

# CONVERSION OF PAUL

**The New  
Normal**



MEDINA  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

May 2, 2021 – 10:30 a.m. Service

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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”**

*\*Those who are able please stand*

## RINGING OF THE BELL

**PRELUDE** “How Can I Keep from Singing?” -arr. Barbara Boertje 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 22:25-31, The Message Translation)

Leader: Here in this great gathering for worship

**People: I have discovered this praise.**

Leader: And I'll do what I promised right here

**People: in front of the God-worshippers.**

Leader: Down-and-outers sit at GOD's table

**People: and eat their fill.**

Leader: Everyone on the hunt for God

**People: is here, praising The Lord.**

Leader: “Live it up, from head to toe.

**People: Don't ever quit!”**

Leader: From the four corners of the earth  
**People:** **people are coming to their senses, are running back to GOD.**  
 Leader: Long-lost families  
**People:** **are falling on their faces before God.**  
 Leader: GOD has taken charge;  
**People:** **from now on God has the last word.**  
 Leader: All the power-mongers are before God —worshipping!  
**People:** **All the poor and powerless, too —worshipping!**  
 Leader: Along with those who never got it together —worshipping!  
**People:** **Our children and their children will get in on this**  
 Leader: As the word is passed along from parent to child.  
**People:** **Babies not yet conceived will hear the good news—  
 that God’s promises can be trusted.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** “To God Be the Glory” – arr. Sandra Eithun  
*Whitney Bixler, Cathy Fafrak, Melanie Kasten-Krause, Diane Stoll, handbells*

**SCRIPTURE** Acts 9:1-16

**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 Conversion of Paul”

Rev. Luke Lindon

**HYMN**

**“The Summons”**

Text: John L. Bell & Graham Maule

Tune: KELVINGROVE  
 Scottish trad., arr. John L. Bell



1. Will you come and fol - low me If I but  
 2. Will you leave your - self be - hind If I but  
 3. Will you let the blind - ed see If I but  
 4. Will you love the ‘you’ you hide If I but  
 5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true When you but

call your name? Will you go where you don't  
 call your name? Will you care for cruel and  
 call your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners  
 call your name? Will you quell the fear in -  
 call my name. Let me turn and fol - low

know And nev - er be the same? Will you  
 kind And nev - er be the same? Will you  
 free And nev - er be the same? Will you  
 side And nev - er be the same? Will you  
 you And nev - er be the same. In your

let my love be shown, Will you let my  
 risk the hos - tile stare Should your life at -  
 kiss the lep - er clean And do such as  
 use the faith you've found To re - shape the  
 com - pa - ny I'll go Where your love and

name be known, Will you let my life be  
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer  
 this un - seen, And ad - mit to what I  
 world a - round, Through my sight and touch and  
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and

grown In you and you in me?  
 prayer In you and you in me?  
 mean In you and you in me?  
 sound In you and you in me?  
 grow In you and you in me.

## OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

### Offering Invitation

Leader: For the work of Kelly Charnley. For her quiet guidance. For her financial responsibility.  
For all her gifts and her work over these past many decades, we give thanks to God.

**People: Your church thanks you and blesses you.**

Leader: For all that she has offered and blessed us with,

**People: Your church thanks you and blesses you.**

Leader: We offer now, just like our mentor and friend Kelly has done, our gifts and intentions

**People: on behalf and as part of the body of Christ. Thanks be to 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

**May the scales drop from our eyes, oh Lord. To see you and our neighbor. May we focus not  
on what we lack or what we feel we are losing, but what we have and who we are together.**

**May we sing our praises to the Lord for all the worships we have shared....**

**This day...**

**And the days to come.**

**We give thanks to our Lord and our God in the name of Jesus and in the guidance of the Holy  
Spirit, One God forever and ever. Amen.**

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*All are welcome at the Lord's Table. You do not need to be a member of the United Church of Christ to  
partake in the Holy Sacrament.*

### Invitation to the Table

### The Words of Institution

### Partaking of the Elements

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

## \*BENEDICTION

Leader: May God challenge you to see something in another way

**People: Let us never be afraid to consider another point of view.**

Leader: May Christ visit you and charge you,

**People: "Here we are Lord."**

Leader: May you follow the guidance of the Spirit in mentors,

**People: Thank you God for all those who are our Ananias characters.**

Leader: And may grace and peace be yours, this day, and forever more.

