



March 14, 2021 - One Service Only – 10:00 a.m. Live Stream

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# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

[www.uccmedina.org](http://www.uccmedina.org)

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LIVE STREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT UCCMEDINA.ORG

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

## RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE “My Song Is Love Unknown” – John Ireland/setting, Michael Burkhardt

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 (Copyright 2019 Stephen M. Fearing | [www.stephenmfearing.com](http://www.stephenmfearing.com))

Leader: For God so loved the world,

People: **God gave his only son,**

Leader: That through him life is found and our salvation won.

People: **With gladsome voice, give thanks to God for God is good!**

ALL: **May all rejoice!**

SPECIAL MUSIC “The Lord’s My Shepherd” – Bob Chilcott

Jim Kiser, soloist

SCRIPTURE John 3: 14-21

## 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

**Prayer Response** (Copyright 2019 Stephen M. Fearing | [www.stephenmfearing.com](http://www.stephenmfearing.com))

Pastor: For Christ did not descend upon us to condemn,

**People: But that we might be saved and live to follow him.**

Pastor: With gladsome voice,

**People: Give thanks to God for God is good!**

**ALL: May all rejoice!**

Pastor: Let's celebrate the news that God has conquered sin,

**People: That evil forces all around no more may win.**

Pastor: With gladsome voice,

**People: Give thanks to God for God is good!**

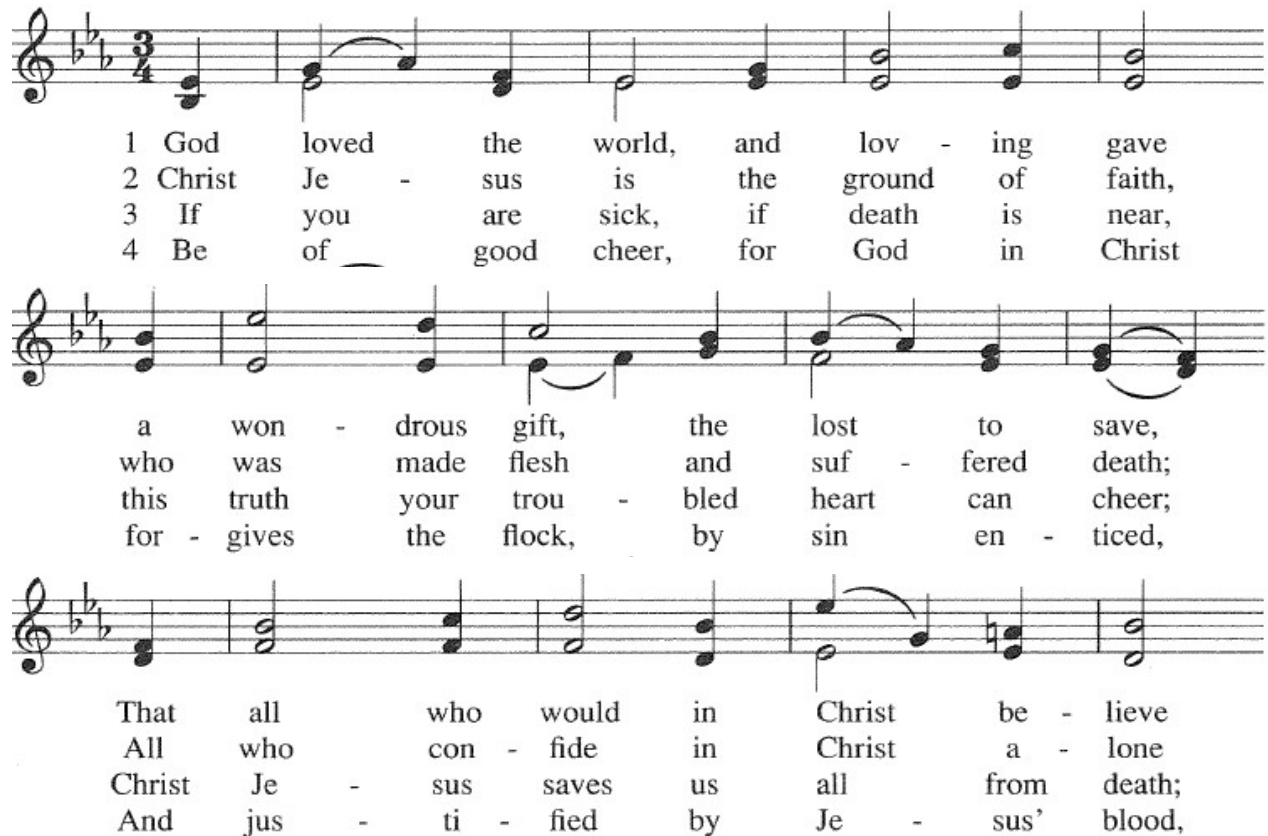
**ALL: May all rejoice!**

**SERMON** "For God So Loved the World"

Rev. Luke Lindon

