

THOSE WHO ARE PERSUCUTED



 **BEATITUDES**
GO TO THE
MOVIES

August 1, 2021

10:30 a.m.

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”

Please take a moment to sign the attendance pads, (located at the end of each pew) so that you know who is worshipping near you and you may greet them by name.

**Those who are able please stand*

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE “How Can I Keep from Singing?” – arr. Barbara Boertje

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***OPENING HYMN**

“From the Crush of Wealth and Power”

BRIDEGROOM 8.7.8.7.6.

Kendyl L.R. Gibbons, 1992

Peter Cutts, 1969



1 From the crush of wealth and pow - er some-thing bro - ken in us
2 E - ven now our hearts are wa - ry of the friend we need so
3 When our love for one an - oth - er makes our bur - dens light to
4 Ev - ery time our spir - its lan - guish, ter - ri - fied to draw too



all waits the Spir - it's si - lent hour plead-ing
much. When I see the pain you car - ry, shall I,
bear, find the sis - ter and the broth - er, hun - gry
near, may we know each oth - er's an - guish and, with



with a poi-ignant call, bind all my wounds a - gain.
with a gen - tle touch, bind all your wounds a - gain?
for the feast we share; bind all their wounds a - gain.
love that casts out fear, bind all our wounds a - gain.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus, our Christ, we come to worship you.

People: You who while with us, we harassed you.

Leader: We demeaned you.

People: We asked, "Under who's authority can you do these things?"

Leader: We demanded, "Just who do you think you are?"

People: We asked, "Who told you that you could say that to us?"

Leader: We wondered, "Why is *he* hanging out with *them*?"

People: We persecuted you.

Leader: Forgive us if we dare think for a second that we are the ones persecuted,

People: and instead help us discover where we are still persecuting you.

Leader: We know what we're asking of you Holy One;

People: Do your best, Oh God. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"How Beautiful" – Twila Paris/setting by Lloyd Larson

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURES

Matthew 5:10-11 & Genesis 39:1-10, 17-21

Deb Waldron, Liturgist

BAPTISM OF COLTON BLAZER

"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"



Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spir-it's sign;



With this wa-ter God has sealed you un-to love and grace di-vine.

Question to the Congregation

Leader: I commend to your love **Colton Blazer** whom we receive as a child in the family of God. Through your lives and example, will you support these parents in their desire to guide **Colton** in the knowledge and love of God and of our savior Jesus Christ?

People: In joyful response to God's grace, we promise our love, our support and our care.

"Borning Cry" – Jim Kiser, soloist

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 Persecuted"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Thank you for continuing to financially support the work and mission of the church! You can give in many ways of your time, talent and treasure. You can place your offering in the plates at the rear of the sanctuary, send via mail or give online at uccmedina.org/give. You can text UCCMEDINA to 73256 and follow the prompts. You can also give of your time and talent to liberate the oppressed in whatever way you are passionate about.

**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 (prayer paraphrased from a Mother Teresa quote)*

**Gracious and Almighty God, may we not pray that you would feed the hungry but guide us to do whatever your will for us is.
Guide us to do whatever we're supposed to do, what we can do.
We pray not for answers, but for strength.
We pray not that things will be changed, but that we are changed through prayer, and that we change things. In your many holy names, we pray. 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

*CLOSING HYMN

"This Is a Day of New Beginnings"

Brian Wren, 1978; rev. 1983

BEGINNINGS 9.8.9.8.
Carlton R. Young, 1987

Unison

1 This is a day of new be - gin - nings, time to re -
2 For by the life and death of Je - sus, God's might - y
3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the
4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and

mem - ber and move on, time to be - lieve what love is
Spir - it, now as then, can make for us a world of
past and leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and
share what love can do. This is a day of new be -

bring - ing, lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
dif - ference, as faith and hope are born a - gain.
griev - ing, seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: Forgive us, Lord.

People: For we know not what we do.

Leader: May this worship be a glimpse of the issues,

People: And the hope that we can respond to them!

Leader: May this series be a reminder of the Beatitudes,

People: And what you, our God, value!

Leader: Having been blessed to be a blessing, may you go from here to meet God face-to-face,

People: In our neighbor, at the movies, everywhere!

