

What is it you want?



REBUILD



A journey through Nehemiah

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

10:30 AM SERVICE

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 “It Is Well With My Soul” – arr. Joel Raney

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“It Is Well With My Soul”

Horatio G. Spafford, 1873

VILLE DU HAVRE 11.8.11.9. with Refrain
Philip P. Bliss, 1876



1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way,
2. Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come,
3. My sin, oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought!
4. And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,



when sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll; what - ev - er my
let this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ has re -
My sin, not in part but the whole, is nailed to the
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the trump shall re -

lot, thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is
 gard - ed my help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own
 cross, and I bear it no more, praise the Lord, praise the
 sound, and the Lord shall de - scend, e - ven so, it is

Refrain

well with my soul.
 blood for my soul. It is well with my soul,
 Lord, O my soul! It is well with my soul,
 well with my soul. It is well with my soul,

it is well, it is well with my soul.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (From "These Bodies" by The Many)

Leader: You gave us these bodies,
People: And you called them good.
 Leader: We are easily damaged,
People: Have you seen the scars?
 Leader: That's just scratching the surface
People: More beneath where those are.
 Leader: You gave us these bodies,
People: And you called them good.
 Leader: May we love them as you do,
People: Let us love them as you do
 Leader: Inside outside, through and through
People: Let us love them as you do. Amen.

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 6 & Nehemiah 2:1-6

Colleen Rice, Liturgist

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

SERMON "What is it you want?"

Rev. Luke Lindon

HYMN

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932

PRECIOUS LORD Irr.
Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932

1. Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2. When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
when my life is almost gone,
through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:
Refrain
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: There is just so much damage.

People: **Have you seen the scars?**

Leader: We keep hurting each other.

People: **May what we offer in our time, talent, and treasure in this time,**

Leader: Go to help and heal

People: **and not to hurt. We now sing to you, our God, giver of all things.**

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

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter: One God, triune, whom we adore. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Oh Holy One, help us find one another. Bless us with a second consideration.
To find those who are dying inside. Those who are screaming behind a polite mask.
Inspire us to come along side and listen. Inspire us to speak the truth that longs to be given
words. Give us eager ears, not for gossip, but for healing. This we pray in your many holy
names, Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer"

William Williams, 1745;

trans. from the Welsh by Peter Williams and the author, 1771 & 1772

CWM RHONDDA 87.87.87.7

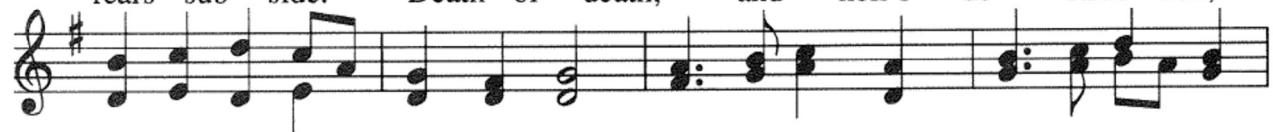
John Hughes, 1907



1 Guide me, O my great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, where the heal - ing
3 When I reach the Riv - er Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land; I am weak, but you are might - y;
wa - ters flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,



hold me with your power-ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
land me safe on heav - en's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es



feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.
ev - er be my strength and shield, ev - er be my strength and shield.
I will ev - er sing to you, I will ev - er sing to you.

***BENEDICTION** (Found online, source unknown)

Leader: The world now is too dangerous and too beautiful

People: For anything but love.

Leader: May your eyes be so blessed you see God in everyone,

People: Our ears, so we hear the cry of the poor.

Leader: May your hands be so blessed,

People: that everything we touch is a sacrament.

Leader: Your lips, so you speak nothing but the loving truth.

People: May our feet be blessed to run to those in need, and stand beside them.

Leader: And may your heart be so opened, so set on fire, that your love,

People: Our Love,

Leader: Changes everything.

People: For the healing of God's world

and in Jesus' name we pray in the guidance of the Spirit.

