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# Every Tear

Faces of Jesus

Images of  
 our savior  
 in art  
 and  
 creed





# 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**

- *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 3-8<sup>th</sup> 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 “Meditation on Chereponi” – Richard Blake

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

### WELCOME

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

### \*OPENING HYMN

### “They’ll Know We Are Christians”

ST. BRENDAN’S 7.6.7.6.8.6. with refrain  
Peter Scholtes, 1938-2009

*Peter Scholtes, 1966*



1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.  
 2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.  
 3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.  
 4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come.



We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.  
 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.  
 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.  
 And all praise to Christ Je - sus, his on - ly Son.



And we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored.  
And to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land.  
And we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride.  
And all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one.



And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our love.



Yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

#### \*CREEDAL CONFESSIONS: Maasai Creed circa 1960

Leader: We believe in the one High God of love who created the beautiful world and everything good in it.

**People: He created man and wanted man to be happy in the world.**

Leader: God loves the world and every nation and tribe in the world.

**People: We have known this God in darkness, and we now know God in the light.**

Leader: God promised in his book the Bible that he would save the world and all the nations and tribes.

**People: We believe that God made good on his promise by sending his son, Jesus Christ, a man by the flesh, a Jew by tribe, born poor in a little village, who left his home and was always on safari, doing good, curing people by the power of God, teaching about God and man, showing that the meaning of religion is love.**

Leader: He was rejected by his people, tortured and nailed hands and feet to a cross, and died.

**People: He lay buried in the grave, but the hyenas did not touch him, and on the third day he rose from the grave.**

Leader: He ascended to the skies.

**People: He is lord.**

Leader: We believe that all our sins are forgiven through him.

**People: All who have faith in him must be sorry about their sins, be baptized in the Holy Spirit of God, live by the rules of love and share the bread together, to announce the good news to others until Jesus comes again.**

Leader: We are waiting for him.

**People: He is alive. He lives. This we believe. Amen.**

**BELL ANTHEM**

“Assurance” – Michael Helman

Alleluia Ringers

**SCRIPTURES**

John 13:31-35 (N.T. pg. 102)  
Revelation 21:1-6 (N.T. pg. 244)

Harry Buch, Liturgist

**MESSAGE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY OF GOD**

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.

**Joys and Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**SERMON**

“Every Tear”

Rev. Luke Lindon

**HYMN**

**“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”**

CHEREPONI Irr. With refrain

Ghanaian folk song; adapt. Tom Colvin, 1969

Tom Colvin, 1969; rev. 1994.

*This African folk melody was presented to the Church at Chereponi, Northern Ghana, by Ghanaian musicologist, A. A. Mensah, when United Church of Christ missionaries, Al and Sue Krass were serving there. Like Tom Colvin, a Scottish missionary in neighboring Tamale, Al Krass was encouraging the making of hymns to indigenous melodies. Tom Colvin wrote these words to this adapted form of the melody in dedication to the Church at Chereponi.*

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show  
us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

*Last time, end*

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and folk-like. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff covers the first line of lyrics, the second staff covers the second line, and the third staff covers the final line. There are some fermatas and dynamic markings like 'f' and 'Gm/Bb C/ f'.

- |   |                                     |                                 |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Knelt at the feet of his friends,   | si - lent - ly wash - ing their |
| 2 | Neigh-bors are rich and poor,       | var - ied in col - or and       |
| 3 | These are the ones we should serve, | these are the ones we should    |
| 4 | Lov - ing puts us on our knees,     | show - ing our faith by our     |
| 5 | Kneel at the feet of our friends,   | si - lent - ly wash - ing their |

To refrain



feet, Je - su, you act - ed as ser - vant to them.  
race, neigh-bors are near and far a - way.  
love; all these are neigh-bors to us and you.  
deeds, serv - ing the neigh-bors we have from you.  
feet, this is the way we should live with you.

## 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

Lord Jesus, in whose image we are made, and in whose path we walk, accept our humble offerings and intentions in this moment and guide us to where you most need us in this hurting world which you love. Hear your children as we rise in body or spirit and sing our praise to you.

