

Faces of Jesus

Images
of our
savior
in art
and
creed



BREAD AND FISH

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

- During the 10:30 service, the nursery is available for newborns to age 2
- During the 10:30 service, Jesus Vibes Sunday School is available for ages 3-8th grade

“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 BELL

PRELUDE “The Summons” -arr. Anne Krentz Organ

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”

Cesareo Gabaraín; trans. Gertrude C. Suppe,
George Lockwood & Raphael Gutiérrez-Achon, 1987

PESCADOR DE HOMBRES Irr. With Refrain
Cesareo Gabaraín; harm. Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1987



1 Lord, you have come to the lake - shore
2 You know so well my pos - ses - sions;



look - ing nei - ther for wealth - y nor wise ones;
my boat car - ries no gold and no weap - ons;

you on - ly asked me to fol - low hum - bly.
 you will find there my nets and la - bor.

O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
 and while smil - ing have spo - ken my name;
 now my boat's left on the shore - line be - hind me;
 by your side I will seek oth - er seas.

***CREEDAL CONFESSION**

Led by Maggie Bixler

(Ignatius of Antioch's letter to the Trallians)

Leader: Do not listen, therefore whenever anyone speaks to you apart from Jesus Christ,

People: Who is of the stock of David, who is of Mary,

Leader: Who was truly born, ate, and drank,

People: Was truly persecuted under Pontius Pilate,

Leader: Was truly crucified and died in the sight of beings of heaven,

People: of earth and the underworld,

Leader: Who was also truly raised from the dead.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR THE BIXLER FAMILY

Maggie Sophia Bixler, Colin Gabriel Bixler, Grant Sebastian Bixler

When prompted, the congregational replies:

“ In joyful response to God’s grace, we promise our love, our support and our care.”

ORDER OF CONFIRMATION

Invitation to the Confirmands

Questions to the Confirmands

Prayer of the Confirmands

Act of Confirmation

Reading of the Selected Scripture

Confirmand Remark on Scripture

Act of Blessing

Question about Participation in the Life of the Church

Congregational Promise (In Unison)

Leader: We offer you this promise...

People: We promise you our continuing 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 help one another be Christ to the world.

Greeting of Christian Love

ANTHEM “Lift High the Cross” – arr. Todd Wilson

Chancel Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Read by Joel DeSario

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.

SCRIPTURE John 21:1-19 (N.T. pg. 109)

Read by Elizabeth Warfel

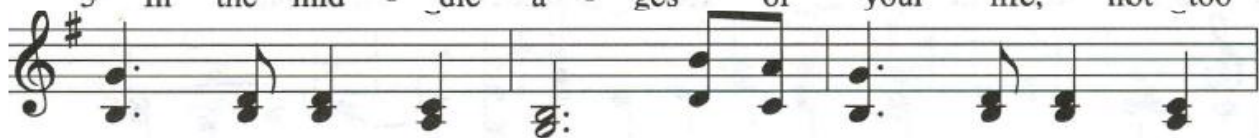
SERMON “Bread and Fish”

Rev. Luke Lindon

***HYMN** “I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry”



1 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be
 2 When you heard the won - der of the Word I was
 3 In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too



there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you
 there to cheer you on. You were raised to praise the
 old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you

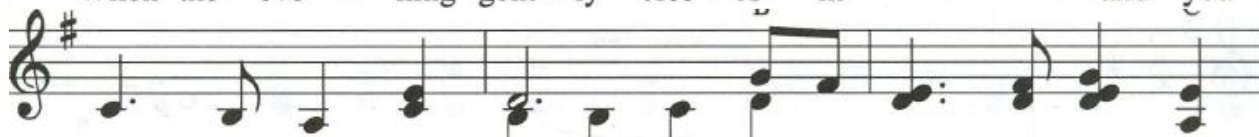
(Fine)



were bap - tized to see your life un - fold.
 liv - ing Lord to whom you now be - long.
 through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child with a
 If you find some - one to share your time, and you
 When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es, in and you



faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you
 join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your
 shut your wear - y eyes, I'll be there as I have



wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell.
 vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.
 al - ways been with just one more sur - prise. D.C. (vs. 1) al fine

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. You do not need to be a member of the United Church of Christ to partake in the Holy Sacrament. All bread served is gluten free.

