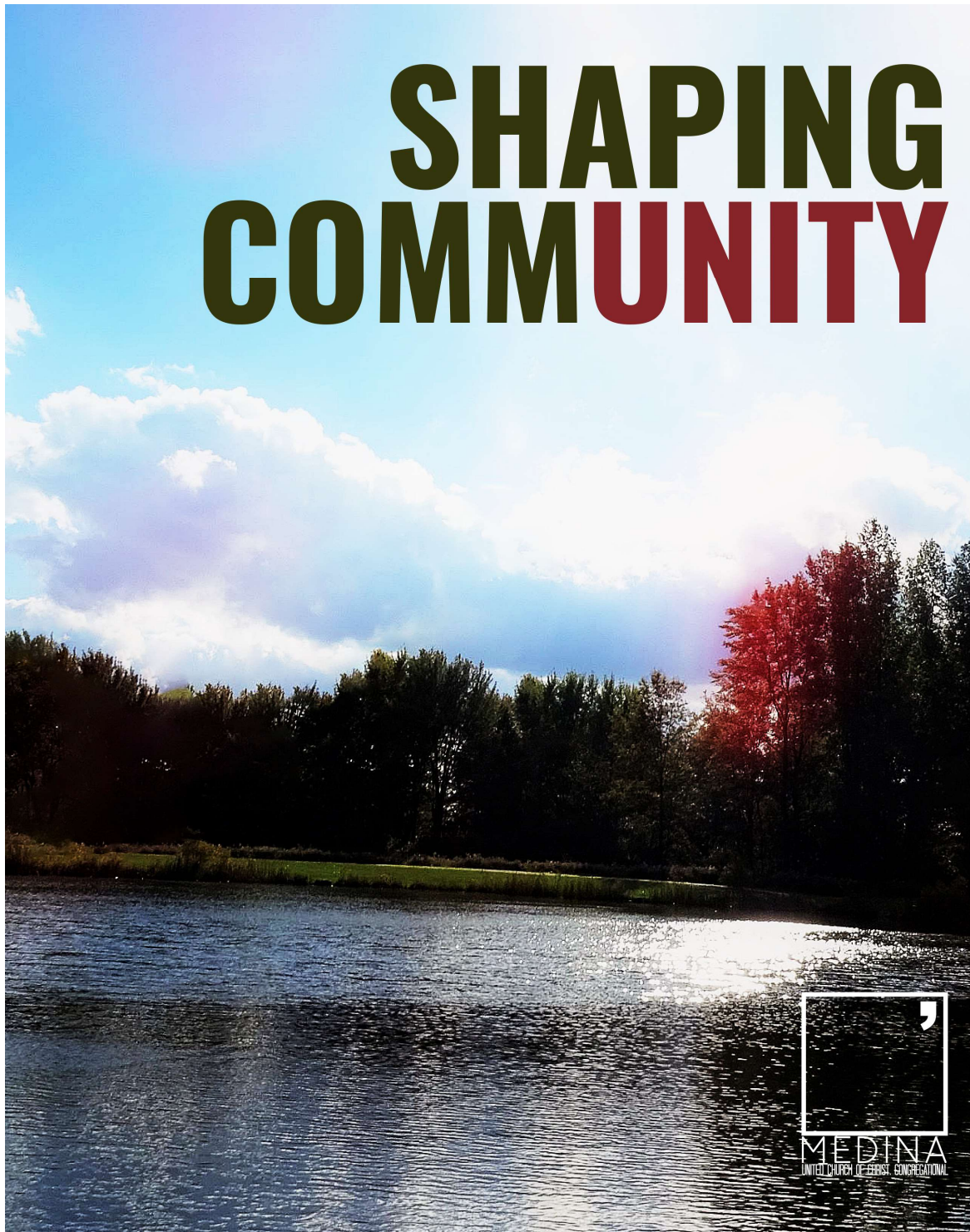


SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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”

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafarak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



- Verses
1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
 2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
 3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

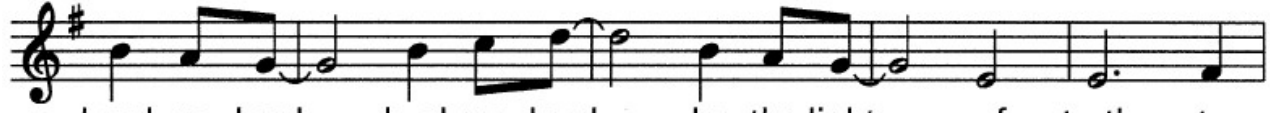


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

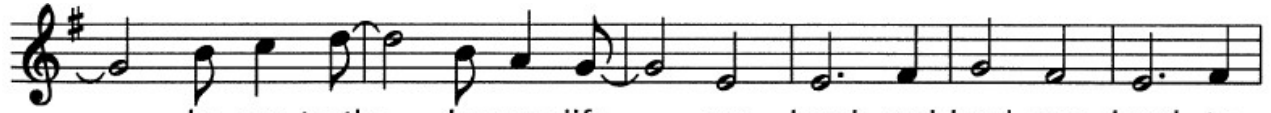
Refrain



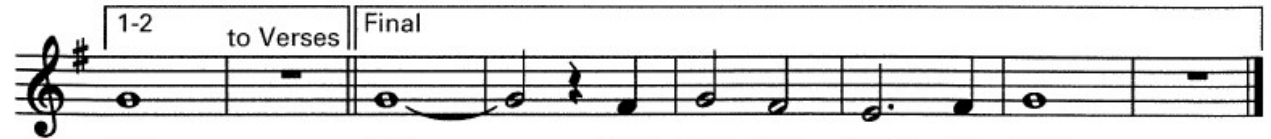
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and abiding, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

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Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor

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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 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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)

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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

It’s time for the second book study in our Trilogy of Book Studies! “The Book Of Longings: A Novel” – by Sue Monk Kidd is available at the library. Please join us in person in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.** for our book discussion! Register for a reminder here:

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

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.

Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

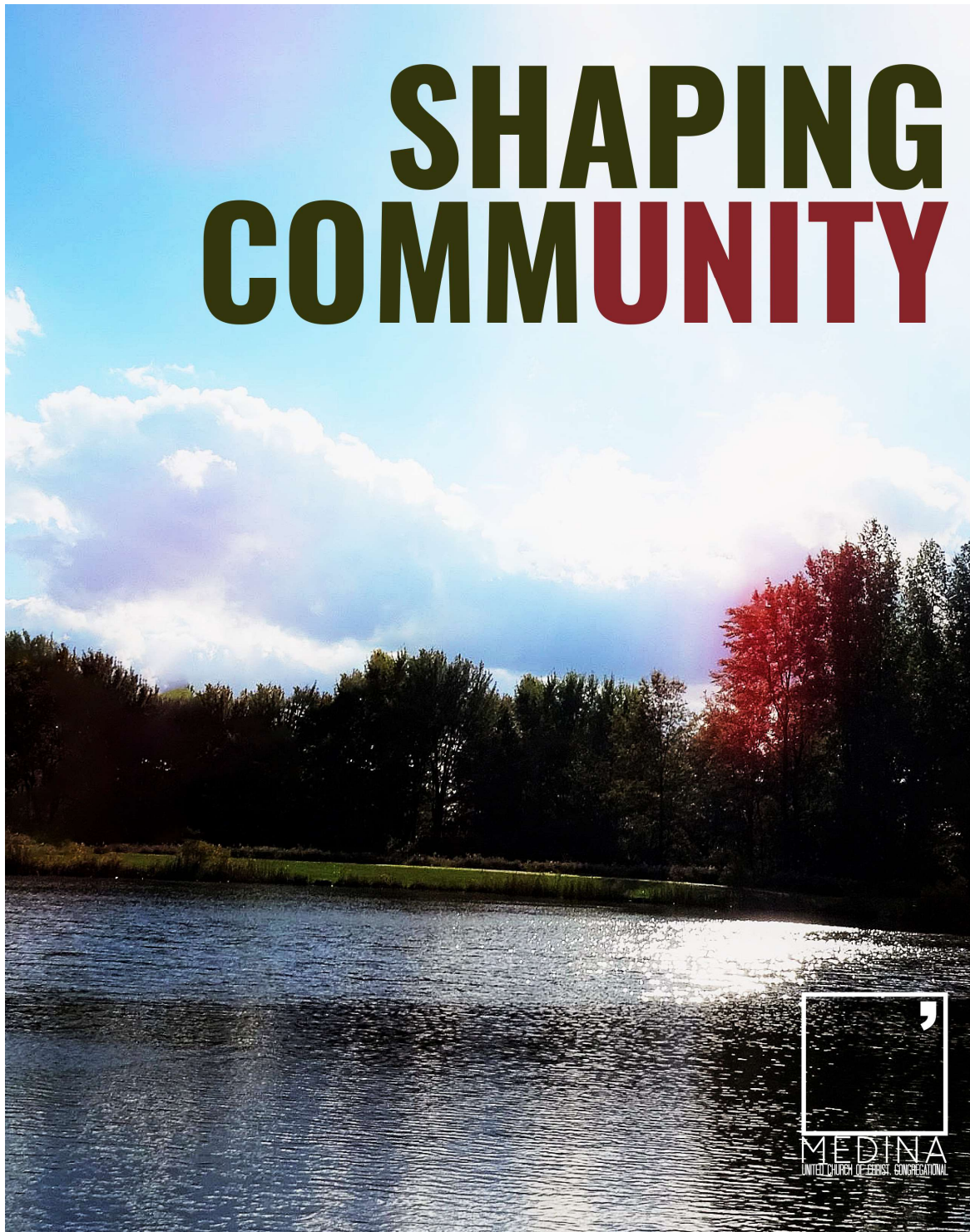
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

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2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
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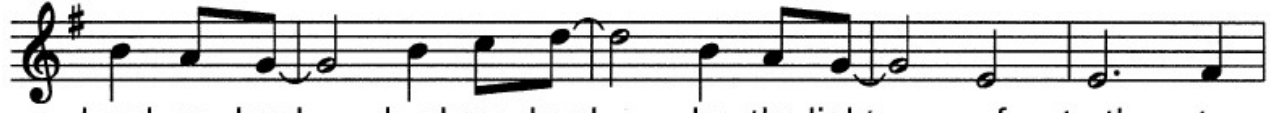


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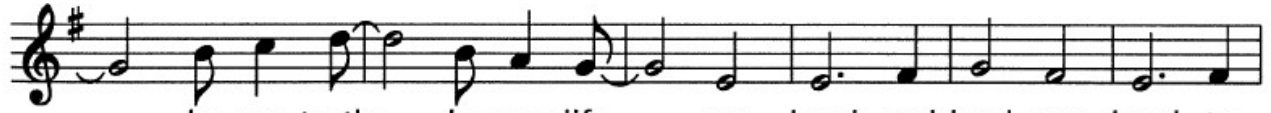
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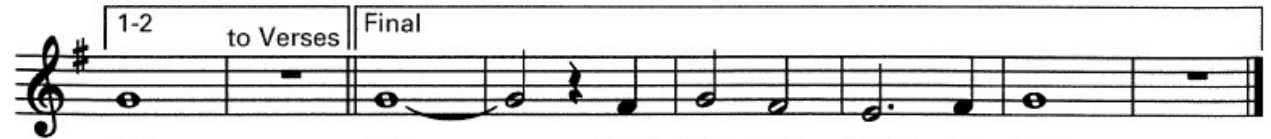
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Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plo - re.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

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Cathy Fafrak, Organist

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THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
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11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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**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!

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PASTOR’S CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

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PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

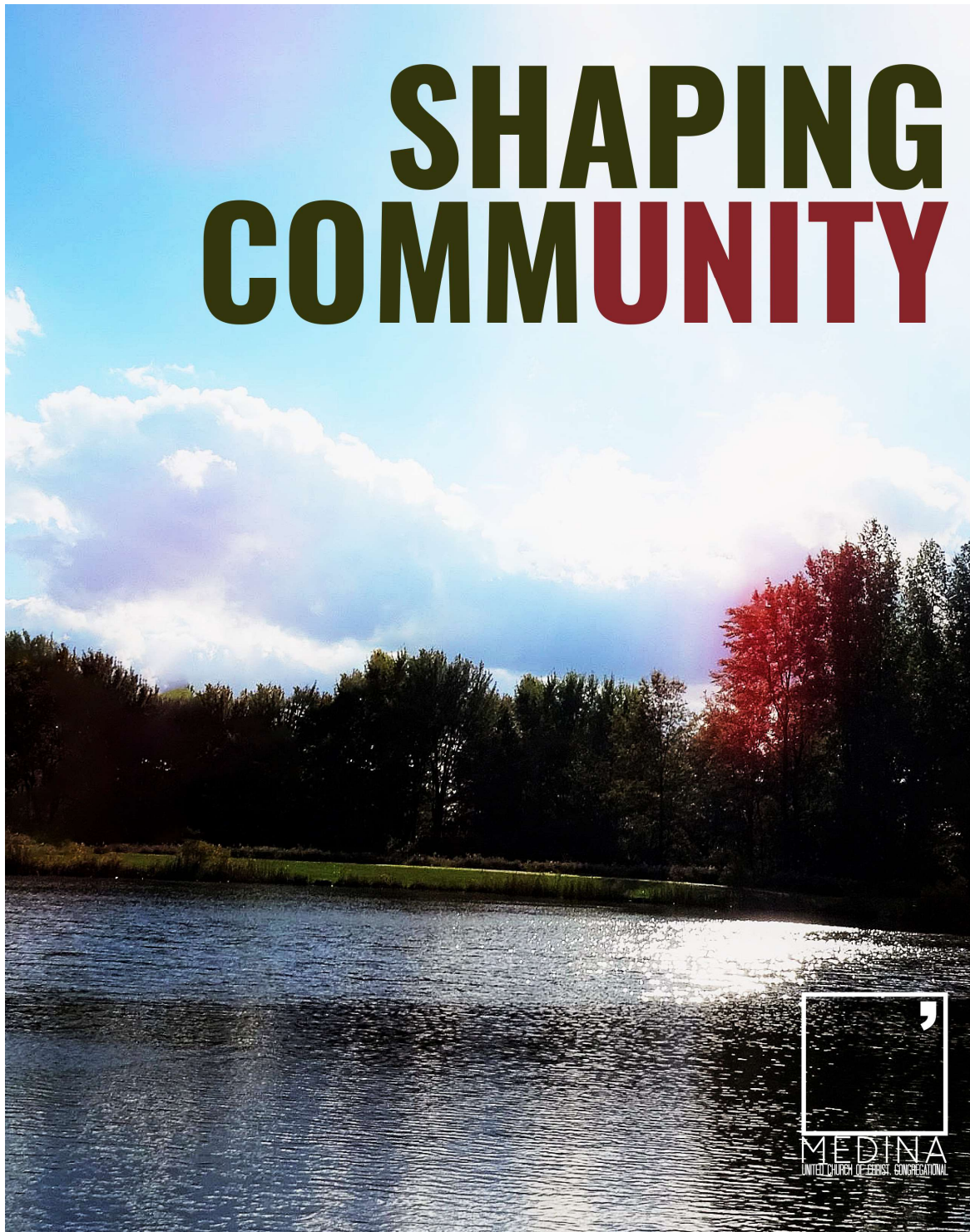
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

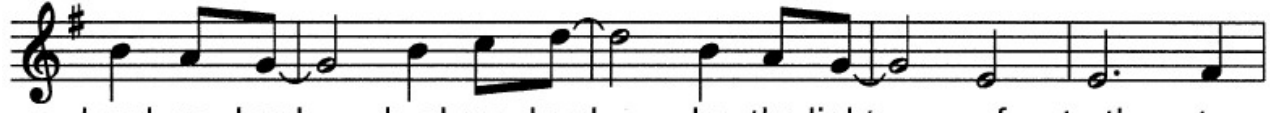


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

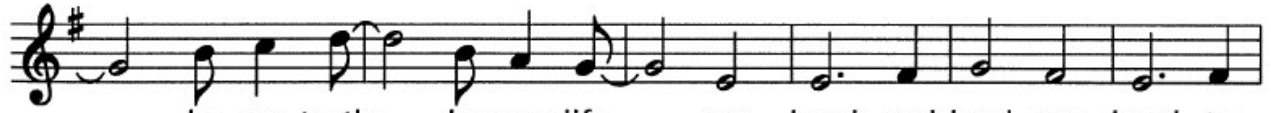
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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** "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

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Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

The deadline for submission of articles for NEXT Sunday's *Messenger* is this Sunday at 11:30 am
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Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

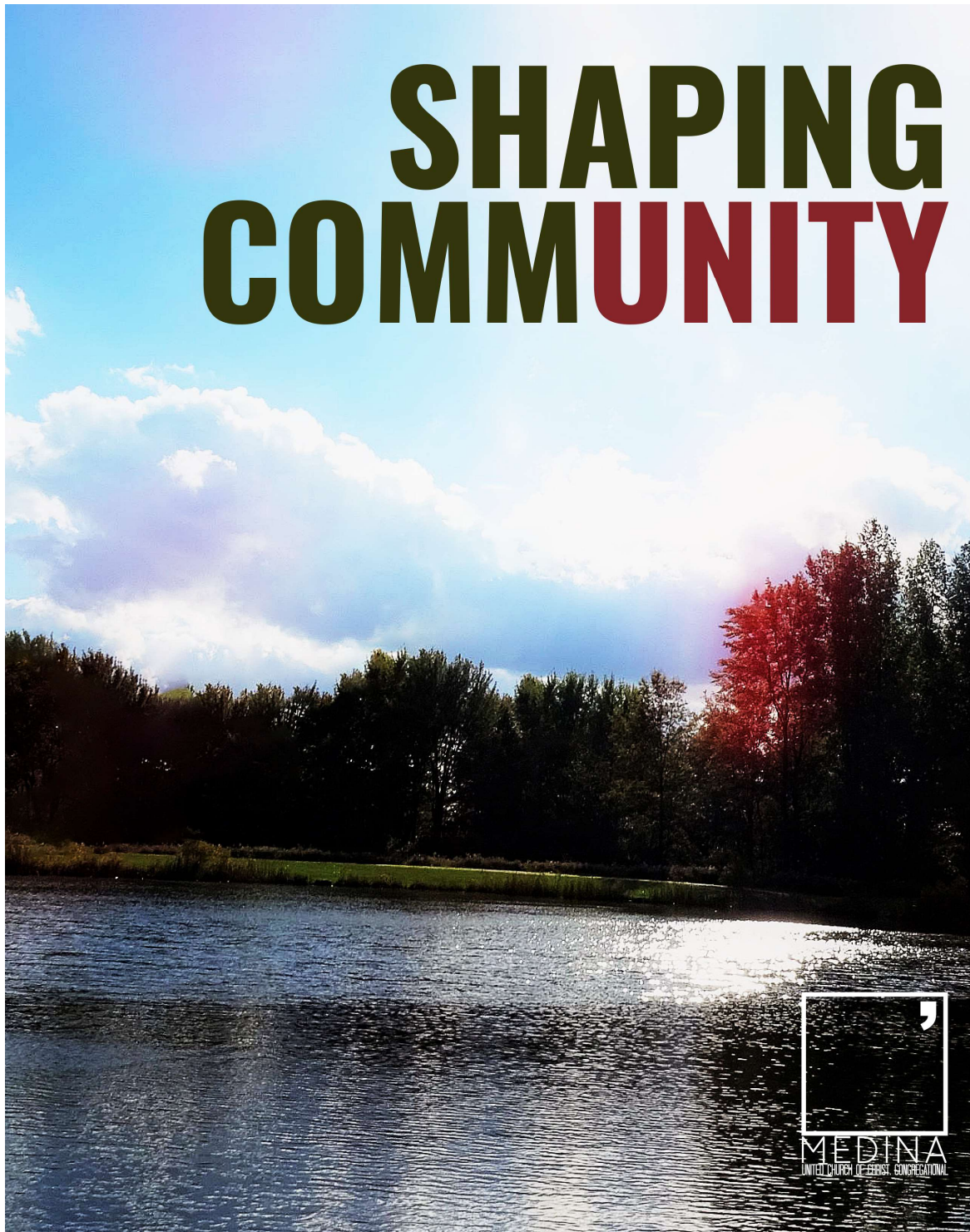
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

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From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

www.uccmedina.org



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“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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

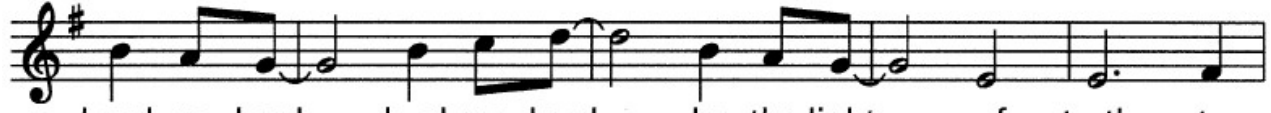


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

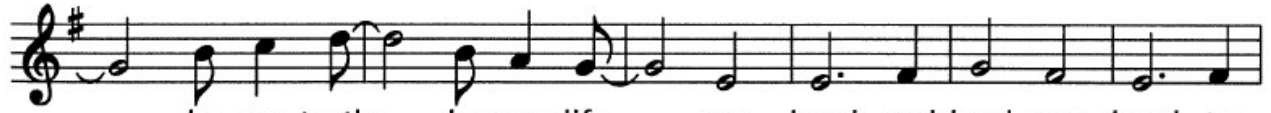
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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)

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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

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Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

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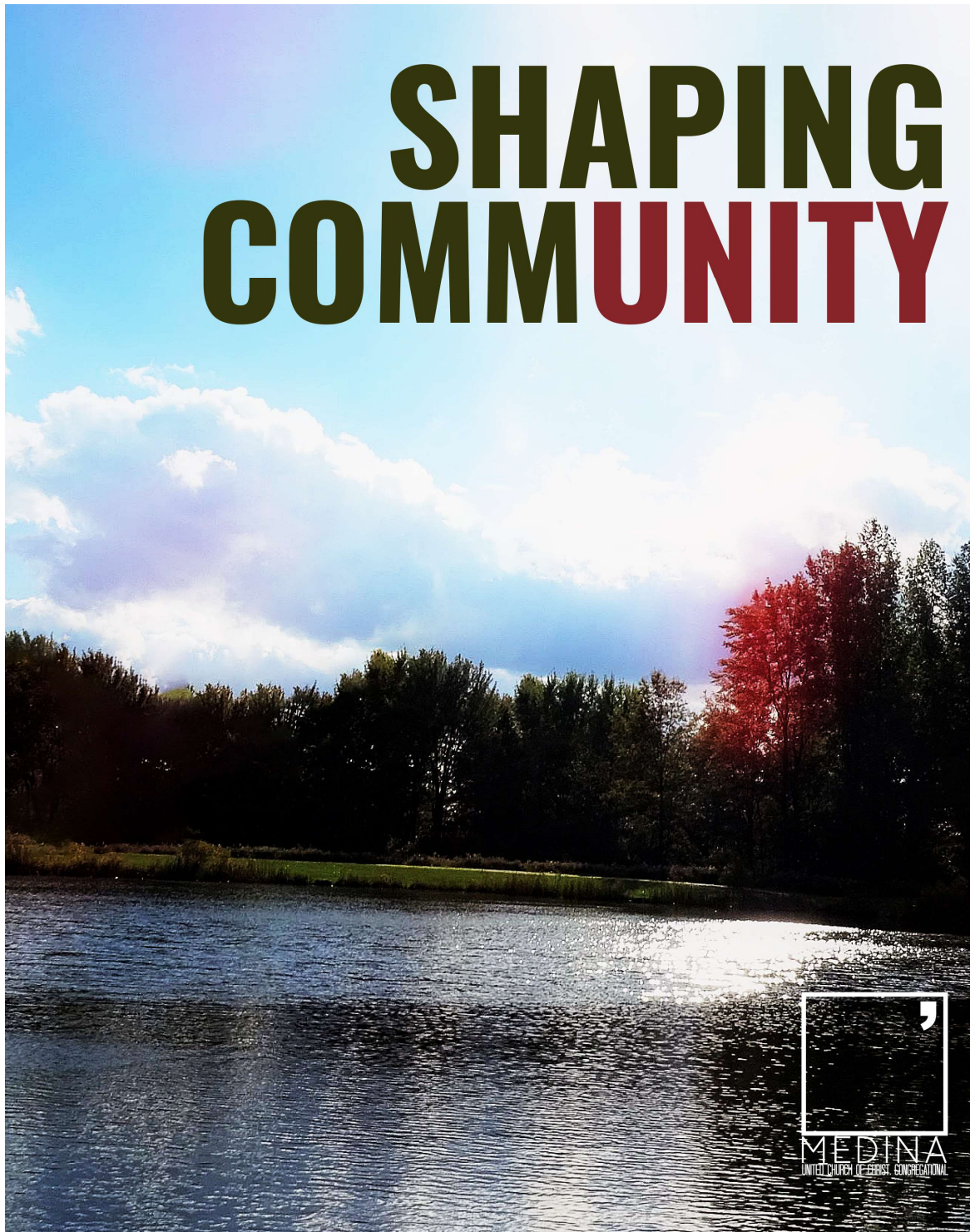
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*OPENING HYMN

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2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life-times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

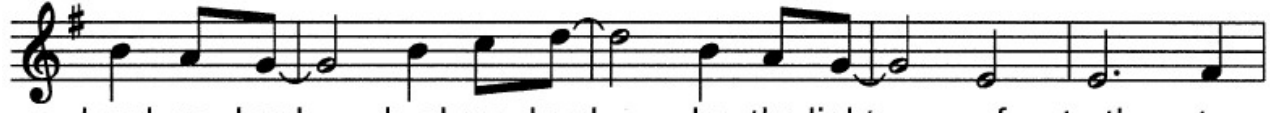


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

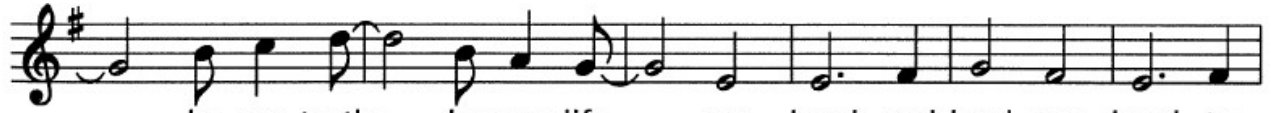
Refrain



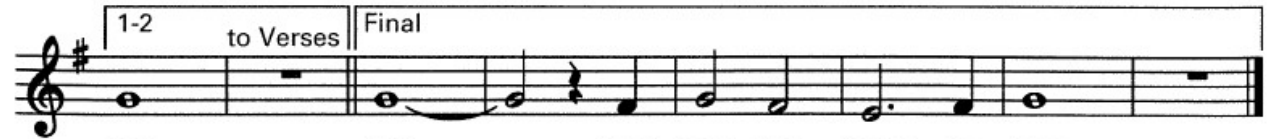
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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

SERMON "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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** "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

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AUGUST 8, 2021

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

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10:30 am Traditional Worship

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Don't forget your lawn chairs. All are welcome!

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Please take a jar and add your name to 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

It’s time for the second book study in our Trilogy of Book Studies! “The Book Of Longings: A Novel” – by Sue Monk Kidd is available at the library. Please join us in person in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.** for our book discussion! Register for a reminder here:

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Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

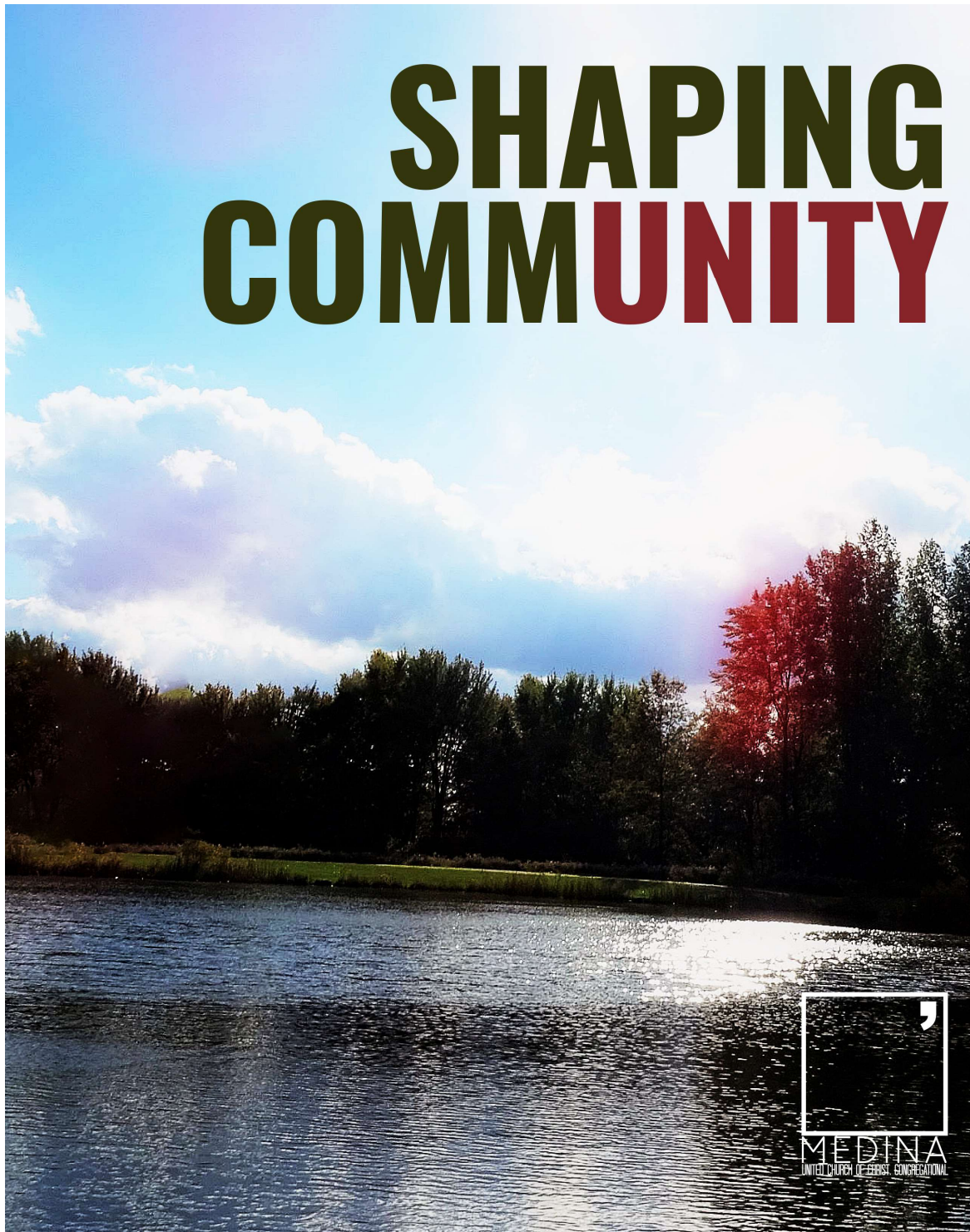
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

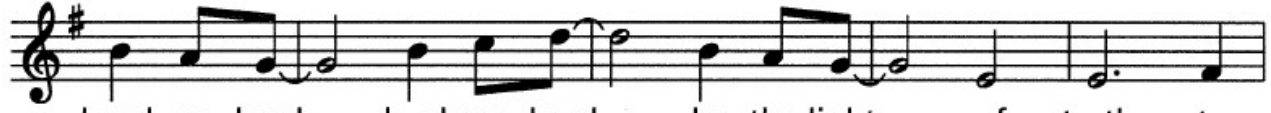


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

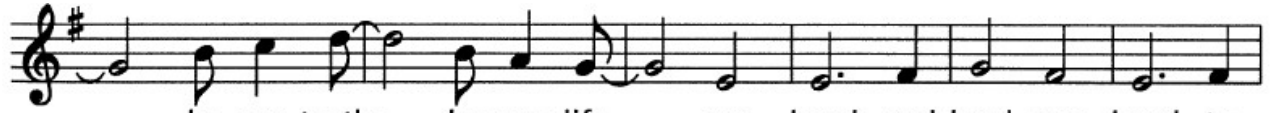
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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.

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3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

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We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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PASTOR’S CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

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Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

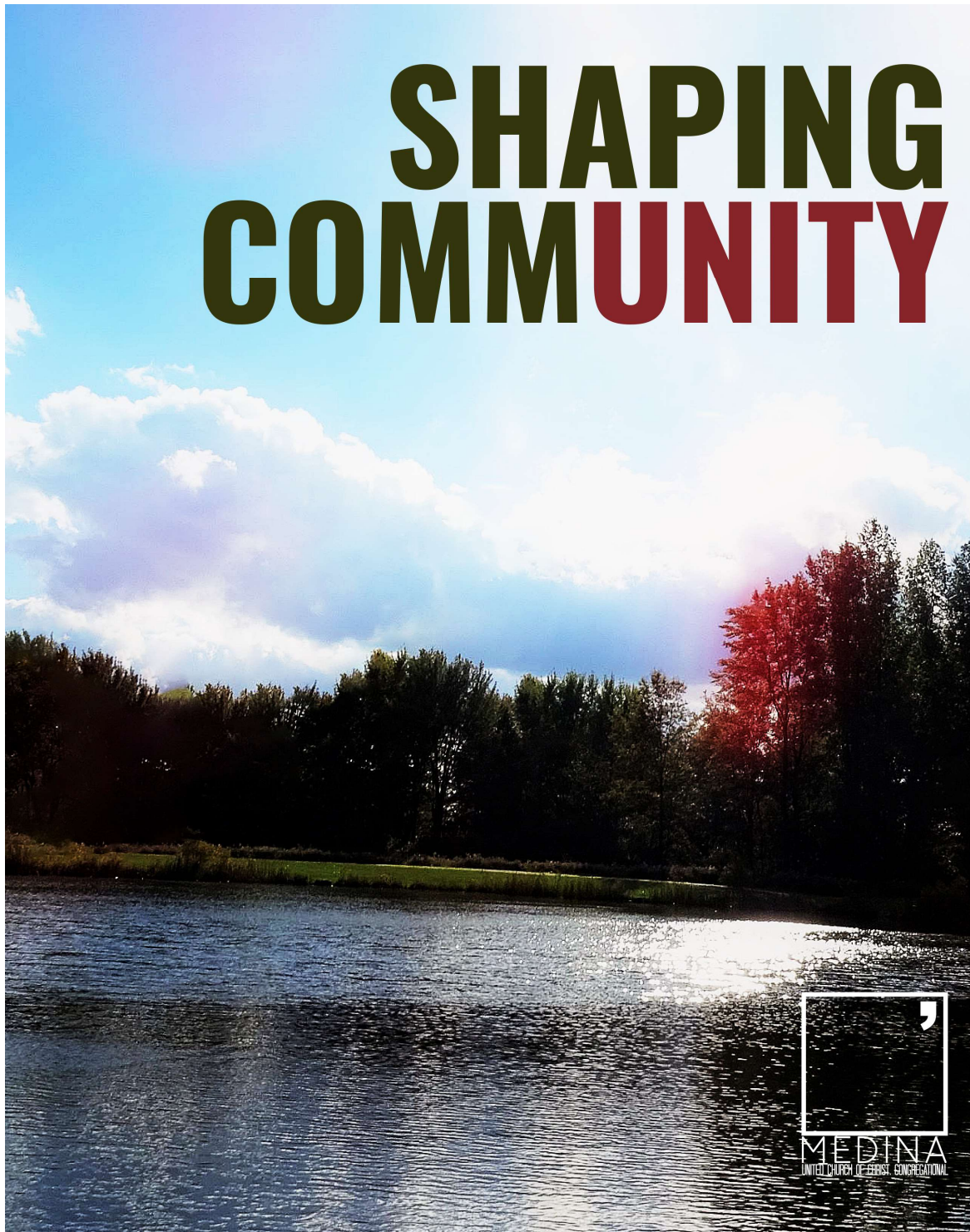
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SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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www.uccmedina.org



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“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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

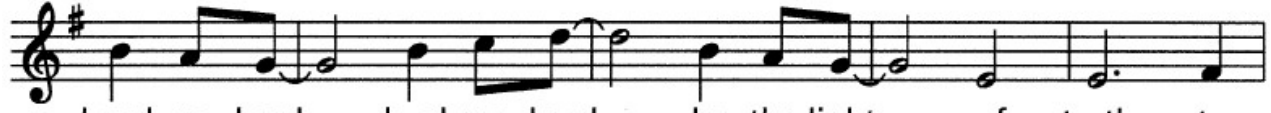


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

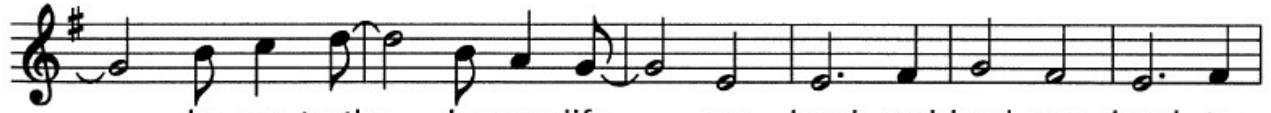
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plo - re.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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:

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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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 sign up sheet.

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

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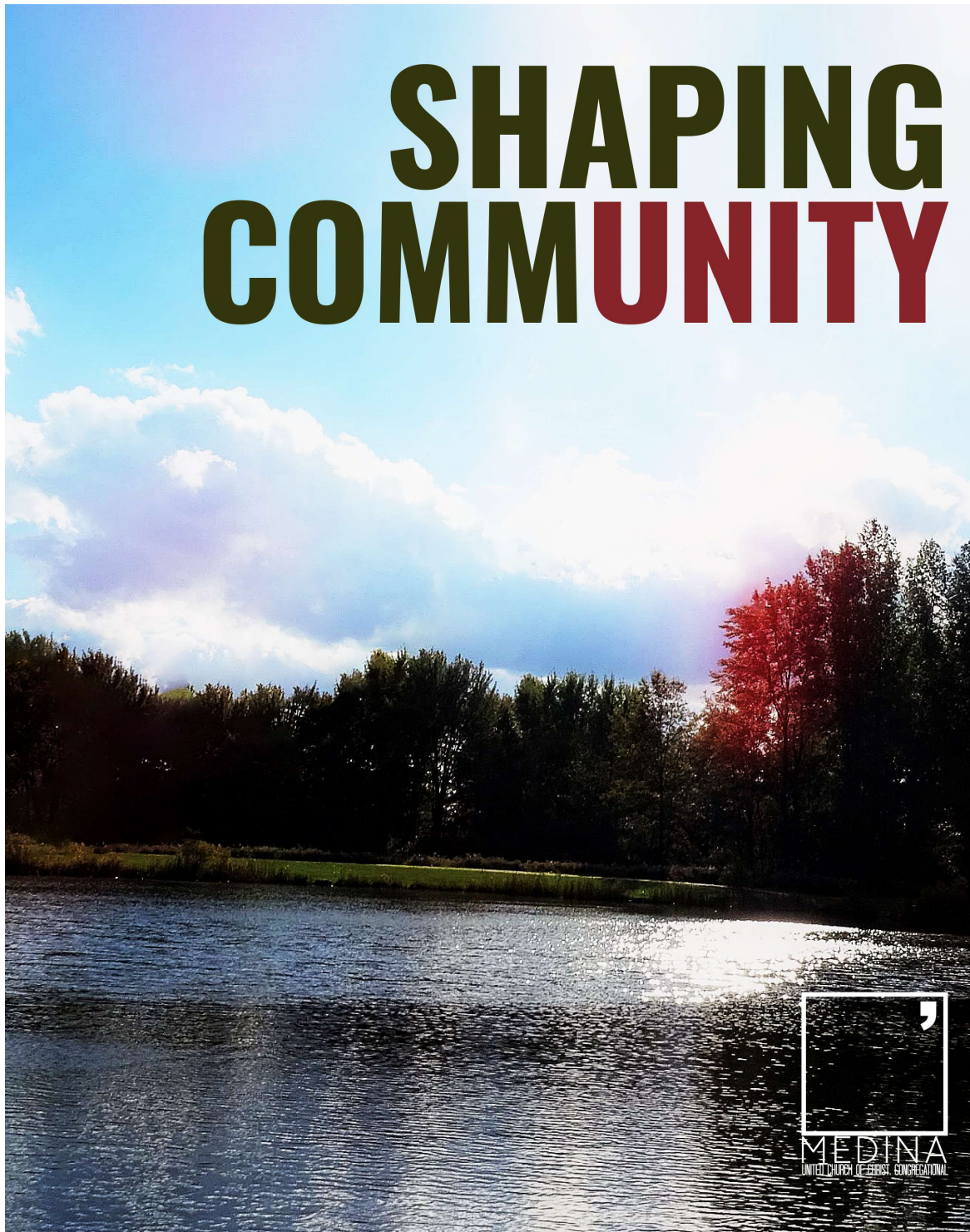
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Please take a moment to sign the friendship pads, (located at the end of each pew) so that you know who is worshipping near you and you may greet them by name.

**Those who are able please stand*

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

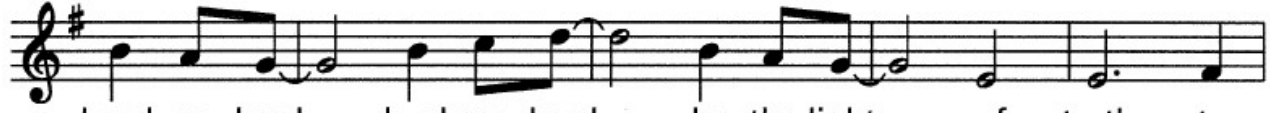


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

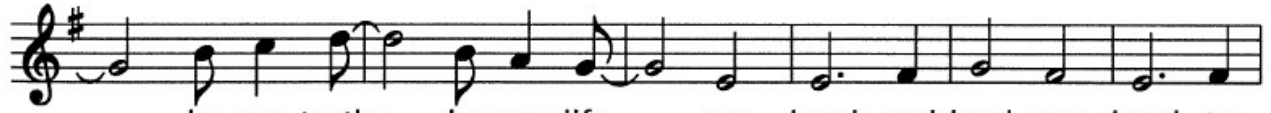
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

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AUGUST 8, 2021

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

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

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
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11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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)

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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

It’s time for the second book study in our Trilogy of Book Studies! “The Book Of Longings: A Novel” – by Sue Monk Kidd is available at the library. Please join us in person in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.** for our book discussion! Register for a reminder here:

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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.

Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

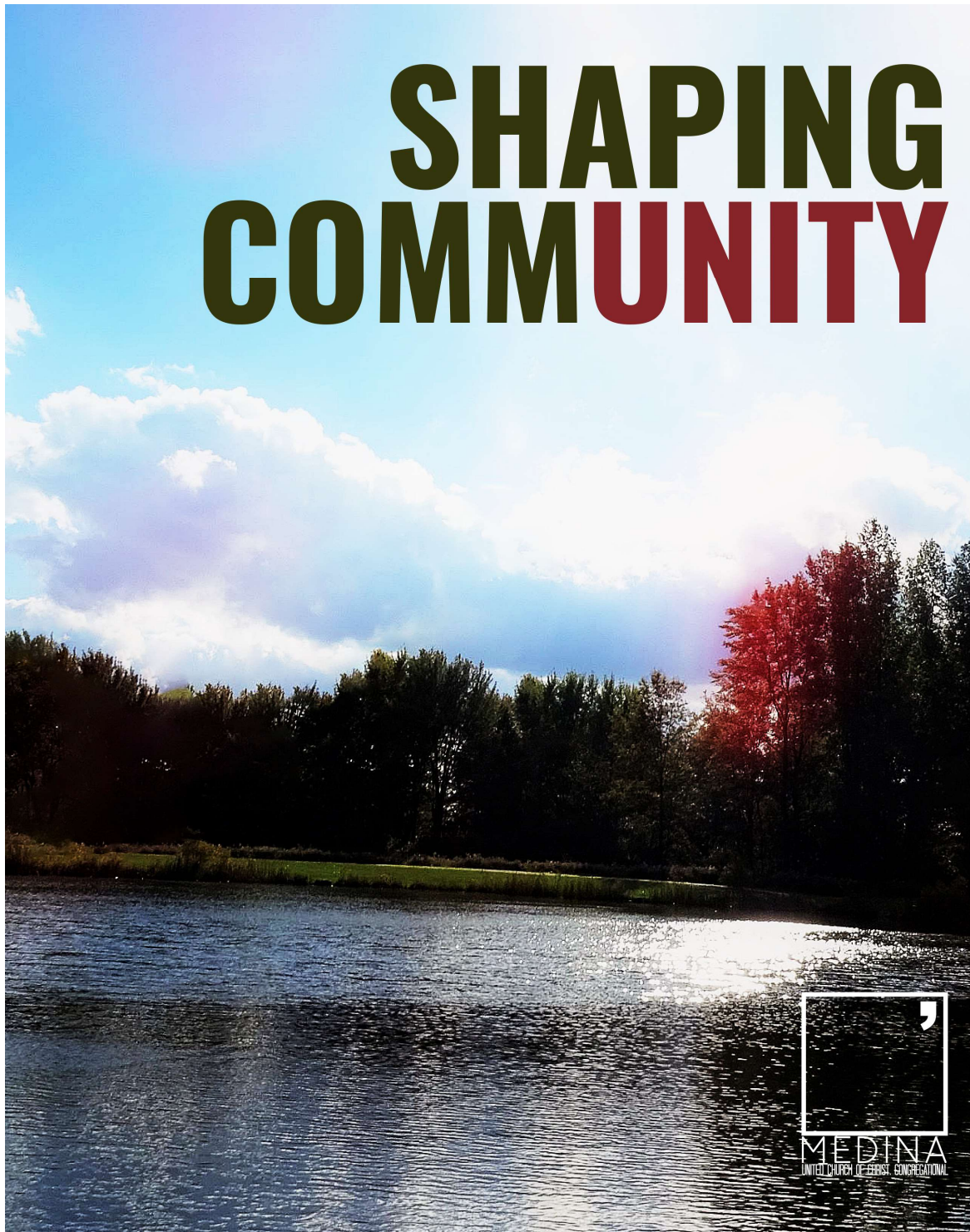
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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*****

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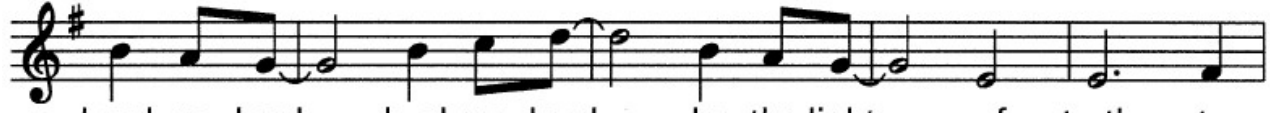


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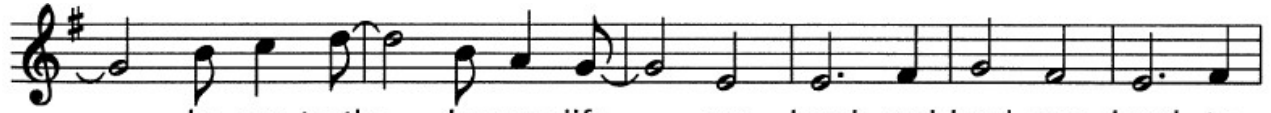
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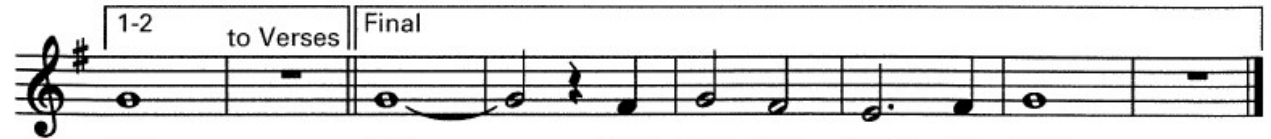
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2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

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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!

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Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

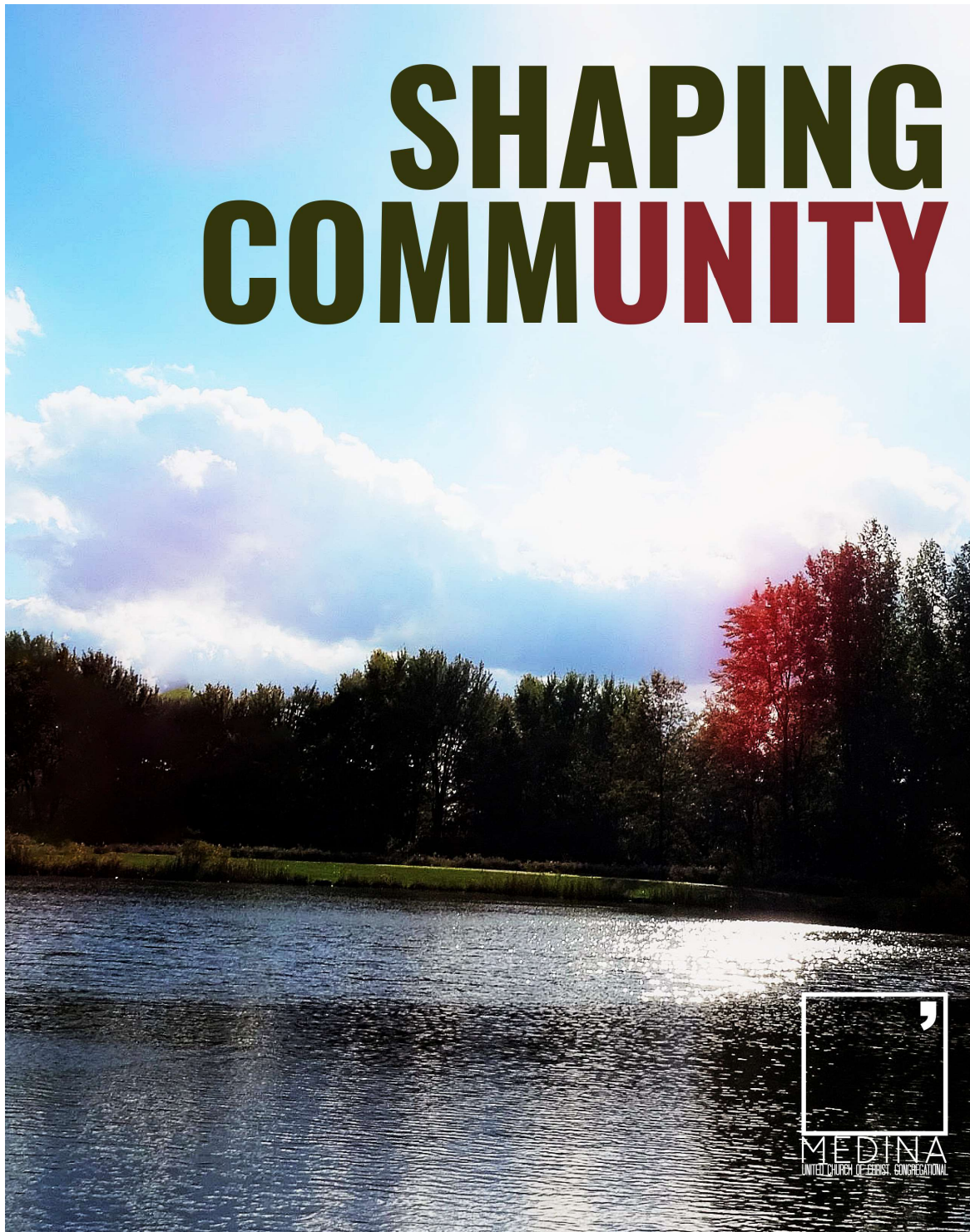
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

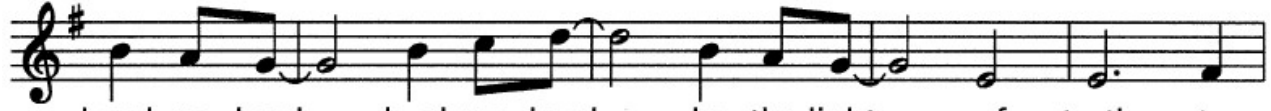


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

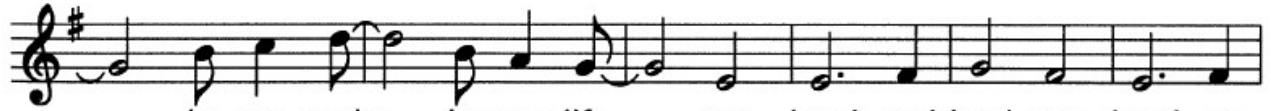
Refrain



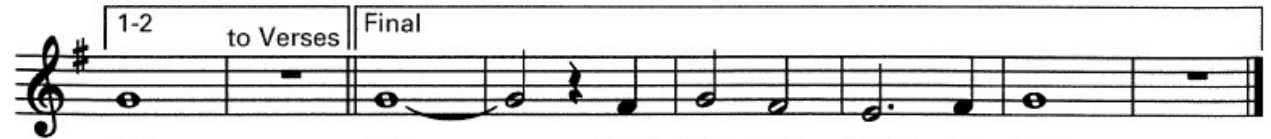
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 2021

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
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Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

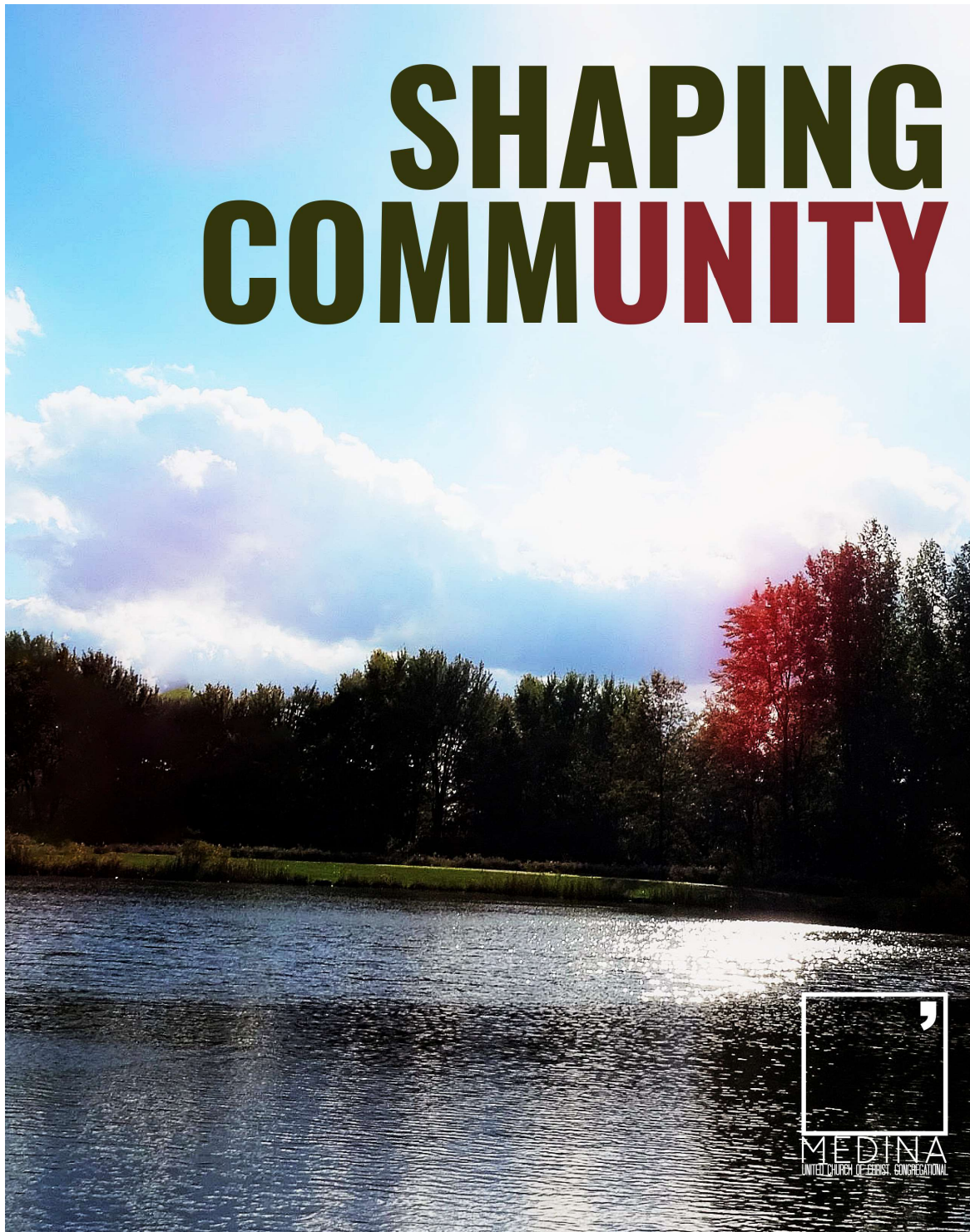
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

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If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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www.uccmedina.org



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“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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafarak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

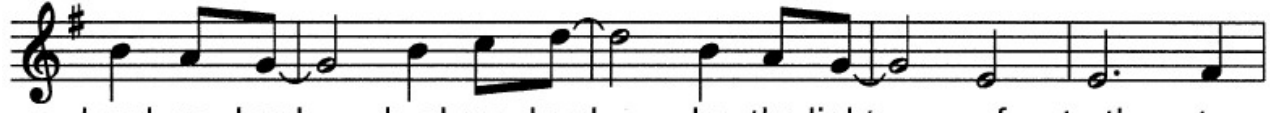


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

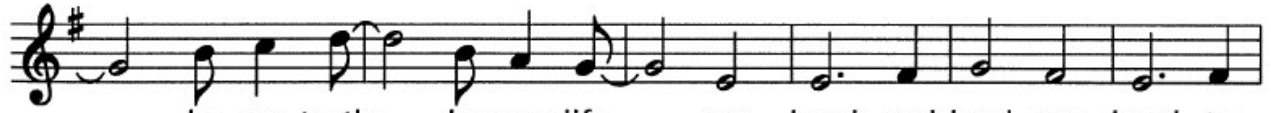
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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)

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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

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Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

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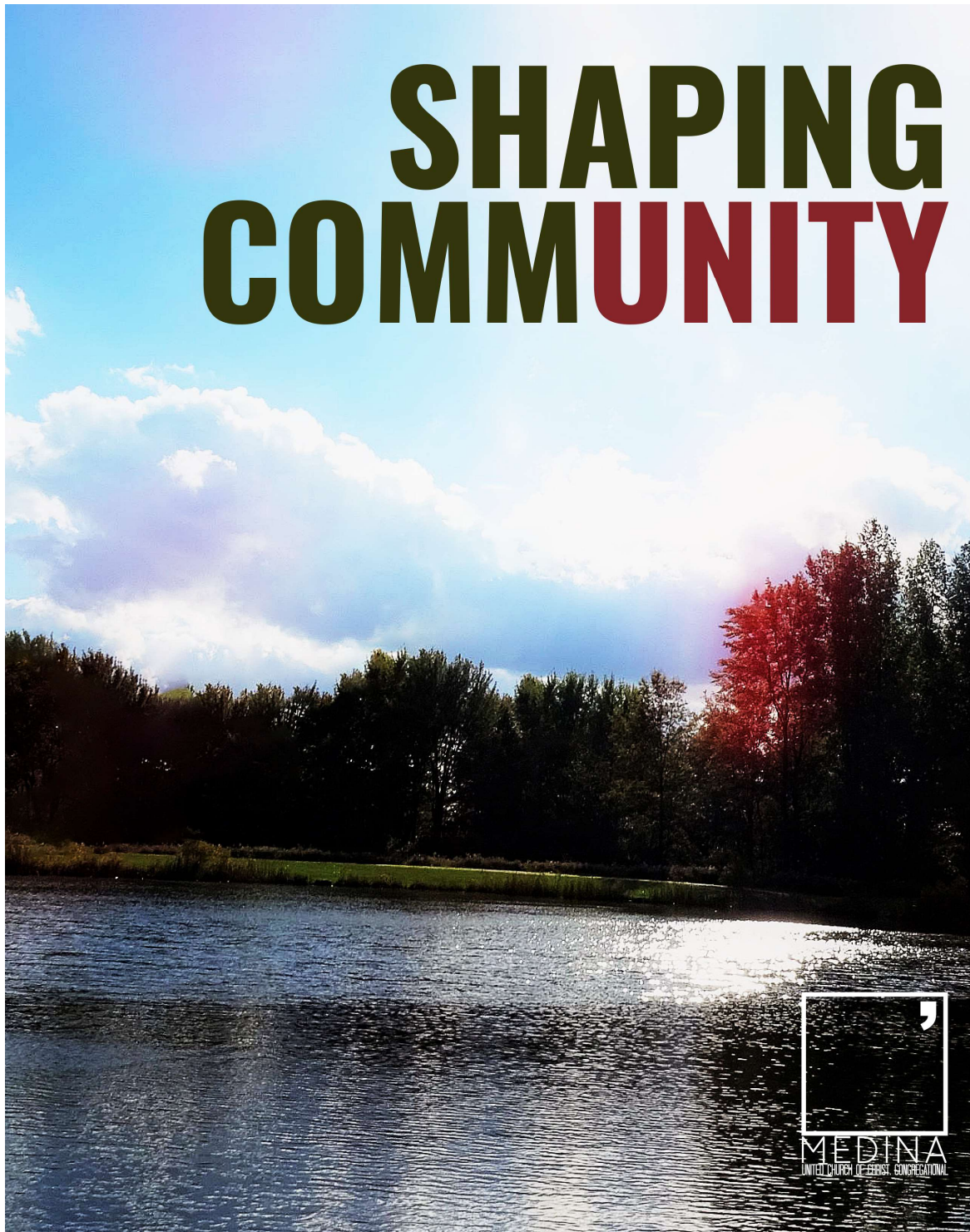
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*OPENING HYMN

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2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

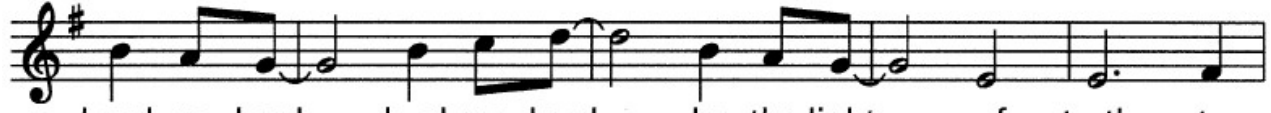


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

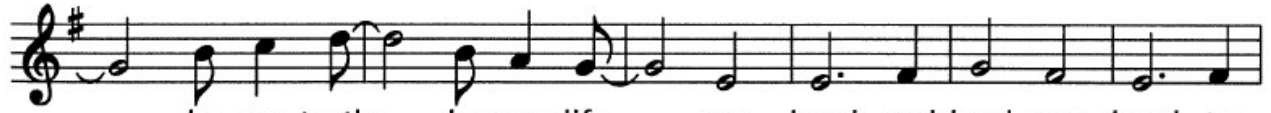
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Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



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Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

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Please take a jar and add your name to 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

It’s time for the second book study in our Trilogy of Book Studies! “The Book Of Longings: A Novel” – by Sue Monk Kidd is available at the library. Please join us in person in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.** for our book discussion! Register for a reminder here:

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Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

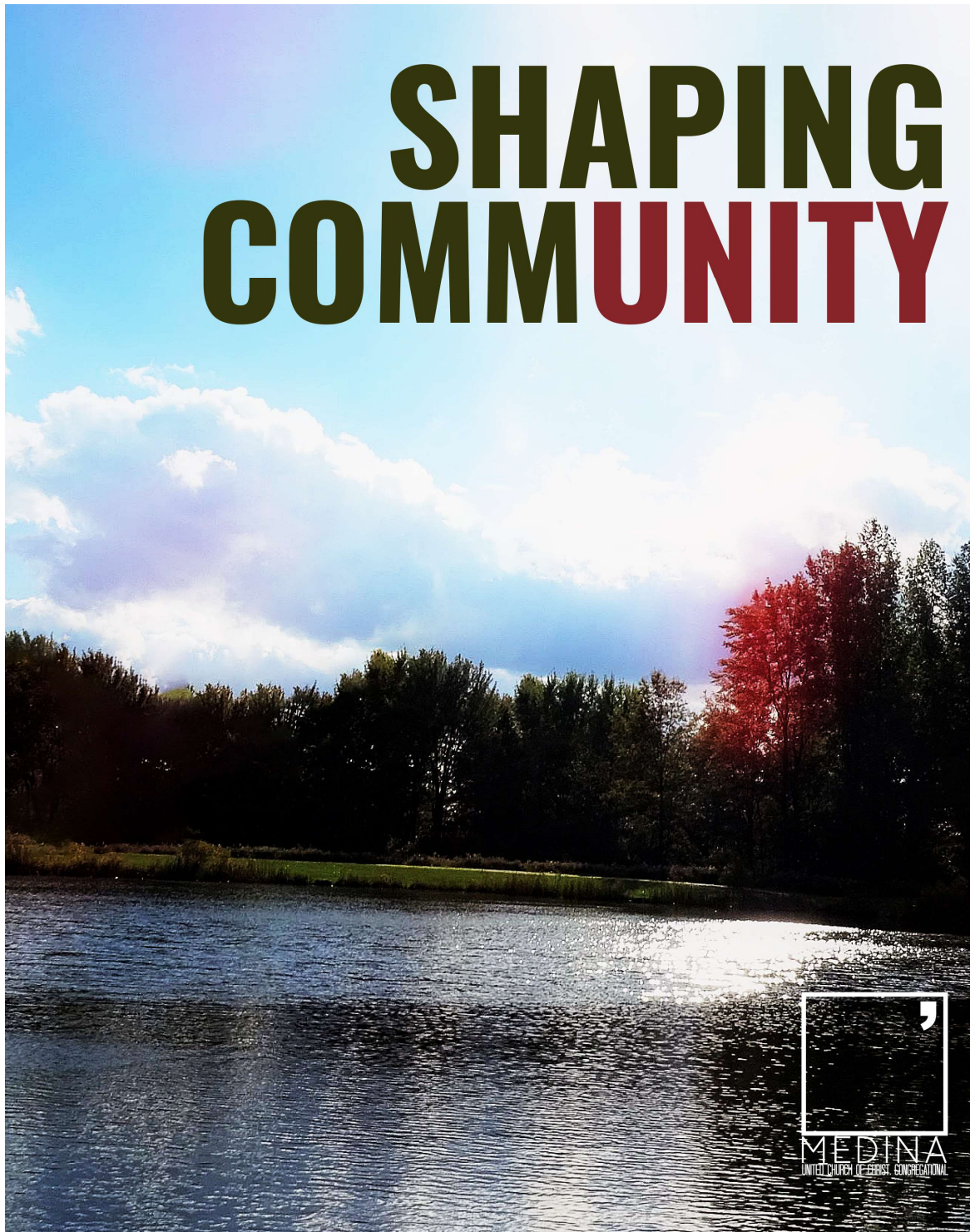
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

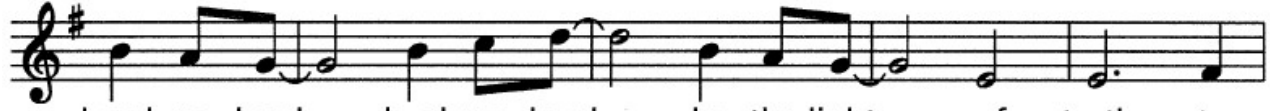


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

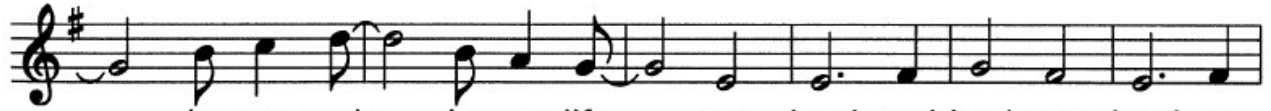
Refrain



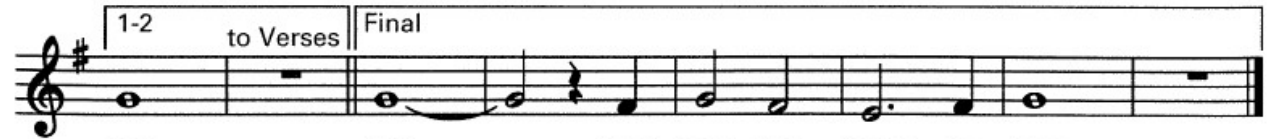
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

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2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plo - re.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

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We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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PASTOR’S CORNER FOR AUGUST

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Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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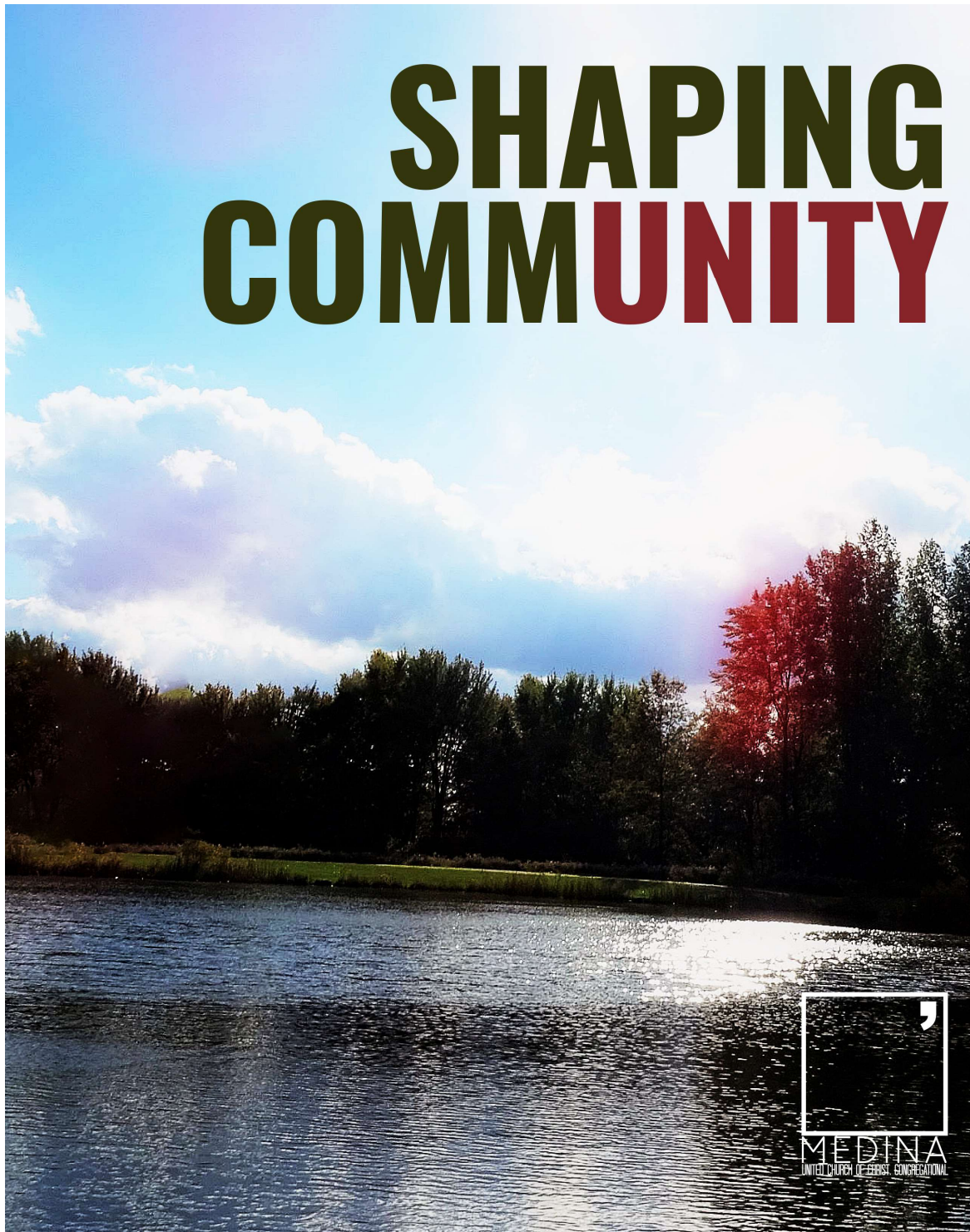
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SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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www.uccmedina.org



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“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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

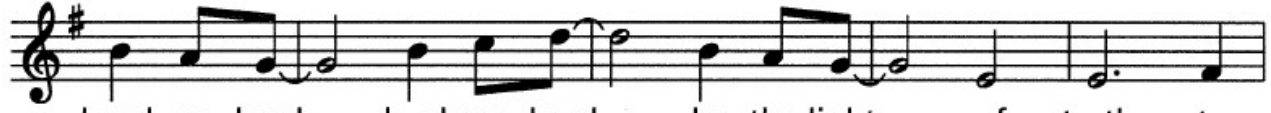


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

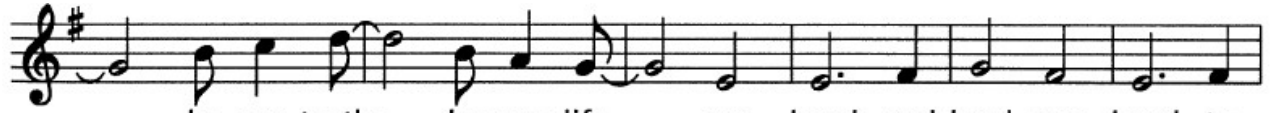
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plo - re.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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:

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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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 sign up sheet.

