

# Orpah

February 13, 2022



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

[www.uccmedina.org](http://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 “Bind Us Together” – Bob Gillman, arr. Bill Wolaver

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

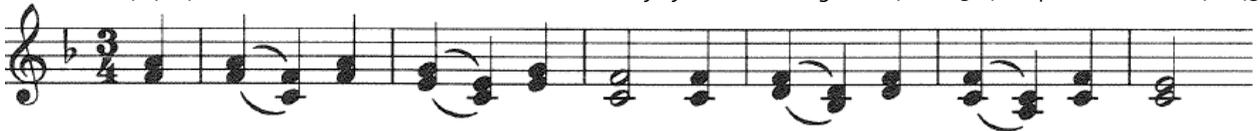
### \*OPENING HYMN

### “Blessed Be the Tie That Binds”

DENNIS S.M.

*John Fawcett, 1782; alt.*

*Melody by Johann G. Nægeli (c. 1768-1836), adapt. Lowell Mason, 1845*



1 Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;  
2 Be - fore our God we come and pour our ar - dent prayers;  
3 We share each oth - er's woes, each oth - er's bur - dens bear,  
4 When we are called to part it gives us in - ward pain,



The shar - ing of a com - mon life is like to that a - bove.  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
And of - ten for each oth - er flows a sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

## CALL TO WORSHIP (UCC Statement of Faith in the form of a Doxology)

**Leader:** Rooted in the ancient witness of the church universal, and confessed by our ancestors of faith, let us again remind ourselves of the sacred story and holy adventure we find ourselves on.

**People:** **We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:**

**Leader:** You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

**People:** **You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.**

**Leader:** You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

**People:** **In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior,**

**Leader:** you have come to us and shared our common lot,

**People:** **conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.**

**Leader:** You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,

**People:** **binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

**Leader:** You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,

**People:** **to be your servants in the service of others,**

**Leader:** to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil,

**People:** **to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,**

**Leader:** to join him in his passion and victory.

**People:** **You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,**

**Leader:** courage in the struggle for justice and peace,

**People:** **your presence in trial and rejoicing,**

**Leader:** and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

**People:** **Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.**

**ANTHEM** "God's Love Is Everlasting" – Mark Hayes

Chancel Choir

**SCRIPTURE** Ruth 1:1-14

Pam Branscome, 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 "Orpah"

Rev. Luke Lindon

HYMN

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.

John Zundel, 1855

Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,  
2 Breathe, O breathe your lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;  
3 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all your life re - ceive;  
4 Fin - ish, then, your new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less may we prove;



Fix in us a hum - ble dwell - ing, all your faith - ful mer - cies crown;  
Let us all in you in - her - it, let us find your prom - ised rest;  
Sud - den - ly re - turn, and ne - ver, ne - ver - more your tem - ples leave.  
Let us see your great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in you;



Je - sus, you are all com - pas - sion; pure, un - bound - ed love im - part.  
Take a - way our love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;  
You we would be al - ways bless - ing, love you as your an - gels love,  
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,



Vis - it us with your sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
End of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
Pray and praise for your un - fail - ing, wound - ed arms out - stretched a - bove.  
Crowned as saints, we ev - er shall be lost in won - der, love, and praise.

## OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

*There is an offering plate by the East Room and by the tower doors if you feel led to deposit your envelope or an offering there. You can also give through our Realm app or text-to-give by texting 73256 and following the prompts. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!*

### Offering Invitation

United in purpose, vision, and work; let us join our spirit and voices together in song. Please rise in body or spirit and sing.

**\*Doxology for Epiphany** (*George Rawson, 1853; alt. & Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906*)

**Eternal God, Incarnate Word, Spirit of flame and dove:**

**Enlarge, expand all living souls to comprehend your love;**

**And help us all to seek your will with wiser powers conferred:**

**O God, grant yet more light and truth to break forth from your Word.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication** (Ruth's reply, adapted, Ruth 1:16-17)

**Holy Jesus, don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go, we go.**

**Where you stay, we stay. Your people are our people and your God our God. Bind us more closely to your will and way, to the good people around us. Blessed are you, our Christ, friend and teacher as we offer our lives to you. Amen.**

## SPECIAL DEDICATION OF THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR SEARCH TEAM

**Leader:** Commissioned from our Annual Meeting from January 30, 2022, we have gathered these members and friends in good standing to find an associate pastor of youth and mission. Andy Bixler will chair the committee and be helped by Julie Gilliland, Katy Medley, Nora Nolan, and Alex Swantek. We bless each of these names whether they are joining us in body or spirit.

