

You see the trouble we are in



OCTOBER 3, 2021

10:00 A.M. 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 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 BELL

PRELUDE “Come, Christians, Join to Sing” – arr. Becki Slagle Mayo

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

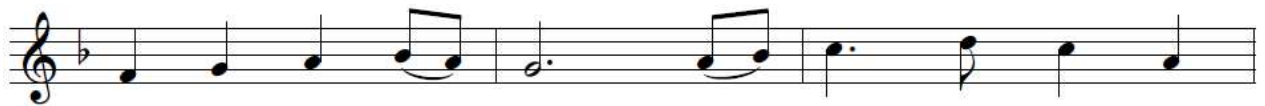
“All Are Welcome”

Marty Haugen, 1994

TWO OAKS 9.6.8.6.8.7.10 with refrain



1. Let us build a house where love can dwell And
2. Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, And
3. Let us build a house where love is found In
4. Let us build a house where hands will reach Be -
5. Let us build a house where all are named, Their



all can safe - ly live, A place where saints and
 words are strong and true, Where all God's chil - dren
 wa - ter, wine and wheat: A ban - quet hall on
 yond the wood and stone To heal and strength - en,
 songs and vi - sions heard And loved and treas - ured,



chil - dren tell How hearts learn to for -
 dare to seek To dream God's reign a -
 ho - ly ground, Where peace and jus - tice
 serve and teach, And live the Word they've
 taught and claimed As words with - in the



give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions,
 new. Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness
 meet. Here the love of God, through Je - sus,
 known. Here the out - cast and the stran - ger
 Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter,



Rock of faith and vault of grace; Here the
 And as sym - bol of God's grace; Here as
 Is re - vealed in time and space; As we
 Bear the im - age of God's face; Let us
 Prayers of faith and songs of grace, Let this



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro - claim from floor to raft - er:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (William Sloan Coffin supplies the prayer for today. Found in *Quietly Courageous: Leading the church in a changing world* by Gil Rendle page 10-11)

Leader: O God, whose mercy is ever faithful and ever sure,

People: Who art our refuge and our strength in times of trouble,

Leader: Visit us, we beseech thee,

People: For we are a people in trouble.

Leader: We need hope that is made wise by experience

People: And undaunted by disappointment.

Leader: We need an anxiety about the future that shows us new ways of looking at things

People: but does not unnerve us.

Leader: As a people, we need to remember that our influence

People: was greatest when our power was weakest.

Leader: Most of all, we need to turn to thee, oh God,

People: our crucified Lord, for only you can free us.

SCRIPTURES Psalm 69:5-15 & Nehemiah 2:11-18

Deb Waldron, Liturgist

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

John & Joyce Drotos, Joyce Halter, Charles & Kristin Metcalf,
Ruth Pieger, Chuck & Janice Rihm, Stephanie Stepsis

REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Corey & Jaclyn Raub

WELCOME AND RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Congregation: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this Church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the Church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

ANTHEM

"Make Strong for Service" – Luigi Cherubini; arr. by Richard Proulx

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

RESPONSE

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

FAITHFULNESS 11.10.11.10. with refrain

Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923; alt.

Williams M. Runyan, 1923

Great is your faithfulness, O God, Creator,
With you no shadow of turning we see.
You do not change, your compassions they fail not;
All of your goodness forever will be.
Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed your hand has provided,
Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation

Leader: Thank you for adding to our church today, oh God. For the souls who have joined. For the souls who have continued in faithful service. For all who are your church and are actively participating in your beloved community here and now.

People: **We raise our prayers of thanksgiving to you, our God. Our Strength and our Redeemer, from whom all blessings flow.**

*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 God, be thou our sole strength in times of trouble. In the midst of anxiety, grant us the grace to count our blessings. The simple ones: health, food, sleep, one another, a nation which, despite all, has so much to offer so many.

And grant us to count our more complicated blessings: our failures, which teach us more than success.

Our lack of money, which points to the only truly renewable resources, our spirit.

Yes, even the knowledge of death, for until we learn that life is limitation, we are surely as formless and as shallow as a stream without its banks.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. You do not need to be a member of the United Church of Christ to partake in the Holy Sacrament.

Meditation

“You See the Trouble We’re In”

Rev. Luke Lindon

Invitation to the Table

The Words of Institution

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*CLOSING HYMN

“Let It Be”

Gathering Band

John Lennon & Paul McCartney

When I find myself in times of trouble Mother Mary comes to me
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be.
And in my hour of darkness She is standing right in front of me
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be.
Let it be, let it be. Whisper words of wisdom, let it be.

And when the broken hearted people Living in the world agree,
There will be an answer, let it be.
For though they may be parted there is still a chance that they will see
There will be an answer, let it be.
Let it be, let it be. There will be an answer, let it be.

