



The temple  
he had  
spoken of  
was his  
body

Everything Old  
is New Again

MEDINA  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST. CONGREGATIONAL

March 7, 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](http://UCCMEDINA.ORG)

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

## RINGING OF THE TOWER BELL

PRELUDE “Wonderful, Merciful Savior” - Rodgers & Wyse/arr. Bruce Inman 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** ( written by Shari Miller Wagner, in *Celebrating the Season*. Posted on the website of the [Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference](#).)

Leader: Who is this who enters the doors of our temple, who overturns the tables,  
Strews silver and gold on the floor,  
frees the sacrificial doves from gilded cages?

**People: Listen, as they rise, the beating of their wings  
is a song of loud hosanna.**

Leader: It is Jesus of Galilee, the Son of God,

**People: who comes to cleanse the great temple,**

Leader: to restore its subverted chambers

**People: to a house of hallowed prayer.**

Leader: Then let us open the doors of our hearts even wider,

**People: so he can cast out the thieves  
who would take what is sacred and tender  
and turn it hard as gold in a fist.**

Leader: May the temple within us

**People: be a refuge where doves of peace roost in the rafters.**

Leader: May it be a garden  
**People: that bears the fruits of a generous spirit.**  
Leader: Oh Lord, take what is corrupt and withered  
**People: and let it break forth in beauty.**  
Leader: For thine is the kingdom and the power  
**People: and the glory forever. Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "Minuet in G" – Christian Petzold Ruby Gabrielsen, piano  
"Sinfonia no. 15 in b minor" – JS Bach Max Gabrielsen, piano

**SCRIPTURE** John 2:13-22

**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** "The Temple He Had Spoken of Was His Body"

Rev. Luke Lindon

**HYMN**

**"Everyone Is Welcomed Freely"**

***A hymn for the Third Sunday in Lent***

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Everyone is welcomed freely; everyone can come and pray.  
There is room for all God's people in the house of God today.  
We confess with pain and sorrow times we've closed the door to grace,  
Now we stand here as a witness: All are welcome in this place!

Christ, you turned the tables over when the leaders strived for gain,  
When they crowded out outsiders, seeking wealth and causing pain.  
When we tolerate divisions — walls we build by greed or pride —  
God, remind us that your mercy welcomes everyone inside.

Everyone is now invited; turning from them is a sin.  
Refugees, you are our brothers! Wounded sisters, come on in!  
All you rich who bow in serving: Greet and welcome in the poor!  
No one waits who longs for welcome; In God's house, there's room and more.

## OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

**Offering Invitation** (written by Katherine Hawker for the Evangelical United Church of Christ, 1998.

Posted on **Liturgy Outside**. <http://liturgyoutside.net/CPr13.html>)

Masters,  
two and more,  
competing for our money  
clamoring for our time  
creating chaos in our lives.

Master,  
one God,  
quiet us and draw us near.

**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 John van de Laar and posted on [Sacredise](#).)

Truth be told, Jesus,  
There are lots of tables that need overturning in our lives;  
Beneath the veneer of respectability  
the tidy rows and neat regulations  
hide dark addictions and angry judgements  
hungry greeds and heartless rejections

We know the pain—and so do those around us—  
of keeping up the facade;  
What a relief it would be to have it all  
upset, smashed, scattered, destroyed

So, perhaps, Jesus, today you could pay us a visit  
and help us to radically rearrange  
the furniture of our lives

Amen.

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

The Words of Institution

Virtual Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**BENEDICTION**

Leader: May the zeal for the Household of God consume you!

**People: May we throw over the tables that need it.**

Leader: May you chase out thoughts of production and effectiveness,

**People: and allow us to just "BE."**

Leader: May you scatter the coins of the profiteers,

**People: and the tyrant side of our ego.**

Leader: And may grace and peace be yours. This day, and always.

**People: Thanks be to God. 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**

"Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy" – arr. Gayden Sikes

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

**"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"**

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"Everyone Is Welcomed Freely" used with permission of Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.