The task of this committee will be to recommend to this congregation a fitting candidate for the position sought. Team, your task is to discern together as you move toward making your recommendation, and we, your church, here so commission and bless you in this endeavor.

**People:** **We give you thanks for the gift of your time and talent in this mission from God. Thank you for working for us. We pray for patience. We pray for clarity. We pray for your emotional, spiritual, and physical health on this journey.**

**Leader:** We reaffirm our pledge to you when you first came to us;

**People:** **In the name of Jesus Christ and on behalf of Medina, United Church of Christ, Congregational, we promise our love, support and care.**

**Leader:** Thank you each for offering your gifts to the building of this body of Christ. May this act surround you and remind you that you do not walk alone.

**People:** **We are cheering you each on.**

Leader: And if it becomes much too much, we will work to provide any support you may need.  
Hear your church offer their blessing. Church, rise in spirit and voice to bless your search team.

People: **Almighty God, giver of every good gift:**  
Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a pastor for us.  
One who will guide the youth, plan missions to bless your hurting world.  
Lead them forth in fulfillment of the task you have set before us.  
Thank you for these fellow church members you have made, o Creator.  
Thank you for the ways we see you in them, our Christ.  
And send your Holy Spirit to guide their footsteps on this journey.  
Now and forever more. Amen.

**\*HYMN**

**"All Creatures of Our God and King" (vs. 1, 4 & 5)**

*Unison*



1. All crea-tures of our God and King,	lift up your voice and with us
2. O broth-er wind, air, clouds, and rain,	by which all crea-tures ye sus-
3. O sis - ter wa-ter, flow-ing clear,	make mu-sic for thy Lord to
4. Dear moth-er earth, who day by day	un - fold-est bless-ings on our
5. All ye who are of ten-der heart,	for - giv-ing oth-ers, take your

*Harmony*

*Unison*



sing,	O	praise	ye!	Al- le - lu - ia!	O	broth-er	sun with
tain,	O	praise	ye!	Al- le - lu - ia!	Thou	ris-ing	morn, in
hear,	Al-le	- lu - ia!	Al- le - lu - ia!	O	broth-er	fire who	
way,	Al-le	- lu - ia!	Al- le - lu - ia!	The	flowers	and	fruits that
part,	O	praise	ye!	Al- le - lu - ia!	Ye	who	long pain and



gold-en	beam,	O	sis-ter	moon with	sil-ver	gleam!	
praise	re-joyce,	ye	lights	of eve-ning,	find	a	voice!
lights	the	night,	pro-vid-ing	warmth,	en-hanc-ing	sight,	O
in	thee	grow,	let	them	God's	glo-ry	al-so
sor-row	bear,	praise	God	and	on	him	cast
							your
							care!



O praise ye! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

*Francis of Assisi, ca 1225;  
harm. trans. By William H. Draper, 1927; adapt. 1987*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN 8.8.4.4.8.8. with refrain  
*Geistliche Kirchengesange, 1623; Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906*

**\*BENEDICTION**

Leader: As you return to your home know that

**People: We shall gather again.**

Leader: And wherever you find yourself,

**People: We are the church.**

Leader: You are never alone,

**People: God goes with us and guides us,**

Leader: And the love, support, and care from this community,

**People: is but a call away.**

Leader: May you go from here, blessed to be a 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 "Voluntary" – Bartholomeo Monari**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

**MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"**

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# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## FEBRUARY 13, 2022

**“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](http://www.uccmedina.org/live)

February 13, 2022 thru February 20, 2022

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

**Sun** **FOUNDERS DAY**  
8:15 am Chapel Worship  
9:00 am Gathering Worship  
9:15 am Choir rehearsal  
9:30 am 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Bible Class  
10:30 am Traditional Worship  
3:00 pm Confirmation Class with mentors