**HYMN**

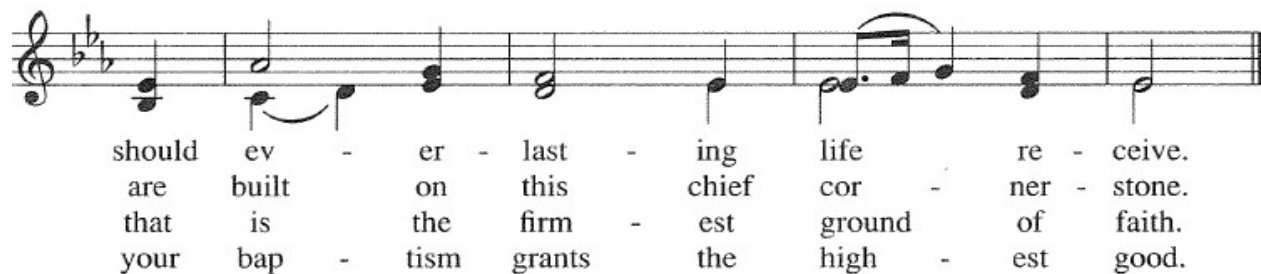
**"God Loved the World"**



1 God loved the world, and lov - ing gave  
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith,  
3 If you are sick, if death is near,  
4 Be of good cheer, for God in Christ

a won - drous gift, the lost to save,  
who was made flesh and suf - fered death;  
this truth your trou - bled heart can cheer;  
for - gives the flock, by sin en - ticed,

That all who would in Christ be - lieve  
All who con - fide in Christ a - lone  
Christ Je - sus saves us all from death;  
And jus - ti - fied by Je - sus' blood,



*Edward Miller, a skilled flutist in G. F. Handel's orchestra, adapted Rockingham from the tune Tunbridge. Miller named it for the Marquis of Rockingham, a patron and friend, and prime minister of Great Britain.*

Tune: ROCKINGHAM L.M.  
Anon.  
Adapt. Edward Miller, 1790

## OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

### One Great Hour of Sharing video

### 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

All praise to you, oh God; our Strength and our Redeemer. You love the world! We are in your hands. May these gifts of time, talent, and treasure further your praise and care for our neighbor. Every. Single. Neighbor. Thanks be to you, our Good Shepherd, who gathers us all into one flock. Amen.

## BENEDICTION (Copyright 2019 Stephen M. Fearing | [www.stephenmfearing.com](http://www.stephenmfearing.com))

Leader: All praise to God above for we are God's design.  
People: Christ wins the fight; let's share the light; may justice shine!  
Leader: With gladsome voice,  
People: Give thanks to God for God is good!  
ALL: May all rejoice!

