

THE EUNUCH

**The New
Normal**



MEDINA
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL

May 16, 2021

10:30 am service

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

www.uccmedina.org



*****Assisted Listening Devices Available – Please Ask Your Usher*****

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

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

**Those who are able please stand*

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE “The Soul that Thirsts for God” – Paul Taylor

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 1)

Leader: Blessed is the one

People: who does not walk in step with the wicked

Leader: or stand in the way that sinners take

People: or sit in the company of mockers,

Leader: but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,

People: and who meditates on the law day and night.

Leader: That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,

People: which yields its fruit in season

Leader: and whose leaf does not wither—

People: whatever they do prospers.

Leader: Not so the wicked!

People: They are like chaff

that the wind blows away.

Leader: Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
People: **nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.**
Leader: For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
People: **but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Amazing Grace"

"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"

Maggie Bixler, piano

Colin Bixler, piano

SCRIPTURE Acts 8:26-40

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 Eunuch"

Rev. Luke Lindon

HYMN

"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"



1 Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap-tized with the Spir-it's sign;
2 Child of love, our love's ex-pres-sion, love's cre-a-tion, loved in-deed!
3 Child of joy, our dear-est treas-ure, God's you are, from God you came.
4 Child of God, your lov-ing Par-ent, learn to know whose child you are.



with this wa-ter God has sealed you un-to love and grace di-vine.
Fresh from God, re-fresh our spir-its, in-to joy and laugh-ter lead.
Back to God we hum-bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.
Grow to laugh and sing and wor-ship, trust and love God more than all.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

We offer you the work of the Church. For whoever it will reach. Help us witness to you in this hurting world. May we pray well with others, and study with those who we once considered outcasts. All to your glory, 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 your people, to your people, Oh Lord. Take and multiply. Get these gifts to where you need them to go. We trust in you and the work of this, your body, your church. Amen.

***BENEDICTION** (Ethiopian Orthodox Prayer for After Studying)

Leader: I thank You, Lord our God, that again on this occasion

People: You have opened my eyes to the light of Your wisdom.

Leader: You have gladdened my heart with the knowledge of truth.

People: I entreat You, Lord, help me always to do Your will.

Leader: Bless my soul and body, my words and deeds.

People: Enable me to grow in grace, virtue and good habits,

Leader: that Your name may be glorified,

People: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. 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** "In Christ There Is No East or West" – arr. Gilbert M. Martin Cathy Fafrak, 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
Jeff Miller, Financial Director - 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

MAY 16, 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

May 16, 2021 thru May 23, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship (in Sanctuary)
9:00 am Gathering Worship
10:30 am Traditional Worship
11:30 am ANNUAL TEAM MEETING
11:45 am Mission Team meeting
4:00 pm Youth Group

Mon

Tues 6:30 pm Bible Study

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

Thurs

Fri

Sat 10:00 am Choir Practice (in Sanctuary)

Sun **PENTECOST
STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING**

8:15 am Chapel Worship (in Sanctuary)
9:00 am Gathering Worship
10:30 am Traditional Worship

THANK YOU

Property & Grounds wishes to extend our sincere thanks to all of the church members who helped to haul and spread 18 yds of mulch last Saturday. And special accolades to [Courthouse Pizzeria](#) for providing lunch to all.

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

Scripture: Acts 8:26-40

Sermon: “The Eunuch” - Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers are given by Arnold & Cheri Ingraham in honor of our new Financial Director, Jeff Miller.

ANNUAL MEETING

The reports are available online or for pick up in the new library. **We will hold the annual meeting TODAY following the 10:30 service** to talk about the reports and other items upon which we are voting. The meeting will be in-person but able to be viewed from home via the 10:30 livestream. We will then vote via our OneCall system on Monday, May 17th at 7:00 pm. 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 a wrap session on Sunday, May 23rd following the 10:30 service to give the voting results and introduce our new Moderator and Moderator-Elect.

SIGN-UPS RETURN

Check out the bulletin board in the East Room hallway to sign up to be a liturgist during June, July and August at the 10:30 Sanctuary service. Questions? Talk to Pastor Luke or call the church office.

