



All People to Myself
Everything Old is New Again

MEDINA

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST. CONGREGATIONAL

March 21, 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 Email: office@uccmedina.org

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

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

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE “Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley” – American Folk Song/arr. Fred Bock

Jerry Mason, Guest 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 (by Nancy Townley, Ministry Matters Worship Connection, posted at:

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/2453/worship-connection-march-18-2018>)

Leader: The journey of Lent continues with a journey of sacrifice.

People: We are called upon to give our lives to God.

Leader: We are called upon to give of ourselves to others.

People: Lord, help us to reach inward in confession and outward in service.

Leader: Be with us this day and walk with us on this journey.

People: AMEN.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Hymn of Promise” – Natalie Sleeth

Cheri Ingraham, soloist

SCRIPTURE John 12:20-33

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 "All People to Myself"

Rev. Luke Lindon

HYMN

"Now the Green Blade Rises" (vs. 1, 2 & 4)



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain;
 2 In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



Wheat that in dark earth for man - y days has lain;
 Think - ing that their Love would nev - er wake a - gain,
 Christ's warm touch can call us back to life a - gain,



Love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:
 Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:
 Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:



Refrain
 Love is come a - gain like wheat that ris - es green.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation (posted on the **Presbyterian Church USA** website. <http://www.pcusa.org/>)

God of thundering glory and wondrous love,
you lifted up Jesus Christ from the earth to draw all people to your holy name.
Like grains of wheat that fall to the dust, teach us to die—and so to bear much fruit,
giving our lives for the sake of the gospel, following and serving Christ Jesus forever

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 (St. Ignatius of Loyola. Posted on the [Canadian Foodgrains Bank](#) "Weekly Prayer" page)

**Jesus, teach me to be generous, to serve you as you deserve:
to give without counting the cost, to fight needless of the wounds,
to work and not seek for rest, to toil and not seek for reward,
save the reward of knowing I am doing your will. Amen**

BENEDICTION

Leader: Holy One, glorify your name!

People: I have gloried it, and will glorify it again.

Leader: In the sight of all the nations

People: I will draw all people to myself

Leader: May the Son of Man be glorified

People: This voice was for your benefit, not mine

Leader: Let us go from here to spread the good news!

People: God is love. Christ is glorified. The Spirit dwells within and among us!

Leader: Thanks be to God!

People: 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 "If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee" – JS Bach Jerry Mason, Guest 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

MARCH 21, 2021

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

March 21, 2021 thru March 28, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun 5th SUNDAY IN LENT
10:00 am Online worship only

Mon EASTER LILY ORDERS DUE!

Tues

Wed 7:00 pm Lenten Journaling Series
Weekly Zoom Call

Thurs 7:00 pm Congregational Council
via Zoom

Fri

Sat

Sun PALM SUNDAY
10:00 am Online worship only

LAST CHANCE TO ORDER EASTER LILIES

It's time to order your Easter Lily! The cost is \$8.00. Deadline for ordering is tomorrow, **March 22nd**. 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, or you may call the church office to place your order.

ANYONE OVERLOOKED?

Do you know any older church members or friends of the church who might enjoy contacts from the Visitation Team?

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

Worship Highlights: 10:00 am Live Stream
Only

Scripture: John 12:20-33

Sermon: “All People to Myself”
Rev. Luke Lindon

Table Flowers: The flowers are given by Jane Langol in celebration of the 1st anniversary of her 80th birthday.

COSTA RICA “NON-MISSION TRIP”

Sunday, March 21st

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. **Today 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!

MAUNDY THURSDAY PRAYER VIGIL

Jesus requested of his disciples in the garden, for one hour "stay awake and pray." We'll hold a **Maudy Thursday Prayer Vigil** from 8 p.m. on Maudy 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.

WEEKLY LENTEN JOURNALING SERIES CONTINUES

Wednesdays @ 7pm – 3/24 – 3/31

We are continuing to 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.

We have plenty of journals left and they will be available throughout the series.

[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.**

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, 330-725-4559 or Pete Metzloff, Staffing Team at pmetzloff@gmail.com or 330-241-1316 for more information.

EASTER BAG PROJECT

Our annual Easter Bag outreach for the children of incarcerated parents has officially begun and the bags are available for pick up in the Welcome Area during office hours. 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. **Bags are due back Friday, March 26th.** We are continuing to sign up drivers to deliver the bags on Saturday, April 3rd. 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 rpsollins1@gmail.com

CLAGGETT MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOD PANTRY

The Mission Team is beginning a campaign to restock the food pantry at Claggett Middle School. The students are taking advantage of your generosity during Advent when we collected three SUV loads of food. The following items are the focus of this campaign. Please keep the sizes small as they need to fit into backpacks and must not be in glass containers. The items most often needed are peanut butter, squeeze jelly, cereal, pasta, pasta sauce, canned chicken, granola bars, canned soup, and Ramen noodles. There are plastic containers in the Welcome Area marked for this collection. **The final day of the campaign is Sunday, May 2nd.**

EDIE LARSEN MEMORIAL GIFT

Edie 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 Edie's honor for Fellowship Hall. 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.

