



Pure. in Heart



July 18, 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”

**Those who are able please stand*

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE “As the Deer with My Faith Looks Up to Thee” – arr. Stan Pethel

Lori Ciulla, Flute & Cathy Fafrak, Piano

*As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you;
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed”



1 Chris - tian, rise and act your creed; let your
2 Hearts a - round you sink with care; you can
3 Of - fer oth - ers hope and joy, and God's
4 Come then, law di - vine, and reign: faith that



prayer be in your deed; Seek the right, per - form the
help their load to bear; You can bring in - spir - ing
wor - ship your em - ploy; Giv - ing thanks in hum - ble
doubt as - sails in vain, Per - fect love be - reft of

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get. May what we offer with our time, talent, and treasure, sweeten life for those who shall receive. Let us sing to our God, from whom all blessings flow.

*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 (quote from Walter Brueggemann)

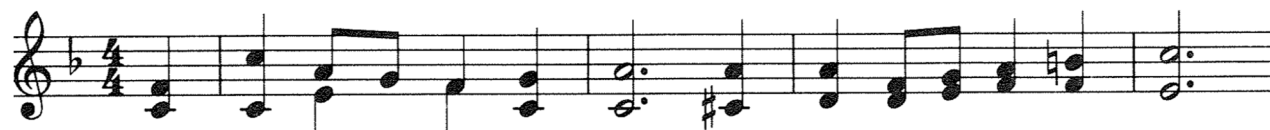
Holy One, take our time, talent, and treasure so that it unites our hearts. May we once again do "The prophetic tasks of the church:
To tell the truth in a society that lives in illusion;
Grieve in a society that practices denial;
And express hope in a society that lives in despair."
May we do so. And may we all be one. In your name, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Rejoice, You Pure in Heart"

Edward H. Plumptre, 1865; alt.

MARION S.M. with refrain
Arthur H. Messiter, 1883



1 Re - joice, you pure in heart; lift prais - es to the sky;
2 Bright youth and sea - soned age, strong souls and spir - its meek,
3 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
4 Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing as you go,
5 Praise God who rules all worlds, the ris - en Christ a - dore,



Your fes - tal ban - ner wave with joy, the cross of Christ raise high!
Raise high your free, ex - ult - ing song, God's won - drous prais - es speak.
Send forth the hymns the saints have loved, the psalms of an - cient days.
From youth to age, by night and day, in glad - ness and in woe:
Praise God the Spir - it, Ho - ly Fire, one God for ev - er - more!

Refrain

Re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, give thanks and sing.

***BENEDICTION** (quote from Richard Rohr)

Leader: Go from here to love recklessly. Be devoted to God with all your heart.
 "For if love is the soul of Christian existence,
 it must be at the heart of every Christian virtue.

People: Justice without love is legalism;

Leader: Faith without love is ideology;

People: Hope without love is self-centeredness;

Leader: Forgiveness without love is self-abasement;

People: Generosity without love is extravagance;

Leader: Care without love is mere duty;

People: Fidelity without love is servitude."

Leader: May every gift and virtue that make you, you;

People: Be a pure expression of love.

Leader: An expression of our God who is love,

People: Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer.

Leader: One God forever and ever, 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 "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" – arr. Lani Smith**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

JULY 18, 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 18, 2021 thru July 25, 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
4:00 pm Youth Group
7:00 pm Stewardship Meeting
9:00 pm Beatitude Movie Night
“Brave”
at the pergola
- Mon** 6:30 pm Women’s Bible Study
- Tues** 7:00 pm Bible Study
- Wed** 10:30 am Quilters
7:00 pm DELT meeting
7:00 pm Grief Support Group
7:00 pm Gathering Band Practice
- Thurs** 7:00 pm Congregational Council
- Fri**
- Sat** 12:00 pm Lucille Smith Memorial Service
- 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
9:00 pm Beatitude Movie Night
“Hidden Figures” at the pergola

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

Scriptures: Matthew 5:8 & Exodus 3:1-14

Sermon: “Pure in Heart” - Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers are given by Diane Howard in memory of her husband, Brian.

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!

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).

BEATITUDES GO TO THE MOVIES!

Worship Series Continues with Time Change for Showings

We'll gather this week at our pergola (or Fellowship Hall if the weather is bad) at **9 p.m.** The summer is a wonderful time to head to the movies, so come out this Sunday to watch "Brave" 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 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: "**How does creation and evolution work together? I believe in science but I love the creation story.**"

I love science and the creation story, too! You're playing to my strengths. First let's define a term. Evolution is the theory that things change over time. That's not **a** definition, that's **THE** definition. If you see that things change over time, then you "believe" in evolution. What is in dispute is how things change over time and what method and how long.