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

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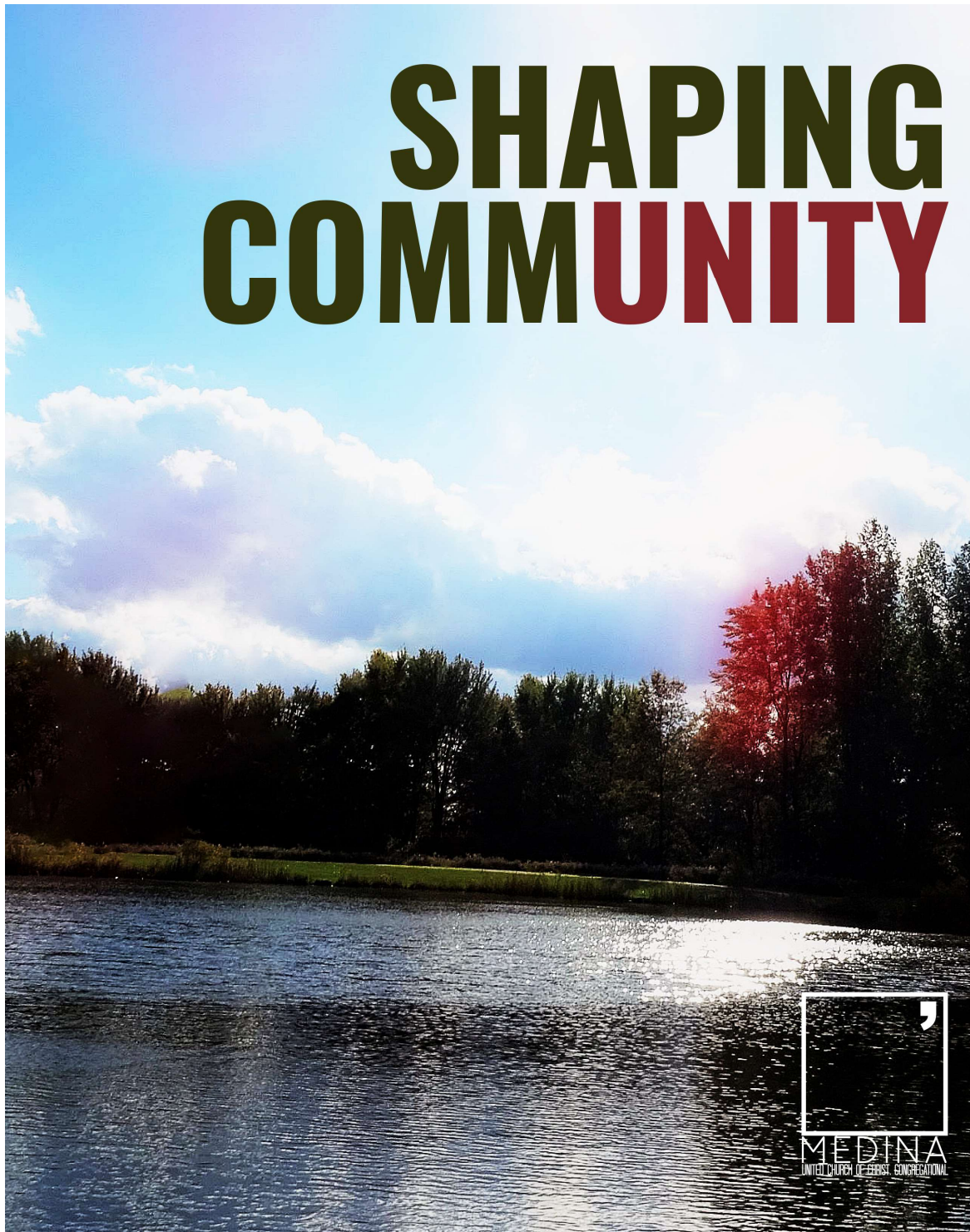
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Please take a moment to sign the friendship pads, (located at the end of each pew) so that you know who is worshipping near you and you may greet them by name.

**Those who are able please stand*

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

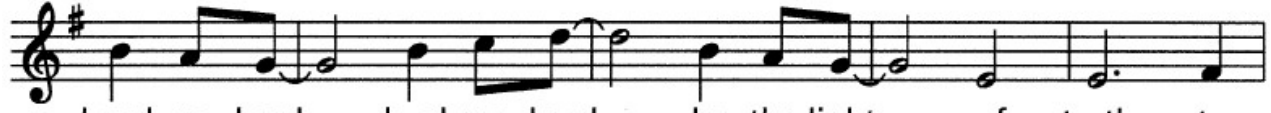


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

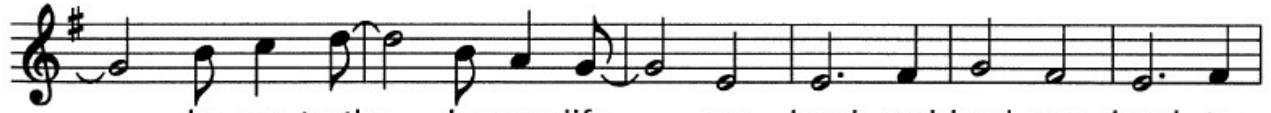
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and abiding, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

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AUGUST 8, 2021

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

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

Mon

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

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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)

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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

It’s time for the second book study in our Trilogy of Book Studies! “The Book Of Longings: A Novel” – by Sue Monk Kidd is available at the library. Please join us in person in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.** for our book discussion! Register for a reminder here:

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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.

Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

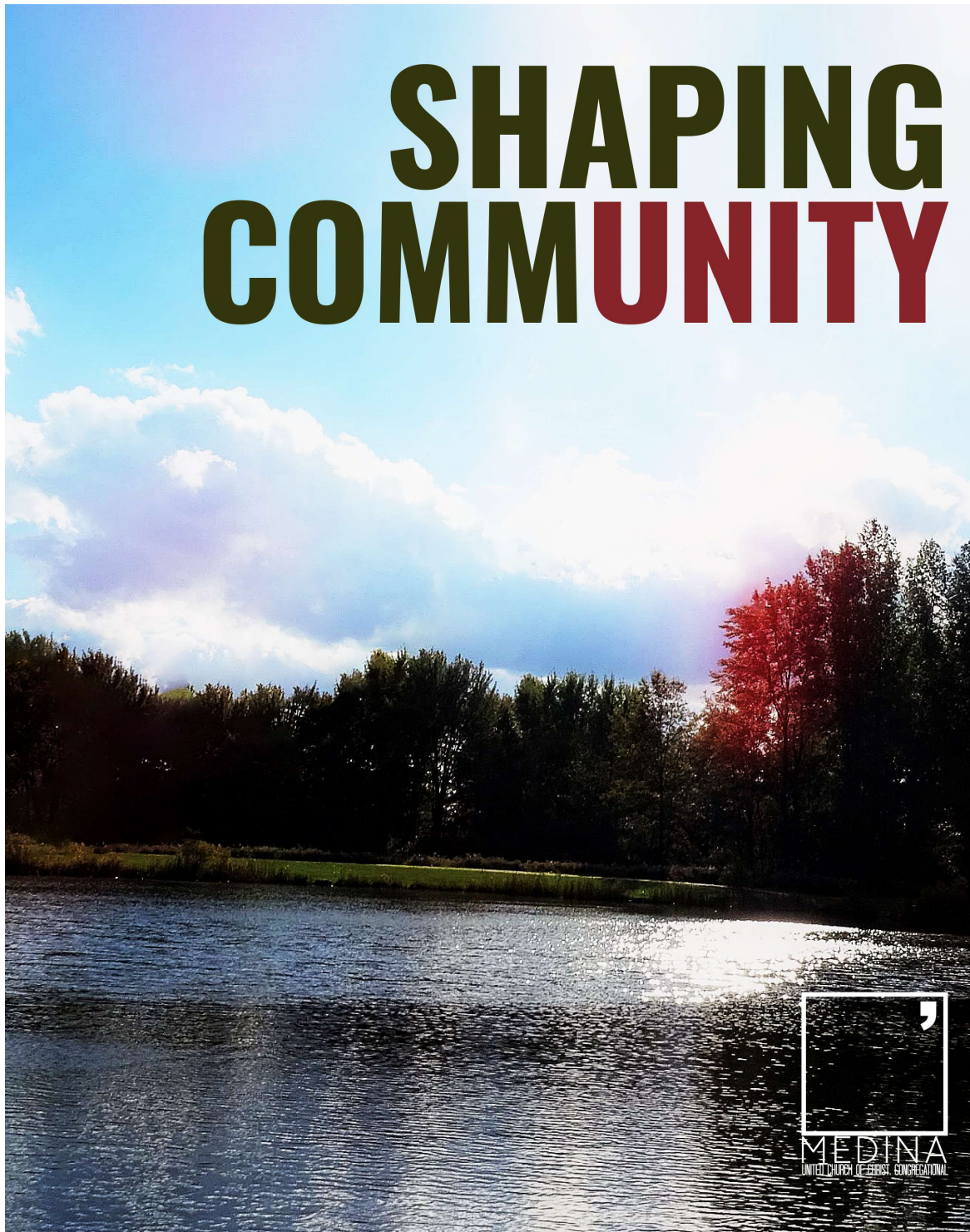
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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*****

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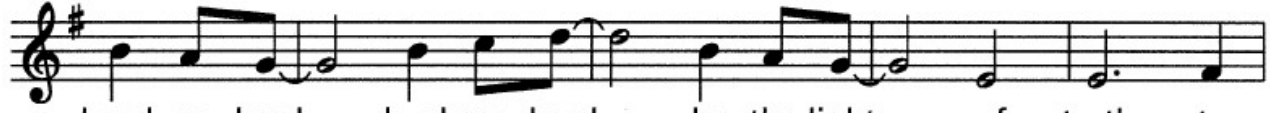


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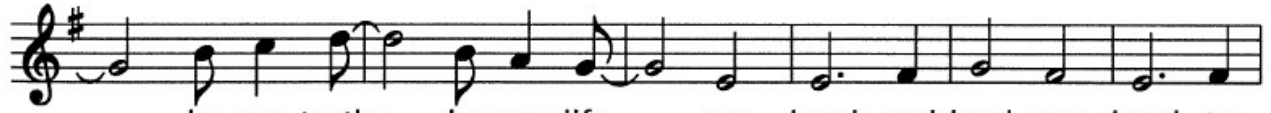
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2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plo - re.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
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Worship & Picnic

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

Plan to join us and bring your family and friends!
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Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

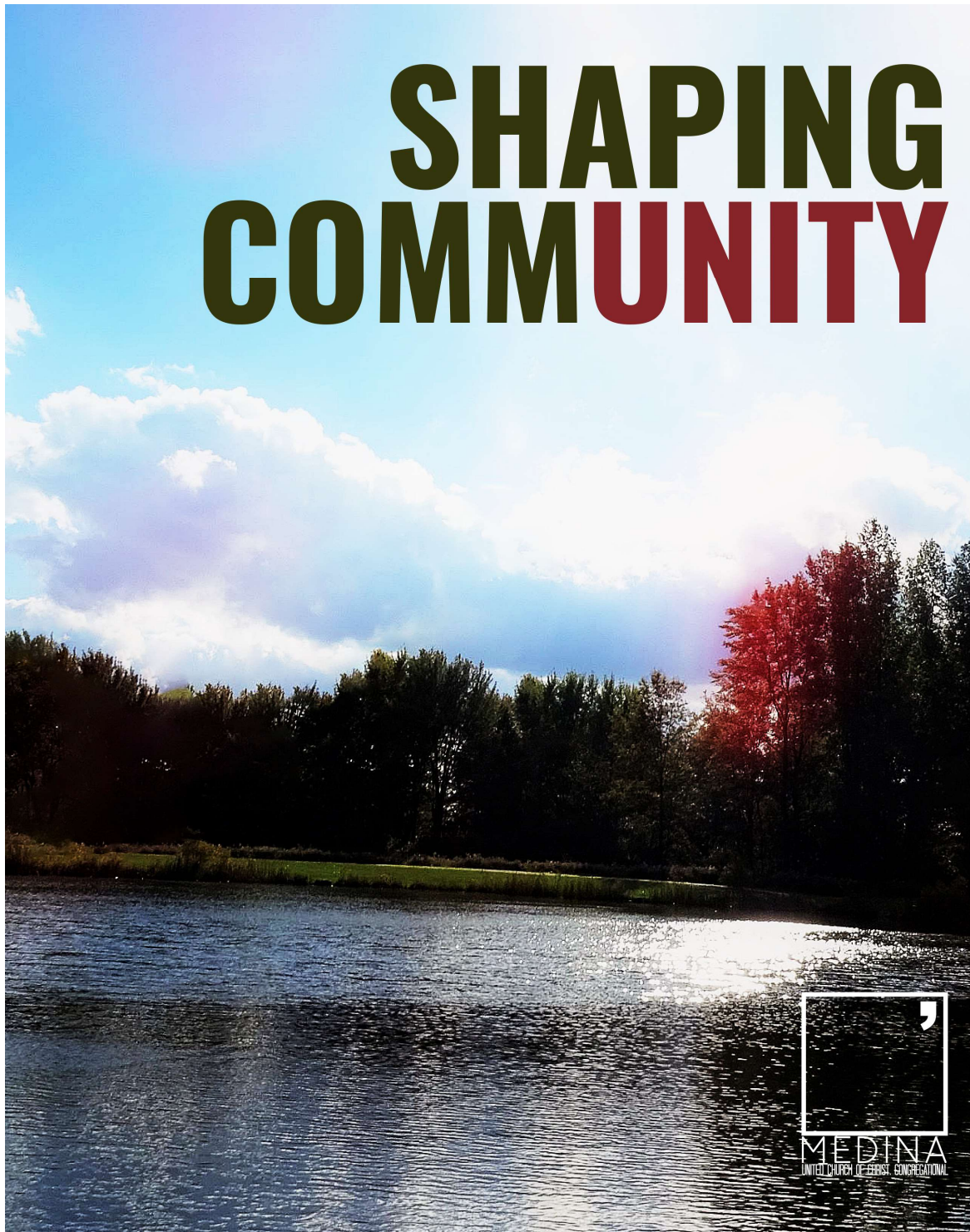
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

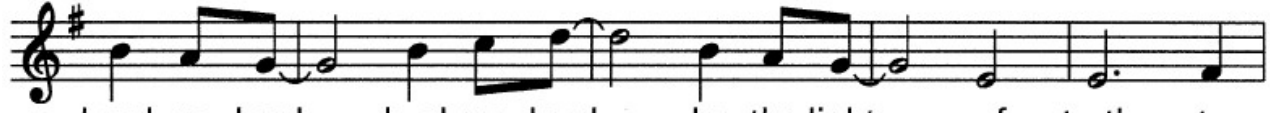


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

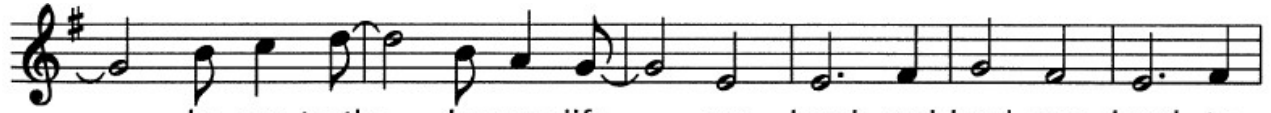
Refrain



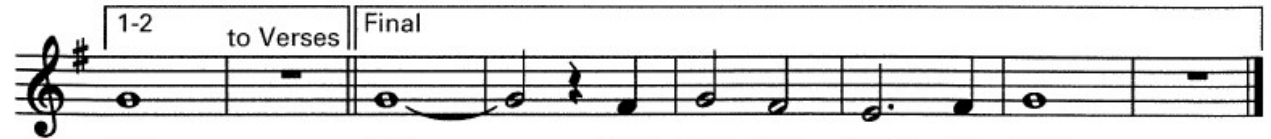
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 2021

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

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Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

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The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

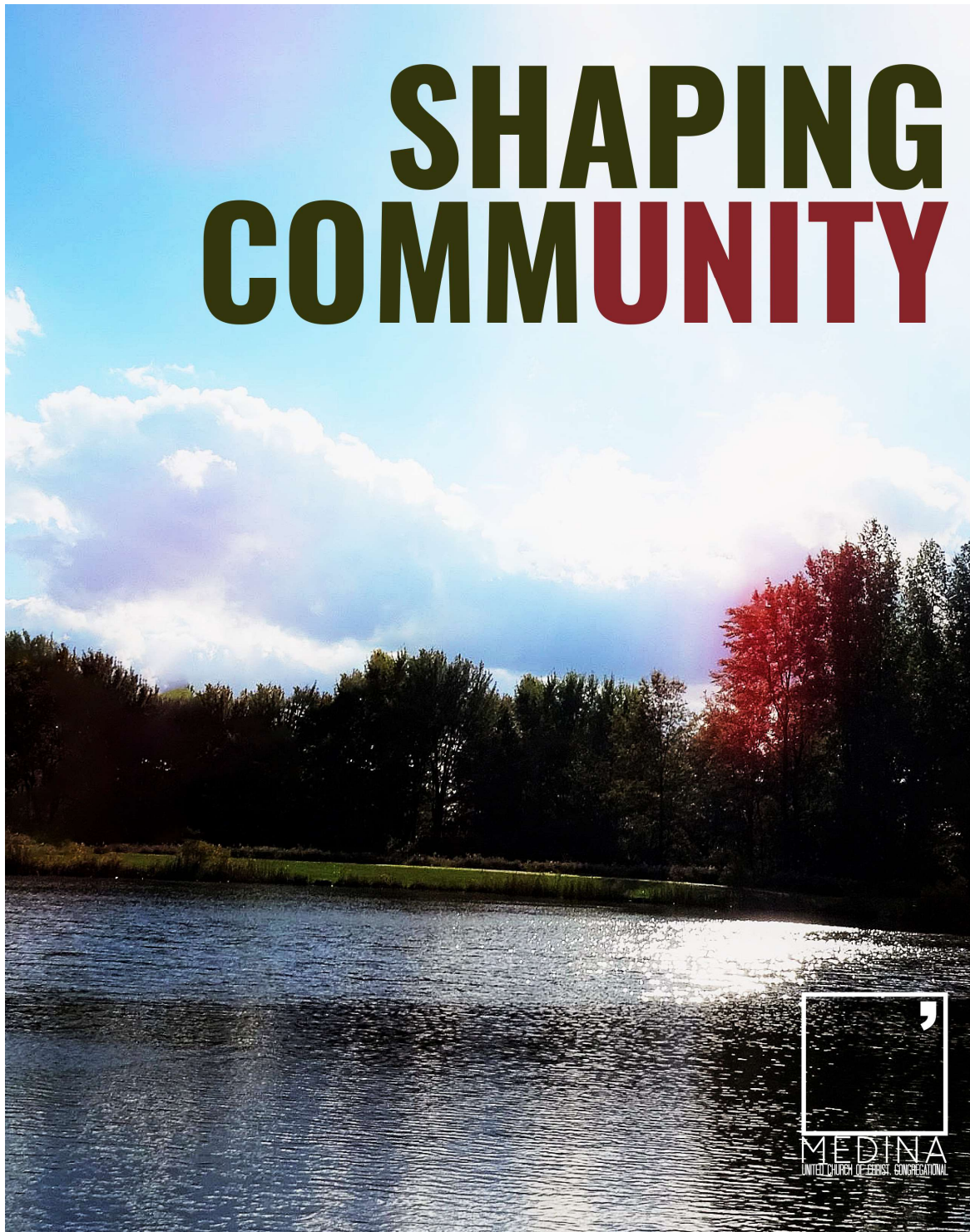
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SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

www.uccmedina.org



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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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

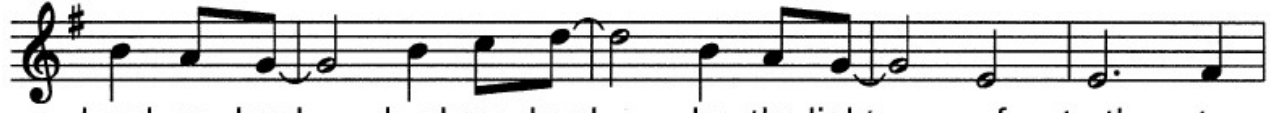


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

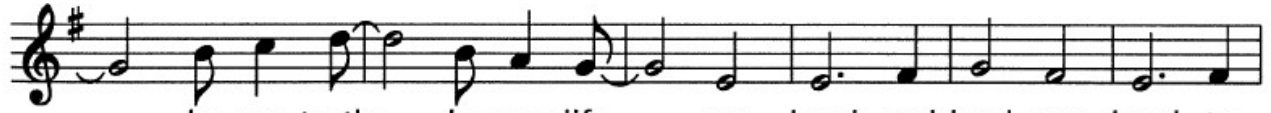
Refrain



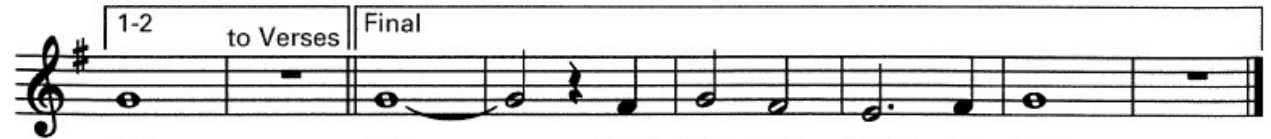
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and abiding, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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)

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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

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Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

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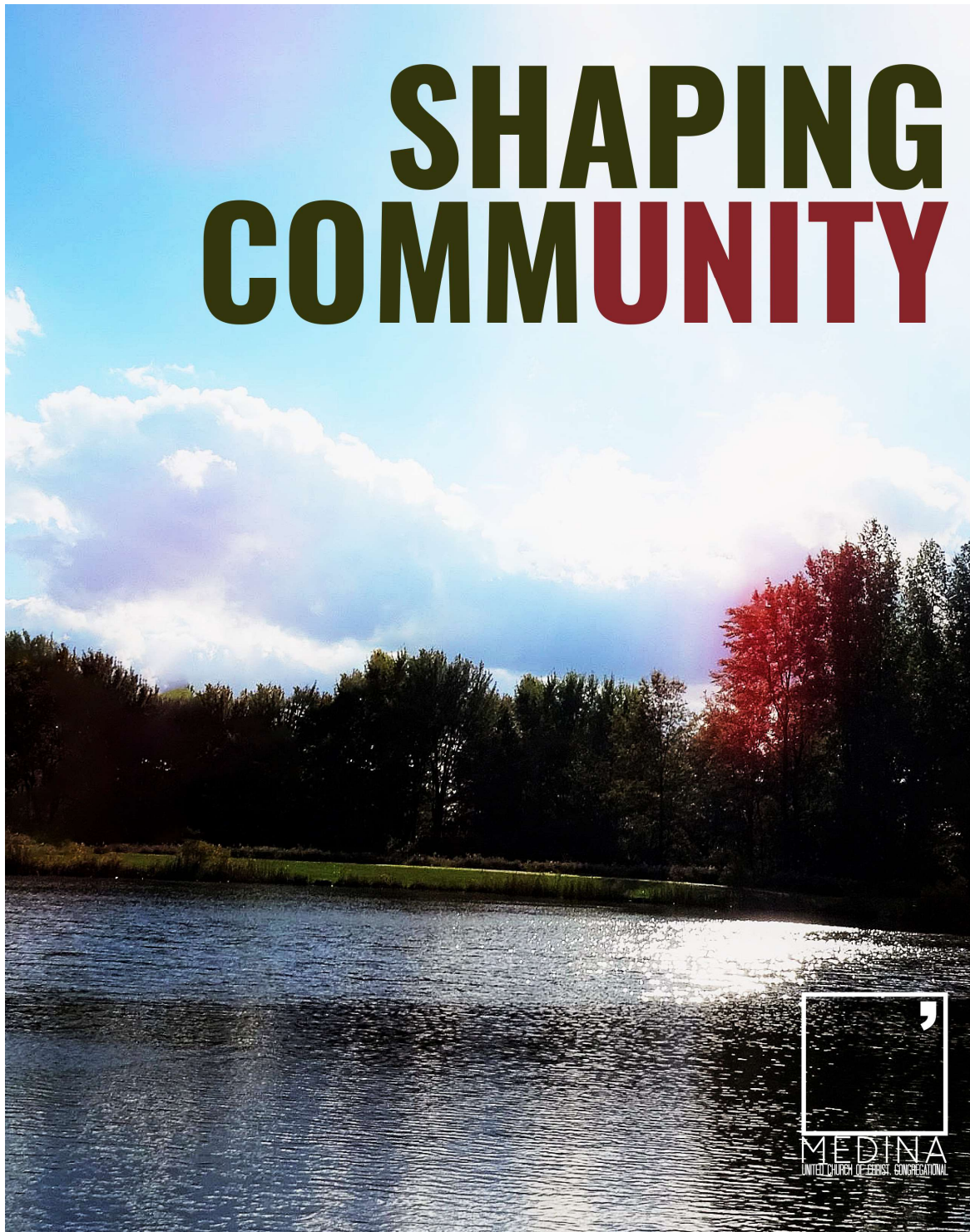
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PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

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2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

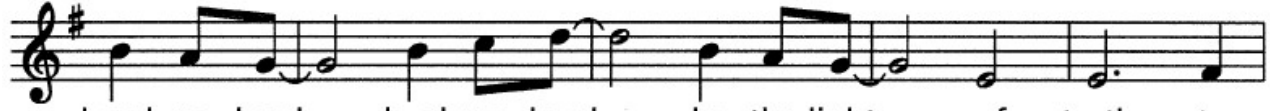


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

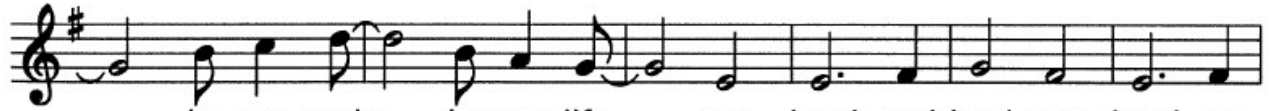
Refrain



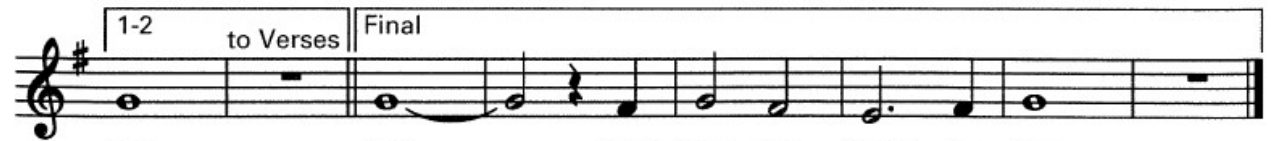
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



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be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

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Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plo - re.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

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9:00 am Gathering Worship
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The jars will be in the East Room for pick-up.

Please take a jar and add your name to 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

It’s time for the second book study in our Trilogy of Book Studies! “The Book Of Longings: A Novel” – by Sue Monk Kidd is available at the library. Please join us in person in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.** for our book discussion! Register for a reminder here:

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Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

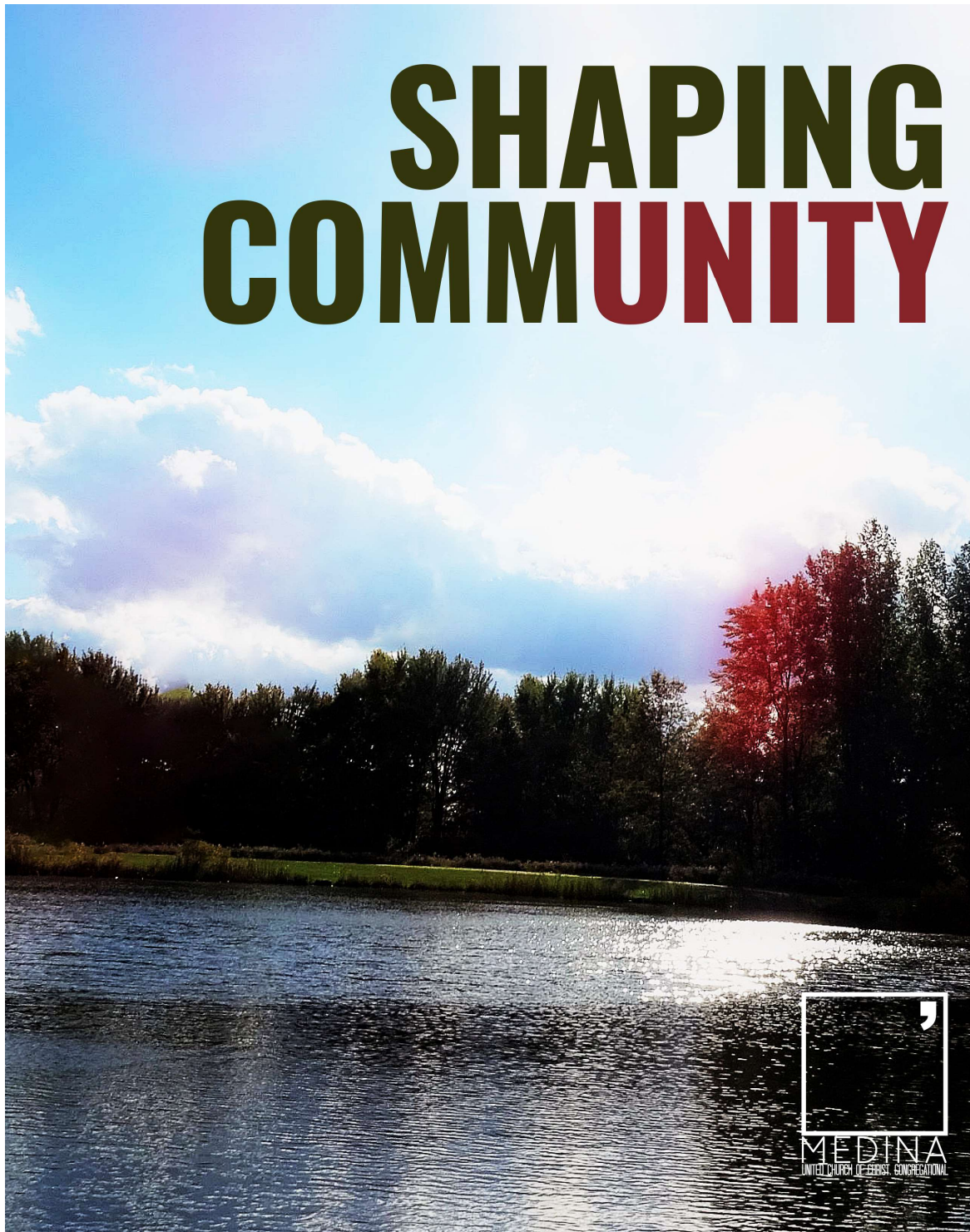
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

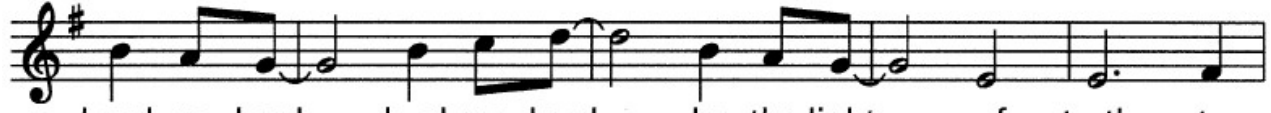


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

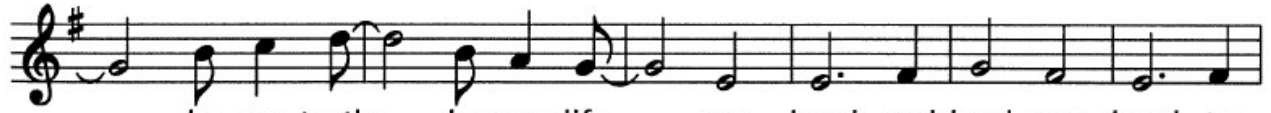
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

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3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
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 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

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PASTOR’S CORNER FOR AUGUST

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Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

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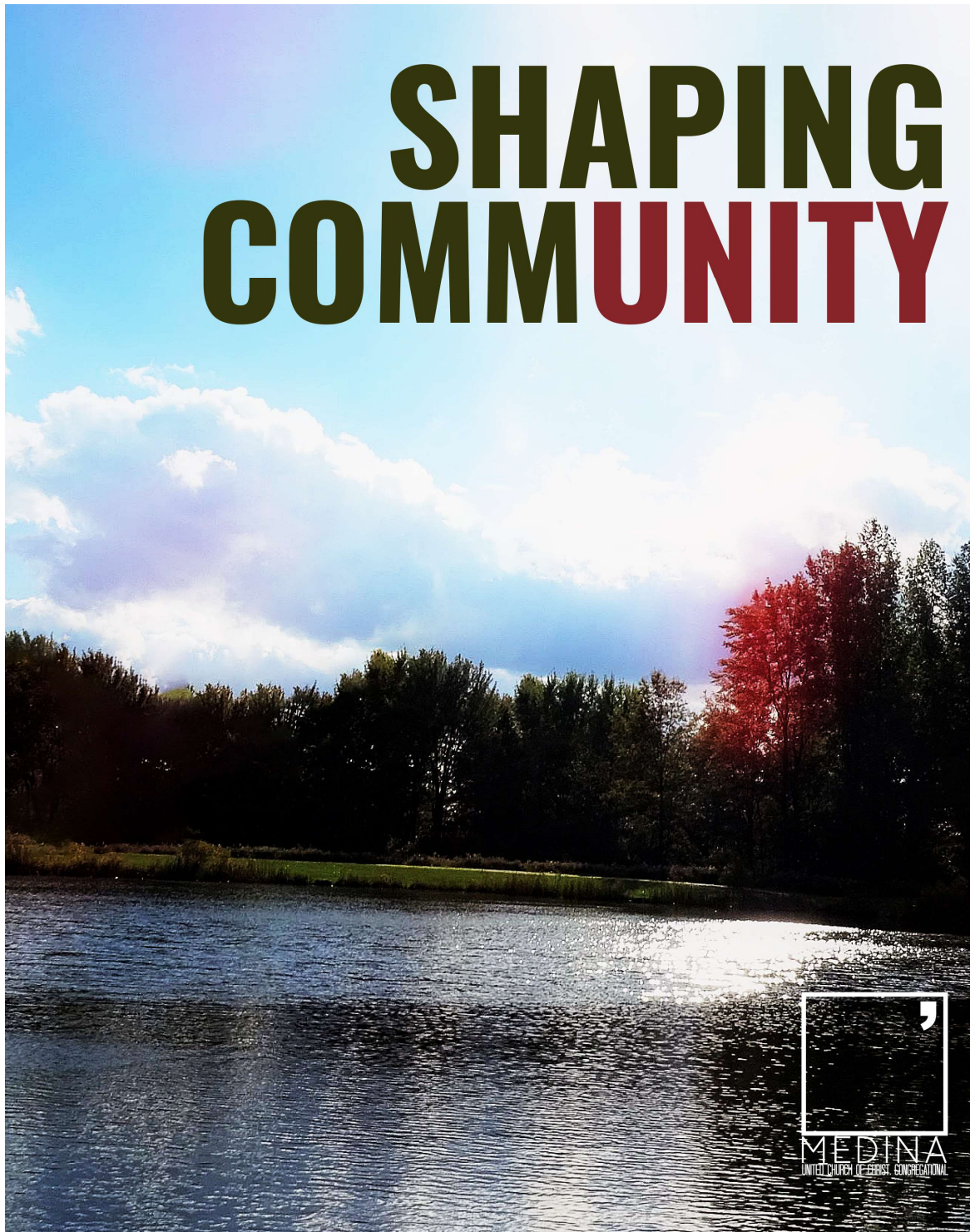
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SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

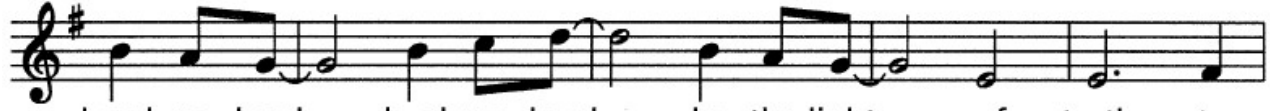


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

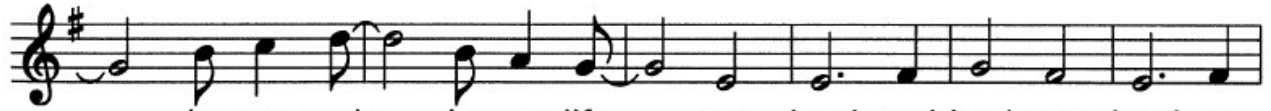
Refrain



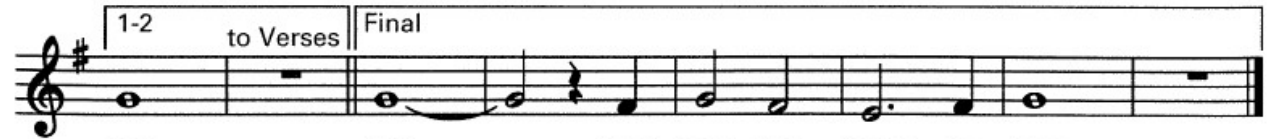
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plo - re.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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:

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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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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.

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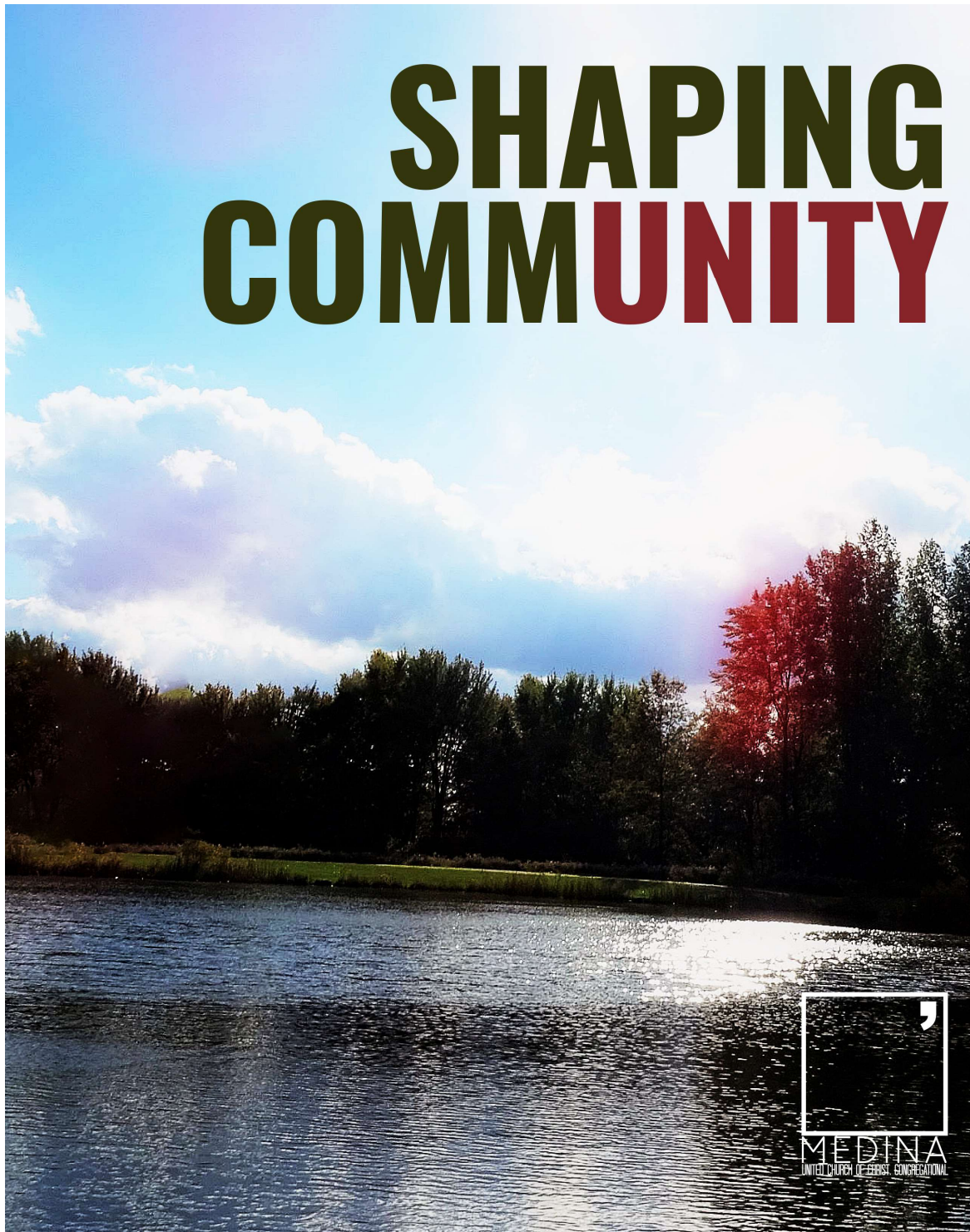
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SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

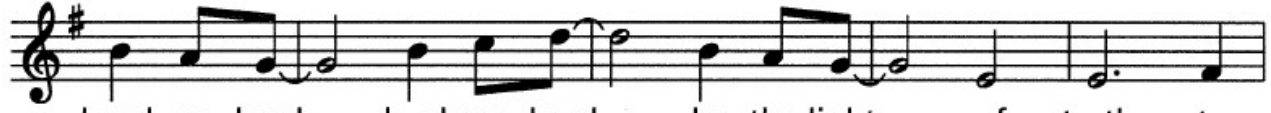


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

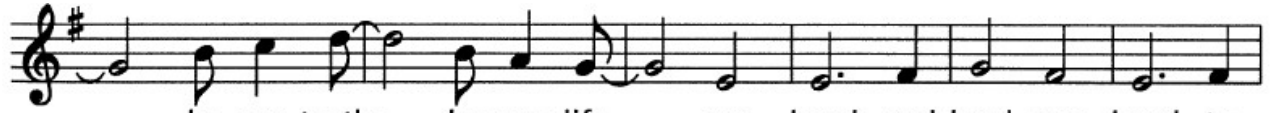
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plo - re.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

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

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

Thurs

Fri

Sat

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11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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)

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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

It’s time for the second book study in our Trilogy of Book Studies! “The Book Of Longings: A Novel” – by Sue Monk Kidd is available at the library. Please join us in person in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.** for our book discussion! Register for a reminder here:

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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.

Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

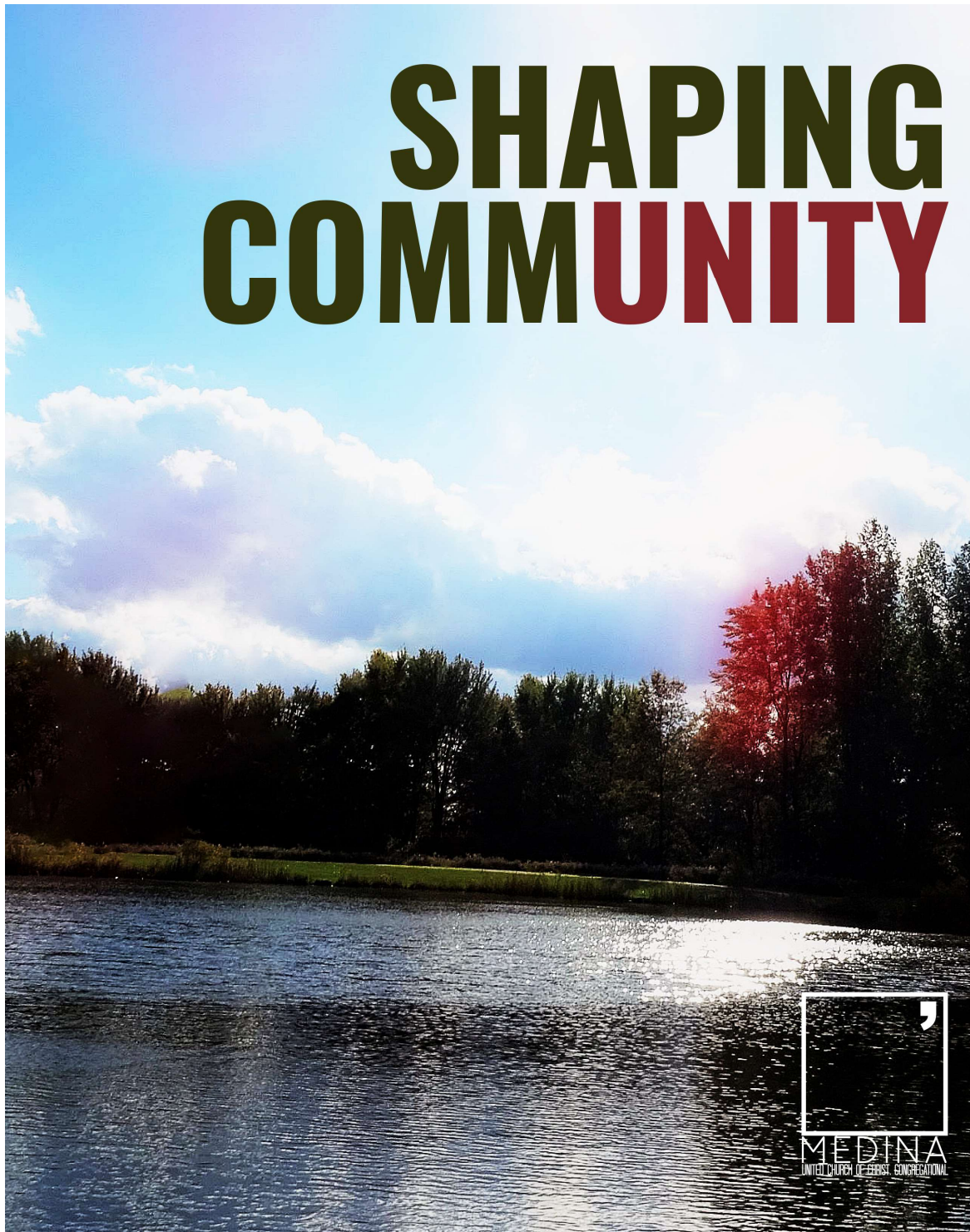
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

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Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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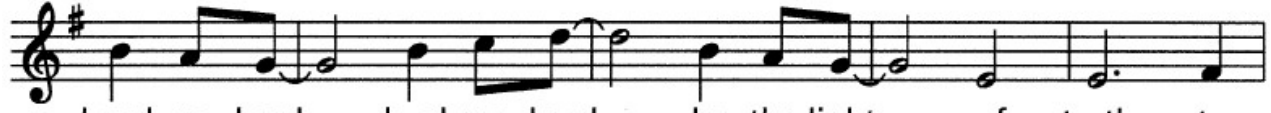


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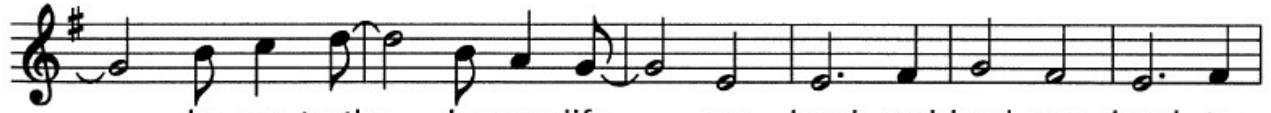
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2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
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Worship & Picnic

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

Plan to join us and bring your family and friends!
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PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

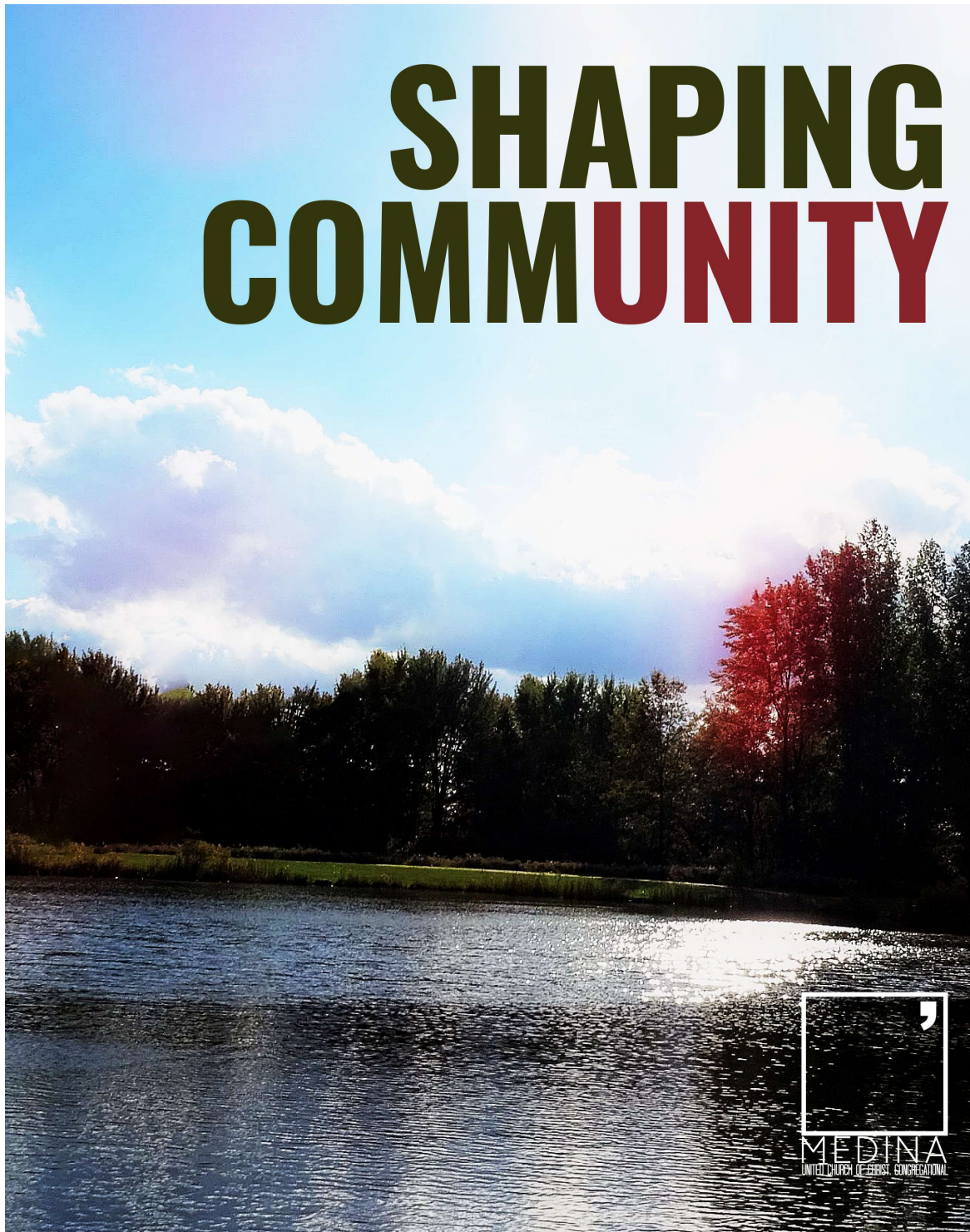
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

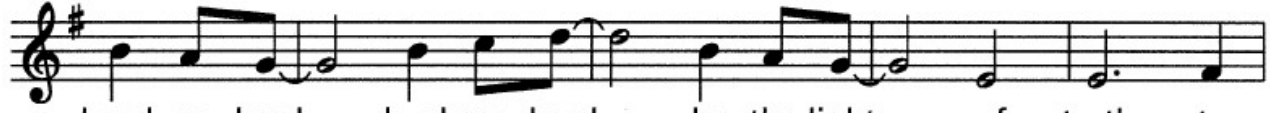


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

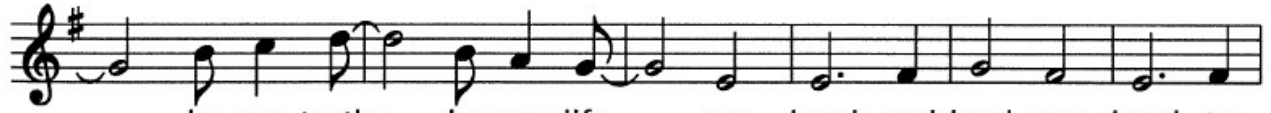
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 2021

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
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Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

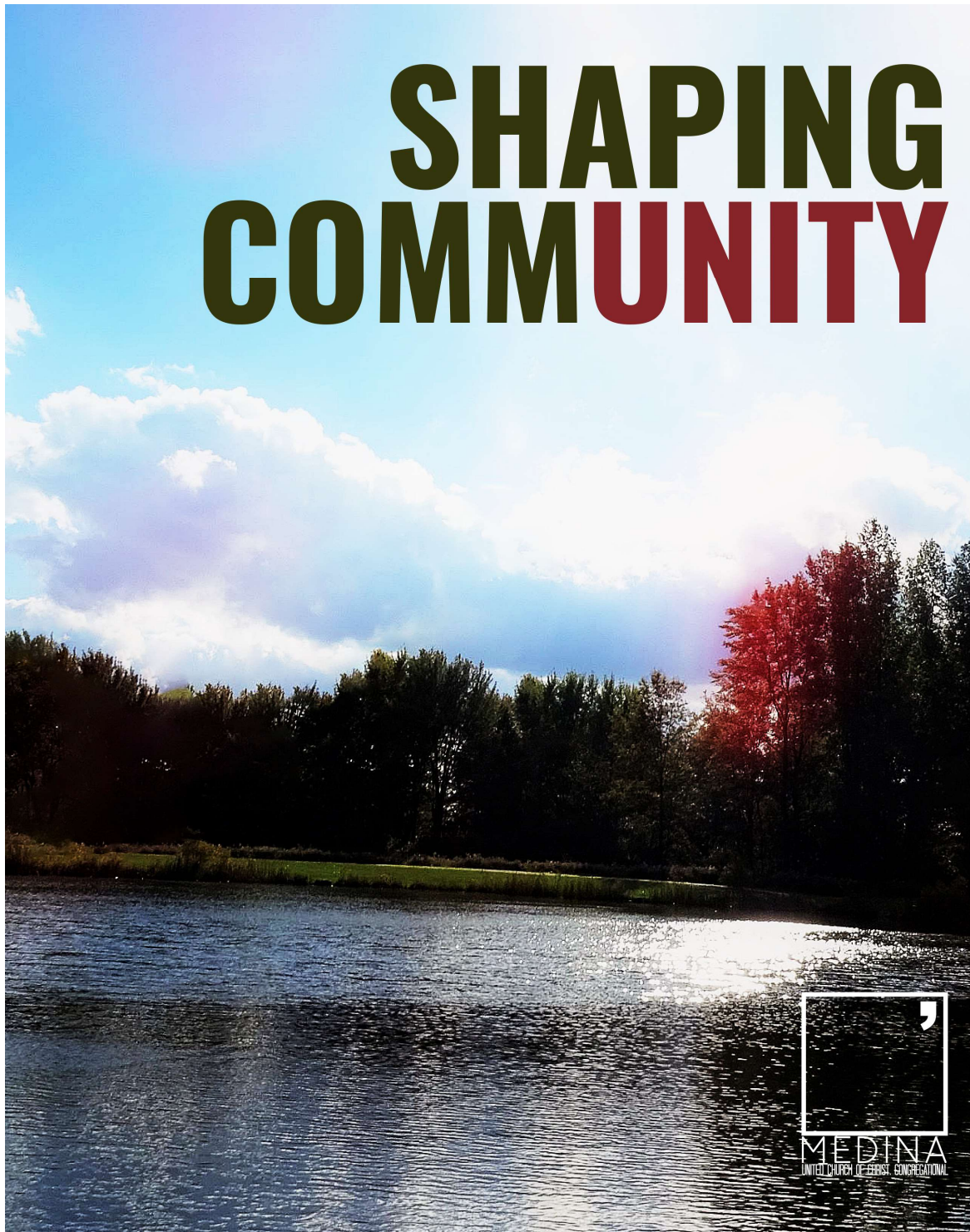
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Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

www.uccmedina.org



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“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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

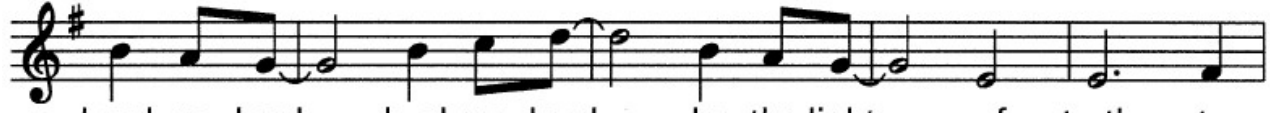


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

Refrain



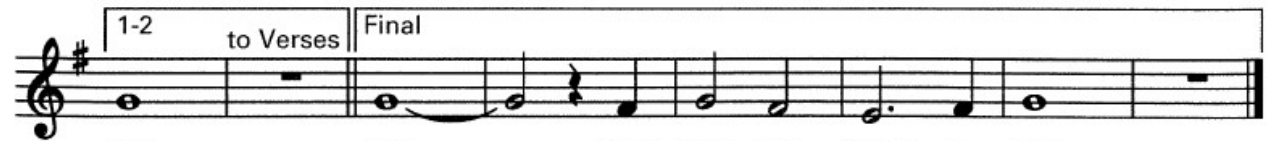
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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** "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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)

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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

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Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

