

as for  
me  
and  
my  
house

MEDINA  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

August 22, 2021

10:30 a.m. service

---

# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

[www.uccmedina.org](http://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 CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE “Aria” – Noel Rawsthorne

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

**\*OPENING HYMN**

**“Called As Partners in Christ’s Service”**

*Jane Parker Huber, 1981*

BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.  
*John Zundel, 1855*



- 1 Called as part-ners in Christ’s ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
- 2 Christ’s ex-am-ple, Christ’s in-spir-ing, Christ’s clear call to work and worth,
- 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ’s mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
- 4 So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life



We re- spond with deep com- mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
Let us fol - low, nev - er fal-tering, rec - on - cil - ing folk on earth.  
Help us bear each oth - er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.  
That sur-round each per - son's sor-row with a calm that con - quers strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,  
Men and wom-en, rich - er, poor-er, all God's peo - ple, young and old,  
Words of com-fort, words of vi - sion, words of chal-enge, said with care,  
Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com - pas - sion to in - crease,



E - qual part - ners in our car-ing to ful - fill God's cho - sen end.  
Blend-ing hu - man skills to - geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un - fold.  
Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.  
Mes - sen - gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (UCC Book of Worship, page 533-534)

Leader: In spite of our tendency to pull apart,

**People: In spite of our tenacity to our old ways,**

Leader: You, our loving God continue to call us back together again,

**People: Showing us the true nature of forgiveness.**

Leader: You do not keep score of our wrongs,

**People: Or measure how far we have wandered.**

Leader: You welcome us, oh God!

**People: Like a mother scooping up her lost children,**

Leader: Like a father embracing his prodigal offspring.

**People: As we are welcomed home,**

Leader: we are encouraged to learn from that forgiveness,

**People: To offer it to ourselves and others again and again,**

Leader: As you, our God, offer it to us in Jesus Christ through your Holy Spirit,

**People: One God, our hope and our home.**

**SCRIPTURE**

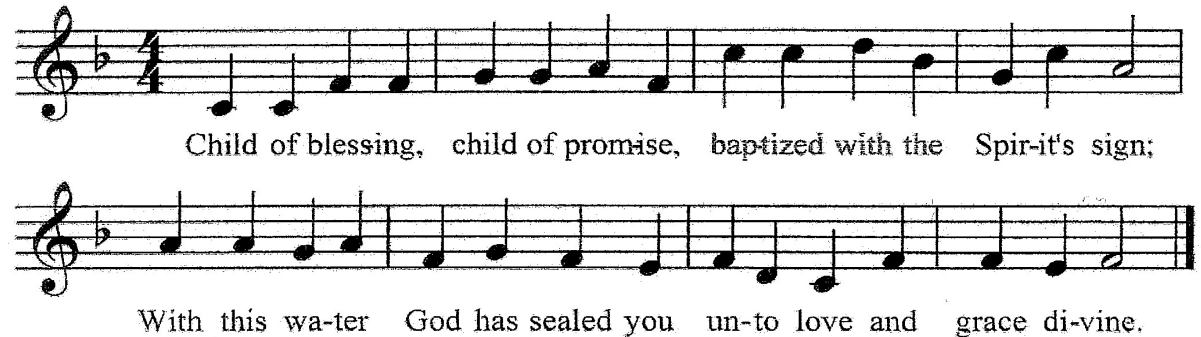
Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Eve Lindon, Liturgist

John 6:59-69

**BAPTISM OF COLTON LEE 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 Lee 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**

"As For Me and My House..."

Rev. Luke Lindon

**OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS**

**Offering Invitation**

**Leader:** How we love to hang on to the past! We get all tied up, remembering, keeping count, bearing grudges. God doesn't. Your past is accepted. It has brought you to the gift of this moment. Be present to it. Live in the freedom God hands to you afresh each day.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**\*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**

O God, we are made glad by the good news of your love for us and for all. We thank you for creating us and giving us all that is necessary for life. We thank you for your action in Christ by which our lives are measured, found wanting, and renewed. Help us to remember your gifts that we may praise you with lives of joy and service; through Jesus our Christ. Amen.

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

**"We Are Called to Be God's People"**

Thomas A. Jackson, b, 1931; alt.

AUSTRIAN HYMN 8.7.8.7.D.  
Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)



1 We are called to be God's peo - ple, show - ing by our lives his grace,  
2 We are called to be God's ser - vants, work - ing in his world to - day;  
3 We are called to be God's proph - ets, speak - ing for the truth and right,



one in heart and one in spir - it, sign of hope for all the race.  
tak - ing his own task up - on us, all his sa - cred words o - bey.  
stand - ing firm for god - ly jus - tice, bring - ing e - vil things to light.



Let us show how he has changed us, and re - made us as his own,  
Let us rise, then, to his sum - mons, ded - i - cate to him our all,  
Let us seek the cour - age need - ed, our high call - ing to ful - fill,



let us share our life to - geth - er as we shall a - round his throne.  
that we may be faith - ful ser - vants, quick to an - swer now his call.  
that the world may know the bless - ing of the do - ing of God's will.

**\*BENEDICTION**

Leader: The grace of God,  
**People: deeper than our imagination;**  
Leader: the strength of Christ,  
**People: Stronger than our need;**  
Leader: and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
**People: richer than all wealth we can measure**  
Leader: guide and sustain us today and in all our tomorrows.  
**People: 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** "French Military March" *from Suite Algerienne, Op. 60, MM.4* Cathy Fafrak, Organist  
by Camille Saint-Saëns/arr. Gayden Sikes

**"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"**

+++++

Music in this bulletin reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-605137. All rights reserved.

