

**WINTER
SOLITARY
PLACE**

MEDINA
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

February 7, 2021 - One Service Only – 10:00 a.m. Live Stream

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”

RINGING OF THE TOWER BELL

PRELUDE “Solace: A Mexican Serenade” – Scott Joplin 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

Leader: Star Wars geeks know that the sand people walk in single file,
People: **To hide their numbers.**
Leader: Evil asks you to fall in line,
People: **To cover its tracks.**
Leader: God invites you to this place
People: **From our own place on our path**
Leader: To stand side-by-side with your neighbor.
People: **Our individual paths merging into community.**
Leader: Today we start with our humanity,
People: **Only to be surprised by the divinity within and among us.**
Leader: Come, let us be in communion with one another.
People: **As we worship our God. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC “Remember the Lord” Jerry & Elizabeth Mason, duet
Dick & Melodie Tunney/arr. Tom Fettke

SCRIPTURE Mark 1:29-39

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 "In a Solitary Place"

Rev. Luke Lindon

HYMN

"Sweet Hour of Prayer"



1 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! that calls me from a world of care,
 2 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! the joys I feel, the bliss I share
 3 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! whose wings shall my pe - ti - tion bear



and bids me at my Ma-ker's throne let all my needs and wants be known.
 of those whose anx-ious spir-its burn with strong de-sires for your re-turn!
 to One whose truth and faith-ful-ness en-gage the wait-ing soul to bless.



In sea-sons of dis-tress and grief, my soul has of-ten found re-lief,
 With them I has-ten to the place where I would know my Sav-ior's face,
 And since I'm bid to seek God's face, be-lieve God's word, and trust God's grace,



and oft es-caped the tempt-er's snare by your re-turn, sweet hour of prayer!
 And glad-ly take my sta-tion there, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!
 I'll cast a-way my ev-ery care, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

For the gift of community. For the celebration of the individuals who make up the Body of Christ.
For our time, talent, and treasure offered in this moment. We give you thanks, oh 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

You are with us, Our God; even when we are not with you. When we withhold love and generosity. When we neglect your ways. You always call us to think differently. You call us into community and radical love of neighbor. Thank you for not giving up on us. Thank you. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Leader: We gather at the table.

People: Set in the presence of our enemies and friends.

Leader: Our cup overflows.

People: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us.

Leader: For Christ welcomes each of us here.

People: He welcomes. Loves. And serves each of us.

Leader: Washing our dirty feet clean.

People: Feeding us with bread and cup.

Leader: Christ is the Bread of Life.

People: The Living Water that quenches our thirst.

Leader: Let us gather now in this sacramental moment.

The Words of Institution

Virtual Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

BENEDICTION (Isaiah 40: 28-31)

Leader: The LORD is the everlasting God,

People: the Creator of the ends of the earth.

Leader: The Gracious Mystery will not grow tired or weary,

People: and God's understanding no one can fathom.

Leader: Our Creator gives strength to the weary

People: and increases the power of the weak.

Leader: Even youths grow tired and weary,

People: and the young stumble and fall;
Leader: but those who hope in the LORD
People: will renew their strength.
Leader: They will soar on wings like eagles;
People: they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.
Leader: May you run from here to QUIT! To embrace the spiritual practice of quitting and begin again...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 “Mighty Maker of All” – Rachel Sawyer 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

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 7, 2021

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

February 7, 2021 thru February 14, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon 7:00 pm New Member Class – Zoom mtg

Tues 7:00 pm Worship Team Zoom meeting

Wed

Thurs

Fri

Sat

Sun **FOUNDERS DAY**
NEW MEMBERS JOIN
10:00 am Online worship only

Worship Highlights: 10:00 am Live Stream Only
Scripture: Mark 1:29-39
Sermon: “In a Solitary Place” - Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: The flowers are given by Alan Parkhurst in honor of the Property & Grounds Team.

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.

The cost of the flowers ordered through the church office is \$22.50.

If you don't want to come into the church you may call or email the church office to sign up. 330-725-4559 or office@uccmedina.org.

THE HEART OF A HOME IS IN THE HEART OF GOD

February is the month when we celebrate Founders' Day. We do this with a warm remembrance of the past members who founded our church. It is also a time to lift the giving heart by making a memorial gift to the Endowment Fund. Take a heart from the Giving Tree in the Welcome Area to serve as a reminder to make a special financial donation to honor a loved one. Checks may be made out to United Church of Christ, Congregational, with “Endowment” in the memo line. This is a day you will remember by lifting up the indwelling God within each one of us. **Founders' Day is February 14th!**



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 8th**. **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.

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!

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 11, 2021**.

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 arkathy@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!

BIRTHDAY BAGS

The first birthday bags have gone out to the kiddos in our Garfield Elementary food program who are celebrating this month. These "celebrations in a bag" include cake mixes, pans, balloons, and other celebratory items that will be delivered throughout the year to 26 kids from 12 families on behalf of the church.

Big thanks to soon-to-be new member Hannah Magrum for securing the \$250 seed money from Thrivent Financial to help our Garfield kids celebrate! And to church member (and service ninja) Ellen Nolan, who is coordinating the project-another creative way to welcome, LOVE, and service our community!

