

MEDINA  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST. CONGREGATIONAL

FEBRUARY  
TWENTIETH  
2022

# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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

[www.uccmedina.org](http://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**

“Fairest Lord Jesus” - arr. Becki Slagle Mayo

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

#### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

#### **\*OPENING HYMN**

**“Help Us Accept Each Other”**

1. Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept-ed us;  
2. Teach us, O Lord, your les-sons, as in our dai-ly life  
3. Let your ac - cep-tance change us, so that we may be moved  
4. Lord, for to - day's en-coun-ters with all who are in need,

teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em-brace.  
we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.  
in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;  
who hun - ger for ac - cep-tance, for righ-teous - ness and bread,



Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us, and bring us to be - lieve  
 Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,  
 to prac - tice your ac - cep - tance, un - til we know by heart  
 we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on;

we are our - selves ac - cept - ed and meant to love and live.  
 to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.  
 the ta - ble of for - give - ness and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.  
 re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us, make us one!

WORDS: Fred Kaan, 1974 (Jn. 15:12)

MUSIC: John Ness Beck, 1977

ACCEPTANCE

76.76 D

Words © 1975 Hope Publishing Co.; music © 1977 Hope Publishing Co.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We wish you wouldn't have said it.

**People: We wish we could walk away from it.**

Leader: And we confess, in some way, every day;

**People: We do.**

Leader: We also realize that there is nothing more

**People: Revolutionary**

Leader: Counter-intuitive

**People: Liberating**

Leader: Absolutely Insane

**People: Frustrating**

Leader: and divine, than when you said,

**People: "Love your enemies,**

Leader: do good to those who hate you,

**People: bless those who curse you,**

Leader: pray for those who abuse you."

**People: Lord, we believe. Help our unbelief. Amen**

ANTHEM

"Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley" – arr. Tammy Waldrop

Bell Choir

SCRIPTURE

Luke 6: 27-38 (N.T. pg.60)

Pete Metzloff, 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

"Love Your Enemies"

Rev. Luke Lindon

HYMN

"Lift High The Cross"

© 1974 Hope Publishing Co.

WORDS: George William Kitchin and Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916, alt.  
MUSIC: Sydney Hugo Nicholson, 1916

Refrain (Unison)


Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1. Come, Chris-tians, fol - low this tri-um-phiant sign. The  
2. Each new-born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied bears  
3. O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree, as  
4. So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be: Praise

Fine

D. C.



hosts of God in u - ni - ty com - bine.  
 on the brow the seal of him who died.  
 thou hast prom - ised, draw the world to thee.  
 to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

## OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS (Psalm 37, adapted)

Leader: We give, expecting nothing in return.

**People: We give, taking delight in our God. We give, to be still before the Lord,**

Leader: and patiently wait for our still speaking God. We will not fret—it leads only to evil,

**People: We will hope in the Lord.**

## Offering Invitation

There is beauty all around. May what we offer in our time, talent, and treasure... not just here to this place, but with our whole lives create space, aid in human thriving, and steward God's creation. Let us sing to our Creator God!

## \*Doxology

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

Holy One, you are deep within our world, calling us to join you in creating abundant life for all.

Open our hearts to recognize you Free us to trust your call and follow;

Enable us to repent, and forgive, and join in your work to make "all things new".


In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

## \*HYMN

### "The Church of Christ, in Every Age"

Tune: WAREHAM L.M.  
 Company William Knapp, 1738

Words Copyright © 1971 by Hope Publishing



1 The church of Christ, in ev - ery age be -  
 2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the  
 3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a



set by change, but Spir - it led, Must  
vic - tims of in - jus - ite cry For  
car - ing church that longs to be A  
claim and test its her - i - tage and  
shel - ter and for bread to eat, and  
part - ner in Christ's sac - ri - fice, and  
keep on ris - ing from the dead.  
nev - er live be - fore they die.  
clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.

**\*BENEDICTION**

Leader: This nutty plan of God's,

**People:** It has to start somewhere,

Leader: This teaching of Christ,

**People:** It has to start sometime,

Leader: This word from the Spirit,

**People:** What better place than here,

Leader: To be a child of the Most High,

**People:** What better time than now!

Leader: And the gates of Hell cannot prevail against us! Go in peace!

