

Abiding in

Christ



MEDINA

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

August 15, 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 friendship 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 CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” – arr. Teresa Wilhelmi

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***OPENING HYMN**

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”



1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
2. Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our
3. We share each oth - er's woes, our mu - tual
4. When we a - sun - der part, it gives us



Chris - tian love; the fel - low - ship of
ar - dent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
bur - dens bear; and of - ten for each
in - ward pain; but we shall still be

kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
 aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
 oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

John Fawcett, 1782

DENNIS SM
Johann G. Nægeli; arr. by Lowell Mason, 1845

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Come into this household of God
 that we might all listen to God's Word
 and discern the wisdom that comes only from God.

People: **How can we discover such wisdom?**

Leader: Reverence for God is the beginning of wisdom.
 When we choose to live according to God's will and plan,
 God will give to each of us a wise and discerning heart.

People: **God fills us with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs!**
We have come to praise with music from our hearts.

Leader: Jesus is here in our midst as living bread.
 We want to be nourished and strengthened that we may remain with him.
 Jesus is so close to us that we can taste his presence.

All: **Praise the Lord! Learn of God's compassion and mercy.**
Praise the Lord with our hearts! Praise the Lord!

SPECIAL MUSIC "Beautiful Savior" – arr. Linda Scholes Bell Choir

SCRIPTURES John 6:51-58 Dorothe Edinger, Liturgist

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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 "Abiding in Christ" Karen Brocco-Kish. Visitation Pastor



till I want no more; (want no more) feed me till I want no more.
still my strength and shield; (strength and shield) be thou still my strength and shield.
ev - er give to thee; (give to thee) I will ev - er give to thee.

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: Jesus said, "I am the bread of life."

People: **May we go forth nourished by the bread of life within us.**

Leader: Our spiritual hunger and thirst is satisfied when we honor the God within us.

People: **Life is short. Be kind to one another. 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** "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" – J. Walther/ed. J. Linker Cathy Fafarak, 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: jeff@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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 15, 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 15, 2021 thru August 22, 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 Mission Team Meeting
11:45 am Caring Team

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team Zoom Meeting

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
7:00 pm Gathering Band Practice

Thurs

Fri

Sat

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship (in Sanctuary)
9:00 am Gathering Worship
10:30 am Traditional Worship
(Baptism of Colton Blazer)

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

Scriptures: John 6:51-58

Sermon: “Abiding in Christ”
- Pastor Karen Brocco-Kish

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today are given by Dorothee, Linde, John and Susan Edinger in memory of David Edinger.

REGISTER NOW FOR 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 [register here](#) or contact the Church Office at 330-725-4559 if you are interested and let us know if you will need childcare.

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.

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!

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. To register, you can go to the church website and click on “Upcoming Events” or click the link here:

[https://onrealm.org/uccmedina/The Book of Longings](https://onrealm.org/uccmedina/The_Book_of_Longings)

CHANCEL CHOIR & BELL CHOIR START SEPTEMBER 1st

Anyone interested in singing with the Chancel Choir and/or playing with the Bell Choir, please plan to come to our first rehearsals on Wednesday, September 1st. The Bell Choir rehearsal will begin at 6:30 and the Chancel Choir will begin at 7:30. If you have any questions, you can contact Jim Kiser at 815-275-4285 or via email at jim@uccmedina.org. I hope to see lots of new faces!

COIN JARS FOR SENIORS

Last year our Coin Collection Jars were cancelled because of Covid-19.

This year we will be collecting your spare change again to purchase meat for seniors living in high rises in Medina County. Feeding Medina County will handle distribution.

The jars will be in the East Room for pick-up. Please take a jar and add your name to the sign-up sheet.

We encourage all three services to help provide for our seniors during the Christmas holidays.

Jars will be collected on November 28th.

CHILI COOK-OFF

Do you want to have great fellowship and great food? Then save the date for a Chili Cook-Off, Sunday, October 3rd following one service at 10:00 am. Bring your favorite crock pot of chili, if you choose (enough for 10 servings), otherwise bring your appetite! RSVPs will begin August 15th in the East Room. Cutoff date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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.

PASTOR'S Q&A

Tackling two questions this week. Our first is one that is on all of our minds:

Why would God allow a pandemic?

I am more on the free-will side. I don't think God "allows" things, it's our choice. Historically, we've seen all sorts of pandemics. It's a harsh world out there. I don't know why it happened and there's all sorts of debates as to how. What I do know is that there is a bug that's easy to catch and pass around. We need to do our part to keep that from happening, but we have to choose to take those measures. To get vaccinated, if we can. To care for our neighbor.

We were never promised it would be easy. In fact, Jesus says in John 16:33, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Jesus overcame the world through love, peace, and grace. We are called yet have to choose to do the same.

How can we overcome our fear of speaking out when we see an injustice? Silence at times is taken for agreement.

Yes, MLK stated, "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends." The best way to break the fear is to do it. Start small. You don't need an eloquent speech; it could be as easy as "ouch." Or "I don't agree." I'm not sure what the exact context is that caused your question but start small. Be in dialogue with the person you disagree with or said the offending statement.

As one of my professors, Dr. Jim Childs said, "Dialogue is not debate. Dialogue is to discover. Come to the table with the full integrity of speaking and hearing. Until you can articulate that position of those who are around the table, then you have no integrity in giving your own judgment on their position."

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



Ring the bell. Pray. Remember 20 years ago those who tragically lost their lives. Listen to first responders reflect on the day.

Medina UCC, Congregational 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14

Wisdom Quest

Jesus said, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:21). Faith and finance are inextricably bound together. Faith entails values, and those values call for embodiment in all areas of life. How we mobilize financial resources in the spending and making of money is one reflection of how our values are expressed and put into action.

This perspective is the basis for the Pension Boards-United Church of Christ’s new publication: *Generations: A Journal of Faith and Finance*, an online magazine that explores the places in our economic lives where our faith values meet our financial obligations and opportunities.

Generations features articles and commentary on socially responsible investing, the faith dimensions of economic and global issues, interfaith perspectives, church finance and stewardship work, issues related to personal debt, and more. Writers come from the worlds of both church—within and beyond the United Church of Christ—and finance.

In the first issue, Deenabandhu Manchala, Area Executive for Southern Asia, Wider Church Ministries, UCC, reports on anti-human trafficking efforts during a pandemic: “... while hurrying the world onto a frightening path towards an unknown future, [the pandemic] has also exposed more clearly our world’s existing systemic greed, sharp economic disparities, war economies, continued environmental destruction, and dehumanization of vulnerable people.”

Timothy Smith, former Executive Director of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, looks at the UCC’s involvement in socially responsible investing, in “The UCC: A Force for Change 50 Years Later.” And in a provocative article, former UCC General Minister and President, John Thomas asks, “What does it mean to be religious but not spiritual?” and explores the limits of the “dutiful Christian.”

Read *Generations: A Journal of Faith and Finance* at www.pbucc.org. The most recent issue—with the theme “Thinking Globally, Acting Locally,” was released in May of this year.