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - email: office@uccmedina.org
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Nicole Rubino, Co-Director of Youth
Jim Kiser, Director of Music
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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 6 (November 8, 2020)

What Will You Do?

Julie Gilliland

I will fill out that pledge card asap, continue to usher, finish out the Moderator term, and look for ways to serve God and this blessing of a church family. I would love to get involved with the youth group at some point down the road. And I will continue checking in on our older church members who may feel isolated at times. I can only hope to continue trying to give this church a fraction of the love these dear people have bestowed upon me.

Dick & Dorie Christy

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THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 15, 2020

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MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY!”**

November 15, 2020 thru November 22, 2020

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun

10:00 am Live Stream Worship Only

Mon

Tues

Wed

Thurs

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Sat

Sun 10:00 am Live Stream Worship Only

8:15 am Chapel Worship (in the sanctuary)

9:00 am Gathering Worship

10:30 am Traditional Worship

4:00 pm Youth Group

Worship Highlights: 10:00 am Live Stream Only

Scripture: Matthew 25:15-30

Sermon: "Talents" - Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are given by the Stoll & Huffman families in thanks for a good harvest and God's art at work for a beautiful fall.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 2020

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NOTICE!

We will not be mailing the Pilgrim Messenger the week of Thanksgiving

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Also, please write what you would like printed in the Messenger and if you want to claim your flowers after the 10:30 service.

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>

POINSETTIA ORDERS

It's time to order your beautiful poinsettia again! You may donate a poinsettia to decorate the Sanctuary, East Room and Fellowship Hall for Christmas services and claim it afterward, or you may donate a poinsettia to be delivered by the Flower Committee to a shut-in to be enjoyed before the holiday. The cost is \$8.50. Deadline for ordering is December 7th. Please fill out a green poinsettia order sheet (available from the ushers and on the table in the welcome area) and turn it in to the offering plate or the church office. **Since we are not having in person worship right now while the County is in the red, you may also call the church office to place your order.**

HEAR THE BELLS RINGING!

Members of our congregation will once again have the opportunity to be “Red Kettle Ringers” for the Medina Salvation Army. **Volunteers are needed for Saturday, December 5th**, in the vestibule at Buehler’s River Styx. There are several short shifts available **between 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**. It is a good idea (but not necessary) to bring a second person with you for your time slot, that way the kettle is never unattended if you need to take a break. You may **sign up by calling or emailing the church office** at 330-725-4559 or office@uccmedina.org For any questions or concerns please contact Jessica Manners. This is a popular event each year, so sign up soon!

ADVENT FOOD DONATION FOR CLAGGETT MIDDLE SCHOOL

As we prepare our hearts and minds for this year’s Advent season, the Mission Team has a “giving” mission to put before our congregation. We would like to focus on the most vulnerable in our community; the children. The children in elementary school receive weekender food bags. Until recently there were no supplemental foods available for children once they moved out of the elementary schools. There is a food pantry at Claggett and the students can take items from the pantry as they need them. Together with the counselor at Claggett, we have compiled a list of their needs. A copy of this list (in the form of a Reverse Advent Calendar) will be included in a mailing that you will be receiving from the church as well as on our website and facebook page.

It is our hope to help stock their shelves by filling boxes with food items they can use. If you are only able to “give” a few items, that would be wonderful too. Boxes (or bags) can be dropped off in the church welcoming area and we will deliver them to the school when they resume classes after the first of the year.

GOSPEL GALLEY

“I AM SOMEBODY”

by Vicki Miller

I am somebody’s idiot. Earlier this month our service focused on the differences of others. How the “others” behaved, thought, voted, posted on social media, etc. How our lives were affected by them and how they were simply “idiots”. In the past few years, I have said “what an idiot” too many times to count. I’ve shook my head in wonder and disbelief how anyone could think, act or behave “that way”. Now that we are, hopefully, turning a collective corner towards respect, understanding and compassion, I’ve been doing some inward thinking. I realized that over the past few years I am also someone’s idiot. Someone has looked at how I have behaved, thought, voted and posted on social media and said “what an idiot”. They don’t understand how I could think or act “that way” any more than I understand them. That’s a tough pill to swallow—because I know for a fact I’m not an idiot 😊. However, I think if you took the time to ask “the others” they would say they aren’t idiots either. So that leaves us with a simple equation—we are all idiots or none of us are. The law of averages would suggest that we can’t ALL be idiots—therefore we must just be smart, good people with different viewpoints on the same issues. So what do we do now? The bible usually has an answer and we can look to 1 Peter 3:8-9 “to sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.” All of this being said—the guy that cut me off on my way to work this morning is still an idiot 😊.