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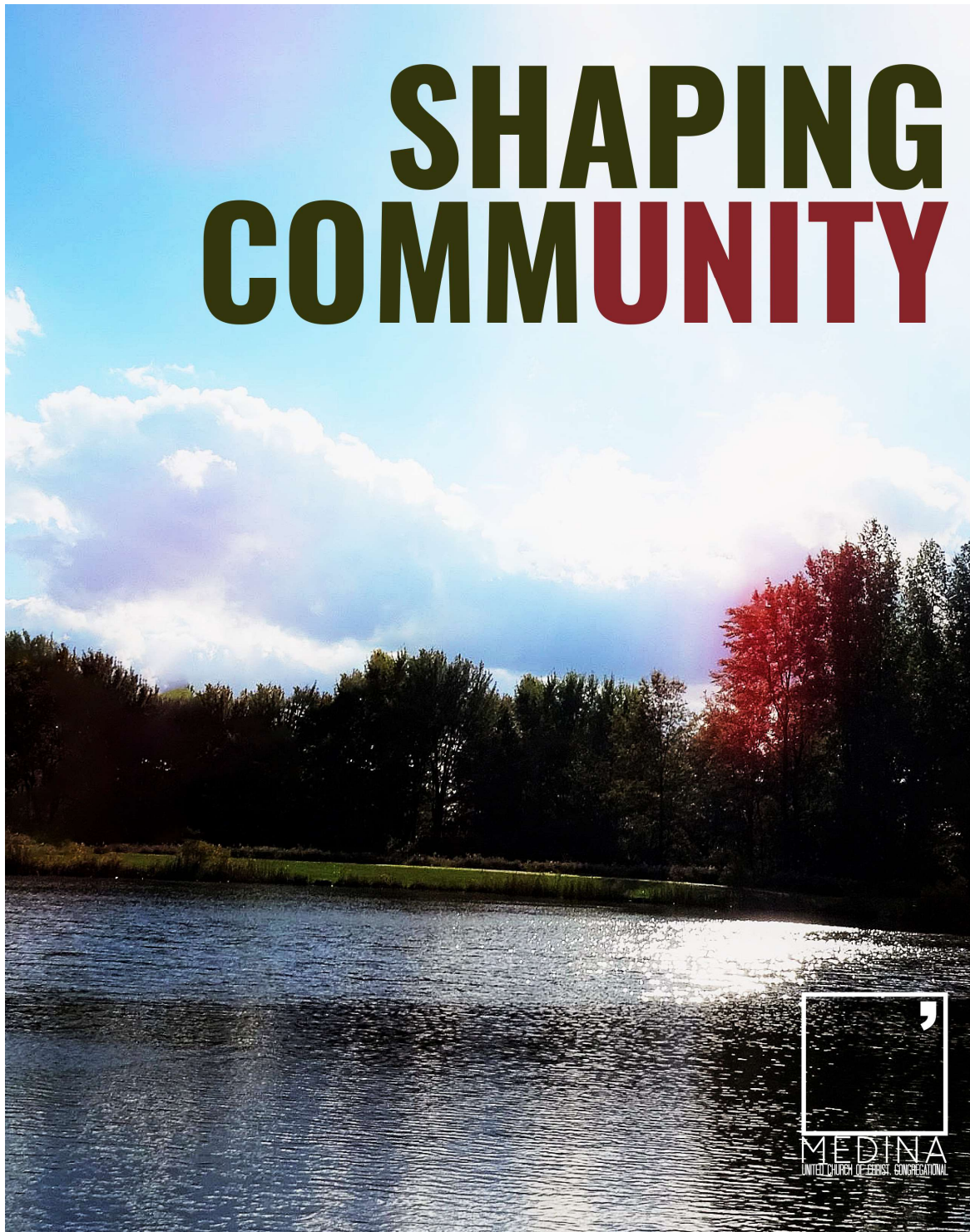
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PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

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1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

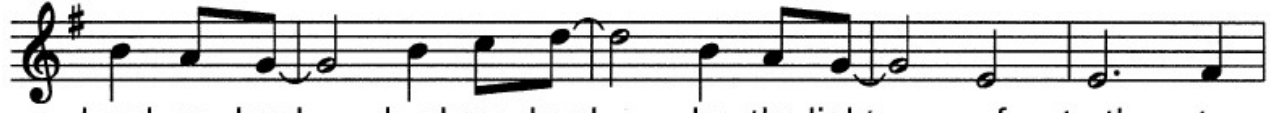


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

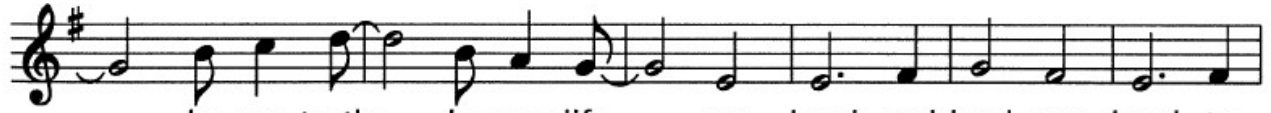
Refrain



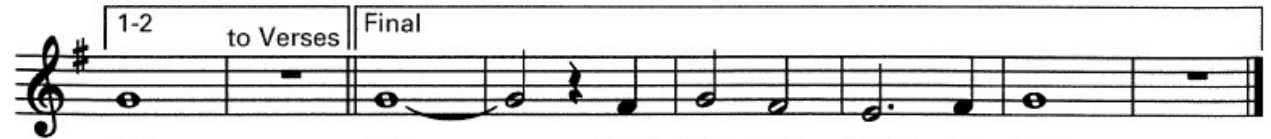
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

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Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

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One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

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Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plo - re.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

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We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

It’s time for the second book study in our Trilogy of Book Studies! “The Book Of Longings: A Novel” – by Sue Monk Kidd is available at the library. Please join us in person in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.** for our book discussion! Register for a reminder here:

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Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

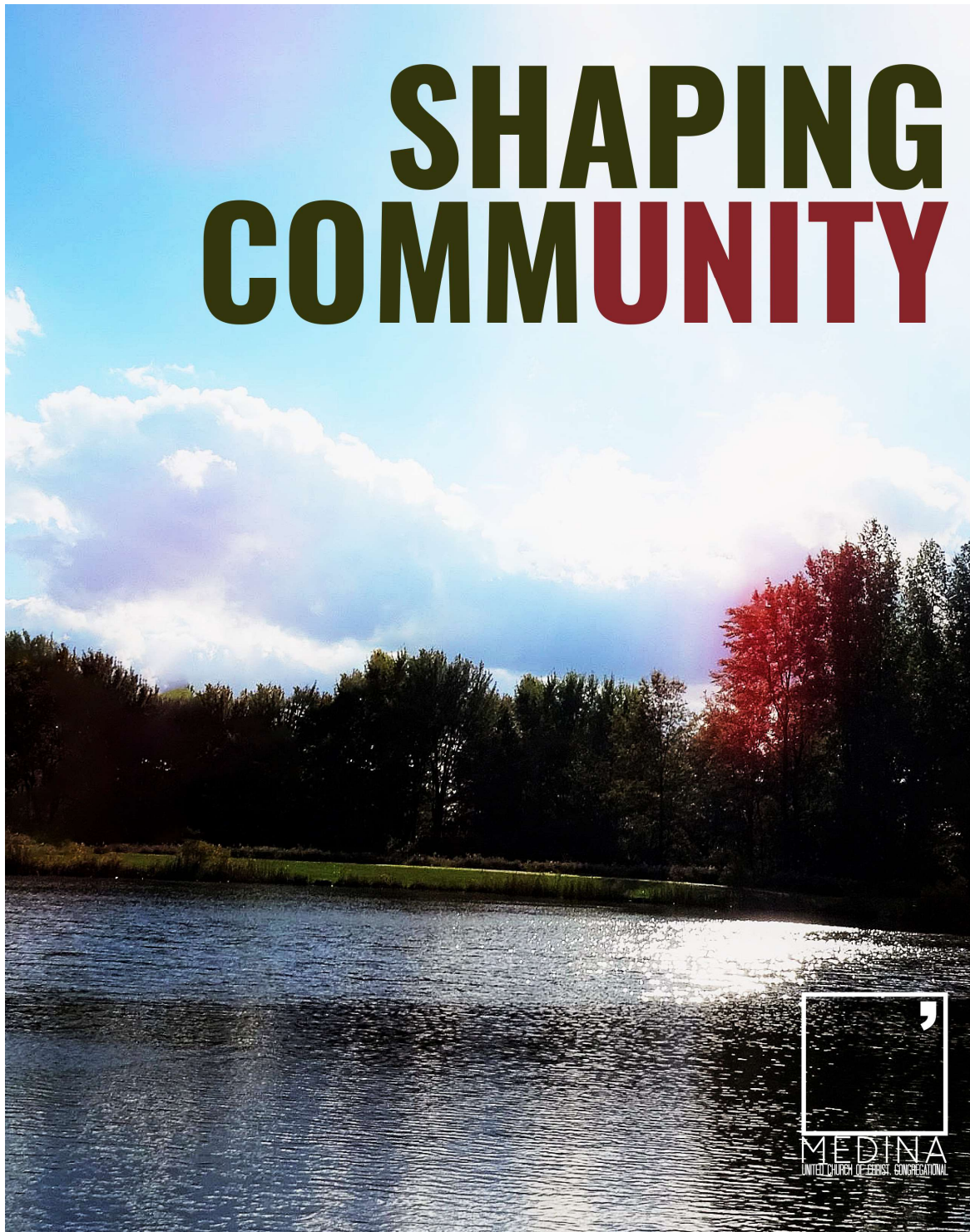
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

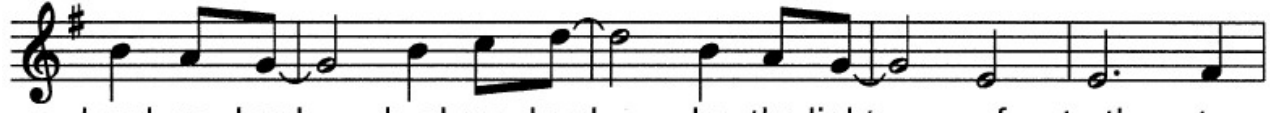


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

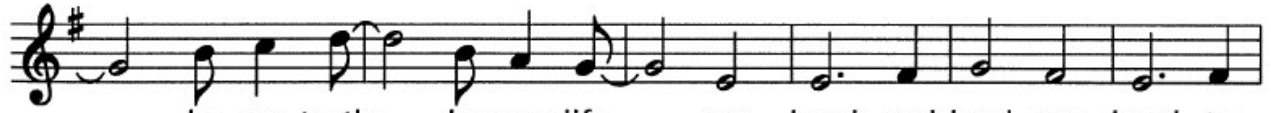
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

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3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

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PASTOR’S CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

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Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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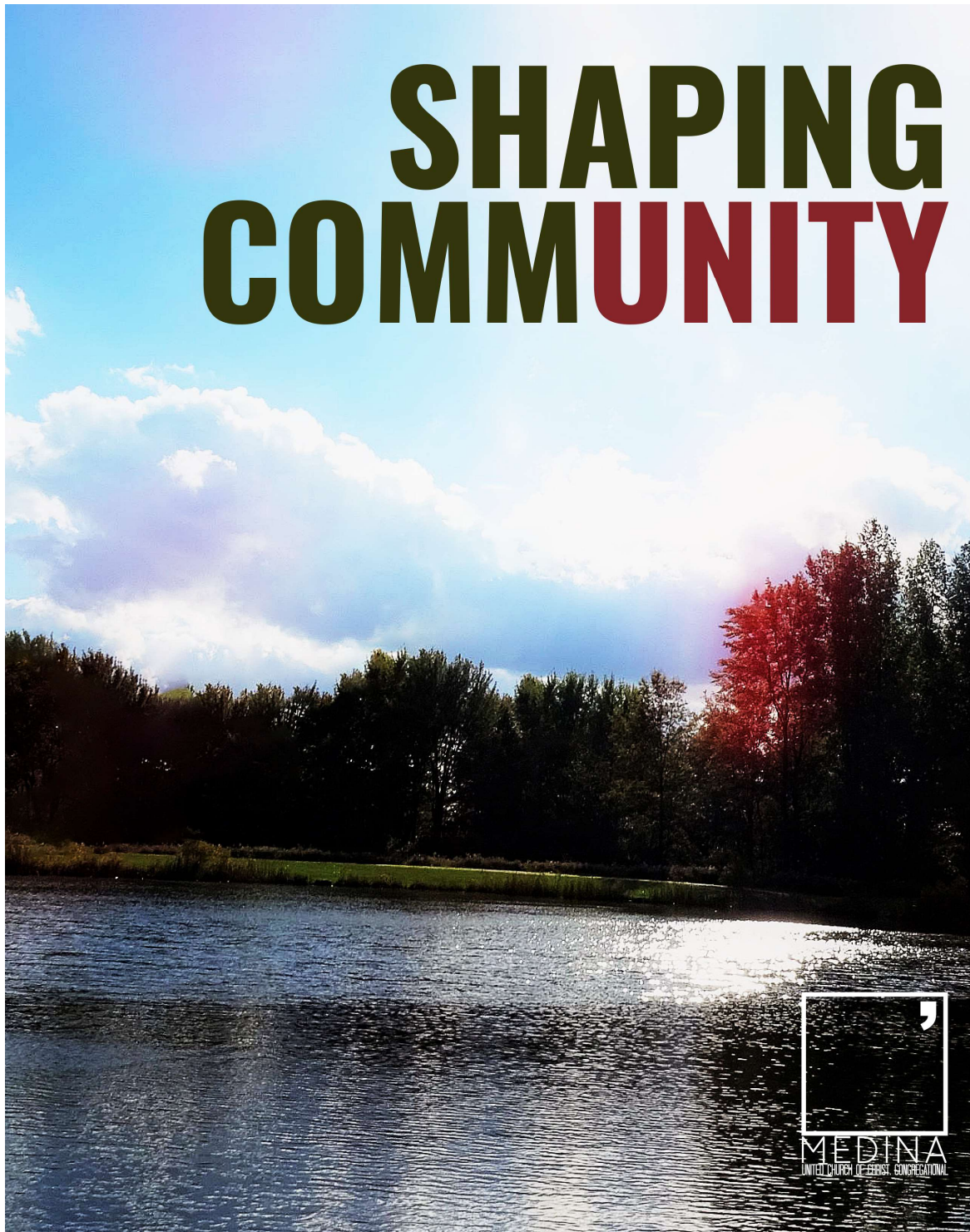
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SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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**Those who are able please stand*

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life-times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

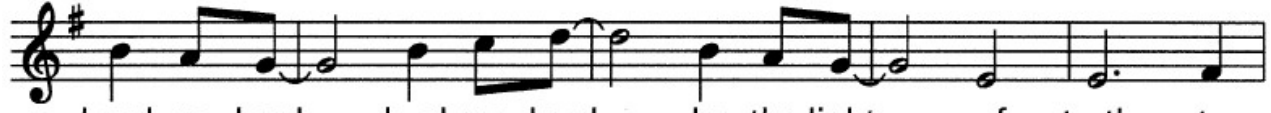


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

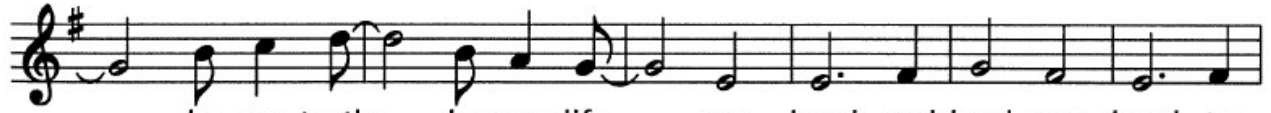
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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** "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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:

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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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

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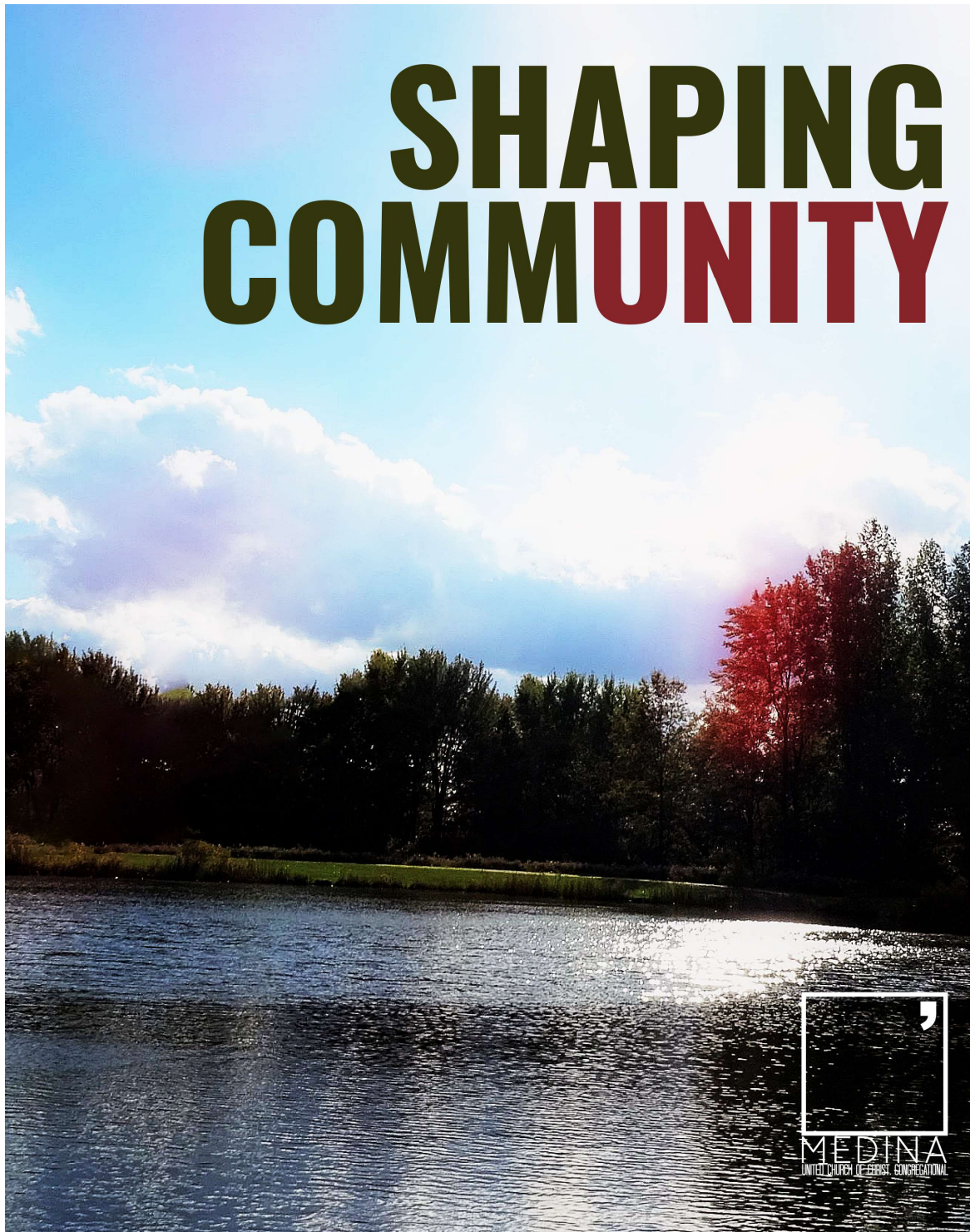
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Please take a moment to sign the friendship pads, (located at the end of each pew) so that you know who is worshipping near you and you may greet them by name.

**Those who are able please stand*

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

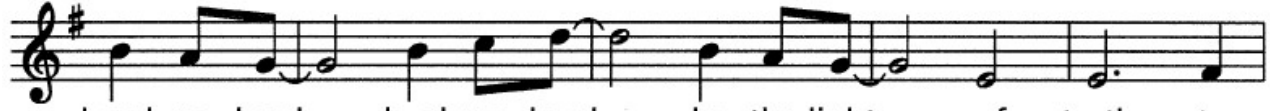


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

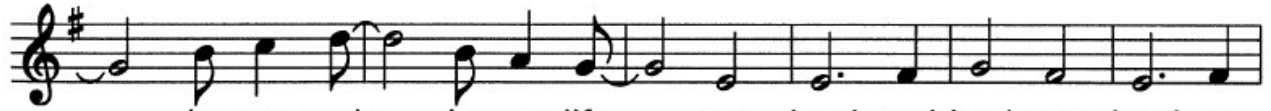
Refrain



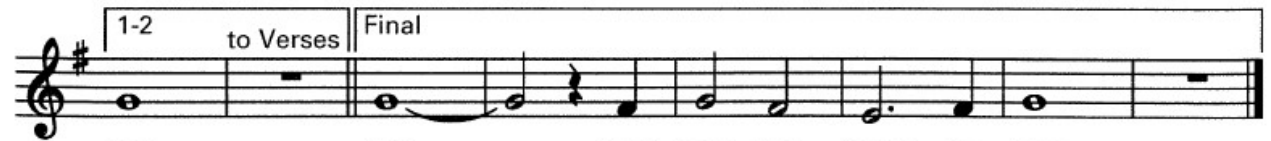
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

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AUGUST 8, 2021

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

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

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

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11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
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Worship Highlights: 8:15, 9:00 & 10:30 am

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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)

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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

It’s time for the second book study in our Trilogy of Book Studies! “The Book Of Longings: A Novel” – by Sue Monk Kidd is available at the library. Please join us in person in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.** for our book discussion! Register for a reminder here:

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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.

Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

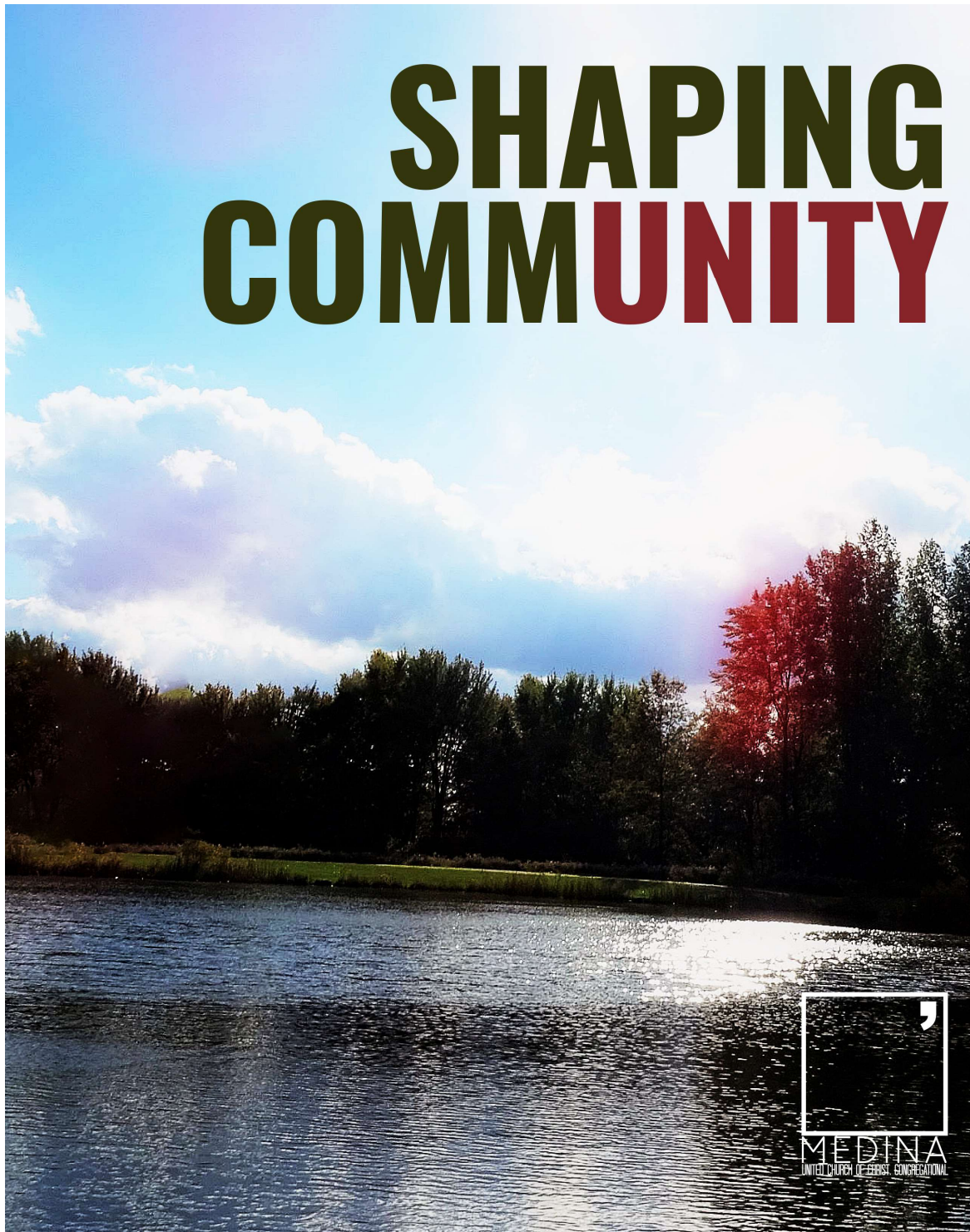
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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*****

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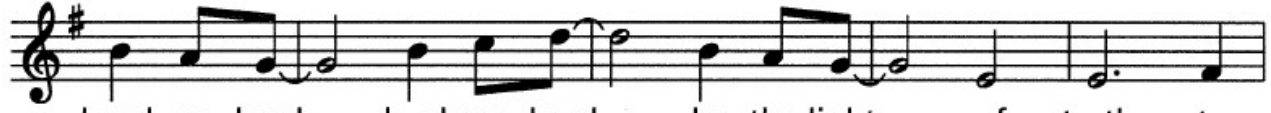


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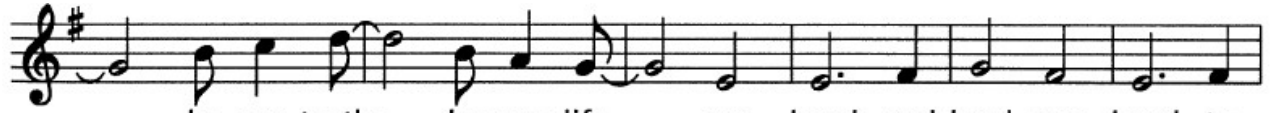
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2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plo - re.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
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Plan to join us and bring your family and friends!
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Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

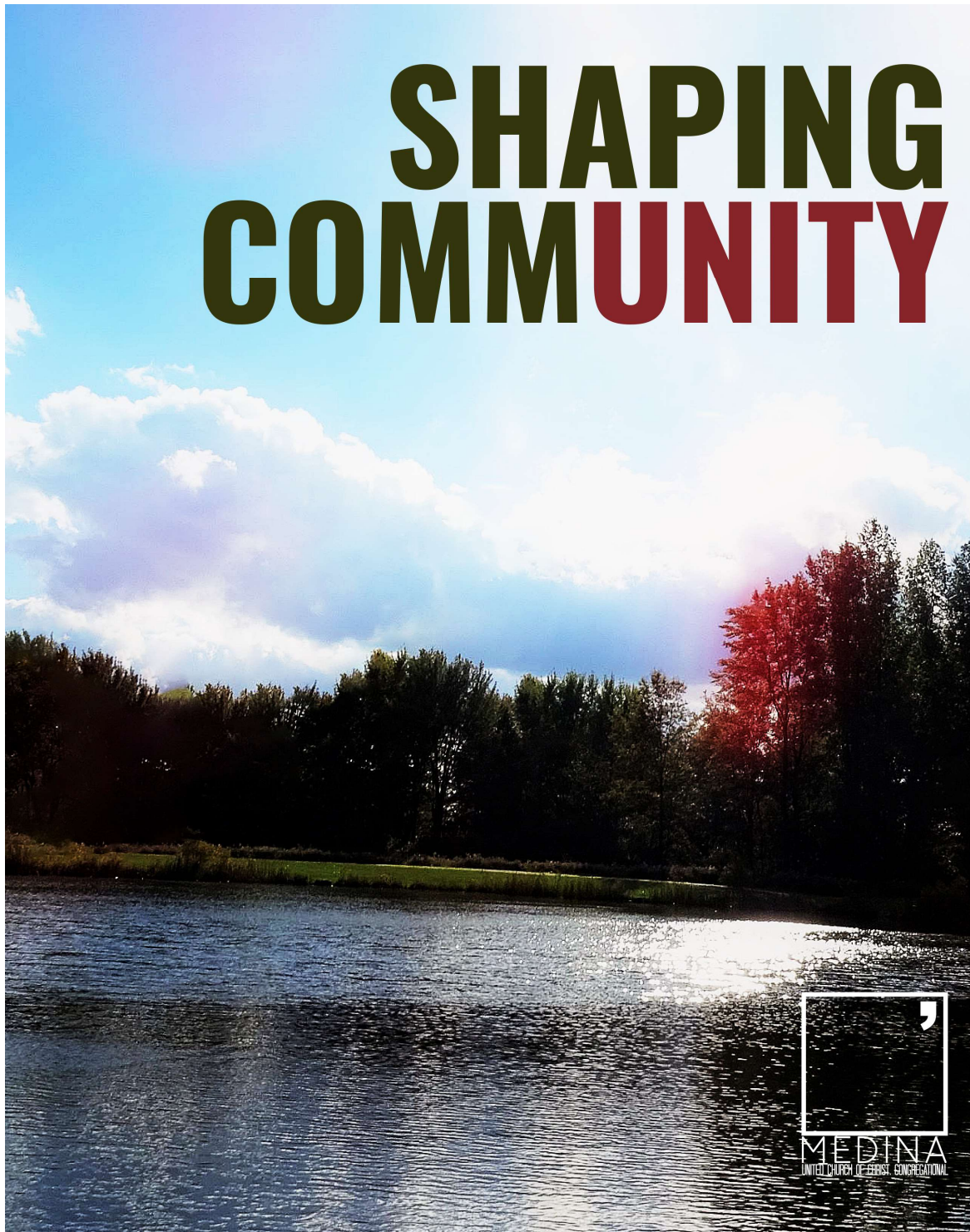
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafarak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

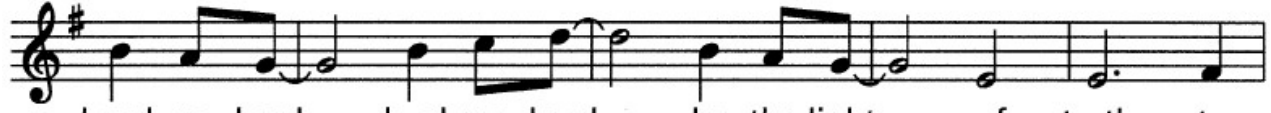


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

Refrain



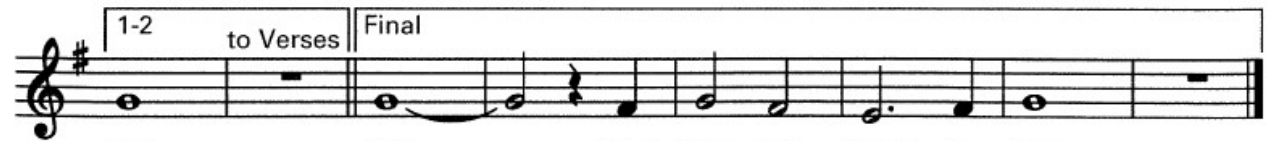
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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** "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 2021

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

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Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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Shaping Community

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The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

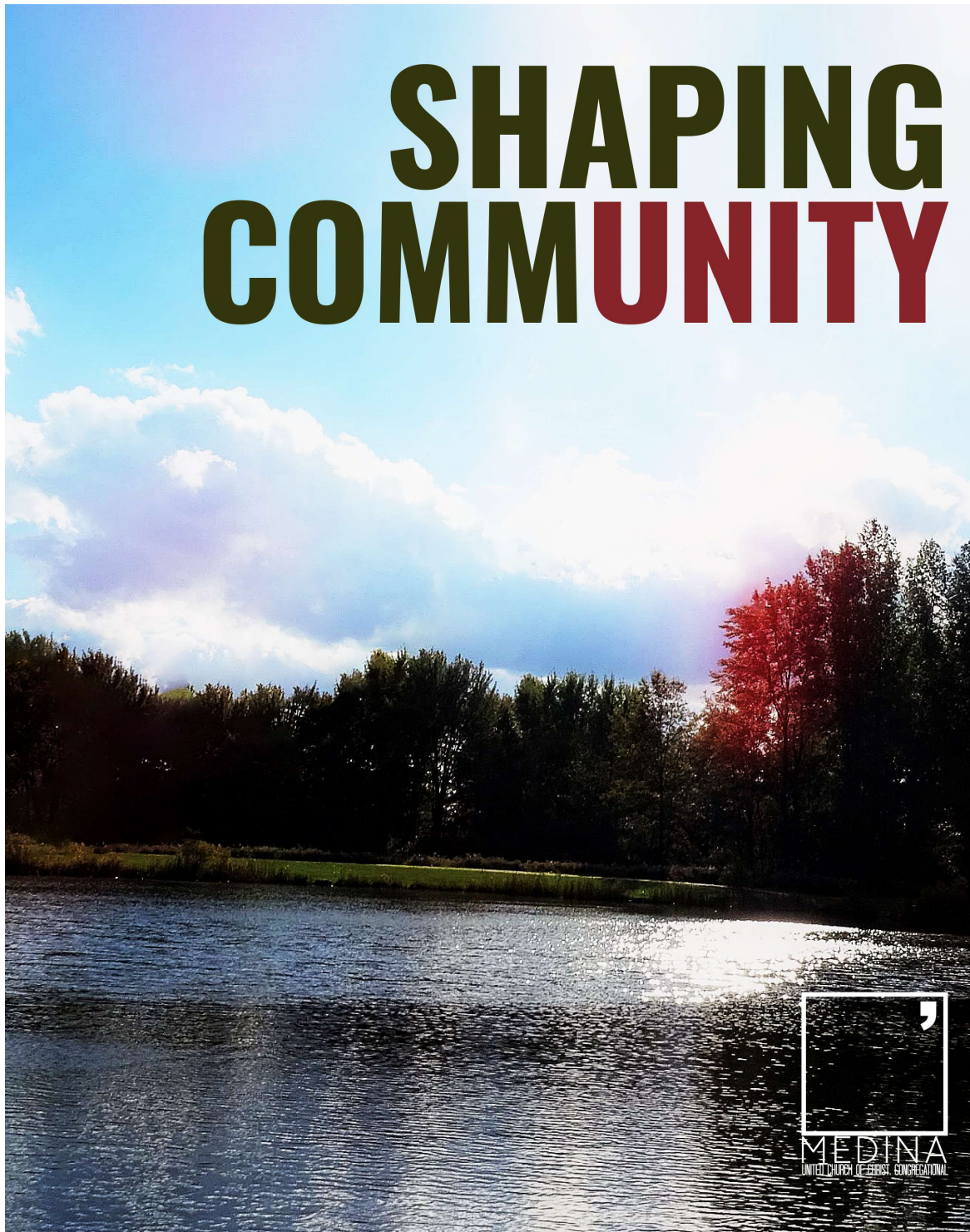
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SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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www.uccmedina.org



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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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

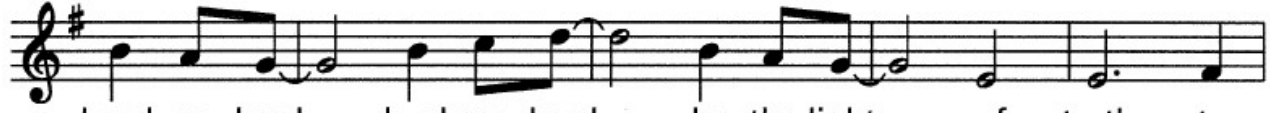


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

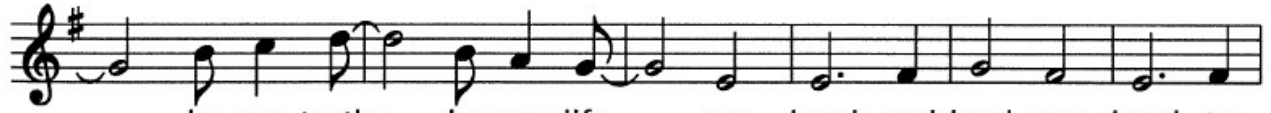
Refrain



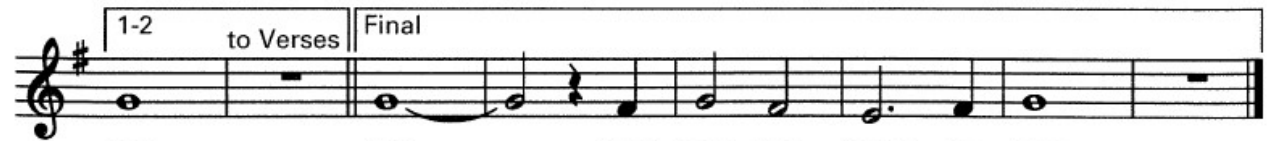
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plo - re.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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** "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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)

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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

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Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

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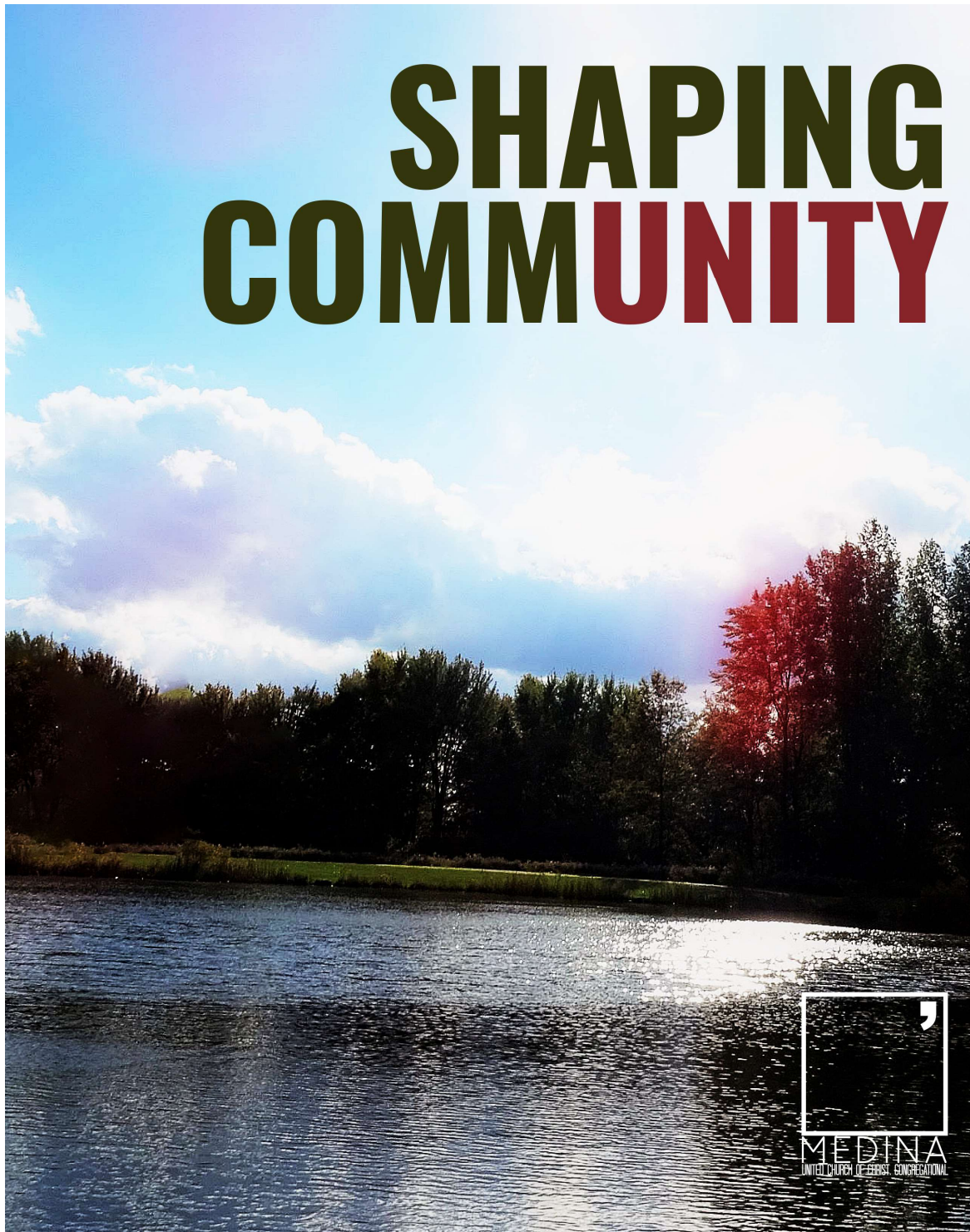
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PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



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2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

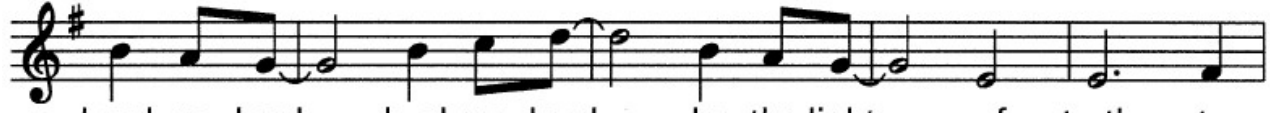


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

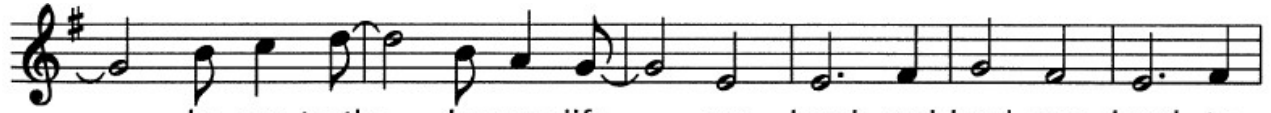
Refrain



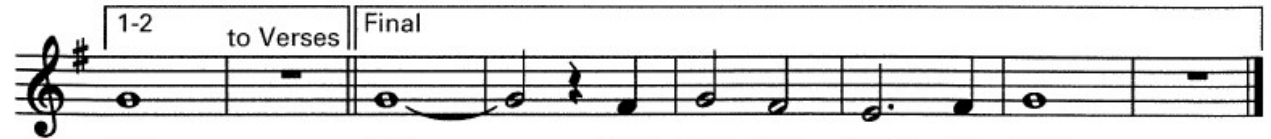
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Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

SERMON "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

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AUGUST 8, 2021

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

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10:30 am Traditional Worship

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

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The jars will be in the East Room for pick-up.

Please take a jar and add your name to 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

It’s time for the second book study in our Trilogy of Book Studies! “The Book Of Longings: A Novel” – by Sue Monk Kidd is available at the library. Please join us in person in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.** for our book discussion! Register for a reminder here:

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Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

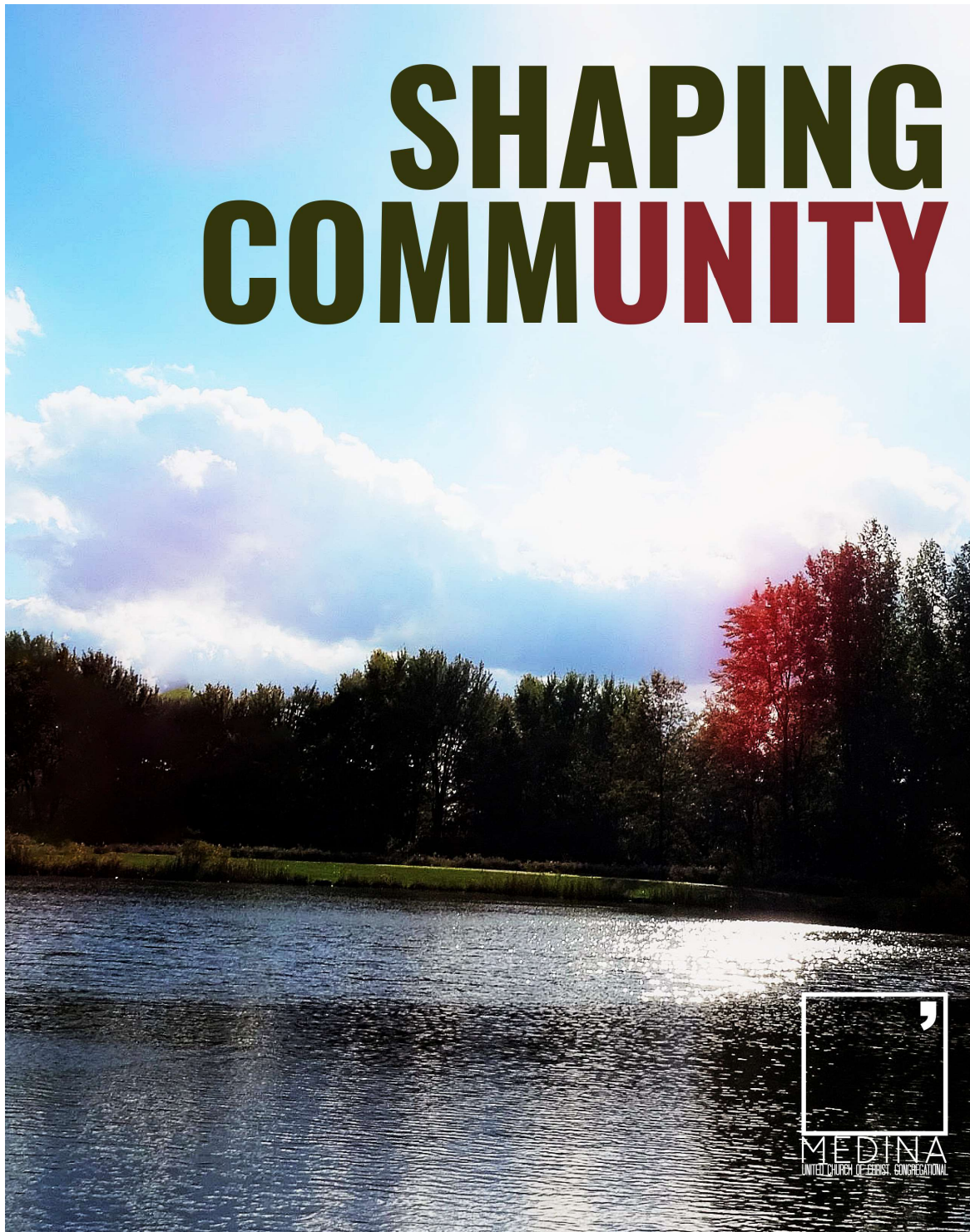
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

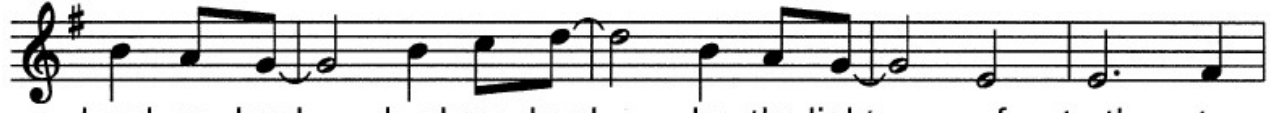


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

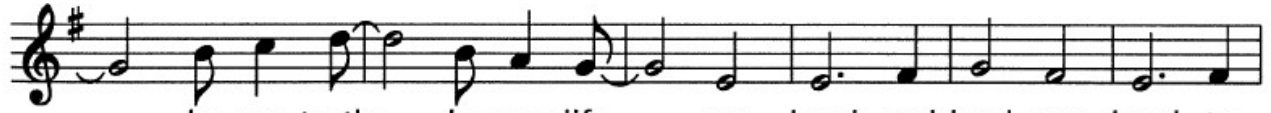
Refrain



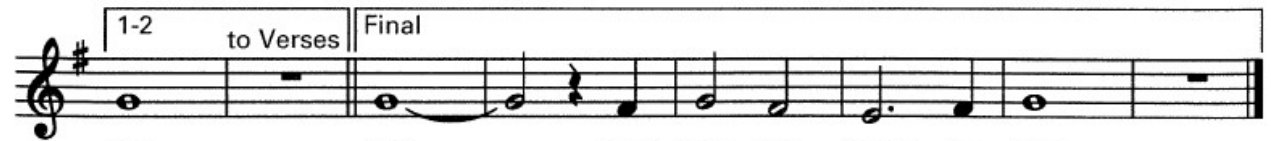
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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

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2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

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We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

GIFT CARDS FOR THOSE IN NEED

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PASTOR’S CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

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Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

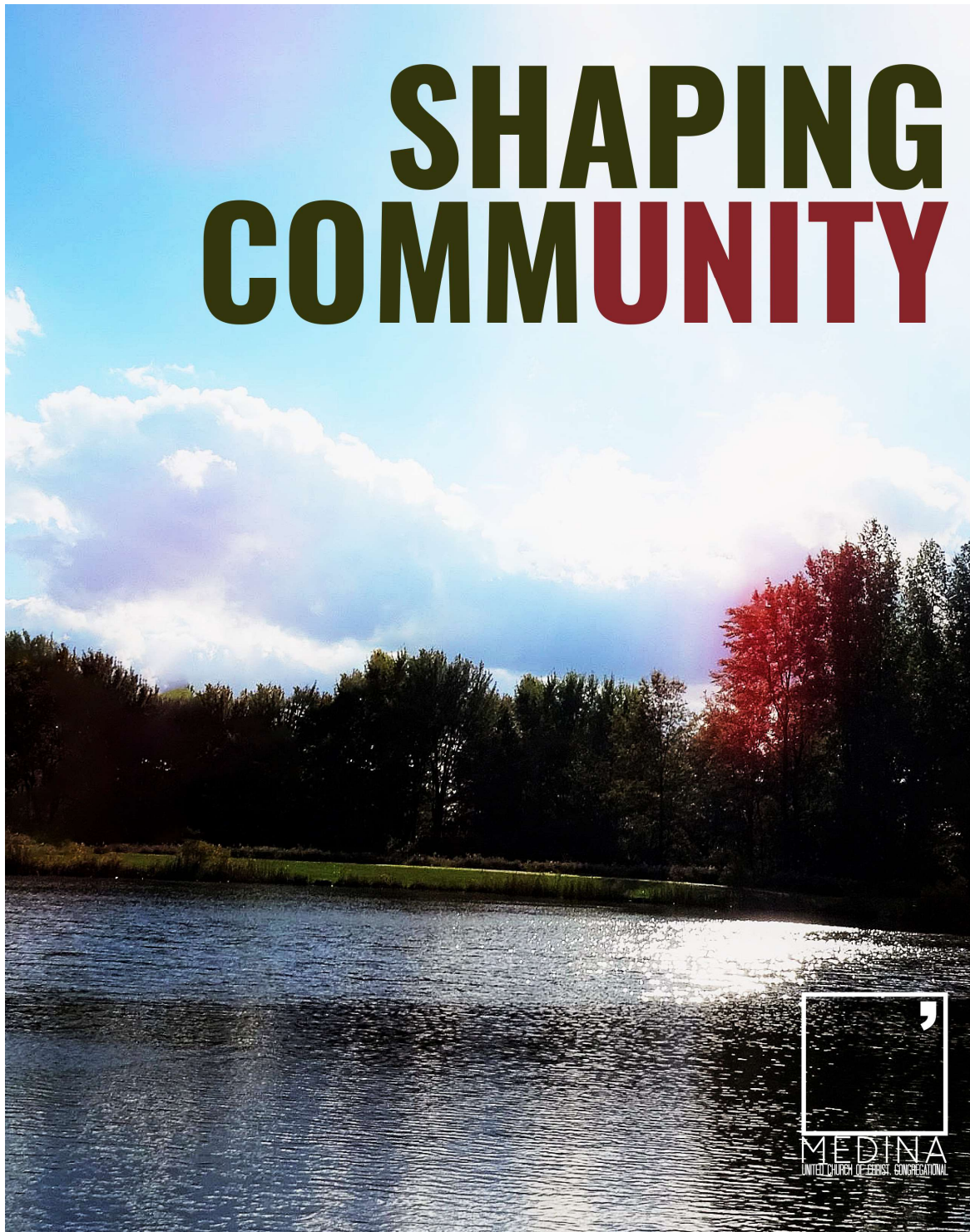
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SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

www.uccmedina.org



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“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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

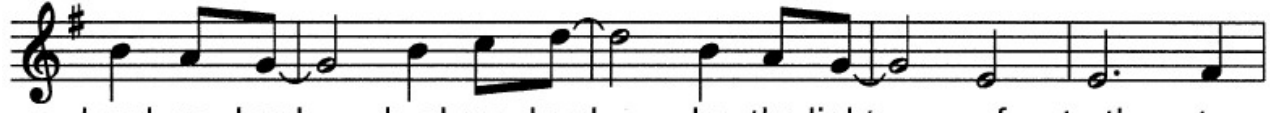


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

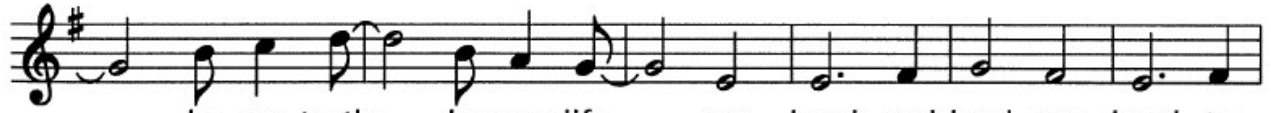
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plo - re.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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:

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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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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.

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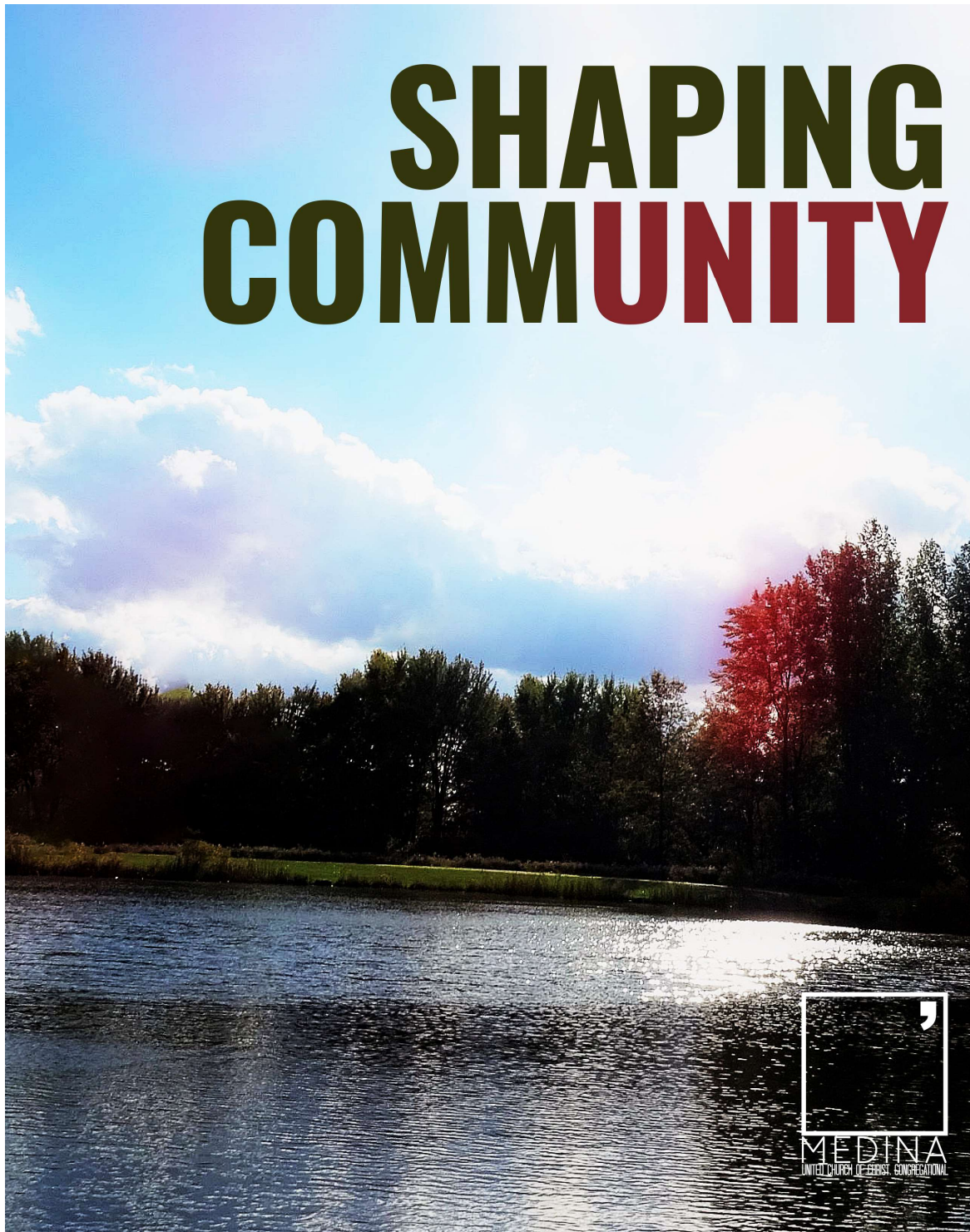
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“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS”

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

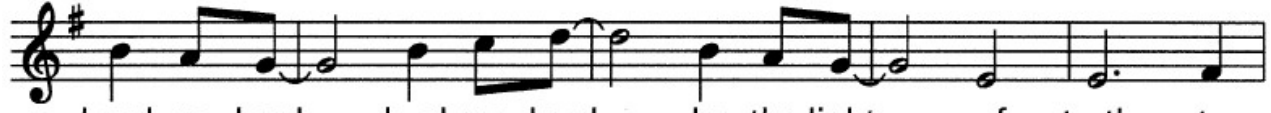


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

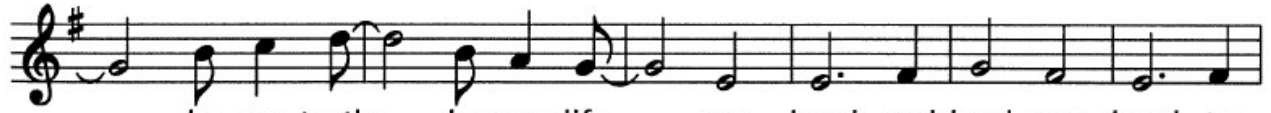
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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** "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

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Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor

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AUGUST 8, 2021

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

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

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

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11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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)

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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

It’s time for the second book study in our Trilogy of Book Studies! “The Book Of Longings: A Novel” – by Sue Monk Kidd is available at the library. Please join us in person in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.** for our book discussion! Register for a reminder here:

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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.

Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

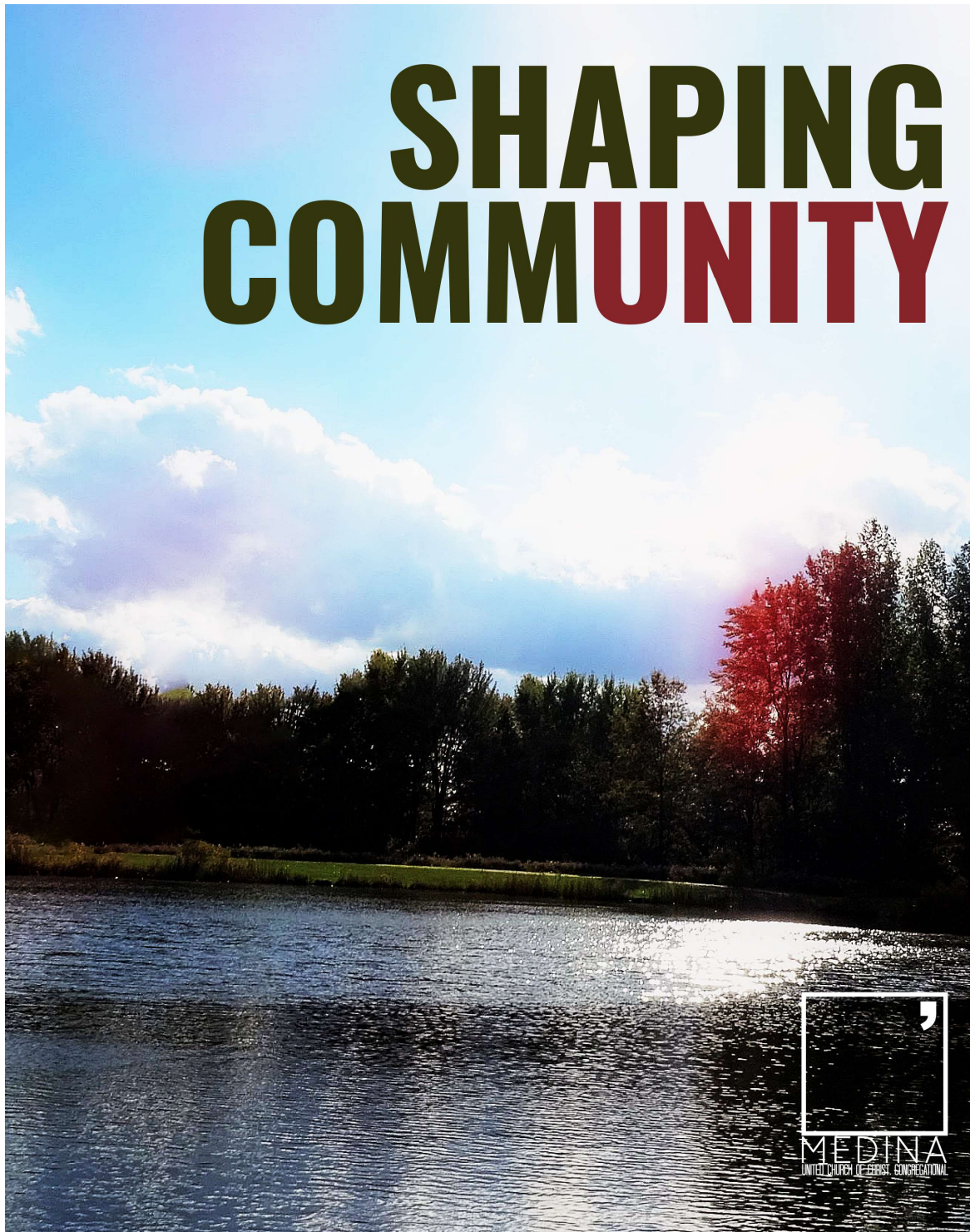
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

www.uccmedina.org



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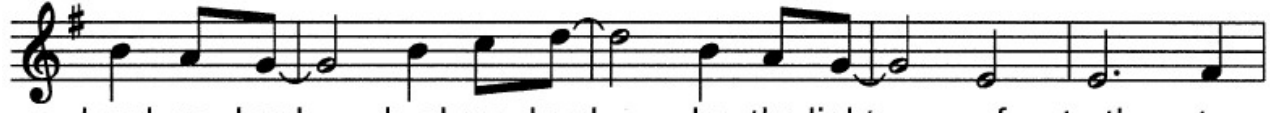


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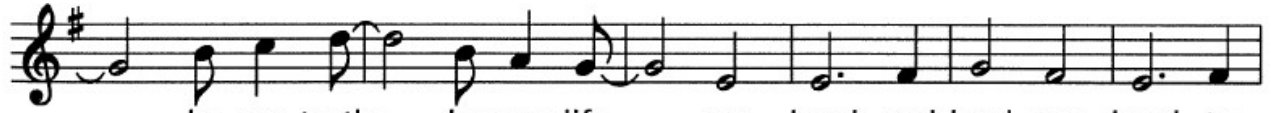
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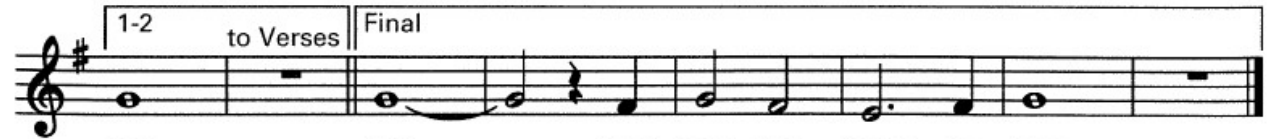
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2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

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Sermon: “Shaping Community”
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Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

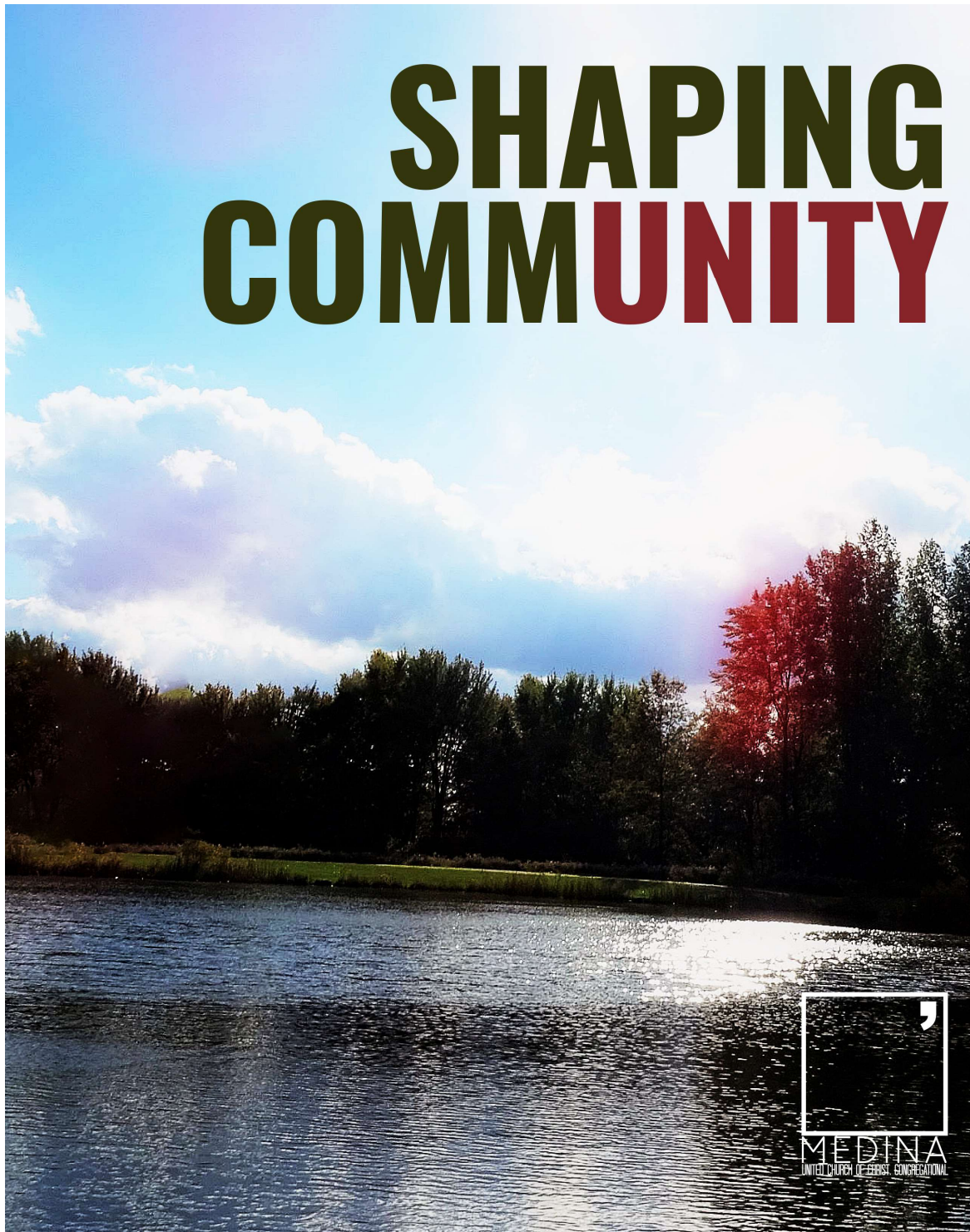
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

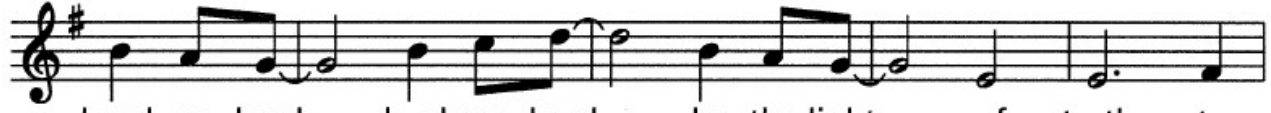


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

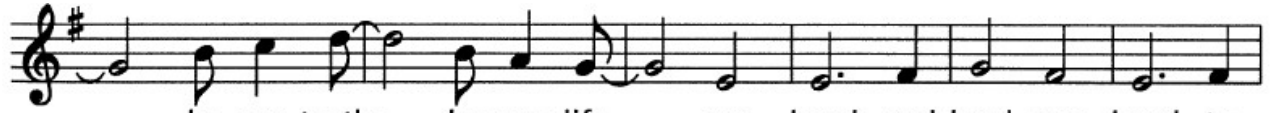
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 2021

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

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Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

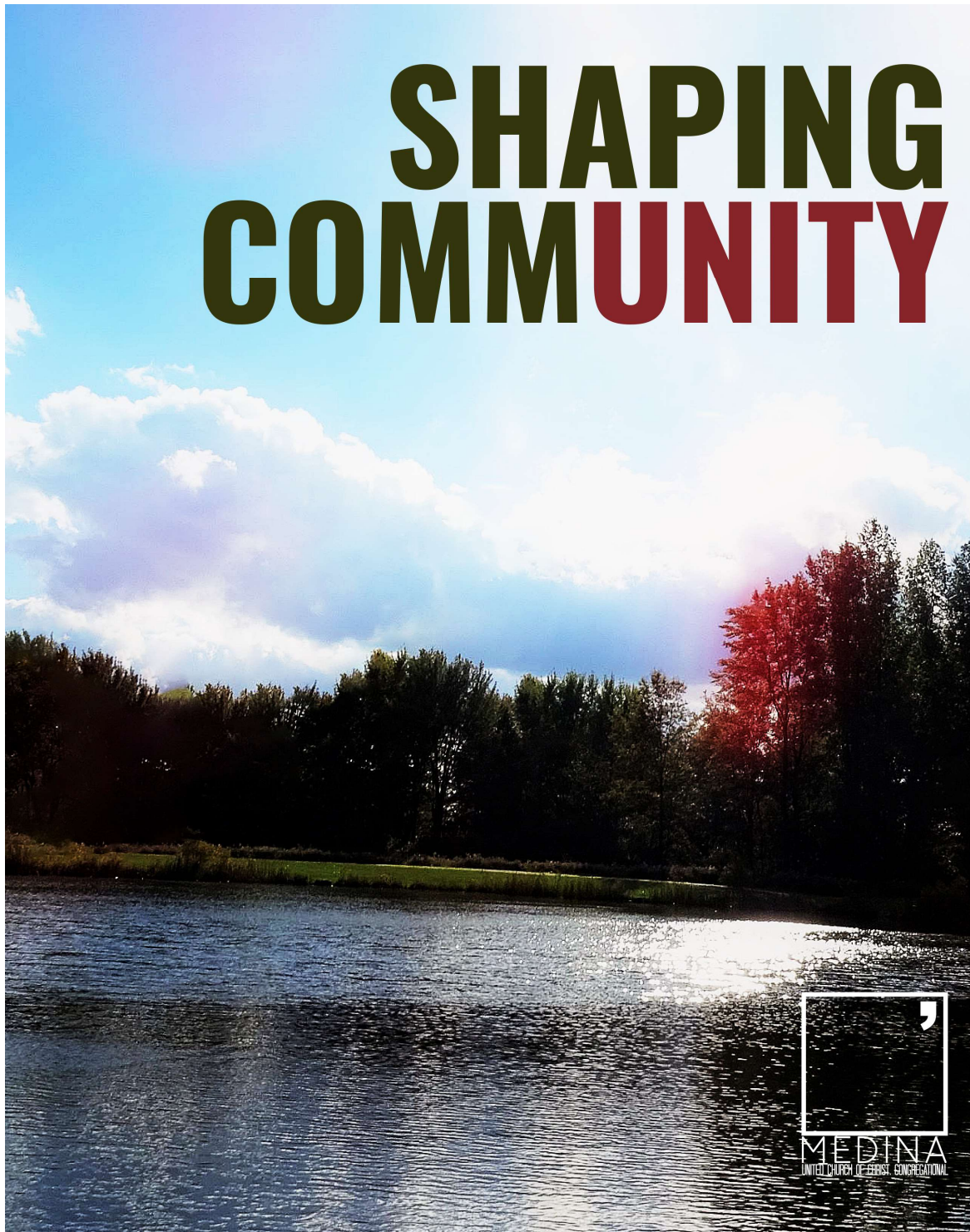
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From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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www.uccmedina.org



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“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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life-times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

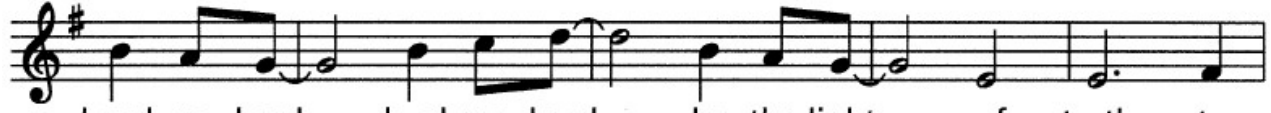


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

Refrain



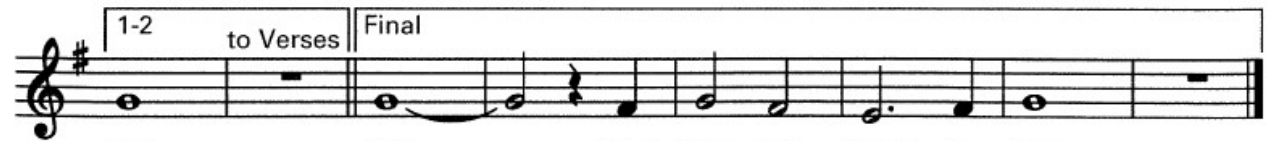
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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)

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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

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Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

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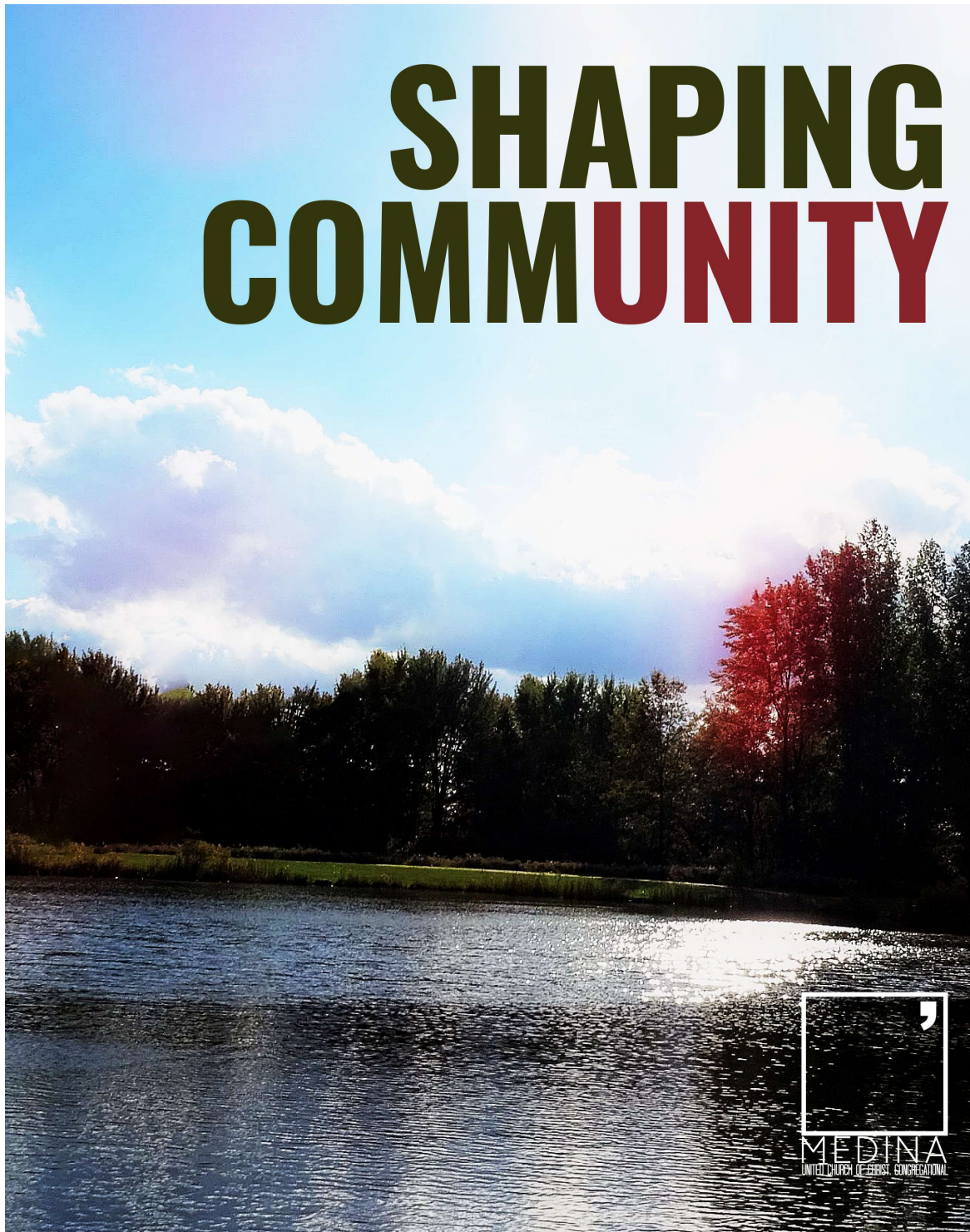
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PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

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1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

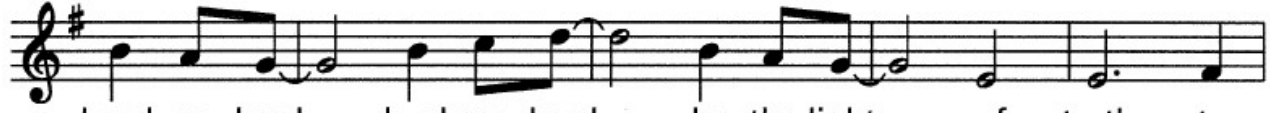


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

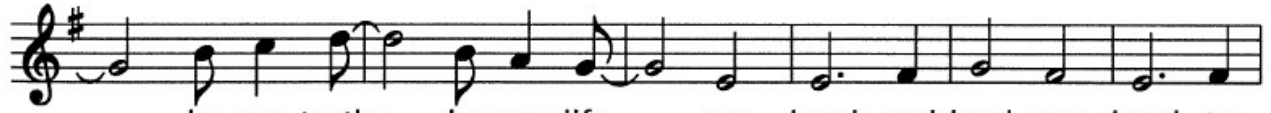
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Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



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One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

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*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

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We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

It’s time for the second book study in our Trilogy of Book Studies! “The Book Of Longings: A Novel” – by Sue Monk Kidd is available at the library. Please join us in person in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.** for our book discussion! Register for a reminder here:

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Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

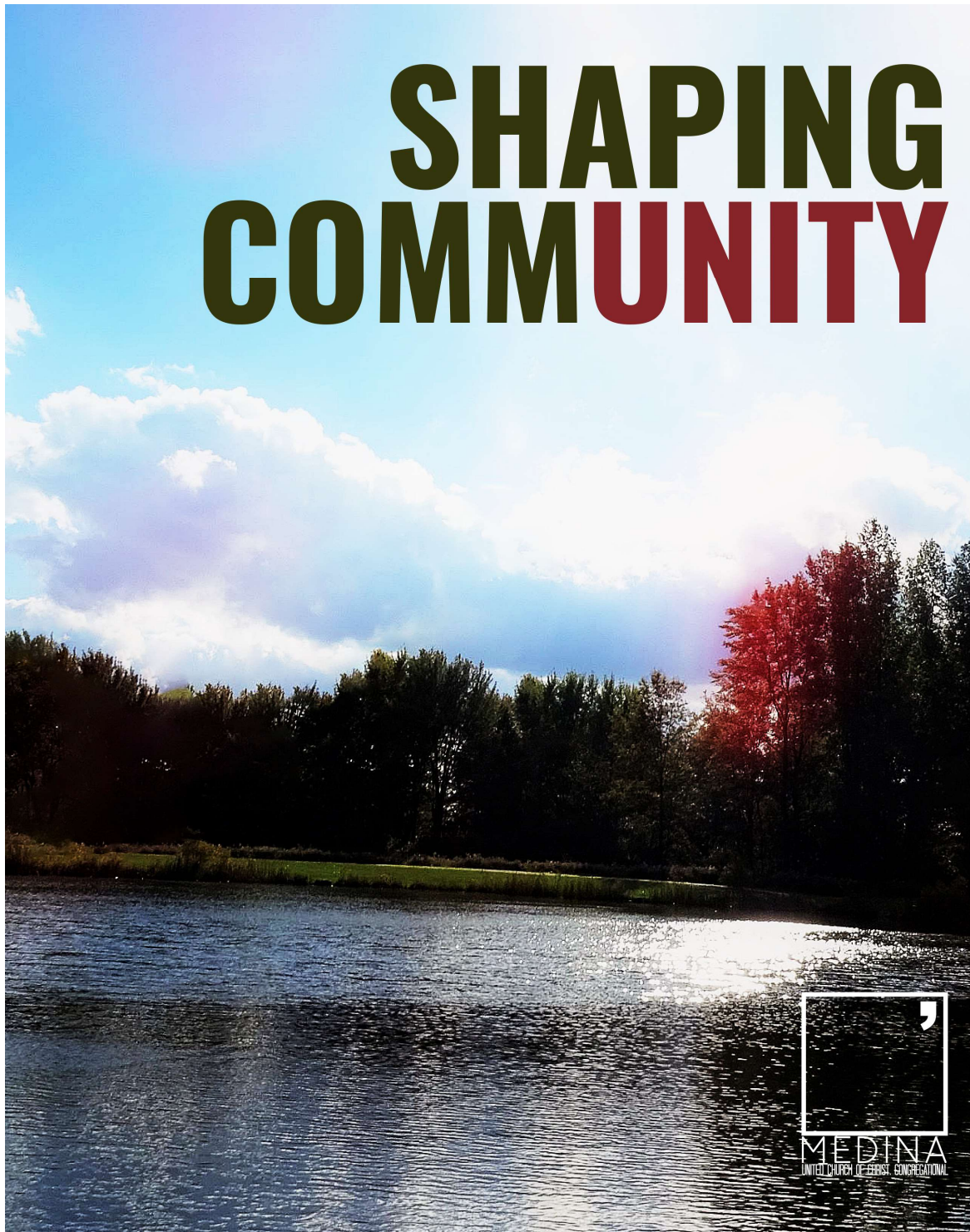
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



- Verses
1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
 2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
 3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

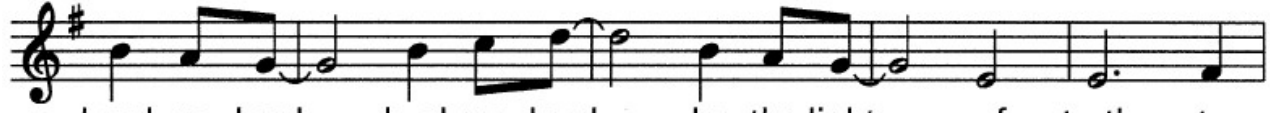


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

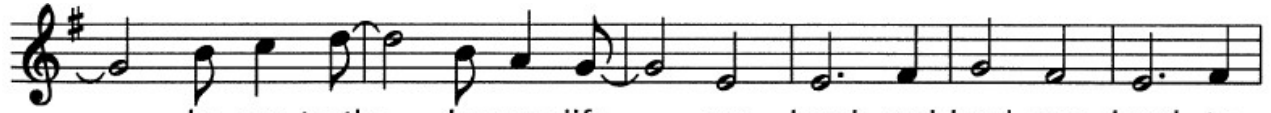
Refrain



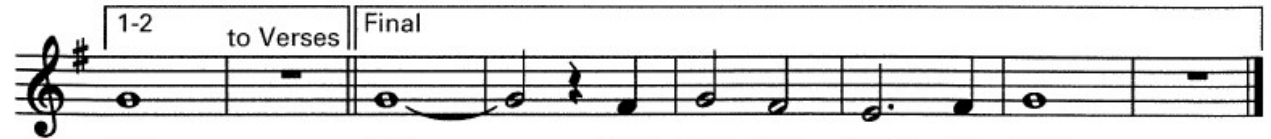
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

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Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true, whom we adore. Amen.

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1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

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PASTOR’S CORNER FOR AUGUST

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We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

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Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

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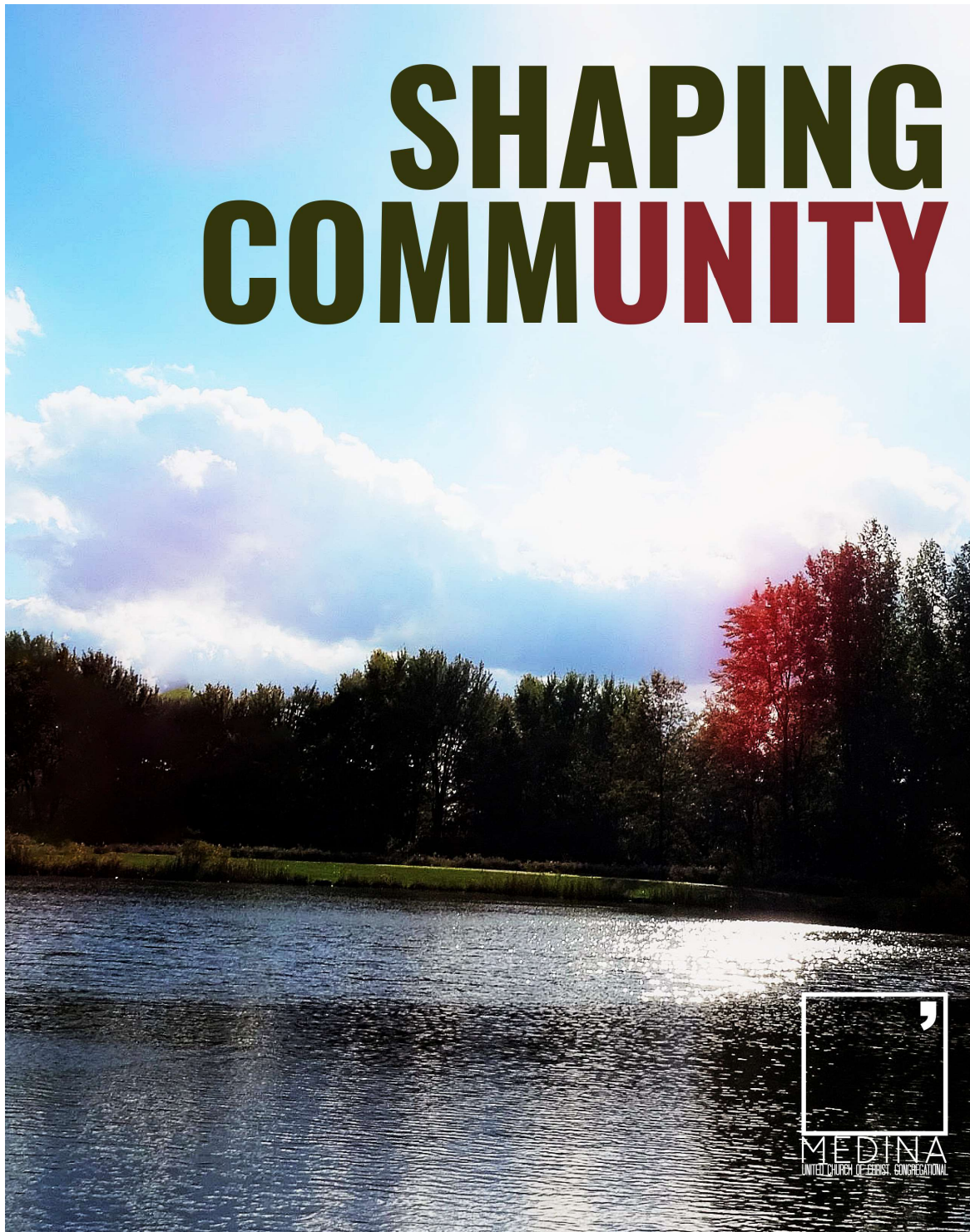
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SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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“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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



- Verses
1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
 2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
 3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

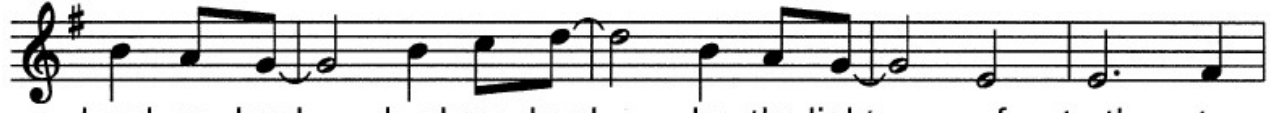


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

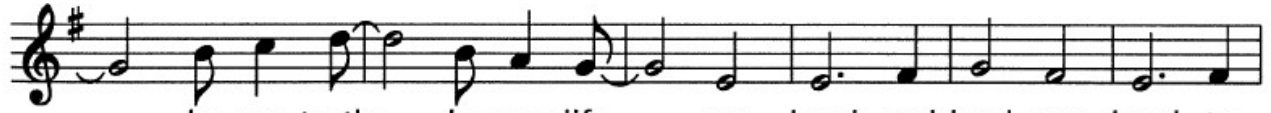
Refrain



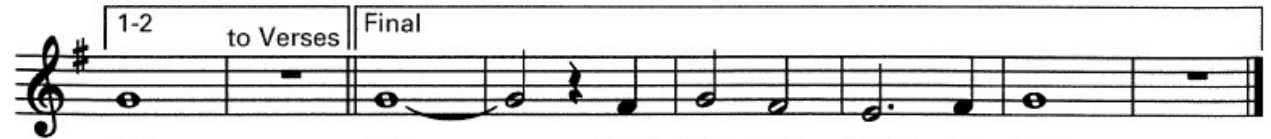
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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** "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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:

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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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

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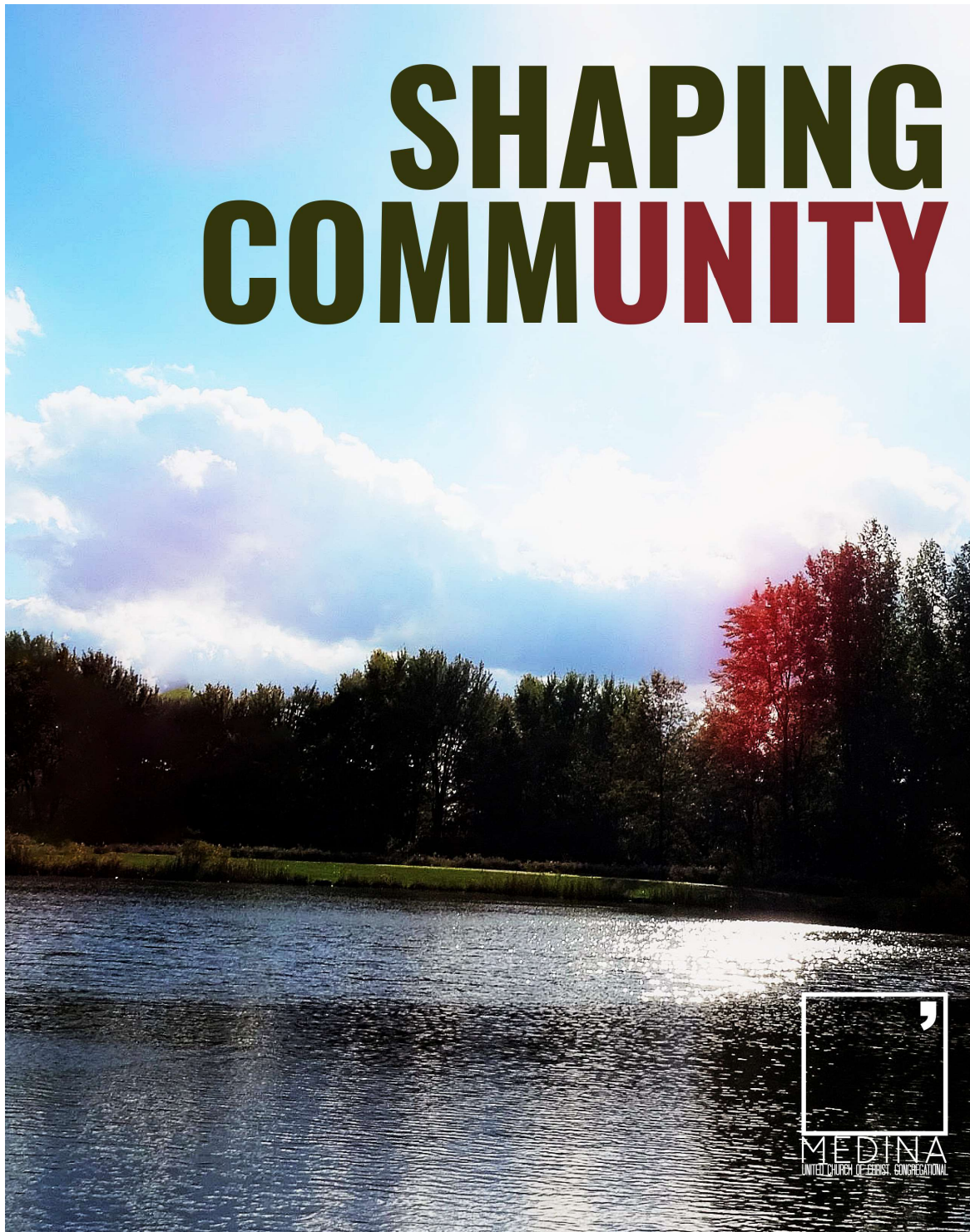
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Please take a moment to sign the friendship pads, (located at the end of each pew) so that you know who is worshipping near you and you may greet them by name.

**Those who are able please stand*

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

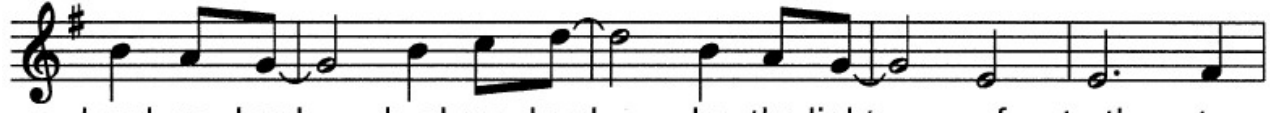


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

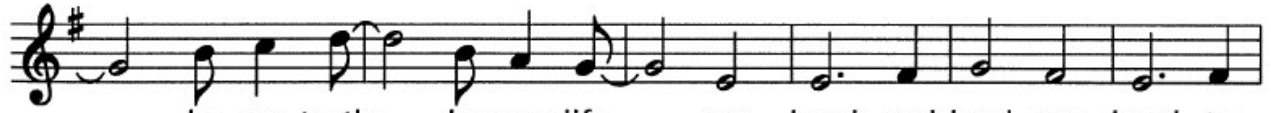
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

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AUGUST 8, 2021

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

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

Mon

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7:00 pm Worship Team Meeting

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
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11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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)

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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

It’s time for the second book study in our Trilogy of Book Studies! “The Book Of Longings: A Novel” – by Sue Monk Kidd is available at the library. Please join us in person in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.** for our book discussion! Register for a reminder here:

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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.

Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

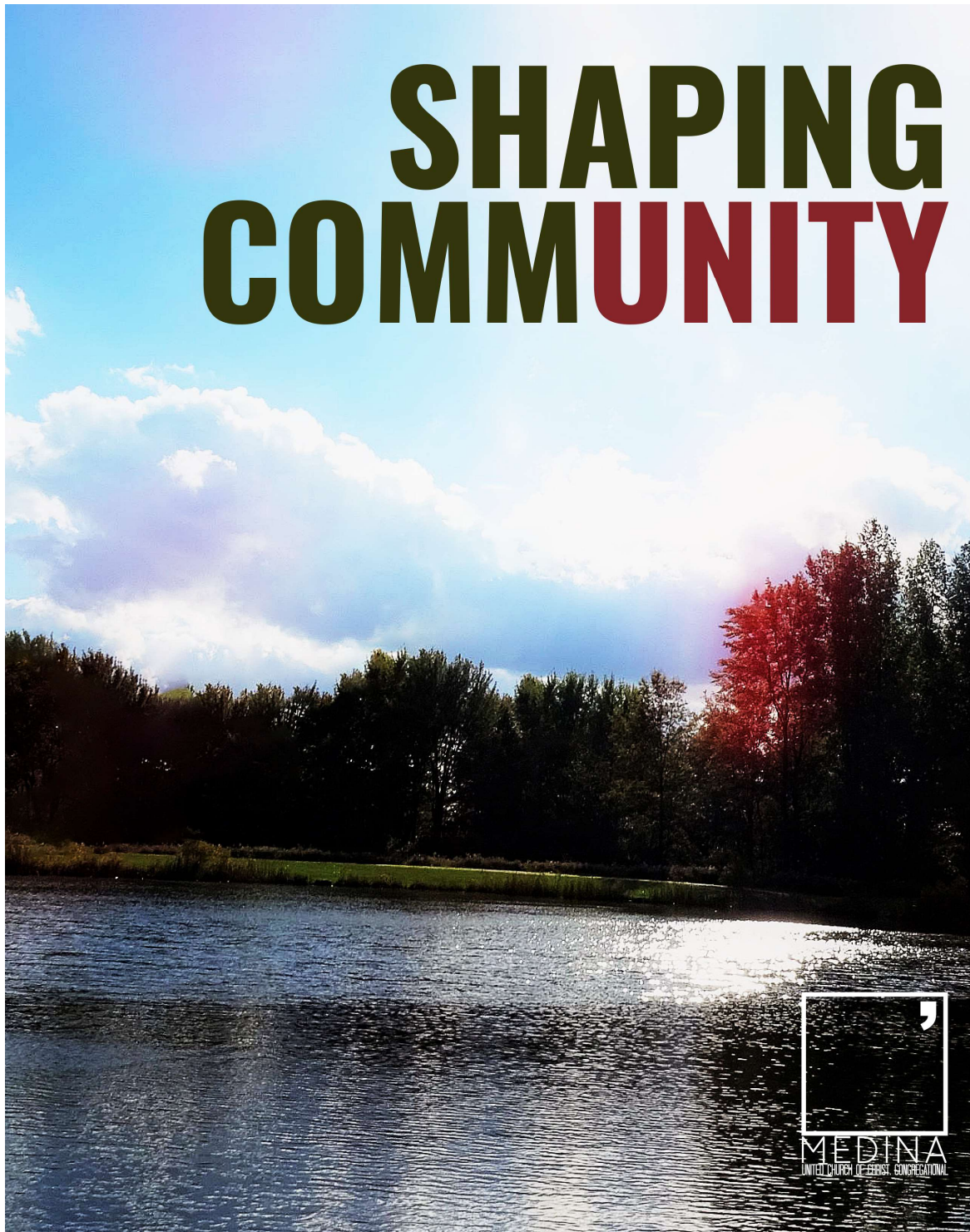
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

www.uccmedina.org



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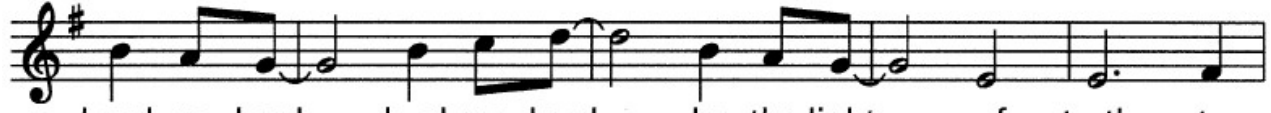


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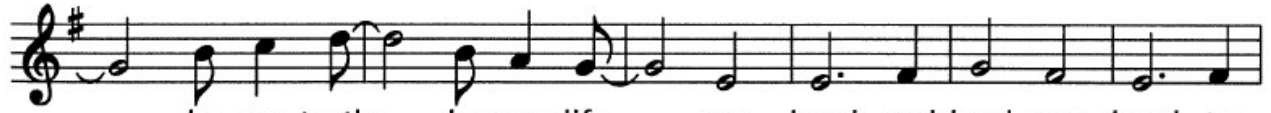
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2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
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Worship & Picnic

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

Plan to join us and bring your family and friends!
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Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

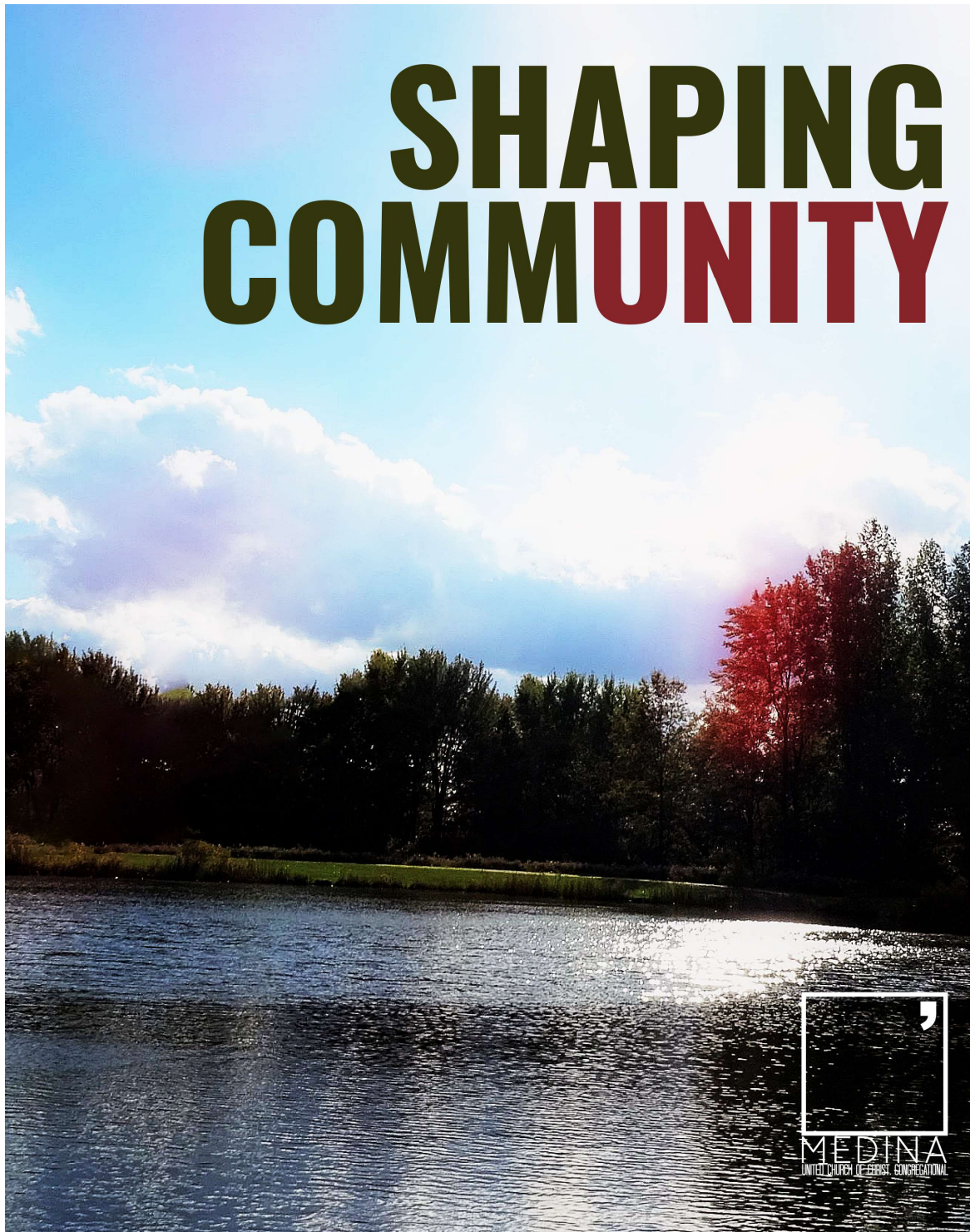
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafarak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

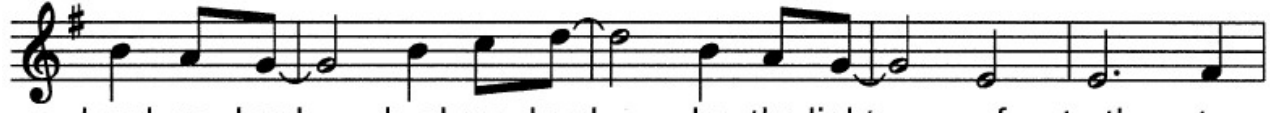


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

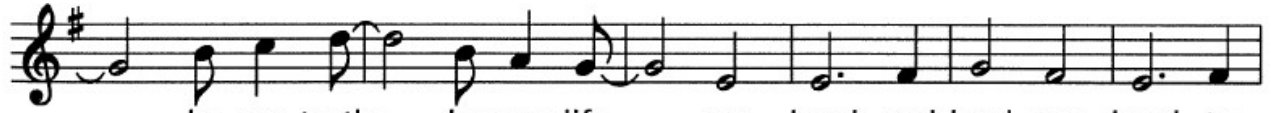
Refrain



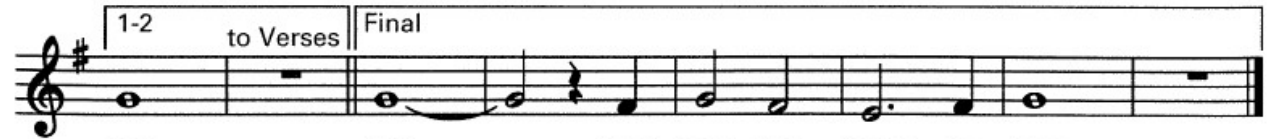
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plo - re.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 2021

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

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Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

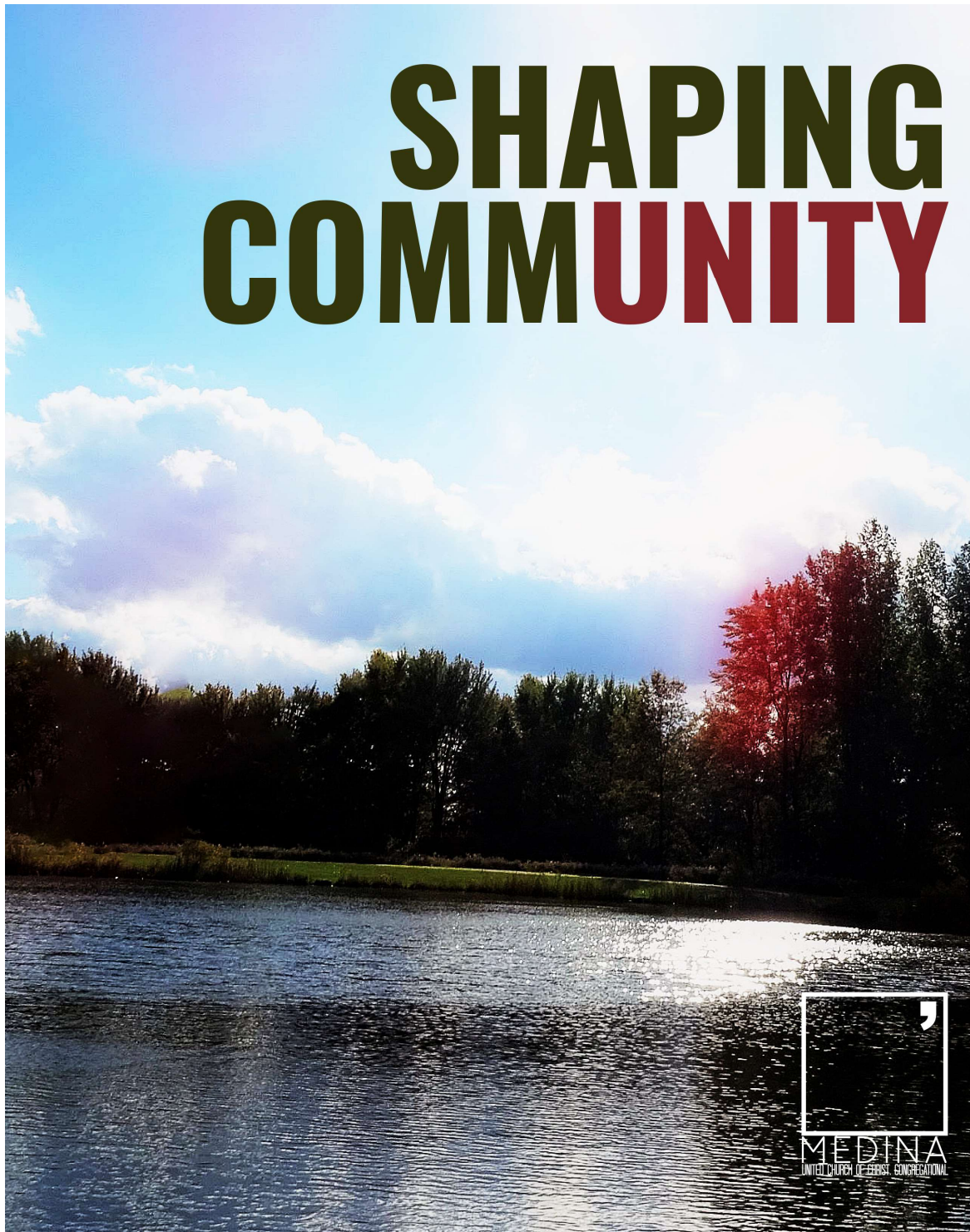
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

www.uccmedina.org



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“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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



- Verses
1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
 2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
 3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

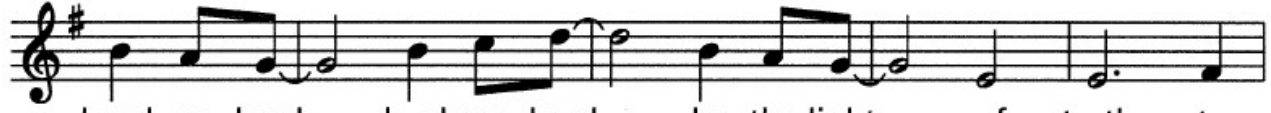


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

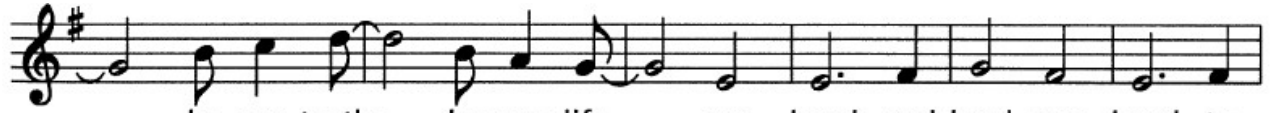
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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)

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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

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Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

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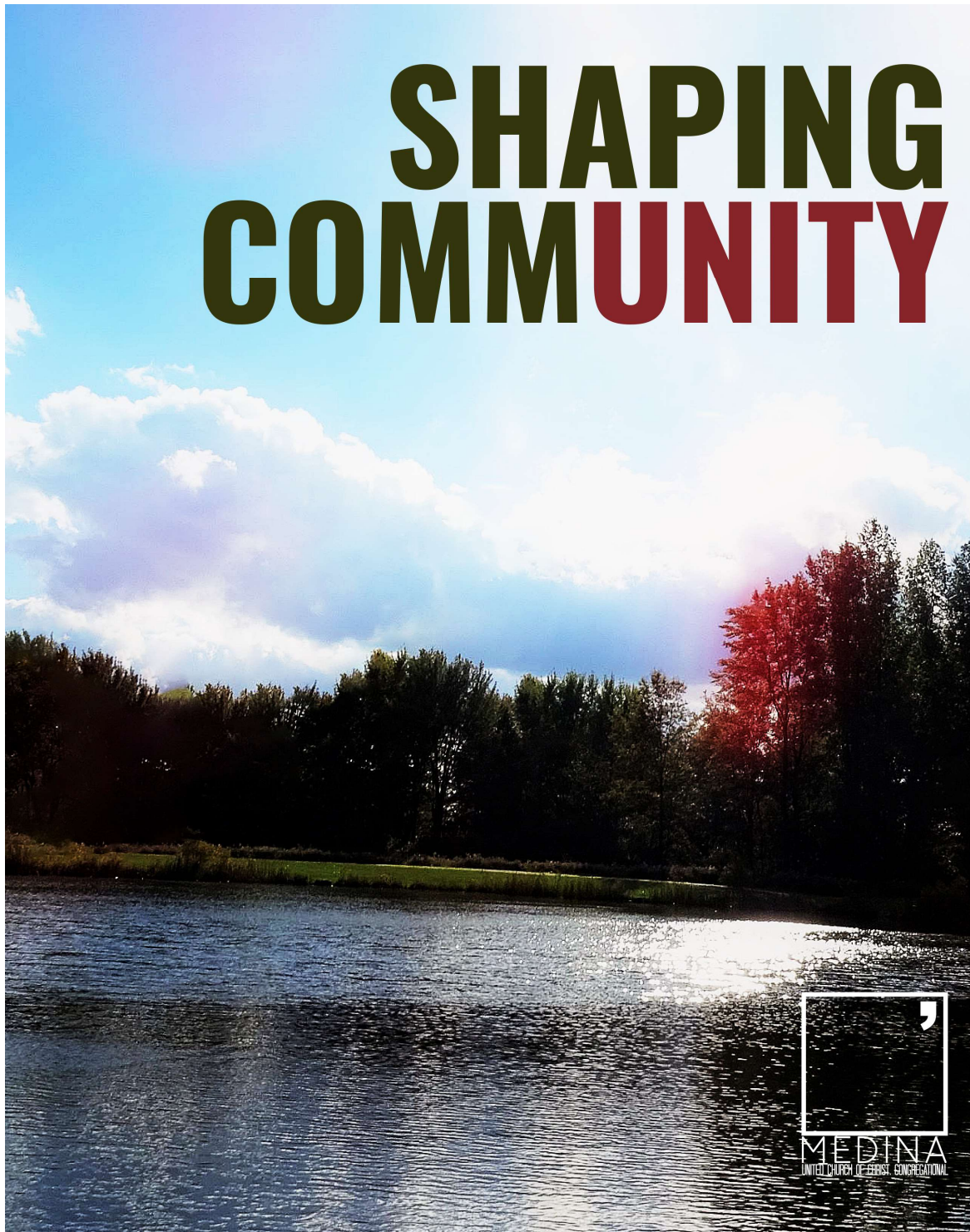
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Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

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Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



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2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

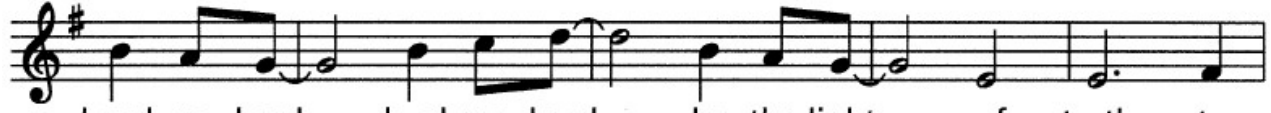


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

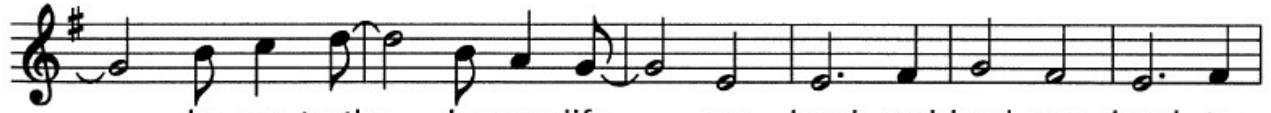
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Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

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Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

It’s time for the second book study in our Trilogy of Book Studies! “The Book Of Longings: A Novel” – by Sue Monk Kidd is available at the library. Please join us in person in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.** for our book discussion! Register for a reminder here:

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Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

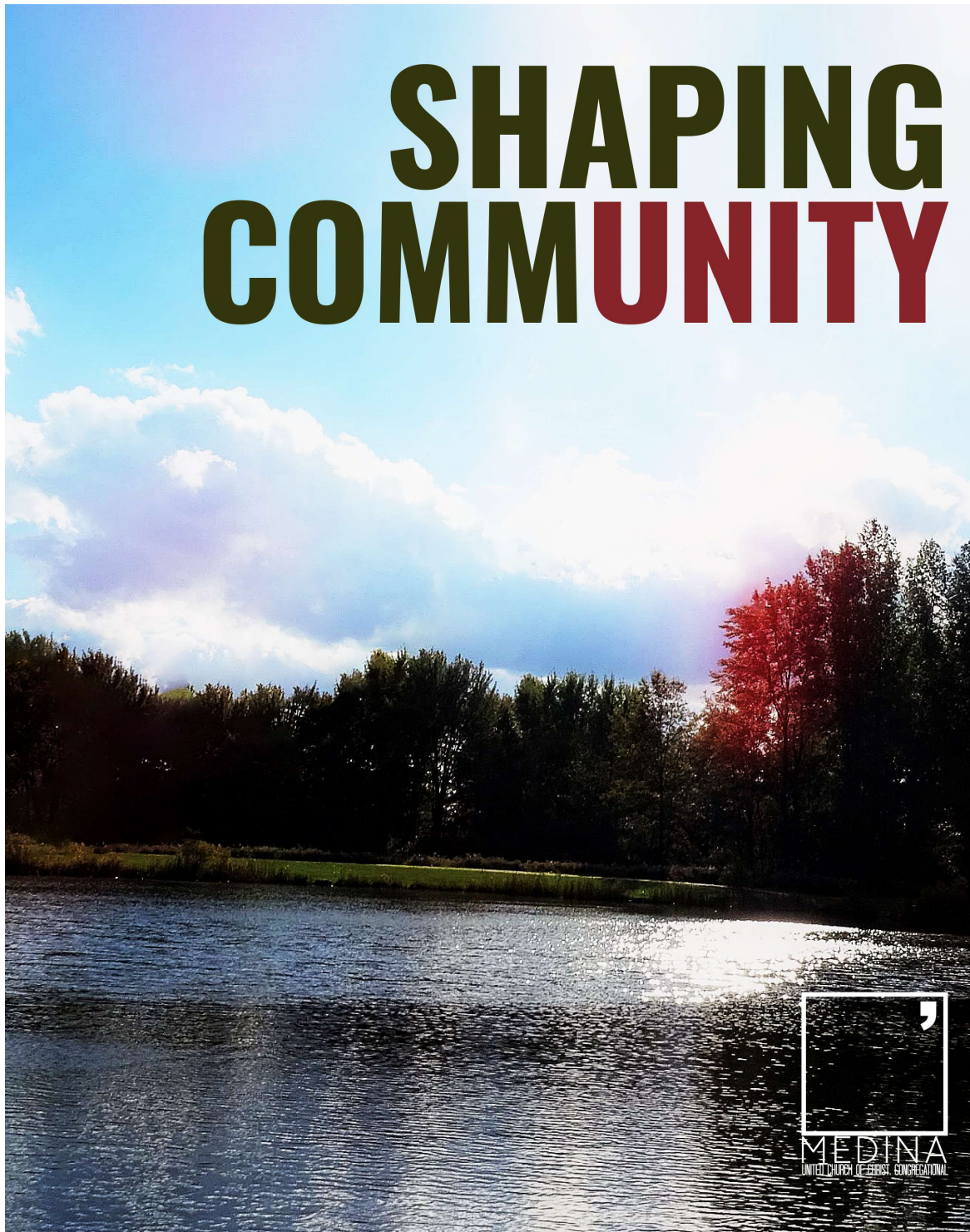
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

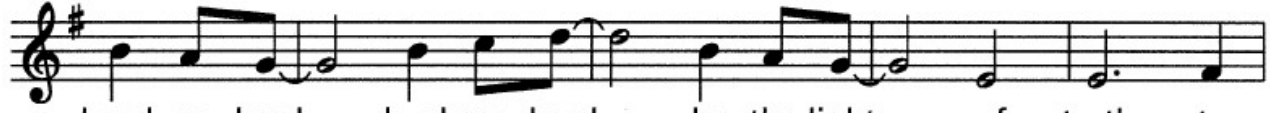


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

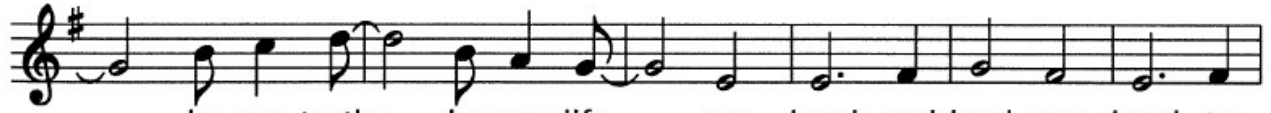
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

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3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plo - re.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

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PASTOR’S CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

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Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

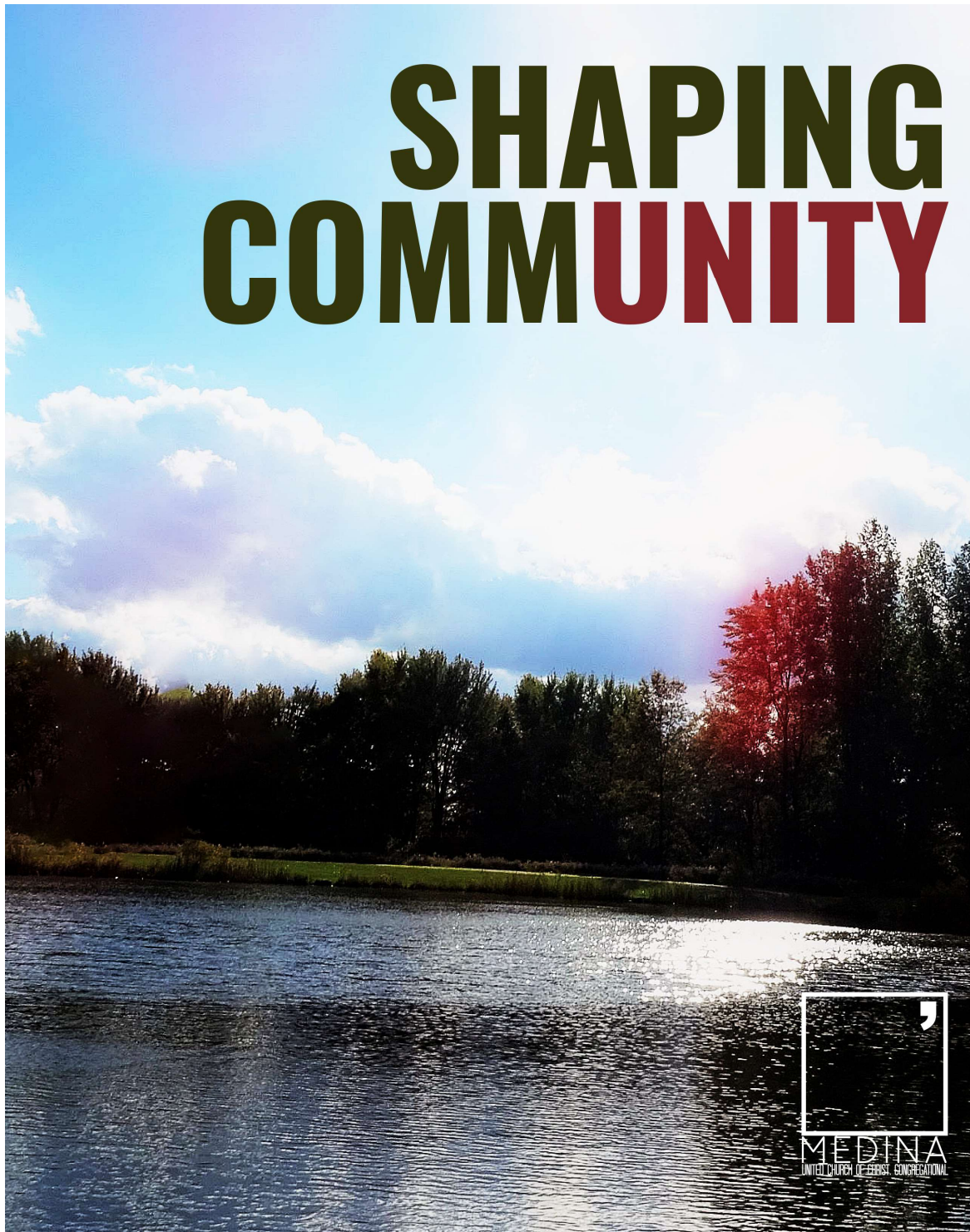
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SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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**Those who are able please stand*

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafarak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

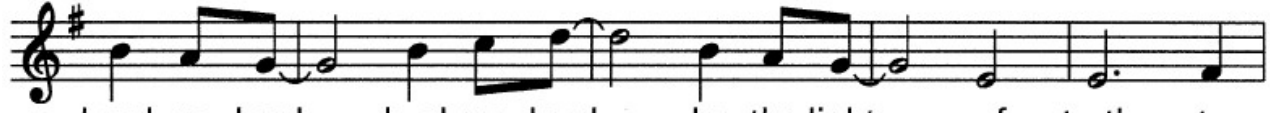


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

Refrain



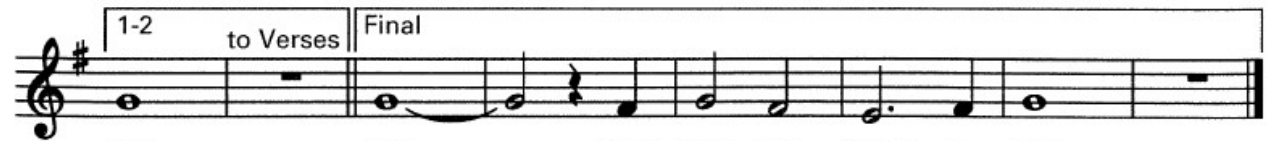
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and abiding, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plo - re.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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:

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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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

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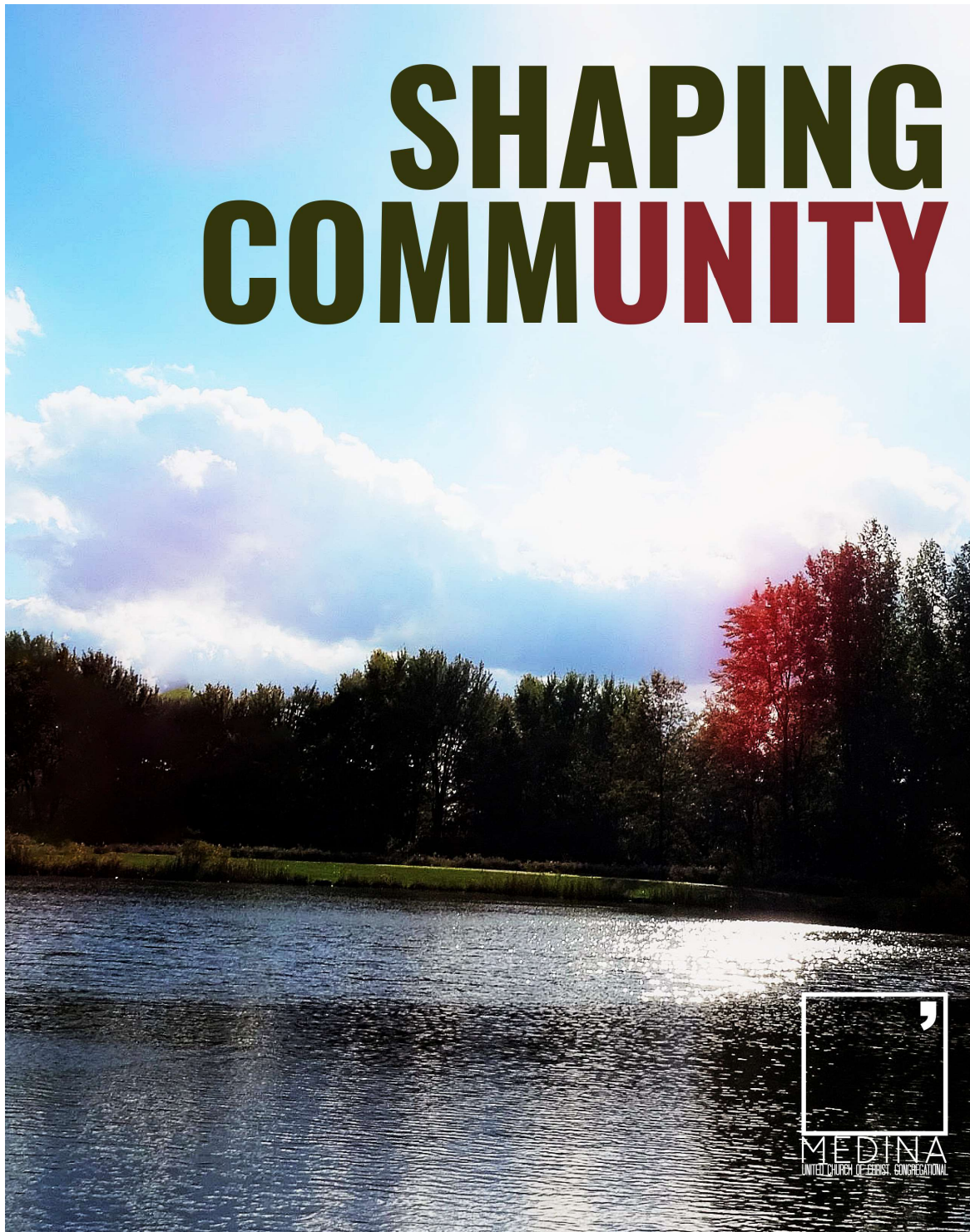
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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

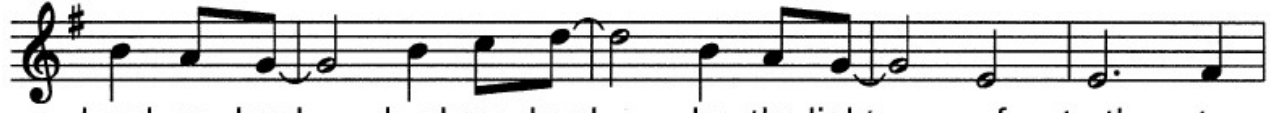


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

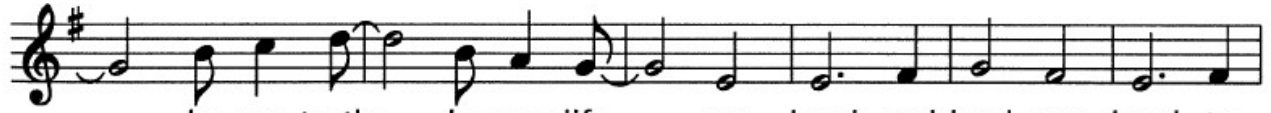
Refrain



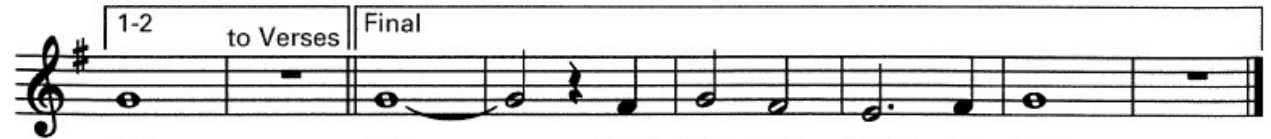
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plo - re.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

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Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor

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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 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
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11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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)

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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

It’s time for the second book study in our Trilogy of Book Studies! “The Book Of Longings: A Novel” – by Sue Monk Kidd is available at the library. Please join us in person in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.** for our book discussion! Register for a reminder here:

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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.

Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

**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**

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

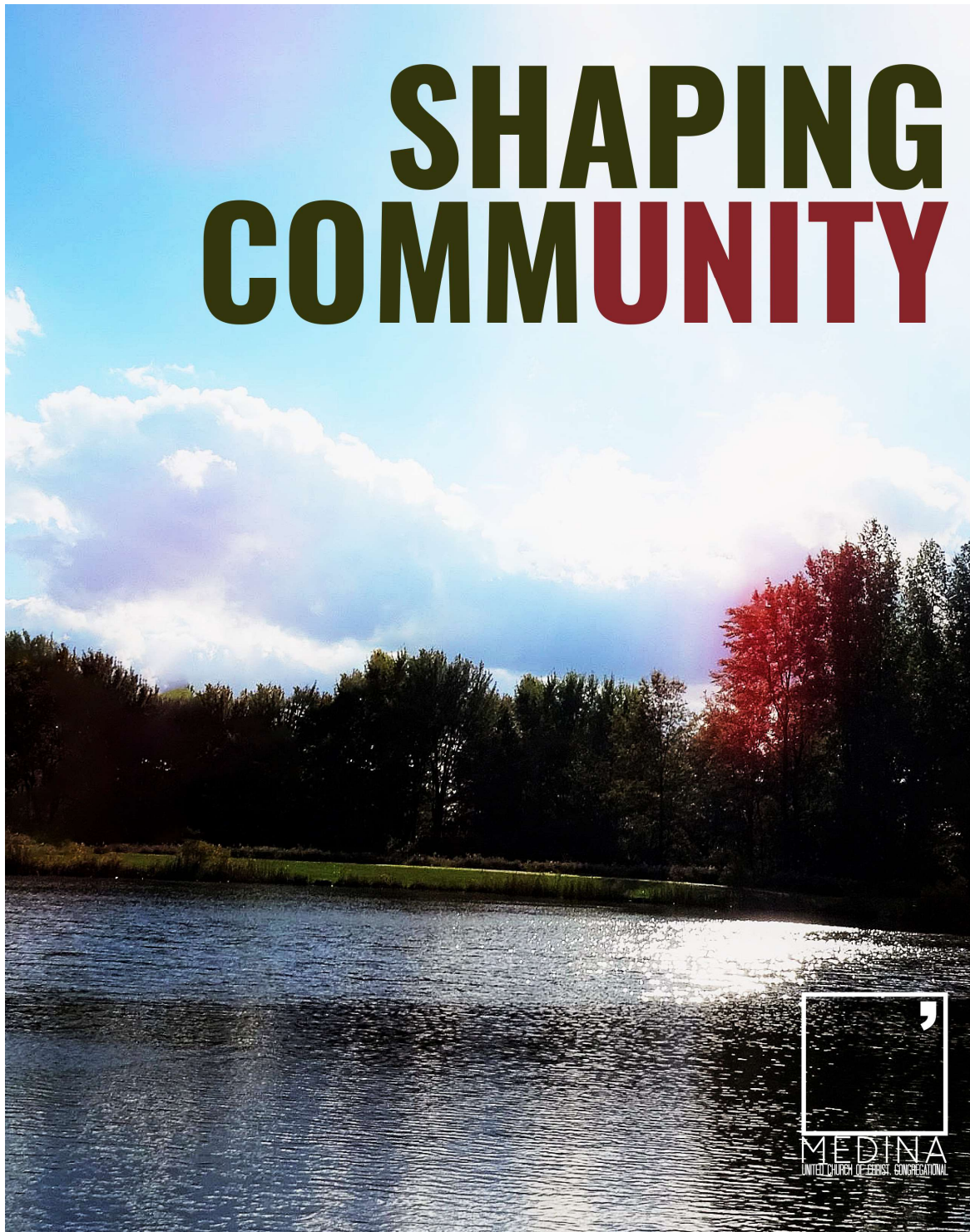
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

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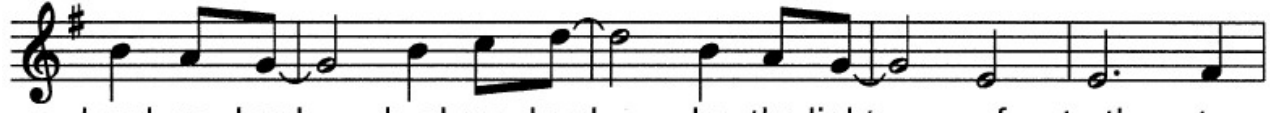


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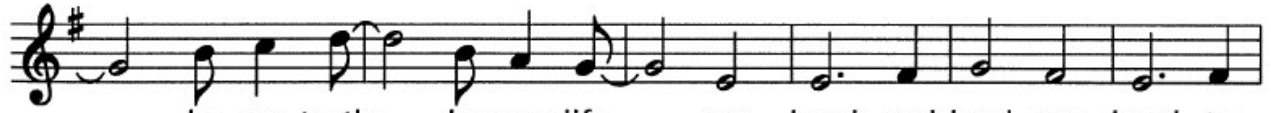
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Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



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2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plo - re.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

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Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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**Mark your calendars now for
the 14th annual
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Worship & Picnic

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

Plan to join us and bring your family and friends!
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Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

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Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

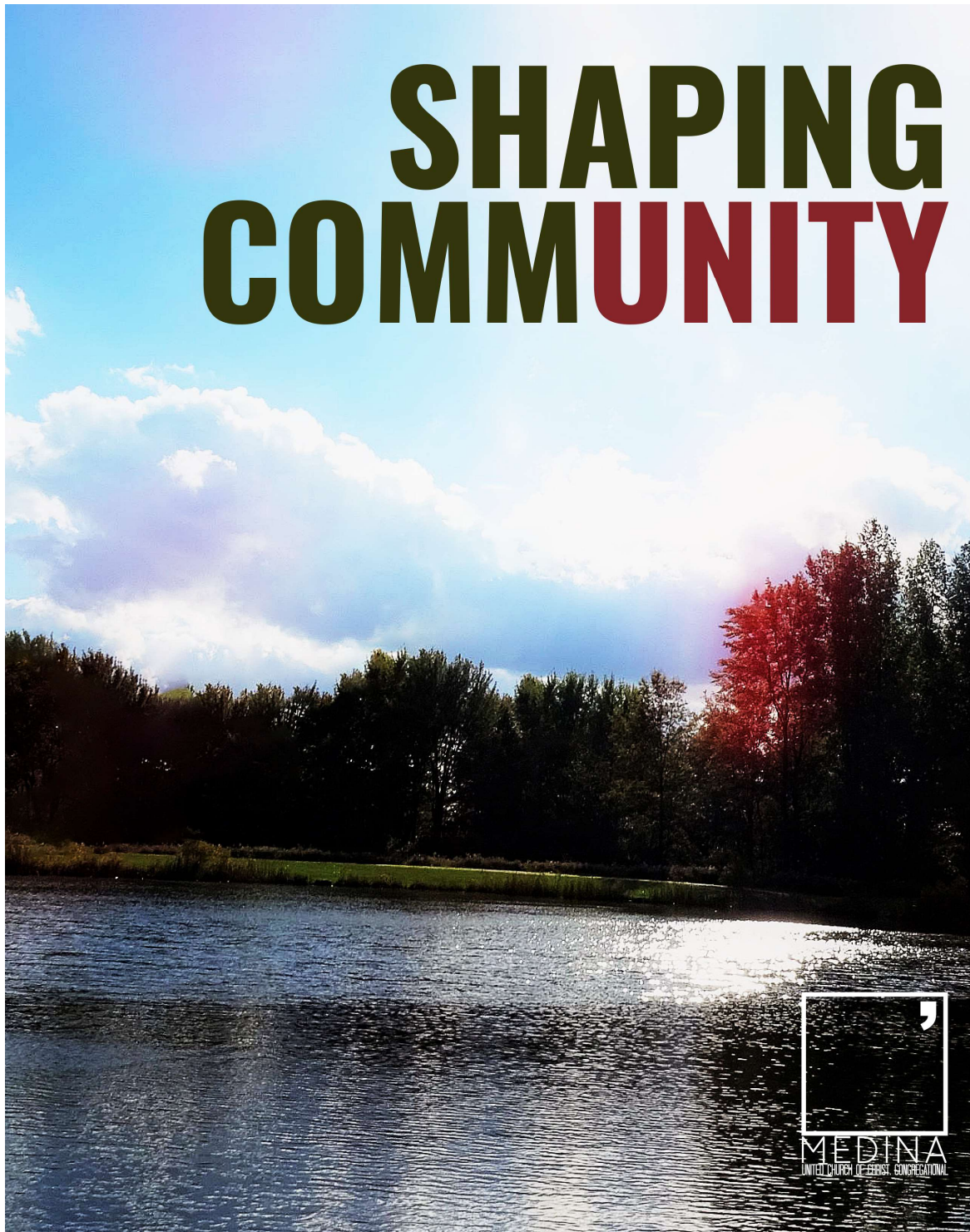
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

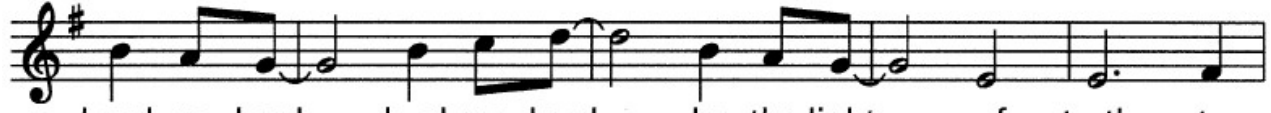


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

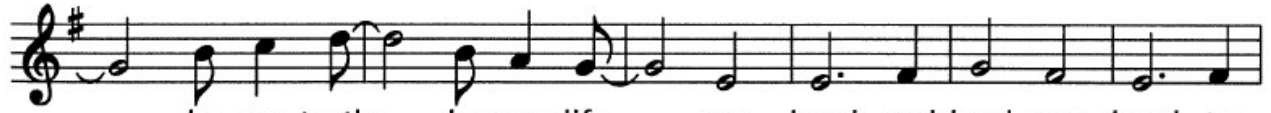
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 2021

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

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Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

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The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

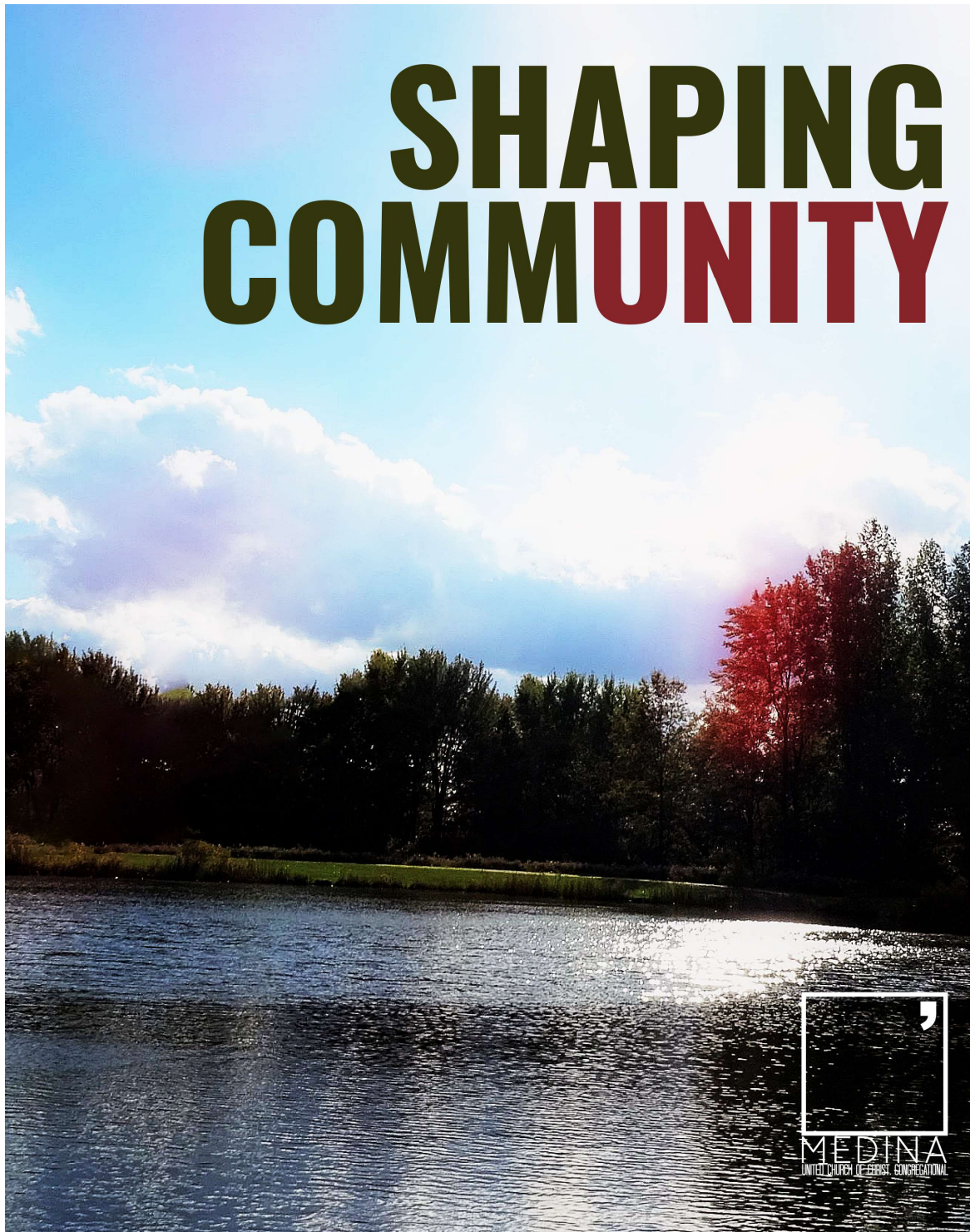
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If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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www.uccmedina.org



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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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



- Verses
1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
 2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
 3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

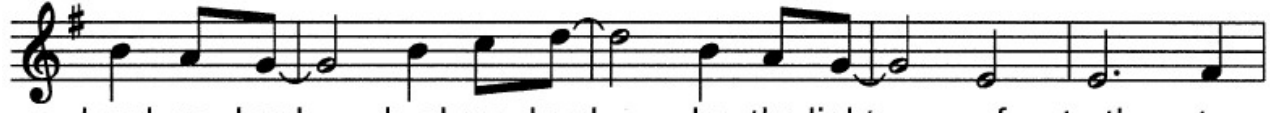


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

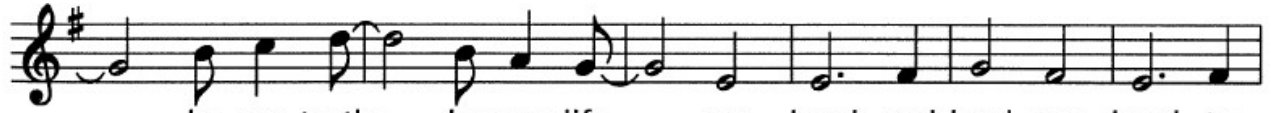
Refrain



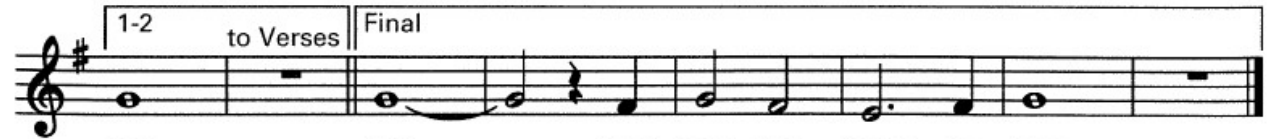
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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)

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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

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Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

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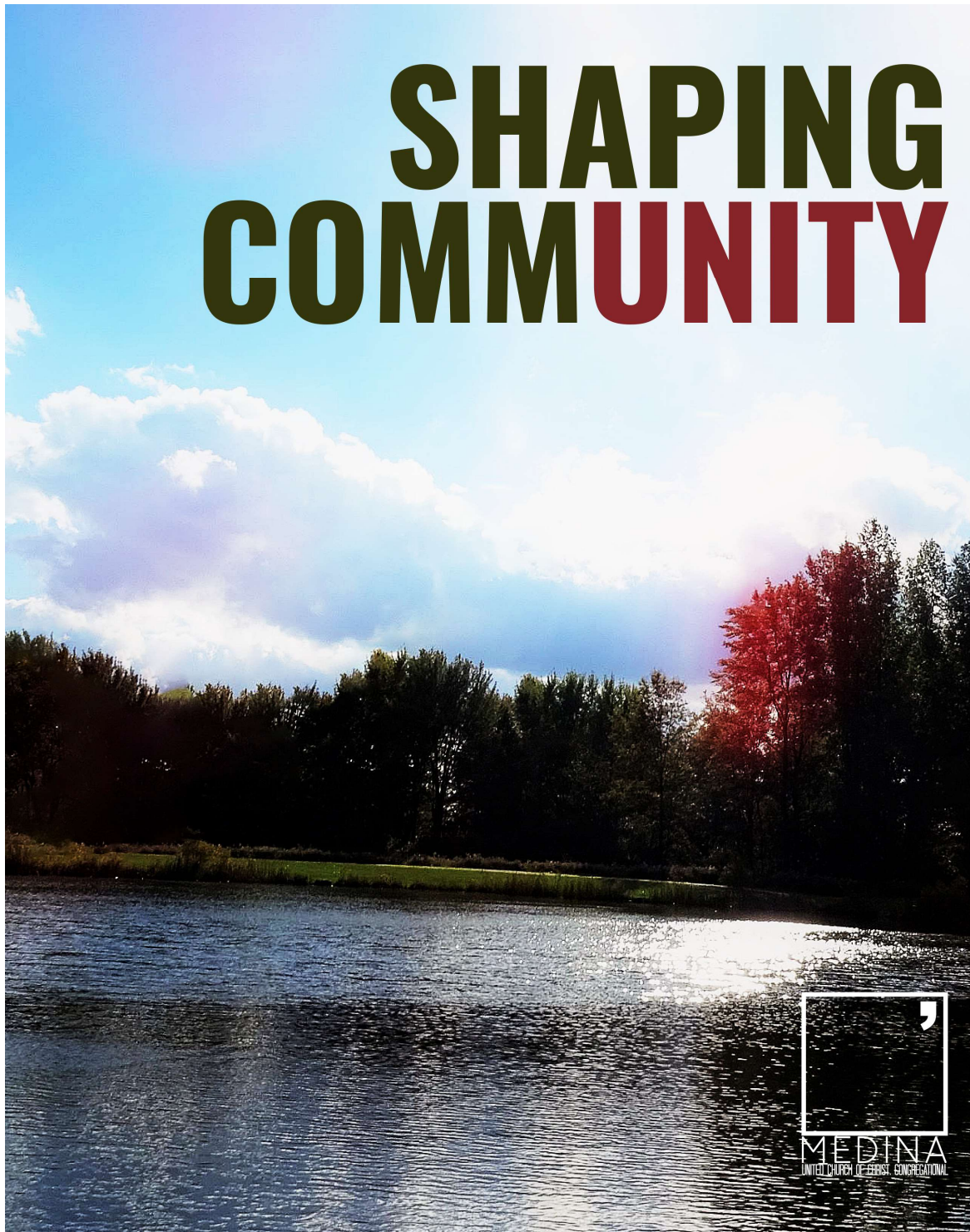
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Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



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2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

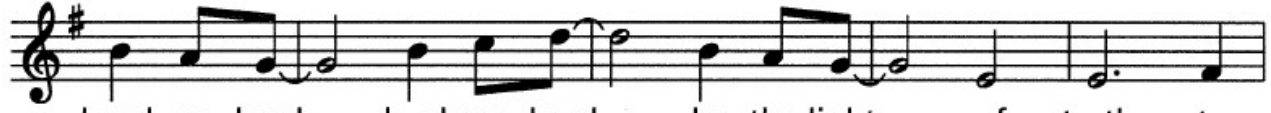


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

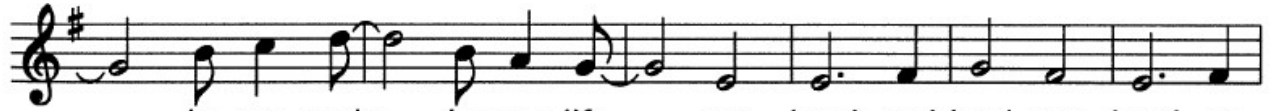
Refrain



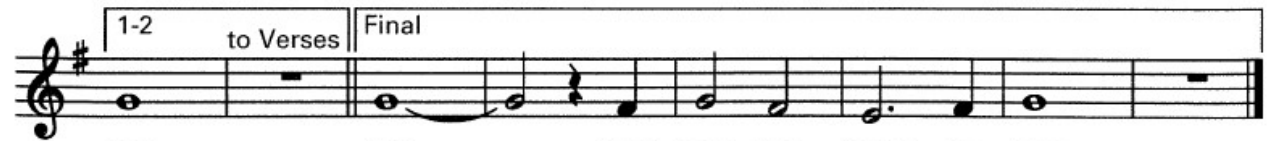
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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

SERMON "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plo - re.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

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AUGUST 8, 2021

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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9:00 am Gathering Worship
10:30 am Traditional Worship

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

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

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The jars will be in the East Room for pick-up.

Please take a jar and add your name to 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

It’s time for the second book study in our Trilogy of Book Studies! “The Book Of Longings: A Novel” – by Sue Monk Kidd is available at the library. Please join us in person in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.** for our book discussion! Register for a reminder here:

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Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

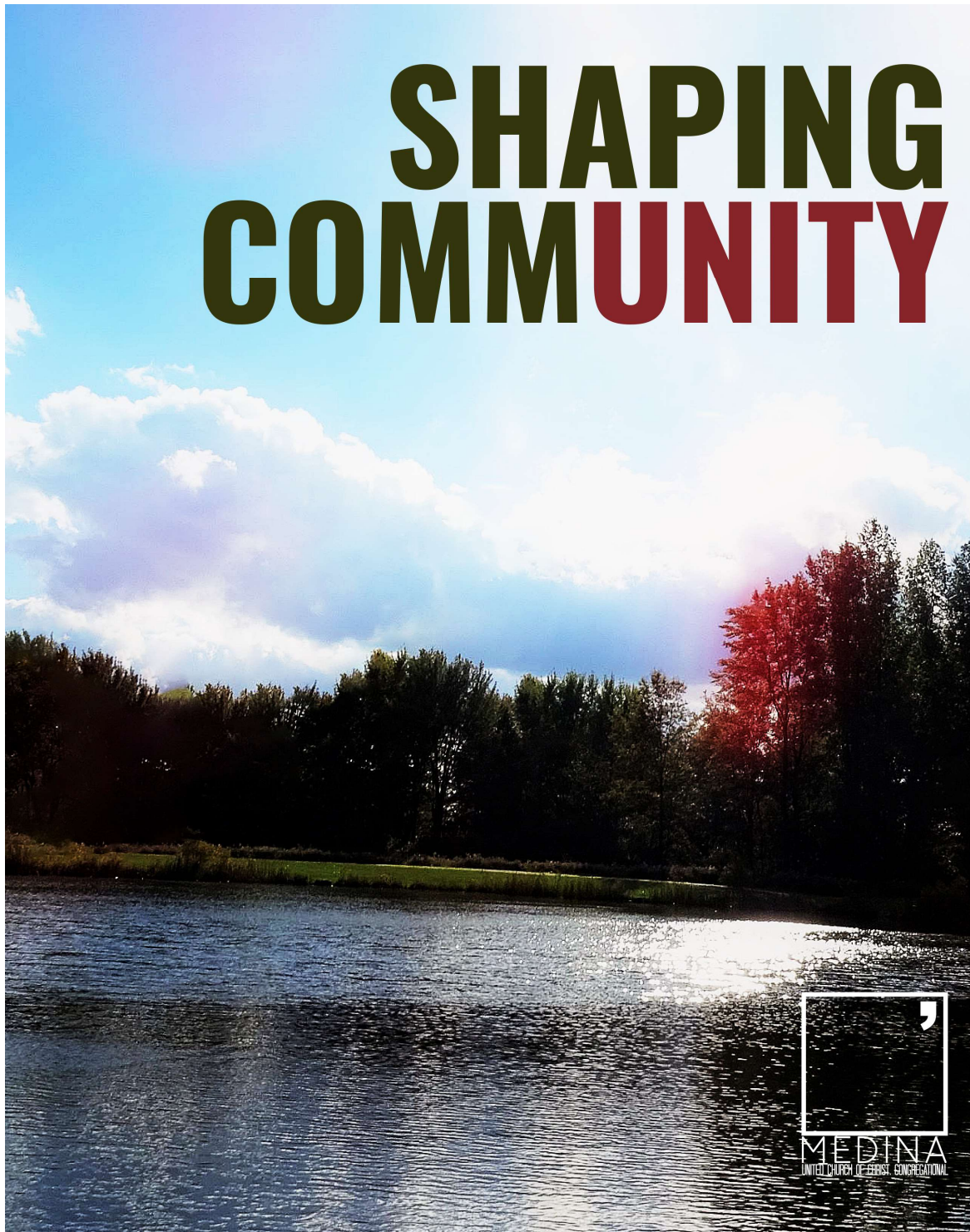
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life-times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

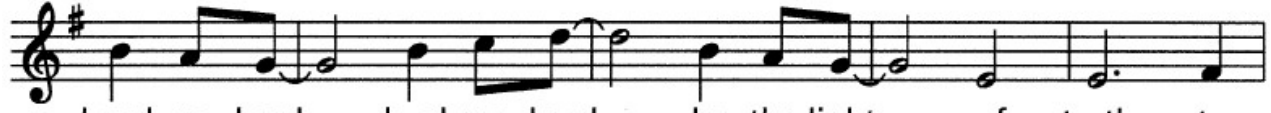


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

Refrain



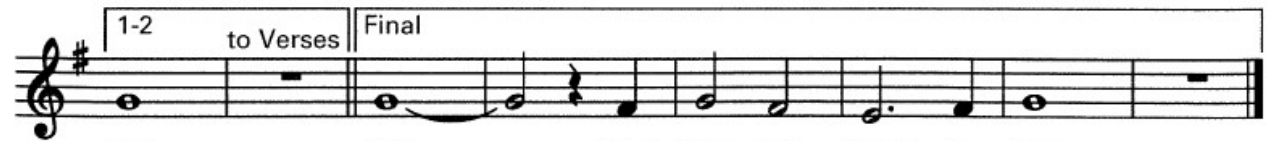
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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.

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2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

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We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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PASTOR’S CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

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Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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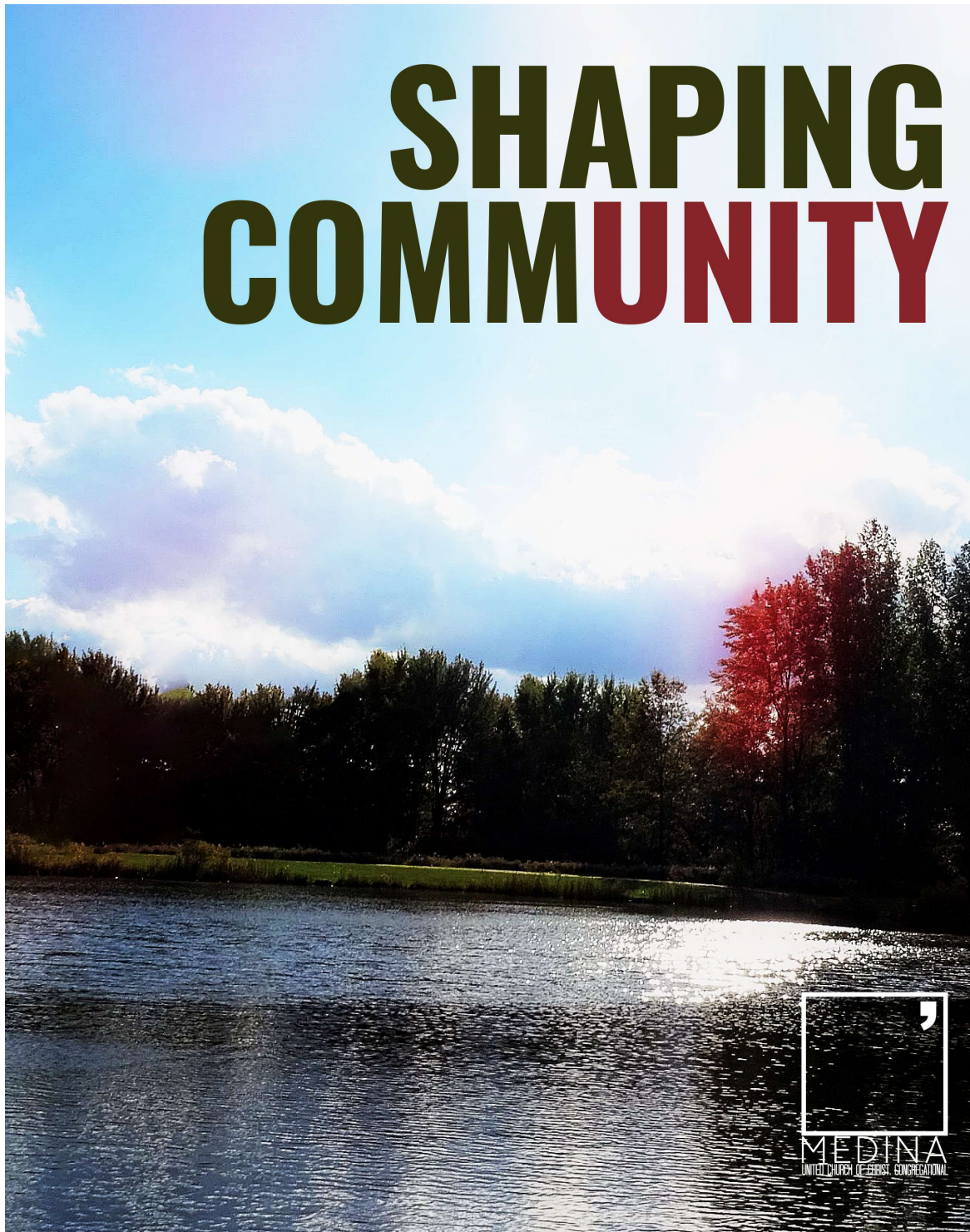
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SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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www.uccmedina.org



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“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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

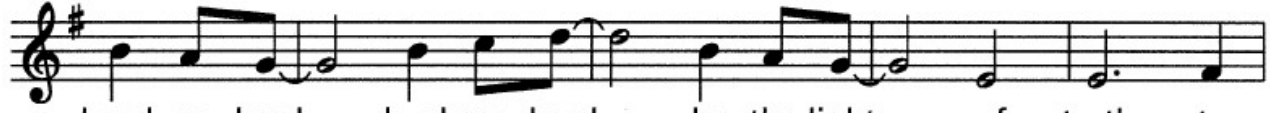


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

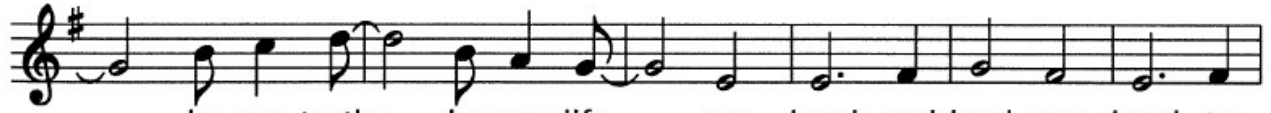
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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** "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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:

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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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 sign up sheet.

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

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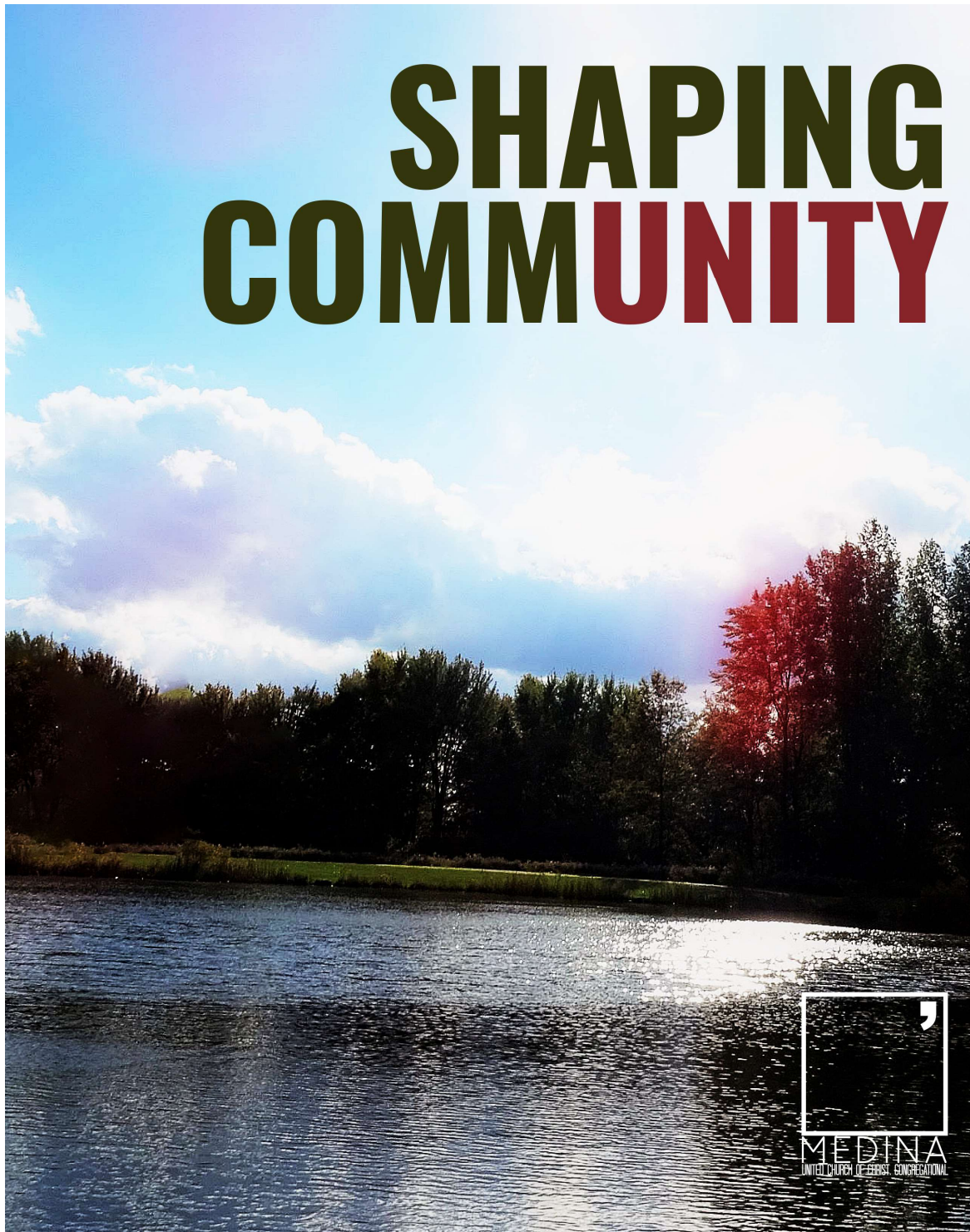
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Please take a moment to sign the friendship pads, (located at the end of each pew) so that you know who is worshipping near you and you may greet them by name.

**Those who are able please stand*

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

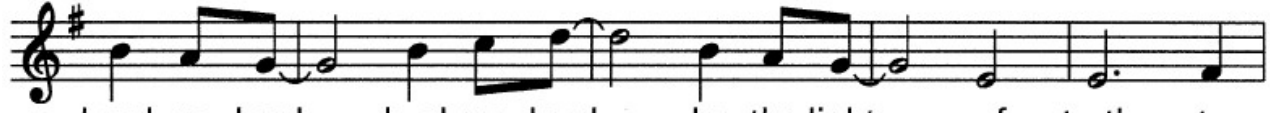


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

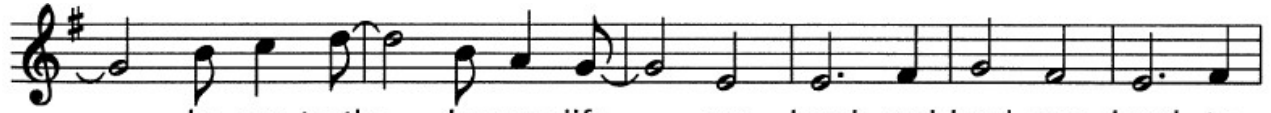
Refrain



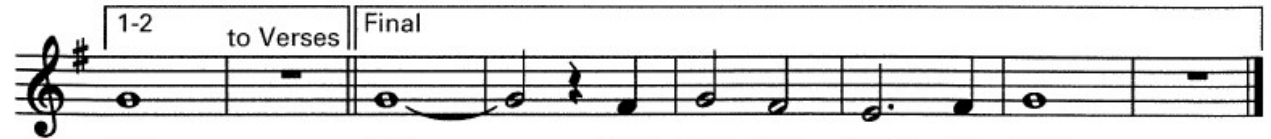
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plo - re.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

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Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor

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AUGUST 8, 2021

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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)

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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

It’s time for the second book study in our Trilogy of Book Studies! “The Book Of Longings: A Novel” – by Sue Monk Kidd is available at the library. Please join us in person in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.** for our book discussion! Register for a reminder here:

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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.

Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

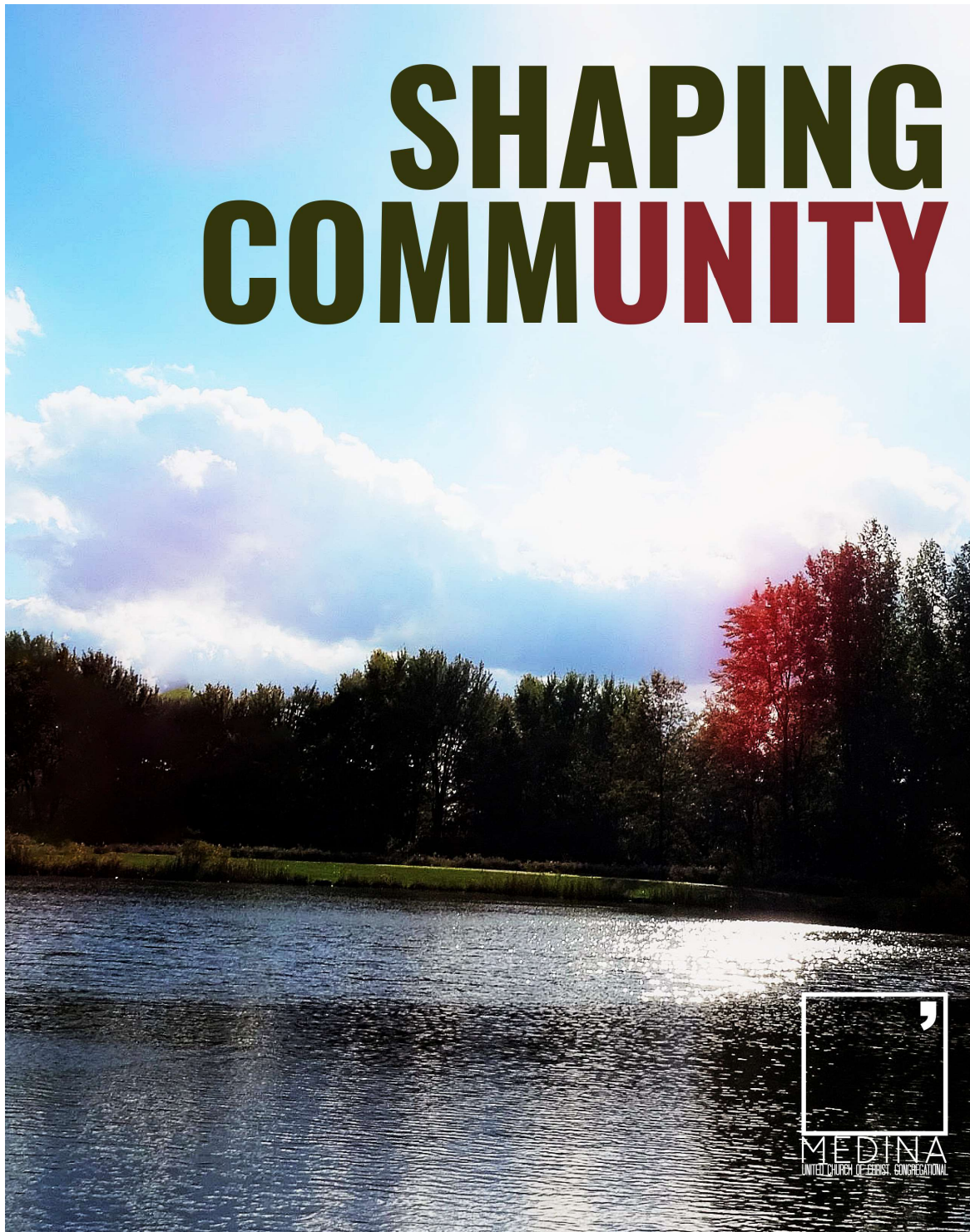
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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*****

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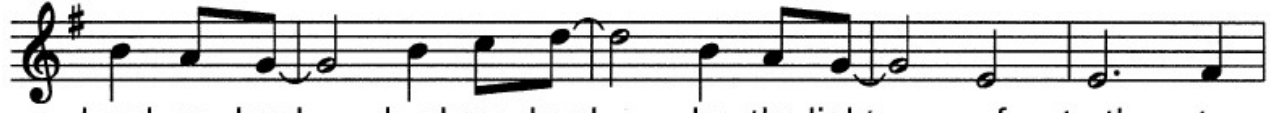


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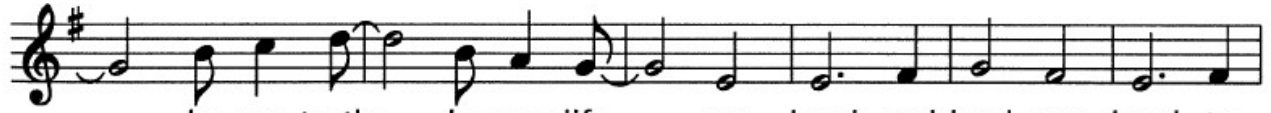
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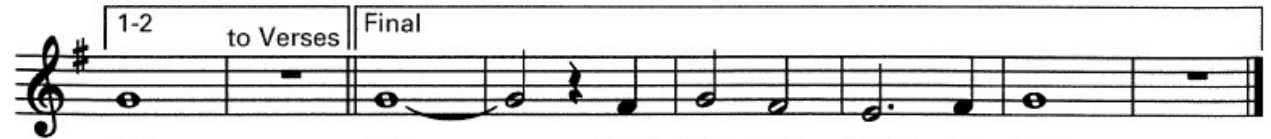
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2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

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11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
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Worship Highlights: 8:15, 9:00 & 10:30 am

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
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PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

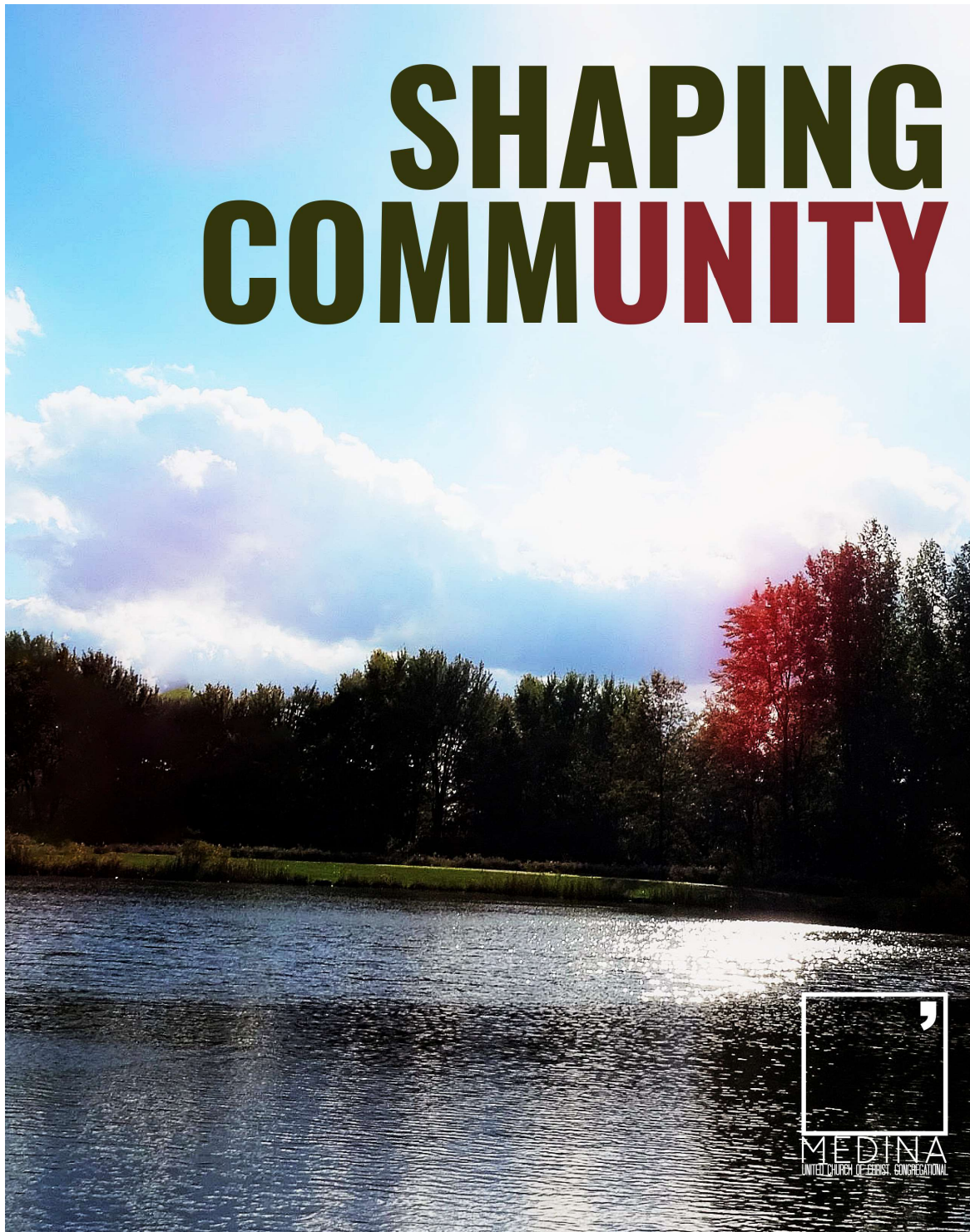
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

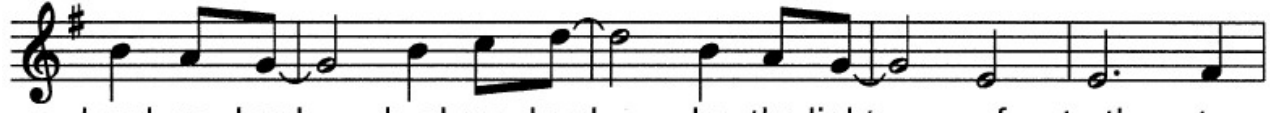


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

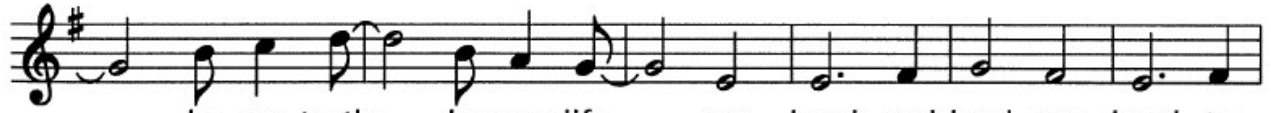
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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** "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 2021

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

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10:30 am Traditional Worship

Mon

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

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

Thurs

Fri

Sat

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Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

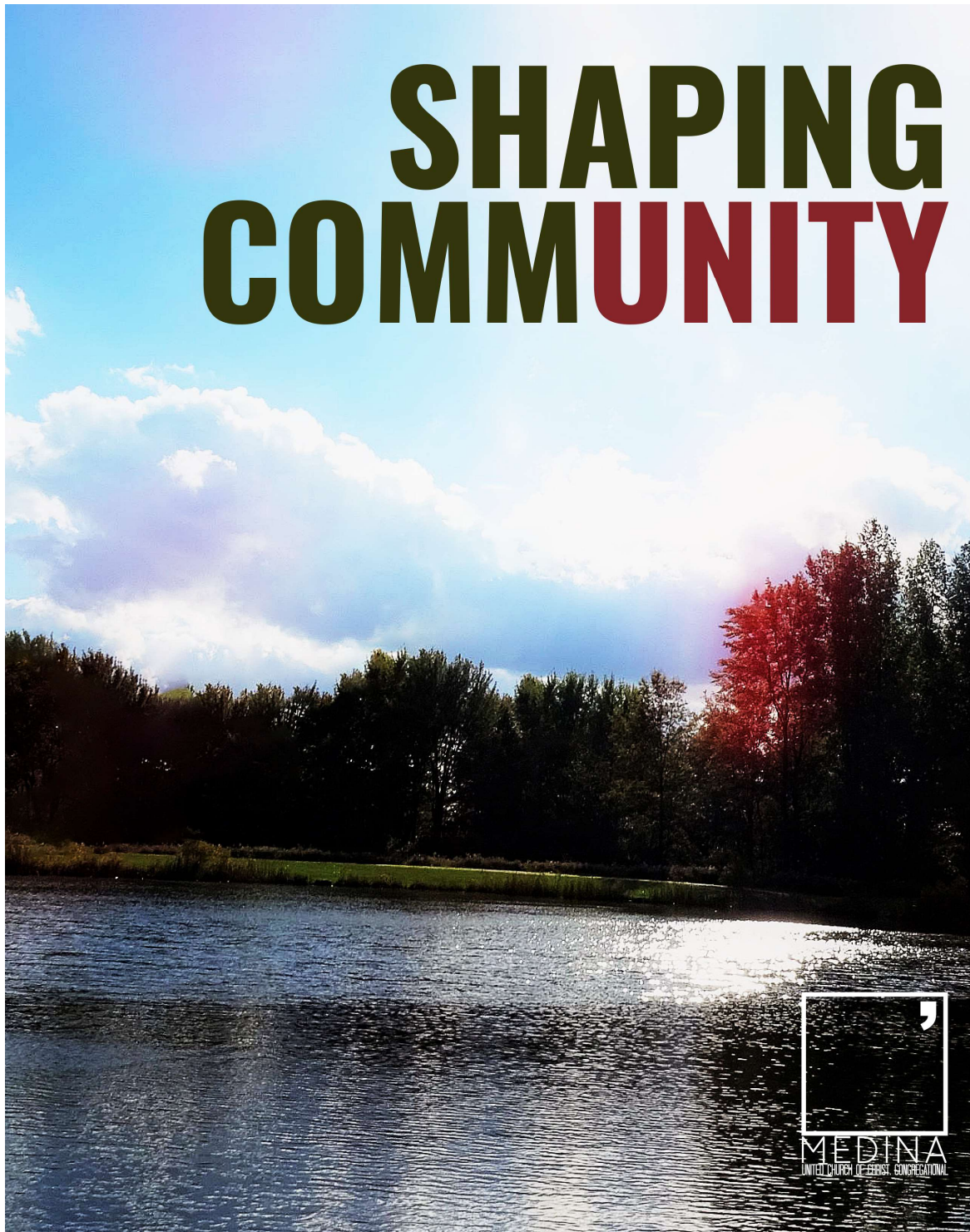
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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www.uccmedina.org



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“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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

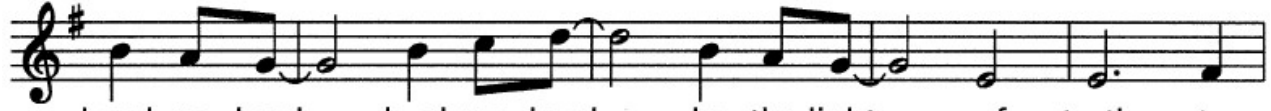


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

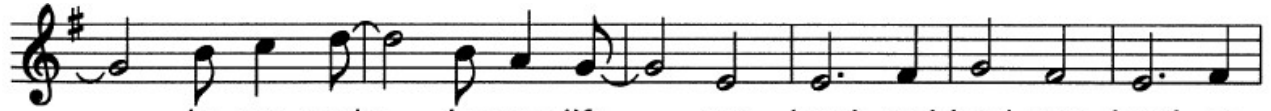
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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)

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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

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Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

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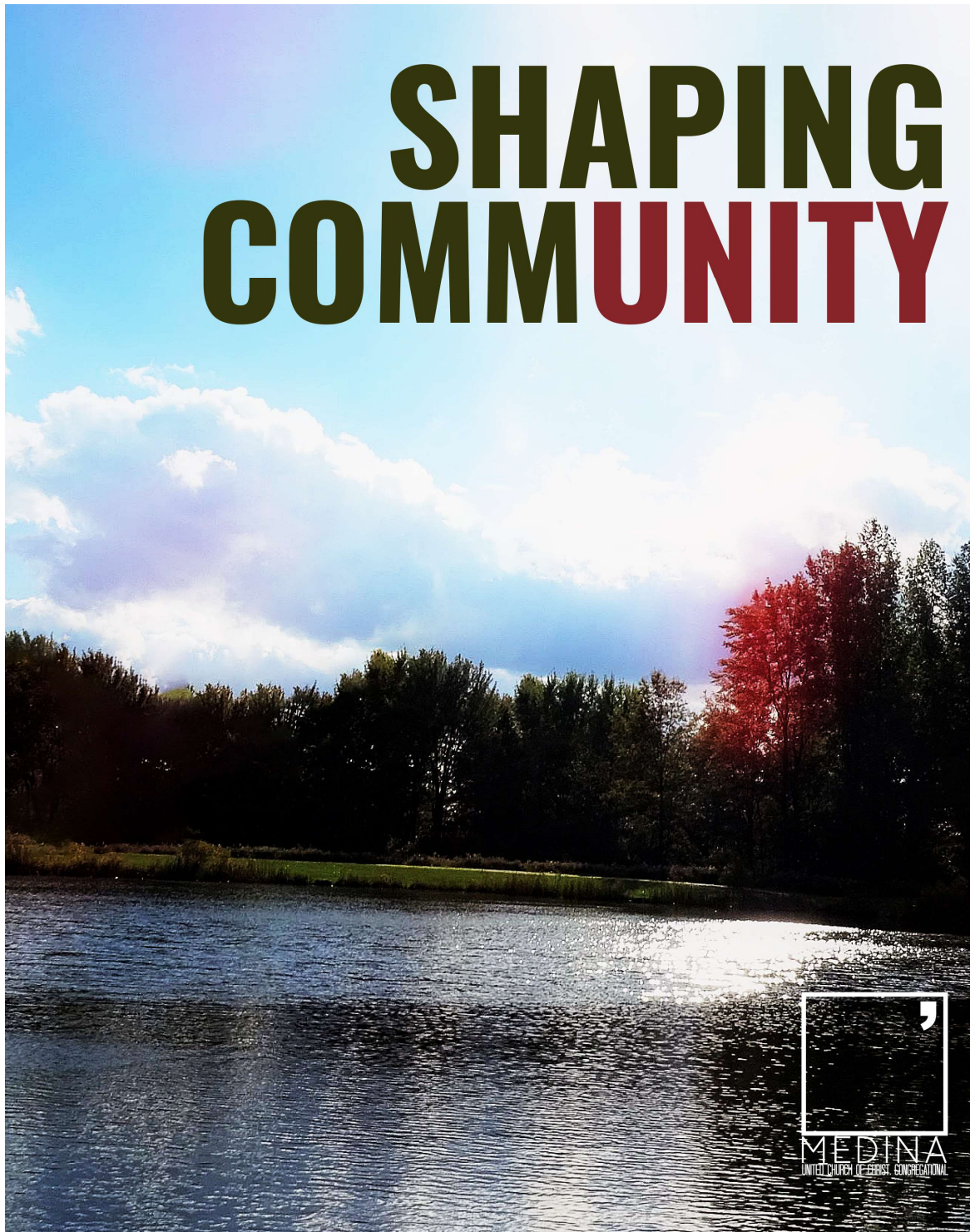
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*OPENING HYMN

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2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

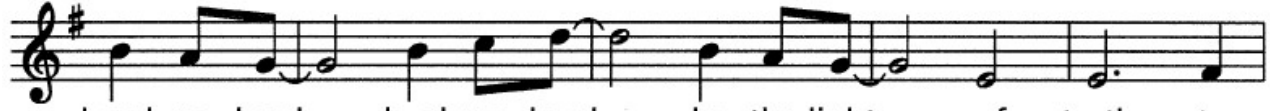


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

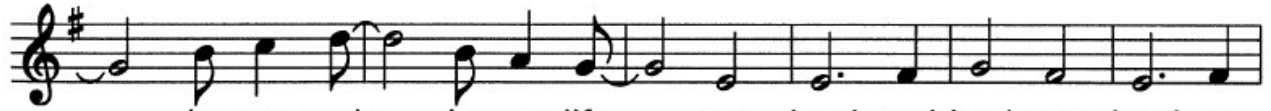
Refrain



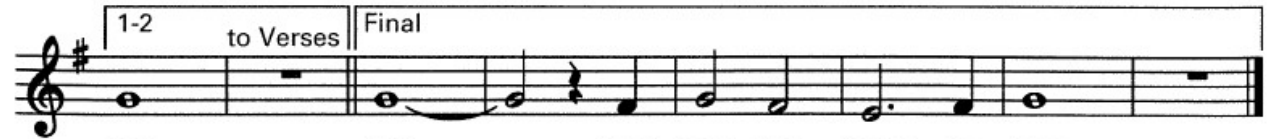
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Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

SERMON "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

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AUGUST 8, 2021

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

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Don't forget your lawn chairs. All are welcome!

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We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

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Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

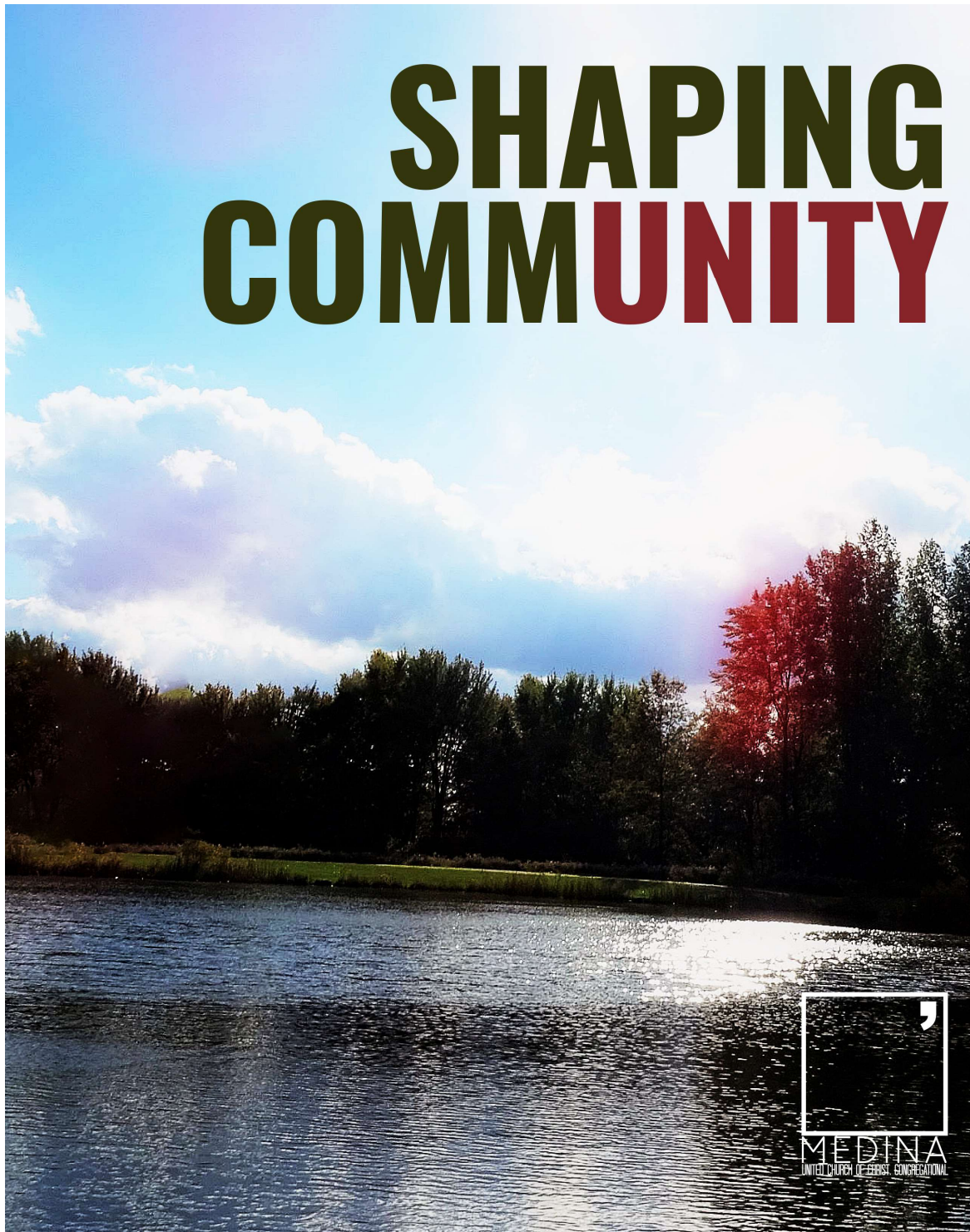
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

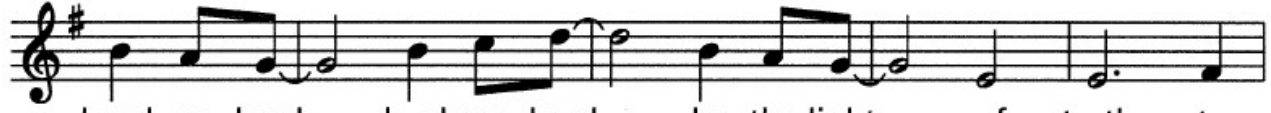


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

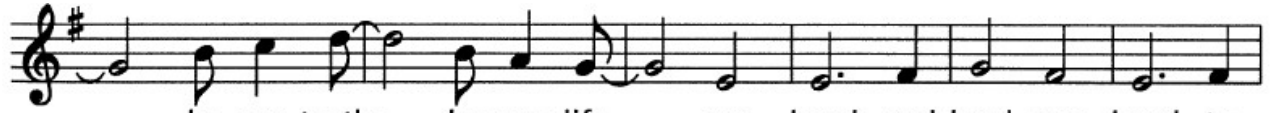
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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

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3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

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We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

GIFT CARDS FOR THOSE IN NEED

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PASTOR’S CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

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Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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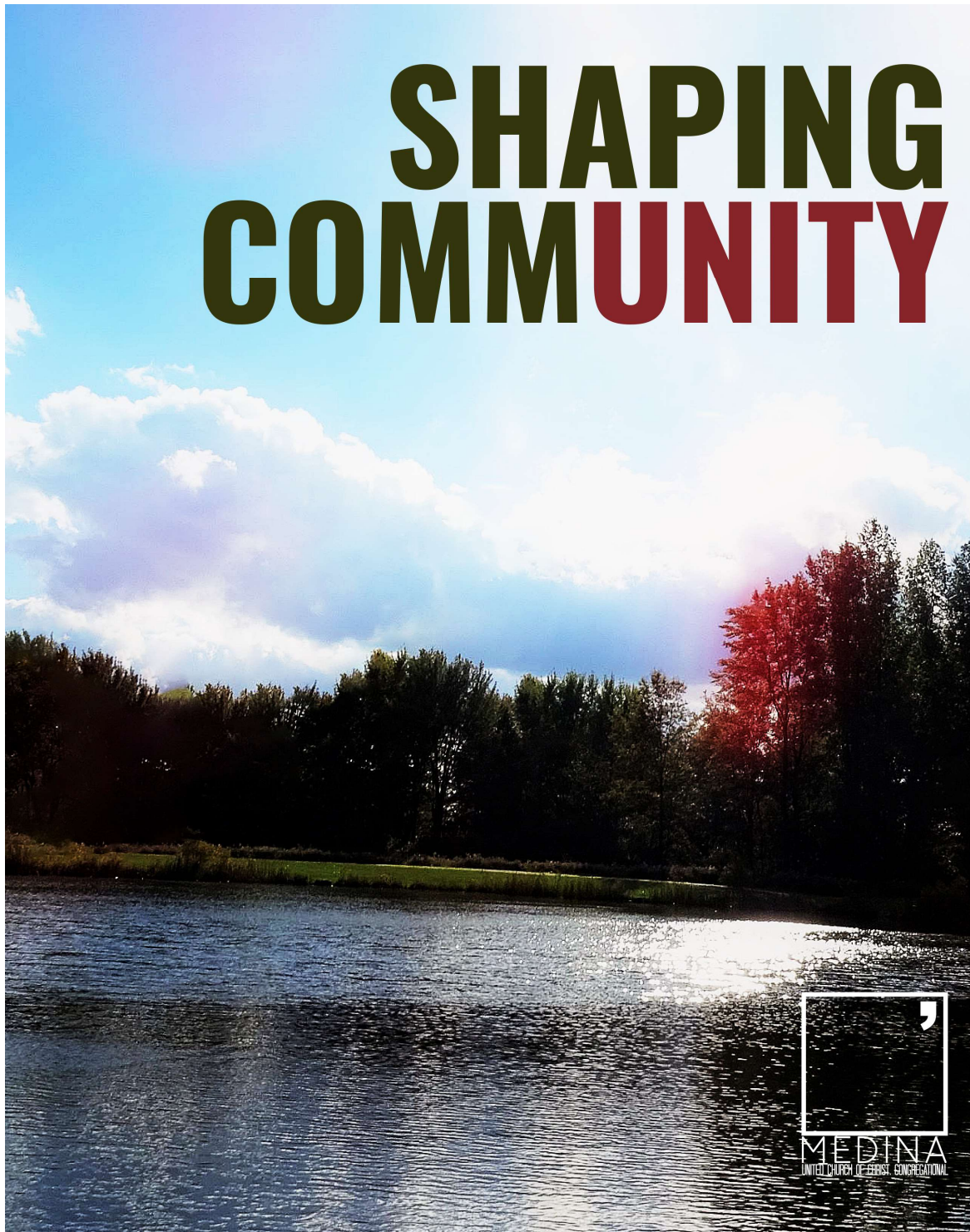
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SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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“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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

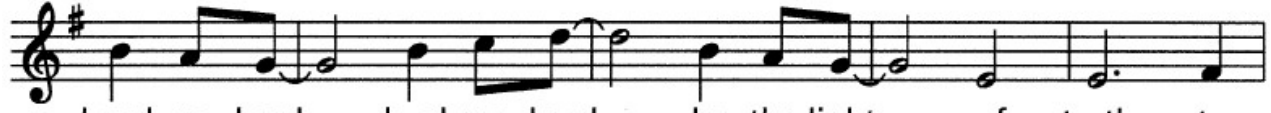


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

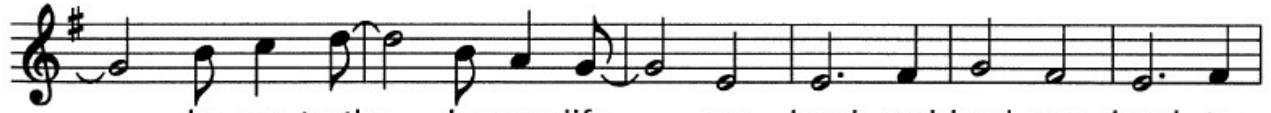
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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:

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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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

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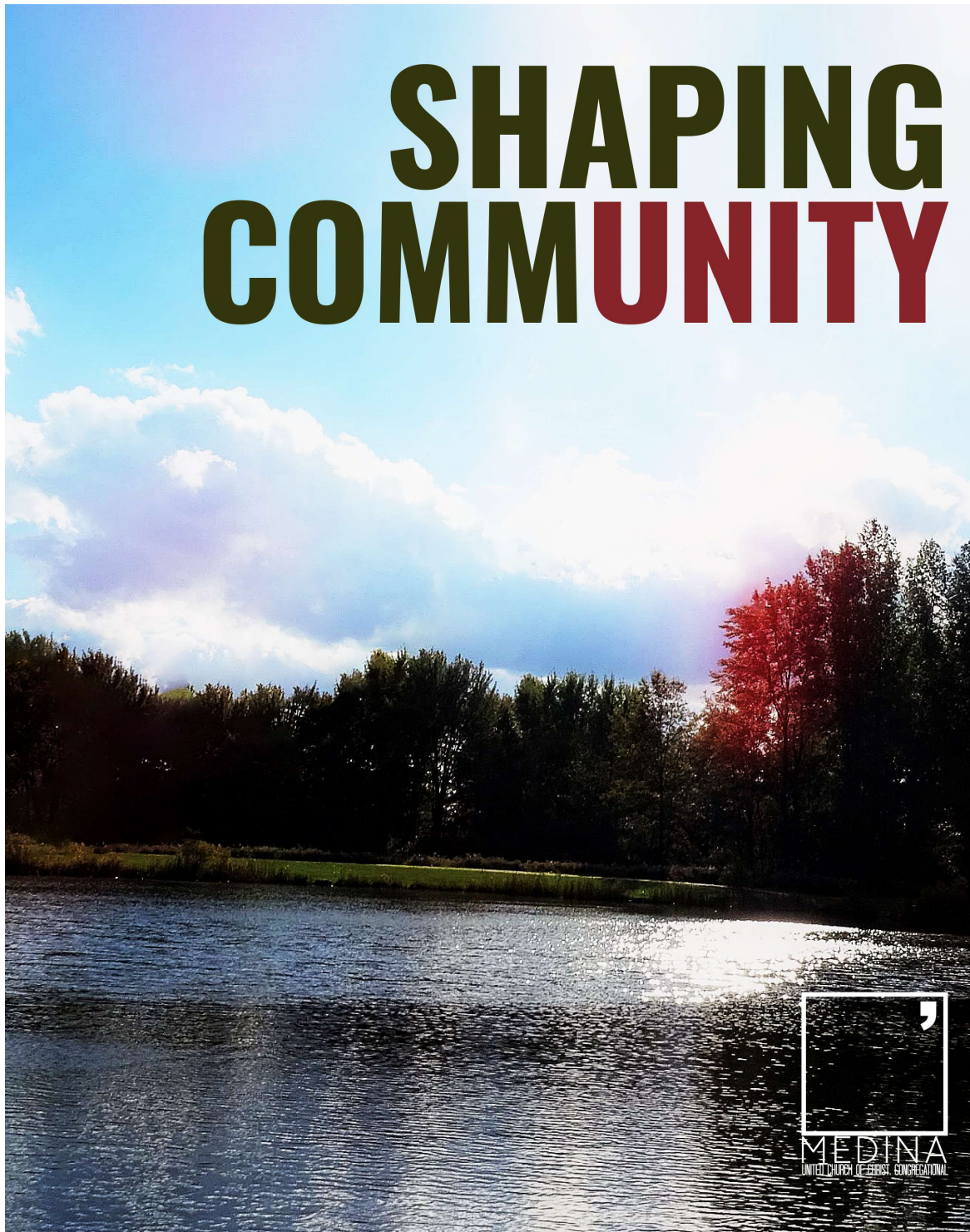
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Cover photo of Mugrage Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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**Those who are able please stand*

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

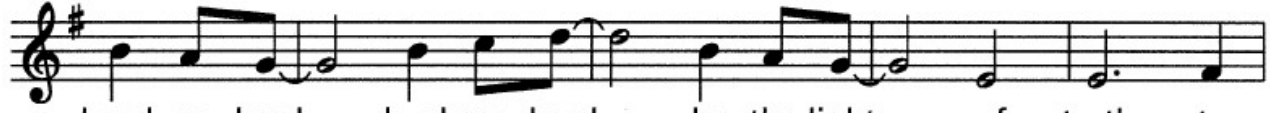


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

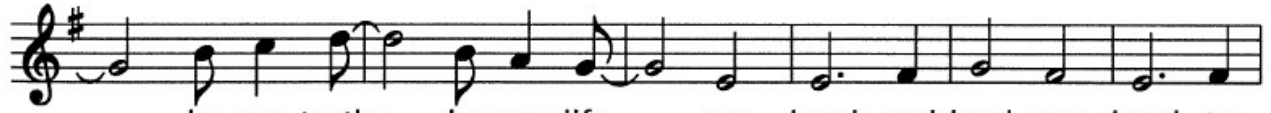
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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** "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

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AUGUST 8, 2021

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

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

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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)

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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

It’s time for the second book study in our Trilogy of Book Studies! “The Book Of Longings: A Novel” – by Sue Monk Kidd is available at the library. Please join us in person in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.** for our book discussion! Register for a reminder here:

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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.

Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

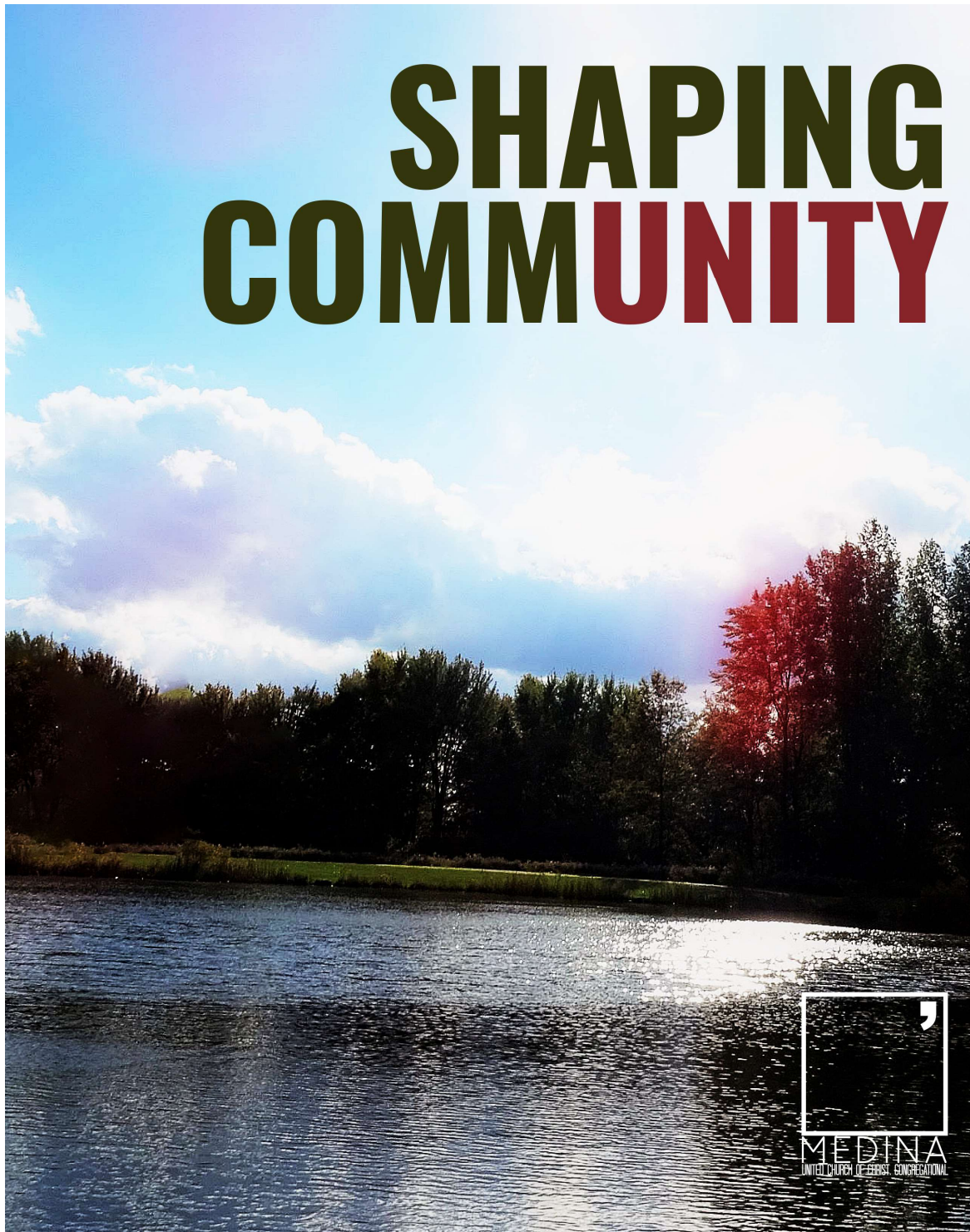
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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*****

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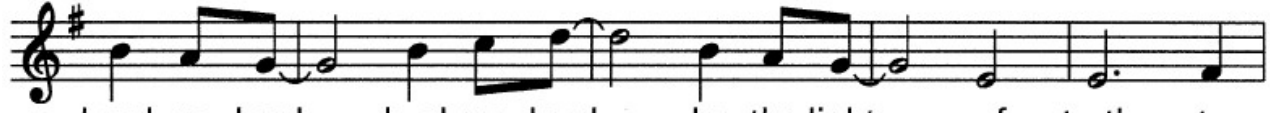


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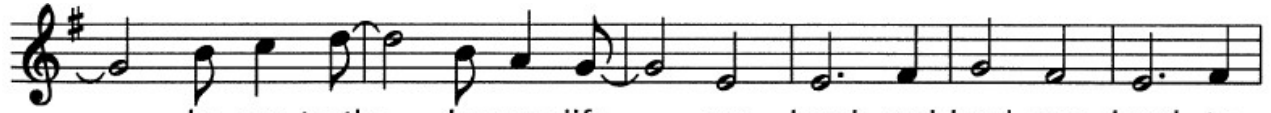
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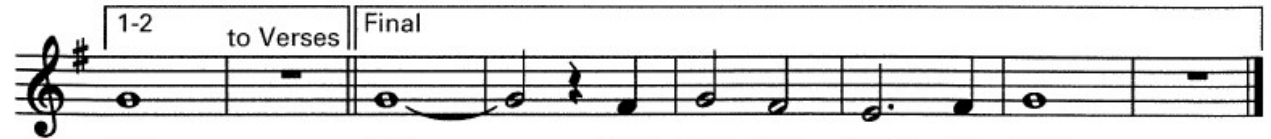
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2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plo - re.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

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Worship & Picnic

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

Plan to join us and bring your family and friends!
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Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

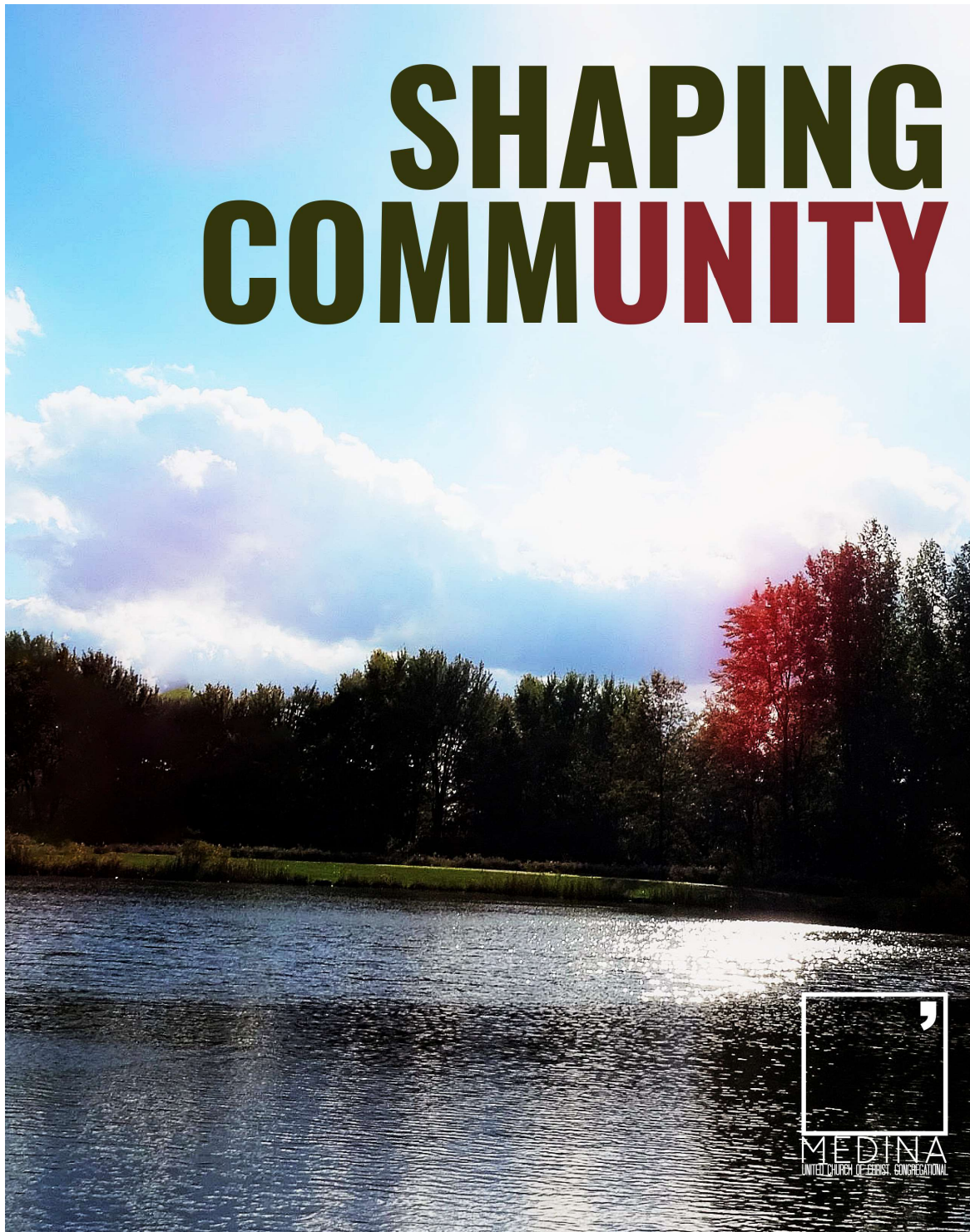
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

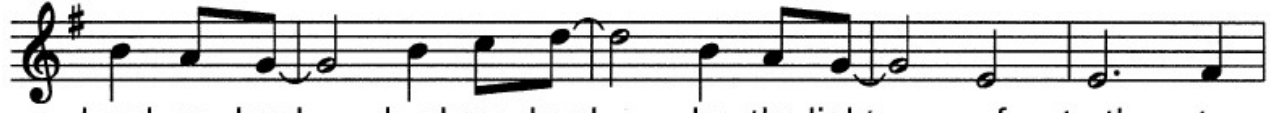


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

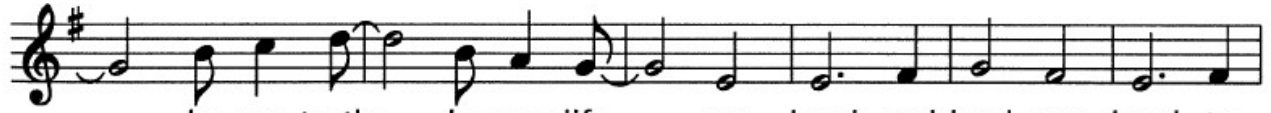
Refrain



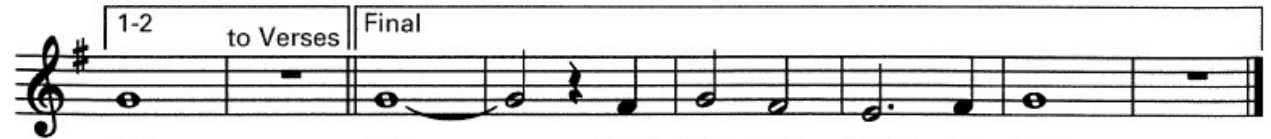
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 2021

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
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Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

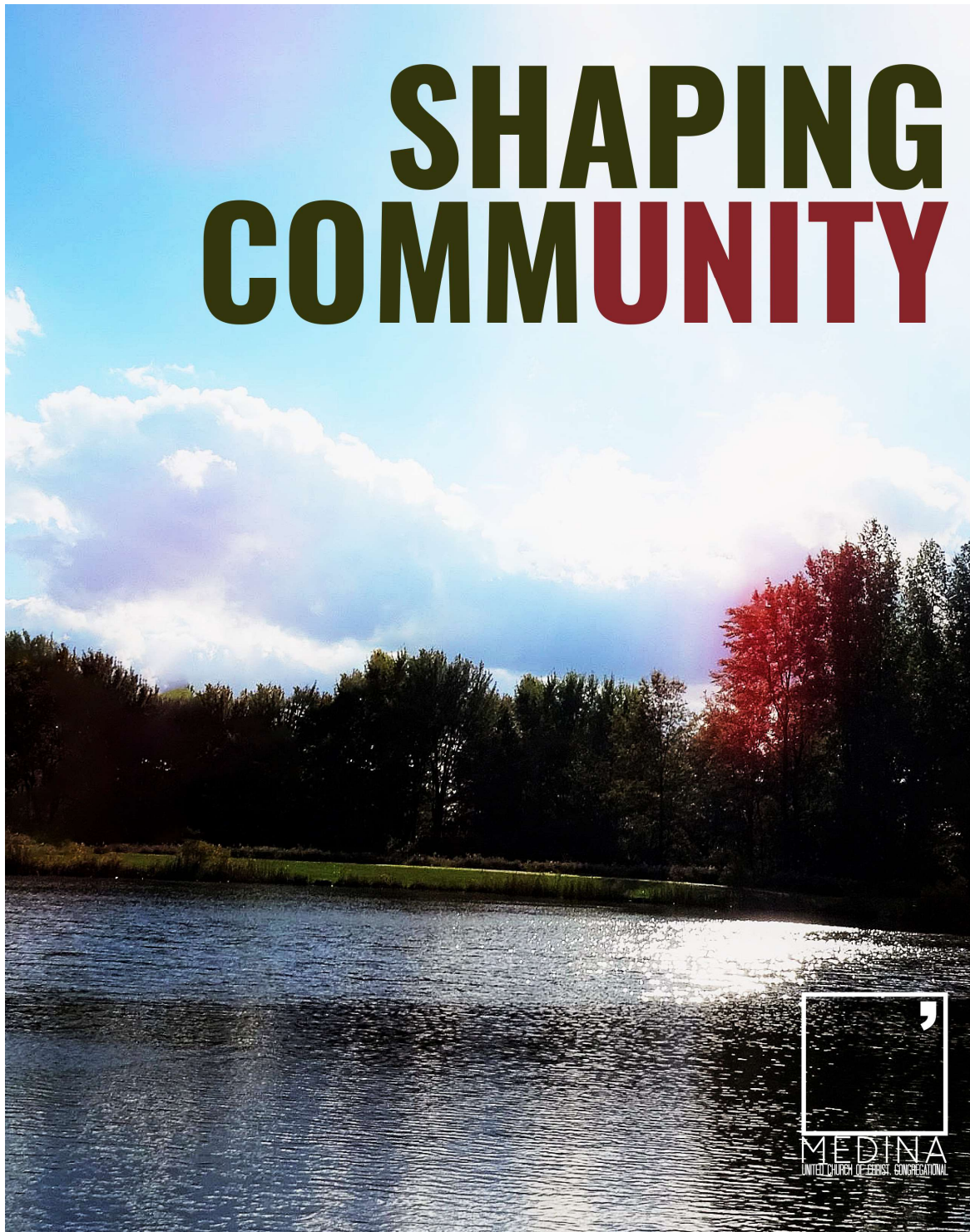
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SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

www.uccmedina.org



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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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

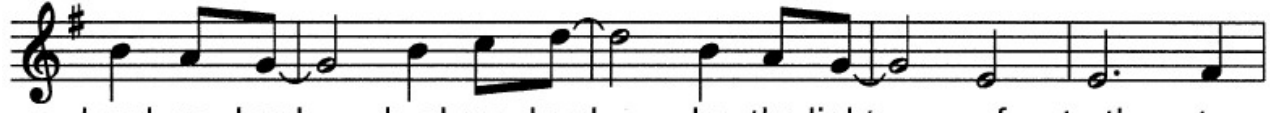


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

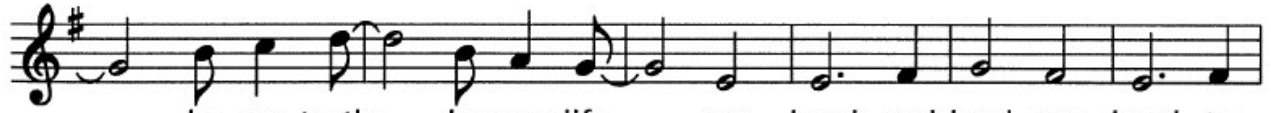
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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)

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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

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Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

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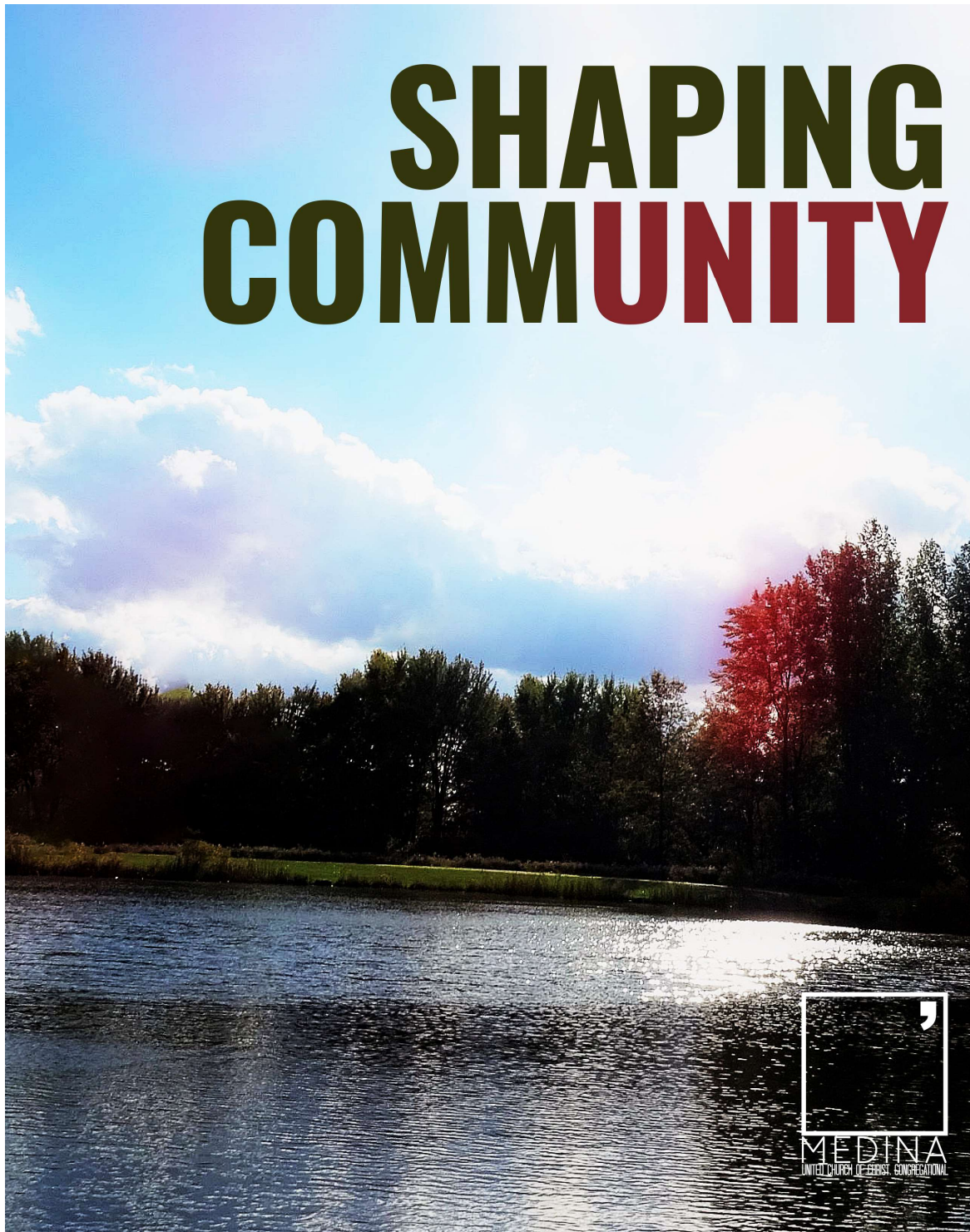
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PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

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© 1987, OCP Publications



- Verses
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 2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
 3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

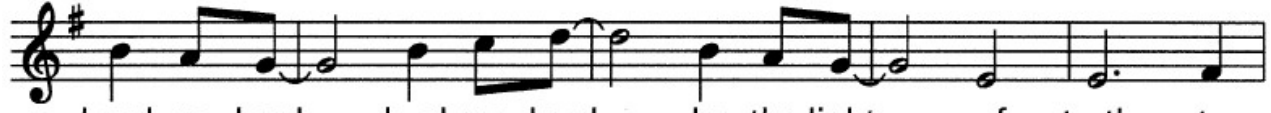


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2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

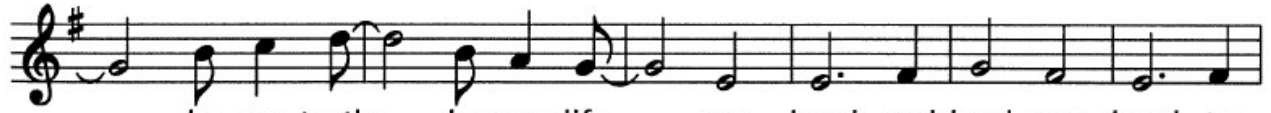
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Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

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Please take a jar and add your name to 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

It’s time for the second book study in our Trilogy of Book Studies! “The Book Of Longings: A Novel” – by Sue Monk Kidd is available at the library. Please join us in person in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.** for our book discussion! Register for a reminder here:

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Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

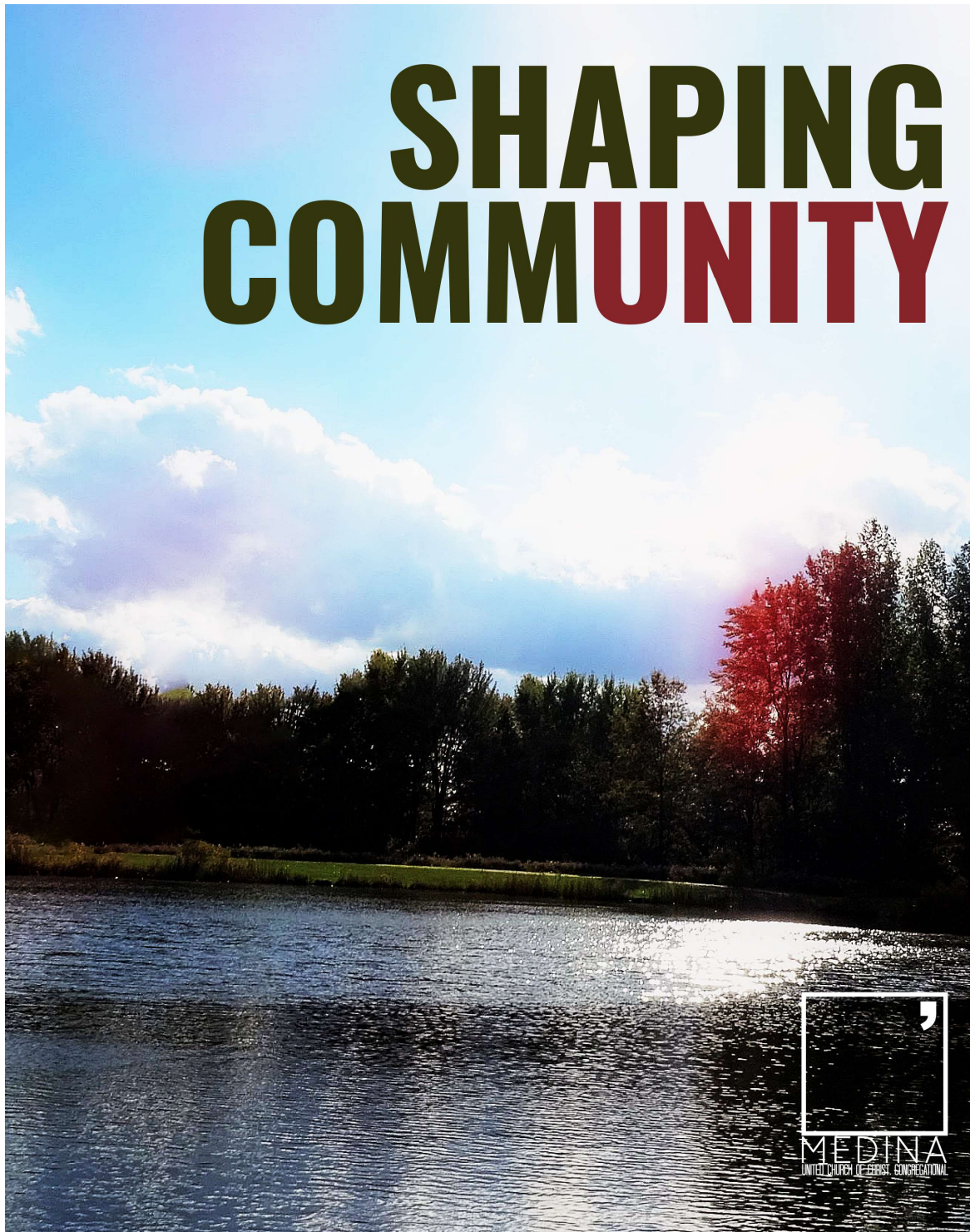
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

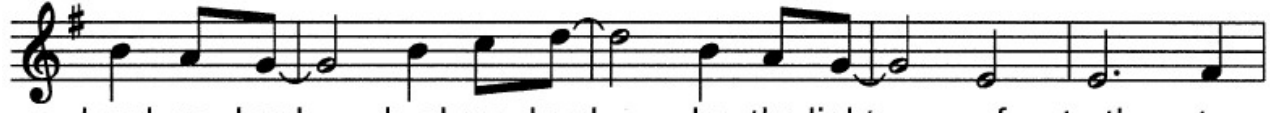


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

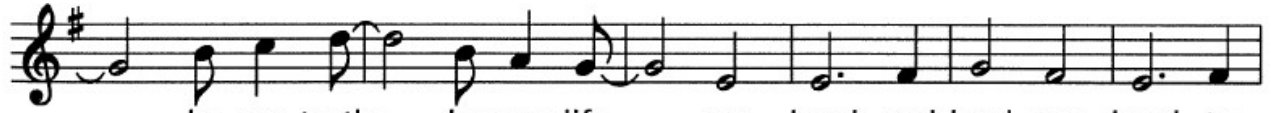
Refrain



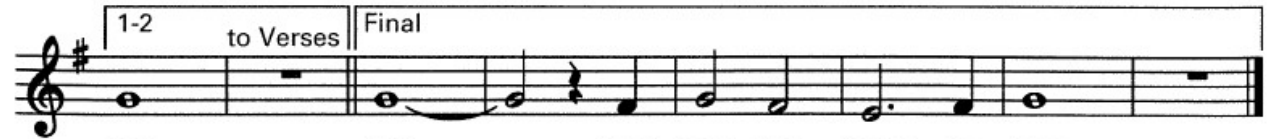
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

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2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

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We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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PASTOR’S CORNER FOR AUGUST

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Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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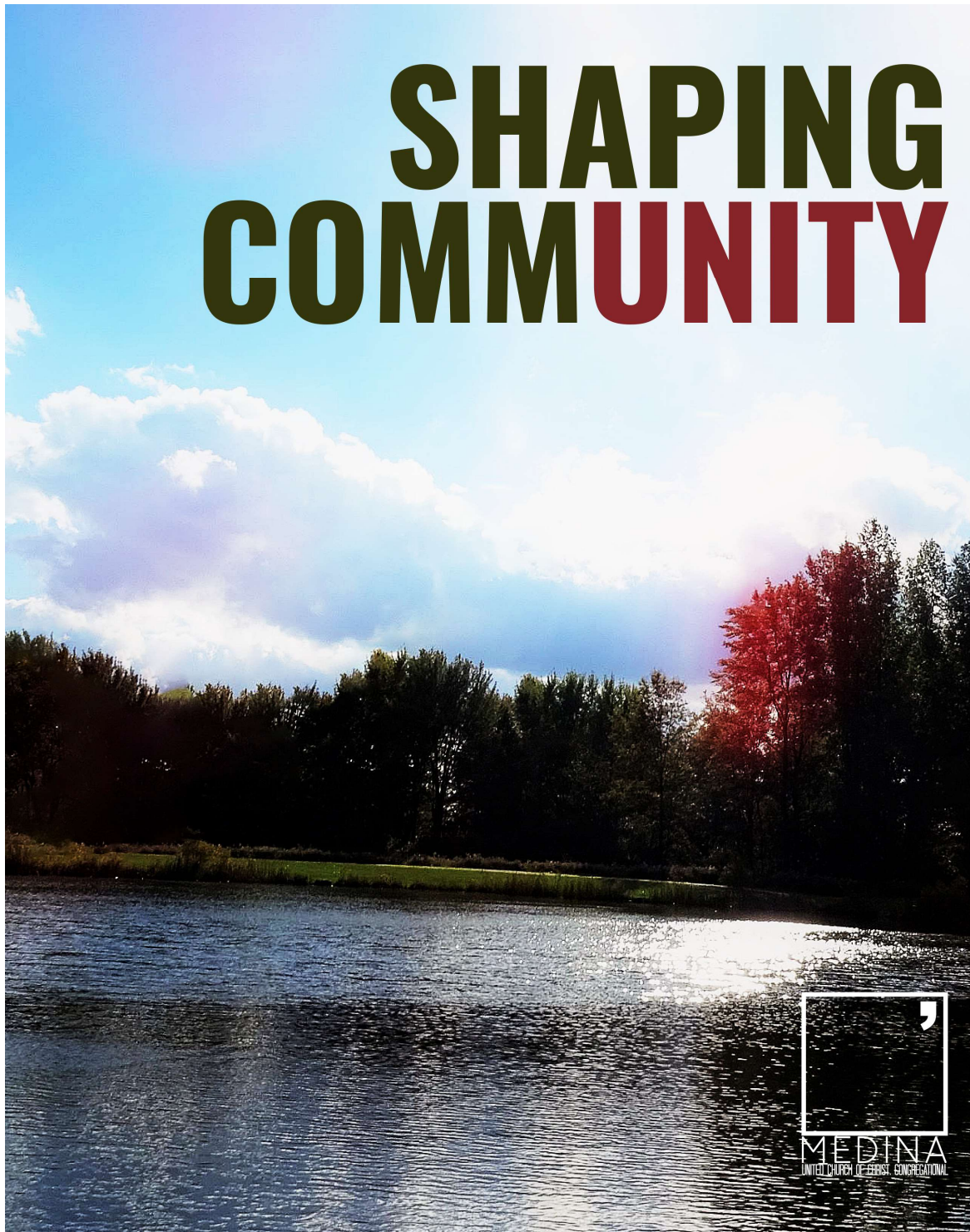
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SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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www.uccmedina.org



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“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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

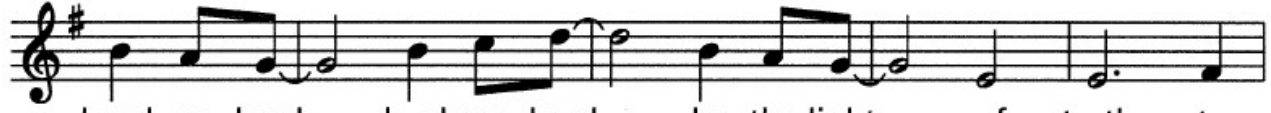


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

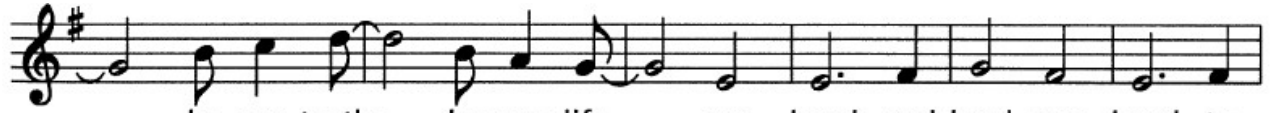
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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** "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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:

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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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 sign up sheet.

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

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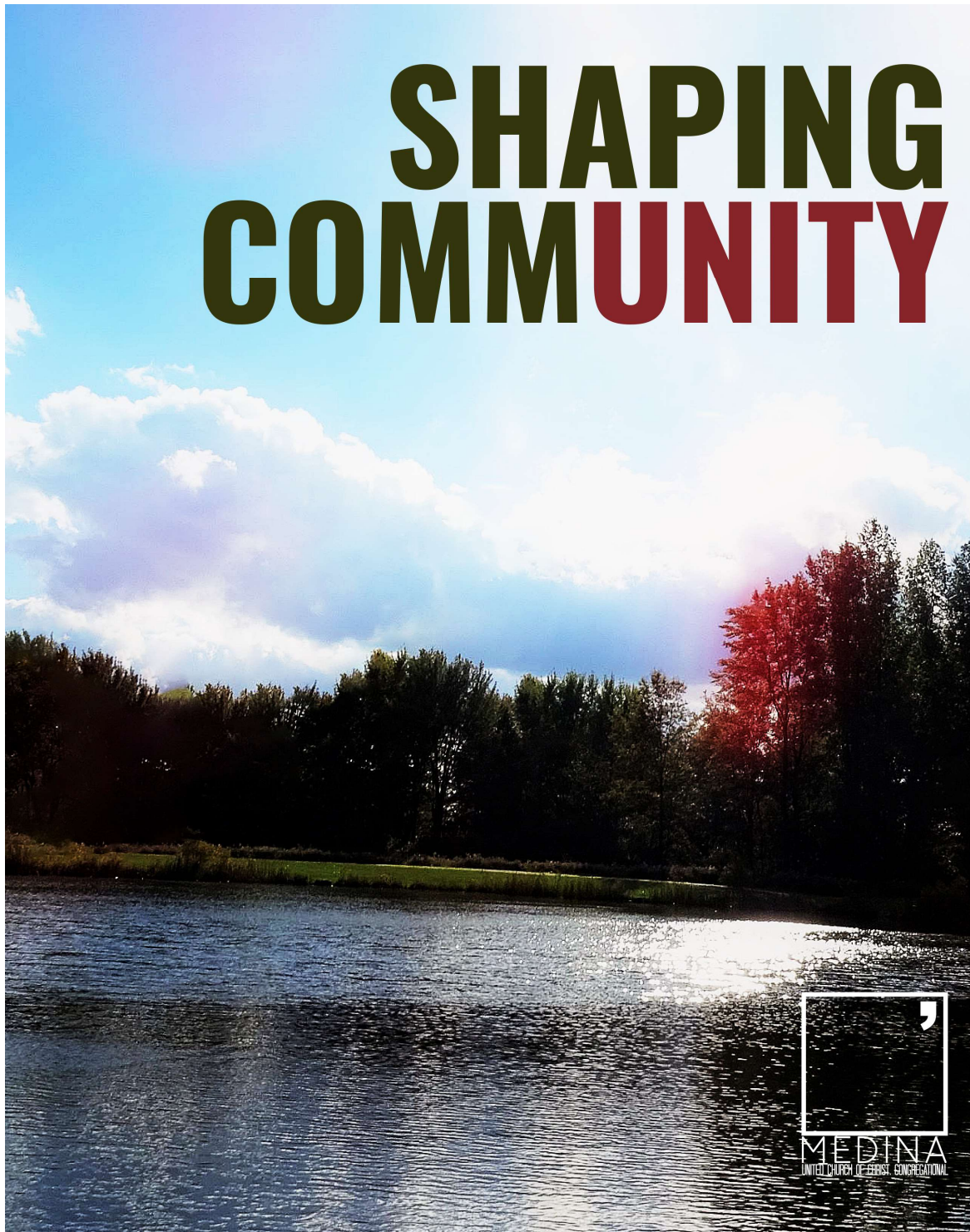
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Please take a moment to sign the friendship pads, (located at the end of each pew) so that you know who is worshipping near you and you may greet them by name.

**Those who are able please stand*

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

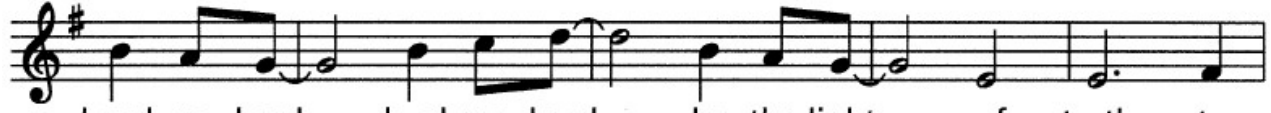


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

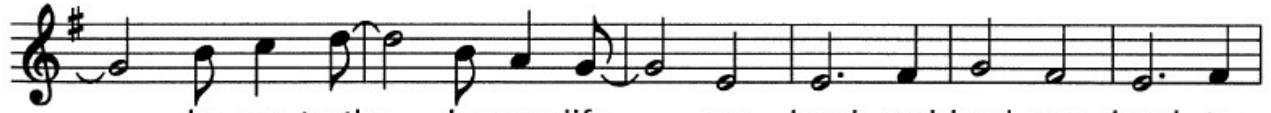
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

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AUGUST 8, 2021

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

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

Mon

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

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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)

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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

It’s time for the second book study in our Trilogy of Book Studies! “The Book Of Longings: A Novel” – by Sue Monk Kidd is available at the library. Please join us in person in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.** for our book discussion! Register for a reminder here:

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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.

Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

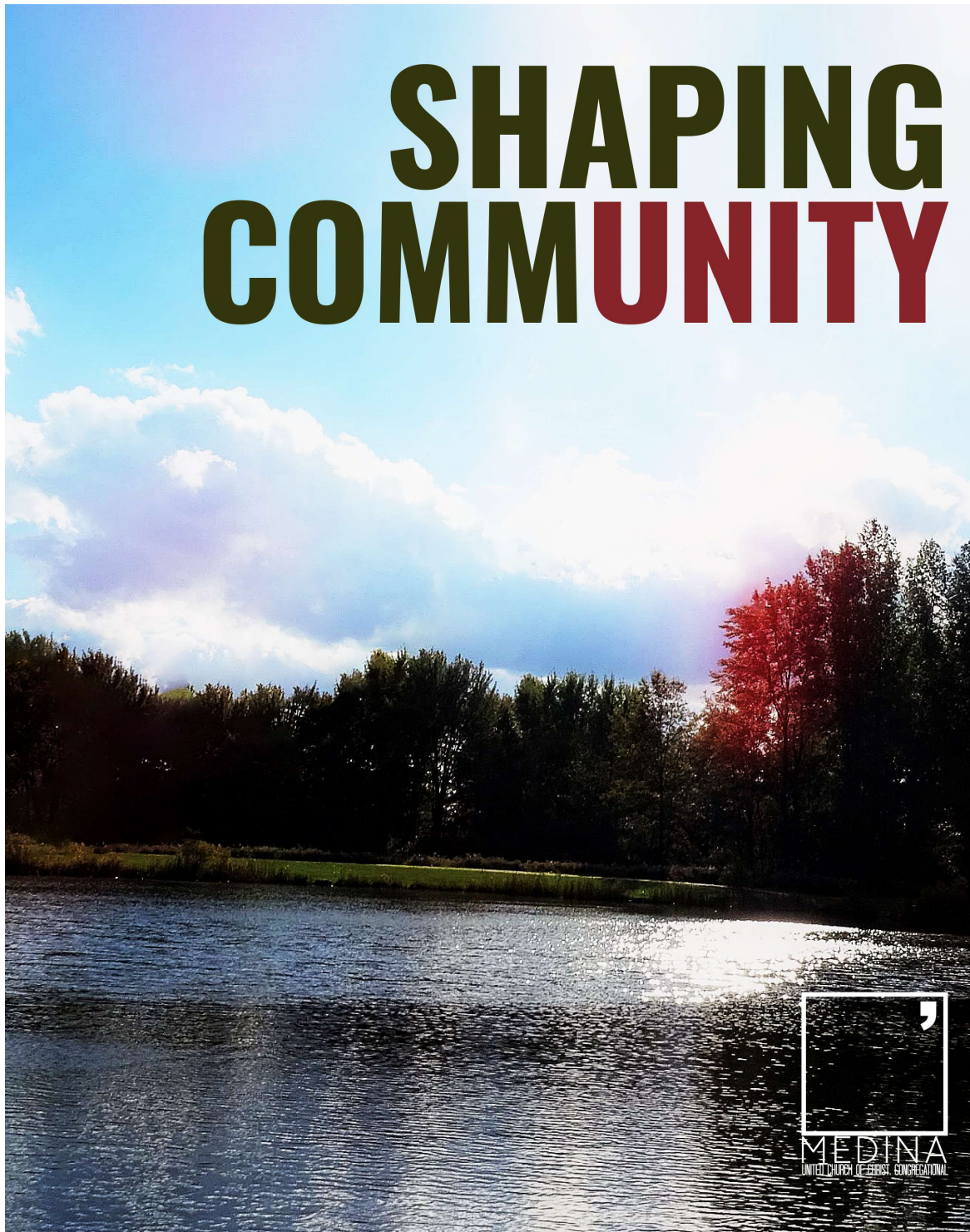
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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*****

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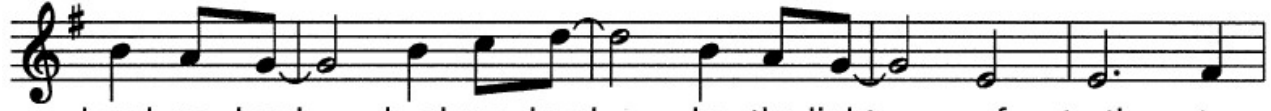


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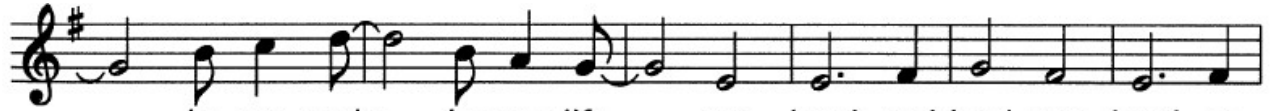
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2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
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Worship & Picnic

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

Plan to join us and bring your family and friends!
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Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

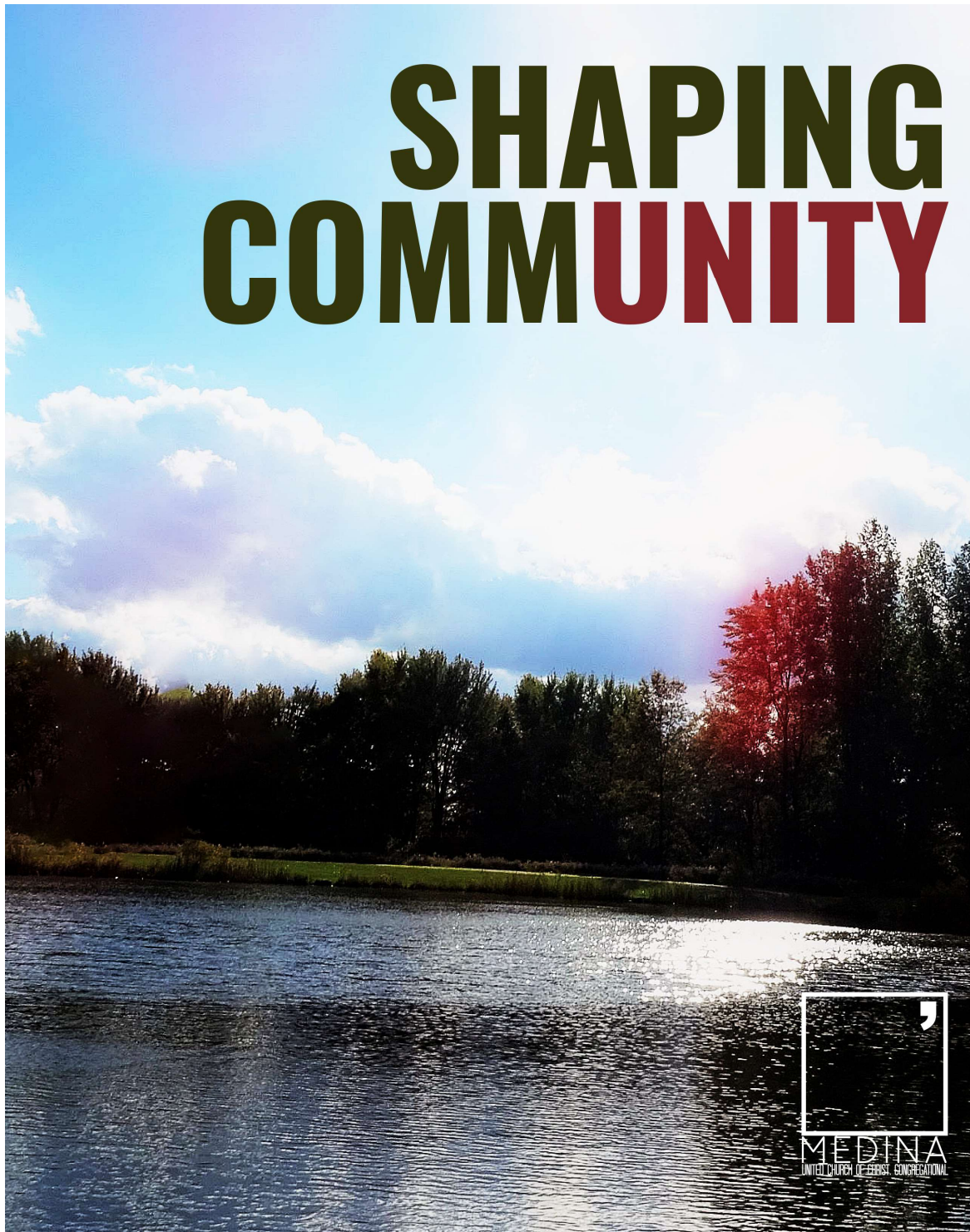
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

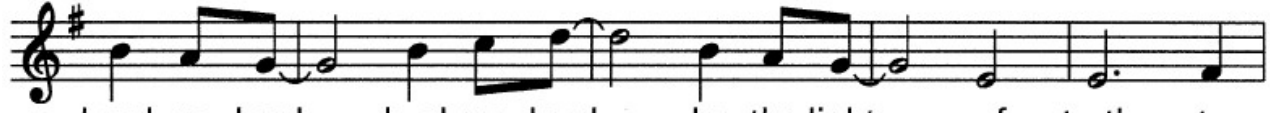


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

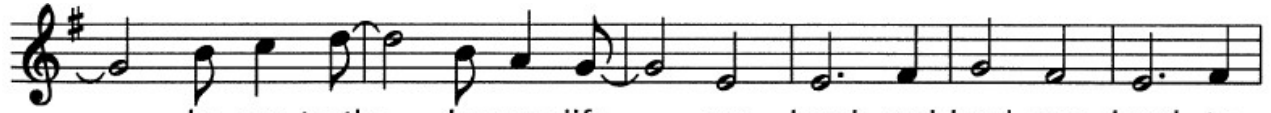
Refrain



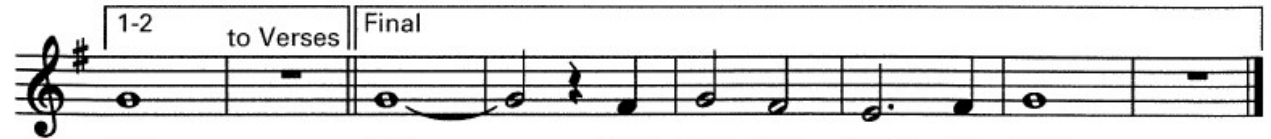
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 2021

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

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Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

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Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

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The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

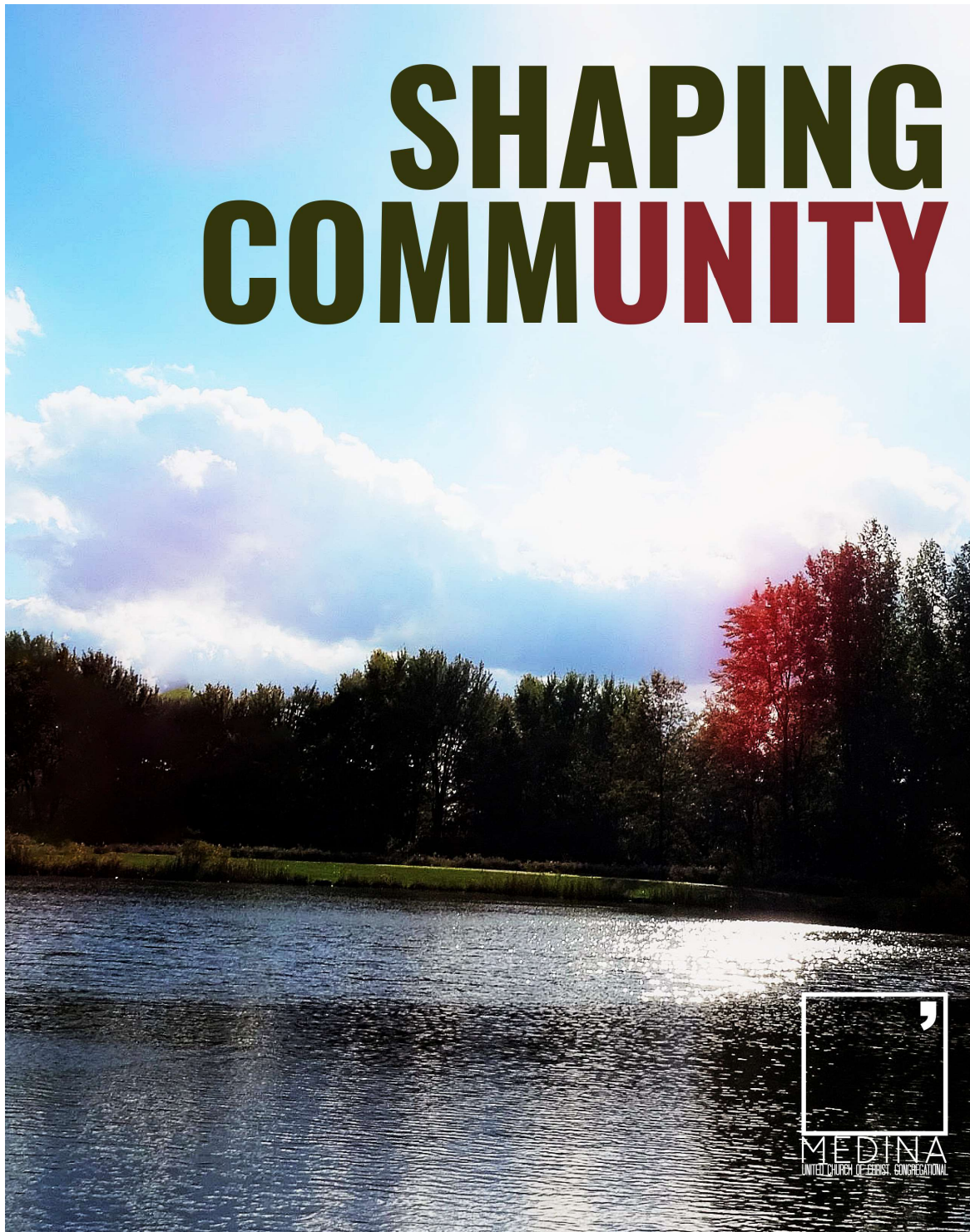
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SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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www.uccmedina.org



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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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

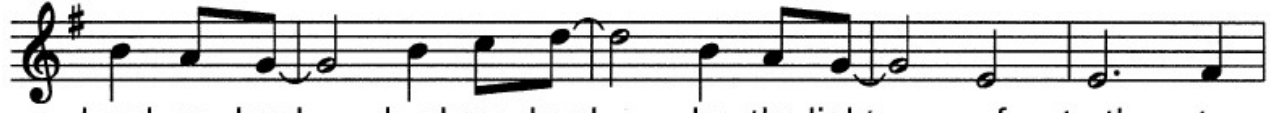


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

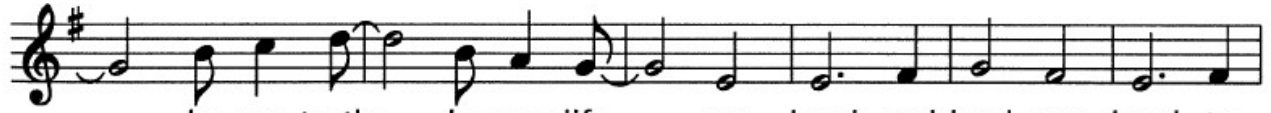
Refrain



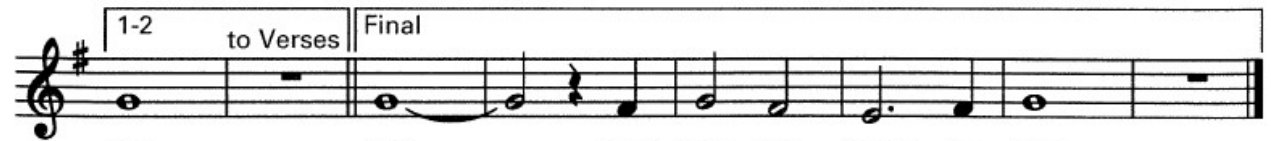
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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)

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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

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Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

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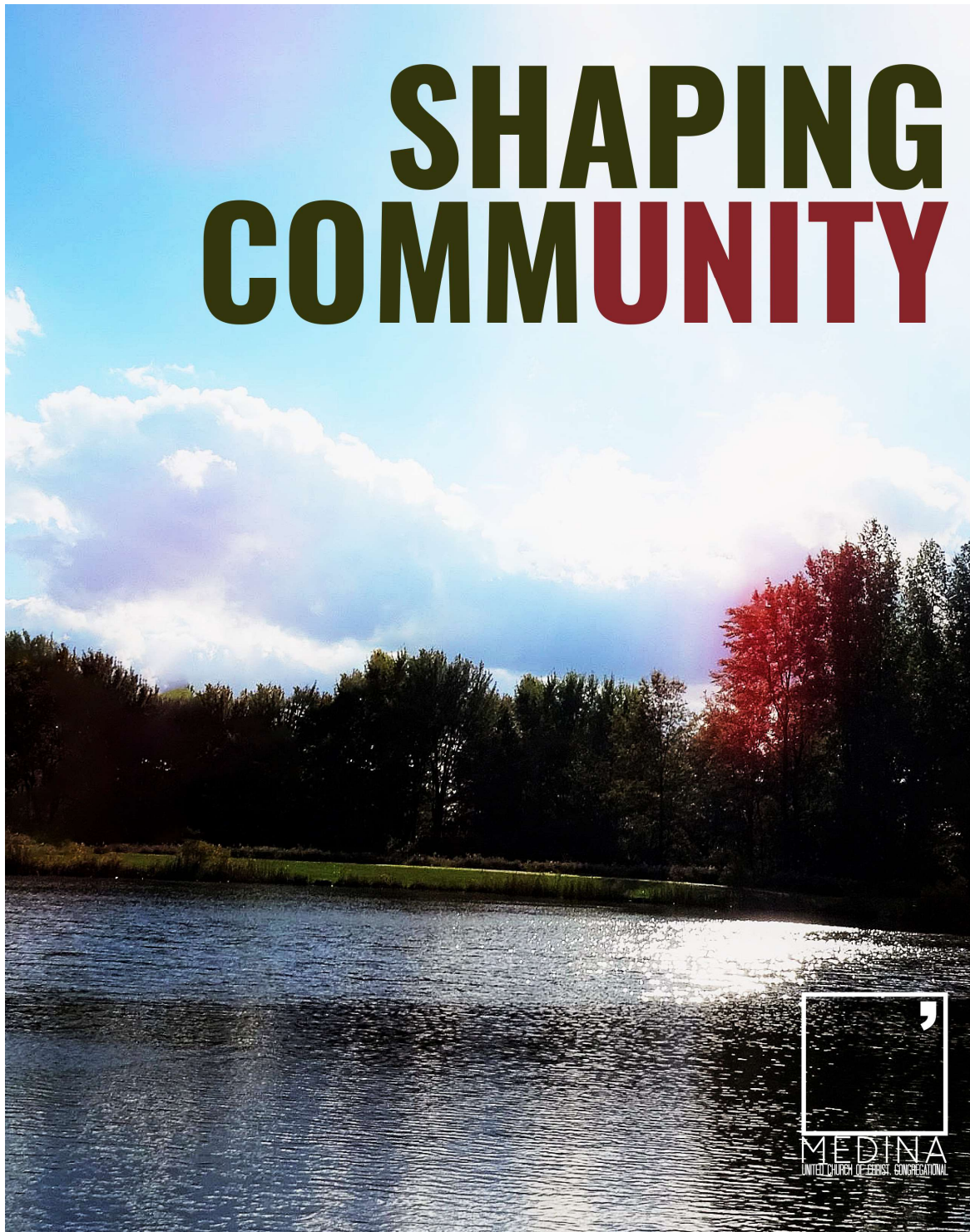
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PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

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3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

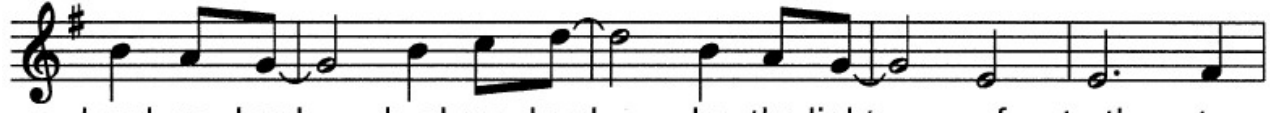


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

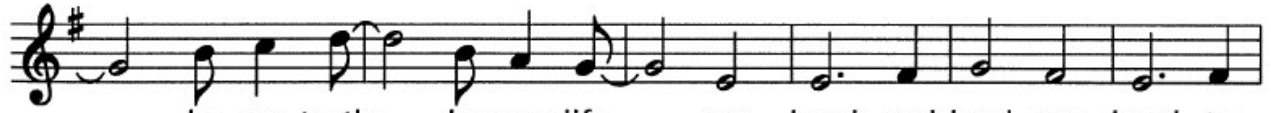
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Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



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Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

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SERMON "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plo - re.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

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AUGUST 8, 2021

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship (in Sanctuary)
9:00 am Gathering Worship
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Don't forget your lawn chairs. All are welcome!