You can also still sign up to sponsor the flowers on the Communion Table! There are 7 slots available throughout the rest of the year. The cost is \$22.50.

GREETERS NEEDED

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

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!

LAST WEEK TO HELP THE SOCIETY

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 23rd.**

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

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 iamalsblugown@gmail.com. Thank you for sharing your time and talent!

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Pastor Karen is starting a grief support group lasting 8-12 weeks which will meet Wednesday evenings at 7 pm beginning June 2nd. 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.

A Special Thank you

Thank you very much for the wonderful Retirement Reception on Sunday, May 2nd. Thank you, congregation, for the box of thank you cards, retirement cards and well wishes. Thank you, Caring Team, for the beautiful flowers, plaque, and delicious cupcakes in the individual boxes. Thank you, DELT Team, for the “Blessed Box” full of fun things. I will be shopping at Boyert's soon with my gift card. I am very blessed to have such a caring, supportive church family. Blessings, Kelly

TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Frank Kish is bringing back the Tuesday evening bible study group and all are invited! We will be continuing our study of Ephesians. Please join us on **Tuesdays from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.** in the new library. See you there! **We will not be meeting on Tuesday, May 25th.**

HOBBY HORSE PRESCHOOL

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 or you may call her at 330-722-1445 for more information.

GOT CRAYONS?

All those broken-down colored crayons can result in being gathered, melted, and turned into new crayons of many colors. This is the mission of The Crayon Initiative started by Bryan Ware several years ago. After consulting with an occupational therapist, he created large three-sided, not round, paper free crayons so that hospital kids can easily grip them, and they cannot roll off hospital trays.

Recycled crayons are distributed free to children's hospitals in all 50 states to brighten the lives of young patients during their stay. This is a multi-faceted mission project to save millions of pounds of used crayons from landfills AND to bring smiles to hospitalized children.

The Mission Team is placing colorful boxes by the church entrance and at our Hobby Horse location. After collecting these boxes, the donated crayons will be sorted by color and shipped to The Crayon Initiative in California. Because of the pandemic, further expansion of this project is limited for now but hopefully could involve more schools, churches and anywhere crayons are distributed. For further information, contact Dottie Edinger.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!

We are thrilled that we will be able to do our Vacation Bible School in person this year. There will be some differences to keep everyone as safe as possible, but we are excited to be able to have the children in the building. This year VBS will be offered two weeks in June. The first week will be June 7-10 and the second week will be June 21-24. Each week will be the same thing so you choose which week you would like to have your children attend. Our theme this year is "Discovery on Adventure Island" and it will be tons of fun! As always, many hands make light work. We are in need of people to help make sure it is a success. If you are interested in helping out with VBS, please see Stacie Yates.

WELCOME OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF FINANCE



Jeffrey T. Miller (Jeff) has officially joined the UCC Office Team as our new Director of Finance. Jeff & his family Melissa (wife) Olivia, Addisyn and Kaelyn (daughters) began attending UCC Medina in Spring 2020, in search of a new church. Their 3 daughters have all attended Hobby Horse, with their youngest, Kaelyn, graduating from Hobby Horse this year.

Jeff and his family are residents of Medina, moving from Columbus, Ohio, where he graduated from Franklin University with a Bachelor of Science in Financial Management. Jeff began his career in Finance at the State of Ohio Treasury Department, as a fiduciary overseeing all State of Ohio Employee Pension funds, roughly \$128 Billion dollars. Jeff spent 10-years in the Financial segment, prior to taking on the role of Director of Marketing for Damon's Grill and then Buffalo Wild Wings. Jeff was a key-leader in helping Buffalo Wild Wings grow from 240 locations, to 1,200 in just 7 years. Seeking less business travel after the birth of their 1st daughter, Olivia, Jeff & Melissa decided to become entrepreneurs and renovated the former Whitey's Army Navy store, transforming the space into a NY Style Pizzeria – Courthouse Pizzeria.

Away from his business and new role with UCC, he enjoys spending time with his family boating, bass fishing and "training" their new 6-month-old yellow lab (Ginger).



Beatitudes Go To The Movies! Worship Series

Jesus gave us some blockbuster teachings. They've been a hit ever since they came out.

