

SO

MUCH

IS

OUT

OF

OUR

CONTROL

Good Enough



MEDINA
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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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 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 BELL

MUSIC FOR GATHERING “God Will Take Care of You” – arr. Phillip Keveren Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME

SONG “Good Enough” *Marsha Moors-Charles & Chuck Bell, © 2021*

Choir sings 1st time through, congregation joins in on the repeat

What in our lives do we dream about for tomorrow, void of sorrow?
Time spent regretting decisions of our yesterdays, mistakes we made?
Sometimes we get what we get,
life disappoints us and yet,
God is still here and somehow, this faith is good enough.

***CALLING ON GOD** (Based on Psalm 27)

Leader: Let us pray together:

**People: Holy One, Our Light and Salvation,
we call out to you,
sometimes afraid of the adversaries in life.
Shelter us in days of trouble, lead us on level paths.
Open us this day to your grace and peace,
transform our frustrations
into simple and good enough moments that fill our days.
Amen.**

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.

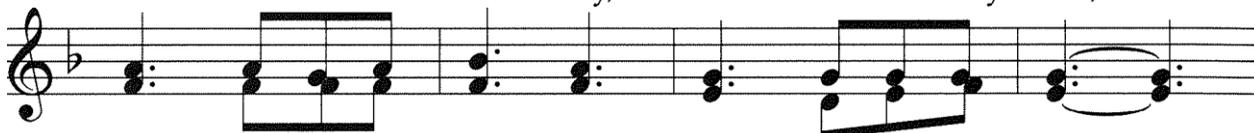
*OPENING HYMN

"Take Time to Be Holy"

W. D. Longstaff, 1882

HOLINESS 6.5.6.5.D
George C. Stebbins, 1890

1. Take time to be ho - ly, speak oft with thy Lord;
2. Take time to be ho - ly, the world rush-es on;
3. Take time to be ho - ly, let him be thy guide,
4. Take time to be ho - ly, be calm in thy soul;



a - bide in him al - ways, and feed on his word.
 spend much time in se - cret with Je - sus a - lone.
 and run not be - fore him, what - ev - er be - tide;
 each thought and each mo - tive be - neath his con - trol;



Make friends of God's chil - dren; help those who are weak;
 By look - ing to Je - sus, like him thou shalt be;
 in joy or in sor - row, still fol - low thy Lord.
 thus led by his spir - it to foun - tains of love,



for - get - ting in noth - ing God's bless - ing to seek.
 thy friends in thy con - duct his like - ness shall see.
 And, look - ing to Je - sus, still trust in his word.
 thou soon shalt be fit - ted for ser - vice a - bove.

HONEST QUESTIONS, COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE

Leader: Hear this compassionate word from the Psalmist: "I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!"

Know that already, God is offering us freedom from feeling alone in fixing what feels oh so wrong with this world, inviting us to let go of the need to *be* God, so that we might recognize that God is *with* us, offering courage in difficulty.

And know, that despite our sometimes faltering steps, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are being forgiven, even now.

People: **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE WORD IN MUSIC "Gonna Lay My Burden Down" – arr. Jay Rouse Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE Luke 13:31-35 (N.T. pg. 72) Nick North, Liturgist
*At the conclusion of the reading the liturgist says, "A Word of God that is still speaking."
We respond, "Thanks be to God."*

THOUGHTS ABOUT AN IMPERFECT LIFE AND FAITH

"So much is out of our control" Rev. Luke Lindon

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer Song

"That's Enough for Me"

Though all along our daily pilgrim race
our treasures small and very few may be,
our souls are blest with God's unending grace,
and that is enough, enough for me.
Oh, that's enough for me,
God's truth has set me free;
the love of Christ has sanctified my soul,
and that is enough for me.

When food and raiment are not ever sure,
and simple fare is hard to get for some,
we work to share our goods with one and all,
and that is enough, enough for me.
Oh, that's enough for me,
God's truth has set me free;
a love like Christ's is meant for ev'ry soul,
and that is enough for me.

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

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!

Offertory Invitation

There is so much out of our control. We cannot control other people, sometimes we can control how we respond to them. Jesus, Teacher, thank you for the reminder and the opportunity to respond in some healthy way that brings more peace and blessing to your world. Thank you in advance for your guidance. Let us rise in body or spirit and sing out to our God.