Leader: One God forever and ever.

People: Amen!

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "God Be with You"**

God be with you 'til we meet again; By His counsels guide uphold you;

With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you 'til we meet again.

***POSTLUDE** "Rigaudon" – David H. Hegarty

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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Cathy Fafrak, Organist

Rebecca Rosen, Nursery Supervisor

Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool

Jack Sharpe, Maintenance

Dan Daubner, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 19, 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

September 19, 2021 thru September 26, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	10:30 am	Traditional Worship
	11:30 am	Caring Team Meeting
	4:00 pm	Youth Group Kickoff
Mon	6:30 pm	Women’s Bible Study
	7:00 pm	New Member Class
Tues	7:00 pm	Trinity of Book Studies “Introduction to Joy”
Wed	10:30 am	Quilters
	6:30 pm	Bell Practice
	7:00 pm	Gathering Band Practice
	7:30 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs	7:00 pm	Congregational Council
Fri		
Sat		
Sun	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	9:40 am	Choir warm-up
	10:30 am	Traditional Worship
	3:00 pm	Confirmation Class

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

Scriptures: Psalm 6 & Nehemiah 2:1-6

Sermon: “What Is It You Want?”
Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today are given by Jaclyn, Corey & Jack Raub in honor of Jaclyn’s father, Rob Funk.

MEMBER CLASSES BEGIN TOMORROW

Would you like to join our church family!? Join us for our next new member classes! The next classes will be held **Monday, September 20th & 27th. Classes will be held from 7 pm – 9 pm** in the New Library. New members **will join the church on Sunday, October 3rd at ONE UNIFIED SERVICE OF WORSHIP AT 10:00 a.m.** Childcare is provided if needed during class. Please [register here](#) or contact the Church Office at 330-725-4559 if you are interested and let us know if you will need childcare.

YOUTH GROUP KICK OFF TODAY

September 19th - 4:00-6:00 pm at Church
Mark your calendars now. Youth Group will kick off the year on Sunday, September 19th. We will be having a pizza party and playing some fun ‘Minute-to-Win-it’ games. **Youth group is open to all youth who are in grades 3-12.** Come enjoy good food, fun and fellowship.

If you are interested in Youth Group or have questions, please reach out to Nicole Rubino at nicole@uccmedina.org

TEACHERS NEEDED!

We are going to be trying some new and exciting things with Sunday School this year. One thing that hasn't changed is that we need adults to help on Sunday mornings with the children. If you are interested in working with the children once a month, please see Stacie Yates or email her at stacie@uccmedina.org for more information.

COVID-19 VACCINE QUESTION & ANSWER

Stephanie Manhoff, a member of the church's Reopening Team, who works as a Registered Nurse for the Medina County Health Department, will be here after all three services on Sunday, September 19th to provide information about the Covid-19 vaccine and answer any questions you may have. Paul DeSario, another member of the Reopening Team, who works for the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, will join Stephanie in answering questions. So, if you're interested in learning more about the COVID vaccines, or have questions about the vaccines, we'd encourage you to stick around after each service on the 19th. It'll be a great opportunity to get information directly from Health Department officials who are actually on the front lines working to inform the public about Covid-19.

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

Unfortunately, our new church directories will be delayed. Because of changes in our system, it has proven to be quite difficult to try and print a new directory.

We will get it together, but at this point we may just wait for any New Member information we get so that they will be included. We hope to have the directories done by October 10th.

LITURGIST SIGN-UP

Check out the bulletin board in the East Room hallway to sign up to be a liturgist during September, October and November at the 10:30 Sanctuary service. Questions? Talk to Pastor Luke or call the church office.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING

OCTOBER 3, 2021

What an intense year we have each had to endure! Much has changed in the world since last year's Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering. Justice issues – from women's rights to racial bias to income gaps – continue to be laid bare, making the Neighbors in Need Offering on October 3rd even more critical. We trust you know that funds raised from the offering allow for tracking and informing you about what justice concerns require your attention. To that end, this year's campaign shines a spotlight on the issue of homelessness. As a group, the homeless have already faced much. With many Americans losing income due to the coronavirus, this vulnerable community will likely grow. Thus, it is important we pay attention to those in need. We continue to bring assistance to those through grants and numerous other activities. Please give generously to this special offering on October 3rd.

