

WHEN IT ALWAYS GOES SIDEWAYS

**The New
Normal**



Happy Mother's Day

Sunday, May 9, 2021 10:30 a.m.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

www.uccmedina.org

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 “For the Beauty of the Earth” -arr. Victor Labenske

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 98, The Message translation)

Leader: Sing to God a brand-new song.

People: God has made a world of wonders!

Leader: The Lord rolled up his sleeves,

People: The Holy One has set things right.

Leader: God made history with salvation,

People: He showed the world what he could do.

Leader: She remembered to love us, a bonus

People: To God’s dear family, Israel—indefatigable love.

Leader: The whole earth comes to attention.

People: Look—God’s work of salvation!

Leader: Shout your praises to God, everybody!

People: Let loose and sing! Strike up the band!

Leader: Round up an orchestra to play for God,

People: Add on a hundred-voice choir.

Leader: Feature trumpets and big trombones,

People: Fill the air with praises to The Lord.

Leader: Let the sea and its fish give a round of applause,

People: With everything living on earth joining in.

Leader: Let ocean breakers call out, "Encore!"

People: And mountains harmonize the finale—

Leader: A tribute to God when he comes,

People: When God comes to set the earth right.

Leader: God will straighten out the whole world,

People: God will put the world right, and everyone in it.

SPECIAL MUSIC "This Is My Father's World" – arr. Faber & Faber

Katherine Johns, Piano

SCRIPTURE Acts 24: 10-23

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: When It All Goes Sideways"

Rev. Luke Lindon

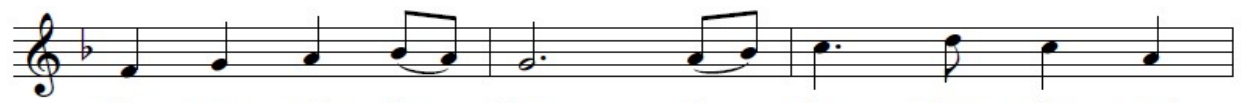
HYMN

"All Are Welcome"

Text & Tune: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
TWO OAKS, 9 6 8 6 8 7 10 with refrain
© 1994. GIA Publications, Inc.



1. Let us build	a house	where	love	can	dwell	And
2. Let us build	a house	where	proph -	ets	speak,	And
3. Let us build	a house	where	love	is	found	In
4. Let us build	a house	where	hands	will	reach	Be -
5. Let us build	a house	where	all	are	named,	Their



all can safe - ly live, A place where saints and
words are strong and true, Where all God's chil - dren
wa - ter, wine and wheat: A ban - quet hall on
yond the wood and stone To heal and strength - en,
songs and vi - sions heard And loved and treas - ured,



chil - dren tell How hearts learn to for -
dare to seek To dream God's reign a -
ho - ly ground, Where peace and jus - tice
serve and teach, And live the Word they've
taught and claimed As words with - in the



give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions,
new. Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness
meet. Here the love of God, through Je - sus,
known. Here the out - cast and the stran - ger
Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter,



Rock of faith and vault of grace; Here the
And as sym - bol of God's grace; Here as
Is re - vealed in time and space; As we
Bear the im - age of God's face; Let us
Prayers of faith and songs of grace, Let this



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
share in Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
house pro - claim from floor to raft - er:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation (Acts 24:14)

Leader: We admit this to any listening,

People: According to the way, we worship the God of our ancestors.

Leader: And we offer our time, talent, and treasure in this moment,

People: To the building of God's kin-dom here on earth. For the healing of the world.

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

We value what you value, oh God. We do our best always to have a clear conscience before you and all people. Bless what we offer. Find us when at prayer. Guide us to where you will lead us. Thank you, Holy One. Amen.

BENEDICTION (The Africana Worship Book Year B, Volume 2)

Leader: Brothers and sisters, your dreams should not go unnoticed.

People: God knows your dreams.

Leader: Now dare to dream out loud

People: So the world may discover what you and God can do.

Leader: Release every God-given dream,

People: So that others may be inspired to do likewise.