And when the night is cloudy, there is still a light that shines on me,
Shine on until tomorrow, let it be.
I wake up to the sound of music Mother Mary comes to me
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be.
Let it be, let it be. There will be an answer, let it be.
Let it be, let it be, whisper words of wisdom, let it be.

*BENEDICTION

Leader: Send us forth into a new week with a gladsome mind,

People: **free and joyful in the spirit of Jesus Christ. 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

“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

United Church of Christ, Congregational
Meet our New Members
October 3, 2021



John & Joyce Drotos

Joyce and I both worked together in 1989 on a program called Skills Available to help people over 40 find jobs.

Joyce got a job order from S.D. Myers in Tallmadge, Ohio for a technical seminar instructor, and I asked her to send me! I was hired and she was promoted to my position at Skills Available. We both loved organ music. Joyce had been a church organist since she was a teen, while I played and collected vintage Hammond organs. To make a long story short, I eventually joined the Seville Presbyterian Church and choir, and we were married there on January 17, 1991.

While she was practicing the organ on a Saturday afternoon, I spent some time looking through the Epistles and decided Philippians 3: 13 was my birthday verse. It reads, "Brothers, I do not consider myself taken hold of. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind I strain on toward what is ahead..." Looking ahead continues to be our outlook!

Joyce Halter

I am originally from Cleveland where I met my husband in Junior High School. I lost him in 2008 but I have a daughter who reminds me of him in many wonderful ways. Sarah lives in Seattle with her husband, Carlos and my granddoggie, Samwise. I want to join them there.

Previously, I was a member of a UCC in Norton, Ohio and have been looking for the right church, Pastor and congregation which I have now found.

I enjoy caring for animals, people and nature. My latest project is a pollinator garden to feed the butterflies, bees and birds. Living in Clinton, Ohio does provide this but also a longer, scenic ride to UCC, Congregational of Medina, which is well worth the trip!



Ruth Pieger

I was born in Barberton, Ohio to Ruth and Alfred Pieger. I grew up in the Lutheran faith, graduated from Barberton High School in 1961, and Kent State University in 1968. I worked at Akron Public Library and Barberton Library most of my life and retired from Akron Public Schools in 2006. I was married briefly and divorced. I have no children.

I am interested in art, all things animal and have had many dogs and cats, but down to 1 dog and 1 cat now.

After growing up Lutheran, I became Atheist, and became Christian again. I have attended several UCC churches.





Charles & Kristin Metcalf

Hello church family. We are Kristin & Charles Metcalf. We have 9 adult children between us. We have lived in Medina County for 20 years. Our Lab mix pup, Nala, is the only "kid" we have raised together, and we like to walk with her. We hike the Medina parks and love the outdoors. I (Charles) like to travel (anywhere). I was a former member of the Lutheran & Reformed church. I am an Electrician/Maintenance & Engineering Manager. I love music, fishing, music, reading, music, hiking, music, and history!

I (Kristin) was at Brunswick Reformed Church for the last 15 years and it was time to move on to a new church close to

home where we can serve and get to know new friends.

We love our big, combined family with our 9 kids and their spouses and 6 grandkids (plus one on the way). Life is good!

Chuck & Janice Rihm

Janice and Chuck Rihm come from Blessed Trinity Catholic Church in Cleveland. They have been married since 2015 and have five children in a blended family with ages ranging from 31-6. Janice is from Parma Heights, and Chuck comes from outside Muncie, Indiana. They have two dogs, a beta fish, and two hermit crabs.

Janice is a Registered Nurse at Southwest General Health Center, and Chuck is a pilot for United Airlines. Janice loves helping people, currently at the Lodi Family Center. Chuck has a strong interest in spiritual growth and men's work.



Stephanie Stepsis

Hello church!

My name is Stephanie Stepsis. I currently reside in Medina with my family. I am married to Tobin Stepsis, and we have two children, Owen age 13, and Blake age 11. My husband and I are both teachers, and so we are very lucky to be able to enjoy the summers together as a family. We have a dog that we rescued during Covid named Martin, who likes to get into trouble. We like to go to the beach, take walks and bike rides. We also like to go to amusement parks and visit with family in the summers. Our favorite vacation place is Lake Michigan, and our favorite place to go walking is Buckeye Woods! We are very happy and

feel blessed to be able to be here at Medina United Church of Christ. We look forward to meeting many new people, learning, and growing together in our faith.



THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

OCTOBER 3, 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 3, 2021 thru October 10, 2021

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun World Communion Sunday
NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING
NEW MEMBERS JOIN
9:30 am Choir warm-up
10:00 am ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP
4:30 pm Youth Group

Mon Cook for Cups
7:00 pm Evangelism Team

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
7:00 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal

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 Mission Team
3:00 pm Confirmation Class

LITURGISTS STILL NEEDED

Thanks to those who signed up to be a liturgist during the 10:30 Sanctuary service. We are still in need of a few liturgists for November. If you are interested, please sign up on bulletin board in the East Room hallway. Questions? Talk to Pastor Luke or call the church office.

