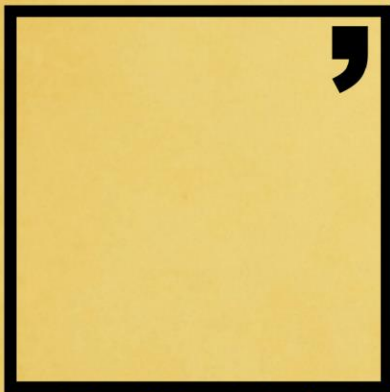




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MEDINA
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST. CONGREGATIONAL

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 “Great Is the Lord” – arr. Carol Tornquist

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God,

People: we come to the mountaintop to be covered in your presence.

Leader: We are comforted by your holiness and your glow;

People: we are comforted by the hope of the mountain top,

Leader: where you are so close, so accessible,

People: where there is no doubt of your glory

Leader: The mountain top reminds us why we worship you.

People: We witness your bright power,

Leader: and your plan for the nations of the earth.

Leader: As we prepare for worship,

People: God bring us to the mountain top;

Leader: That we might glimpse a bit of your vision,

People: And hear your voice clearly how the law and prophets meet!

***OPENING HYMN**

“We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding”

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1988

HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7.D.
Rowland H. Prichard, 1844; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906



1 We have come at Christ's own bid - ding to this high and
2 Light breaks through our clouds and shad - ows, splen - dor bathes the
3 Strength-ened by this glimpse of glo - ry, fear - ful lest our



ho - ly place, Where we wait with hope and long - ing for some
flesh-joined Word, Mo - ses and E - li - jah mar - vel as the
faith de - cline, We, like Pe - ter, find it tempt-ing to re -



to - ken of God's grace. Here we pray for new as -
heav - enly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts be - hold with
main and build a shrine. But true wor - ship gives us



sur - ance that our faith is not in vain, Search - ing
won - der how the Law and Proph - ets meet: Christ with
cour - age to pro - claim what we pro - fess, That our



like those first dis - ci - ples for a sign both clear and plain.
gar - ments drenched in bright - ness, stands trans - fig - ured and com-plete.
dai - ly lives may prove us peo - ple of the God we bless.

*OPENING PRAYER

We seek you, Holy One. We wish to live in your ways. We yearn for your vision. Yet we confess we yearn for personal comfort as well. To be insulated from suffering, and receive a vision that confirms what we already believe.

Shake us, Almighty God. Shock us into a new vision.
Break our lens, Widen our view, Expand our hearts.

And remind us again that it is in comforting that we are comforted,
In giving that we receive. In feeding that we are fed.
We are our siblings keeper.
May your kingdom come, and your will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus Name. Amen.

ANTHEM "Shine, Jesus, Shine" with "Shine Down" – arr. Roger Emerson Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURES Exodus 34:29-35 (O.T. pg. 78) Pam Branscome, Liturgist
Luke 9:28-36 (N.T. pg. 65)

WELCOME AND RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Jim & Rachel Evans, Dave & Jean Linderman

Unable to attend today: John & Delynn Warfel

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.

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 "Transfiguration" Rev. Luke Lindon

HYMN "O Wondrous Sight! O Vision Fair"

Sarum Breviary, 1495; trans. J.M. Neale, 1851

WAREHAM LM
William Knapp, 1738; harm. from Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1875



1. O won - drous sight! O vi - sion fair
2. From age to age the tale de - clares
5. And faith - ful hearts are raised on high

of glo - ry that the church shall share,
 how with the three dis - ci - ples there
 by this great vi - sion's mys - ter - y;
 which Christ up - on the moun - tain shows,
 where Mo - ses and E - li - jah meet,
 for which in joy - ful strains we raise
 where bright - er than the sun he glows!
 the Lord holds con - verse high and sweet.
 the voice of prayer, the hymn of 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

We have seen your glory. We will not veil the faces of those who are close to you. This offering is a testament to that so that others may say the same.

*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

Bless these gifts, we pray.
 May they represent just the beginning of our journey
 to show forth your glory to the world. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"This Little Light of Mine"

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine...
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine...
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine...
All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine.
All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ go with you;
People: wherever he may send us.
Leader: May he guide you from this mountaintop,
People: down into the valley of our lives,
Leader: may he bring you home rejoicing
People: at the wonders we have seen
Leader: May he bring you home rejoicing,
People: Once again into our doors. 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 "Fanfare" – Michael Helman**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

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Sharon Perry, Custodian

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

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 27, 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

February 20, 2022 thru February 27, 2022

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Transfiguration Sunday
NEW MEMBERS JOIN
8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir rehearsal
9:30 am 3rd & 4th Grade Bible Class
10:30 am Traditional Worship
3:00 pm Confirmation Class

Mon 1:00 pm Bible Encounter
7:00 pm Bible Encounter

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Open Mic night for Mardi Gras

Wed Ash Wednesday
10:30 am Quilters
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

Thurs 6:30 pm Financial Peace Zoom Class

Fri Confirmation Retreat

Sat Confirmation Retreat

Sun 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT
8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir rehearsal
10:30 am Traditional Worship
4:30 pm Youth Group

BLANKET SUNDAY OFFERING

Thanks to your generous support, we collected \$660 to give to Church World Service (CWS).

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

Scriptures: Exodus 34:29-35 and Luke 9:28-36

Sermon: “Transfiguration”
Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The flowers on the communion table are given by Luke, Eve & Sam Lindon in honor of Kate’s birthday.

THE BIG BIBLE BUY GOAL IS 200!