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 25:14-30

Extravagant Opportunity

The one who was given much uses what he is given to make an even greater amount. The one who was given a moderate amount returned a moderate amount. The one who began with very little...wait for it...ended up with very little. Sometimes the parables can be hard to relate to in our modern context, but this one seems very familiar. Maybe the one who was given much really was smarter or more faithful. Or, maybe he just got better advice.

We all need supportive peers, wise mentors and the still small voice that is heard in our own prayer practice. In the parable, we don't know how the servants made the decisions they did. We don't learn who was advising them. But we do know the kind of support that is available to United Church of Christ ministers at many places along their career path.

United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance (UCBMA), the philanthropic arm of the Pension Boards-United Church of Christ, operates with a covenantal spirit as it:

- provides direct financial support and compassionate responses to authorized ministers, lay church employees, and their surviving spouses/partners, in times of urgent need and personal crises
- administers and raises funds for leadership initiatives that promote faithful and fruitful ministry across the United Church of Christ

Through the Minister's Financial Vitality Initiative, Next Generation Leadership Initiative, CREDO and the Annuitant Visitor Program, the UCBMA is a financial partner and perhaps more importantly a compassionate supporter to pastors and their spouses. From providing peer mentoring and education to young pastors with promise, or financial aid for the widows of long-serving pastors, the UCBMA is available to help and support ministers wherever they are on life's journey.

To find out how you can support those who are supporting ministers and more about the work of the UCBMA please visit <http://www.pbucc.org/index.php/art-ma-landing>.

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by Vicki Miller

I am somebody’s idiot. Earlier this month our service focused on the differences of others. How the “others” behaved, thought, voted, posted on social media, etc. How our lives were affected by them and how they were simply “idiots”. In the past few years, I have said “what an idiot” too many times to count. I’ve shook my head in wonder and disbelief how anyone could think, act or behave “that way”. Now that we are, hopefully, turning a collective corner towards respect, understanding and compassion, I’ve been doing some inward thinking. I realized that over the past few years I am also someone’s idiot. Someone has looked at how I have behaved, thought, voted and posted on social media and said “what an idiot”. They don’t understand how I could think or act “that way” any more than I understand them. That’s a tough pill to swallow—because I know for a fact I’m not an idiot 😊. However, I think if you took the time to ask “the others” they would say they aren’t idiots either. So that leaves us with a simple equation—we are all idiots or none of us are. The law of averages would suggest that we can’t ALL be idiots—therefore we must just be smart, good people with different viewpoints on the same issues. So what do we do now? The bible usually has an answer and we can look to 1 Peter 3:8-9 “to sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.” All of this being said—the guy that cut me off on my way to work this morning is still an idiot 😊.

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Matthew 25:14-30

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The one who was given much uses what he is given to make an even greater amount. The one who was given a moderate amount returned a moderate amount. The one who began with very little...wait for it...ended up with very little. Sometimes the parables can be hard to relate to in our modern context, but this one seems very familiar. Maybe the one who was given much really was smarter or more faithful. Or, maybe he just got better advice.

We all need supportive peers, wise mentors and the still small voice that is heard in our own prayer practice. In the parable, we don't know how the servants made the decisions they did. We don't learn who was advising them. But we do know the kind of support that is available to United Church of Christ ministers at many places along their career path.

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To find out how you can support those who are supporting ministers and more about the work of the UCBMA please visit <http://www.pbucc.org/index.php/art-ma-landing>.

TALENTS



NOVEMBER 15, 2020

10:00 am Live Stream Only

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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*

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE “Prayer” – Fred B. Binckes

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.

THE TOM EVANS AWARD

*OPENING CONFESSION (posted on the Pacific Pilgrim website. <https://pacificpilgrim.com/>)

Leader: Lord of Creation,

People: we confess that we have squandered your gifts
and used them as if they had been given for us alone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,

we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray.

People: Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Hear the Good News:

We have not been faithful in all things.

