

LOTS OF THINGS CAN BE MEDICINE

Good Enough



MEDINA
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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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 “Amazing Grace” – arr. Cathy Moglebust

Alleluia Ringers

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 a - bout for to - mor-row, void of sor-row?__

Time spent re - grett - ing de - ci - sions of our yes - ter - days, mi - stakes we made?

Some - times we get what we get, life dis - ap - points us and yet, __

God is still here and some - how, this faith is good__ e - nough.

***CALLING ON GOD** (Based on Psalm 63)

Leader: Let us pray together:

People: **Holy One, Our Balm, Our Feast** we lift our hands and call your name, in need of healing—thirsting and hungry. Your steadfast love is better than life. Open us this day to your nourishment in the songs of the land, in the beauty of the sky—in the simple and good enough moments that fill our days. Amen.

BAPTISM OF THE MILLER FAMILY

Jeffrey Thomas Miller, Olivia Ann Miller, Addisyn Elizabeth Miller & Kaelyn Grace Miller

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**

"The Gifts of God Are Free"

ST. THOMAS 6.6.8.6.

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, © 2019

The Universal Psalmodist, 1763; adapt. Aaron Williams, 1770

**The gifts of God are free — the water, milk and wine;
The feast of God's community is set — for all to dine.**

**O God, we tend to see a world of limits here;
We share your gifts reluctantly and hoard them out of fear.**

**And yet you give your grace like food from heaven above;
Your church becomes a welcome place, a banquet of your love.**

**There's joy, and joy to spare; there's bread that satisfies;
You call us now to seek and share your love that changes lives.**

HONEST QUESTIONS, COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE

Leader: Hear this compassionate word from Isaiah: "Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

Know that already, God is offering us love enough no matter how much we attain or achieve. We are invited to release oppressive expectations of ourselves and others so that we might recognize true worth afforded to all.

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

"God of the Sparrow"

Chancel Choir

lyrics, Jonathan Cook; music, Craig Courtney; flute: Lori Ciulla

SCRIPTURE

Luke 13:1-9 (N.T. pg. 71)

Pam Branscome, 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

"Lots of things can be medicine"

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

What we offer today can be medicine for our world. May our time, talent, and treasure be part of the cure for what ails us. Let us rise in body or spirit and sing our Lenten Doxology.

*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

"O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"

George Matheson, 1882; alt.

ST. MARGARET 8.8.8.6.
Albert L. Peace, 1885



1 O Love that will not let me go,
2 O Light that fol - lows all my way,
3 O Joy that seeks me through my pain,
4 O Cross that rais - es up my head,



I rest my wea - ry soul in you;
to you I yield my flick - ering flame;
to you I can - not close my heart;
from you I dare not seek to flee;



I give you back the life I owe, that
Re - new my spir - it's fee - ble ray, that
I trace the rain - bow through the rain, and
Life's glo - ries with - er and are dead, but



in your o - cean depths its flow may swell with ar - dor true.
from your bril - liant sun - lit day it may new bright - ness claim.
know the prom - ise is not vain that you will ne'er de - part.
from the ground there blos - soms red, life that shall end - less be.

A BLESSING FOR SLOWING DOWN (from Good Enough by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION

Leader: And now, may the God who loves all of creation, and you—

People: without price,

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** "Toccatina in G Minor, No. 3, PoP 283" – Johann Pachelbel

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:

Share your ideas and images when a slow nurturing and healing process became...



“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”

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“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

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

MARCH 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

March 20, 2022 thru March 27, 2022

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT

8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Bell 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 7:00 pm Council Meeting

Fri

Sat

Sun 4th SUNDAY OF LENT

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir rehearsal
10:30 am Traditional Worship
11:45 am Caring Team
1:00 pm Cleveland Celtic Ensemble
3:00 pm Confirmation Class w/ mentors

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 13:1-9

Sermon: “Lots of things can be medicine”
Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The flowers on the communion table are given by Dorothe Edinger in memory of David Edinger.

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 OR can purchase directly through REALM. [Click Here](#) for REALM.

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.

THE BIG BIBLE BUY CONTINUES....

Not quite 1/2 way to our goal!

The Endowment Fund, Worship Team and Caring Team initiative to replace the Bibles in the pews continues. **Our goal is to sponsor 200 bibles! Thank you to all of you who have sponsored a bible! Currently we are at 76 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](#).

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.

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 in the new library while the Youth Group is in session. We will begin on May 1st. 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! This Saturday, March 26 from 8:30am-3pm in Brunswick is the last workday to sign up for! 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 26th Habitat workday sign up:
<http://tinyurl.com/HabitatMarch26>

LITURGIST SIGN-UP

Check out the bulletin board in the East Room hallway to sign up to be a liturgist during April, May and June at the 10:30 Sanctuary service. Questions? Talk to Pastor Luke or call the church office.

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

... in the WIDER CHURCH

Help for Ukraine

Many have asked if there is a way in addition to our prayers that we may be of aid to those who are suffering in Ukraine. The answer to that question is "yes"! The Heartland Conference [S.A.R.A. partnership](#) will serve as a conduit for aid to partners in Ukraine who are suffering as a result of the war. Daily, our partners are bringing food and water relief to displaced Ukrainians in Transcarpathia. Those wishing to make a donation via this channel may do so by clicking below. Please know that your gifts of any size make a difference in this critical time.

[Donate to S.A.R.A.](#)



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>