**\*Doxology** (*Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted; UCC Book of Worship, p. 43*)

**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 after Offering

**Holy Jesus, our teacher and friend. We believe in your promises. We seek to be your hands and feet. You alone are the head of the church. May what we offer and what we do help make everything new. You are our Alpha and Omega. The Beginning and the End. Our Living Water. Amen.**

## \*CLOSING HYMN

### "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.

John Zundel, 1855

Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,  
2 Breathe, O breathe your lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;  
3 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all your life re - ceive;  
4 Fin - ish, then, your new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less may we prove;



Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing, all your faith-ful mer-cies crown;  
Let us all in you in-her-it, let us find your prom-ised rest;  
Sud-den-ly re-turn, and ne-ver, ne-ver-more your tem-ples leave.  
Let us see your great sal-va-tion per-fect-ly re-stored in you;



Je-sus, you are all com-pas-sion; pure, un-bound-ed love im-part.  
Take a-way our love of sin-ning; Al-pha and O-me-ga be;  
You we would be al-ways bless-ing, love you as your an-gels love,  
Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry, till in heaven we take our place,



Vis-it us with your sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-ery trem-bling heart.  
End of faith, as its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.  
Pray and praise for your un-fail-ing, wound-ed arms out-stretched a-bove.  
Crowned as saints, we ev-er shall be lost in won-der, love, and praise.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*BENEDICTION

Leader: He who was seated on the throne said,

**People: "I am making everything new!"**

Leader: Know that this includes you!

**People: We are the church, the people of God, the body of Christ here on earth,  
the covenant promise.**

Leader: Go from here to forgive, wage peace, and be a blessing to a hurting world!  
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.

\*POSTLUDE "They'll Know We Are Christians" – arr. Wilbur Held

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

### **About the Bulletin Cover:**

This photo comes from the British Museum Library, *The Four Gospels in Ethiopic*, found in Gondar, northwest Ethiopia, 17<sup>th</sup> Century. Portraits of the four Evangelists feature before each Gospel, as well as scenes from the life of Christ as shown here.

This particular illustration depicts the healing of the woman found in Matthew 9:18-26, Mark 5:22-43, and Luke 8:41-56. The Bible was translated into Ge'ez (classic Ethiopic) during the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries. Tradition holds and history has largely confirmed that Ethiopia was the first Christian nation.

## **“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”**

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Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – [jen@uccmedina.org](mailto:jen@uccmedina.org)  
Rebecca Rosen, Nursery Supervisor  
Sharon Perry, Custodian

# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## MAY 15, 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)

May 15, 2022 thru May 22, 2022

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

**Sun** 8:15 am Chapel Worship  
9:00 am Gathering Worship  
9:15 am Choir Rehearsal  
10:30 am Traditional Worship  
11:45 am Mission Team meeting  
4:30 pm Men's Group  
4:30 pm Youth Group

**Mon** 1:00 pm Breadmakers  
1:00 pm Bible Encounter  
7:00 pm New Member Class  
7:00 pm Youth & Mission Search Team

**Tues** 10:00 am Caring Team Meeting  
7:00 pm Bible Study

**Wed** 10:30 am Quilters  
7:00 pm Gathering Band rehearsal  
7:00 pm DELTS Team Meeting

**Thurs**

**Fri**

**Sat**

**Sun** **ONE SERVICE TODAY AT 10 AM**  
9:15 am Choir Rehearsal  
**10:00 am One Service of Worship**  
**11:00 am Annual Meeting**  
**11:30 am Jim Kiser's Retirement Reception**

### 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 June.**

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

Scripture: John 13:31-35 & Revelation 21:1-6

Sermon: "Every Tear"  
-Rev. Luke Lindon

**Communion Table:** The flowers on the communion table are given by the Johns Family in honor of Carleigh's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### ANNUAL MEETING NEXT WEEK

#### ONE SERVICE-10 AM ON MAY 22<sup>ND</sup>

We'll vote on new moderators, review the miles traveled this past year, ask good questions and discern together the direction of the church. **Please c'mon out as we're also going to celebrate Jim's retirement and his 15 years of music service with us!**

### NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Would you like to join our church family!? Our New Member Class continues May 23<sup>rd</sup>. **Class is held from 7 pm – 9 pm** in the New Library. New members **will join the church on Pentecost Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>**. Childcare is provided if needed during class. Contact the Church Office at 330-725-4559 if you are interested and let us know if you will need childcare.

### JOIN US FOR COFFEE HOUR

The Caring Team will continue to host Coffee Hour during the month of May. Come on out for fellowship after the 10:30 service



## NEW MEN'S GROUP 1<sup>ST</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAYS

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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month from 4:30-6:00 pm in the new library** while the Youth Group is in session. Our next meeting is today, May 15<sup>th</sup>. Contact Chuck at [rihm@compuserve.com](mailto:rihm@compuserve.com) or 440-503-8021 for questions.

## 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 30<sup>th</sup>**. 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).

## FINAL YOUTH GROUP TODAY

We have made it to the end of our Youth Group 2021-2022 season, our first full year since Covid and we did it...Woo Hoo!! We invite you all to join us in Fellowship Hall for a pizza party **today, Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**. Jeff Miller is graciously bringing the Courthouse Pizzeria experience to our final youth group gathering. Kids will be making their own individual pizzas and we will have full-sized pizza for the adults. A SignUpGenius has also been created so volunteers can sign up to bring a treat or snack to share.