## 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 "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go" – Albert Peace/arr. Richard Huggins

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

## MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY

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***PASTORAL STAFF***

Rev. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - email: [luke@uccmedina.org](mailto:luke@uccmedina.org)

Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor

***OFFICE STAFF***

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - email: [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)

Kelly Charnley, Financial Manager - email: [financial@uccmedina.org](mailto: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

## MARCH 14, 2021

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

March 14, 2021 thru March 21, 2021

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

**Sun** 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT  
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
OFFERING  
10:00 am Online worship only

**Mon** 10:00 am GIFT CARD ORDERS DUE

**Tues**

**Wed** 7:00 pm Lenten Journaling Series  
Weekly Zoom Call

**Thurs**

**Fri**

**Sat** First Day of Spring

**Sun** 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT  
10:00 am Online worship only

**Worship Highlights:** 10:00 am Live Stream Only

Scripture: John 3:14-21

Sermon:  
“For God So Loved the World”  
Rev. Luke Lindon

**Table Flowers:** The flowers are given by the church for the celebration of spring on its way.

### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

**Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**

One Great Hour of Sharing is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and development activities. Our gifts become part of a loving legacy in ways we can't foresee. Our gifts become blessings to people we don't know and blesses in ways we can't expect. We can make a difference beyond what we can imagine. Donations also accepted through the on-line giving option on our website. March 14<sup>th</sup> give with thanks and joy!

### POSITION OPEN

Kelly Charnley has announced her retirement in May as our Financial Manager for the Church and Hobby Horse Preschool. We are beginning the process of searching to fill this position. If you or someone you know think you might be interested in this part-time position, you can contact the church office at [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org), 330-725-4559 or Pete Metzloff, Staffing Team at [pmetzloff@gmail.com](mailto:pmetzloff@gmail.com) or 330-241-1316 for more information.

### EASTER LILIES

It's time to order your Easter Lily! You may donate a lily in honor or memory of someone to decorate the altar for Easter and claim it afterward, or have it delivered to a shut-in by the Flower Committee. The cost is \$8.00. Deadline for ordering is **March 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Please fill out a yellow lily order sheet (available online and on the table in the Welcome Area) and turn it in to 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.**

## FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

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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](http://fpu.com/1127951) to sign up for our class. The **FINAL CLASS** will be held **Thursday, March 18, 2021**.

## COSTA RICA “NON-MISSION TRIP”

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**Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**

If there has been a bright spot in the last year of quarantine and lockdown it has been the amount of home repairs that have taken place worldwide. We've been spending so much time in our homes that all of those “bothersome” things that have been put off “till I have more time” are highlighted and screaming for attention. We are also not spending money on restaurants, movies, family vacation etc. So- with time and money available, we've been getting a lot of work done! Time and Money is also what is needed to build homes for families in Costa Rica. The local Mission Team has the Time- we need to get them the Money. **On March 21<sup>st</sup> we will be collecting donations to help fund Mercy Home Ministry.** The Medina UCC Team can't travel this year- but we are funding a home for the Local Team to build. Any amount will help! If you replaced your windows this past year maybe you have a little money left over for some glass and screen. If you remodeled your bathroom maybe you have a little left over for some plumbing fixtures. Perhaps you painted some rooms- if you came in under budget maybe you could share a little to paint a house. On behalf of the Costa Rica Mission Team, MHM and a, soon to be happy, family in Nosara, Thank You for your help!

## EASTER BAG PROJECT

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Our annual Easter Bag outreach for the children of incarcerated parents has officially begun and the bags will be available for pick up Monday the 15<sup>th</sup>! I anticipate that they will go quickly as we have a much smaller group of children this year compared to years past. The bags will be at church on a table in the Welcome Area and can be picked up during office hours. Directions will be on the table along with the sign-out information. We are continuing to sign up drivers to deliver the bags on Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. We have had several people volunteer already and there are only a few spots left so don't delay! If you would like to help deliver please contact Ryan Collins to sign up. You can call or text at 330-321-7028 or email at [rpcollins1@gmail.com](mailto:rpcollins1@gmail.com)

## WEEKLY LENTEN JOURNALING SERIES CONTINUES

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Wednesdays @ 7pm – 3/17 – 3/31

**Still need a journal? There are still journals left and you can hop in on the series any time!**

We'll have a Zoom call each Wednesday during Lent 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. The journals will help us in this process.