*Doxology (*Old 100th, adapted*)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Jesus Christ, our burdens know,
Praise Spirit through whom our hearts grow, Praise Three-in-One, from here below. Amen.**

*Prayer after Offering

**Generous God,
in light of your extravagant blessings—
no matter what the state of the world or our imperfect lives—
we offer our gifts and ourselves,
and know that you transform what we plant
into the produce of love.
Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN

"Since the Lord Is My Salvation"

NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, © 2016

John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

**Since the Lord is my salvation, Is there anyone to fear?
As a citizen of heaven why should I feel worry here?
In a world that's lost and broken and where sin and death abound,
We rejoice for God has spoken: we are safe, on solid ground.**

**God will hide me in the shelter when the days of trouble come.
Though a war may rise against me, God's own tent will be my home.
I will trust what God has given, I will trust God's word to me:
I'm a citizen of heaven and it's what I'll always be.**

**Even when I hear the warning, "Find a safer, easier way,"
I'll be faithful in the morning and at noon and close of day.
As a citizen of heaven, I have nothing I should fear;
For in Christ, I am forgiven, and I'm called to service here.**

**You, O Lord, are my salvation; make me strong to live for you.
May I care for your creation, love the stranger, speak what's true.
May I share what you have given; may I see each person's worth.
As a citizen of heaven, make me useful here on earth.**

A BLESSING FOR WHEN YOU REALIZE EVERYONE IS STRUGGLING (from Good Enough by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie)

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: And now, may the God who loves all of creation,
People: especially the imperfect bits,
Leader: and Jesus,
People: our companion along this crooked path called life,
Leader: and the Holy Spirit,
People: who loves to improvise in surprising ways,
Leader: go with you, dwell among you, and give you joy.
People: Amen.

***CHORAL REPRISE**

***POSTLUDE** "Variations on an American Hymn Tune: Allegro con fuoco" – Gordon Young
Cathy Fafarak, Organist

As you leave church today, stop by the White Board in the Welcome Area and contribute to this prompt posted for this week of Lent:

*Covid has left us feeling out of control.
Share your ideas and images of pandemic moments that were...*



“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”

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“Good Enough” theme song by Marsha Charles, Marcia McFee, Chuck Bell. Used with permission of Worship Design Studio.

“A Blessing for a Joyfully Mediocre Journey” from Good Enough: 40-ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. Used with permission.

Purchase the book at www.katebowler.com/goodenough

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - email: luke@uccmedina.org
Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor – email: karen@uccmedina.org

OFFICE STAFF

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - email: office@uccmedina.org
Jeff Miller, Financial Director - email: jeff@uccmedina.org

PROGRAM STAFF

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education – stacie@uccmedina.org
Nicole Rubino, Co-Director of Youth – nicole@uccmedina.org
Jim Kiser, Director of Music – jim@uccmedina.org
Cathy Fafrak, Organist – cathy@uccmedina.org
Rebecca Rosen, Nursery Supervisor
Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – jen@uccmedina.org
Sharon Perry, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

MARCH 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

March 13, 2022 thru March 20, 2022

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
TIME BEGINS



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

Mon 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 Gathering Band Rehearsal
7:00 pm **“Good Enough” Lenten
Book Discussion**

Thurs 6:30 pm Financial Peace Zoom Class

Fri

Sat

Sun 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT
First Day of Spring

8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir & Bell rehearsal
9:30 am 3rd & 4th Grade Bible Class
10:30 am Traditional Worship

ENCOUNTER – BIBLE STUDY

Please join us as we read through the Sacred Stories. Mondays at 1pm and 7pm. **Note: we will not meet on 3/28 or 4/4.**

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

Scriptures: Luke 13:31-35

Sermon: “So much is out of our control”
Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The flowers on the communion table are given by Ken & Sue Dean in memory of their parents.

MASKING UPDATE

Council has approved the Reopening Team’s recommendation to make the wearing of masks optional at in-person worship and all events. This includes things like Coffee hour and Women’s Tea. **This change is effective Sunday, March 13, 2022.** This decision is based on the revised Community level guidance from the CDC that no longer recommends the wearing of masks when indoors, for counties where the COVID-19 Community Level is Low or Medium. Medina County’s Community Level is Low.

EASTER LILIES

It’s time to order your Easter Lily! You may donate a lily in honor or memory of someone to decorate the Chapel, Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary for Easter and claim it afterward, or have it delivered to a shut-in by the Flower Committee. The cost is \$10.00. Deadline for ordering is **April 4th** Please fill out a yellow lily order sheet (available from the ushers) and turn it in to the church office.

THE BIG BIBLE BUY CONTINUES

The Endowment Fund, Worship Team and Caring Team initiative to replace the Bibles in the pews continues. **Our goal is to sponsor 200 bibles!** 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](#).

TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Interested in the book of Genesis? Learn surprising things you may not know in the Tuesday Night 7:00 pm Bible Study class. We are currently halfway through Genesis but welcome more participants! We meet in the new library.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING March 27, 2022



One Great Hour of Sharing is a UCC Church Wider Mission that can help those in need and change the trajectory of their

lives! When a tragedy strikes the Wider Church Ministries comes in with resources, educated staff, and volunteers to help shelter, calm, uplift, and guide them through devastating times. Immediate help is given along with long term guidance. They get assistance to help them recover from a natural disaster or relocation. Through our monetary donations, low income families, in deprived areas, are educated and given opportunities to create income for their family to prosper. If you are so moved, please donate on March 27th to help change the trajectory of someone's life.