HOLY WEEK ACTIVITIES

Holy Week Scavenger Hunt: Starting Palm Sunday, the whole family can learn the story of Holy Week with our hidden symbols posted around the outside of our church building! Come and find them throughout the week!

Palm Sunday: We'll have our normal livestream and Bless the Easter Bags at 10 a.m. BUT THEN at **11:30 a.m. we'll gather in the church parking lot** and grab some palms and parade through town. We'll end up back at the church parking lot and have a distanced coffee hour outside.

Maundy Thursday: We will observe the evening of the Last Supper and the command (where the Latin term "maundy" comes from) to "Love one another as I have loved you."

This livestream will be at 7 p.m. on Facebook and our website.

Good Friday: Christ died. What kind of God does that?! We will, too. We are future dead people. This service will talk about the importance of having Advanced Directives.

This livestream will be at 7 p.m. on Facebook and our website.

Holy Saturday: Easter Bags will be delivered thanks to the work of Ryan Collins and the Mission Team.

Easter Sunday: Once again, we'll have an empty sanctuary for this Sunday. However! We'll also plan on a **9 a.m. communion service and a song outdoors**, along with our 10 a.m. live stream.

The office will be closed on Monday, April 5th, 2021.

We will then start our new sermon series: The New Normal. As we're over a year into our "new normal" of wearing masks and staying distance and such, we'll look at how the disciples and the early church dealt with their new normal of life without Jesus. We'll journey through the Book of Acts in this series which will end on Pentecost, May 23, 2021.

A Trinity of Book Studies: "Welcome, Love, Serve" – 7pm Apr. 14th – May 19th Zoom call

Welcome: Stephanie Speller's *Radical Welcome: Embracing God, The Other, and the Spirit of Transformation.

Speller's book enriches the value of welcoming. Spellers defines what radical welcome is and gives tangible examples of congregations living out that value. Radical welcoming communities are committed to the values of hospitality, connection, purpose, conversion, comprehension, and compassion. Here's the chapter and date breakdown of our journey through *Radical Welcome*:

April 14: Introduction

April 21: Part 1

April 28: Part 2

May 5: Part 3: Re-imagine your common life and Check your reality

May 12: Part 3: Reckon with your fear and Where do we go from here?

May 19: Conclusion

Realm Registration here: [Register for Book Study Series](#)

Love: Sue Monk Kidd's *The Book of Longings: A novel.

We'll reflect on this book Wednesday, August 25th at 7 p.m.

This work of fiction isn't new. The question of "What if Jesus had a love interest/wife?" has been written about in "The Last Temptation of Christ" and Dan Brown's "The DaVinci Code." I'm not scandalized by such a question, but for those who are, that's not why I think it's important to read this book. The reason I want to raise this work up is to hear a story that shows the context of Palestinian Jewish life in the First Century. I really loved this work.

***Serve: Ryan Collins – To be announced at a later date.**

ANNUAL REPORT TIME IS NEAR!

Teams, Committees and Leadership of the church are being asked to write up **their Annual Reports** to be presented at the **May 16th Annual Meeting**. **The due date for your report is April 26th**. Please email or drop off your reports to me in the church office. Please try to limit your reports to one page. I appreciate all your efforts in **getting these to me on time**. Please email to: office@uccmedina.org or uccoffice@zoominternet.net.

EASTER OFFERING – APRIL 4th

The Mission Leadership Team thanks you for your continued support of special offerings this year! The **Wolff Fund** was created for Recruitment and Funding for Theological Education. Through this fund, financial assistance is given to members of the Ohio Conference who will be attending UCC seminaries and entering ministry in our denomination. The Fund was established by UCC ordained Minister Rev. Richard Wolff and his wife, Rachael, a church educator. Please give generously on April 4th to this special offering to ensure the education of future UCC ministers.

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

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Deep in our Hearts

God speaks through the prophet Jeremiah, proclaiming that God's law will be written on the hearts of the people. From ancient times until now, the heart has been associated with the capacity to love. To know God's way is to love. And to know God's love on the heart is to be compelled to act out of that love.

Born of a desire to tell the story of how God's love is enacted by God's people, the 3 Great Loves initiative of the United Church of Christ was introduced at General Synod 2017. You can participate by sharing stories of how God's love is shown in the actions of your congregation. The 3 Great Loves initiative has created a resource for congregational action and worship, which you can find here at: <https://www.ucc.org/3greatloves>. Among many other ideas and encouragements, the resource contains this powerful prayer written by Rev. Darrell L. Goodwin:

Creator you call us into discomfort, you call us to be stretched beyond our wildest dreams and imaginations, you call us into action not only for ourselves but for one another.

Humbly we pray: We pray for courage to dismantle the systems that have been rooted and grounded in White supremacy and exclusion.

God in your Power. We pray that our natural and spiritual eyes can be opened to the suffering in our local communities, our country, and the world; and that we are motivated to act for a just world for all.

God in your Grace. We pray for the strength to hear one another, truly see one another, and accompany one another in this journey called life.

God in your Love. We pray for vulnerability, a renewal of our common humanity, a reminder that we truly need one another to not only survive but thrive,

God in your Tenderness. We pray for a kin-dom where your Spirit is truly poured out upon all flesh, and that your children can walk in the fullness of all you have created us to be without limit.