They are in the New Library at church for everyone to pick up. We have plenty of these left and they will be available throughout the series.

We hope they will aid you and be an additional tool to provide a solitary place for you to pray and to find the Beloved Community of God within and among us all this Lenten Season.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#) Or go to our website under Upcoming Events and register through the link there. You may also call the church office for help registering. **You must be registered to receive the zoom link.**

## MAUNDY THURSDAY PRAYER VIGIL

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Jesus requested of his disciples in the garden, for one hour "stay awake and pray." We'll hold a **Maundy Thursday Prayer Vigil** from 8 p.m. on Maundy Thursday to noon on Good Friday. We have three prayer spots: the Chapel, Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. Choose one of the locations and hours for you/your family to fill our church with prayer. Sample prayers will be available. Masks required, please. Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/ucccvigil> or call the church office at 330-725-4559 if you do not have online access.

## GIFT CARD ORDERS

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Plan ahead now for special occasions and place your Gift Card order soon. Please see the Yellow Retailer List in the rack near the church office or visit [www.glscip.com](http://www.glscip.com) and click on the Retailer List on the left side to view or print your own list. Complete a Green Order Form, also available in the rack and return to Kelly or Stacie with payment.

**The next order will be due on Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.**

## ALTAR FLOWERS

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Please sign up to sponsor the Altar Flowers. There are several open spots on the Flower Chart for April, May, July - September. 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 Sunday service.

## EDIE LARSEN MEMORIAL GIFT

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Eddie Larsen, who died on December 21, 2020, was a longtime member of UCC. She was very active in the church sewing and quilting groups and enjoyed attending the Gathering service. Plans are underway to have a communion table built in Eddie's honor.

Those who wish to contribute to this memorial fund can send a check to the church office. Please write Larsen Memorial Gift in the memo line.

## ANYONE OVERLOOKED?

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Do you know any older church member or friend of the church who might enjoy contacts from a Circle of Caring Member?

If so please call the church office (330-725-4559) or contact Karen Brocco-Kish 330-273-4752.



## FEBRUARY FINANCIAL REPORT:

	February	YTD	Annual Budget	YTD as a % of Budget
Income:	\$36,255	\$71,343	\$356,366	20.0%
Expense:	\$31,362	\$60,413	\$368,899	16.4%
Net Income (Loss)	\$4,894	\$10,930	(\$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 \$1,140.00

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](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)  
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm MONDAY THRU FRIDAY



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March 14, 2021  
Fourth Sunday in Lent  
*One Great Hour of Sharing Offering*

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Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22

**No Matter What**

Just about a year ago, most everyone in the world went under some level of quarantine due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. Lives were changed in dramatic and many unexpected ways. Grocery stores started running out of strange things - toilet paper one week, baking yeast the next. School went online, and busy parents found themselves juggling homeschool and working from home. Churches moved worship online, too. And, most people cancelled whatever travel plans they had.

During this year of quarantine, travel television shows and reading became a wistful and yet satisfying pleasure for those who had to take a break from their own traveling adventures. By reading and watching about other people's travels, the armchair travelers of quarantine days have been able to remember the joy of experiencing the new foods, friendships and sites encountered on their own travels.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), the offering we receive this week, is our reminder that even if in-person travel has slowed in the past year, our gifts can - and do! - still travel around the world. Even if you can't get on an airplane, your financial offering has an impact in many corners of the world.

\*"One Great Hour of Sharing, is the special offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response."  
(<https://www.ucc.org/oghs>)