**Please RSVP** to [nicole@uccmedina.org](mailto:nicole@uccmedina.org) by **Friday May 13<sup>th</sup>** and tell us how many kids and adults in your family will be attending. Jeff will need a head count for the pizza.

## OPERATION HOMES WANTS YOU!

We need help getting Operation Homes up and running at our Church! This has been in the works for a long time. The Mission Team is trying to do their due diligence to honor our beloved Dave Weber who advocated for this program for many years. Operation Homes was founded in 1994 by a coalition of churches to help people in our community facing housing insecurity. Operation Homes helps clients find and remain in affordable housing. The program helps clients develop skills and offers them resources to help them become successful. A client is expected to do a background check and work with a case manager throughout their stay in the program.

How can you help?

- Sign up to be a greeter
- Spend the night in the church
- Help prepare and serve a hot dinner
- Donate breakfast and lunch items

If you are interested, please sign up on the Mission Board in the East Room Hallway so we can get this program up and running this summer! Questions? Please contact Maureen Walker or Pastor Luke about this exciting mission!



Hobby Horse Preschool will be holding a Rummage Sale on Saturday, June 4, from 9-2. We will be accepting donations of gently used toys, children's books, and children's furniture starting Monday, May 30. Funds raised will go toward our Scholarship fund. Items not sold will be donated to a local charity. Call Jen Vilimonovic at 330-722-1445 for more information.

# SUMMERTIME WORSHIP IS ALMOST HERE

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## **Musicians and Singers, We'd Love to Hear from You**

Beginning on May 28<sup>th</sup> and continuing through September 4<sup>th</sup>, our 10:30 worship service provides opportunities for individuals and ensembles to offer their musical gifts on behalf of our congregation. There is plenty of room for all ages and degrees of talent, and a wide variety of musical styles. And remember, it's okay to be adventurous and try something new.

Cathy Fafrak, our champion accompanist, is ready and willing to provide backing for our efforts. She does specifically request that volunteer performers who need her accompaniment to please choose their own piece of music, give her a copy in advance, and to arrange with her a time to practice together.

Please look for the newly posted chart in the East Room Hallway and add your name to the **Summer Sunday Worship Music Volunteer Roster**. If you have any questions or suggestions, or want to discuss your ideas for music, please call/text/email this year's Summer Music Coordinator, Harry Buch at 440-724-8114 or [revharryb@gmail.com](mailto:revharryb@gmail.com).

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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**

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May 15, 2022  
Fifth Sunday of Easter  
*Mental Health Sunday*

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Revelation 21:1-6

## Imagine

The United Church of Christ Mental Health Network is a special interest group within the UCC that works to reduce stigma and promote the inclusion of people with mental illnesses/brain disorders and their families in the life, leadership, and work of congregations. According to their website: [mhn-ucc.org](http://mhn-ucc.org), "We envision a future in which people with mental illnesses feel welcomed, supported, valued and included in their congregations."

A new curriculum released last autumn describes how a mental health diagnosis intersects and interacts with other parts of persons, bringing both challenge and clarity to the quest for identity.

In a video clip publicizing the curriculum, Rhina Ramos claims her identities as "an immigrant woman, from El Salvador, a lesbian and a Christian." When asked how those identities interact within herself, as well as what others think of her identities, Ramos reflects, "Well, I can get confused because I am all these identities. But people outside me get confused because they tend to see just pieces of it...but I'm a whole person. I'm a whole person who is very colorful!"

In describing his identity, JJ Flag says, "I am both a black male, and one who lives with a physical disability...I navigate the world using a wheelchair because I was born with cerebral palsy. Being both a black man who has a disability, it's interesting to see how those two things play out in my life...It was the Jewish philosopher Emmanuel Levinas that said, "if you want to see what God looks like, look into the face of the other." He continues, "I have sat down and really toyed with the idea, "What would it mean to get to heaven and God be a direct reflection of who I am? People talk about 'when one day you'll get to heaven and you'll be walking around.' And I'm like, 'what if I get there and God's ROLLing around?'"

David Finnegan Hosey reflects, "A lot of my identities are at the intersection of advantages I'm given. White, male, cisgender, straight - and a lot of those forms of identities that tend to carry a lot of power within our society are really quite fragile. I mean, you get kicked out of the boy's club really quick when you break down crying every five minutes because you're having a bi-polar episode."

Listen to these stories, and many more, and explore the intersections of your identities at [mhn-ucc.org](http://mhn-ucc.org).