COIN JARS FOR SENIORS

Last year our Coin Collection Jars were cancelled because of Covid-19. This year we will be collecting your spare change again to purchase meat for seniors living in high rises in Medina County. Feeding Medina County will handle distribution. The jars will be in the East Room for pick-up. Please take a jar and add your name to the sign-up sheet. We encourage all three services to help provide for our seniors during the Christmas holidays. **Jars will be collected on November 28th.**

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Bring your pet to be blessed on Saturday, October 2nd from 1-3 outside the church! Any pet that is safe to bring is welcome. Each pet will be individually blessed by Pastor Luke. Invite your friends and neighbors! Free pet treats from One Lucky Dog Bakery, bandannas, and blessing cards while supplies last. Let's celebrate God's compassion and concern for all creatures.

PASTOR'S Q & A

Three questions to close out our Summer Q&A series. I'm so thankful for all the questions. IF you would like this series to continue, please let me know and email/message me your questions!

Our first questions is, **“Do you believe the people in heaven can see us here on earth?”**

I don't know. The bible doesn't say. My faith isn't about getting to heaven, it's about getting heaven here (“as on earth as it is in heaven”). I like the idea my loved ones in heaven are sending me reminders and signs of their love. There is a lot of comfort in that concept. Yet a friend in seminary reflected that if heaven is outside of space and time, then we all get there at the same time. It wouldn't be heaven for him if all his loved ones weren't there. Granted the waiting time would be very fast, but he liked the idea that we're all there already, all at once. I have been pondering that mystery ever since I had that conversation.

Since Justice and Witness protocol has recently changed, how will our church address these issues?

The Justice and Witness committee has been vacant for 3 years. This affects our quorum on council. We are a minus one at each meeting. Meanwhile the ministries of this committee like the Easter Bags and touching base with the county jail continue through the Mission Team. Justice is always the goal of God. God never says, “I need more worship” in scripture. Instead, God says, “Stop your worship and give me more justice!” (See Amos 5). That's our goal and it will happen throughout the life of our church no matter what. We don't exist for God's Beloved Community where peace and justice reign. The only thing that has ended is an empty seat on council. The goal remains the same.

I know that Jesus says, “Forgive them for they know not what they do.” How can I really forgive myself for past regrets?

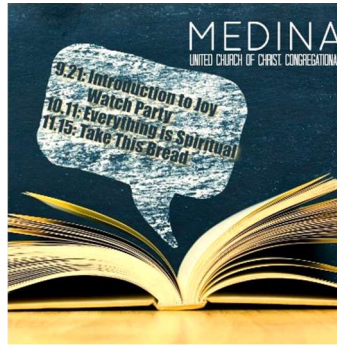
The punk band Idles sing in their song “Television”, “If someone talked to you, the way you do to you, I'd put their teeth through. Love yourself.” I listen to that song a lot. It's advice I need. One of my favorite hobbies is setting impossible expectations for myself and then beating myself up for not reaching those impossible heights. I'm slowly learning to forgive myself. I find it easier to forgive others than my own regrets. Sounds like you're a kindred soul in this department.

If Jesus could forgive our endless bloodlust that put him on the cross, then I could figure out how to forgive myself. If God can forgive me for knowing better than I know myself, then I should be able to do it. Paul writes in Romans 7:15, “I cannot understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.” The whole point of the Book of Romans is our need for God's grace and that nothing can separate us from that love found in Christ Jesus. Sooner or later, we have to believe it and stand for it, especially for ourselves. If we can't believe we're in there, then do we really believe in God's amazing grace? Love yourself.