People: **But our God still welcomes us with patience and kindness.**

Leader: Therefore, as people of God's promise,

People: **let us receive forgiveness,
embrace hope,
and faithfully respond,**

Leader: through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Glory be to God!**

We are forgiven.

We have hope.

We will respond. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Matthew 25:15-30

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Stacie Yates

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

SPECIAL MUSIC

Katherine Johns

SERMON "Talents"

Rev. Luke Lindon


HYMN

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" (vs. 1 & 3)

This hymn came into being when composer Doreen Potter asked poet Fred Kaan to write a text for her adaptation of a Jamaican folk melody. It was first used at the World Council of Churches Assembly in Nairobi (1975), and in Vancouver (1983).

Copyright © 1975 by Hope Publishing Company

Tune: LINSTEAD L.M. with refrain
Jamaican folk song
Adapt. Doreen Potter, 1975



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em-ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear-ing fruit in a world of doubt,
 bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 teach-ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - ery-where!
 Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a-bound!

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Crell Johns

*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 (written by Joanna Harader, and posted on the Spacious Faith blog.

God, whose giving knows no ending, <http://spaciousfaith.com/>
 we offer up the treasure that you have entrusted to us;
 we offer up the skills and time that you have graciously given to us;
 we offer up ourselves in service and praise.
 Receive these gifts by your grace.
 Multiply and use them through the power of the Holy Spirit
 to accomplish Christ's work of love in the world. Amen.

*BENEDICTION (from *Hope in God's Future: Christian Discipleship in the Context of Climate Change* Report & Study Guide, Methodist Publishing 2009)

Leader: God's blessing be upon us as we leave changed.

People: **May we strengthen and encourage one another in our shared vision.**

Leader: And may the blessing of our adventurous Creator God

People: **go with us.**

Leader: And may the blessing of the Son,
People: **who showed us how to live, re-shape us.**
Leader: And may the blessing of the dancing Spirit
People: **joyfully enable us in our renewed living. 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 "With Joy Unending" – Edward Broughton

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

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PROGRAM STAFF

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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 6 (November 8, 2020)

What Will You Do?

Julie Gilliland

I will fill out that pledge card asap, continue to usher, finish out the Moderator term, and look for ways to serve God and this blessing of a church family. I would love to get involved with the youth group at some point down the road. And I will continue checking in on our older church members who may feel isolated at times. I can only hope to continue trying to give this church a fraction of the love these dear people have bestowed upon me.

Dick & Dorie Christy

We commit to welcoming, loving, and serving at Medina UCC and to be ready for new opportunities that arise. Pledging is always a key factor in our stewardship. Dick will continue as Co-Chair on Property and Grounds, Head Usher, Council Member, and UCC Safety Team. I will continue visitation through Circle of Caring and assist with weeding the gardens. We will continue our study of racism through UCC resources, books, and group discussions via Zoom. Stewardship at Medina UCC is a joy!



THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 15, 2020

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

November 15, 2020 thru November 22, 2020

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun

10:00 am Live Stream Worship Only

Mon

Tues

Wed

Thurs

Fri

Sat

Sun 10:00 am Live Stream Worship Only

8:15 am Chapel Worship (in the sanctuary)

9:00 am Gathering Worship

10:30 am Traditional Worship

4:00 pm Youth Group

Worship Highlights: 10:00 am Live Stream Only

Scripture: Matthew 25:15-30

Sermon: "Talents" - Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are given by the Stoll & Huffman families in thanks for a good harvest and God's art at work for a beautiful fall.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 2020

Our congregational story project continues! For over 201 years, our church has been telling the story of Jesus Christ. This Fall, our members have been sharing their stories, what brought them to our church, what ministries have benefitted from their gifts and what they'd like to see in the future. As we look forward, we are blessed by the generosity of so many that allow us to "be the church". This week, take time to pray for our church and that all of its needs will be fulfilled next year by the continued generosity of all who call it home. Inside the tri-fold brochure you recently received is the 2021 pledge card. Please return it to the church office as soon as possible. Alternatively, you can pledge online at www.uccmedina.org/give and there you will also find a downloadable pledge card, if needed.

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 www.uccmedina.podbean.com. The audio will be posted by Monday morning each week.

NOTICE!