NEW MEN'S GROUP

All men are invited to join in a new men's group facilitated by Chuck Rihm, one of our new members from last fall. He will be utilizing the Way of Council.

The Way of Council is a communal contemplative practice that fosters a heart-centered way of listening, speaking and being with others. The practice opens a deeper and more meaningful way of communicating and fosters compassion and empathy for other men's experiences. Men can speak without being judged or shamed; speak about their emotions and be emotional; forge real and authentic relationships with other men; and share the real challenges of the different roles we have in life: husband/partner, father, grandfather, brother, provider, businessman, mentor, and apprentice.

We will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month from 4:30 – 6:00 PM while the Youth Group is in session. We will begin on Sunday, April 3rd.

Please consider joining us to journey from your head to your heart and deepen your brotherhood with your fellow congregants. Questions? Contact Chuck at 440-503-8021 or rihm@compuserve.com

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORKDAY SIGN UP

We are still fundraising for Habitat through the Lenten season to reach our monetary goal! Since we have donated an initial amount of money to Habitat, they have offered us two workdays! The workdays are Saturday, March 19, and Saturday, March 26 from 8:30am-3pm in Brunswick. You can sign up using the sign-up genius links below or on the Mission Team Bulletin Board. Once you sign up you will receive an email with all the details about our hands on build in Brunswick!

March 19th Habitat workday sign up:
<http://tinyurl.com/HabitatMarch19>

March 26th Habitat workday sign up:
<http://tinyurl.com/HabitatMarch26>

EASTER BAG OUTREACH

Lent is here and Easter is quickly approaching! The Mission Team is getting ready for our 13th Annual Easter Bag Outreach. Each year we provide Easter Bags, like an Easter Basket but in a bag, to children in Medina County who have a parent or guardian that is incarcerated. On March 27th and April 3rd, we will have a table set up where you are invited to select one or more children to decorate and fill an Easter Bag for, with no more than \$20 of items inside the bag. We are also asking for volunteers to make a quick call to verify information with the families and drivers to deliver the bags on Saturday, April 16th. Sign-ups will be available on the table, or you may contact Ryan Collins if you are interested in volunteering at rpcollins1@gmail.com or call or text at 330-321-7028.

LAWN MOWERS NEEDED

The church's grass cutting team is looking for a few more volunteers to cut and trim the church grounds. We have a nice John Deere riding mower, a self-propelled walk behind mower, and a battery-operated string trimmer. We develop a schedule together with all of the volunteers with the goal of having the grass cut for the weekends (weather dependent!) You can volunteer to just use the riding mower or the push mower, or you can do both. The more volunteers we have the less often we all have to cut, and we trade weeks if we can't cut on our assigned week. Please consider joining our group. It's a great way to give back and get some fresh air and exercise.

Contact Carl Skorepa @ 330-421-3189 or John Sandora @ 330-283-6524 with any questions.

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

Isaiah 55:1-9

Open Invitation

Among the resolutions at the United Church of Christ's 2021 General Synod gathering, was a resolution declaring racism to be a public health crisis. On this Amistad Sunday, we remember the brave captives aboard a slave ship who took on the system of slavery through the legal system. Nearly two hundred years later, people of faith are still called to address the systems and institutions that perpetuate racism. Only by addressing these systems of oppression can the evil of racism be dismantled. We follow a Christ who himself took on systems and institutions that perpetuated power for a few at the expense of a marginalized many. How is your faith community living out the powerful language of this General Synod resolution? Portions of the resolution follow:

"...WHEREAS "racism is a marriage of racist policies and racist ideas that produces and normalizes racial inequities," in the words of Ibram X. Kendi.

WHEREAS without exception and across generations, racial inequities persist in every system of society—as evidenced through health care access, education, criminal justice, employment, housing, access to food and clean water, services to youth, older adults, and persons with disabilities, organizational leadership, governmental office, voting, and immigration, among many others—and thus a specific anti-racist lens is required for health equity and broader systemic change.

WHEREAS inequities based on race also intersect with other dimensions of identity—such as income, sex, gender, sexuality, citizenship and incarceration status, geographic location and housing status, ability, education, language proficiency, etc.— and thus racial justice is a necessary method from which to respond to other intersecting oppressions impacting health and equity overall.

WHEREAS public health promotes and protects the health of people and the communities and environments in which they live, learn, work and play.

WHEREAS the word *crisis* comes from the ancient Greek word that means "turning point," and comes from the verb meaning "to decide"—thus connoting a call to change and action.

WHEREAS framing racism as an issue of public health rallies and compels faith communities, organizations, and the government to address the crisis through systemic change, in the same way other threats to public health have been addressed, such as through policies, practices, enforcement, education, and support services...."

"...NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Thirty-Third General Synod of the United Church of Christ declares racism a public health crisis"

You can find more of the implications and calls for action that are the result of this bold resolution here: <https://www.generalsynod.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Racism-Public-Health.pdf>