

# TESTIMONIES OF FAITH

**The New  
Normal**



April 11, 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 CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE “I Love to Tell the Story” – arr. Dale Wood

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 133)

Leader: How good and pleasant it is

**People: when God’s people live together in unity!**

Leader: It is like precious oil poured on the head,

**People: running down on the beard,**

Leader: running down on Aaron’s beard,

**People: down on the collar of his robe.**

Leader: It is as if the dew of Hermon

**People: were falling on Mount Zion.**

Leader: For there the LORD bestows blessing,

**People: life forevermore.**

SPECIAL MUSIC “Healing Is in Your Hands”

*Christy & Nathan Nockels, Daniel Carson, Chris Tomlin & Matt Redman*

Ann Nagy, soloist

SCRIPTURE Acts 3:11-26

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 New Normal: Testimony not Tests of Faith"

Rev. Luke Lindon

HYMN

"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"



1. O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my  
4. He breaks the power of can - celed sin, he  
5. He speaks, and listen - ing to his voice, new



great Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my  
sets the pris - oner free; his blood can make the  
life the dead re - ceive; the mourn - ful, bro - ken



God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!  
foul - est clean; his blood a - vailed for me.  
hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.

## OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

### Offering Invitation

Thank you for the opportunity to give. We pray that God will guide the offerings of our time, talent, and treasure so that the beloved community comes closer to our community. Thank you for all the ways you are making the intangible love of God tangible to your neighbor. 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 *(From the UCC Statement of Faith)*

**You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

**Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

**Leader:** We have heard it said today,

**People:** **Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.'**

**Leader:** Go and be that blessing to a hurting world! 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** "Christ Is Alive" – arr. Alice Jordan

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

## **MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"**

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***PASTORAL STAFF***

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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

## APRIL 11, 2021

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

April 11, 2021 thru April 18, 2021

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**Sun** 10:00 am Online worship only

**Mon**

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

**Wed** 7:00 pm **Zoom Book Study “Radical Welcome”**

**Thurs**

**Fri**

**Sat**

**Sun** 10:00 am Online worship only  
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

### **ANNUAL REPORT DUE SOON!**

**Teams, Committees and Leadership** of the church are being asked to write up their **Annual Reports** to be presented at the May 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.

**The due date for your report is April 26<sup>th</sup>.**

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](mailto:office@uccmedina.org) or [uccoffice@zoominternet.net](mailto:uccoffice@zoominternet.net).

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

Scripture: Acts 3:11-26

Sermon: “The New Normal:  
Testimony not Tests of Faith”

Rev. Luke Lindon

**Table Flowers:** The flowers are given by Jan Coleman in honor of her birthday.

### **REOPENING TEAM UPDATE**

As the COVID-19 vaccination continues to be administered throughout the county, the Reopening Team and Moderators met this past week to discuss the church reopening for in-person worship.

A number of things were discussed. While the county is making progress with vaccinations, we feel that the county vaccination rate is not yet high enough. In addition, the number of COVID-19 cases in the county continues to be high. As a result, we have decided that it is not yet appropriate to resume in-person worship. We will continue to worship online via the livestream.

The Reopening Team will continue to monitor the number of cases and vaccination rates in the county, and we will be meeting again in two weeks to revisit the situation.

In Christ,

The Reopening Team

## POSITION OPEN

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Kelly Charnley has announced her retirement in May as our Financial Manager for the Church and Hobby Horse Preschool. **We are still in 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.

## CLAGGETT MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOD PANTRY

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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
pasta	pasta sauce
canned chicken	cereal
granola bars	canned soup
Ramen noodles	

There is a table in the Welcome Area marked for this collection. **The final day of the campaign is Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

## BOOK STUDY

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**Begins April 14<sup>th</sup> – Zoom call @ 7 p.m.**

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

Spellers' book enriches the value of welcoming and 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. Join us for the first meeting of the series! **Realm Registration here: [Register for Book Study Series](#)**

## NOTES OF THANKS

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Join us in thanking Kelly Charnley for her 18 years of service! You and your family and invited to share a favorite memory, a thank you note, or your retirement suggestions on a 4" x 6" index card. You can submit one card per person or one per family – the more the merrier! Please mail to the church (attention: Cindy) or drop them off in the box in the church library. Please try to submit these by Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. The cards will then be placed in a decorative box, and given to Kelly at the Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> church service. If you do not have a 4" x 6" card, Kellie Johns has placed a supply of cards in the library. Thank you all for helping us thank our beloved Kelly!

## VISITATIONS POSSIBLE AT CARE FACILITIES!!

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Our church has many members who have been isolated in care facilities for over a year. Cards, notes and phone calls are appreciated but visits are better. Call the facility to get current regulations for visitations.

Lois Anderson, Gene Febus, Ruth Gifford, Ellie Jack, Hope Wilder and Mary Ziegler are at Western Reserve Masonic Community. Call 330-721-3000 to check on procedures for a visit. Those in independent living can have visits without a WRMC appointment. Just call the person to arrange the best time for both of you. Masks must be worn and your temperature taken at the guard shack at the entry. For anyone wanting to visit Ellie Jack in skilled nursing, call Sue at 330-721-3258.

Dorothy Devine is at Brookdale Camelot—call 330-723-5825. Ellen Diaber, Betty Zarney and Ruth Gay are at Brookdale South—call 330-722-0110 for arrangements.

Dianna and Larry Huffman are at Elmcroft. Call 330-721-2000 to make an appointment at least a day in advance. Allow extra time for the Huffmans to reach the visitation room.

## MARCH FINANCIAL REPORT:

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	March	YTD	Annual Budget	YTD as a % of Budget
<b>Income:</b>	\$25,413	\$96,757	\$356,366	27.2%
<b>Expense:</b>	\$28,608	\$89,021	\$368,899	24.1%
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>				
	(\$3,195)	\$7,736	(\$12,533)	

- Automatic Withdrawal Options are available for your weekly, monthly or even quarterly contributions; contact Kelly for form to complete.
- One Great Hour of Sharing Donations to date \$1,097.00

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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**



John 20:19-31

### **Marks of Faith**

For years, maybe even decades, the church has wrestled with how to both retain the intimacy of in-person worship and also to embrace the technological changes in communication that are burgeoning in every other aspect of modern life.

When the church, along with the rest of society, was placed under quarantine, the decision was made for us. As communities of faith, we had to adapt some technological ways of staying in community in order to continue to worship with one another.

While many local churches moved their worship services online, the national United Church of Christ pivoted and moved online, too.

"Thursdays for the Soul" and "Tuesdays for Nurture" are offerings from the United Church of Christ to unite, uplift and equip the Church for such a time as this. These videos are streamed live and are available to rewatch and share at:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6VgfHt6zEy7yDgdSE-fLLYEVaNBM2943>

These online offerings have opened church-wide conversations ranging from the decidedly practical to the unapologetically philosophical. They offer guidance for churches and church leaders seeking information about how to be church in these challenging times, along with conversations with a variety of individuals at the forefront of faith and social justice movements.

One of the gifts of these digital days is that if you missed the offerings at "Thursdays for the Soul" or "Tuesdays for Nurture" the first time around, they are still available to you now. You can find them by entering the above url or searching for *Worship and Care for the Entire Church Webinars* on YouTube.