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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

## MARCH 7, 2021

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

March 7, 2021 thru March 14, 2021

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

**Sun** 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT  
10:00 am Online worship only

**Mon**

**Tues** 7:00 pm Worship Team Zoom Meeting

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

**Thurs**

**Fri**

**Sat** 11:00 am-2:00pm Drive by Cookie Booth  
UCC, Congregational Driveway/Parking lot  
Girl Scout Troop 91646 Cookie Sale

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS  
TIME BEGINS

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DON'T FORGET!

Set your clocks **AHEAD** 1 hour  
Before you go to sleep!



**Sun** 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT  
10:00 am Online worship only

### 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.**

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

Scripture: John 2:13-22

Sermon:

“The Temple He Had Spoken of Was His Body”  
Rev. Luke Lindon

**Table Flowers:** The flowers are given by Pastor Luke in celebration of Kate's birthday.

### 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.



## 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 and start your 14-day free trial of Financial Peace. Class continues **Thursday, March 11, 2021.**

## COSTA RICA “NON-MISSION TRIP”

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This past year has been difficult on all of us. For many it has meant the loss of a loved one. For all of us it has meant the loss of a significant or special event. Perhaps you missed a birthday or graduation. Maybe you had to cancel that long-awaited-for vacation. Probably you had to cancel your weekly in-person meetings or get-togethers. Humans have an amazing capacity for ingenuity, and we have found all kinds of ways to overcome many of the “covid hurdles”. We’ve had “drive by” birthday and graduation celebrations. Online virtual travel has allowed us to continue our meetings and cocktail hours while still remaining safe in our homes. For the Costa Rica Mission Team covid has meant that we could not travel to Nosara and build homes. This also means that a family in need will not have a home to “remain safe in”. But...just as we have overcome the other “covid hurdles”, Mercy Homes has overcome this one as well. The local teams have continued to build homes without mission teams coming down. The work is harder and it takes longer, but they are committed to continue building. If we can't be there to build a home, we have committed to financing one for the local team to build. The cost of a home is \$6,500. With a \$3,000 donation from the church's Mission Team and \$2,200 in donations from past Costa Rica Team members, we are almost at our goal to finance a home. On March 21<sup>st</sup>, we will be collecting donations to fill the gap. We'll provide more info in the coming weeks but please keep this wonderful mission in mind and consider if you are able to help us close the gap.

## EASTER BAG PROJECT

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Our annual Easter Bag outreach for the children of incarcerated parents has officially begun. Thanks to your love for these kids, we have all the callers we need to contact families. **We are now signing up drivers to deliver the bags on Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.** Please consider volunteering to help keep this ministry a success and 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). Now is the time to plan to get your Easter Bag and decorate and fill with goodies worth up to \$20. They will be available to pick up in the Welcome Area March 15<sup>th</sup> and I believe they will go very quickly. Thank you!

## WEEKLY LENTEN JOURNALING SERIES CONTINUES

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Wednesdays @ 7pm – 3/10 – 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.**

## A WORD OF THANKS

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To My Church Family,  
Your cards, prayers, flowers and well wishes during a trying time of health challenges made a positive difference to me. “Thank You” to everyone!  
– Carole Fawcett



## PASTOR'S CORNER MARCH 2021

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Vaccinations are starting to roll out. Spring is coming. We're feeling like we're nearing the end of the pandemic as the light brightens the horizon. We're anxious to get back together! Here's a few frequently asked questions and where we are.

**Question: Are we reopen yet?**

Answer: Not until the county level falls to orange. We are closed at a red level and higher. Gov. Mike Dewine puts out a map every Thursday around noon and can be found at [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov) or on his twitter page @GovMikeDewine. Once we fall back to orange, we will be back to three services within two weeks. The two week cushion is to allow our worshipping teams to reassemble and get back into the swing of things.