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We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

It’s time for the second book study in our Trilogy of Book Studies! “The Book Of Longings: A Novel” – by Sue Monk Kidd is available at the library. Please join us in person in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.** for our book discussion! Register for a reminder here:

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Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

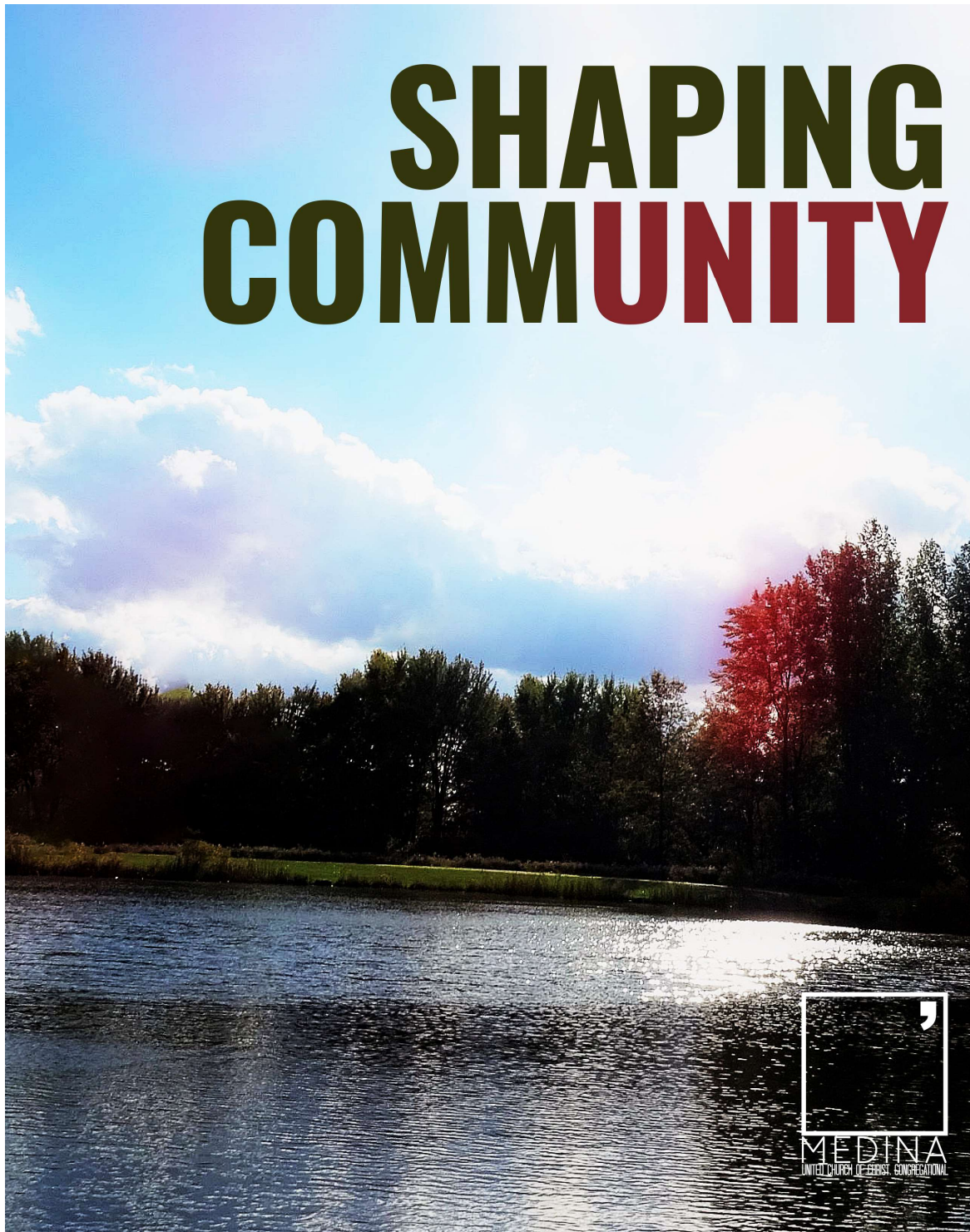
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

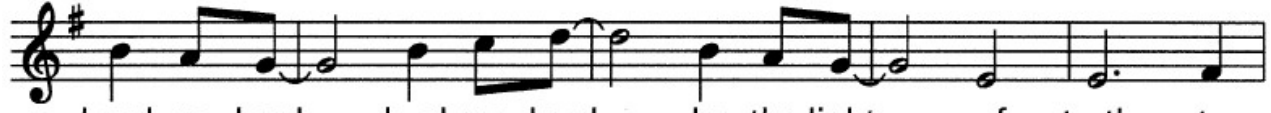


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

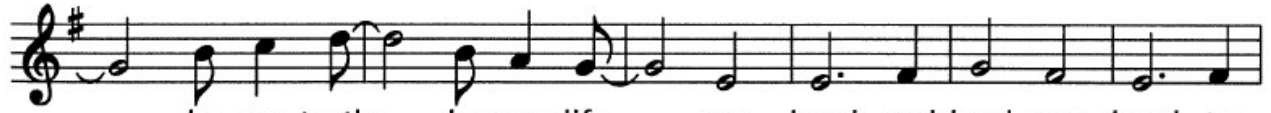
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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

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3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

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We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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PASTOR’S CORNER FOR AUGUST

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Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

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The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

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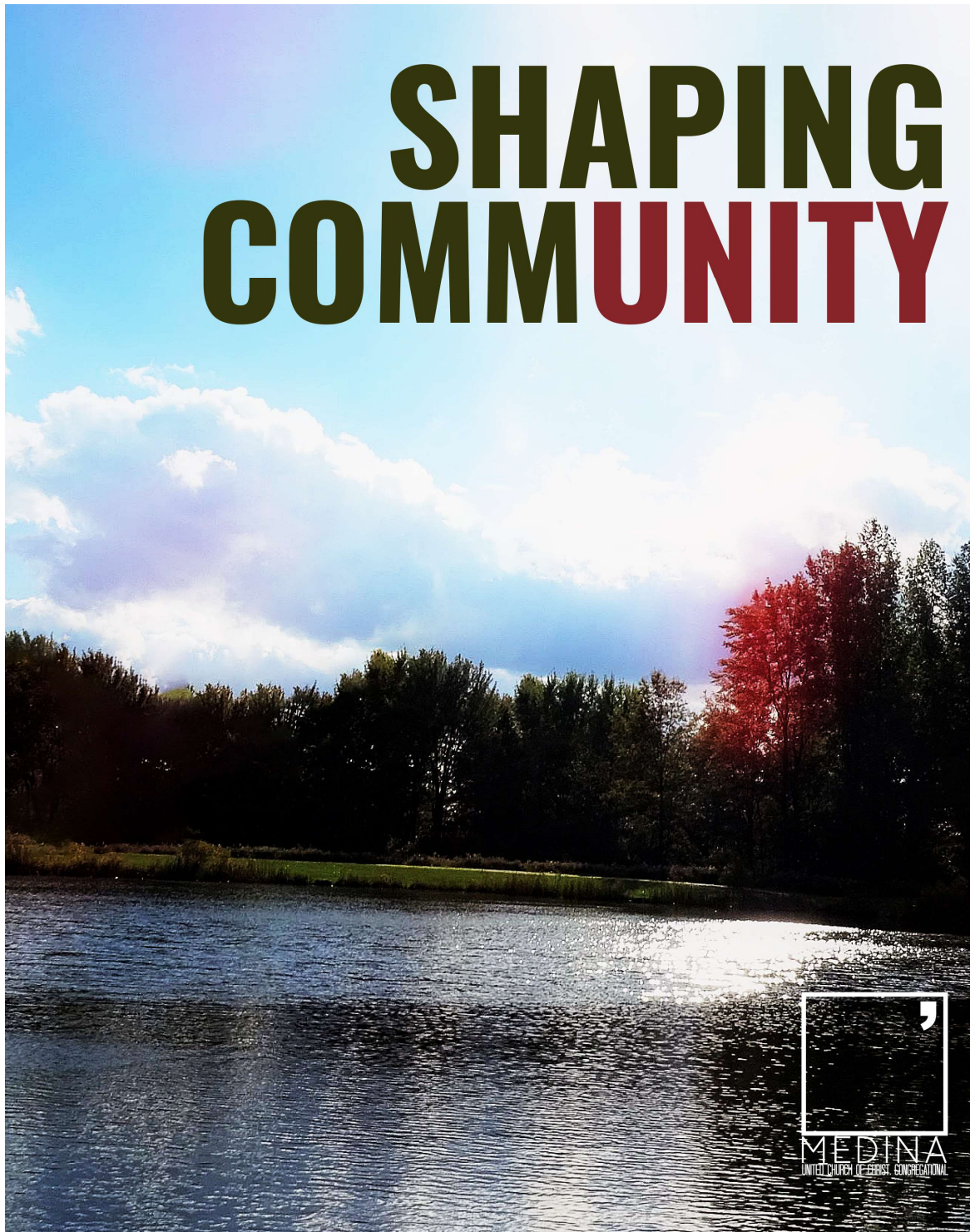
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SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

www.uccmedina.org



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“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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafarak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

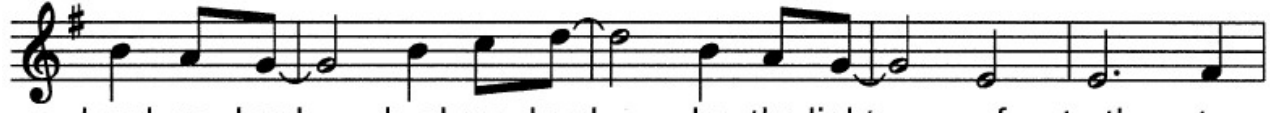


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

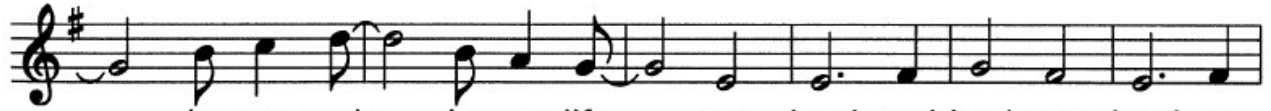
Refrain



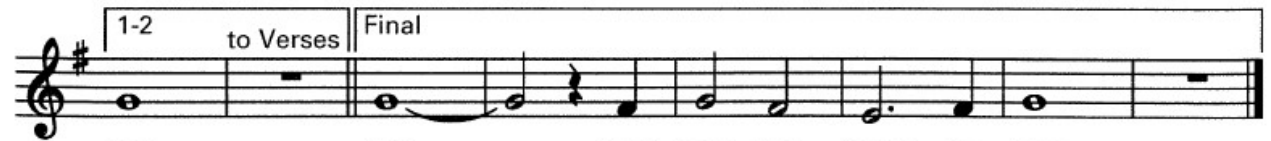
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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** "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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:

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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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

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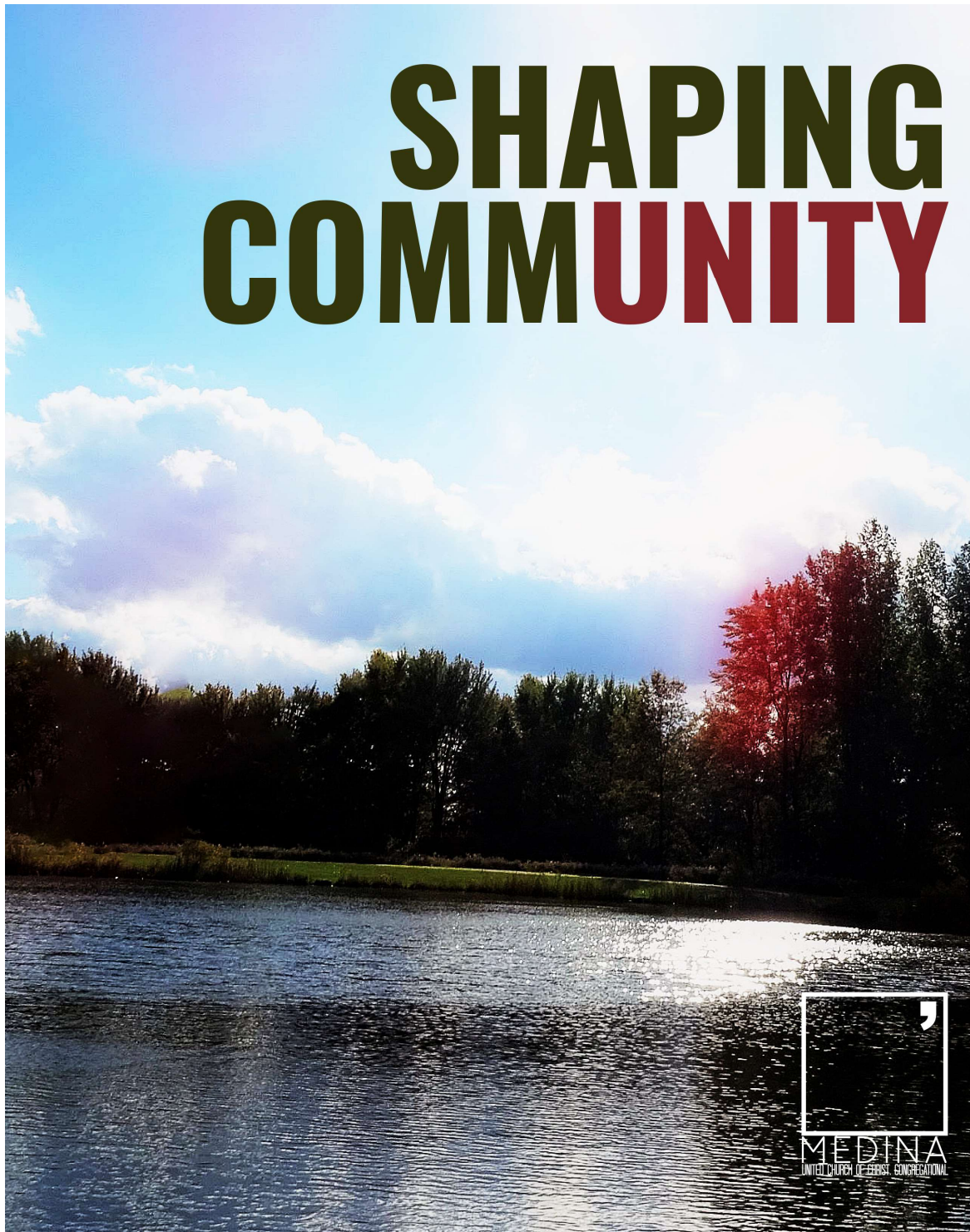
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LIVE STREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT UCCMEDINA.ORG

“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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

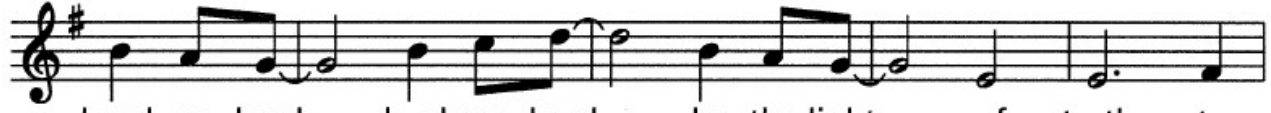


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

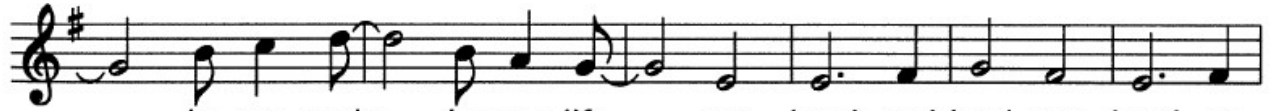
Refrain



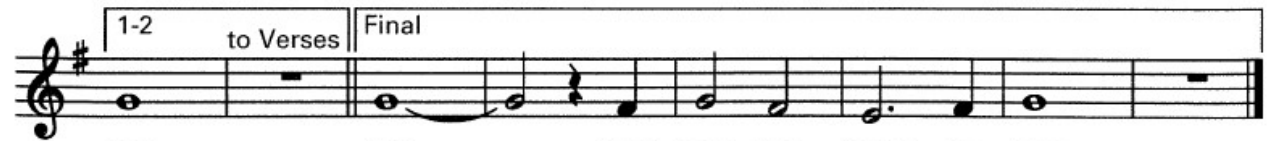
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

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Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor

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AUGUST 8, 2021

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

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

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

Thurs

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Sat

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10:30 am Traditional Worship
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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)

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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

It’s time for the second book study in our Trilogy of Book Studies! “The Book Of Longings: A Novel” – by Sue Monk Kidd is available at the library. Please join us in person in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.** for our book discussion! Register for a reminder here:

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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.

Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

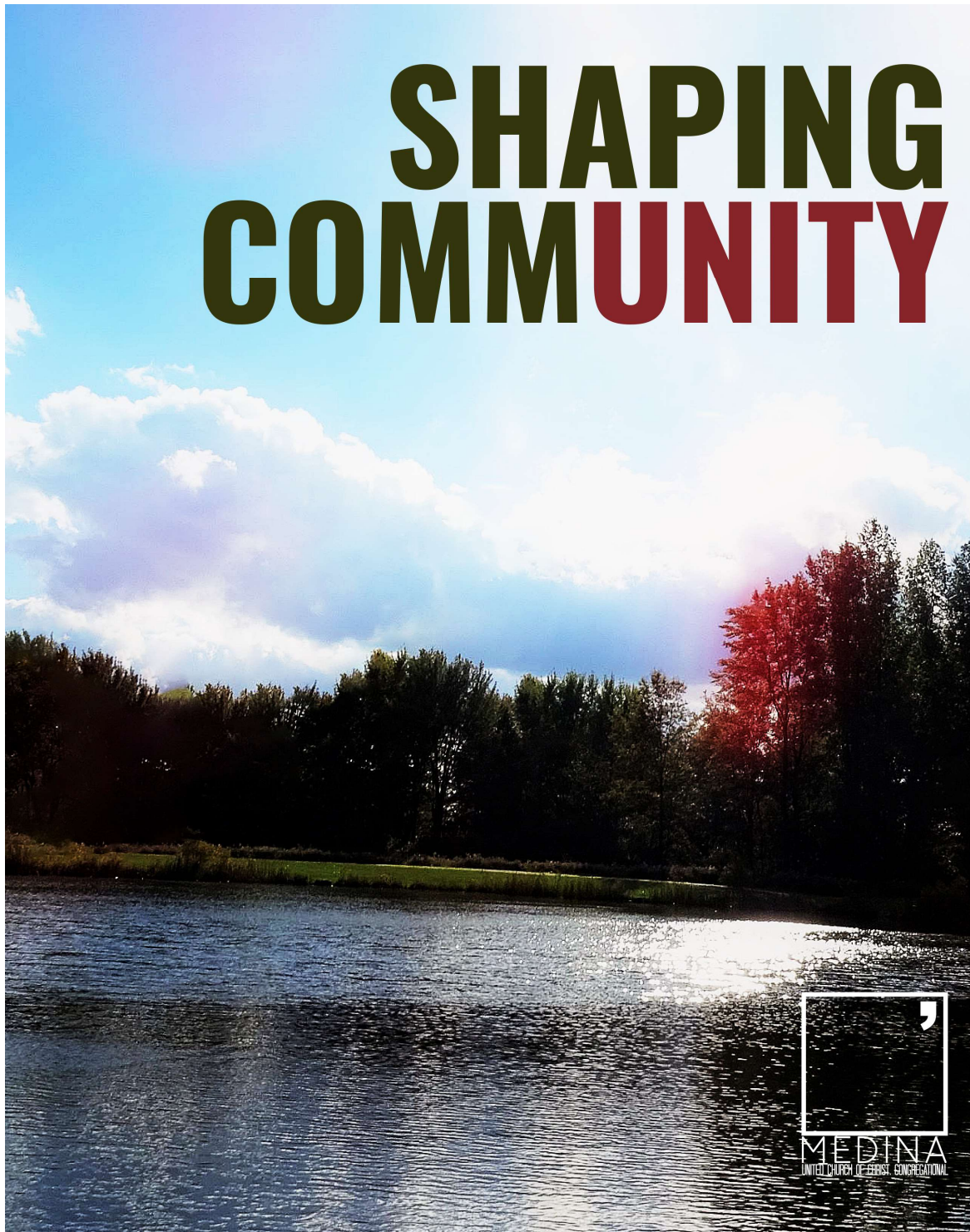
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

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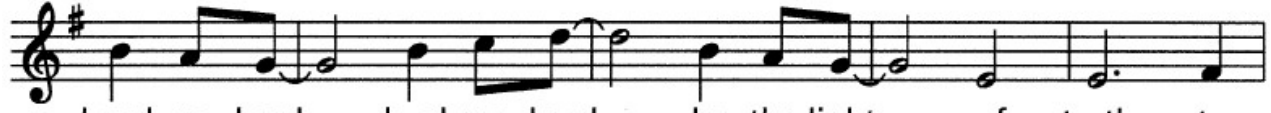


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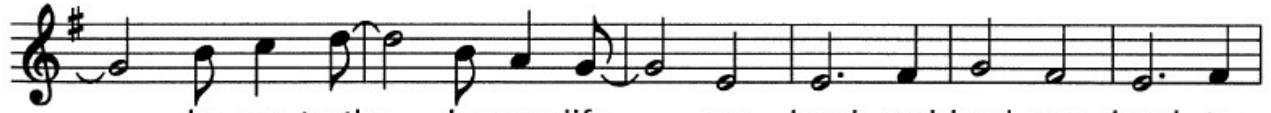
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2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plo - re.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

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Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

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Worship & Picnic

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Plan to join us and bring your family and friends!
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Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

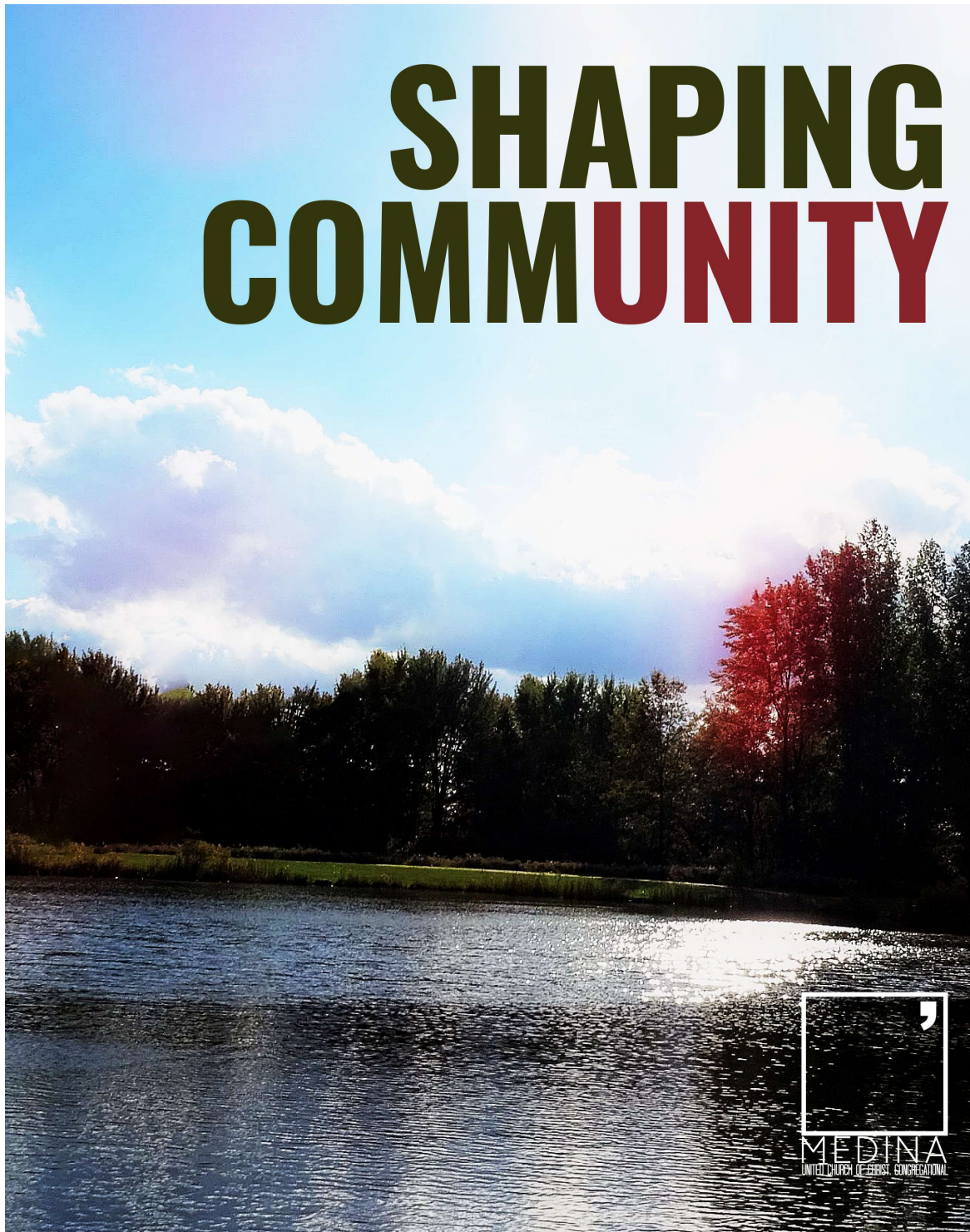
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

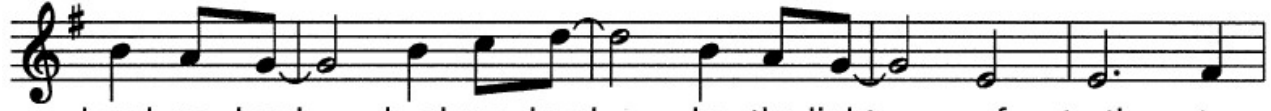


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

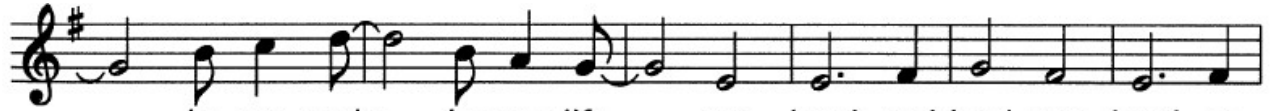
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 2021

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

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

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

Thurs

Fri

Sat

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship (in Sanctuary)
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11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

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The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

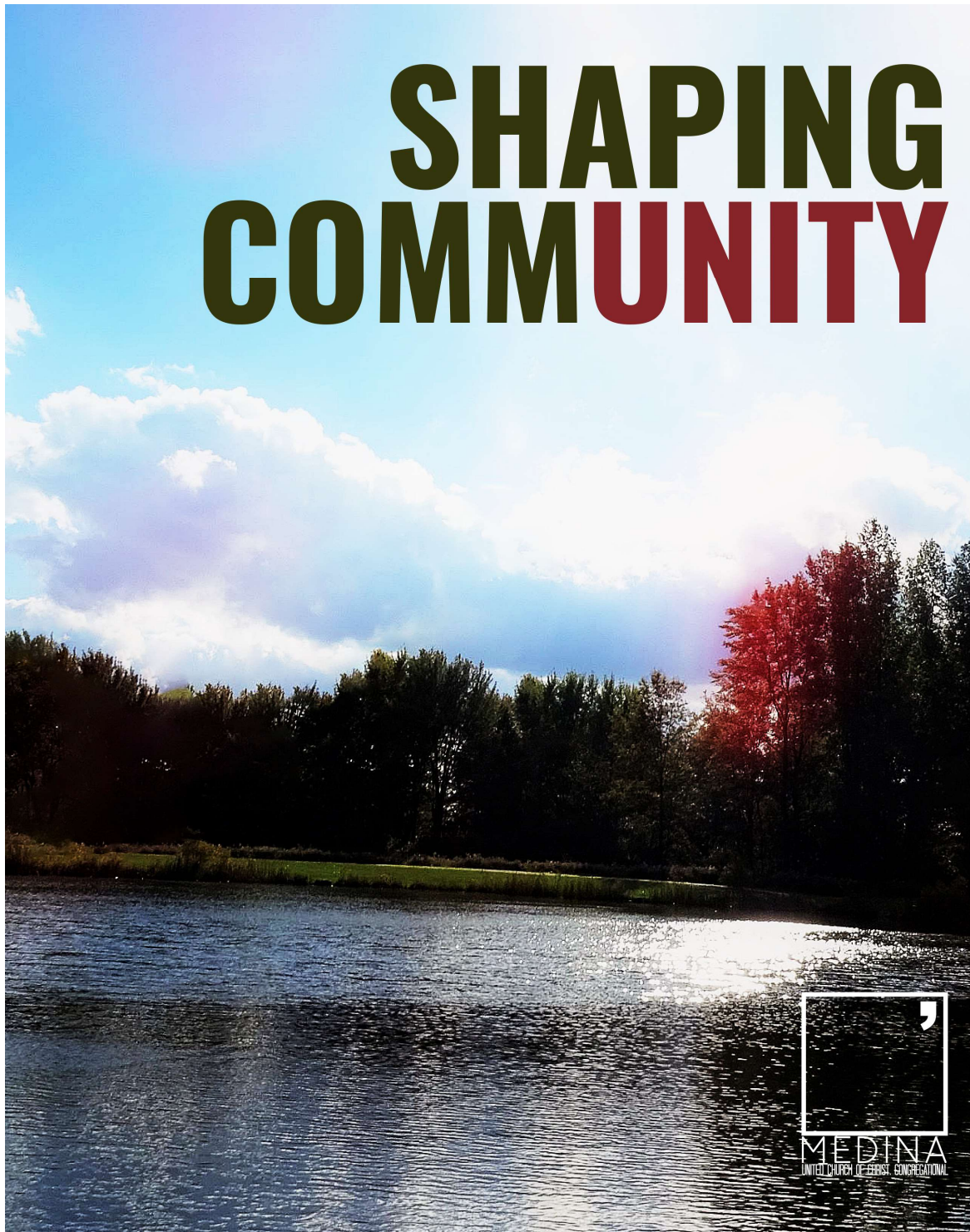
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SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



- Verses
1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
 2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
 3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

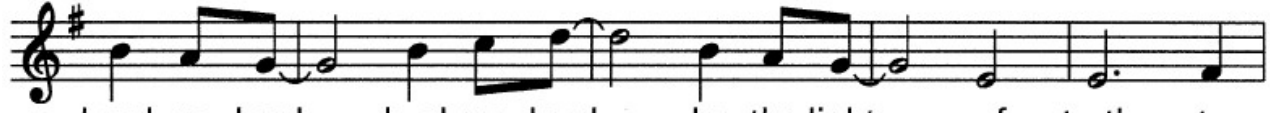


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

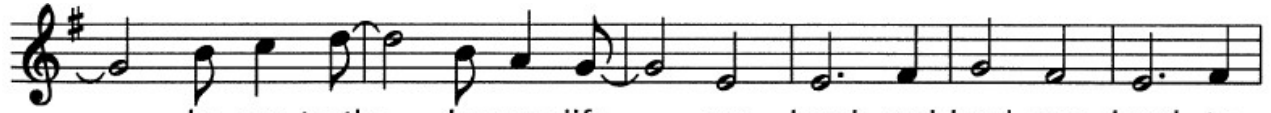
Refrain



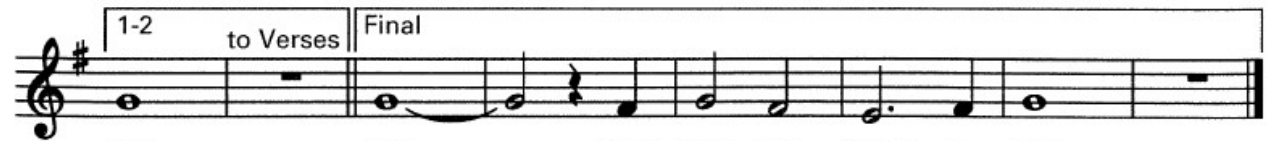
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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)

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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

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Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

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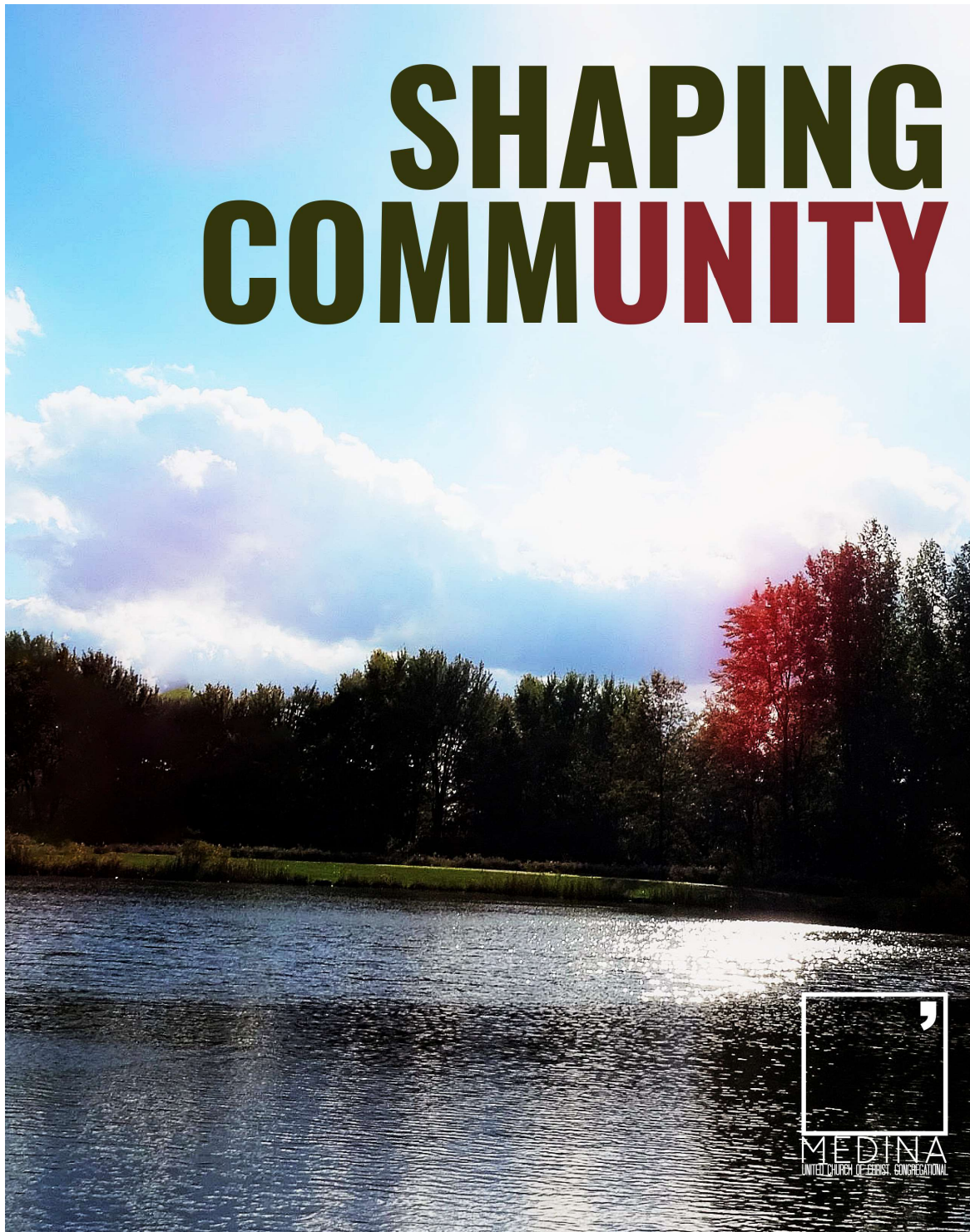
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2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

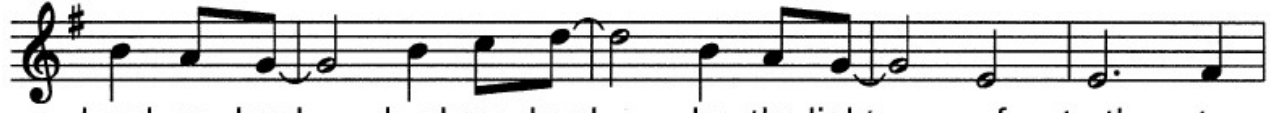


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2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
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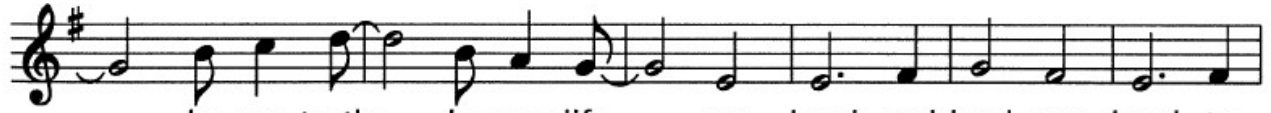
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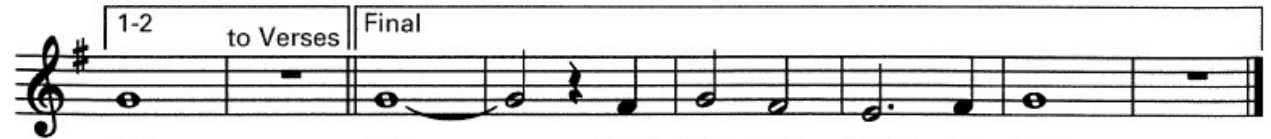
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Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plo - re.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

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

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The jars will be in the East Room for pick-up.

Please take a jar and add your name to 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

It’s time for the second book study in our Trilogy of Book Studies! “The Book Of Longings: A Novel” – by Sue Monk Kidd is available at the library. Please join us in person in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.** for our book discussion! Register for a reminder here:

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Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

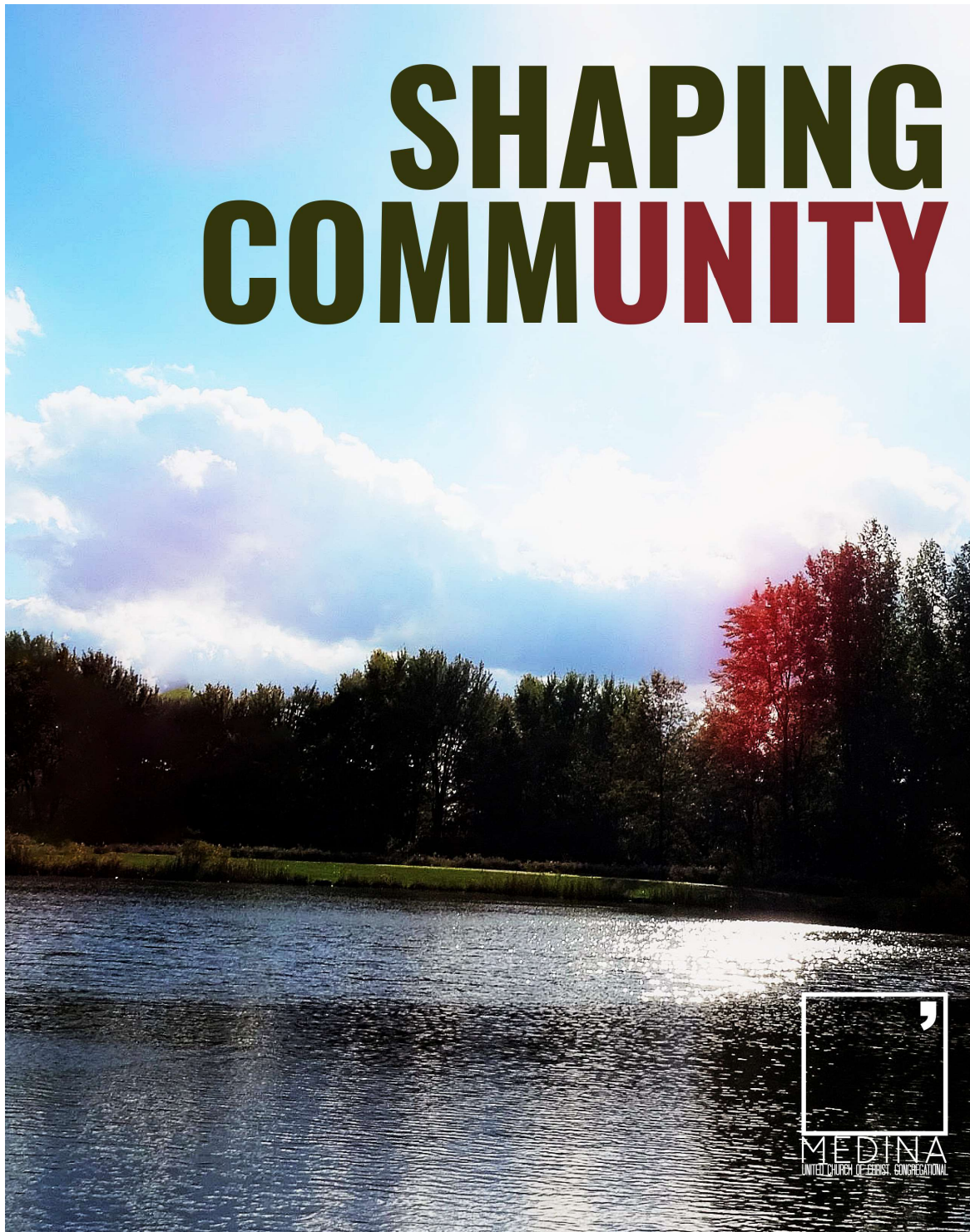
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

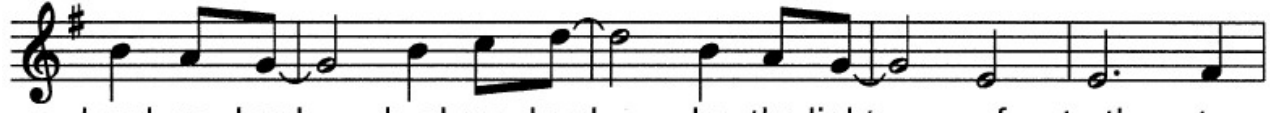


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

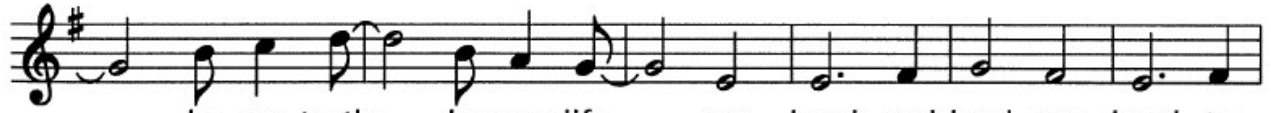
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

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3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
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We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

GIFT CARDS FOR THOSE IN NEED

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PASTOR’S CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

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Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

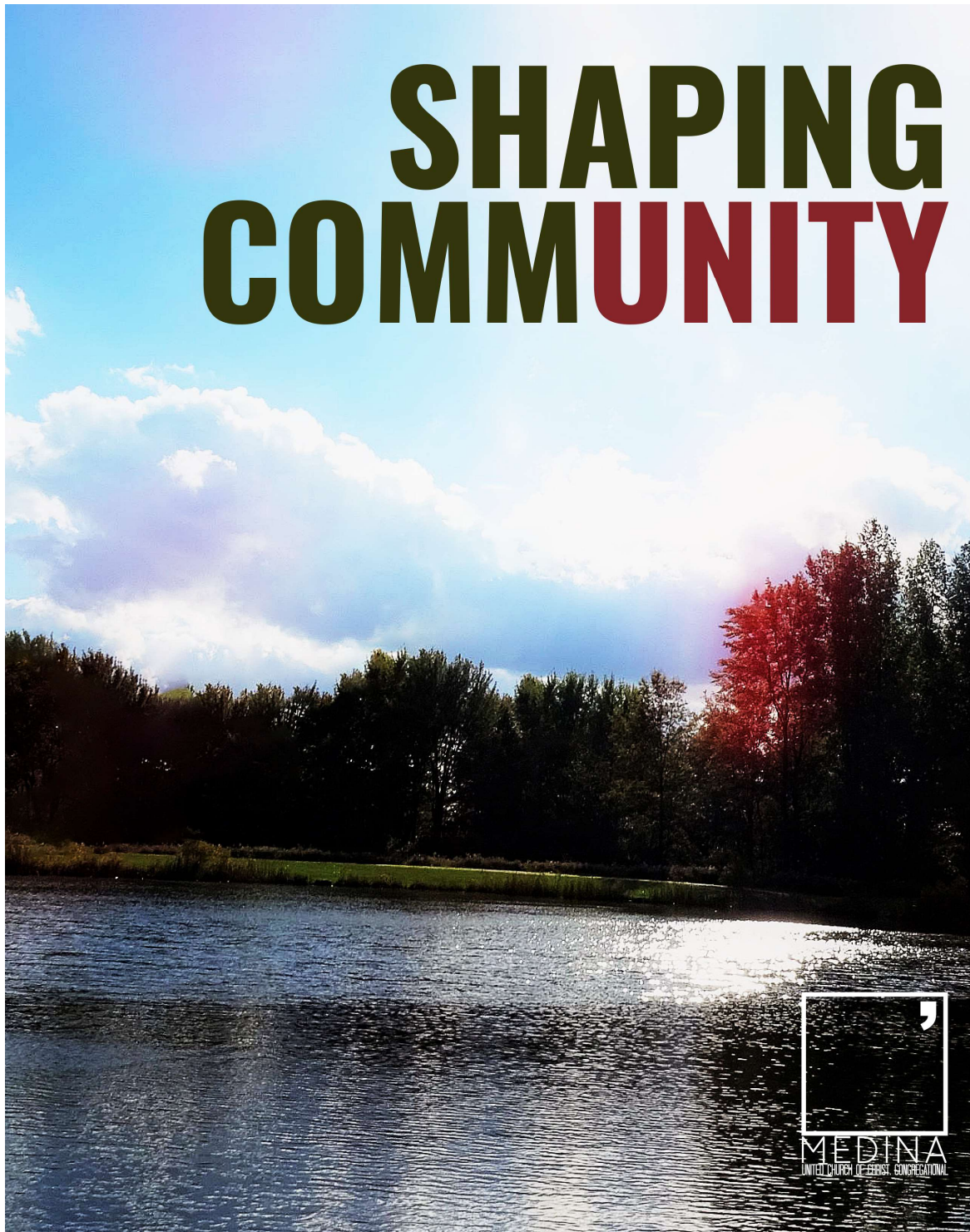
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SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

www.uccmedina.org



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“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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



- Verses
1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
 2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
 3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

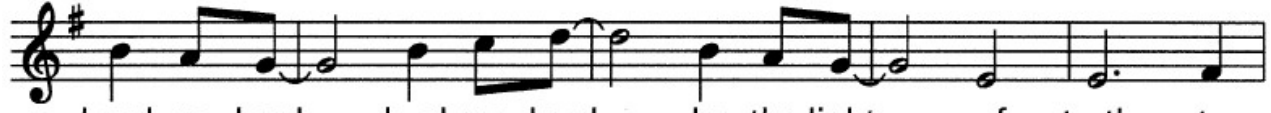


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

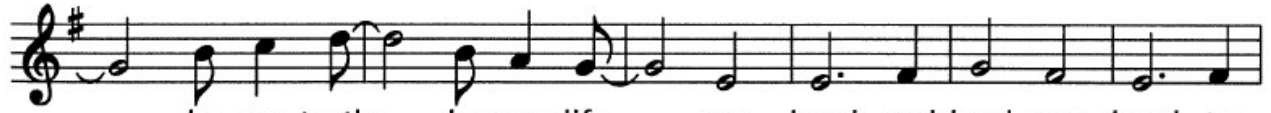
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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** "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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:

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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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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.

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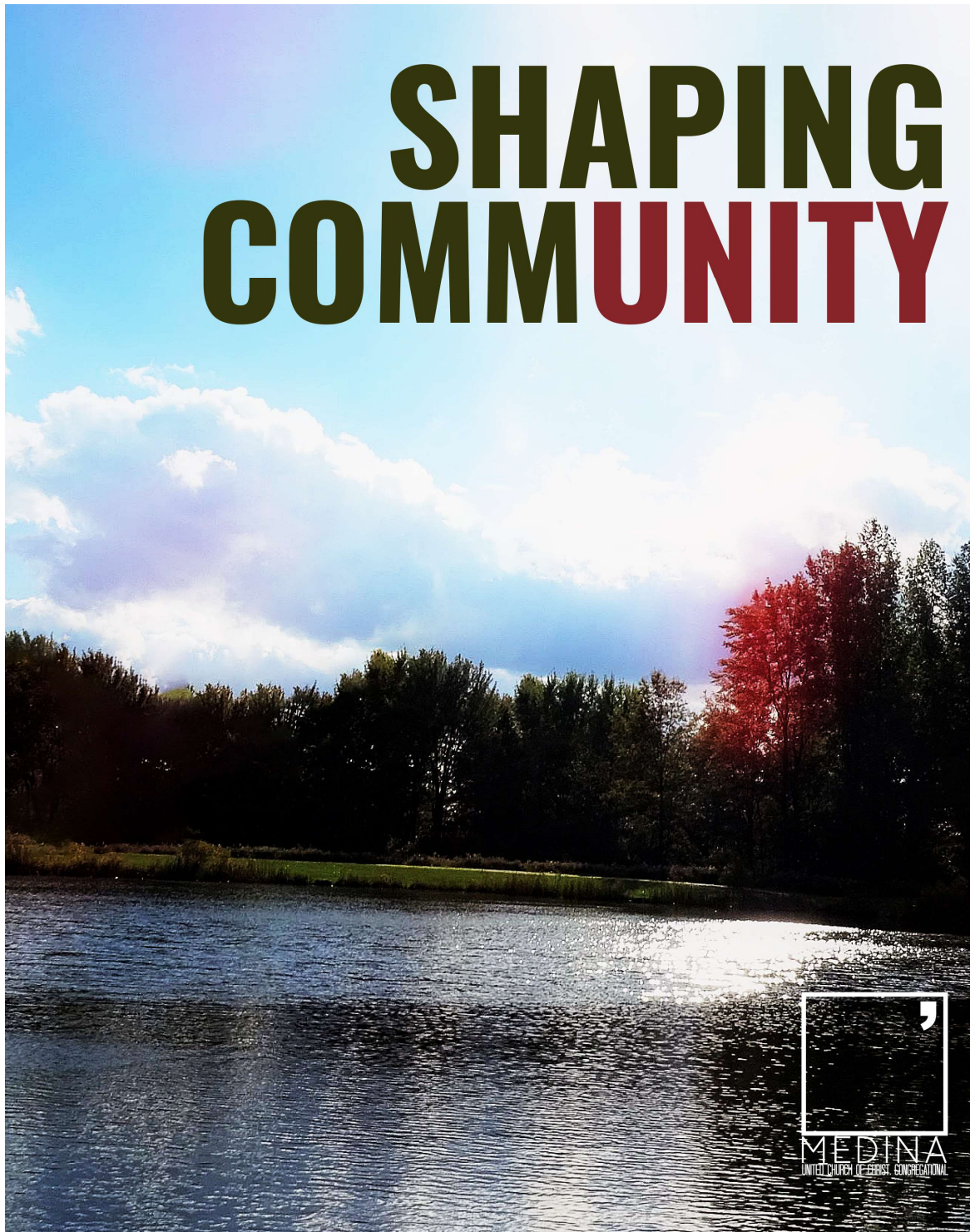
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“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS”

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

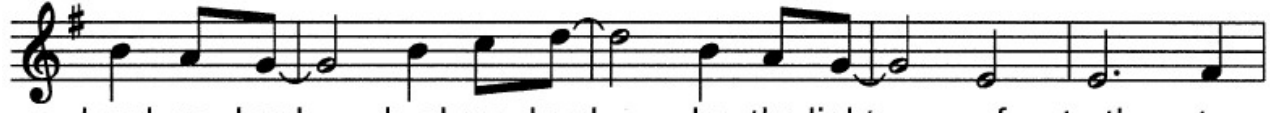


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

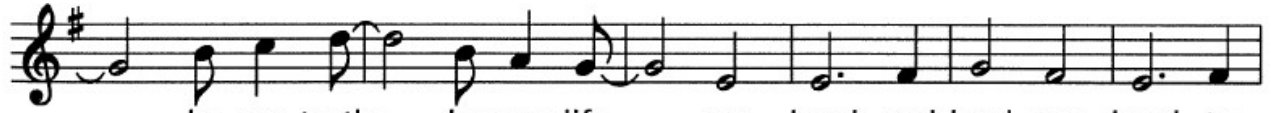
Refrain



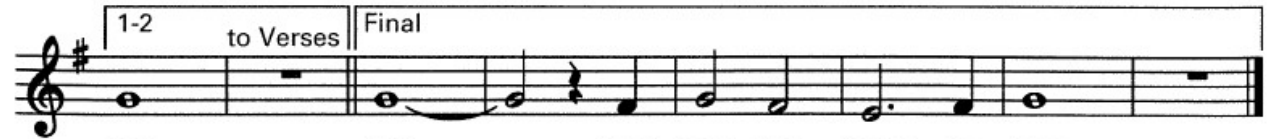
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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** "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

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Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor

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AUGUST 8, 2021

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

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

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

Thurs

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Sat

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10:30 am Traditional Worship
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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)

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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

It’s time for the second book study in our Trilogy of Book Studies! “The Book Of Longings: A Novel” – by Sue Monk Kidd is available at the library. Please join us in person in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.** for our book discussion! Register for a reminder here:

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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.

Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

**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**

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

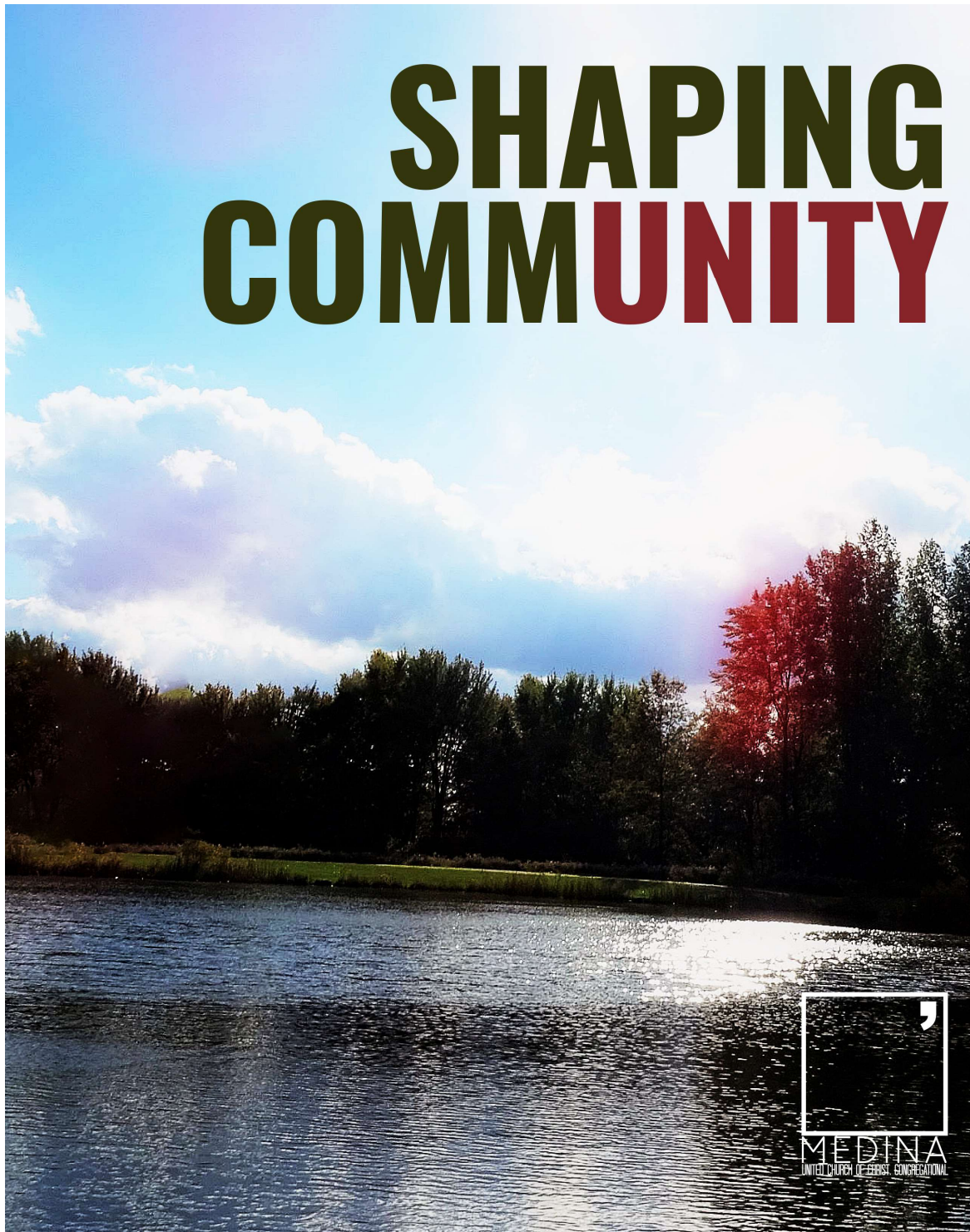
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

www.uccmedina.org



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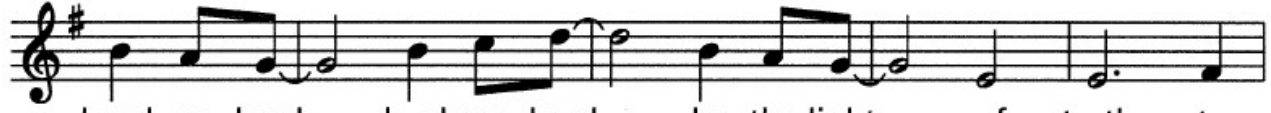


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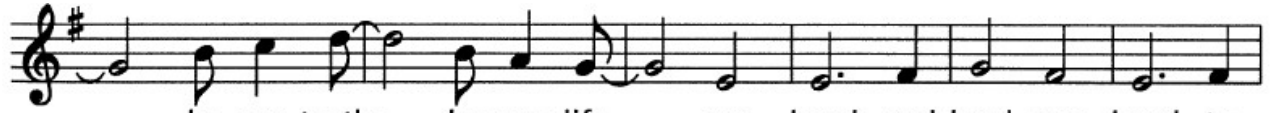
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2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

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Sermon: “Shaping Community”
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Plan to join us and bring your family and friends!
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Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

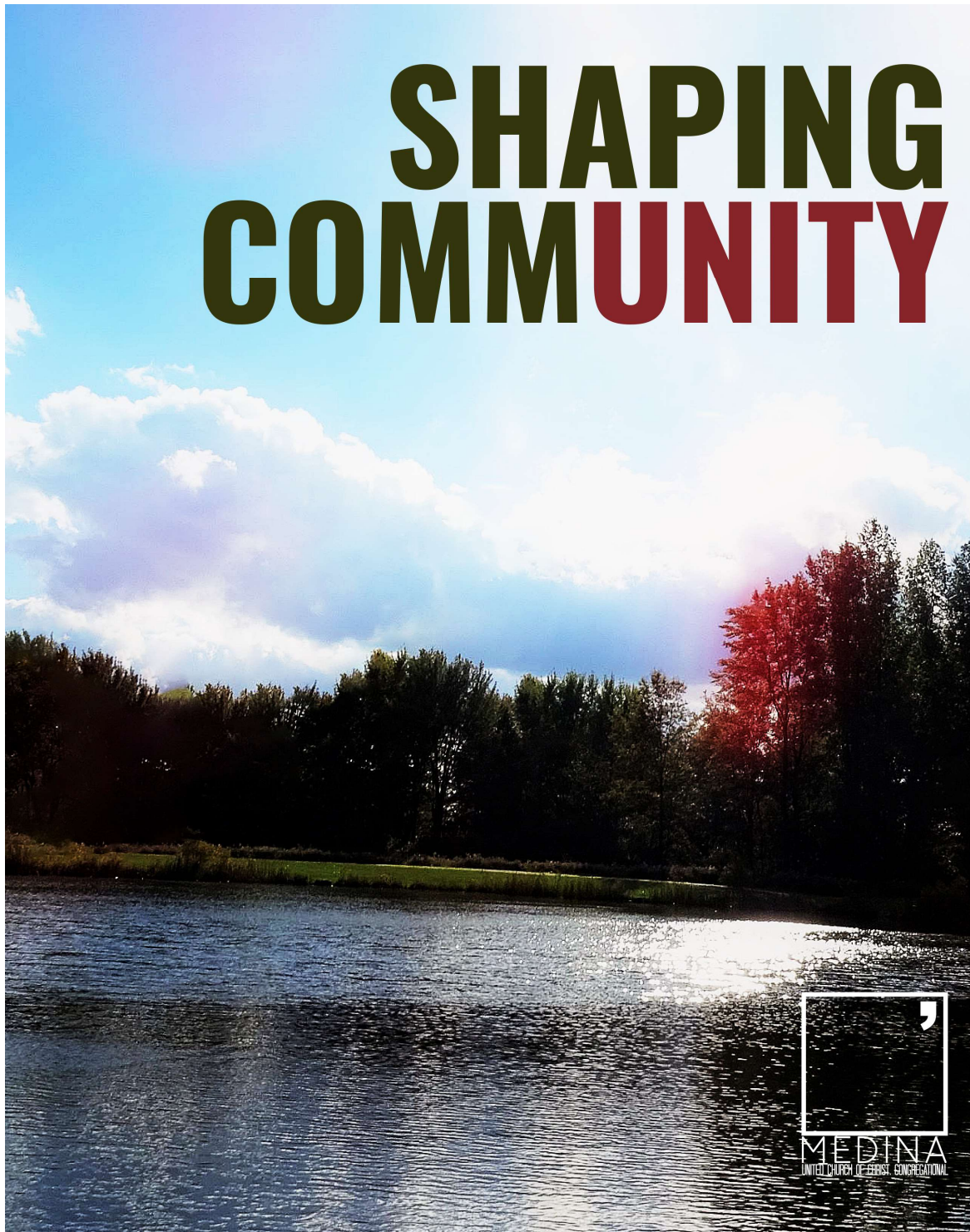
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

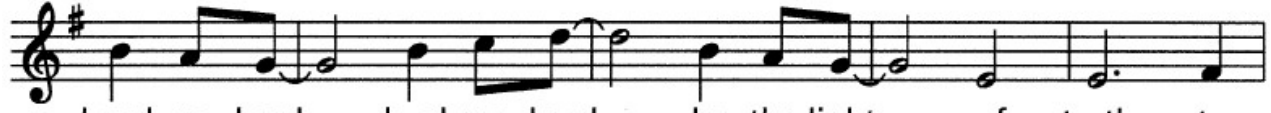


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

Refrain



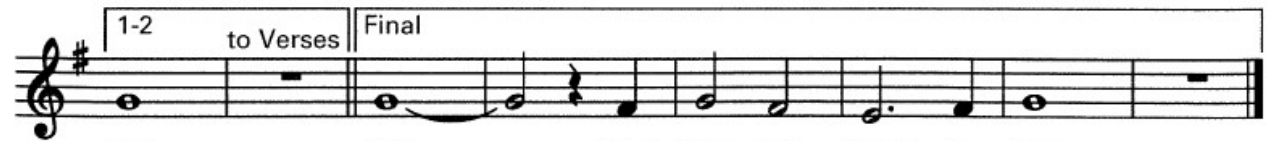
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 2021

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

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Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

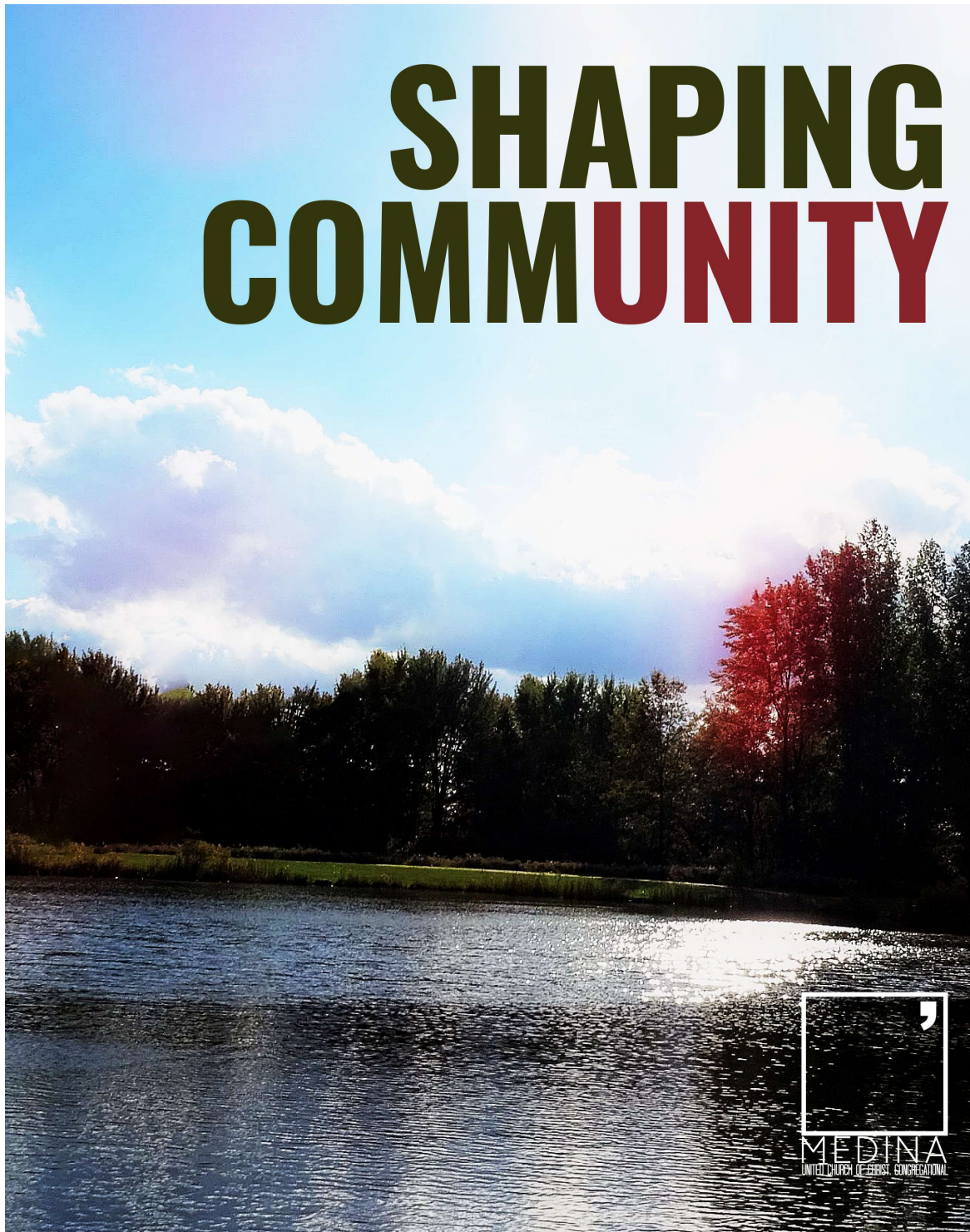
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SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

www.uccmedina.org



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“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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

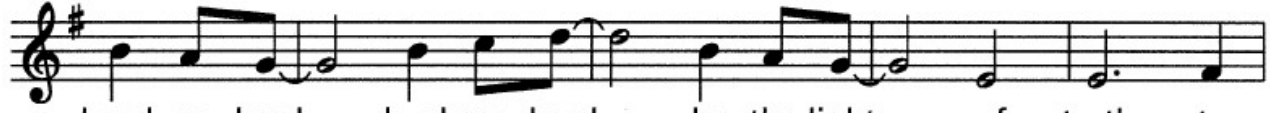


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

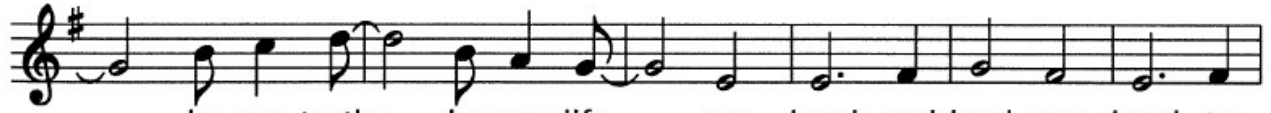
Refrain



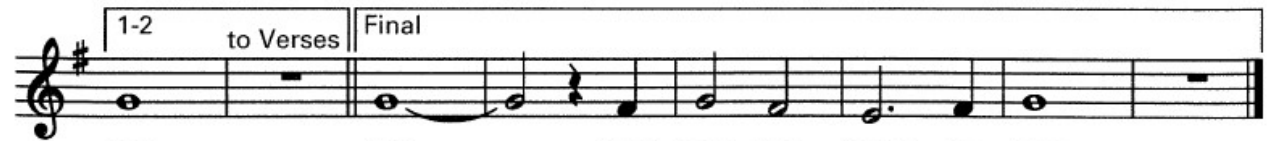
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plo - re.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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)