We will not be mailing the Pilgrim Messenger the week of Thanksgiving

YOU CAN STILL READ THE PILGRIM MESSENGER IN ITS ENTIRETY **ONLINE!**

JUST GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT:

WWW.UCCMEDINA.ORG

SCROLL DOWN UNTIL YOU FIND WORSHIP BULLETINS AND PILGRIM MESSENGER ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE PAGE

NOVEMBER F.I.S.H. PACKETS ARE READY FOR PICKUP

The F.I.S.H. packets for the month of November are ready for pick up. This month we will be learning about the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000. Every week in November, my children's moment will be focused on this Bible story. In your packet you will have activities for each Sunday in November. Most of the supplies have been provided for you in the packets. The packets will be available at church this Sunday, November 8. You can also pick up the packets at the church anytime during the week from 9 am – 3 pm. They will be right inside the doors on the table in the Welcome Area. Each child gets one packet. These are for children Pre-K-5th grade. Please contact Stacie Yates with any questions or concerns.

CHRISTMAS IS QUICKLY APPROACHING

Support our youth and buy gift cards for all your special occasions! The possibilities are endless: groceries, gasoline, home repairs, clothing and gift items are a few of the ways the shopping you normally do can help our youth. Remember, Christmas is just around the corner! **The next order date is Monday, November 16th by 10:00 a.m.** Cards will be in by Wednesday the 18th for your black Friday Shopping. **The last order date before Christmas will be Monday, December 14th by 10 a.m.**

ENDOWMENT FUND DEADLINE APPROACHES...

*Just a reminder to Teams and groups in the church that the deadline to file for funding from the Endowment Fund is fast approaching. **Requests are due Monday, November 30th.** Do you have a special project? Do you see a need to upgrade equipment? Is your Team mission needing some financial support? The Endowment Fund is here to help. Request forms are available in the literature rack in the hall near the church office. Questions? Call 330-813-1367*

ALTAR FLOWERS

The 2021 Flower Chart is now hanging in the East Room Hallway. Please sign up to sponsor the Altar Flowers. This is a wonderful way to honor or remember someone, or to celebrate a special occasion. Please fill in your name and **write "Church" or "Self"** to let us know if you would like the church to order the flowers for you or if you will be ordering them yourself. The cost of the flowers ordered through the church office is \$22.50.

Also, please write what you would like printed in the Messenger and if you want to claim your flowers after the 10:30 service.

GREETERS NEEDED

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Adapt. Doreen Potter, 1975



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 we offer up the treasure that you have entrusted to us;
 we offer up the skills and time that you have graciously given to us;
 we offer up ourselves in service and praise.
 Receive these gifts by your grace.
 Multiply and use them through the power of the Holy Spirit
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Jack Manhoff, Custodian

CONGREGATIONAL STORY PROJECT - WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR ANSWERS!

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NOVEMBER 15, 2020

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

November 15, 2020 thru November 22, 2020

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun

10:00 am Live Stream Worship Only

Mon

Tues

Wed

Thurs

Fri

Sat

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by Vicki Miller

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559
www.uccmedina.org Email: office@uccmedina.org

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RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE “Prayer” – Fred B. Binckes

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.

THE TOM EVANS AWARD

*OPENING CONFESSION (posted on the Pacific Pilgrim website. <https://pacificpilgrim.com/>)

Leader: Lord of Creation,

People: we confess that we have squandered your gifts
and used them as if they had been given for us alone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,

we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray.

People: Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Hear the Good News:

We have not been faithful in all things.

People: **But our God still welcomes us with patience and kindness.**

Leader: Therefore, as people of God's promise,

People: **let us receive forgiveness,
embrace hope,
and faithfully respond,**

Leader: through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Glory be to God!**

We are forgiven.

We have hope.

We will respond. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Matthew 25:15-30

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Stacie Yates

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

SPECIAL MUSIC

Katherine Johns

SERMON "Talents"

Rev. Luke Lindon

HYMN

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" (vs. 1 & 3)

This hymn came into being when composer Doreen Potter asked poet Fred Kaan to write a text for her adaptation of a Jamaican folk melody. It was first used at the World Council of Churches Assembly in Nairobi (1975), and in Vancouver (1983).

Copyright © 1975 by Hope Publishing Company

Tune: LINSTEAD L.M. with refrain
Jamaican folk song
Adapt. Doreen Potter, 1975



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em-ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear-ing fruit in a world of doubt,
 bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 teach-ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - ery-where!
 Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a-bound!