The worship team has missed going to the theatre, so we'll decorate the building like a movie theatre! They have chosen eight films – from classics to recent award-winners – to gain a better understanding of each of the eight blessings imparted by Jesus in Matthew's Gospel.

We'll explore the Beatitude concepts through popular movies. We'll even gather and watch a few at our pergola (or Fellowship Hall if the weather is bad) at 8 p.m. See below for specific dates.

As the late theologian Rachel Held Evans wrote in her book *"Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again"*,

"The kingdom, Jesus taught, is right here--present yet hidden, immanent yet transcendent. It is at hand--among us and beyond us, now and not-yet. The kingdom of heaven, he said, belongs to the poor, the meek, the peacemakers, the merciful, and those who hunger and thirst for God. It advances not through power and might, but through missions of mercy, kindness, and humility. In this kingdom, many who are last will be first and many who are first will be last. The rich don't usually get it, Jesus said, but children always do. This is a kingdom whose savior arrives not on a warhorse, but a donkey, not through triumph and conquest, but through death and resurrection. This kingdom is the only kingdom that will last."

Date	Beatitude	Movie	Pergola	Streaming
June 13	Blessed are the poor in spirit	Back to the Future		Netflix
June 20	Blessed are those who mourn	Up	Showing on 6/13	Disney+
June 27	Blessed are the meek	Sandlot	Showing on 6/20	Hulu
July 4	Blessed are the those who hunger for righteousness	To Kill a Mockingbird		\$3.99 Prime/Youtube
July 11	Blessed are the merciful	Just Mercy		\$9.99 Prime/Vudu
July 18	Blessed are the pure in heart	Forrest Gump		\$2.99 Youtube/Prime
July 25	Blessed are the peacemakers	Brave	Showing on 7/18	Disney+
August 1	Blessed are those who are persecuted	Hidden Figures	Showing on 7/25	Disney+, Hulu, Sling TV

The summer is a wonderful time to head to the movies, so come out each Sunday or join us on the livestream as we change our attitudes to the beatitudes! You can also pick these movies up at the Library!

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING – MAY 23rd

Paul addressed two very specific ways to care:

(a) Care by encouraging one another. Hurting and dying churches need encouragement. They need folks who will come along side and help. I'll never forget the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain. During the 400-meter race, a runner named Derek Redmund tore his right hamstring. He didn't want to quit and began hopping along toward the finish line on one leg. Suddenly, a man jumped over the wall separating the stands and ran onto the track. It was Derek's father, Jim, who came alongside his son and helped him across the finish line. We need to care enough to encourage.

(b) Care by building each other up. Unhealthy churches are made sick by discouragers, always telling what can't be done or shouldn't be done. Like Nehemiah's discouragers, there are always those who will criticize from the sidelines. A healthy church is marked by those who care for one another more than criticize one another. Encourage one another. Build up one another.

The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.

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

John 17:6-19

Guided in Prayer

Myra lives with her husband Howard in the home they have shared for 43 years. A year ago, Howard started forgetting words and losing things more than usual. Now, he has been diagnosed with dementia and he gets more confused every day.

Pastor Deb is the only other person in the congregation who knows that Joel's brother Carl died by suicide. Even though it's been more than a decade since his death, every year on the anniversary of Carl's death, Joel becomes depressed and angry.

After his tour in Afghanistan, Raoul began having nightmares that would wake him from sleep. He sometimes breaks into a sweat and starts shaking in crowded places.

Several years ago, Angela had surgery on her back and was prescribed pain medicine. She became addicted to their numbing effects and has struggled to keep a job.

When the church secretary arrives at the building in the morning, she sometimes finds Doreen sleeping in the outside stairwell. Doreen talks to people that no one else can see and, even when information is offered to her, refuses to go to the shelter.

These people and scenarios are imagined, but the reality of dementia, addiction, PTSD and mental illness almost certainly touch the lives of people in your congregation. Although the church community wants to help in situations like this, it's hard to know what to do.

Fortunately, the mental health network of the United Church of Christ has created toolkits for congregations who yearn to be places of safety and caring in these and countless other situations. You can find the toolkits, and much more at: <https://www.mhn-ucc.org/congregational-toolkits/>.