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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

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Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

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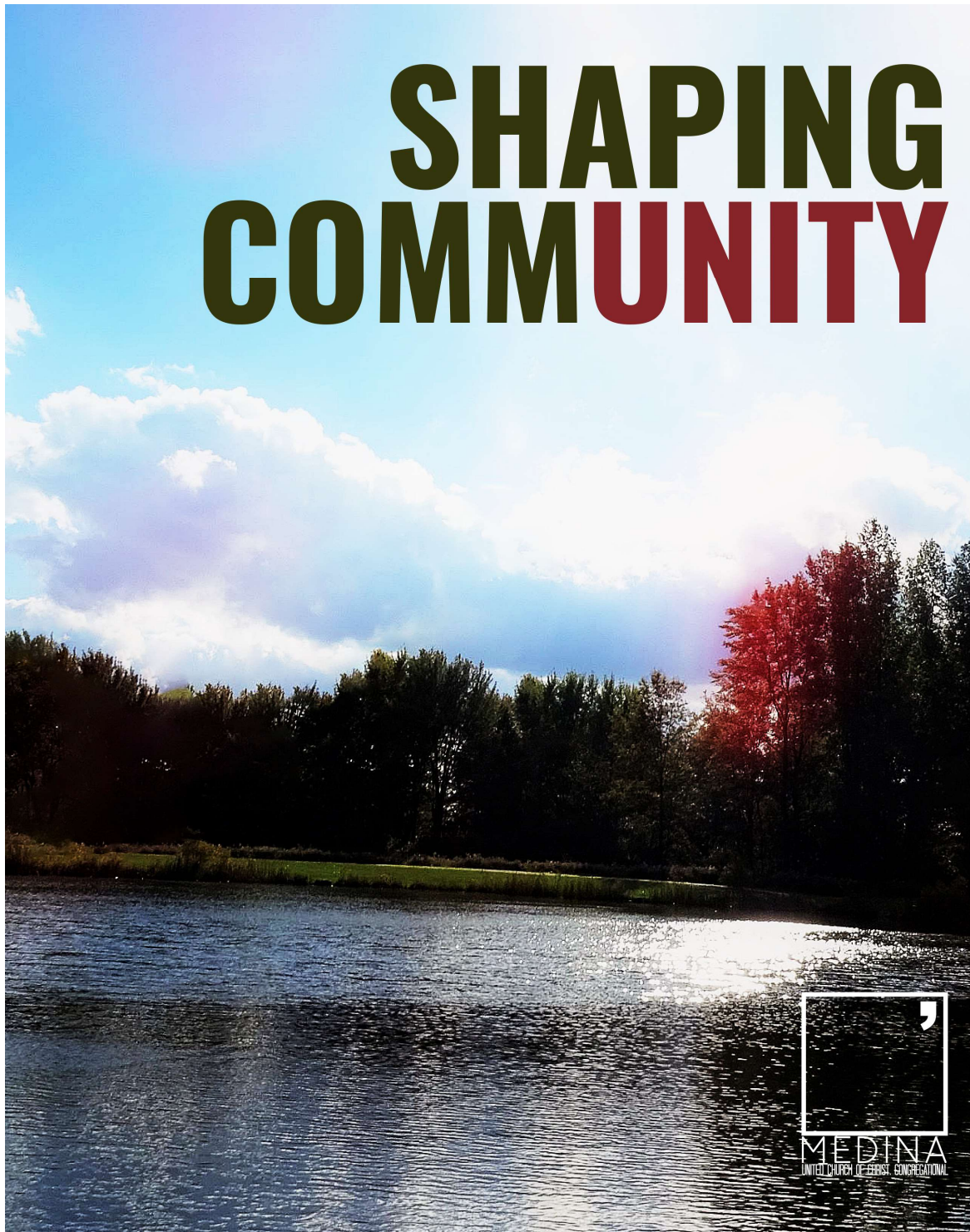
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Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

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1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

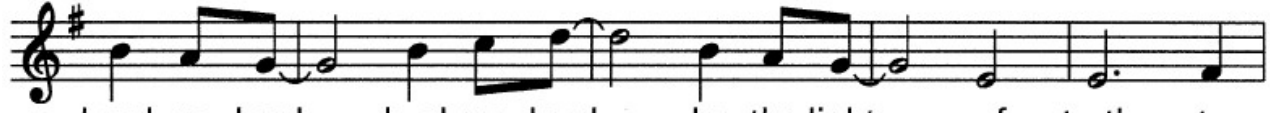


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

Refrain



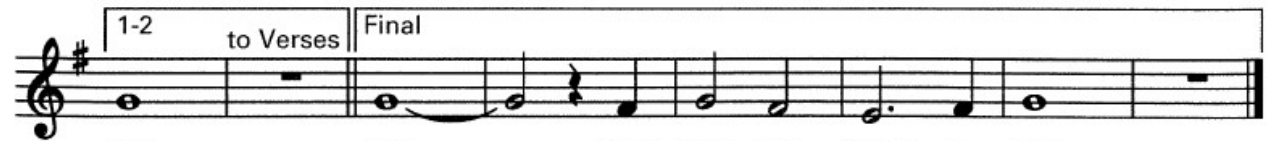
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Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

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Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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** "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

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Please take a jar and add your name to 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

It’s time for the second book study in our Trilogy of Book Studies! “The Book Of Longings: A Novel” – by Sue Monk Kidd is available at the library. Please join us in person in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.** for our book discussion! Register for a reminder here:

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Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

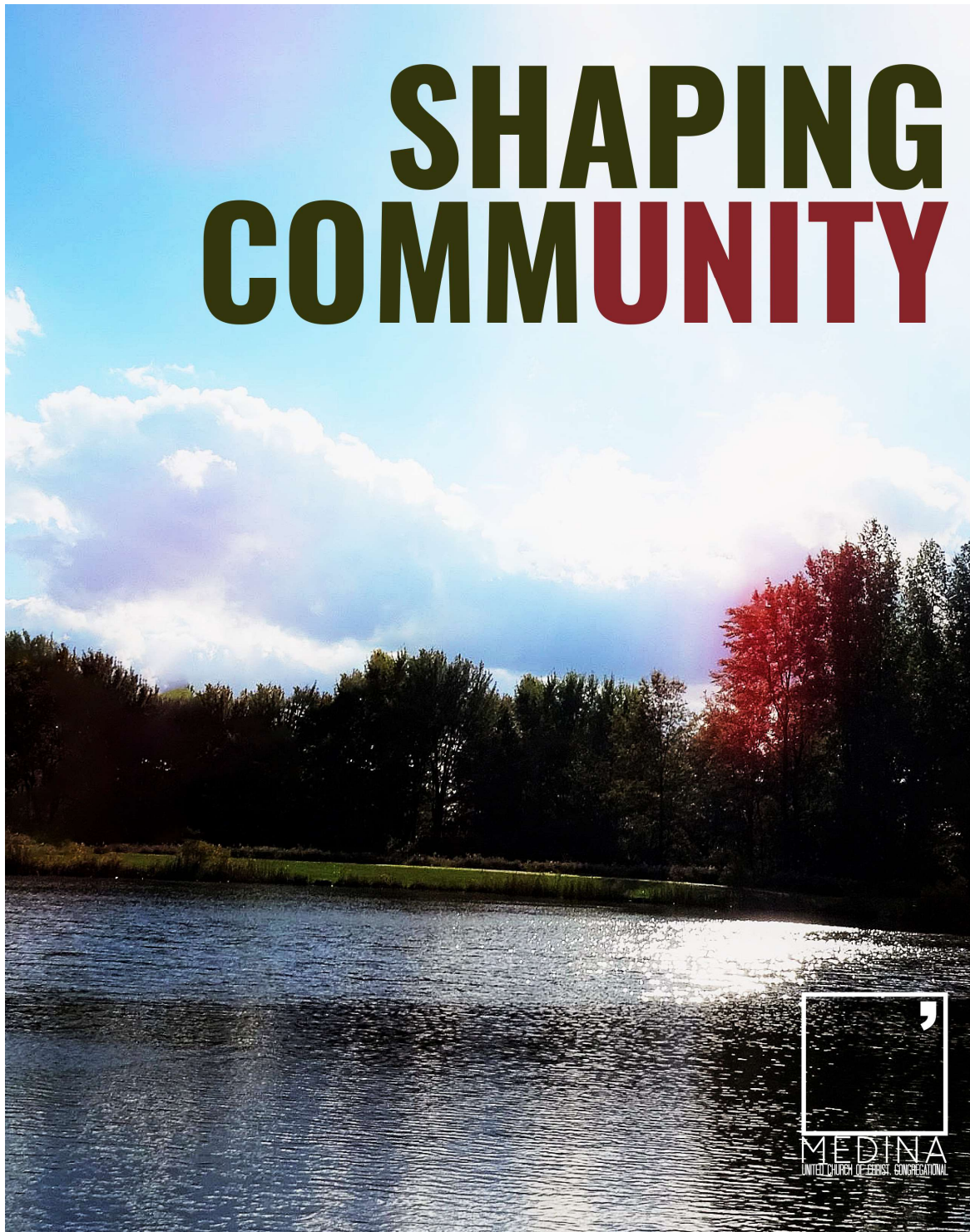
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

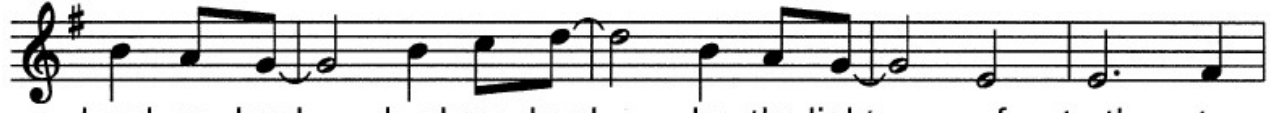


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

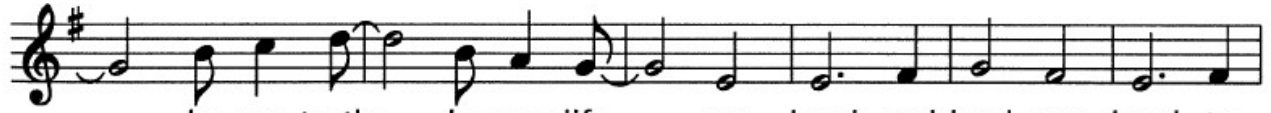
Refrain



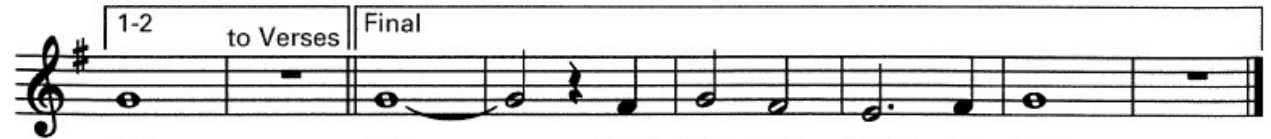
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

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2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

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We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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PASTOR’S CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

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Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

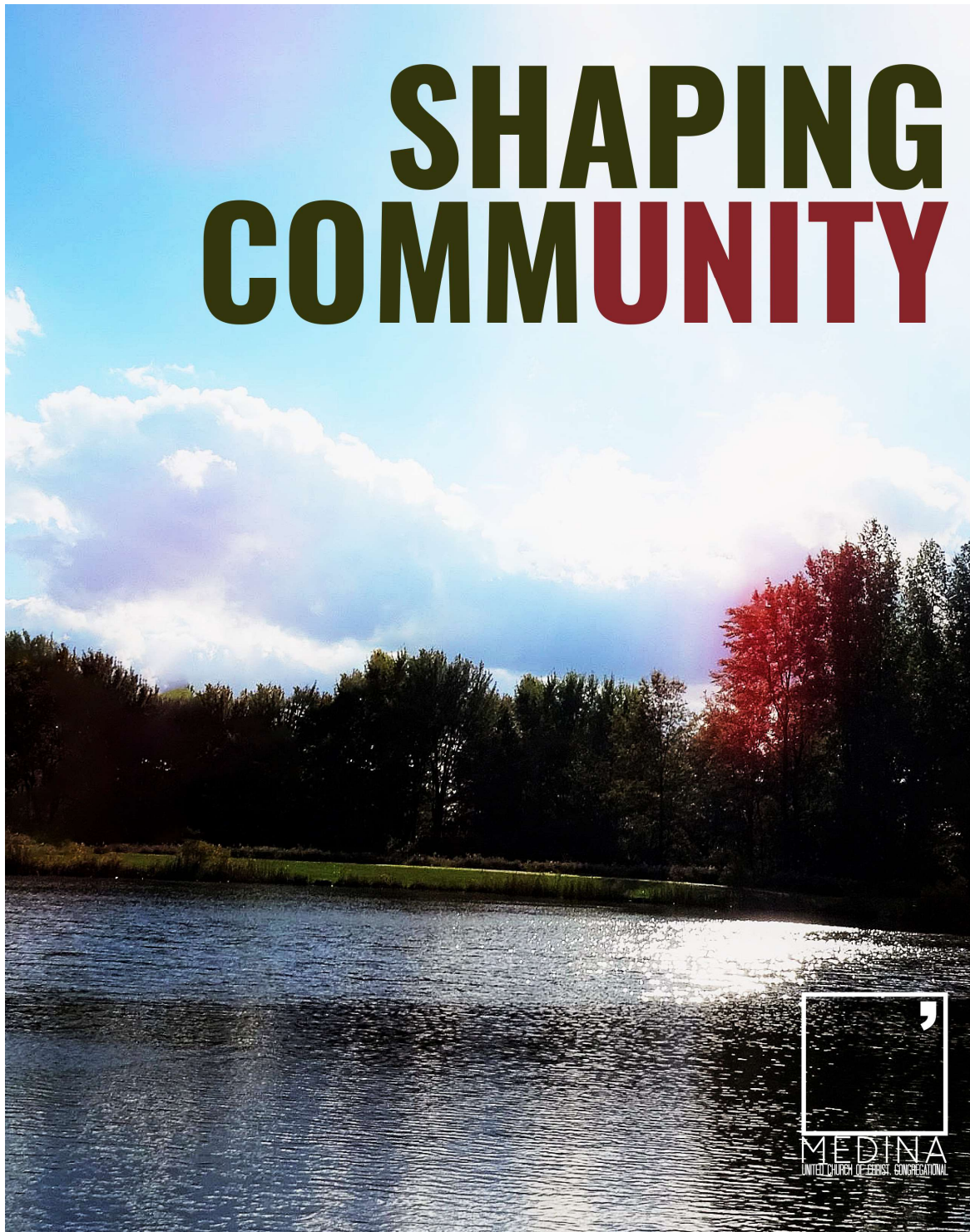
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SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

www.uccmedina.org



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“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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

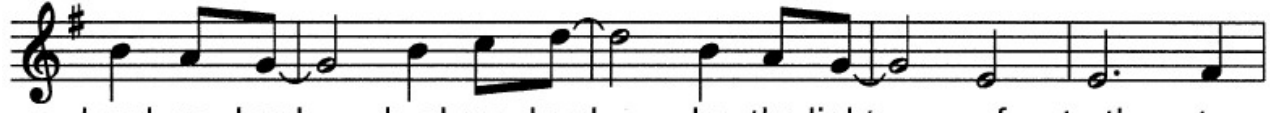


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

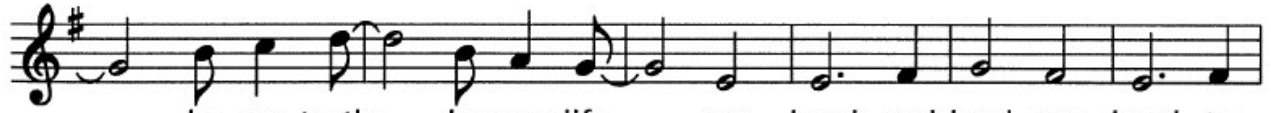
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plo - re.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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:

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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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 sign up sheet.

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

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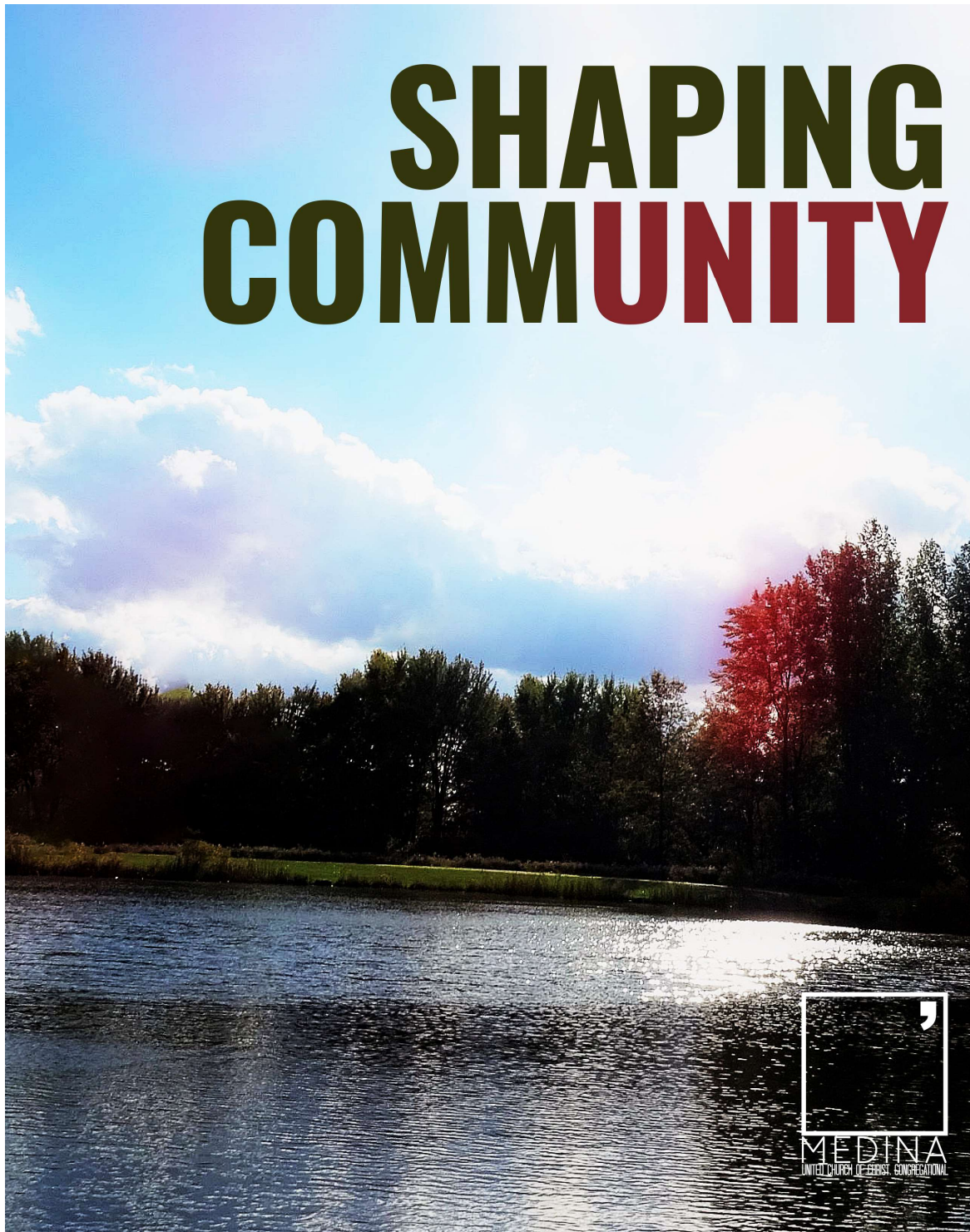
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Please take a moment to sign the friendship pads, (located at the end of each pew) so that you know who is worshipping near you and you may greet them by name.

**Those who are able please stand*

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

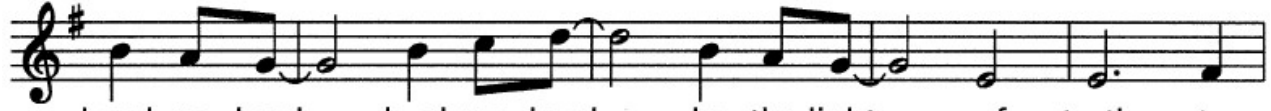


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

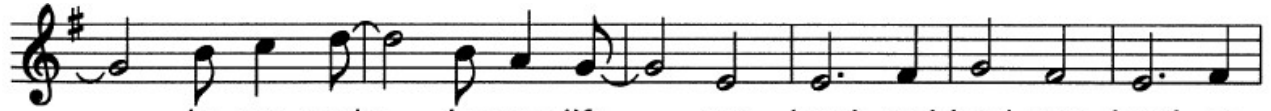
Refrain



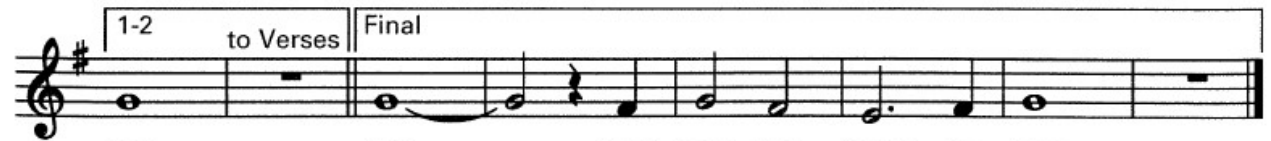
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

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Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor

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AUGUST 8, 2021

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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)

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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

It’s time for the second book study in our Trilogy of Book Studies! “The Book Of Longings: A Novel” – by Sue Monk Kidd is available at the library. Please join us in person in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.** for our book discussion! Register for a reminder here:

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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.

Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

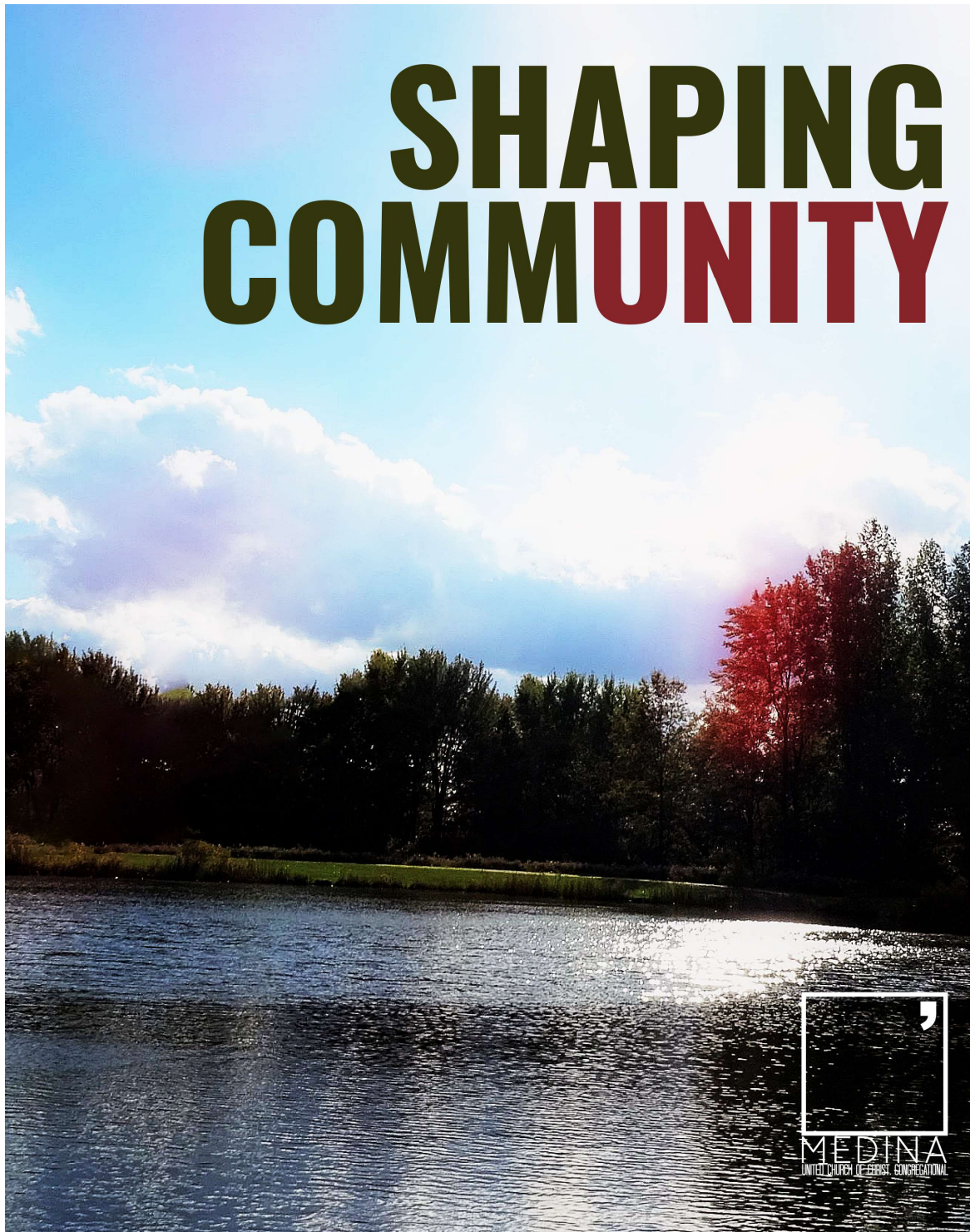
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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*****

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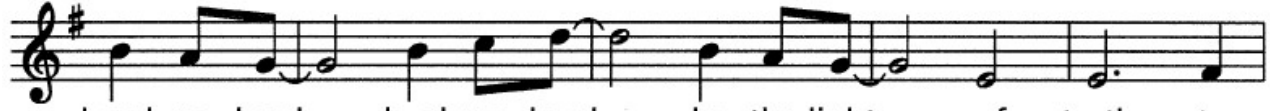


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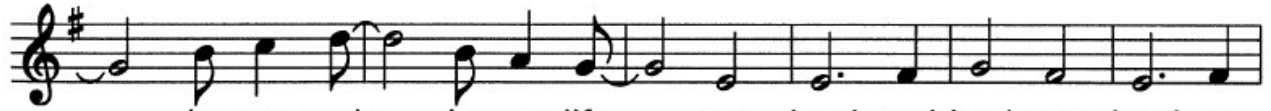
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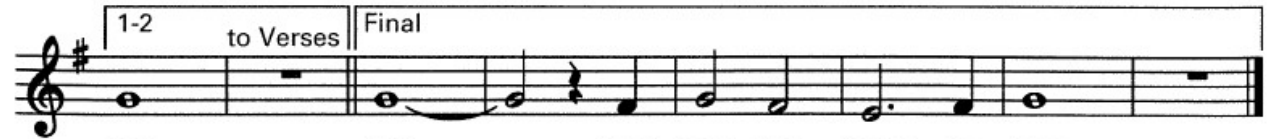
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2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

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10:30 am Traditional Worship
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
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Worship Highlights: 8:15, 9:00 & 10:30 am

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
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Sermon: “Shaping Community”
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PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

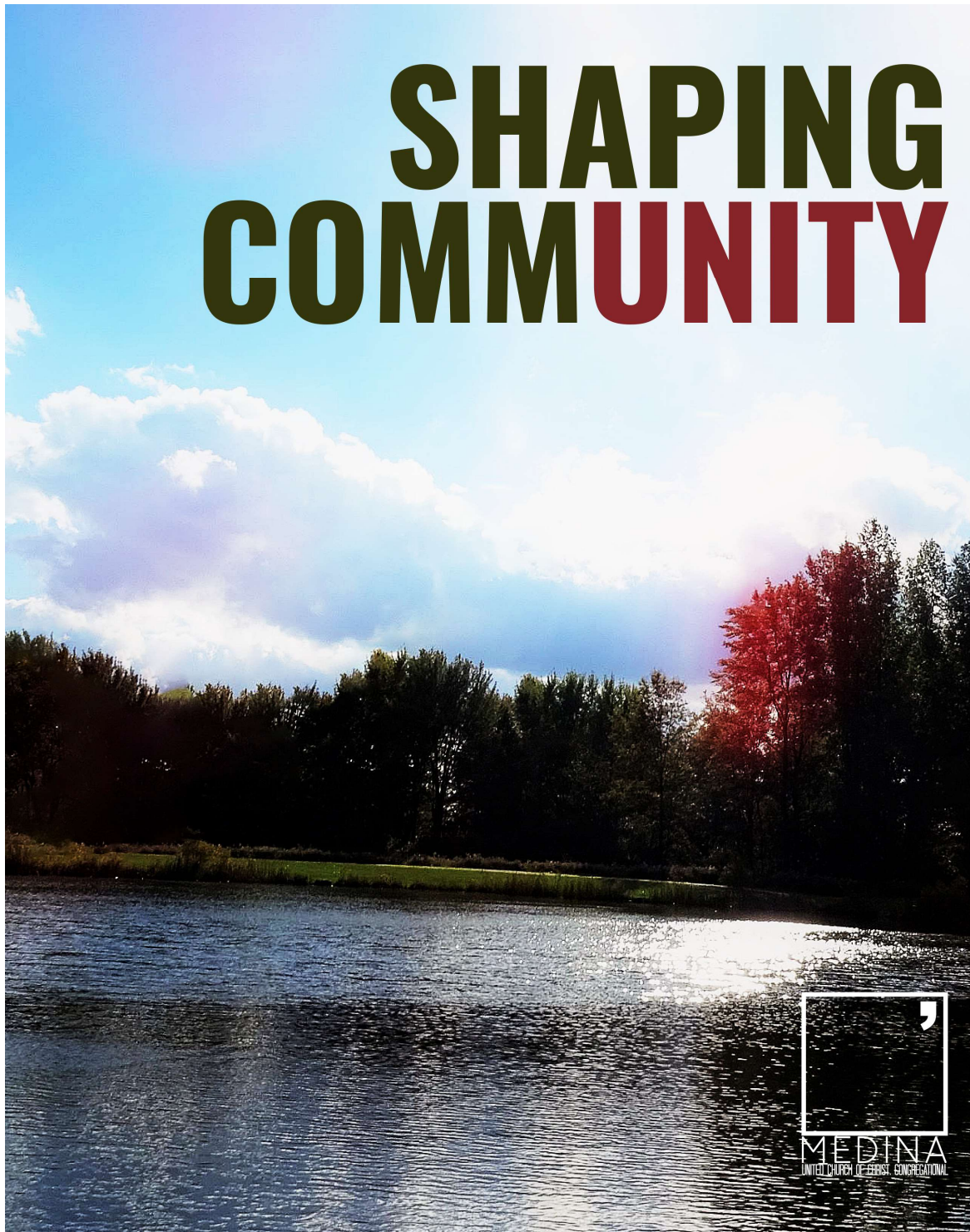
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

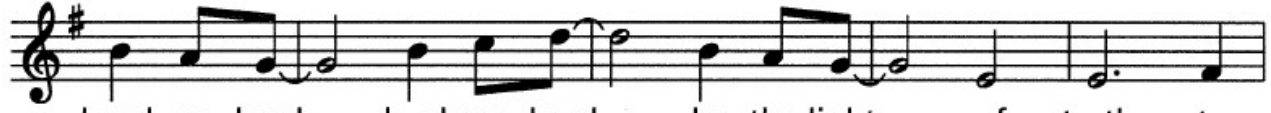


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

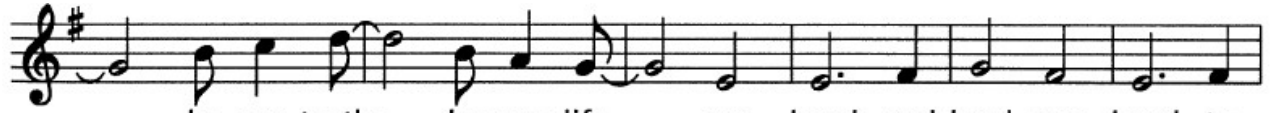
Refrain



Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 2021

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

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Mon

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7:00 pm Worship Team Meeting

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

Thurs

Fri

Sat

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Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

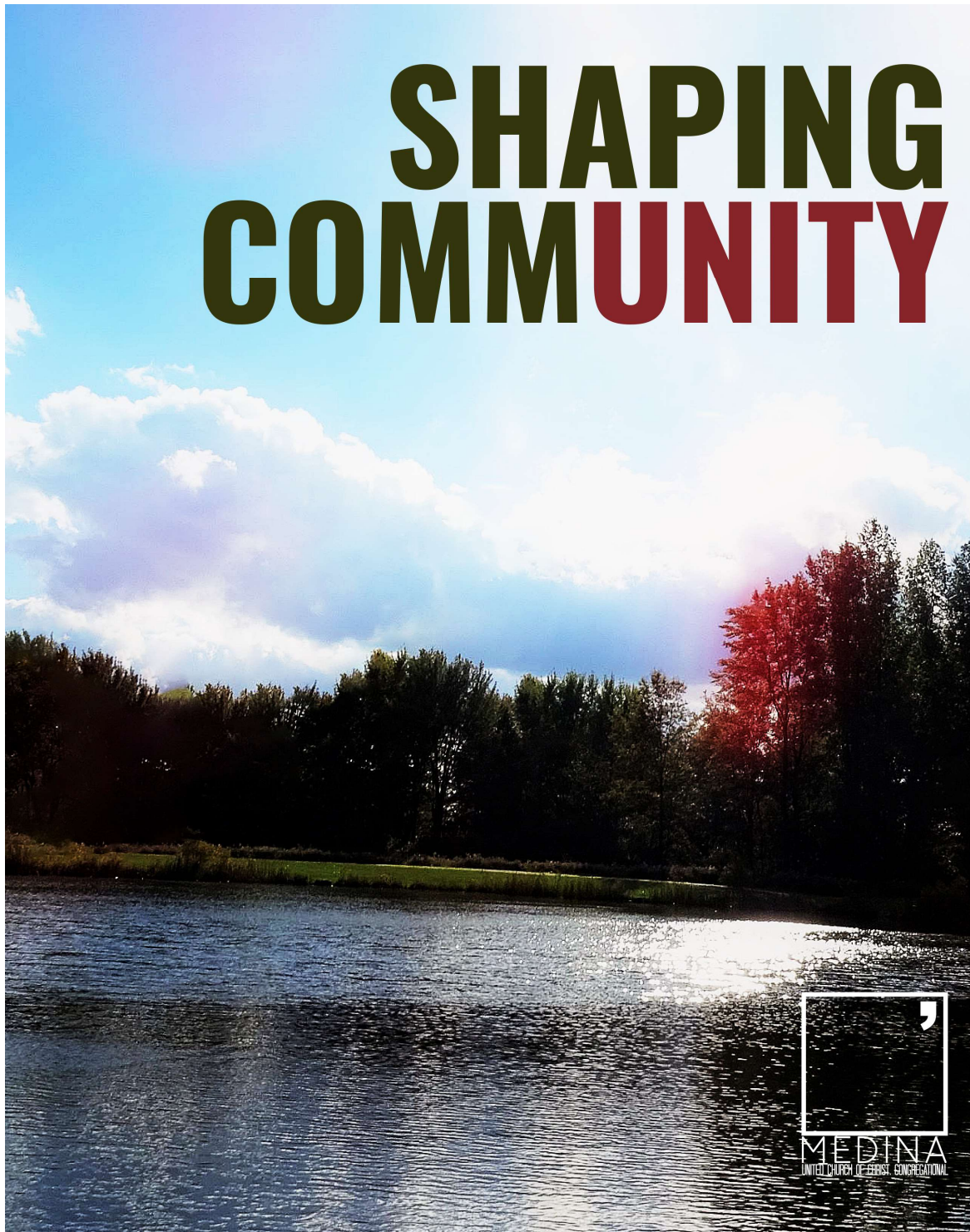
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From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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“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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

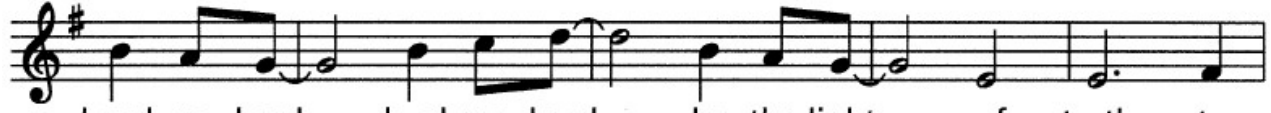


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

Refrain



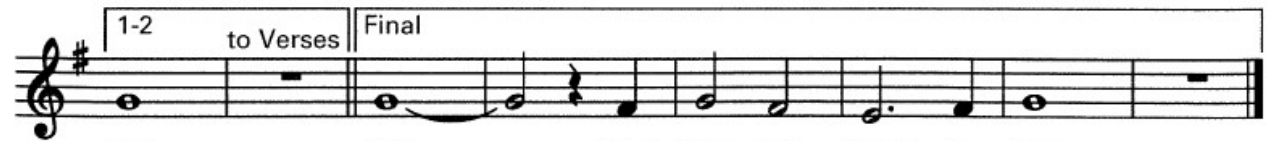
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plo - re.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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)

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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

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Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

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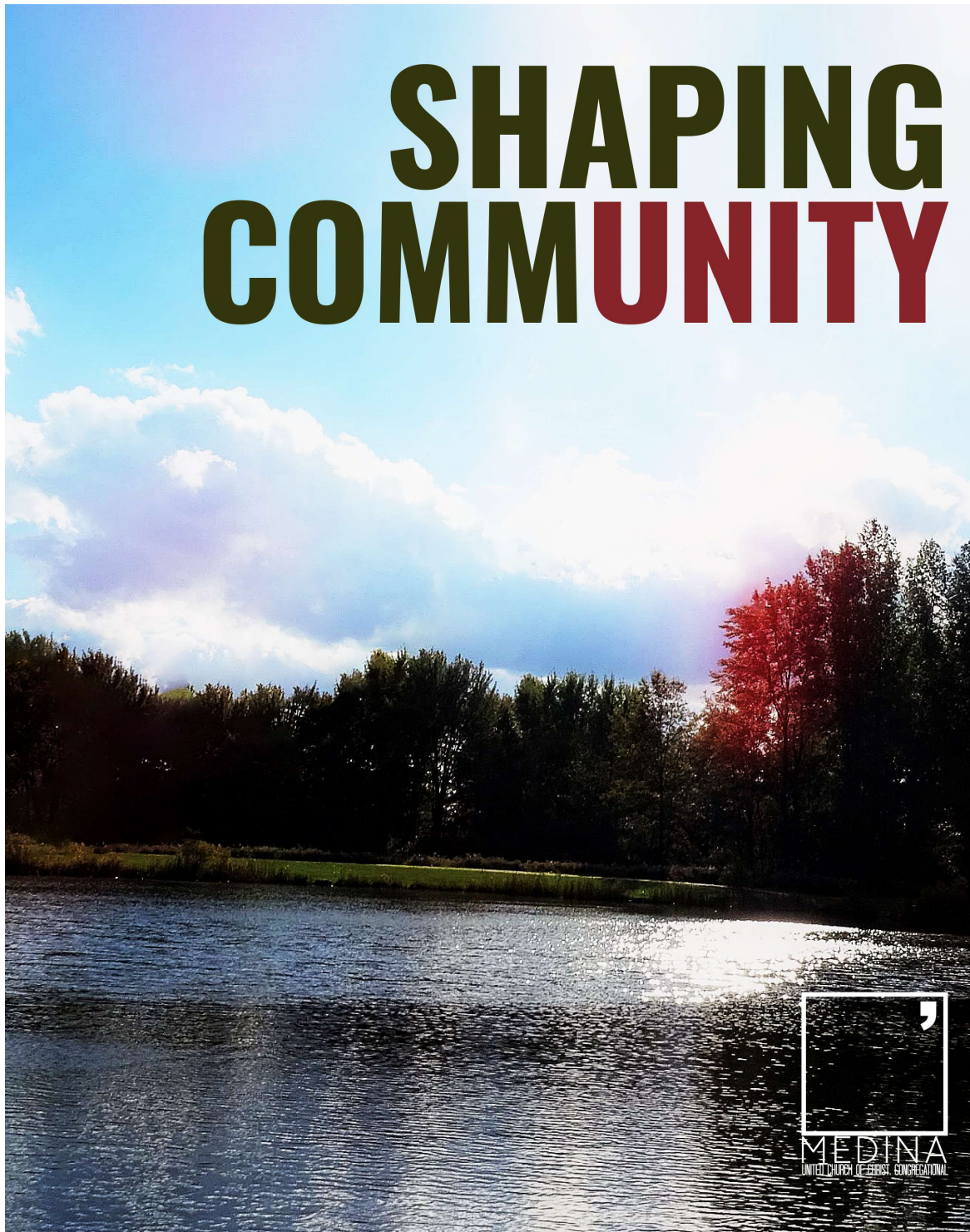
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*OPENING HYMN

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- Verses
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 2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
 3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

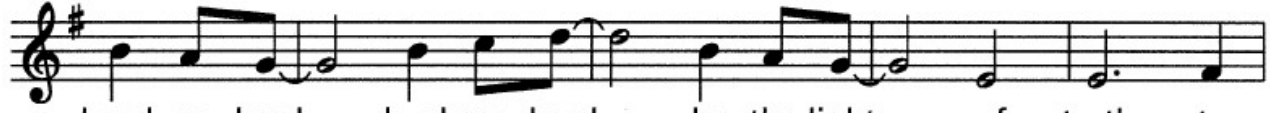


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

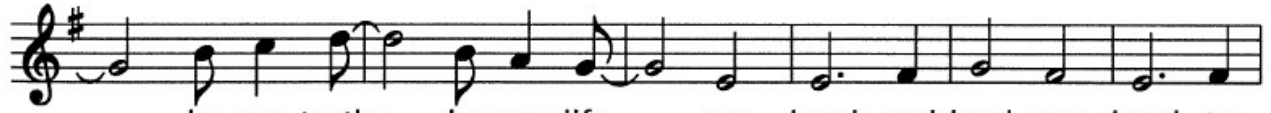
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Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

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August 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

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Please take a jar and add your name to 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

It’s time for the second book study in our Trilogy of Book Studies! “The Book Of Longings: A Novel” – by Sue Monk Kidd is available at the library. Please join us in person in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.** for our book discussion! Register for a reminder here:

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Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

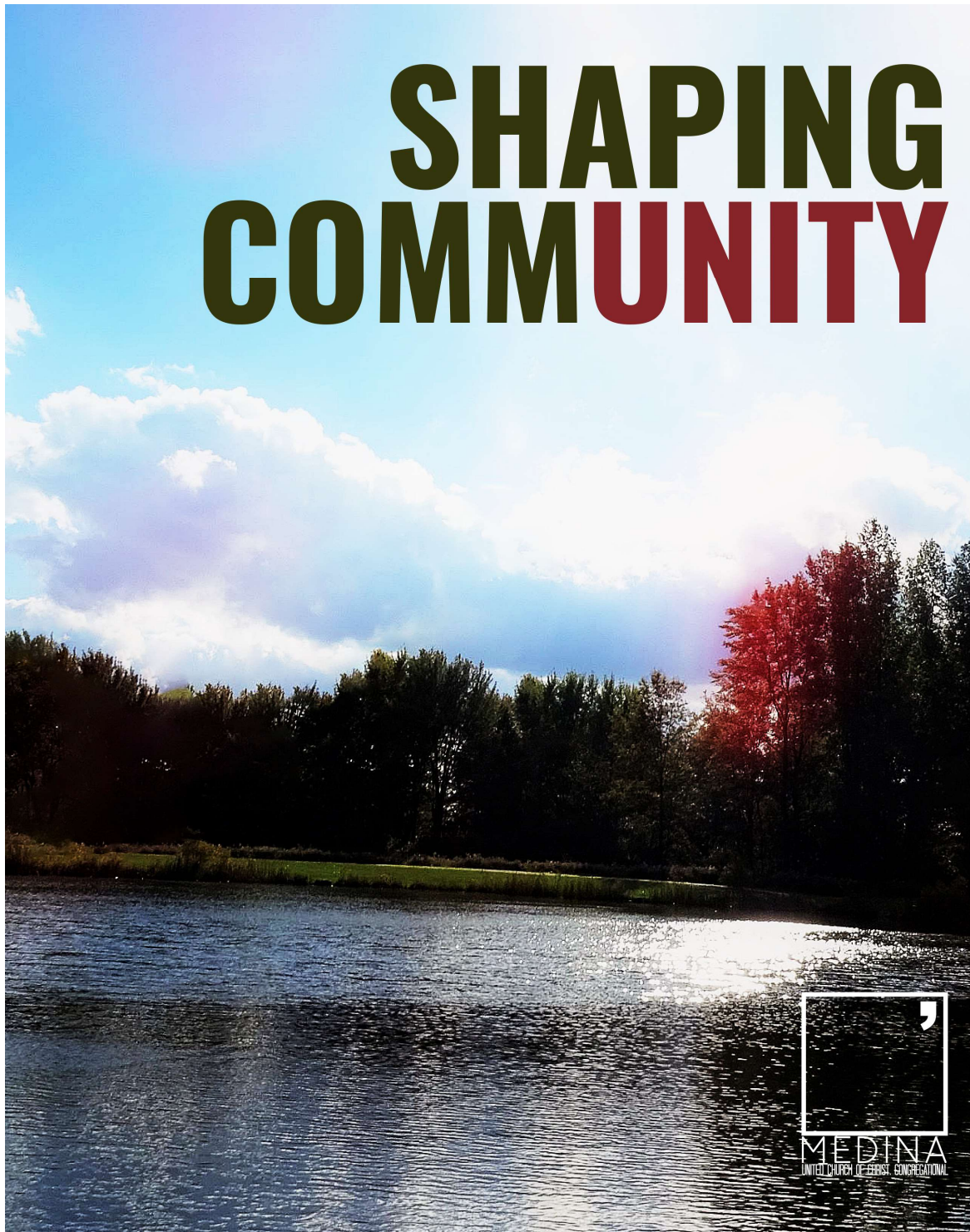
Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.

SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mugrage Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

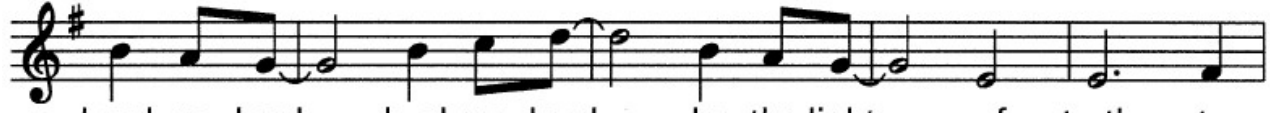


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

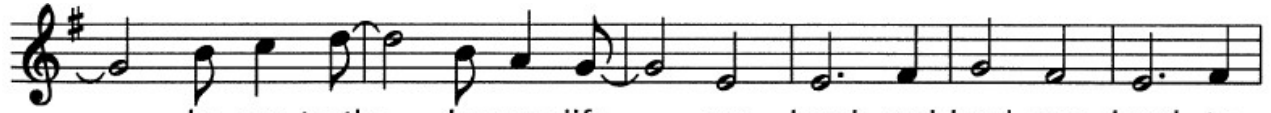
Refrain



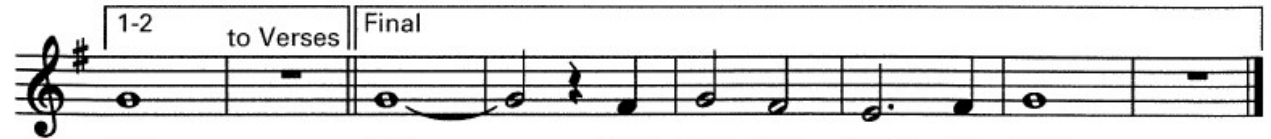
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

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2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plo - re.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

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PASTOR’S CORNER FOR AUGUST

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Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

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The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

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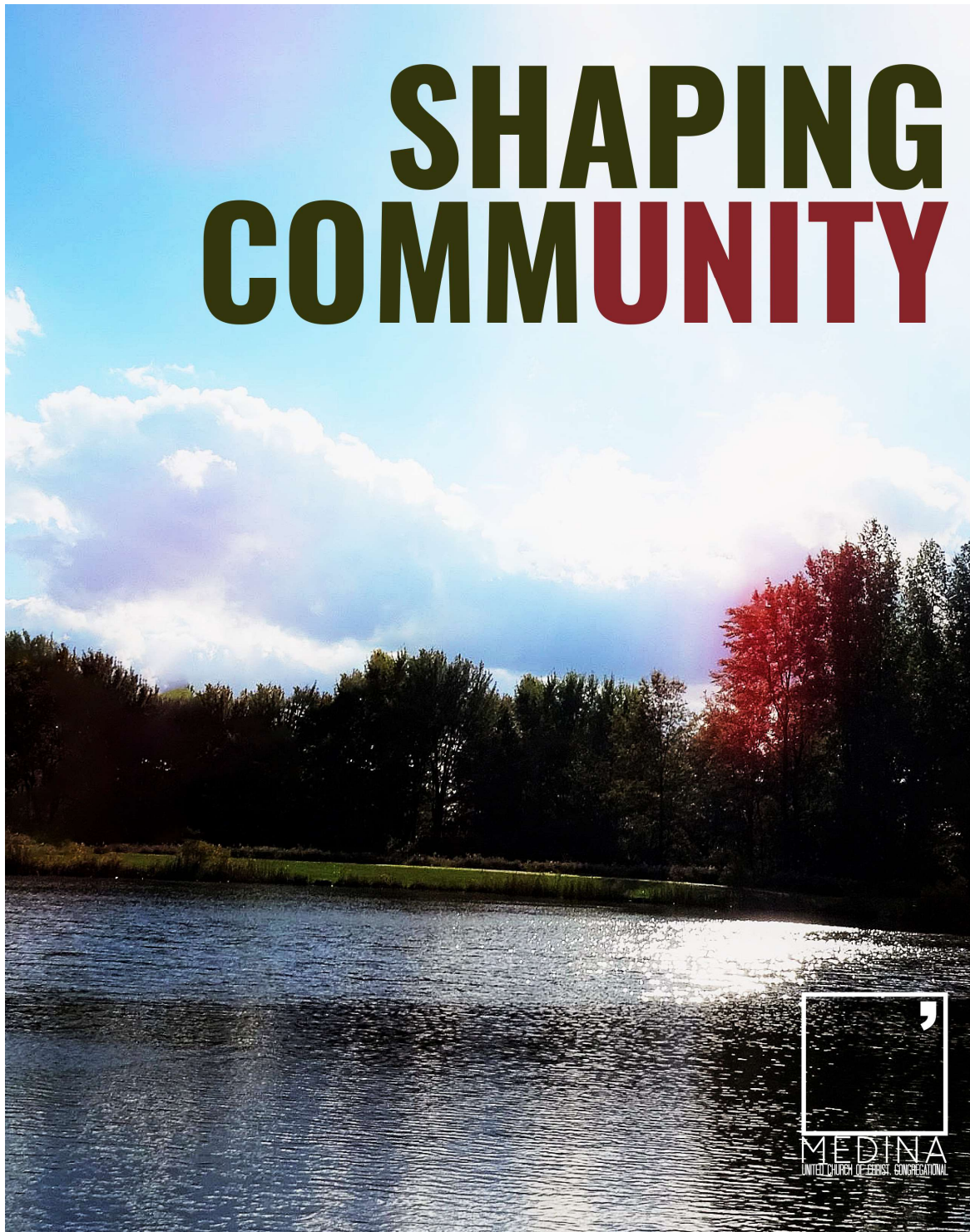
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SHAPING COMMUNITY



August 8, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

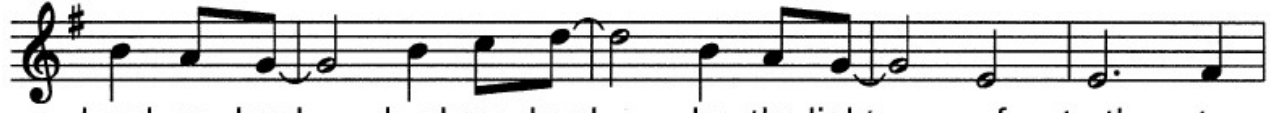


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

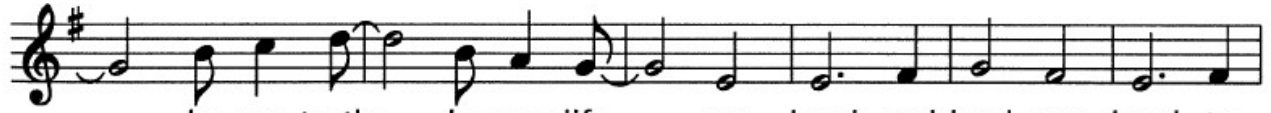
Refrain



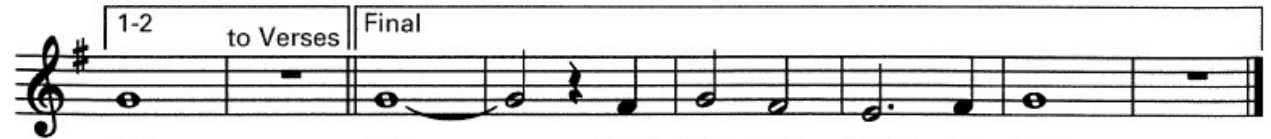
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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:

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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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 sign up sheet.

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

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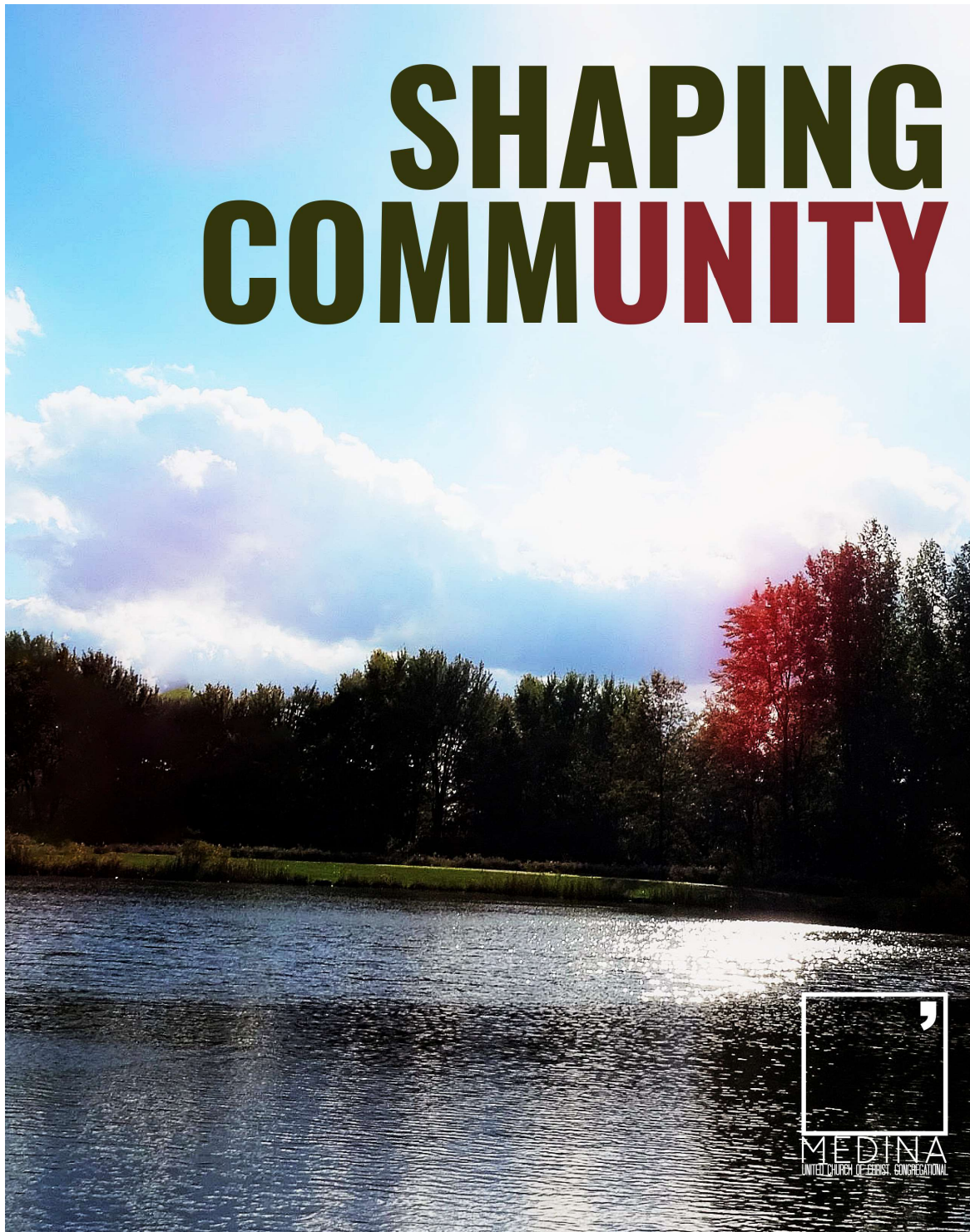
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Cover photo of Mudge Park taken by Jen Cockrell, Summer 2021

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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 “Here I Am to Worship” – Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lead Me, Lord”

Text & music: John D. Becker

© 1987, OCP Publications



1. Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it, long - ing for their
2. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful, for mer - cy shall be
3. Blest are they who through their life - times sow the seeds of



1. Lord, for God's com - ing king - dom shall be theirs.
2. theirs, and the pure in heart shall see their God.
3. peace, all will call them chil - dren of the Lord.

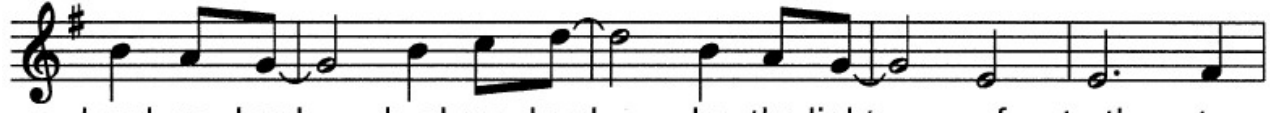


1. Bless - ed are the sor - row - ing, for they shall be con -
2. Blest are they whose hun - ger on - ly ho - li - ness can
3. Blest are you, though per - se - cu - ted in your ho - ly



1. soled, and the meek shall come to rule the world.
 2. fill, for I say they shall be sat - is - fied.
 3. life, for in heav - en, great is your re - ward.

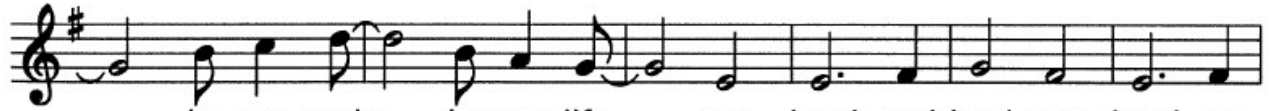
Refrain



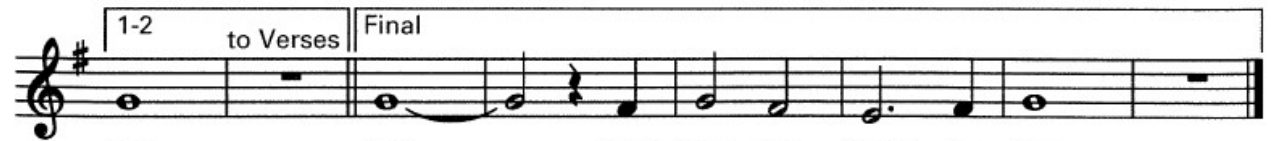
Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord, by the light of truth to



seek and to find the nar - row way. Be my way;



be my truth; be my life, my Lord, and lead me, Lord, to -



day. day. And lead me, Lord, to - day.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 130 and John 6:35*)

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O God:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: O God, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: There is forgiveness with you and I wait for you O God.

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

One: In your words I hope. My soul waits for you, God,

Many: **More than those who watch for the morning,**

One: more than those who watch for the morning:

Many: **We hunger for the bread of life, O Jesus, and we thirst for you, O God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ave Maria" – Franz Schubert

Ryan Routh, voice

SCRIPTURES John 6:35, 41-51 and Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Jim Kiser, Liturgist

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 "Shaping Community"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love....

People: **may we give a fragrant offering** (*Ephesians 5:1*).

Leader: The fragrance of the bread of life rising and baking among us is a wonderful reminder of the new life which is arising in our beloved community.

People: **Let us give generously as we experience the fragrance of God's life rising in us.**

*Doxology (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, true and eternal, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers"

Roger Powell, 1948; alt

PLEADING SAVIOR 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody from The Christian Lyre, 1831



1 Thank our God for sis - ters, broth - ers, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2 Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3 Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plo - re.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

***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 "Postlude" – Henri D'Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford**

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
Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 8, 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 8, 2021 thru August 15, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Worship Team 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 6:35, 41-51 and
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

Sermon: “Shaping Community”
- Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today were originally given by Gene & Jan Febus in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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)

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

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!

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. Cut off date will be Sunday, September 26th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

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 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.

Financial Update:

We are happy to share that Hobby Horse Preschool was recently awarded a \$8,900 Grant from The Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA). As we continue to build upon the opportunities we have with our Preschool Division, such grants greatly help ensure our financial strength and strategic growth, as-a-whole.

We will be reaching out to our members in the near future to setup in-person meetings, to discuss current pledges, how your pledges help our Church, paths of giving and planning for 2022.

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 CORNER FOR AUGUST

It’s August! The last full month of summer and we’ll make the most of it!

We’ve finished up our “Beatitudes Go To The Movies” series and we shall be following the lectionary and talking about unity before heading into our next series on Nehemiah starting September 12th.

Confirmation was unviable last year. We had an amazing group who just finished their confirmation retreat. This was a large, chatty bunch, but when we made the switch to Zoom in March, they were silent. They were Zoomed out. So, Stacie and I decided to forego Confirmation until we could ensure we could do the ropes course, trip to the synagogue, and the confirmation retreat as well as the other benefits of meeting face-to-face. This year is opened to current 9th and 8th graders. We will meet after **the 9 and 10:30 worship services on August 22nd** to talk about the upcoming year and hand out the packet and handbooks that will act as your guide. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

It’s time for the second book study in our Trilogy of Book Studies! “The Book Of Longings: A Novel” – by Sue Monk Kidd is available at the library. Please join us in person in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.** for our book discussion! Register for a reminder here:

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

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.

Then our last Sunday of the month, **August 29th at 10 a.m.** will be our ALIVE ON THE SQUARE outdoor worship that we’ve done for many years. The theme will be Jonah. Bring your lawn chairs and an appetite as we’ll have lunch outside. Then we’ll have lawn games on the Square until 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S Q & A

Do you believe that all people who believe in their own God will go to heaven?

Interesting phrasing of the question. First, I want to be clear that God is the judge, and I am not. Saying who is making it into heaven and who isn't is well beyond my paygrade and anyone else who isn't God (which isn't any human you'll meet).

Jesus talks about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. The sheep gave Jesus something to eat, drink, invited him in, clothed him, looked after him when he was sick, and visited him when he was in prison. The goats didn't. Sheep go to heaven and goats go to hell, according to that parable. The parable says nothing about belief. We have no idea if the sheep and goats were Jewish, agnostic, or whatever as no mention is given to what they believed they were doing. Both seem surprised in the discovery of their status. I think the goats may have thought they believed the right thing and were following God, but here's God saying otherwise.

Furthermore, I think of Micah 6:8, "God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What's up with the "*with your God*" part of that verse?

Micah is the prophet who criticized the Israelites for their dishonesty in the marketplace around 737-696 BCE. He was incensed at bribery and corruption within government, and he warned the Israelites and their leaders on behalf of God to change their ways. He was lengthy in the ways that the Israelites had gone wrong, but short on the answer. Act justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. I think the "your God" is the personal relationship with God. It will look different from person to person. Your image of God might be very different from my image, but our call is the same. Love God and neighbor as ourselves. Work for justice and celebrate mercy.

Maybe your call is to write elected officials on a given topic, while another plants trees and care for creation, while another works to change unjust systems, while another teaches children how to treat their neighbor. Each is doing their own call and following their own walk with God in trying to bring a little more of heaven to earth.

To answer your question... yes and no. Yes, I believe people who believe in their own God who work for justice, love mercy, and walk humbly will go to heaven. And those who don't, won't. Yet it wouldn't be humble to say much more than that while also admitting that I'm not God and God will be the ultimate judge of me and you and everyone.

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Shaping Community

What is the Adese Fellowship? According to the website, adesefellowship.org, The Adese Fellowship is a catalytic experience for emerging entrepreneurs who renew the Church's mission to create a just world for all.

The Adese (from the Amharic language to renew, pronounced ah-deh-say) Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection, and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy.

This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scalable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty.

Adese Fellows fashion a faithful approach to economics as they critique the dominant system and create another way. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. Adese Fellows reform and reinvigorate the church through their innovation.

Adese Fellows welcome and leverage difference. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise.

From peer learning to partnerships, the program is thoroughly collaborative. Adese Fellows confer with leaders in church, academy, and business to explore how the church can create social and economic value and how enterprise can create spiritual value. Along the way, fellows receive business coaching and expert counsel in the legal, financial, and human resource aspects of launching and growing an enterprise. Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund (CB&LF) and the United Church of Christ National Setting, the ecumenical program welcomes participants from all traditions who are committed to a just world for all.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to be an Adese Fellow, check out their website at adesefellowship.org.