**Mon** Valentine's Day  
**1:00 pm Bible Encounter**  
**7:00 pm Bible Encounter**

**Tues** 7:00 pm Bible Study

**Wed** 10:30 am Quilters  
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal  
7:00 pm Discipleship & Education Team  
  
7:00 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal  
**7:00 pm New Member Class**

**Thurs** **6:30 pm Financial Peace Zoom Class**

**Fri** Medina Ice Festival

**Sat** Medina Ice Festival

**Sun** Medina Ice Festival  
8:15 am Chapel Worship  
9:00 am Gathering Worship  
9:15 am Bell Choir rehearsal  
10:30 am Traditional Worship  
4:30 pm Youth Group

### LITURGISTS NEEDED

We are in need of liturgists for the last two Sundays of February and March at the 10:30 service. Please sign up on the sheet in the East Room hallway. Questions? Talk to Pastor Luke or call the church office. The new sign up sheets for April, May and June will be posted soon.

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

Scripture: Ruth 1:1-14

Sermon: "Orpah" – Rev. Luke London

**Communion Table:** The flowers on the communion table are given by Pam Branscome in honor of Harry's birthday!

### FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION TODAY, FEBRUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>

Every February, the ENDOWMENT FUND asks our church family to share in the growth of the fund by making a loving donation in honor or memory of a loved one or special friend. What better way to show we care than to recognize loved ones with a donation! Dollars are used for the special projects throughout the church that are not covered by the Operating Budget. Please consider a gift today. In honor of Founders Day, the Caring Team is distributing cupcakes after each service. Make sure you pick one up in the welcome area on your way out!

### 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 **Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Classes will be held from 7 pm – 9 pm in the New Library. New members will join the church on Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## JESUS VIBES STILL NEEDS YOU!

Exciting things are happening downstairs on Sunday mornings. The kids are enjoying being creative and bringing the bible stories and characters to life. **We are still in need of people to be with children as they learn and create.** There is no prep work for this. You just show up on Sunday mornings and support and guide the children with their ideas. If you are interested or would like to hear more, please see Stacie Yates.

## THE BIG BIBLE BUY Begins February 13<sup>th</sup>

Essential to our worship is the Bible—our sacred stories. To show our gratefulness for the inspired word, the Endowment Fund, the Worship Team and the Caring Team are sponsoring a new initiative to replace the Bibles in the pews, many of which are torn, faded and damaged. We are calling this the BIG BIBLE BUY because it is a big way to show our commitment to the Holy Bible that we cherish. We are seeking a \$25.00 donation for each bible. \$5.00 of that amount will be allocated to the Endowment Fund. **If you would like to make your donation in honor of someone and have the names printed in the front of the bible you may do that** by filling in the sign-up sheet in the East Room hallway or sign up and [pay through REALM here](#). What better way celebrate the month of hearts than by making a gift of \$25.00 to lift up the living word.

## COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

The 2022 Flower Chart is now hanging in the East Room Hallway. **We still have 14 Sundays open throughout the year.**

Please fill in your name and check **“Church” or “Self”** to let us know if you would like the church to order the flowers for you or if you will be ordering them yourself. The cost of the flowers ordered through the church office is \$22.50.

**Also please write what you would like printed in the Messenger and if you want to claim your flowers after the 10:30 service.**



## CRAFTS READY FOR DELIVERY TODAY

**“God Loves You Beary Much” crafts are set up in the downstairs Welcome area.** Please sign out a craft on the sheet provided. In-person visitation is possible at the discretion of the recipient. Call ahead to coordinate a visit. For delivery to recipients in care facilities: Please call the recipient and facility ahead of going there to make arrangements for drop-off at the front desk.

## MEDINA POINT IN TIME COUNT

Medina County conducts an annual count of the homeless in January, called the Point in Time Count (PIT). The count is scheduled for February 22, 2022 in the evening/night. This count is one of those unfunded mandates to count those who are homeless so that Medina County can receive funding to help with our homeless situation. PIT relies on volunteers to make it happen. What do volunteers do? Volunteers receive training on how to conduct the count and are assigned an area to search. Volunteers drive their own cars and can bring a friend for their "team." Interested volunteers should contact Kelly Parker, Program Director at Medina Metropolitan Housing Authority at 330-725-7531 or [kelly@mmha.org](mailto:kelly@mmha.org).

