



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

What will you do?
November 8, 2020

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

www.uccmedina.org



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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 “Simple Gifts” – arr. Douglas E. Wagner

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 (Fredrik Backman, Us Against You)

Leader: The worst thing we know about other people

People: is that we’re dependent upon them.

Leader: That their actions affect our lives.

People: Not just the people we choose,

Leader: the people we like,

People: but all the rest of them:

Leader: the idiots.

People: You who stand in front of us in every line,

Leader: who can’t drive properly,

People: who like bad television shows

Leader: and talk too loud in restaurants

People: and whose kids infect our kids with the winter vomiting bug at preschool.

Leader: You who park badly

People: and steal our jobs
Leader: and vote for the wrong party.
People: You also influence our lives, every second.
Leader: And we hate you for it.
People: What shall we do, oh God? What shall we do?

SPECIAL MUSIC "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" -John Rutter

Jim Kiser, solo

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Mark 8:1-10 as interpreted by the Spence family with an introduction by Miss Stacie

SERMON "What Will You Do?"

Rev. Luke Lindon

HYMN

"All Are Welcome"



1. Let us build a house where love can dwell And
2. Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, And

1. all can safe - ly live, A place where saints and
2. words are strong and true, Where all God's chil - dren

1. chil - dren tell How hearts learn to for - give. Built of
2. dare to seek To dream God's reign a - new. Here the

1. hopes and dreams and vi - sions, Rock of faith and vault of
2. cross shall stand as wit - ness And as sym - bol of God's

1. grace; Here the love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 2. grace; Here as one we claim the faith of Je - sus:

1-5. All are wel - come, all are wel - come, all are wel - come

1-5. in this place.

Text: 96 86 87 10 with refrain. Music: TWO OAKS.

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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 (A prayer of peace from our Sufi friends)

Send Thy peace, O Lord, which is perfect and everlasting . . .

**. . . that our souls may radiate peace;
 . . . that we may think, act and speak harmoniously;
 . . . that we may be contented and thankful for The bountiful gifts;
 . . . that amidst our world strife, we may enjoy The bliss;
 . . . that we may endure all, tolerate all in the thought of Thy grace and mercy;
 . . . that our lives may become a divine vision, and in Thy light all darkness may vanish;
 . . . that we, Thy children on earth, may all unite in one family. Amen.**

*BENEDICTION

Leader: We might not know the full reason why we are here,

People: **But we're understanding more and more.**

Leader: Thanks be to you, Our God for blessing us with each other!

People: **Even those we think are idiots.**

Leader: Each can reveal you to us.
People: **We are dependent on one another and upon you, our God.**
Leader: Everything is a gift from our Triune God.
People: **Thanks be to you, Our God who is so involved with our lives and stories,**
Leader: That has blessed us to be a blessing, let us go from here to welcome, love, and serve,
for this service has ended,
People: **And our service now 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 "Sing to His Name!" – Gilbert M. Martin

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 4 & 5 (October 25 & November 1, 2020)

How have you given of your time at church? What were/have you been involved in?

Julie Gilliland

I have been on the Mission Team and enjoyed seeing how our funds help others. Dick Christy asked me to be an usher for the 10:30 am service and I have loved that role for the past few years. I am enjoying my Moderator year in 2020. It certainly hasn't been boring, dear friends!

Kate Winther Lindon

Serving on the evangelism team and also helping to manage our Facebook presence. Also being full of ideas for Luke to do. 😊

Dick & Dorie Christy

Dick and I enjoy connecting at Medina UCC, whether it is simply sharing at Coffee Hour, mission trips to Biloxi, visitation, building projects, mowing the lawn, or tending gardens, etc.

We find love and devotion here which inspires our lives.

The Covid Pandemic is causing disruption, stress, and isolation. Yet life goes on. We are called to use this time creatively to share love, learn, and serve. On a lighter note, who would have ever imagined us doing Zoom! Thanks to all who are making this possible.

Syd Benson

When I joined the church in 1972, I also joined a Women's Fellowship Circle that provided babysitting for my two sons. We had some interesting meetings and I learned a lot. Later I joined a Women's Fellowship group that put on dinners to raise money for the church. I also helped with other church functions such as Dinner under the Stars, food sales at band concerts, and funeral meals. My husband and I taught Sunday School for 3 years and more recently delivered bread for the Breadmakers group. I ran the Vacation Church School program for 3 years before we hired Stacie. I helped with the planning for the 50+ luncheons for 20 years. I was on the Caring team for 3 years and led the Circle of Caring for 27 years. I co-Chaired the Healthy Cooking Dinners for 6 years. I was on the Search Committee for Luke.

I really enjoyed all the time that I spent helping out and got to know so many great members and the staff because of my involvement with the church. I feel blessed that we joined the UCC Church.

Rob Cervenak

Worship Team, mentor for Confirmation, 11 year member and now leader (by default) of Gathering Band.