Invitation to the Table

The Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

Led by Owen Stepsis

Let this be the next right step toward you, our God. As we give our time, talent, and treasure to the trust of our shared lives, may they go to those who need it. Let us rise in body or spirit and sing praise to our God.

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer after Offering (From Good Enough, page 234)

Blessed are we, the loved, who gather up the truths we need to live here. Beauty. Love. Joy. Acceptance. Community. And more than a touch of courage. We who are learning to remain between the discomfort of what is and what might never be.
May what we offer love others into being, and remind us that you are here, even now.
Amen.

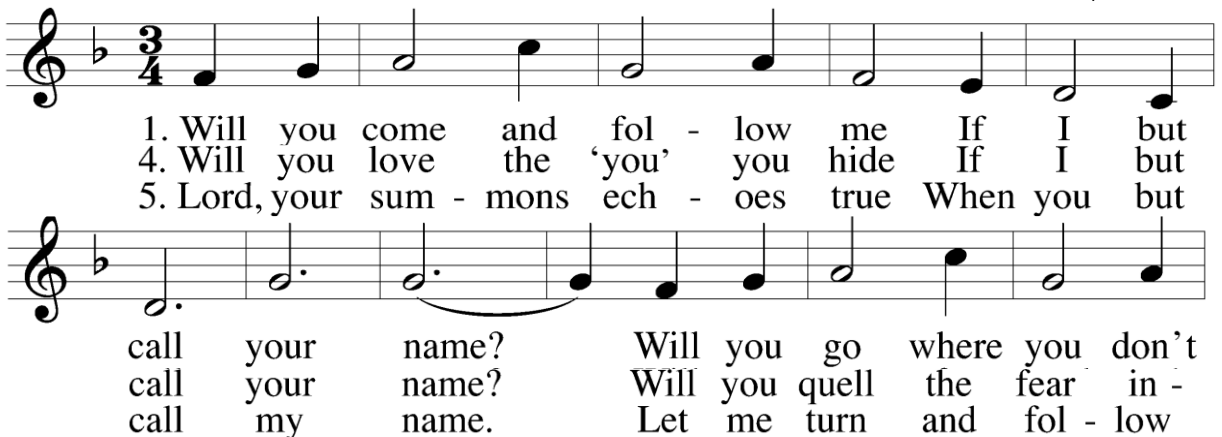
*CLOSING HYMN

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

KELVINGROVE 7.6.7.6.7.7.6.

