

THE MERCIFUL

 BEATITUDES
GO TO THE
MOVIES



July 11, 2021

10:30 am

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

www.uccmedina.org



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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 “Wonderful, Merciful Savior” – Dawn Rodgers & Eric Wyse/arr. Carol Tornquist
Cathy Fafrak, Organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

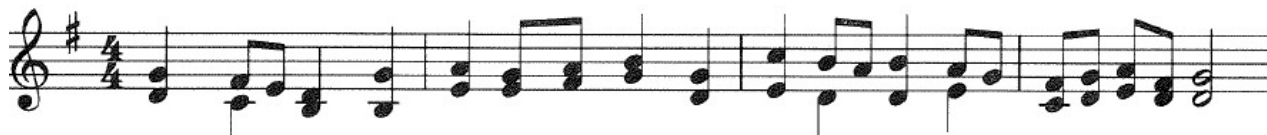
PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.

Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.

Dutch melody; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1906



1 There’s a wide-ness in God’s mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;



there’s a kind-ness in God’s jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
and the heart of the E - ter-nal is most won-der - ful - ly kind.



There’s no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God’s heaven;
If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God’s word;



there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (first four lines from *Never Take It* by twenty one pilots)

Leader: Now that they know information is just a currency and nothing more

People: **Keep the truth in quotations because they keep lying through their fake teeth**

Leader: They're trying hard to weaponize you and I,

People: **We'll never take it.**

Leader: Holy One, in this worship; help us find your mercy

People: **and extend that mercy to our neighbor.**

Leader: Forgive us in our resistance to reconcile,

People: **For it is easier to divide than unify,**

Leader: Easier to carry grudges,

People: **than it is to forgive.**

Leader: Remind us again that it is in pardoning that we are pardoned.

People: **We refuse to be enemies to those who you call your children, our Lord and our God.
Guide our path and make steady our footsteps, in this worship and beyond. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Melody, Op. 47, No. 3" –Edvard Grieg

Daniel Daubner, piano

SCRIPTURES Matthew 5:7 and Lamentations 3:16-33

Brad Rice, Liturgist

BAPTISM OF LILLIANA KAITLYN GRANDINETTI

"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 **Lilliana Kaitlyn Grandinetti** 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 **Lilliana** 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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

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.

SERMON "Mercy"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Help us be generous with our time, talent, and treasure as these are a show of mercy. We give out of our generosity, with no strings attached.

People: Open our hearts to your mercy, and guide us still in your ways.

*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

God, we offer you thanks and praise for all the surprising mercies which come to us.
For those that sustain our lives and those that change them.
For food, familiar diets, and providing for those facing food insecurity.
For homes, places of steady surroundings, and for providing shelter for those without.
For friendships, old friends who are willingly open in their affection and their correction,
And for new friends who remind us that your spirited presence dwells within us and others.
For your will and your way which we find in Jesus, through your Holy Spirit,
One God; we pray. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"God of Grace"

Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930

CWM RHONDDA 87.87.87
John Hughes, 1907



1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3. Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to
 4. Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour thy power; crown thine an - cient church - 's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! Fears and doubts too long have bound us;
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the search for thy sal - va - tion



bring her bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom,
 free our hearts to work and praise. Grant us wis - dom,
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom,



grant us cour - age, for the fac - ing of this
 grant us cour - age, for the liv - ing of these
 grant us cour - age, lest we miss thy king - dom's
 grant us cour - age, serv - ing thee whom we a -



hour, (of this hour) for the fac - ing of this hour.
 days, (of these days) for the liv - ing of these days.
 goal, (king - dom's goal) lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 dore, (we a - dore) serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: May you go from here reminded of the narrative!

People: God’s mercy is Good News for all people!

Leader: May you go from here filled with curiosity.

People: To live in truth is to be in God.

Leader: May you go from here ready to serve whomever God will place in your path.

People: For service is a prayer unto our God.

Leader: Having been blessed to be a blessing, go! 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** “God of Grace” – arr. Paul Manz

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

Jack Sharpe, Maintenance

Jack Manhoff, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

JULY 11, 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

July 11, 2021 thru July 18, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

- Sun** “Beatitudes Go to the Movies”
Summer Worship Series continues
8:15 am Chapel Worship (in Sanctuary)
9:00 am Gathering Worship
10:30 am Traditional Worship
- Mon** 9:30 am Safety Land
- Tues** 9:30 am Safety Land
7:00 pm Worship Team Meeting
7:00 pm Bible Study
- Wed** 9:30 am Safety Land
10:30 am Quilters
5:00 pm Ellen Daiber Memorial Service
7:00 pm Grief Support Group
- Thurs** 9:30 am Safety Land
- Fri** 9:30 am Safety Land
- Sat**
- Sun** “Beatitudes Go to the Movies”
Summer Worship Series continues
8:15 am Chapel Worship (in Sanctuary)
9:00 am Gathering Worship
10:30 am Traditional Worship
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting
4:00 pm Youth Group
9:00 pm Beatitude Movie Night “Brave”

INTERESTED!?

Is anyone interested in learning how to play Russian Bank? It is the greatest card game in the world for two competitive spirits! (Lessons at Judy Collens' house – 330-723-7504).

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

Scripture: Matthew 5:7 & Lamentations 3:16-33

Sermon: “Mercy” - Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers are given by Lori Price in memory of her mother, Barbara Littell.

LOOKING FOR AN ARCHIVED SERVICE?

If you want to watch a prior Sunday service, all the archived videos (as well as the Live stream) can now be found at www.uccmedina.org/live.

ARE YOU A PUZZLER?

