

And all the people



A journey through Nehemiah

OCTOBER 10, 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 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” – arr. Victor Labenske

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (based on the song, Come On Up to the House by Tom Waits)

Leader: Well, the moon is broken and the sky is cracked,

People: Come on up to the house,

Leader: When the only things that you can see,

People: is all that we lack,

Leader: You got to come on up to the house.

People: When all our crying don't do no good,

Leader: Come on up to the house

People: Come down off the cross,

Leader: We can use the wood,

People: We have come on up to the house.

*HYMN

“In the Midst of New Dimensions”

NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Julian Rush, 1985; arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994



1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo - ple, war - ring fac-tions and de - spair,
 3 As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with - draw in pain,



Who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples wan-dering in their sep - arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol - ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

Refrain



God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your



peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 11:1-9
 Nehemiah 8:1-3, 9-12, 18

Pam Branscome, Liturgist

ANTHEM

“Be Joyful with Singing” – Dietrich Buxtehude, ed. Patrick M. Liebergen

Chancel Choir

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 "Be the Bee"

Dan & Vicki Marty

HYMN "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7. D

Henry Van Dyke, 1907; st. 4 alt. 1989

Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; arr. Edward Hodges, 1864



1. Joy-ful, joy-ful, we a-dore thee, God of glo-ry, Lord of love;
2. All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re-lect thy rays,
3. Thou art giv-ing and for-giv-ing, ev-er bless-ing, ev-er blest,
4. Mor-tals, join the might-y cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan;



hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore thee, open-ing to the sun a-bove.
stars and an-gels sing a-round thee, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.
well-spring of the joy of liv-ing, o-ccean depth of hap-py rest!
love di-vine is reign-ing o'er us, bind-ing all with-in its span.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; drive the dark of doubt a-way.
Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flow-ery mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
Thou our Fa-ther, Christ our broth-er, all who live in love are thine;
Ev-er sing-ing, march we on-ward, vic-tors in the midst of strife;



Giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day!
chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re-joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth-er, lift us to the joy di-vine.
joy-ful mu-sic leads us sun-ward, in the tri-umph song of life.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: We know, oh God, that we do not exist for ourselves. That the gifts of our time, talent, and treasure go to help build your community here, throughout Medina, and to the ends of the earth.

People: **Guide our offerings, oh Lord; and may your will be done.**

*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 (from the UCC Book of Worship page 552)

Leader: What we bring:

People: **Our good intentions, our unknown motives**

Leader: Our uncertainties about life,

People: **Our grasp of truth,**

Leader: Our time,

People: **Our uneasiness with what is.**

Leader: We offer this in the midst of what remains unspoken

People: **And affirm that which is received. Amen.**

*BENEDICTION (poem by Gwen Flowers)

Leader: I had my own notion of grief.

People: **I thought it was the sad time**

Leader: That followed the death of someone you love.

People: **And you had to push through it
To get to the other side.**

Leader: But I'm learning there is no other side.

There is no pushing through.

People: **But rather,
There is absorption.
Adjustment.
Acceptance.**

Leader: And grief is not something you complete,

People: **But rather, you endure.**

Leader: Grief is not a task to finish
And move on,

But an element of yourself,

People: **An alteration of your being.
A new way of seeing.
A new definition of self.**

Leader: And now unto the one who is able to keep us from falling
People: and lift us from the valley of the shadow of death
Leader: to bring us to the green pastures and still waters,
People: From the midnight of desperation
Leader: to the daybreak of joy,
People: To God be the power and authority,
Leader: Forever and ever. 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 on Hymn to Joy" – Gordon Young Cathy Fafrak, Organist

MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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Cathy Fafrak, Organist
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Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance
Sharon Perry, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

OCTOBER 10, 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

October 10, 2021 thru October 17, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Service
9:30 am Gathering Worship
9:40 am Choir warm-up
10:30 am Traditional Worship
11:30 am Mission Team
3:00 pm Confirmation Class

Mon 7:00 pm **Trinity of Book Studies –
“Everything is Spiritual”**

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

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
6:30 pm Bell Practice
7:00 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal
7:30 pm Choir Practice

Thurs

Fri

Sat

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:40 am Choir warm-up
10:30 am Traditional Worship
11:45 am Caring Team
4:00 pm All church Pumpkin Fest and
Movie Night

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

The new church directory is printed and ready for you to pick up. They do include our new members who joined last Sunday as well. They are in the East Room and in Fellowship Hall. **Please note the information on the inside cover regarding future church directories.**

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

Scriptures: Isaiah 11:1-9
& Nehemiah 8:1-3, 9-12, & 18

Meditation: “Be the Bee” – Dan & Vicki Marty

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today are given by Don & Marilyn Canfield in honor of their 59th wedding anniversary.

FALL FLOWERPOTS

The fall flowerpots are up around the Medina square, including our church’s happy hiker! Thanks 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!

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! Please bring your own pumpkins.