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.

Our goal is to sponsor 200 bibles! We are currently at 50 bibles sponsored! 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](#).

ENCOUNTER – BIBLE STUDY

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

LITURGISTS NEEDED

We are in need of liturgists for **the last two Sundays of 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.

NEW CURTAINS

After 65 years of use, the stage curtains in Fellowship Hall have been replaced. The new curtains were purchased through Memorial Gift monies given in memory of Eleanor Gerspacher, Jean Thornburg and Jack Hofstetter. Making a memorial gift in memory of a church member who has passed is a lovely way to honor their life while also making possible continuing improvements and projects in our church.

LINUS BLANKET PROJECT

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 for more details!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY LENTEN FUNDRAISER

The Mission Team is happy to announce we are moving forward with Habitat for Humanity! In the past several years, we have given financially to Habitat, but this year we would like not only to give financial help, but to get out in the community and build! We are donating \$8,000 to Habitat, which was allotted to Habitat in the Mission Team Budget for the 2022 fiscal year, but we are looking to raise \$2,000 more, so we can rally and help build a house for a family in our community! With our generous donation and hands on help, a family will be blessed with a new home they can call their own and be proud of! The family selected will help build their new home along with our hands on and financial help! While the home is being built, the selected family will participate in financial education classes and learn skills to help maintain their new home.

So, that is where our Church Family comes in! For a Lenten Fundraiser we would like to raise \$2,000 more for Habitat for Humanity to get to a \$10,000 total donation from our Church which will get us 5 days to work on a Habitat site starting in March or April, depending on the weather! If you would like to help, please donate, and then sign up for a workday! The workdays will be posted on the bulletin board in the East Room hallway once we reach our fundraising goal!

Why should you donate money and time to Habitat?

- Habitat is a non-profit organization which helps qualified families in Medina County who are willing to help build affordable housing for their family with the help from the Habitat community
- We are helping families in our community
- We develop community within our Church as we go out to sites to work together and build with Habitat staff
- Learn new skills
- Build new relationships with others
- It will feel good to help people in our community
- Get to know people and develop friendships

If you would like more information, please go to <http://www.medinahabitat.org/>

PASTOR'S CORNER

Lent 2022: Good Enough

We'll celebrate our creative talent with an **Open Mic Night on March 1 at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.**

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.



Ash Wednesday: Jesus used the word “hypocrite” to describe those who put on airs in public to make people believe that they were holy, that their religious practice was... well... perfect. But their hearts were actually not in the practice, rather in the rewards that public approval could bring them-which is here today, often gone tomorrow. Sometimes it is life itself that robs us of the shiny, perfect life that we had planned for ourselves. A diagnosis. A broken heart. A lost opportunity. This Lent, rather than change for “the best,” we’ll seek to gain momentum one day at a time, “to reach for a faith that is never perfect, but good enough” We’ll be giving away 25 copies of the Lenten Devotional book *Good Enough* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Ritchie, who were recently featured on Good Morning America! As well as our My Sunday sermon notebook.



This worship will be in the **Sanctuary at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary and livestreamed.** We’ll have the imposition of ashes, which is our tradition.



Good Enough: Lent 2022

Each Sunday in Lent, we’ll talk about how we live in a culture bent on definitions of a good life as continuous upward mobility-climbing ladders of prosperity with increasingly fabulous experiences that we can post to ever-more-likable social media accounts.

We may comb the shelves of the self-help section in search of just the right formula to gain success. Perhaps we even gravitate towards spiritual leaders who promise great rewards if we only do

“the right thing.”

But life happens, right?

Most times we are not moving upward but trying to repair the rung we’ve just slipped from. So what if we stopped climbing and started fertilizing, watering, and blooming right where we find ourselves? Welcome to a Lent of affirming a faith in which we are blessed, regardless, and where we can lean into embracing our “good enough” lives.

We’ll meet and discuss Kate Bowler’s Book *Good Enough* **Wednesday Nights at 7 p.m. in the New Library.** Come on out!

Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

Astounding Glory

Too many young pastors arrive at their first call ill-equipped to handle the complexity of parish leadership in the twenty-first century. For the past decade, the Next Generation Leadership Initiative (NGLI) has been changing that dynamic for the better, with a program of support and education for committed and transformative ministers under the age of 35.

According to their webpage, the vision of the NGLI is: Transforming younger local church pastors → Transforming churches → Transforming lives.

NGLI seeks to honor and challenge younger clergy who demonstrate significant potential, who have accepted the high calling to parish ministry, who view parish ministry as a career path, and are willing to make a long-term commitment to service in congregational settings of the United Church of Christ.

A transformational leader is one who, among other attributes, manifests the capacity to:

- Live a faith that shows love of God, trust in Jesus, and openness to the Holy Spirit
- Practice self-reflection
- Embody a contagious faith and hopeful confidence in sharing the good news of the Gospel with believers and non-believers
- Develop an entrepreneurial spirit
- Exhibit a commitment to continuous improvement in their personal and professional life, welcoming feedback and integrating awareness and insights
- Participate in a network of mutual care and learning with colleagues
- Articulate a personal vision/mission/core values statement for their life
- Engage with the congregation to develop a vision/mission/core values statement that will shape the congregation's life and vocation
- Create an environment in which effective engagement with peoples of diverse ethnicities and cultures is encouraged

Do you know, or are you yourself, a young pastor who could benefit from NGLI? Now is the time for both congregation and pastor to begin the discernment process on this vital ministry. Find out more at www.pbucc.org.