**Question: Will this change now that some members are vaccinated?**

Answer: No, not at this time. The science indicates that a vaccinated individual might still transmit COVID and since I and members of our worshipping team have yet to be vaccinated, we are going to hold steady until we reach the orange level.

**Question: Once we're back to orange, since I'm vaccinated that means no mask, right?**

Answer: We will still follow the Reopening Team's suggestions of:

- masks
- distance
- washing our hands
- cleaning the surfaces

**Question: How about small groups or outside groups? When will they be making a return?**

Answer: Property and Grounds and the Reopening Team are considering that and will get back to us. Once we fall to level orange, it appears we'll have more recommendations about small groups. Thank you for your questions, understanding, and patience. Here are some further links for those interested:

[Link to our Heartland Conference guidelines.](#)

[Link to Medina Reopening Team guidelines.](#)

[Link to Ohio guidelines.](#)

[Link to CDC guidelines.](#)

Our **Wednesday Lenten Discussions** are off and running! We're focusing on the 4 R's that the Worship Team came up with. We'll talk about what we received from and how we responded to the previous Sunday's sermon. "Received" is what we heard that held meaning in the sermon or worship service. "Responded" is what we did, like how I donated to the Medina Women's Shelter.

We will then "Read" and "Reflect" on this coming Sunday's scripture to prepare us to receive and respond. See how lovely this process is? What a smart Worship Team we have!

We have also have journals available at the church from My Sunday to help us receive Sunday's sermon. These are free and available to be picked up in the library at the church. They are a helpful tool but not required for our journey together.

Any questions? Please email me! Or call the office. You can register for the Zoom call by clicking here: [\*\*tinyurl.com/LentZoom\*\*](https://tinyurl.com/LentZoom)

Holy Week will soon be on us! We are uncertain whether we'll be in person or virtual only. We do have a neat idea for Maundy Thursday. We'll hold a **Maundy Thursday Prayer Vigil**. Jesus requested of his disciples in the garden, for one hour "stay awake and pray." We will hold a 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. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4fafa62fa3fc1-maundy>

## FEBRUARY FINANCIAL REPORT:

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	February	YTD	Annual Budget	YTD as a % of Budget
<b>Income:</b>	\$36,255	\$71,343	\$356,366	20.0%
<b>Expense:</b>	\$31,362	\$60,413	\$368,899	16.4%
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	\$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

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**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**

Psalm 19

### **Beautiful Law**

This week, we remember *La Amistad*. In 1839, the slave ship *La Amistad* traveled from one part of Cuba to another. The slaves on board were threatened by the cook, who said that he would kill and eat the captives. Led by Sengbe Pieh, a Mende man, the brave captives took control of the ship and demanded to be returned to Sierra Leone, their home country. Instead, they were taken further north, where the slavers hoped to encounter rescue in the form of an American ship. Another ship was indeed found, but those on board, with the help of anti-slavery activists including members of churches that preceded the United Church of Christ, were able to successfully sue for the freedom of all the people on board.

No wonder the Amistad, with the faith, courage and steadfastness shown by so many, has become a symbol of the UCC. It is fitting, too, that the Chapel at the United Church of Christ Church House at 700 Prospect Avenue in downtown Cleveland, Ohio is named for this ship and all that it represents.

Today, Amistad Chapel continues the legacy of the ship by being a place of sanctuary for all who worship there.

It is a place of marvelous beauty, inviting visitors in with delightful sounds of splashing water and the welcome of a table where all are fed. It is a place of prayer and quiet reflection in the midst of a busy downtown, and a community that gathers for worship to feed the soul. It is a place that tells a story in each design element and furnishing, which was carefully planned to tell the story of the Amistad and the captives it carried, whose struggle for freedom – “a story of faith and courage at sea” – inspired our Congregationalist forebears to stand with them in the fight against slavery.

You can find out more about Amistad Chapel by visiting in person or online at: <http://amistadchapel.org/home/>.