**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**

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" -arr. David Lowe

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

**"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"**

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*Please join us in Fellowship Hall as we wish Kelly Charnley well in her retirement.  
Individually boxed cupcakes will be provided as well as coffee, tea, and punch.*

**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

## MAY 2, 2021

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

Live streaming of the Sanctuary service is available at [www.uccmedina.org/live](http://www.uccmedina.org/live)

May 2, 2021 thru May 9, 2021

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

<b>Sun</b>	<b>BACK TO IN PERSON WORSHIP!</b>
8:15 am	Chapel Worship (in Sanctuary)
9:00 am	Gathering Worship
10:30 am	Traditional Worship
<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Farewell Reception for Kelly Charnley</b>
<b>Mon</b>	7:00 pm Evangelism Team
<b>Tues</b>	
<b>Wed</b>	7:00 pm Zoom Book Study “Radical Welcome”
<b>Thurs</b>	
<b>Fri</b>	
<b>Sat</b>	10:00 am Mulch party – all are welcome!
<b>Sun</b>	<b>FRIENDS IN NEED OFFERING</b>
8:15 am	Chapel Worship (in Sanctuary)
9:00 am	Gathering Worship
10:30 am	Traditional Worship

### **IN-PERSON WORSHIP TODAY!**

The Reopening Team, Council, and the Moderators have met and decided that it is appropriate to reopen the church for in-person worship services, **beginning Sunday, May 2, 2021!** We will return to our in-person worship services at 8:15 (in the Sanctuary), 9:00 Gathering (Fellowship Hall), and 10:30 (Sanctuary) with livestream. **Please note that the Sanctuary service will revert to its traditional time of 10:30 am.**

**Worship Highlights: 8:15, 9:00 & 10:30 am**

Scripture: Acts 9:1-16

Sermon: “The Conversion of Paul”  
Rev. Luke Lindon

**Communion Table Flowers:** The flowers are given by Matt & Stacie Yates in honor of Abby’s birthday.

### **FAREWELL RECEPTION TODAY**

**Please join us in Fellowship Hall on May 2<sup>nd</sup>** after the 10:30 am live in-person church service to wish Kelly Charnley farewell in her new journey of retirement. Individually boxed cupcakes will be provided as well as coffee, tea, and punch. Join us!

### **FRIENDS IN NEED OFFERING**

**May 9, 2021**

The **Friends in Need Fund** was established by the Mission Leadership Team in 2003 to provide financial assistance to Medina UCC members with basic living expenses. Please give generously to help our church family members. On Mother’s Day, we usually have asked for donations to the Amanda Fund. However, due to the generosity of so many, the Amanda Fund is well funded at this time. The Mission Leadership Team has found that the Friends in Need Fund is in need of additional support, so we are seeking your donations for the Friends in Need Fund this Mother’s Day. The Amanda Fund continues to be available to provide assistance with medical bills and other related costs that arise due to pressure put on families during hospitalizations of their children. Please pass this information along to your friends and family. For more information you may call the church office.

## **MULCHING PARTY**

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The Property & Grounds Team is hosting a mulching party Saturday May 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. Many hands make light work! Bring your shovels, rakes and wheelbarrows to help. All ages welcome!

## **CRAFTS READY FOR DELIVERY**

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Spring/Mother's Day Crafts are ready for pick-up and delivery on the table in the Welcome Area. Please sign out a craft on the sheet provided.

Pick-up: M-F during office hours (9 am – 3 pm)

Deliveries / Visits: May 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> (Mother's Day)

Thank you for all your help!

## **GREETERS NEEDED**

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The Evangelism Team could use your help in providing a socially distant friendly face at the door when people enter church before the 10:30 service. You can stand with your mask on by the downstairs entrance or you can stand outside, waving "hi" and "welcome back." Please review the available slots and sign up here <http://tinyurl.com/uccgreeter> or call Kate Lindon at 330-663-1801. Thank you!

## **SUMMER MUSIC SIGN-UP**

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Please consider providing special music for our Sunday 10:30 am worship via video or in person (depending on your comfort level). Piano, violin, voice, trumpet, flute, guitar, etc.! Dates are now open through Labor Day. Sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/UCCCCMusic> or contact the office. Thank you, and we can't wait to hear your musical gifts!

## **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

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Circle of Caring Prayer Shawl Ministry is looking for crafters who crochet or knit to create prayer shawls for our church membership who experience a loss of a loved one or are recovering from an illness. Interested? Please contact Alice Metzloff at 330-242-3602 or via email [jamalsblugown@gmail.com](mailto:jamalsblugown@gmail.com). Thank you for sharing your time and talent!