Leader: Go! Get! Be unleashed on a hurting world, for this service as ended!

People: And our service now begins. Amen!

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "God Be with You"**

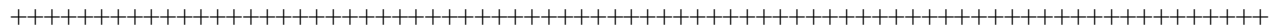
God be with you 'til we meet again; By His counsels guide uphold you;

With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you 'til we meet again.

***POSTLUDE** "For All the Saints" – arr. Wilbur Held

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"



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Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 1, 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

August 1, 2021 thru August 8, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	“Beatitudes Go to the Movies” Summer Worship Series Ends Today 8:15 am Chapel Worship (in Sanctuary) 9:00 am Gathering Worship 10:30 am Traditional Worship
Mon	7:00 pm Evangelism Team Meeting
Tues	7:00 pm Bible Study
Wed	10:30 am Quilters 7:00 pm Grief Support Group 7:00 pm Gathering Band Practice
Thurs	
Fri	
Sat	6:00 pm Jazz Under the Stars (rain site)
Sun	8:15 am Chapel Worship (in Sanctuary) 9:00 am Gathering Worship 10:30 am Traditional Worship

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

Scriptures: Matthew 5:10 & 11

Genesis 39: 1-10, 17-21

Sermon: “The Persecuted” - Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers are given by Kara Blazer in honor of Colton’s birthday.

CHURCH STAFF PLANNING RETREAT

Your Church Staff will be out of the office on **Thursday, August 5th** for a planning retreat. There are so many exciting things coming your way as we gear up for another full year of sermons, Sunday school, all church activities and gatherings, book studies, bible studies, confirmation, Bible Sunday, youth groups, new member classes, Advent & Lenten activities, special missions, and so much more!!!

There will be a volunteer in the church office from 9 am – 1 pm to help out but the church staff will not be available.

SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars now for
the 14th annual

ALIVE ON THE SQUARE

Worship & Picnic

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29TH @ 10:00 a.m.

Plan to join us and bring your family and friends!
Don’t forget your lawn chairs. All are welcome!

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

It has been a while since we have updated and printed a new church directory, so we will be printing new ones to be **available on Rally Day, September 12th**.

In an effort to have an updated directory, **please notify the office with any telephone, address or email changes no later than August 30th**. Please call or email: 330-725-4559 or office@uccmedina.org. Thank you.

NEXT BOOK DISCUSSION

It's time for the second book study in our "Trilogy of Book Studies"! *The Book Of Longings: A Novel* – by Sue Monk Kidd. Please join us in person in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.** for our book discussion.

The question of "What if Jesus had a love interest/wife?" has been written about in "The Last Temptation of Christ" and Dan Brown's "The DaVinci Code." I'm not scandalized by such a question, but for those who are, that's not why I think it's important to read this book. The reason I want to raise this work up is to hear a story that shows the context of Palestinian Jewish life in the First Century.

<https://onrealm.org/uccmedina/The Book of Longings>

LOOKING FOR HELP JUST A FEW HOURS A WEEK

Stewart is wondering if there would be anyone that would be willing to take him out into the community. This would be to run errands and go shopping. You would be paid \$18.90 an hour and .58 a mile. He is looking for someone to work with him 2 to 3 hours twice a week. If you have any questions, you can get a hold of him at 330-590-3052. With Gratitude, Stewart Jones

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Would you like to join our church family!? Join us for our next new member classes! The next classes will be held **Monday, September 20th & 27th**. **Classes will be held from 7 pm – 9 pm** in the New Library. New members **will join the church on Sunday, October 3rd at ONE UNIFIED SERVICE OF WORSHIP AT 10:00 a.m.** Childcare is provided if needed during class. Please contact the Church Office at 330-725-4559 if you are interested and let us know if you will need childcare.

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do pets go to Heaven?

Would it be heaven without our pets? For me, no it would not be heaven without my pets there. I take comfort in that answer, and I hope it's true. Seeing how my dog sleeps most of the day and never has to cook, I think he's currently in heaven. It could be our job to get where our pets already are.

I struggle with how evil we can be to one another. What is it about human nature that has such a need to discriminate?