Our series, REBUILD continues through October 10th. We're disoriented. We're feeling loss we don't have a name for. How can we plan for the future when everything is in ruins? Our sacred stories can help us. Our ancestors in faith have been here before. We'll look at the prophet Nehemiah and how he navigated an uncertain time. Few things stifle the imagination than ungrieved grief. We shall walk through the stages of grief together and imagine a future we can build toward.

JOIN US THIS WEEK FOR 1ST MONTHLY BOOK DISCUSSION



We had a wonderful time discussing Sue Monk Kidd's *Book of Longings*. We'll keep a monthly gathering going from now until the holidays. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

On Tuesday, September 21st at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, we'll gather and watch Rob Bell's *Introduction to Joy*. Happiness is fleeting, but Joy is something that never leaves. It's part-sermon, part standup comedy and suitable for ages 12 and up. Bring a friend and come ready to laugh, learn, and discuss!

Monday, October 11th at 7 p.m. we'll gather to discuss Rob Bell's book *Everything is Spiritual*.

We'll round out our Trinity of Book Studies with a **book about SERVE on November 15th at 7 p.m.** Sara Miles great book *Take This Bread* will be the subject of the night.

Each of these events are one night only. I hope you'll join us in Fellowship Hall for each of these events.

A Note from Leila Jindra

Dear United Church of Christ, Congregational Congregation,

I wanted to take some time to thank you as a congregation for the role you played in helping me on my way toward Seminary.

On June 17, 2021, I graduated with a Master of Divinity degree from Lexington Theological Seminary. It was during my time at this church that I realized the call to pursue seminary and began the process for seeking ordination by becoming a "Member-in-Discernment". You are my sending church, and it is here that I got my first opportunity to be a leader within the church. You helped me with some of my first assignments which I had to do within the congregation, such as teach classes, lead prayers, and preach. I did most of those withing the Gathering service. The church also supported me financially with a scholarship during my first year in school.

As I celebrate my graduation, I am really celebrating all the many people and churches that helped me along the way. So I give thanks for you, and celebrate you today for all the support and encouragement you have provided. This church holds a special place in my heart.

Thank you!!

Leila Jindra

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

September 19, 2021

Mark 9:30-37

First in Caring

It has been said that in Africa, a traditional greeting and response is, “How are the children?” and “The children are well.”

“How are the children?” is not a way to inquire about the particular youth in one’s own household, but instead is an invitation to consider what is most important in the whole society, and whether that is being attended to. “The children are well” refers not just to the health of a few of the children who are known to the conversation partners, but the peace and prosperity of all of society. This question, and its response, is a way of assuring that the most important priorities of the community are placed first.

A movie available from the United Church of Christ Palestine Israel Network (UCC PIN) called *How Are the Children?* tells the stories of Palestinian children, some as young as five years old, detained by Israeli forces in the West Bank of Israel. On their website, <https://hacnow.org/>, UCC PIN responds to some questions that arise from that first and most important question, “How are the children?”

“Since 1967, the United Church of Christ has spoken through General Synod resolutions regarding issues of peace and justice in the Middle East. Long before that, mission personnel of our predecessor denominations worked successfully to create partnerships of mutuality and ministry throughout the region. Here we provide information on various aspects of UCC witness related to the experience of children in Palestine and Israel. These links provide information regarding the 2017 UCC resolution of witness concerning Palestinian children in Israeli military detention.”*

*From the website page <https://hacnow.org/ucc-resolutions-and-faqs/>

You can also find links to the movie “*How Are the Children?*” and guides for utilizing this powerful resource with your congregation, on the website <https://hacnow.org/>.

Today is Just Peace Sunday. For 30 years, the Just Peace Church pronouncement has inspired a grassroots movement of UCC congregations committed to corporately naming and boldly proclaiming a public identity as a justice-doing, peace-seeking church. For more information about Just Peace, visit ucc.org.