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Crell Johns

*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 (written by Joanna Harader, and posted on the Spacious Faith blog.

God, whose giving knows no ending, <http://spaciousfaith.com/>
 we offer up the treasure that you have entrusted to us;
 we offer up the skills and time that you have graciously given to us;
 we offer up ourselves in service and praise.
 Receive these gifts by your grace.
 Multiply and use them through the power of the Holy Spirit
 to accomplish Christ's work of love in the world. Amen.

*BENEDICTION (from *Hope in God's Future: Christian Discipleship in the Context of Climate Change* Report & Study Guide, Methodist Publishing 2009)

Leader: God's blessing be upon us as we leave changed.

People: **May we strengthen and encourage one another in our shared vision.**

Leader: And may the blessing of our adventurous Creator God

People: **go with us.**

Leader: And may the blessing of the Son,
People: **who showed us how to live, re-shape us.**
Leader: And may the blessing of the dancing Spirit
People: **joyfully enable us in our renewed living. 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 "With Joy Unending" – Edward Broughton

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
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*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.

THE TOM EVANS AWARD

*OPENING CONFESSION (posted on the Pacific Pilgrim website. <https://pacificpilgrim.com/>)

Leader: Lord of Creation,

People: we confess that we have squandered your gifts
and used them as if they had been given for us alone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,

we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray.

People: Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Hear the Good News:

We have not been faithful in all things.

People: **But our God still welcomes us with patience and kindness.**

Leader: Therefore, as people of God's promise,

People: **let us receive forgiveness,
embrace hope,
and faithfully respond,**

Leader: through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Glory be to God!**

We are forgiven.

We have hope.

We will respond. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Matthew 25:15-30

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Stacie Yates

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

SPECIAL MUSIC

Katherine Johns

SERMON "Talents"

Rev. Luke Lindon

HYMN

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" (vs. 1 & 3)

This hymn came into being when composer Doreen Potter asked poet Fred Kaan to write a text for her adaptation of a Jamaican folk melody. It was first used at the World Council of Churches Assembly in Nairobi (1975), and in Vancouver (1983).

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Tune: LINSTAD L.M. with refrain
Jamaican folk song
Adapt. Doreen Potter, 1975



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em-ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear-ing fruit in a world of doubt,
 bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 teach-ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - ery-where!
 Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a-bound!

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Crell Johns

*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 (written by Joanna Harader, and posted on the Spacious Faith blog.

God, whose giving knows no ending, <http://spaciousfaith.com/>
 we offer up the treasure that you have entrusted to us;
 we offer up the skills and time that you have graciously given to us;
 we offer up ourselves in service and praise.
 Receive these gifts by your grace.
 Multiply and use them through the power of the Holy Spirit
 to accomplish Christ's work of love in the world. Amen.

*BENEDICTION (from *Hope in God's Future: Christian Discipleship in the Context of Climate Change* Report & Study Guide, Methodist Publishing 2009)

Leader: God's blessing be upon us as we leave changed.

People: **May we strengthen and encourage one another in our shared vision.**

Leader: And may the blessing of our adventurous Creator God

People: **go with us.**

Leader: And may the blessing of the Son,
People: **who showed us how to live, re-shape us.**
Leader: And may the blessing of the dancing Spirit
People: **joyfully enable us in our renewed living. 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 "With Joy Unending" – Edward Broughton

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

CONGREGATIONAL STORY PROJECT - WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR ANSWERS!

HERE IS THE QUESTION FROM WEEK 6 (November 8, 2020)

What Will You Do?

Julie Gilliland

I will fill out that pledge card asap, continue to usher, finish out the Moderator term, and look for ways to serve God and this blessing of a church family. I would love to get involved with the youth group at some point down the road. And I will continue checking in on our older church members who may feel isolated at times. I can only hope to continue trying to give this church a fraction of the love these dear people have bestowed upon me.

Dick & Dorie Christy

We commit to welcoming, loving, and serving at Medina UCC and to be ready for new opportunities that arise. Pledging is always a key factor in our stewardship. Dick will continue as Co-Chair on Property and Grounds, Head Usher, Council Member, and UCC Safety Team. I will continue visitation through Circle of Caring and assist with weeding the gardens. We will continue our study of racism through UCC resources, books, and group discussions via Zoom. Stewardship at Medina UCC is a joy!



THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 15, 2020

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

November 15, 2020 thru November 22, 2020

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun

10:00 am Live Stream Worship Only

Mon

Tues

Wed

Thurs

Fri

Sat

Sun 10:00 am Live Stream Worship Only

8:15 am Chapel Worship (in the sanctuary)

9:00 am Gathering Worship

10:30 am Traditional Worship

4:00 pm Youth Group

Worship Highlights: 10:00 am Live Stream Only

Scripture: Matthew 25:15-30

Sermon: “Talents” - Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are given by the Stoll & Huffman families in thanks for a good harvest and God’s art at work for a beautiful fall.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 2020

Our congregational story project continues! For over 201 years, our church has been telling the story of Jesus Christ. This Fall, our members have been sharing their stories, what brought them to our church, what ministries have benefitted from their gifts and what they’d like to see in the future. As we look forward, we are blessed by the generosity of so many that allow us to “be the church”. This week, take time to pray for our church and that all of its needs will be fulfilled next year by the continued generosity of all who call it home. Inside the tri-fold brochure you recently received is the 2021 pledge card. Please return it to the church office as soon as possible. Alternatively, you can pledge online at www.uccmedina.org/give and there you will also find a downloadable pledge card, if needed.

NOTICE!

We will not be mailing the Pilgrim Messenger the week of Thanksgiving

YOU CAN STILL READ THE PILGRIM MESSENGER IN ITS ENTIRETY **ONLINE!**

JUST GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT:

WWW.UCCMEDINA.ORG

SCROLL DOWN UNTIL YOU FIND WORSHIP BULLETINS AND PILGRIM MESSENGER ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE PAGE

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 www.uccmedina.podbean.com. The audio will be posted by Monday morning each week.

NOVEMBER F.I.S.H. PACKETS ARE READY FOR PICKUP

The F.I.S.H. packets for the month of November are ready for pick up. This month we will be learning about the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000. Every week in November, my children's moment will be focused on this Bible story. In your packet you will have activities for each Sunday in November. Most of the supplies have been provided for you in the packets. The packets will be available at church this Sunday, November 8. You can also pick up the packets at the church anytime during the week from 9 am – 3 pm. They will be right inside the doors on the table in the Welcome Area. Each child gets one packet. These are for children Pre-K-5th grade. Please contact Stacie Yates with any questions or concerns.

CHRISTMAS IS QUICKLY APPROACHING

Support our youth and buy gift cards for all your special occasions! The possibilities are endless: groceries, gasoline, home repairs, clothing and gift items are a few of the ways the shopping you normally do can help our youth. Remember, Christmas is just around the corner! **The next order date is Monday, November 16th by 10:00 a.m.** Cards will be in by Wednesday the 18th for your black Friday Shopping. **The last order date before Christmas will be Monday, December 14th by 10 a.m.**

ENDOWMENT FUND DEADLINE APPROACHES...

*Just a reminder to Teams and groups in the church that the deadline to file for funding from the Endowment Fund is fast approaching. **Requests are due Monday, November 30th.** Do you have a special project? Do you see a need to upgrade equipment? Is your Team mission needing some financial support? The Endowment Fund is here to help. Request forms are available in the literature rack in the hall near the church office. Questions? Call 330-813-1367*

ALTAR FLOWERS

The 2021 Flower Chart is now hanging in the East Room Hallway. Please sign up to sponsor the Altar Flowers. This is a wonderful way to honor or remember someone, or to celebrate a special occasion. Please fill in your name and **write "Church" or "Self"** to let us know if you would like the church to order the flowers for you or if you will be ordering them yourself. The cost of the flowers ordered through the church office is \$22.50.

Also, please write what you would like printed in the Messenger and if you want to claim your flowers after the 10:30 service.

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>

POINSETTIA ORDERS

It's time to order your beautiful poinsettia again! You may donate a poinsettia to decorate the Sanctuary, East Room and Fellowship Hall for Christmas services and claim it afterward, or you may donate a poinsettia to be delivered by the Flower Committee to a shut-in to be enjoyed before the holiday. The cost is \$8.50. Deadline for ordering is December 7th. Please fill out a green poinsettia order sheet (available from the ushers and on the table in the welcome area) and turn it in to the offering plate or the church office. **Since we are not having in person worship right now while the County is in the red, you may also call the church office to place your order.**

HEAR THE BELLS RINGING!