Pete Benson

A lot of old stuff; Sunday school teacher, Youth Director (3 yrs), Mission Board (3), Kitchen help, Memorial Gifts (forever), Men's breakfast, Delivered bread as well as Garfield deliveries, Usher- lots of satisfaction when new members commented about welcoming, Assisted Syd at Circle of Caring, Volunteered at the church office, Cabin fever... Guess I love the church!

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 8, 2020

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

November 8, 2020 thru November 15, 2020

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
8:15 am Chapel Worship (in the sanctuary)
9:00 am Gathering Worship
10:30 am Traditional Worship
11:45 am Safety Team Zoom Mtg.

Mon

Tues

Wed Veteran's Day

Thurs

Fri

Sat

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

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

Scripture: Mark 8:1-10

Sermon: "What Will You Do?"
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are in thanks for the blessings on the 57-year wedding anniversary of Dennis & Allayne Reese.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 2020

This is it! Stewardship Sunday. Throughout our campaign this year, we've been asking you to share stories that bring light and life to our church...and you've done that brilliantly. The church is more than a building...you've demonstrated that the church lives in each one of us, loving, sharing, helping, serving and bringing the love of Christ to the world. We're here 201 years later due to the generosity of many. We'll be here for another 201 years due to YOUR generosity.

Now, we need your 2021 gift. Think about your story and how our church has made a difference in your life and think about how much of a difference the church has made in the lives of others here in Medina and around the world. Think about if you can add a few more dollars to your pledge this year so that we can not only sustain what we're doing but do MORE. More involvement, more memories, more opportunities for all ages, more worship experiences, more ways to connect with others in the coming year, more ways to help those in need, more ways to be THE church!

CONGRATULATIONS PASTOR LUKE!

Happy Anniversary! November 20, 2020 is our beloved and highly esteemed Pastor Luke Lindon's tenth anniversary of his ordination. We have been blessed as a church family to have such a dear soul as our pastor. Please join me in celebrating Luke, Kate, Eve, and Sam for all the hard work and sacrifice they took on when making this decision, and the dedication they show every day to us, the church.

#TeamLindon4EverMedinaUCC

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.

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.

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.

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.

OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT:

	October	YTD	Annual Budget	YTD as a % of Budget
Income:	\$30,280	\$280,157	\$358,252	78.2%
Expense:	\$24,762	\$272,373	\$372,383	73.1%
Net Income (Loss)	\$5,518	\$7,784	(\$14,131)	

- Third Quarter Statements have been mailed, call or email Kelly if you have questions or concerns.
- Automatic Withdrawal Options are available for your weekly, monthly or even quarterly contributions; contact Kelly for a form to complete.
- Please complete your 2021 Faith Offering/Pledge Card and return to the office.

LOOKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

We have subscribed to a communication system that will allow us to efficiently send telephone and/or email messages to our church family. The system is called **"One Call Now"** and is similar to systems used by local schools. Sometime early next week, you should receive an automated phone call, which will be identified as a "message from the United Church of Christ, Medina." Our first use of this new communication system is to try to get an idea of how many people are likely to be attending in person Christmas Eve services this year. You will be asked to respond (by entering a single digit) to the telephone call. The system will automatically record and tabulate your response.

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!

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. You may also call the church office to place your order.

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.

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.**

GREETERS NEEDED

As we re-open, the Evangelism Team could use your help in providing a socially-distant friendly face at the door when people enter before the 10:30 service. You can stand with your mask on behind the table by the downstairs entrance where we'll have free masks available, or you can stand outside, waving "hi" and "welcome back." Please review the available slots and sign up here: <http://tinyurl.com/uccgreeter>

The deadline for submission of articles for NEXT Sunday's *Messenger* is this Sunday at 11:30 am

Please submit articles to the church office at office@uccmedina.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm MONDAY THRU FRIDAY

Matthew 25:1-13

Tending God's Light

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this..."

Whenever Jesus begins a story this way, we have a clue that a truth about the reality of the world that God dreams for us is about to be revealed.

Today we learn that the kingdom of heaven will be like ten young women, five of whom have enough oil to keep their lamps burning through the night and five of whom run out of oil, leaving their lamps in darkness.

As with any parable, there are many lenses through which to look at this story. But in the year 2020, one helpful way to look at this parable is as a story about being prepared.

Maybe through this parable, Jesus was giving us some clues about wrong ways and right ways to be prepared. The wrong way was not to anticipate all that might lead to needing a little extra. But it was also the wrong way to keep too much, to have more than was needed.

See, the wise bridesmaids did not bring too much. They did not hoard, did not stock up, clearing the shelves of all the oil and leaving none for their neighbors. They did not come to the evening with more than they would need. They brought enough to be prepared for the night ahead.

If 2020 has taught us anything, it is the importance of being prepared in the right way.

On this Stewardship Sunday especially, the parable of the ten bridesmaids (as it is sometimes called) gives us the opportunity to look ahead, asking ourselves what it means to be prepared enough, but not to accumulate. The wisdom of the parable teaches us that it is wise to have all that we might need. But it does not advise squirreling away a treasure hoard. What we have is to be used to make light in the world. Let us do so!