Me, too. Just when I think we've visited all manner of evil, I seem to learn about some new way we're discriminating or have in the past. Why this is... well, the short answer, sin. We've been awful to each other since there were only 4 people on the planet (metaphorically speaking). Cain couldn't take Abel being favored, so Cain murdered his brother and then asked, "Am I my brother's keeper?" The answer is YES! YES, we are our sibling's keeper. The evil will keep happening until we have sympathy for all people as our sibling of God, a fellow child.

How can I ensure my child will be a follower of Christ?

By modeling Christ-like behavior. That's what I'm banking on. I hope my children will do what Christ did: hang out with all the wrong people, plead for the poor, the oppressed, the marginalized. Love something bigger than their own latest opinion and their neighbor as themselves. If they happen to do this with a UCC church, that'd be great! If they find another denomination or even if they make it their profession, however they are Christ to the world, I will try to find and celebrate it.

I think we tried the "children should be seen and not heard" approach. We've tried the "let's guilt them endlessly about going to church" and I don't think that has really worked for it. Let's try modeling and celebrating. Positive reinforcement. Teaching them bible stories and morals both here at church, at VBS and Sunday school, and as frequently as you can at home. Speak your faith. Live your faith. They will see the appeal and follow after.

GIFT CARDS FOR THOSE IN NEED

As hopefully many of you know part of our Special Missions philanthropy, through your offerings, affords our church to provide Gift Cards to our local residents in need. Over the years, we have been providing Giant Eagle, Speedway and BP Gift Cards to those in need.

Unfortunately, the downside in providing these brands of Gift Cards poses a potential risk to our Church. The recipient “could” use our gift to purchase Lottery Tickets, Tobacco/Vapes/CBD Oils and/or Alcohol. Aside and/or in addition to our Congregation’s moral/religious beliefs around potentially enabling the purchase of such items, we are exposing ourselves to risk. If we provide a GC to someone and they use it to buy alcohol and in-turn cause harm to another, we are potentially liable for such harm. We could be named as enabling the purchase of alcohol. Sad, we have to think this way, but unfortunately, we do.

Aldi offers a Gift Card which excludes the purchase of alcohol and they do not sell tobacco or lottery tickets. Moving forward we will only be purchasing Aldi Gift Cards, as our way of helping our locals in need. We will continue to help with rent/housing/utilities, in which we write a check directly to the entity, never to the individual.

From time-to-time, church members drop off Gift Cards to the office, to be used for local giving. Moving forward, we can provide an Aldi GC order form, which provides the option to exclude alcohol. Regular in-store Aldi Gift Cards do not allow for this exclusion. Please contact the Office, if you would like to purchase Aldi Gift Cards and we will provide you with the form.

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 6:24-35

Bread of Life

ONE VOICE: Creator of All, when everything was nothing, you drew life from the void - separating night from day, setting the stars in the sky, placing plants, fish, birds and all living creatures on this planet that we call home. And you created us, earth creatures, molded from the dust of the ground and created in your image.

MANY VOICES: From the very beginning, we looked for signs that you were near.

ONE VOICE: You tried to show us your power and your mercy. You set us on journeys of faith and transformation. You fed us in the wilderness. Through your prophets, you spoke under trees and on mountaintops and in city streets.

MANY VOICES: Still, we asked for signs of your presence.

ONE VOICE: So, at last you sent us Jesus. As an infant, he gathered both kings and peasants to his side. As a child, he astonished all with his teaching. As a man, he told stories and healed the sick and welcomed the cast out. He walked on water and fed a great crowd with a few loaves and fishes. By his life, he showed us how to live completely filled up with God.

MANY VOICES: And we said, "We still need a sign."

ONE VOICE: And so, he said, "I am the bread of life."

MANY VOICES: Slowly, we began to understand. Maybe if we followed him, we could sometimes taste what it was like to live a life completely filled up with God, too.

ONE VOICE: And then, on the night before he was killed by those who feared his message of love and forgiveness for all people, he gathered those closest to him and took the bread, and he blessed it and broke it and he gave it to us and said, "This bread is my body. Eat this and remember and you will not go hungry." And he also took up the cup, and gave it to them and said, "Drink this, and you will no longer thirst for righteousness." And so, they ate and drank. And so, we eat and drink.

MANY VOICES: And we give thanks for this sign, Holy One, that you are near. Amen.