Members of our congregation will once again have the opportunity to be “Red Kettle Ringers” for the Medina Salvation Army. **Volunteers are needed for Saturday, December 5th**, in the vestibule at Buehler’s River Styx. There are several short shifts available **between 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**. It is a good idea (but not necessary) to bring a second person with you for your time slot, that way the kettle is never unattended if you need to take a break. You may **sign up by calling or emailing the church office** at 330-725-4559 or office@uccmedina.org For any questions or concerns please contact Jessica Manners. This is a popular event each year, so sign up soon!

ADVENT FOOD DONATION FOR CLAGGETT MIDDLE SCHOOL

As we prepare our hearts and minds for this year’s Advent season, the Mission Team has a “giving” mission to put before our congregation. We would like to focus on the most vulnerable in our community; the children. The children in elementary school receive weekender food bags. Until recently there were no supplemental foods available for children once they moved out of the elementary schools. There is a food pantry at Claggett and the students can take items from the pantry as they need them. Together with the counselor at Claggett, we have compiled a list of their needs. A copy of this list (in the form of a Reverse Advent Calendar) will be included in a mailing that you will be receiving from the church as well as on our website and facebook page.

It is our hope to help stock their shelves by filling boxes with food items they can use. If you are only able to “give” a few items, that would be wonderful too. Boxes (or bags) can be dropped off in the church welcoming area and we will deliver them to the school when they resume classes after the first of the year.

GOSPEL GALLEY

“I AM SOMEBODY”

by Vicki Miller

I am somebody’s idiot. Earlier this month our service focused on the differences of others. How the “others” behaved, thought, voted, posted on social media, etc. How our lives were affected by them and how they were simply “idiots”. In the past few years, I have said “what an idiot” too many times to count. I’ve shook my head in wonder and disbelief how anyone could think, act or behave “that way”. Now that we are, hopefully, turning a collective corner towards respect, understanding and compassion, I’ve been doing some inward thinking. I realized that over the past few years I am also someone’s idiot. Someone has looked at how I have behaved, thought, voted and posted on social media and said “what an idiot”. They don’t understand how I could think or act “that way” any more than I understand them. That’s a tough pill to swallow—because I know for a fact I’m not an idiot 😊. However, I think if you took the time to ask “the others” they would say they aren’t idiots either. So that leaves us with a simple equation—we are all idiots or none of us are. The law of averages would suggest that we can’t ALL be idiots—therefore we must just be smart, good people with different viewpoints on the same issues. So what do we do now? The bible usually has an answer and we can look to 1 Peter 3:8-9 “to sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.” All of this being said—the guy that cut me off on my way to work this morning is still an idiot 😊.

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 25:14-30

Extravagant Opportunity

The one who was given much uses what he is given to make an even greater amount. The one who was given a moderate amount returned a moderate amount. The one who began with very little...wait for it...ended up with very little. Sometimes the parables can be hard to relate to in our modern context, but this one seems very familiar. Maybe the one who was given much really was smarter or more faithful. Or, maybe he just got better advice.

We all need supportive peers, wise mentors and the still small voice that is heard in our own prayer practice. In the parable, we don't know how the servants made the decisions they did. We don't learn who was advising them. But we do know the kind of support that is available to United Church of Christ ministers at many places along their career path.

United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance (UCBMA), the philanthropic arm of the Pension Boards-United Church of Christ, operates with a covenantal spirit as it:

- provides direct financial support and compassionate responses to authorized ministers, lay church employees, and their surviving spouses/partners, in times of urgent need and personal crises
- administers and raises funds for leadership initiatives that promote faithful and fruitful ministry across the United Church of Christ

Through the Minister's Financial Vitality Initiative, Next Generation Leadership Initiative, CREDO and the Annuitant Visitor Program, the UCBMA is a financial partner and perhaps more importantly a compassionate supporter to pastors and their spouses. From providing peer mentoring and education to young pastors with promise, or financial aid for the widows of long-serving pastors, the UCBMA is available to help and support ministers wherever they are on life's journey.

To find out how you can support those who are supporting ministers and more about the work of the UCBMA please visit <http://www.pbucc.org/index.php/art-ma-landing>.