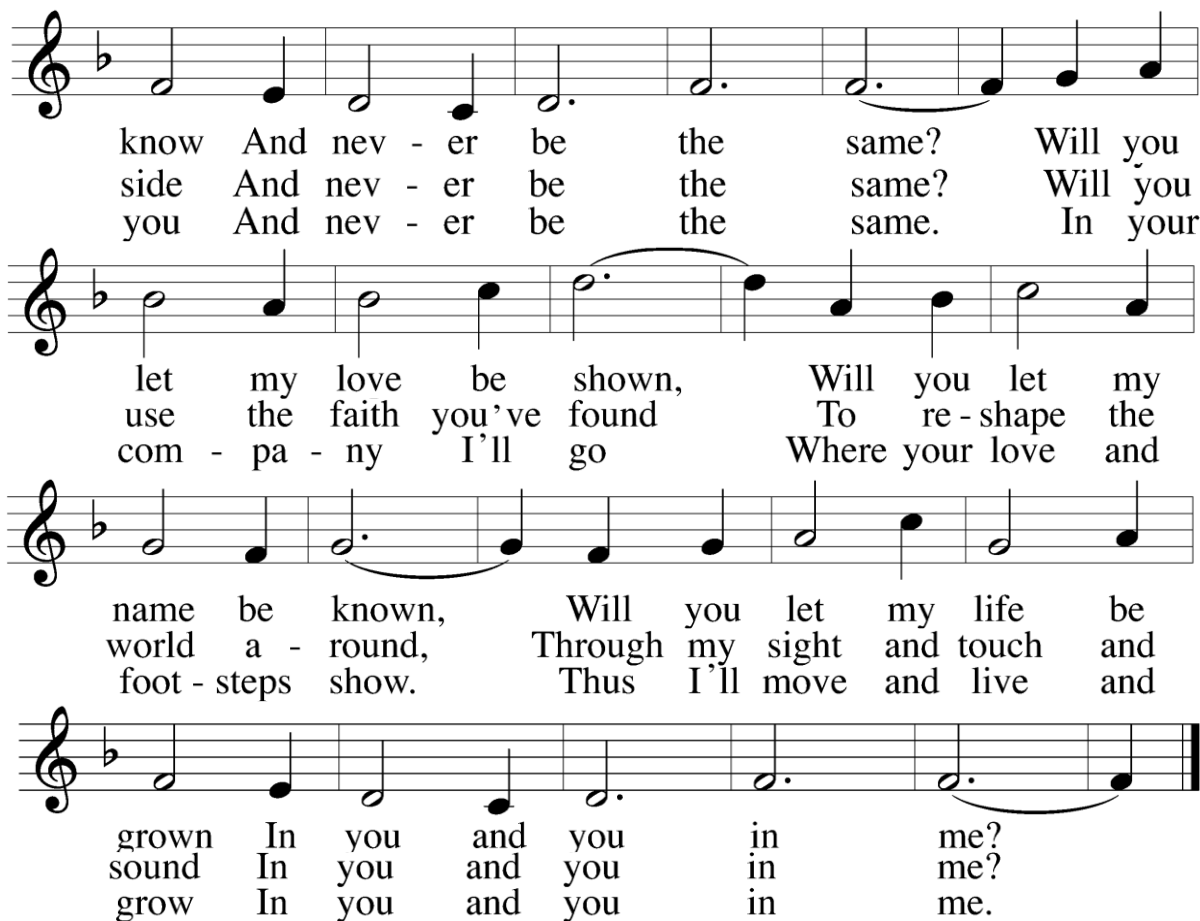
John L. Bell & Graham Maule

Scottish trad.; arr. John L. Bell



1. Will you come and fol - low me If I but
4. Will you love the 'you' you hide If I but
5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true When you but

call your name? Will you go where you don't
call your name? Will you quell the fear in -
call my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know And nev - er be the same? Will you
side And nev - er be the same? Will you
you And nev - er be the same. In your
let my love be shown, Will you let my
use the faith you've found To re - shape the
com - pa - ny I'll go Where your love and
name be known, Will you let my life be
world a - round, Through my sight and touch and
foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and
grown In you and you in me?
sound In you and you in me?
grow In you and you in me.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION

Leader: May you go from here looking for the symbols placed with intent and pointing you to the reality of God's presence among us!

People: **May we find, as the song goes, the words of the prophets are written on the subway walls and in tenement halls.**

Leader: Having been blessed to be a blessing, go from here to bend the world toward blessing. Go! 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.**

“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”

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*Please join us in Fellowship Hall immediately following the service
for a special reception to honor our Confirmands.*

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About the bulletin cover...

The cover comes to us from Templed Hills during the confirmation retreat on March 5, 2022 as the confirmands led worship on a hill top. The image behind it is an ancient Mosaic of Bread and Fish found in Israel and is dated circa. 480 C.E.

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Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor – email: karen@uccmedina.org

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Cathy Fafrak, Organist – cathy@uccmedina.org
Rebecca Rosen, Nursery Supervisor
Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – jen@uccmedina.org
Sharon Perry, Custodian

Confirmation Class 2021 – 2022

Maggie Sophia Bixler

Parents: Andy & Whitney Bixler

Mentor: Cathy Fafrak

Joel Dominic DeSario

Parents: Paul & Kelly DeSario

Mentor: Matt Yates

Haley Reed Black

Parents: Michael & Kerri Black

Mentor: Tracy Gabrielsen

Owen Michael Stepsis

Parents: Tobin & Stephanie Stepsis

Mentor: Cricket Shaw

James Alan Cervenak

Parents: Robert & Valerie Cervenak

Mentor: Maureen Walker

Alexander James Swantek

Parents: Kevin & Wendy Swantek

Mentor: Shannon Conley-Kurjian

Elizabeth Claire Warfel

Grandparents: John & Delynn Warfel

Mentor: Jill Warfel



THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

MAY 1, 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

May 1, 2022 thru May 8, 2022

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am Traditional Worship &
Confirmation
4:30 pm Youth Group
4:30 pm Men's Group

Mon Cook for Cups
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

Thurs

Fri

Sat

Sun FRIEND'S IN NEED OFFERING

Mother's Day

8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir rehearsal
10:30 am Traditional Worship

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Our **confirmation Sunday is Today!** Please join us during worship as seven of our young 7th and 8th graders make their confirmation. Two of them come from the Gathering Worship and five of them come from the 10:30 worship. It's a big deal! We're so proud of this group of young men and women.

