

AS ONE HAVING AUTHORITY MEDINA

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL



January 31, 2021 – 10:00 am Live Stream Only

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

www.uccmedina.org



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LIVESTREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT UCCMEDINA.ORG

“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS”

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE “I Stand in Awe” - arr. Phillip Keveren

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

VISIONING PRAYER

by Sharon Alberson

God, help us to be welcoming. God, help us to be loving.

God, help us to see that serving you can lead us to

A place full of grace with no limits where we can be free...

To open our hands, welcoming. To open our hearts, loving.

To be more than church on Sunday, to live in the light from above;

To celebrate in service and love.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 111: 1-4, 9-10)

Leader: Praise the LORD! I thank the LORD with all my heart

People: **in the company of those who do right, in the congregation.**

Leader: The works of the LORD are magnificent;

People: **they are treasured by all who desire them.**

Leader: God’s deeds are majestic and glorious.

People: **God’s righteousness stands forever.**

Leader: God is famous for wondrous works.

People: **The LORD is full of mercy and compassion.**

Leader: God sent redemption for God’s people;

People: **God commanded that this covenant last forever.**

Leader: Holy and awesome is God’s name!

People: **Fear of the LORD is where wisdom begins;**

Leader: sure knowledge is for all who keep God’s laws.

People: **God’s praise lasts forever!**

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Near to the Heart of God” – arr. Don Phillips

Valerie Brockway, piano

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

SERMON

"As One Having Authority"

Rev. Luke Lindon

HYMN

"Dear God, Embracing Humankind" (vs. 1, 2 & 4)



1 Dear God, em-brac - ing hu - man - kind, for - give our fool - ish
 2 In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, be - side the Syr - ian
 3 O sab - bath rest by Gal - i - lee! O calm of hills a -
 4 Drop your still dews of qui - et - ness, till all our striv - ings

ways; Re - clothe us in our right - ful mind, in
 sea, The gra - cious call - ing of your word, let
 bove! There Je - sus met you prayer - ful - ly: the
 cease; Take from our souls the strain and stress, and

pur - er lives your ser - vice find, in deep - er rev - erence, praise.
 us, like them, by spir - it stirred, rise up and fol - lowers be.
 si - lence of e - ter - ni - ty, in - ter - pret - ed by love.
 let our or - dered lives con - fess the beau - ty of your peace.

In his poem "The Brewing of Soma," New England poet John Greenleaf Whittier compares frenzied ecstasies of a sect of Hindu priests to the noisy Christian revivals he found so offensive. This hymn of quiet worship is from the final stanzas.

Tune: REST 8.6.8.8.6,
 Frederick C. Maker, 1887
 Alternate tune: REPTON
 (repeating last phrase)

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Thank you for using your authority to praise God in this worship, and reaching out to connect to your neighbor. This is how we are the church together. Let us sing praise to our God!

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 Edwina Gateley in *There Was No Path So I Trod One* (1996, 2013).*

Posted on Journey with Jesus. <http://www.journeywithjesus.net/poemsandprayers/>)

God is soaked
in our world.
God's Spirit
lives and breathes
in and through
all that is.
We are lost
only when we
do not understand
that God
is already with
and in
each one of us.
Our task is recognition
of God's initiative
to be at home in us—
acceptance
of God-With-Us.
Then we cannot but
be glad. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Leader: May you leave here reminded of your Divine Authority.

People: May we believe it and act.

Leader: May you depart reminded of your agency.

People: Little acts of kindness can produce amazing things.

Leader: May you log-off knowing that you are beloved of God.

People: We are the church, the hands and feet of God.

Leader: May others know by your good deeds, may your holiness shine to others so much,

People: That even the demons know our name.

Leader: Go for in the name of the one who pioneered such things! Jesus, Our Christ.

People: Our Rock, and our Redeemer! 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 "Postlude on a Pedal Theme" - Allen James

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

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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

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

JANUARY 31, 2021

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

January 31, 2021 thru February 7, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun 10:00 am Online worship only
ANNUAL BUDGET REPORTS READY

Mon 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study

Tues

Wed

Thurs

Fri ANNUAL MEETING VOTING ENDS

Sat

Sun 10:00 am Online worship only
ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING SUNDAY

ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

The **PROPOSED Budget Report** will be available to view on Friday January 29th at www.uccmedina.org/report. You may also pick up a printed copy in the welcome area or call the church office and we can get a copy to you. We will be voting by phone and or email as well as having paper ballots available. All votes will need to be in by **Friday, February 5th**. You should have received a mailing with full details on how to vote.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you requested offering envelopes, they are now available on the table in the New Library. If you have not yet turned in a pledge card, please consider doing so as soon as possible. Thank you!

Worship Highlights: 10:00 am Live Stream Only

Scripture: Mark 1:21-28

Sermon: "As One Having Authority"
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: The flowers are given by the church in honor of Marilyn Koehler's birthday and her countless years of volunteering.