**People: God's justice is our peace!**

Leader: And love your enemies,

**People:** This is the way of Christ,

Leader: For this service has ended,

**People:** And our service now begins! Thanks be to God! 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** “Grand Triumphant March, Op. 47, No. 2” -Guilmant/arr. Mark L. Williams

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

## **“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”**

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### ***PASTORAL STAFF***

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Sharon Perry, Custodian

# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## FEBRUARY 20, 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 20, 2022 thru February 27, 2022

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

<u>Sun</u>	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	9:15 am	Bell rehearsal
	9:30 am	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Bible Class
	9:45 am	Y & M Pastor Search Meeting
	10:30 am	Traditional Worship
	4:30 pm	Youth Group

Mon **Church Office closed- President's day**

1:00 pm Breadmakers

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study  
7:00 pm Caring Team (zoom)

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

Thurs 6:30 pm Financial Peace Zoom Class  
7:00 pm Congregation Council

Fri

Sat

Sun Transfiguration Sunday

### NEW MEMBERS JOIN

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

### 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: Luke 6:27-38

Sermon: “Love Your Enemies”  
Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The flowers on the communion table are given by Syd and Pete Benson in honor of their 57<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

### NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Would you like to join our church family!? Join us for our next new member classes! The next class will be held **Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Class is 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.

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION TIPS

Medina County, Ohio – Join Cleveland Cavaliers VP of Diversity, Inclusion & Engagement, Kevin Clayton, for a discussion about "Leading and Leveraging Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion." This free event is sponsored by Critchfield, Critchfield & Johnston, Ltd. with support from the Medina County Community Fund is on Wednesday, March 2, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Zoom.

For more information visit [https://leadershipmedinacounty.org/inspire\\_events/post-event-talk-with-cleveland-cavs-kevin-clayton/](https://leadershipmedinacounty.org/inspire_events/post-event-talk-with-cleveland-cavs-kevin-clayton/), email [info@leadershipmedinacounty.org](mailto:info@leadershipmedinacounty.org), or call 330-721-7118.

## ENCOUNTER – BIBLE STUDY

Please join us as we read through the Sacred Stories. Mondays at 1pm and 7pm.  
Reminder... Monday 2/21 both Encounter Classes are cancelled as the church is closed that day.



At the open mic night,  
You will be,  
Astounded by all the talent,  
And treated musically,  
By your church,  
Free-versing and such,  
Some original poems,  
Some from Frost, Gorman, and such.

While this poem may stink,  
May it serve as an invitational letter,  
For you to come out,  
And offer something better.

## TEENS AND BREAD

The teens will be joining the Breadmakers on Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 pm. This will be a day to learn how to make bread for our new members and visitors.

## LET THE GAMES BEGIN

We will gather for youth group on **Sunday February 20<sup>th</sup>** from **4:30-6:00** for a fun night of "Board Game Mania". Bring your favorite game to add into the mix. Below are the details.

**When:** Sunday February 29<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 4:30-6:00

**Where:** Fellowship Hall

**What to Bring:** a game to share

**Extra:** We are still wearing face mask, so please be sure to bring yours!

Don't be SORRY and miss this one! We will see you on **Sunday February 20<sup>th</sup>**.

# 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**

Luke 6:27-38

### **Love Your Enemies**

Dear God,

Today, I pray for my enemies.

I do not pray that they will change their ways.  
(Although I secretly believe that they should.)

I do not pray that they become more like me.  
(Although that is a mighty temptation.)

I do not pray, even, that they cease to exist.  
(Although I may, in my heart of hearts, desire this.)

Instead my prayer for my enemies looks a lot like a prayer for myself.

Help me Holy One, to stop drinking poison, hoping it will hurt another.

Help me instead to be more like you.

Truthful. Powerful. Compassionate.

Remind me today and every day

That my prayer for my enemies makes

Me - not them - more faithful. Stronger. Whole-er.

Today I pray for my enemies, which is really a prayer that I, myself,

grow every day more and more into Your Divine Image,

the Image in which I am created and meant to be.

Amen.