

Shouts of joy



Sounds of weeping



SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

10:30 A.M. SERVICE

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 attendance pads, (located at the end of each pew) so that you know who is worshipping near you and you may greet them by name.

**Those who are able please stand*

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE “Sorrow” – Laura Mears

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Come and Find the Quiet Center”

Shirley Erena Murray, 1989

BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7.D

Trad. American melody; arr. Jack Schrader

1. Come and find the qui - et cen - ter in the crowd - ed life we
2. Si - lence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the
3. In the Spir - it let us trav - el, o - pen to each oth - er's

lead, find the room for hope to en - ter, find the
pace, God it is who speaks and names us, knows our
pain, let our loves and fears un - rav - el, cel - e -

frame where we are freed: clear the chaos and the
 be - ing, touch - es base, mak - ing space with - in our
 brate the space we gain: there's a place for deep - est
 clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see all the
 think - ing, lift - ing shades to show the sun, rais - ing
 dream - ing, there's a time for heart to care, in the
 things that real - ly mat - ter, be at peace, and sim - ply be.
 cour - age when we're shrink - ing, find - ing scope for faith be - gun.
 Spir - it's live - ly schem - ing there is al - ways room to spare!

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

- Leader: We have gathered this morning as we have for centuries.
People: Surrounded by our ancestors of faith.
 Leader: We confess we lack faith to accept the gift of the present.
People: We do not honor one another as we should.
 Leader: As your body, the body of Christ,
People: We are often disjointed and clumsy.
 Leader: We look to what is not here.
People: The faces no longer present.
 Leader: Looking past the people who have heard your call.
People: Help us be present to ourselves and our neighbor.
 Leader: Encourage us with your love, Merciful God,
People: That we may commit ourselves anew to live as those who belong to you;
 Leader: Through the grace of Jesus Christ.
People: Amen.

SCRIPTURES

Ezra 3:10-13 & Nehemiah 4:1-5

Julie Gilliland, Liturgist

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Stacie Yates

The Lord's Prayer

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

SERMON

"Shouts of Joy, Sounds of Weeping"

Rev. Luke Lindon

RESPONSE

"How Great Thou Art"

Stuart K. Hine, 1953

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed.
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; How great thou art, how great thou art!

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Holy One, you have called us into relationship to fulfill a mission whose meaning we yet dimly see.

People: **Grant to us a secure sense of our identity and make us impatient with any identity that does not propel us into the struggle for justice, liberation, and peace. All glory and honor to you, oh God, from whom all blessings flow. Amen.**

***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**

**Almighty God, the foundation of all wisdom, enlighten by your Holy Spirit those who teach and those who learn,
that, rejoicing in the knowledge of your truth, we may worship and serve you,
From generation to generation;
Through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN**

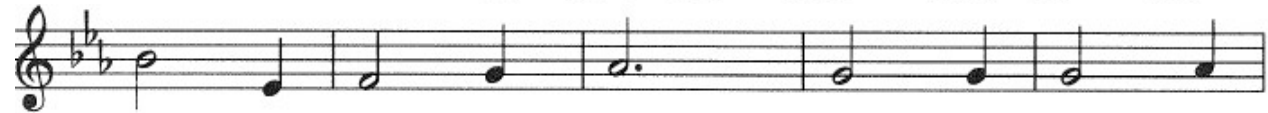
"Let Us Hope When Hope Seems Hopeless"

David Beebe, 1989

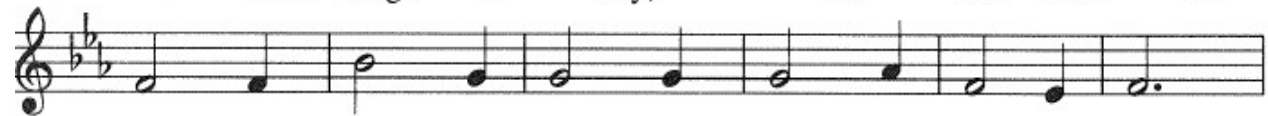
LET US HOPE 8.7.8.7.D.
Emma Lou Diemer, 1994



1 Let us hope when hope seems hope - less, when the
2 Faith and hope in love's com - pas - sion will sur -
3 Like a child out - grow - ing child - hood, set - ting