NOISY COIN OFFERING THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Noisy Coin Offering on Rally Day to help our children support Innocent, the young man we adopted from Uganda. Together we collected \$200. Thank you again for your generosity.

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.**

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.

MEDINA MINUTE

Pastor Luke was recently interviewed for Main Street Medina's "Medina Minute" show that airs on the Armstrong Neighborhood Channel. He talked about what inspired him to become a minister, what led him to Medina, and more.

Watch it online here:

<https://tinyurl.com/MedinaMinute>

"YOU GOT THIS" PERIOD PACKS

In order to mitigate financial instability and social stigmas around menstruation, we are going to build emergency "You Got This" period packs for AI Root & Claggett Middle Schools. If we can build enough, we will distribute to Black River Middle School, our most economically challenged district in the county. These kits will be built with our junior high youth, and any will parents/volunteers on Sunday, November 14th at 1 pm. at the church (inside/outside weather permitting).

These kits will contain pantliners, pads, tampons, Ziploc bags, body wipes, and & an encouraging card in a zipper bag. Church members who are interested in donating may do so by leaving items in the collection box in the Welcome Area, or church member Ellen Nolan's front porch (607 S. Court St), or by direct mailing via this Amazon wish list. Amazon wish list (you can use this for guidance purposes only or direct ship donations) https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2AQDBL8LYNRX1?ref=wl_share

Preferred products: Always Radiant FlexFoam Teen Pads, Regular Absorbency; U by Kotex Click Compact Tampons, Regular Absorbency; U by Kotex Barely There Thin Panty Liners, Light Absorbency OR Always Radiant Pantyliners, Regular Unscented; Summer's Eve Feminine Cleansing Wipes (OR ANY COMPARABLE **individually wrapped** product), & quart sized Ziploc bags.

FINANCIAL PEACE CLASSES COMING IN JANUARY VIA ZOOM!

Take control of your money with *Financial Peace University!* This nine-lesson class uses biblical wisdom and common sense to help you tackle budgeting, pay off debt, and make your money work for you! You can sign up for this class and start your 14-day free trial of Financial Peace at fpu.com/1141840. Class starts **Thursday, January 20, 2022**

SIGN UP NOW!!

HAYRIDE AND FALL FUN AT RICHARDSON'S FARMS

Sunday, October 24TH

One of the most anticipated events of the year is just around the corner. It is the same event at a new place. Our friends at Boyert's made the decision to no longer offer hayrides at their farm, but have no fear, we will be able to continue our fun tradition at Richardson's. The annual fall hayride is on Sunday, October 24th at Richardson Farms from 4:00-7:00-pm. The cost for the evening is \$9 for preschoolers, \$10 for ages 6-15 and \$11 for adults. This includes a dinner (hot dogs, chips, apples, and apple cider), hayride, pumpkin, smore's and lots of other great fall fun. We would love to have some chili also, so if you are willing to bring a crockpot of chili, please let Stacie Yates know or mark it on the signup sheet. **You need to sign up for this event and pay in advance.** There is a signup sheet in the Crossroads Hall upstairs. You may also [CLICK HERE](#) to register and pay online or call the church office. Make checks payable to Medina UCC and put hayride in the memo. You can give your money to Stacie Yates, or you can place it her mailbox in the church office. Hope to see you there!

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

Mark 10:17-31

What Must I Do?

Many years ago, ordained United Church of Christ disability rights activist Harold Wilke (1915–2003) wrote, “The festivals of the religious year show forth new meanings for access and liberation: In the glory of Easter – the stone rolled away – we see the barrier removed. In the wonder of Pentecost, the message is heard, understood, and seen by all. In the liberating act of Passover, the message is: “Let My People Go!” and the parting of the Red Sea. In the joy of Advent, God embodies divinity in human form.”

Yet, for many persons today...the barriers still remain; The stone is still in place; The waters are not parted, the way not opened; The words cannot be heard; The flame of the Spirit’s tongues cannot be seen, the message not understood.

Proclaiming the message in all languages for today means using Braille or larger print for people with visual disabilities, signing or special sound systems for persons with hearing disabilities; image, color and drama for people with cognitive disabilities; architectural access for people with physical disabilities or who are getting older.

Let the stone be rolled away! Let the glorious message be proclaimed truly, in all languages so all may hear and understand!”

Wilke’s stirring words begin the guidebook entitled, “*Anybody, Everybody, Christ’s body: A Guide for Congregations, Associations and Conferences in Becoming Accessible To All (A2A)*”. This guide is invaluable to those congregations that fear that becoming truly physically accessible in their church buildings is fiscally out of reach. After all, the idea of putting in a new elevator or enhanced sound system might seem daunting.

The A2A guidebook is a reminder that just as important as physical and fiscal shifts, are changes in habits and attitudes. While these may take time and spiritual effort, the effect on the church budget may be less than is feared. The process of becoming accessible to all (A2A) begins with an audit of your space, which you can find, along with the A2A guidebook, at the website for the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministry (uccdm.org).