Leader: To the author of every good and noble dream,

People: we give all honor and praise. 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 "Sing Praise to God" -arr. Paul Laubengayer

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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Ushers: Dick Christy, Darlene Bagley-Fazekas, Julie Gilliland

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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 9, 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 9, 2021 thru May 16, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY**
FRIENDS IN NEED OFFERING
8:15 am Chapel Worship (in Sanctuary)
9:00 am Gathering Worship
10:30 am Traditional Worship

Mon

Tues

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

Thurs

Fri

Sat

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

OPEN FOR WORSHIP!

The Reopening Team, Council, and the Moderators have met and decided that it is appropriate to reopen the church for in-person worship. We have now returned to our 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 24: 10-23

Sermon: “When it Goes Sideways”
Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers are given by Alan Parkhurst in memory of his mother, Sandy Parkhurst.

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.

ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

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 today, May 9th. **We will hold the annual meeting on May 16th 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.

COOKING FOR CUPS

The first Monday of each month the Church has been cooking meals for Cups Café. Cups Café is a café just off the Square that offers food and hope to those in need. Would you like to provide a meal? WE need individuals or teams to volunteer for a Monday that can cook one hot meal for 60 people. Please contact Dan Daubner at DDaubner@zoominternet.net or 330-283-2742 if you would like to help out.

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!

LAWN MOWER CREW

“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 or call 330-421-3189 for more details.

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!

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Once again you have shown outstanding support for the Claggett Middle School Food Pantry. We have an extremely thoughtful and generous congregation. Through your generosity some food items can be delivered to some of the more food insecure families. Thanks to everyone for giving so generously. We also want to give a shout out to the “Compassion in Action” group in our community that has also supported the Claggett Food Pantry with food items and cash donations is April.

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 last Sunday. 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

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.

AI ROOT MIDDLE SCHOOL DONATIONS

We have an amazing opportunity to expand the help we give to students in the Medina City Schools by joining with a group of parents and other community organizations to provide breakfast items to a small group of in-need students at Brookdale Park. The food donations will be available for students to pick up daily as they walk to their bus stop. The food items should be durable and non-perishable and suggestions include: **6-packs of boxed apple juice and orange juice, packs of fruit cups, large boxes of pop tarts, granola bars, fruit breakfast bars like Nutrigrain, boxes of yogurt pouches, and applesauce pouches.** Our first delivery is this coming Friday the 14th so the Mission Team will be providing a majority of the donations for this week **but if you are able, any donation you can deliver to the church by Thursday afternoon, May 13th**, would be great. We will continue to take donations for the future deliveries until the end of the school year, and potentially longer, so donations are welcome any time. Thank you for helping these students!

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!

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.

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.

THE SOCIETY NEEDS OUR HELP

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.

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 15:9-17

Friends Together

Church coffee hour is as important a weekly ritual as church worship. On this Rural Life Sunday, consider how your church community is intentional about making relationships with the farmers who produce the treats you enjoy each Sunday morning. Through Equal Exchange coffee, your church can celebrate its relationship with farmers every day, not just on Rural Life Sunday.

*"Started in 2004, the UCC Fair Trade Project allows your congregation to partner with the United Church of Christ and Equal Exchange in building fair trade for small farming communities by serving fairly traded coffee, tea and cocoa, and chocolate, snacks, and olive oil for justice at fellowship hour on Sundays.

This project is a way for your congregation to join hands with communities in the developing world. As Christians we can address a consumer dilemma by buying coffee and other commodities that are fairly traded. Through the project, small farmers and their families gain more control over their lives, earn a fairer share of income, have access to credit and technical support, and gain a trading partner they can trust. Members of your congregation can learn about consumption habits that support small scale farmers and workers throughout the world and encourage careful stewardship of God's creation. At fellowship hour, you will be taking action in a spirit of love.

Through the UCC Fair Trade Project, you get access to Organic, fairly-traded products at discounted wholesale case prices, ensuring that more of the money you spend on coffee and other products reaches the hardworking farmers who actually grow them."

*(<https://equalexchange.coop/ucc>)

Find out more about how your church community can partner with Equal Exchange at <https://equalexchange.coop/ucc>.