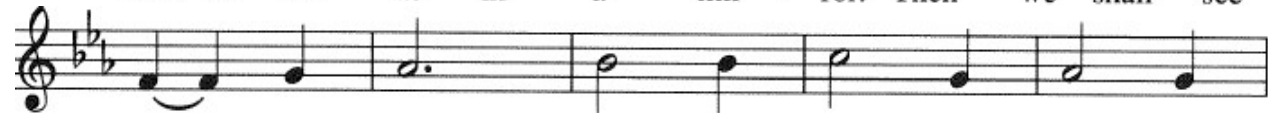
dreams we dreamed have died. When the morn - ing
vive though knowl - edge cease, though the tongues of
child - hood things a - way, we will learn to



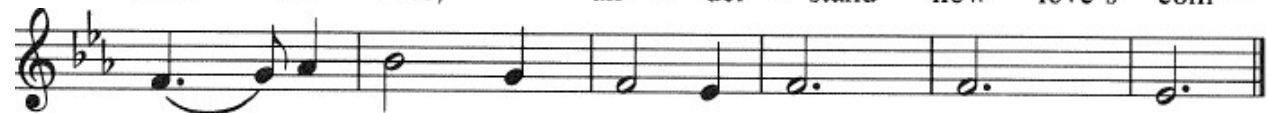
breaks in bright - ness, hun - ger shall be sat - is - fied.
joy fall si - lent, dull the words of proph - e - cies.
live in free - dom, in the life of God's new day.



One who sows the fields with weep - ing shall re - trace the
Faith shall see and trust its ob - ject; hope shall set its
Now we see as in a mir - ror. Then we shall see



sor-row - ing way and re - joice in har - vest
an - chor sure; love shall bloom in Love e -
face to face, un - der - stand how love's com -



boun - ty at the break - ing of the day.
ter - nal. Faith and hope and love en - dure.
pas - sion blos - soms through a - maz - ing Grace.

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: We have worshiped God together;

People: Now we go our separate ways.

Leader: May the Spirit which has blessed us here,

People: Be our spirit in the week ahead.

Leader: May you go from here to bend the grieving world toward blessing,

People: Through our listening, our service, and our presence, may it be so.

Leader: Go in blessing! For this service has ended,

People: And our service now begins. 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** "Forever" – Chris Tomlin/arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 26, 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 26, 2021 thru October 3, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	9:30 am	Bell Choir warm-up
	10:30 am	Traditional Worship
	3:00 pm	Confirmation Class
Mon	7:00 pm	New Member Class
Tues	7:00 pm	Unity Revival Night
	7:00 pm	Bible Study
Wed	10:30 am	Quilters
	6:30 pm	Bell Practice
	7:00 pm	Unity Revival Night – Pastor Luke preaching at Cornerstone Chapel
	7:00 pm	Gathering Band Practice
	7:30 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs	7:00 pm	Unity Revival Night
Fri		
Sat	1-3:00 pm	Blessing of the Animals
Sun		NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING
		World Communion Sunday
		NEW MEMBERS JOIN
	9:30 am	Choir warm-up
	10:00 am	ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP
	4:00 pm	Youth Group

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.

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

Scriptures: Ezra 3:10-13 & Nehemiah 4:1-5

Sermon: “Shouts of Joy, Sounds of Weeping”
Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today are given by Alice & Pete Metzloff in honor of loved ones.

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.

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.

FALL FLOWER POTS

The fall flower pots are up around the Medina square, including our church's happy hiker! Thank to Melissa Bilikam, Karen Zuehlke, and Kaitlyn Stevenson for assembling our display. You can find it on Liberty in front of Swine BBQ. Let's welcome, love, and serve on this journey of life together!

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 in front of 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.

PUMPKIN CARVING

OCTOBER 17TH - 5:00 PM

Join us for pumpkin carving, s'mores and a family-friendly outdoor movie! What movie you ask? Well, after carving we'll sing pumpkin carols! All ages welcome!

THE NEXT 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.

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 these events.



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.

PASTOR'S CORNER - OCTOBER

I can't believe we're talking about October. October is my holy month. I love it. The trees on fire and it ends with Halloween! Halloween is spooky but also the most community-focused holiday. You get to visit your neighbors, celebrate their creativity, and give out candy to strangers. That sounds like a picture of the kingdom of God. May we live more days as if they were 10/31. But before we get to that hallowed date, we have a few others.

On **October 3**, we'll have one All Church Worship at 10 a.m. to welcome our new members and celebrate World Communion Sunday.

Blessing of the Pets: Bring your pet to be blessed on **Saturday, October 2 from 1-3** outside in front of 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.