Bring a puzzle, Take a puzzle”

Tired of always buying puzzles? Then try our new “PUZZLE EXCHANGE”. 10 puzzles have been placed in the new library as a start. Adult puzzles only please in the 500-to-1000-piece range. Have puzzles to donate? Drop them off in the new library. Enjoy!

THANK YOU

I would like to say thank you to all of you who took the time to send me well wishes for my birthday. It was a special one and it meant so much to me to receive all the cards and calls. Blessings, Cindy Korecky

BEATITUDES GO TO THE MOVIES!

Worship Series Continues with Time Change for Showings

Jesus gave us some blockbuster teachings. They've been a hit ever since they came out. Our Worship Team has 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 even gather and watch a few at our pergola (or Fellowship Hall if the weather is bad) at **9 p.m.** See below for specific dates. 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!

Date	Beatitude	Sermon/Movie	Showing for Next Week's Sermon	Streaming
July 11	Blessed are the merciful	Just Mercy	N/A	\$9.99 Prime/Vudu
July 18	Blessed are the pure in heart	Forrest Gump	N/A	\$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

PASTOR'S Q & A

Today's question: **Why can't we all just get along?**

Rodney King asked that question after he was beaten bloody. It is the question for the ages. There is a Christian Doctrine for this, and it's one that has a lot of baggage, and it has been misused over the years. It's one I hesitate to mention or preach on much, but it's the doctrine of sin.

Sin is missing the mark. Sin is not doing what you want but doing the thing you hate (Romans 7:15).

Paul writes a lot about sin in his letter to the Romans. He juxtaposes Adam and Christ in Romans 5. Adam did the opposite of what God wanted. Christ erased that. Adam's disobedience vs Jesus' obedience to God's plan. It's hard to get around, but if God is for a spirit of generosity, why are we so stingy?

Khaled Hosseini states in the book *The Kite Runner* that "There is only one sin, only one. And that is theft. Every other sin is a variation of theft... When you kill a man, you steal a life. You steal his wife's right to a husband, rob his children of a father. When you tell a lie, you steal someone's right to the truth. When you cheat, you steal the right to fairness."

That quote always stuck with me. Christ's way was opposite. Christ gave away instead of taking. Gave life instead of taking life. We can't get along because we only see loss. We only sense what we're losing and never what we're gaining.

In the Exodus story, the Israelites in the wilderness only see what they lost: constant food and their routine, as brutal as it was. They can't see what they've gained: freedom from slavery. It's a very human thing to fear change and only see what is being taken and not added to our lives.

We can't get along when all we see is scarcity. We can't get along when we feel that another's success is taking something away from us. The disciples thought like this when they saw "an outsider" healing people in Jesus' name. They act like this is stealing. Jesus is generous when we are stingy. "Do not stop him, for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us." (Mark 9:38-40)

May we live the same. May we go the extra mile and even pray for our enemies and do good to those who harm us.

A Special Thank You

The family of Carol Brenneman wishes to thank all those who participated in and attended her Thanksgiving of Life Celebration, all of whom were a blessed gift of remembrance. We would like to share a poem dedicated to Carol, written by Stewart Jones, entitled "Uniqueness".

"Uniqueness"

By Stewart Jones

The uniqueness
Of your being

Is beyond
What words
Could explain

Because you have
Lived your life

So that
It is

A testament
Of God

**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**

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

God-inspired Joy

Last year at this time, several months into the COVID pandemic and not an end in sight, Rev. Rebekah Moyer of Emmanuel UCC, in Allentown, PA was in search of joy. She thought wistfully of the joy that she experienced at Christmas, and wondered if others might want that joy, too. So, she and the congregation she serves initiated Christmas In July.

Pastor Becky, as she is known, said in her sermon that day "I thought about all of the hustle and bustle that goes along with the Christmas season and all of the chaos that comes during that season. I also thought about how quickly baby Jesus is packed away and our Christmas "high" is taken away. ...As I was reflecting on all of this I couldn't help but think to myself: After the Christmas holiday is over, how many of us put Christ back in a shoe box? I started to wonder what happens to Christmas if we take away the ribbons and the bows. If we forget about Santa Claus and decorating Christmas trees. If we don't have to worry about baking cookies or pies or serving extravagant dinners. If we don't have to worry about running around looking for the perfect Christmas present. If we don't have to worry about the lines we usually have to stand in at the store and the irritated faces of strangers when you take the last of whatever the "popular" present is that year. If we get rid of the frustration of wrapping gifts. And I thought that maybe, just maybe, July is an opportunity for us. Perhaps we can forget all of the extra stuff that we have added to the season and really celebrate Christ. We can celebrate what the birth of Christ really means to us without the commercialization, without the pressures that come along with everything surrounding Christmas. ...I was reminded that, although the nights are short and the weather is warm, we need that light and that hope. We need that joy that comes with hearing the story of the baby lying in the manger all of the time. The more I thought about it, the more I realized that the Christmas story does not belong in a box, tucked away somewhere safe. I think we need to hear the miracle of the birth of Christ throughout the year. Have you put Jesus in a box in a closet, attic, or basement with the Christmas stuff? Have you packed him away with the palm fronds and the Easter decorations? Is your joy for the Savior on layaway with the gifts you have set aside for December? Elizabeth and Mary were filled with so much joy that they could not hold it in. Mary's pregnancy, her child, brought the One who would reshape the world, the One who would confront injustice and deliver new hope, the very presence of God. It is time for us to find him again, the baby in the manger. It is time for us to find joy. The most wonderful news, he is always looking for you, waiting for you. Christmas joy is not a single day or month. It is for us, followers of Christ, a way of life."