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

Scripture John 21;1-19:

Sermon: "Bread and Fish"

-Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The flowers on the communion table are given by John & Kathi Kavouras in honor of their 43rd wedding anniversary.

ANNUAL REPORT TIME!

Teams, Committees and Leadership of the church are being asked to write up **their Annual Reports** to be presented at the **May 22nd Annual Meeting immediately following ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP at 10:00 am.** The due date for your report will be no later than May 2nd.

Please email or drop off your reports to me in the church office. Please inform me as to any changes on your team. I appreciate all your efforts in **getting these to me on time.** Please email to: office@uccmedina.org

COFFEE HOUR RESUMES TODAY

Do you want to get to know other church members? Have great fellowship? The **Caring Team** will be hosting Coffee Hour **today**, May 1st after the 10:30 am service where we'll celebrate our confirmands! For the month of May, the Caring Team will host each week.

ENCOUNTER – BIBLE STUDY

Please join us as we read through the Sacred Stories. Mondays at 1pm and 7pm.
Final dates are: 5/2, 5/9 & 5/16

AMANDA FUND & FRIENDS IN NEED

Every Mother's Day we take up a collection for **Friends in Need or the Amanda Fund**. The Friends in Need account provides financial assistance to a Medina UCC member who might need a helping hand with basic living needs. The Amanda Fund is available to families with medical bills and other related costs that arise during extended hospitalizations of their child. This Mother's Day no funds will be collected for these accounts! Instead of collecting funds, the Mission Team would like to offer these funds to a Church friend! Several years have gone by and these funds haven't been used! **The totals in the accounts are plentiful! We want to give back to our Church Family! So, if you know of a Church family who might need assistance, please reach out to a Mission Team Member or the office for information.**

NEW MEN'S GROUP TODAY

All men are invited to join in a new men's group facilitated by Chuck Rihm, one of our new members who is utilizing the Way of Council, a communal contemplative practice that fosters a heart-centered way of listening, speaking and being with others. **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 May 1st. Contact Chuck at rihm@compuerve.com or 440-503-8021 for questions.

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 **Mondays, May 16th & 23rd**. **Classes will be held from 7 pm – 9 pm** in the New Library. New members **will join the church on Pentecost Sunday, June 5th**. Childcare is provided if needed during class. Please Register here in [REALM](#) or contact the Church Office at 330-725-4559 if you are interested and let us know if you will need childcare.

LITURGIST SIGN-UP

Check out the bulletin board in the East Room hallway to sign up to be a liturgist during the 10:30 Sanctuary service. We still have open dates in May and June.

COSTA RICA HOUSE 198!!

After a Covid hiatus, we are returning to Costa Rica to work with Mercy Home Missions. We will be building house number 198. This year's trip is going to be different in many ways. First, we are not building in Nosara. We will be building in the Sarapiquí area. This is a valley in the mountains about 2 hours from San Jose. Second, we are a very small group this year. There are only 8 of us and we would welcome any help. **If you have some time and a last-minute desire please feel free to join us!** Third, we are building for an immigrant family from Nicaragua. They are Julio, Louisa and their two children Gabriel (10) and David (3). In addition to needing clean and safe housing, they were robbed of what little belongs they had. We are asking for financial donations from the Congregation both to support the Mission Trip as well as to purchase some needed items for the family.

Jeff Miller has set up a direct online payment option to make donating easier. We will be leaving on May 7th and returning May 15th; any financial assistance would be greatly appreciated. Please keep our small but mighty team in your prayers. If you are able to donate muscles or money it would be wonderfully appreciated!