ENDOWMENT GIVING TREE

The holidays may be over, but our spirit of giving is very much alive! Folks are encouraged to contribute to the Endowment Fund so that the generosity shown by many of you continues forward. You are invited to be a part of the growth of dollars that allows projects within the church to grow. A recent project recipient was the HOBBY HORSE PRESCHOOL. Let us keep our spirits up and our dollars working for good. Visit the *Giving Tree* located in the Welcome Area and take a heart off the tree as a reminder.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Would you like to join our church family!? Join us for our next virtual new member class! The next class will be held: **Monday, February 1st**. **Class will be held through a zoom call beginning at 7 pm.** New members **will join the church on Sunday, February 14th**. Contact the Church Office if you are interested at 330-725-4559 or office@uccmedina.org.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Living the life of your dreams starts with a solid financial plan. Join our virtual *Financial Peace University* class and learn to dump debt and build wealth. You won't even have to leave home. Visit fpu.com/1127951 to sign up for our class and start your 14-day free trial of Financial Peace. Class continues **Thursday, February 4, 2021**.

VALENTINE CRAFT DELIVERY

Crafts are ready for delivery to our Senior church membership who are homebound, shut in, or in residential care facilities. Covid-19 restrictions prevent in-person visits. **Let's connect by writing a note to accompany a craft!** For convenience, blank note cards will be provided with each craft. Thank you for reaching out. It is appreciated very much.

"A man finds joy in an apt reply-and how good is a timely word!" -Proverbs 15:23

BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM

A Black History program will be presented via Zoom on Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

The topic this year will be "Driving while Black". This program is sponsored by the Medina Chapter of AAUW. To attend, please register at artkathy@zoominternet.net prior to 2:00 pm Thursday, February 18th.

YOU'VE GOT MAIL

Valentine's Day is just around the corner and we have a special opportunity to bring smiles and love to some special people. The Society (formerly known as the Society for Handicapped Citizens of Medina County) is asking for mail to be sent to their members. We are looking for cards, drawings, pictures, funny jokes, notes, anything to make them smile. There will be a bin outside the front door of the church, behind the bench, where you can drop off your cards, notes, etc. We will be collecting through Friday, February 12th. This is not just for kids; adults are welcome to join the fun!

INFORMATION – WHITE TV??

Someone has dropped off a white TV in the welcome area and we have no idea who it was or what it is to be used for. If you have any information about this, please call the church office so we can get it where it needs to be. **Also, please call the church office BEFORE you drop things off to see if there is a need.**

FIDGET BLANKET OF LOVE MINISTRY COLLECTION CONTINUES

FBOLM continues collection of items for Fidget Blankets! Spring Cleaning early? De-clutterizing? Have stuff you don't know what to do with? How about donating to FBOLM? Items need to be SAFE TO HANDLE, have NO SHARP POINTS or EDGES, NONTXIC, UNBREAKABLE = NO GLASS. Lightweight, and small in size.

Maximum: 8" x 3"; minimum: 1" x 1".

Drop off items Monday – Friday 9 am – 3 pm. Bins are under the stairs in the Welcome Area.

Interested in a Fidget Blanket for a loved one? Blankets are on display at church. Call the church office at 330-725-4559 and leave a message for Visitation Pastor, Karen Brocco-Kish.

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.

Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. – Psalm 111:1 (NRSV)

Until this past year, I thought a psalm like Psalm 111 had to be written by someone at the top of their game. Filled with praise and thanks for God's wondrous deeds, the psalmist revels in God's honor and majesty, grace and mercy, proclaiming that "the works of God's hands are faithful and just, all God's precepts are trustworthy."

Such praise and thanksgiving could only come from an experience of overwhelming abundance and security, to my thinking. The psalmist knew God was good, because life was good. All of life was good—health, relationships, job, even the state of the nation. Why else would the psalmist thank God with their whole heart and in public, no less?

But the past year turned that interpretation on its head. I wonder now if the psalmist was instead in the midst of their own worst hard time—a pandemic perhaps, or economic upheaval, a prolonged drought, national unrest, the loss of a job, or all the above. A time like our time.

Perhaps the psalmist realized the only way to get through that worst hard time was to remember—to recall God's holiness and majesty, the awesomeness of God's works. Maybe the writer realized that praising God for being faithful and just, even if the world wasn't, was an act of power on the psalmist's part. ~ It still is.

Prayer

Help us, Lord, to give you thanks with all our hearts. May we know the power of praise to overcome fear and despair, that we might trust you and love your world once again. Amen.

he 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

Mark 1:21-28

Power to Do

The book of Mark begins with a bang. Jesus is anticipated by John, baptized in the waters of the Jordan, sent into the wilderness for forty days of testing, begins preaching repentance and calls to the fishermen who will become his disciples - all in the first twenty verses.

And now, beginning in verse 21, we hear the story of his first encounter with a suffering person - a man with a so-called "unclean spirit." As Jesus is teaching in the temple, "with authority," the man cries out, naming Jesus as Holy. Jesus, showing the firmness of his authority, rebukes the spirit that is causing the man so much torment.

In this first healing story in the book of Mark, we encounter a person who was suffering as much in spirit as in body. When the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the globe last year, the response to avoid infection was quarantine. While this tactic undoubtedly saved millions of lives, it resulted in another crisis - a spiritual one as many were isolated away from the love and touch of ordinary human interactions.

Health can be thought of as a three-legged stool. Mental, spiritual and physical health work together to support the whole person. The United Church of Christ Council for Health and Human Service Ministries understands this whole-person approach to wellness. So, in addition to providing timely medical and emergency information to clergy and congregations, the Council also provided a corner for tending to spiritual health. For example, The Community Care Space, a YouTube channel and playlist, provided guided meditations and prayers as a way to bring healing to the weary and isolated.

On this Health and Human Service Sunday, we give thanks for the United Church of Christ Council for Health and Human Service Ministries and their work in supporting all the facets of human health.