## **LAWN MOWER CREW**

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"The Lord God took humans and put them in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." Genesis 2:15

If you admire the beautiful landscaping of our church's grounds, consider joining the mowing crew! The time commitment for mowing the church's lawn averages about 1 ½ hours every two weeks in the spring and once a month in the summer and fall. The Property and Grounds team provides a riding mower, push mower, gasoline, and trimming tools. Please contact Carl Skorepa at [carlskorepa@yahoo.com](mailto:carlskorepa@yahoo.com) or call 330-421-3189 for more details.

## **CLAGGETT FOOD PANTRY FINAL DAY TO DONATE**

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Help us **restock the food pantry at Claggett Middle School**. Please keep the sizes small as they need to fit into backpacks and must not be in glass containers. **The items needed are:**

**peanut butter**

**pasta**

**canned chicken**

**granola bars**

**Ramen noodles**

**squeeze jelly**

**pasta sauce**

**cereal**

**canned soup**

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

## **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

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Pastor Karen would like to start a grief support group lasting 8-12 weeks which would meet Wednesday evenings at 7 pm. Adults who have lost someone (spouse, parents, child, friend, etc.) and are willing to be a part of a support group are welcome. Members must commit to attend as many sessions as possible. We will be using a book for journaling which each member is encouraged to buy and a text which each member can borrow for the duration of the group. Anyone interested please contact Karen at 330-273-4752 or email her at [karenb7777@aol.com](mailto:karenb7777@aol.com) no later than Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. We will then decide a starting date for the group.



## **HOBBY HORSE PRESCHOOL**

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Hobby Horse Preschool is hiring! We are looking for Lead and Assistant Teachers for all age groups for both morning and afternoon sessions for the 2021-2022 school year. A teaching background is preferred for the Lead Teaching positions.

Questions and resumes may be directed to Jennifer Vilimonovic at [director@hobbyhorsepreschool.org](mailto:director@hobbyhorsepreschool.org) or you may call her at 330-722-1445 for more information.

## **THE SOCIETY NEEDS OUR HELP**

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The Mission Team has been asked by The Society to help in furnishing kitchen items for 3 of their clients moving into a rental home. The church office has a detailed list, but it would probably be easier to purchase gift cards to Target, Walmart, Aldi or even Buehler's so that the residents can shop for the items themselves. The Mission Team will supplement whatever donations are received. Donations are needed by May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION**

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We'll once again hold our annual meeting this month. We'll continue in the hybrid fashion. The report will be available online or for pick up in the new library on May 9th. We will hold the annual meeting to talk about the reports and what we're voting on May 16 following the 10:30 worship service that will be livestreamed. We will then vote via our OneCall system on May 17th at 7 p.m.: The OneCall system is a phone call from the church in which you simply listen to the recording and push the buttons that are prompted for the vote. Then we'll hold wrap session on May 23 following the 10:30 service to give the voting results and introduce our new Moderator and Moderator-elect.

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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 15:1-8

### **Abiding in Love**

While today retired pastor Rev. Dr. Ron Patterson lives comfortably with his wife Charnley Marsden in Tacoma, Washington, his early life in Akron, OH was much more humble. Unsure of his life's direction, Ron met with his pastor, who encouraged the high schooler to enroll at Heidelberg College.

"My parents don't have the money for that," Ron told his minister. But endowment funds from both Grace UCC in Akron and Heidelberg College (now University) made college possible for Ron – as well as a long and successful career in ministry.

And he remains eternally grateful for such great generosity from people he never knew.

"All because of the endowments people like me, who had nothing, could go to college and seminary. That's why I've left a planned gift to the UCC. So much of what the UCC was able to do for justice and work in the world was because of our endowments at churches, camps, Conferences, and the National Setting," Ron continued.

"The UCC has something to say and to share, and the financial part is not the most important part but sure makes the other parts possible in so many ways. We need to be a place where prophets like Traci Blackmon can stand, and voices like Karen Georgia Thompson's can be heard."

To learn more about giving to the UCC, please contact Generosity Officer Andy DeBraber at [debrabera@ucc.org](mailto:debrabera@ucc.org) or 216.736.2168 or Generosity Officer Jessica Shine at [shinej@ucc.org](mailto:shinej@ucc.org) or (216) 736.2175.