Our MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING this year will be to help the young family in Costa Rica who are in need of everything! Please consider your generous gift this Mother's Day.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Come enjoy a week at **Compassion Camp VBS** where we'll learn how we can change the world with loving kindness. We will have fun learning bible stories, playing games, making crafts and so much more. [You may register here in REALM](#). Please, complete the registration form (one per child) and return it plus the **\$10.00 registration fee** for each child or **\$25 family maximum** to the church office or Hobby Horse office by **Monday, May 30th**. Please make checks payable to Medina UCC with VBS in the memo. If you have any questions, or would like to help please call Stacie Yates (330-304-7877) or Jen Vilimonovic at (330-722-1445).

Our Annual Meeting is ONE SERVICE at 10 a.m. on May 22nd

We'll vote on new moderators and review the miles traveled this past year. Teams, please get your reports into the office ASAP. Some folks have asked why we're not using the phone voting system like we did in 2020-2021. It was not cost effective to continue using this service for just two Sundays a year. Plus, sometimes the old ways are the best ways. We have to show up and give of our time and ask good questions and discern together the direction of the church. That is best done in real time, together, at the annual meeting. Please c'mon out as we're also going to celebrate Jim's retirement and his years of music service with us!

YOUTH GROUP SERVICE PROJECT TODAY!

Youth Group will meet **Sunday, May 1st**. In celebration of Global Youth Service Day we will have Ellen Nolan and Katy Medley teaching us about hunger and how our youth can impact food insecure neighbors in the Medina community. The kids will be creating snack packs that can be distributed by the church to the seven Little Free Food Pantries in our town.

We need your help! Please bring food items for donations such as: cheese & cracker packs, peanut butter crackers, granola bars, individual cups of peanut butter, fruit & veggie pouches, individual animal cracker packs, instant oatmeal packs, breakfast bars, applesauce/fruit cups, mini muffin packs, yogurt raisins, teddy grahams packs, mini cereal boxes, pudding cups, non-refrigerated yogurt packs, mac & cheese cups, & fruit snacks.

When: Sunday May 1st

Time: 4:30 – 6:00

Where: Fellowship Hall

What to bring: A food item for donation from the list above.

PRAYER CONCERNS

SUPPORT

MaryAnn Andrews	Strength and healing
Martha Brocco	Strength and healing from breast cancer
Paula Chase	Strength and healing from surgery
Edward	Strength and healing from tumor
Betty Einhart	Strength and healing
Rachel Evans	Strength and healing
Birch Hall	Strength and healing
Linda Hjort	Strength and healing from stroke
David Kunkleman	Strength and healing
Sam Langol	Strength and healing
Ed Lichtenberg	Strength and healing
Elizabeth Mason	Strength and healing
Emmitt Novak	Strength and healing from rare cancer
Allan Ratz	Comfort in addressing Parkinson's
Randy Rice	Strength and healing from cancer
Carolyn Sadler	Strength and healing from broken wrist
Nanette Waite	Strength and healing from surgery
David Welch	Strength and healing from open heart surgery
Jake Wuersig	Strength and healing from a fall/Whipps Ledges
Terry Yancer	Strength and healing from cancer



In Sympathy

Our deepest Christian sympathies go to the friends and family of Hope Wilder who passed away Sunday, April 24, 2022.

MILITARY SUPPORT

CPT Dakota Thomasini	Air Force, San Antonio, TX (Carolee Rafn's granddaughter)
CPT Kyle Thomasini	Air Force, San Antonio, TX (Carolee Rafn's grandson-in-law)
CPL Andrew Root	Marines, Quantico, VA (Brad & Kathy Root's son)
SFC Roberta Craigo	Army Reserve, OH (Pastor Luke's half-sister)
PFC Joe DeSario	Army/National Guard, OH (Paul & Kelly DeSario's son)
LT Patrick Donnelly	Navy, Virginia (Joe & Lori Donnelly)
PFC Travis Dunn	Marines, San Diego, CA (Ruth Dunn's grandson)
ST SGT Michael Fikter	Air Force, Poland (Greg & Barb Shaffer's nephew)
CPL Greg Swayer	Army, Philadelphia (Stacie Yates' cousin)
SGT Tyler Walschon	Army/National Guard, OH (John & Joan Walschon's son)
Kyle Weekley	Army (Daubner Family)
PV Ava Chan	Army Reserve, Ft. Jackson, SC. (Alan Parkhurst's niece)

Jim Kiser, our congregation's Music Director retires soon

The next Music Director? We've begun the search.