Everything is Spiritual: Monday, October 11 at 7 p.m. we'll gather to discuss Rob Bell's book *Everything is Spiritual*. This book is so good, when I finished reading it, I flipped right over to the first page and started again. It's part memoir and spiritual guidance. You can find it through your bookseller or the local library. In our discussion we'll find that not only is God still speaking, but more constant and in more ways than we previously realized.

PUMPKINFEST! Join us for pumpkin carving, s'mores and a family-friendly outdoor movie **on Sunday, October 17, 2021 at 5 p.m.** What movie you ask? Well, after carving we'll sing pumpkin carols! All ages welcome! There is also a community movie on the Square the night before. My family and I will be there for that one and invite y'all out as well.

Confirmation will be in full swing by this time. We have an outstanding group of young folks and I'm excited about the year ahead. These take place the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month while our **Youth Group Sundays** take place the 1st and 3rd Sundays.

Looking ahead to November, we'll round out our Trinity of Book Studies with a book about SERVE on **November 15, 2021 at 7 p.m.** Sara Miles' great book *Take This Bread* will be the subject of the night. A brilliant book about what happens when an atheist randomly walks into church and receives communion for the first time.

This fall is packed full. Lots of events. Lot of mission opportunities are in the works. Good things happening, Church! Including trying to hire a position for Youth and Mission. Details will follow about that. The Garfield and Library feeding programs will be coming back. Getting these up and running again will take a little bit of focus, so my typical Bible Study, "Tuesdays at Two" will return in January.

That's what I know this month. I'll keep putting out the dates and communicating through the Messenger and social media. Thank you for being the church! As always, questions, comments, primal screams; please don't hesitate to contact me.

**Medina County Unity Revival
September 28, 29, 30, 2021
Cornerstone Chapel – 7:00 P.M. Nightly**

	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>
Call to Worship –	Rev. Laura Fitt – Baird/	Min.Tracey Ruffin/	Pastor Deb Giaimo
Selections – Mass Choir			
Welcome –	Mayor Dennis Hanwell/	Pastor Melody Gardiner/	Pastor Pete Ryder
Scripture –	Pastor Daniel Wilson/	Pastor Mark Gardiner/	Pastor David Wallover
Prayer –	Pastor Tal Lewis/	Pastor Dawan Buie/	Pastor Adam Allen
Selection – Choir			
Introduction of the Speaker – Chosen by speaker			
Invitation to Christ – Speaker of the night			
Closing Prayer – Pastor Ruffin			
Communion (Thursday) Lead by– Minister Tracey Ruffin/ Minister Senesa Peterson			
Benediction – Pastor Ruffin			

**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 26, 2021

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

American Indian Ministry Sunday/United Samoan Ministries Stewardship Sunday

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22

Courage for Community

Esther's story is hidden history for most modern United Church of Christ congregations. Readings from the Old Testament book that bears her name only appear once in the three-year cycle of the lectionary, which is the calendar of Bible readings used by many congregations to guide worship. And there are several readings to choose from each Sunday, so unless a congregation is very thoughtful and deliberate in choosing to share her story, you might not know anything about her.

This is not so for our Jewish brothers and sisters in faith. Each year in the festival of Purim, her story is celebrated with joy and gratitude as one of the great heroes in the centuries-long battle against anti-Semitism.

Hidden histories are those stories from the past that have either been forgotten or deliberately suppressed as a way to center only one telling of history. On this day in the UCC, as we bring Esther out of hiding, we celebrate the voices of two significant groups whose stories have too often also been hidden.

American Indian Ministry Sunday is an opportunity to hear the voices of our Native American siblings. According to caimucc.org, American Indian congregations "are an integral part of the life of the United Church of Christ. We maintain our Indian traditions by employing our Native values and cultures to witness in our communities through authentic and postcolonial Indian expressions of the Christian faith."

United Samoan Ministries Stewardship Sunday is a chance to recognize the UCC's Samoan congregations. You can find their web presence on Facebook at /unitedsamoanministriesucc/, where they proclaim: We are the body of Christ, gathered and scattered in various states and cultural environments, proclaiming our faith in our Risen Lord Jesus Christ! The United Samoan Ministries of the UCC is established to provide a setting for members of Samoan congregations to gather for fellowship, spiritual nurturing, mutual support, and communications, and strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ.

Learn about Esther, and then join these two organizations in keeping language alive and telling stories that reveal hidden histories.