***PASTORAL STAFF***

Rev. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - email: [luke@uccmedina.org](mailto:luke@uccmedina.org)  
Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor

***OFFICE STAFF***

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - email: [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)  
Jeff Miller, Financial Director - email: [jeff@uccmedina.org](mailto: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 22, 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](http://www.uccmedina.org/live)

**August 22, 2021 thru August 29, 2021**

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

<b>Sun</b>	8:15 am	Chapel Worship (in Sanctuary)
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	10:00 am	Confirmation Informational Meeting
	10:30 am	Traditional Worship (Baptism of Colton Blazer)
	11:30 am	Confirmation Informational Meeting
<b>Mon</b>	6:30 pm	Women’s Bible Study
<b>Tues</b>	7:00 pm	Bible Study
<b>Wed</b>	10:30 am	Quilters
	7:00 pm	Gathering Band Practice
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Book Study: “The Book of Longings: A Novel”</b>
<b>Thurs</b>	7:00 pm	Congregational Council Meeting
<b>Fri</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>Dick Lynham Celebration of Life Reception</b>
<b>Sat</b>	7:30 am	Farmer’s Market in front of the church today
	6:00 pm	ORMACO – Jazz Under the Stars (Rain Site)
<b>Sun</b>	10:00 am	Alive on the Square Worship & <b>Blessing of the Backpacks</b>

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

Scriptures: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18  
and John 6:59-69

Sermon: “As for Me and My House...”  
Rev. Luke Lindon

**Communion Table Flowers:** The flowers today are given by Elaine Taylor in memory of Ray & Alberta Taylor.

### **14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL “ALIVE ON THE SQUARE”**

Join us **Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.** at the Gazebo on the square for worship and picnic lunch (expertly prepared by the Kiwanis). Bring your lawn chairs, family, and friends! (In case of rain, worship will be in the sanctuary and lunch will follow the service in Fellowship Hall.) **See you there!**

### **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 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>. Classes will be held from 7 pm – 9 pm** in the New Library. New members will join the church on **Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### **FYI**

Broadway access to the church parking lot will be closed on Saturday morning, August 28<sup>th</sup> due to the Farmer’s Market being set up on Broadway St. Access from Liberty St will still be available.



## **BOOK DISCUSSION THIS WEEK**

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 this Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>**

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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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](mailto: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.**

## **SPECIAL WELCOME FOR OUR “COVID” NEW MEMBER CLASS**

"Due to rising numbers of Covid, Coffee Hours will be postponed till further notice. However, on **Sunday, September 12th we will welcome our February 2021 new members from the pandemic class in church.**

To honor them, please help yourself to a boxed cupcake as you exit the church service and weather permitting a cup of coffee under the pergola."

## **CHILI COOK-OFF POSTPONED!**

Due to rising numbers and with consensus of Caring Team and general vibe of this past Sunday's 3 services the Chili Cook off will be postponed until January 30<sup>th</sup>. (This will be held after one service of worship at 10 a.m.)

This will be subject to our numbers at that time. We hope to ensure the safety of those who can meet and eat without their masks on. For now, we will err on the side of caution.

## **CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE**

We will be printing a new church directory to be **available on Rally Day, September 12<sup>th</sup>.**

**Please notify the office with any telephone, address, or email changes no later than August 30<sup>th</sup>.** Please call or email: 330-725-4559 or [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org). Thank you.



**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.**

## PASTOR'S Q&A

---

Here's a heavy question that I'm thankful for you asking, church.

**Is it wrong to pray to God to ask for relief for a loved one that is and has been suffering from many health issues?**

It is never wrong to pray. Nor is any subject taboo. I've prayed for healing. I've prayed for a good transition from this life to the next adventure. My first pastoral call as a hospital chaplain was to pray for someone who was dying. They happened to die while I was praying. The same thing happened on my first pastoral visit right after I was ordained. The woman who I was praying for died while I was holding her hand and praying. It was a great honor to be there in that moment, as hard as these moments were. And in many moments since then.

We're all future dead people. I say that each and every Ash Wednesday. It's the truth. No one gets out of this life alive. Yet God is our home and our destination. I like reading the words of comfort from Romans 8. Paul is a genius when he writes in verse 18 "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us." Sometimes the only relief, the final healing, is found in death. Paul also writes in Romans 8:38-39 "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

I read those at every funeral. I find great comfort in them here and now, as well as at the time of my death, whenever that might be.

---

**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](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)  
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm MONDAY THRU FRIDAY**

Psalm 84

**At Home with God**

Psalm 84 begins,

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!  
My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

For many of us, our church buildings are the sacred dwelling places of God. They hold the memories of generations of singing, prayer, baptisms, funerals, and even meetings. They hold the hope for the faith of our children and grandchildren. For many of us, they are home.

So, when a fire broke out at Berkeley First Congregational Church in Berkeley, California in October 2016, for the members of the church and the community around the church, it was like losing a home. But they rolled up their sleeves, cleaned up and began the long process of imagining how they might rebuild.

Like many American cities, Berkeley faces a housing crisis. So, after much prayer and discussion, the decision was made to develop low-income housing on one part of a parking lot, and to rebuild a new community building for worship space and offices. What has been a spiritual home for many generations, will one day be a literal home for those priced out of the competitive housing market in Berkeley. What a beautiful way to realize the sweet dream of Psalm 84,

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,  
where she may lay her young,  
at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.  
Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.

*Scripture citations from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.*