When Jim announced that he would be leaving, leaders of our congregation speedily went into action. "Why bother?" some might ask. "Can't the church save some money and get along without a Music Director?" The short answer to that question is "No". The spiritual life of God's faithful people has been intimately linked with music from the very beginning of our story.

In Genesis we find "Adam", the first biped on the planet with reason to sing. And he did indeed sing when he discovered the existence of his longed-for mate: "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh..." (Genesis 2:23) When the newly-liberated Israelites made their bid to escape from slavery, landed safely on the other shore of the sea, and watched as the Empire's pursuit team perished in the wake of an extraordinarily high wind-blown tide, they sang in a celebration of thanksgiving: "Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord: I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea." (Exodus 15:20-21)

Music is at the core of our faith. That is why a search team has been constituted to take on this task on our behalf. The leader of the team is Pete Metzloff, who brings a hearty measure of experience to this important work. As a chair of our congregation's staffing team, he was also part of the 2007 search team that hired Jim Kiser as well as secretary for our 2016 Senior Pastor search team. He also serves weekly to fill the sparsely-populated tenor section in the choir. Other team members include Tracy Gabrielsen, a teacher of music in Medina's schools for the past 22 years, who for several years has also sung in our choir and helped lead a variety of our congregation's other musical endeavors. Our "Resident Retired Revs.", Harry Buch and Pam Branscome, bring 40+ years of professional experience working with Music Directors of one sort or another, along with their lifelong enthusiasm for making music and their regular participation in our congregation's current music program. On the sidelines (but not all that much, really) is Cathy Fafrak, our organist, piano accompanist, and all-around talented musician, offering professional counsel to our team.

We have formulated a Job Description, published it on several professional job-seeking internet websites, and have already received a number of inquiries from interested applicants. The task of sorting through these inquiries and separating the wheat from chaff has started, and we hope to identify a new Music Director before Summer's end. The Job Description can be found on Medina UCCC's website. Please feel free to share news of this search with folks you might know: those individuals who know the immense spiritual power of music, and who possess the necessary professional qualifications to lead all of us into experiencing that power. And, of course, we invite to share your hopes and comments about this enterprise with members of the Search Team. We're in the church directory, and we, your Search Team, will keep you posted on our progress. Stay tuned.

**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**

Acts 9:1-6

The Way Forward

Saul, the persecutor of God's people became Paul, champion of the living Christ, after a powerful singular experience on the road to Damascus. For Silver Lake Award honoree Valerie Tutson, the powerful, singular moment that Christ came alive for her was not on the road, but in the pews of her childhood church.

Valerie Tutson is a storyteller by trade and her eyes widen with joy when she tells the story of the first time she saw a performance by some of her church friends after they returned from a camp experience at Silver Lake Conference Center (SLCC), a United Church of Christ facility. She recounts that in seeing those young women - dressed in plastic garbage bags meant to represent frog costumes and singing about the plagues and pharaoh - her life was changed forever. From then on, scripture stories were not merely words on the page, but a living breathing story, one that became hers to tell with creativity and wonder. After that she attended camp as soon, and as often, as she could.

"Silver Lake has been a part of my life since I was 11 years old," Val said. "Without a doubt, Silver Lake has helped to shape the person I am in the world. It has always been a place where my life, my creative work, and my faith get explored and braided together. I tell people all over the world that all the good stuff I learned about life and caring for God's people I learned and keep learning at camp!" She has been a camper or staff member of the camp since 1977.

SLCC Executive Director, the Rev. Ryan Gackenheimer, says that even many decades after her "come to Jesus moment" in the pews of her home church, "It is difficult to be in the presence of Val and not know that God is alive and loves you to the deepest core of who you truly are."

Do you have a "road to Damascus" moment? How does it continue to inform your life to this day?

Information about the Silver Lake Award adapted from the Silver Lake Conference Center web site:

<https://www.silverlakeect.org/newsdetail/valerie-tutson-recognized-with-4th-annual-silver-lake-award-4029263>