## ENCOUNTER – BIBLE STUDY

Please join us as we read through the Sacred Stories. Mondays at 1pm and 7pm.

# LINUS BLANKET PROJECT

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The Linus Blanket Project is a non-profit organization who delivers blankets to children in need in our area. Many of the blankets go to foster shelters or to hospitals for children who are in need of surgery or who have a life threatening diagnosis.

The requirements:

- \* They need to be handmade with love!
- \* Quilts, afghans, crocheted and tie blankets are all welcomed!
- \* They need to be washed if animals or smoke may come in contact with the blanket.
- \* The general size of the blanket is 40" by 60"

We will be collecting blankets throughout the year to see how many we can make by the end of the year!

Please place your completed homemade blanket in the box when you come into Church!

You can go to [www.projectlinus.org](http://www.projectlinus.org) for more details!

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**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](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)**

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm MONDAY THRU FRIDAY**

## ***PASTORAL STAFF***

Rev. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - email: [luke@uccmedina.org](mailto:luke@uccmedina.org)

Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor – email: [karen@uccmedina.org](mailto:karen@uccmedina.org)

## ***OFFICE STAFF***

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - email: [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)

Jeff Miller, Financial Director - email: [jeff@uccmedina.org](mailto:jeff@uccmedina.org)

## ***PROGRAM STAFF***

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education – [stacie@uccmedina.org](mailto:stacie@uccmedina.org)

Nicole Rubino, Co-Director of Youth – [nicole@uccmedina.org](mailto:nicole@uccmedina.org)

Jim Kiser, Director of Music – [jim@uccmedina.org](mailto:jim@uccmedina.org)

Cathy Fafrak, Organist – [cathy@uccmedina.org](mailto:cathy@uccmedina.org)

Rebecca Rosen, Nursery Supervisor

Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – [jen@uccmedina.org](mailto:jen@uccmedina.org)

Sharon Perry, Custodian

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February 13, 2022  
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany  
*Racial Justice Sunday*  
*Science and Technology Sunday*

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Luke 6:17-26

## Surprising Teaching

Today is Racial Justice Sunday. If your congregation has not already done so, it is a good time to consider the commitment articulated during the wider church's 33<sup>rd</sup> General Synod gathering in 2021, encouraging every UCC congregation to commit to being an anti-racist church. Last summer, a letter from General Minister and President, John Dorhauer, and Associate General Minister of Justice and Local Church Ministries, Traci Blackmon, paved the way for a new movement in anti-racism in the wider church.

"Since 1963, the General Synods of the United Church of Christ have voted 12 resolutions, statements, and pronouncements denouncing racism, and in 2003 resolved *that the United Church of Christ is called to be an antiracist church...*

Similar to COVID-19 and as deadly, racism mutates and remains resistant to methods of eradication...Structural racism pervades every institution and every aspect of our society. It has so distorted our biological, sociological, anthropological, and theological perception of "the other" that most people cannot even imagine the anti-racist church and world that we work to bring into being.

**But dismantling white supremacy is not solely about what we must tear down. We must ask ourselves, what must we build in its place?** Over the next biennium, the national setting invites you to imagine with us: *What does a world free of racism look like to you, and how might we work to bring such a vision into reality across every area of church and society?\**

\*From the webpage: <https://www.ucc.org/build-on-the-love-join-the-movement/>

Find out more about this vital and timely movement at "jointhemovementucc.org".

Dorhauer, John, and Traci Blackmon. "June 9 Webinar to Kick off Reparatory Justice and Reparations Work." United Church of Christ, 7 June 2021, [www.ucc.org/june-9-webinar-to-kick-off-reparatory-justice-and-reparations-work/](http://www.ucc.org/june-9-webinar-to-kick-off-reparatory-justice-and-reparations-work/). Accessed 7 July 2021.