MARDI GRAS ZOOM DANCE PARTY

Tuesday, February 16th at 7:00 pm

We'll dance for the Lord, maybe not quite as enthusiastically as King David, but enough so we shake the stress off our bodies, and we can be in community in a fun and social way. All ages invited! We'll post the Zoom link on the Family Facebook Group and the church office will have it upon request.



ASH WEDNESDAY 2/17/21

Drive thru Ashes at the church from 5:30-6:30 pm. Live stream worship service at 7:00 pm.

Details in Pastor Luke's "Pastors Corner".

MEDINA ICE FESTIVAL ON THE SQUARE

Don't forget to look for our Ice Sculpture during the Ice Festival. This is held from Friday, February 19th thru Sunday, February 21st.

Things will be different this year, but there will still be sculptures all over the square for you to enjoy!

February Pastor's Corner

Our Annual Meeting is off and running regarding the budget. Thank you all for the patience and feedback in making this process as transparent and painless as we could. A big thanks to Kelly for her leadership and skill with our financials. To our Finance and Stewardship Teams. For Pete Metzloff for running the OneCall voting system. For Cindy and Cathy for getting the reports ready and all things organized. And for anyone I missed, you are wrapped in gratitude, yet my pandemic brain is malfunctioning.

Founders Day is on Valentine's Day! A fitting day to celebrate 202 years of ministry of our intrepid church. The Endowment is a gift from the past to ensure our future. We save, invest, and then innovate to shape the future. Because we love God, our neighbors in Medina, and the witness of this church on the Square. We will also be adding New Members to our congregation! It's going to be quite the celebration!

Then on 2/16, we'll celebrate the end of our Epiphany season and the transition to Lent with a **Mardi Gras Zoom Dance Party!** We'll dance for the Lord, maybe not quite as enthusiastically as King David, but enough so we shake the stress off our bodies, and we can be in community in a fun and social way. All ages invited! We'll post the Zoom link the Family Facebook Group and the office will have it upon request.

Ash Wednesday will be the next day. We'll have a drive-through ash service, administered by yours truly. I'll be masked and gloved and will give the imposition of ashes with a Q-tip on head or hands from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the church. A pre-recorded worship service will then be live streamed at 7 p.m. on Facebook and the church website, uccmedina.org/live

Our Lenten Theme is "Everything Old Is New Again." We enter into Lent 2021 feeling like we never got out of Lent 2020. We will use this time to get intentional with our life of faith. The Worship Team has developed the 4 R's. We'll **Read. Reflect. Receive. And Respond** throughout our 40 day Lenten season.

We'll have a Zoom call each Wednesday where we will **read** the upcoming scripture. We'll **reflect** together in community on the scripture. On Sunday, we'll **receive** the sermon. Then we'll **respond** as a community by putting our faith into action in some way. To aid us on this journey, we have partnered with a new local Medina business called My Sunday. They produce a Sunday Journal to help us process what we heard in the sermon. We'll have 100 of these on hand and in the New Library at church for everyone to pick up.

In this way, it shall be like the song suggests, "Dreams can come true again, when everything old is new again."

Church, you are a dream come true! What we are building. The work we are doing. The community that we are. I believe our ancestors would be so proud. Our future is bright!

Yours in Christ,
-Pastor Luke

JANUARY FINANCIAL REPORT:

	January	YTD	Annual Budget	YTD as a % of Budget
Income:	\$35,089	\$35,089	\$356,366	9.9%
Expense:	\$29,052	\$29,052	\$368,899	7.9%
Net Income (Loss)	\$6,037	\$6,037	(\$12,533)	

- Automatic Withdrawal Options are available for your weekly, monthly or even quarterly contributions; contact Kelly for form to complete.
- Blanket Sunday Donations to date \$895.00

**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**

Mark 1:29-39

Source of Strength

Simon Peter's mother-in-law speaks:

"Peter was like a son to me, even though I did not bear him. So, when he put down his fishing nets and started to follow the Teacher, I paid attention. Some of the other women in the village said they were irresponsible, and if they stopped the work we counted on, we all would starve. "Fishing for people!" they scoffed, "THAT won't put bread on the table." I never said much in those conversations. In truth I never said much at all.

When we heard the Teacher was coming for a meal, I felt this might be my chance to listen, to finally understand his teachings. The other women and I worked all the day before and all through the night to make everything just right. By midday, I felt heavy and moved slower and slower. Finally, the other women saw and urged me to bed, but I was determined to meet the Teacher so without a word I tried to keep to my work. At last I took to bed. I tried to stay awake, but the sickness made me sleep.

When I woke up, the Teacher was there. That strange light that always seemed around him shone in the darkness of the room. His hand on my forehead was cooling and his touch was light, but it filled me with a new strength. All at once, I understood his strange command. To fish for people was to bring them near to God, to one another. I wanted to be one of those fishers, and in that moment, I knew that I would be able to. No longer heavy with fever, I rose.

Serving quietly was the chance to be near the table, and to hear what the Teacher was saying. As fast as I could bring bread and wine to the table, it was gone! First, the neighbors came pouring in, and then people I had never seen before. With that cool touch, he healed them all.

Early the next morning, I was up before the rest and I saw The Teacher slip out the door. I understand what it's like to need a few quiet minutes with the Holy One.

So, when the others asked where he was, I kept silent. But when they started to get ready to go, to look for him, I packed a bag and I followed. And I'm following still. We don't have to be preachers or have our names recorded in books to follow. We just have to be ready, to rise up, to listen and to go when he calls."