There is change in the creation stories of Genesis 1 & 2. God creates different things on different days. Things appear in an order and that order is pretty close to how we understand biological evolution: water, then land, then plants, then fish in the sea, then animals on the land.

People really don't like when biologists point out that humans are animals. We like to trick ourselves and think ourselves completely apart. Yet in Genesis 1:26 God said, "Let us create humanity in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and birds in the sky..." etc. Who was God talking to? Some theologians say it was the other parts of the Trinity. Others say the angels. Yet my favorite answer comes from the rabbis in the 1100s. God is talking to the animals. God is saying, "You, animals, create the body, and I will supply the mind." I think that's so cool.

We are on this earth. We were created here in it, we come from it, this is our home. We are perfectly adapted to the various climates that we live in. There is no divide between science and religion for me. Both are beautiful stories which try to explain how we got here. Other writers have done a way better job and if you're the reading type, here are a few books:

Saving Darwin and Seven Glorious Days, both by Karl Giberson who is an amazing writer and human being.

Thank God for Evolution by Michael Dowd, a UCC pastor and scientist.

Ask the Beasts by Elizabeth Johnson, a renowned Catholic theologian and the distinguished Professor of Theology at Fordham University

If you would like to meet and talk more, I can go for days on this topic! I set up a whole lecture series on the intersection of science and religion, so this is sort of a pet project of mine. Great question!

2021 COSTA RICA “NOT” MISSION TRIP

Hello all! I just wanted to circle back and share with you some details about our “2021 Costa Rica **NOT** Mission Trip.” We were able to raise the money needed and sent it down to Maximo. Don Blas (89) and Don Quintin (83) are two elders living in very poor conditions on the outskirts of Barra Honda National Park. Pastor Carlos had visited them about a year ago and Mercy Home Missions (MHM) has wanted to serve them for some time. There were enough resources for one house – so the team got creative and built a “divided house.” There are two separate entrances (so they can each have their own space) and a shared bathroom. Maximo wrote, “THANK YOU!!!! I just can’t imagine how the life of these two elders will change through a place like the one we did for them. I would have loved to build this house with the MUCC team, but it had to be done as needed, now. The time will come, I hope soon, when we’ll serve together again. My gratitude and admiration to you, friends.”

We would also like to thank everyone that supported this build and all of the others in the past. To provide a safe and secure home has to be one of the greatest gifts one is able to give to another person.

Sincerely,
Vicki Miller

P.S. I recently got an email from Carolyn Sadler. In a fun turn of events, she and Neal (along with their group) were down in Nosara a few weeks ago building houses. They had some extra time, so they painted a bunch of panels for an upcoming build. As it turns out, the panels Neal and Carolyn painted were used on the house we donated!

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 7:1-14a

Wherever You Are

Today's scripture tells the story of the Ark of the Covenant, the holy place where scripture was kept (and kept moving) in ancient times. The ark helped the people to see that God's Word was on the move. Like our ancestors, our modern interpretation of and witness to God is not confined to our church buildings.

For example, pastor Oby Ballinger of Edina Morningside Community Church in Edina, Minnesota was heartbroken at the unnecessary discomfort caused to those who lost access to a driver's license due to immigration status. He took the good news out of the church building, and into his local legislature, delivering the following message of faith and justice:

"...In my ministry I have seen the grief and loss caused when a driver's license is taken away. Without a license, one person has to settle for the minimum wage job that's within walking distance. Another has lost the freedom to attend worship or get groceries independently. Children become chaperones as their parents talk about the loss of dignity that comes without a license. None of these people are new to Minnesota, but theirs is the experience of any immigrant who was here when drivers' licenses were taken away, causing untold grief, job-loss, and harm to human decency.

We start worship every Sunday by saying, "No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." We do so not because it's a politically-correct, warm-and-fuzzy thing to say. We do so because the God we follow and serve has made all people welcome, has made us welcome, and has called us to offer that welcome to every person in Christ's name. Like Jesus, we believe each person is made in the image of God with creativity, purpose and joy, regardless of what they look like, where they were born, or what boundaries they have crossed or stayed inside. Indeed, our Savior broke laws and fearful customs that denied God's image in others by denying them health, dignity, and safety. He healed on the Sabbath, ate with the disrespected, spoke with outcasts, and caring for those who were not like him. Christ taught us that the greatest commandment—the purpose of all the other laws—is to love God, and love your neighbor as yourself.

It is past time to restore the right to drive to immigrants who bear the image of God just as you and I do. The current law must change, so that the higher law of honoring God's image in each person can be fulfilled. "No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." God has made it so; let us follow."