Worship Highlights: 10:00 am One Service

Scriptures: Psalm 69:5-15 & Nehemiah 2:11-18

Meditation: “You See the Trouble We’re In”
Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers today are given by Kelly & Paul DeSario in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary.

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.

FALL FLOWERPOTS

The fall flowerpots are up around the Medina square, including our church's happy hiker! Thanks to Melissa Bilikam, Karen Zuehke, 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.**

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.

CRAFTS READY FOR DELIVERY

The fall crafts entitled, "Harvest Blessings," are ready for delivery beginning today, Sunday, October 3rd.

Crafts are set up in the downstairs Welcome area. Please sign out a craft on the sheet provided. Please contact the recipient ahead to schedule a delivery day and time. In-person visitation is possible at the discretion of the recipient. Masks are necessary when making a delivery visitation. For delivery to recipients in care facilities: Please call the facility ahead of going there to inform the front desk that you will be coming to drop off an item for a resident. The front desk will see that the craft gets to the recipient. Thank you for volunteering to deliver a Fall craft.

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

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://youtu.be/s5iSQILy5eq>

YOUTH GROUP

We will gather for youth group on Sunday, **October 3rd from 4:30 - 6:00**. We will have a snack and then play some games. We are excited to have lots of new kids this year and are looking forward to getting to know each other.

Don't forget we need all registration forms as well as your annual \$20 per youth fee. This is to help provide snacks and things throughout the year. We will have forms available for anyone who may need one.

Looking ahead, youth group always meets the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Stacie Yates and Nicole Rubino are in need of some youth group leaders. If you would be interested let us know!

stacie@uccmedina.org or nicole@uccmedina.org

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**.

CONTINUING THE BONDS OF LOVE IN GRIEF

By Kelly Poole, Director of Community Engagement, Waite and Son Funeral Homes

There is a model of grief known as the Continuing Bonds Theory that says when a loved one dies, we slowly adjust and adapt our relationship with them. Everyone does this in their own way, but continuing our relationship is seen as a healthy and normal part of the grief process - acknowledging that grief is ongoing. The process of reshaping and redefining our relationship with a loved one allows a continued bond with them and will last throughout one's life.

Many of us have already experienced having an ongoing relationship with our deceased loved ones. An example of which we already practice continuing bonds under this theory is maintaining rituals or traditions we have developed with them, such as sleeping on a particular side of the bed or making a favorite holiday dish to keep them near.

We intentionally create and continue traditions because they provide a sense of belonging and meaning to our lives. We choose to do them because they were created with love and meaning to bind our loved ones together. It is the sentiment behind them that makes traditions so important.

Here are just a few suggestions on how to remain positive, keep those traditions alive or start new traditions:

- Start with small rituals
- Honor your loved one's presence
- Accept that change is okay and doesn't have to be permanent
- Keep in mind the meaning behind your traditions
- Remember that traditions don't have to be perfect

This lasting attachment with your loved one is seen as a natural and human response to loss, and over time, as you make room for grief's necessary existence, it becomes a more peaceful and positive presence. One where warm memories and a connection to your loved one can grow.

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

October 3, 2021
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Neighbors in Need Offering/World Communion Sunday

Mark 10:2-16

Enfolding Love

What do a Houston teen community organizer working to increase the minimum wage, a migrant seeking sanctuary on the Mexican-Arizona border, and a houseless member of the LGBTQ community have in common? They are all being supported financially by grants from Neighbors in Need (NIN). These are just a few of the ways that your offering to NIN provides real, tangible support to church programs and projects.

-With a background in community organizing, Pastor Darnell Fennell of Just Love Church in Houston, Texas knows people don't have to sit still for economic injustice. He knows the wider UCC feels the same, as seen in statements such as a 2017 General Synod resolution, "A More Just Economy: \$15 Minimum Wage, Living Wages and Job Creation." So, he sought the NIN grant to introduce a couple dozen young people to local activists in the national Fight for \$15 wage campaign and involve them in learning by doing.

-The Shadow Rock UCC Sanctuary Action Team and the Rev. Ken Heintzelman, in an extension of the spirit and intent of their ministry of sanctuary in Phoenix, are in the process of establishing Hope Station Nogales, in Sonora, Mexico. Hope Station, which is funded in part by a \$10,000 grant from Neighbors in Need, is a place where people in transition who are deported from, but have family in, the U.S. can find a meal, safe lodging, and assistance.

-Peace Congregational United Church of Christ in Clemson, North Carolina is working side-by-side with other community members in the design and construction of a tiny house, a mobile residency for a person in the LGBTQ community who is no longer welcome at home. The \$20,000 project is possible with a \$10,000 grant from NIN.

To find out more about the on-the-ground impact of your Neighbors in Need dollars, visit <https://www.ucc.org/giving>.