

Nicean Times

BISHOPS CREATE NEW CREED!

darkness, hath shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

Paul saw it, and for centuries all sorts and kinds of men have seen it — bright ones and stupid ones, good ones and bad ones, young ones and old ones — until little by little they come to look like what they dream toward. Paul saw that too, saw faith as transfiguration, as the faltering growth toward glory of even rascals like himself. This was the final mystery as he understood it, and at the farthest reach of his understanding he tried to set it down as such in black and white.

What is the ultimate purpose of God in His creation? To make worlds, to make men, to make life in all its wildness and beauty? The whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until, Paul says, the last grim holdout finally capitulates and is transformed unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. In other words, the ultimate purpose of God in His creation is to make Christs of us, Paul concludes.

So once again, for the last time or for the first time, we face that face — all the ways men have dreamed it down the years, painted and sculpted it, scratched it into the teeth of whales, stitched it into wool and silk, hammered it out of gold.

If nothing else it is at least a face we would know anywhere — a face that belongs to us somehow, our age, our culture; a face we somehow belong to. Like the faces of the people we love, it has become so familiar that unless we take pains, we hardly see it at all.

Take pains. See it for what it is and, to see it whole, see it too for what it is just possible that it will become: the face of Jesus as the face of our own secret and innermost destiny — the face of Jesus as our face.

Frederick Buechner is a distinguished American novelist and minister.

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(The End)



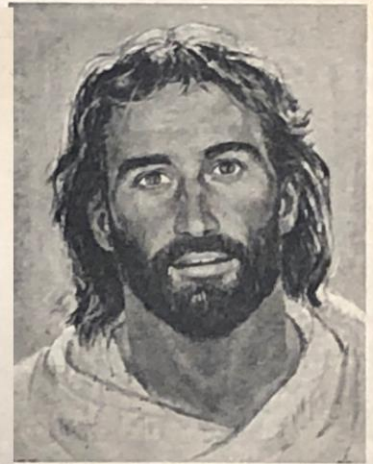
The original 15th- or 16th-century painting *Ecce Homo* by Italian artist Goede Rine was copied in stained glass, above, by German artist Elbert Kielblock around 1900. It now is owned by his son, Wilhelm Kielblock of Columbus, Ohio, who also is a stained glass artist.



Detail of *The Last Supper*, oil on canvas by Bernard Buffet, France, 1961.



—Christ with the Crown of Thorns, a 20th-century African wood carving.



Head of Christ by Richard Hook, a modern concept of Jesus that emphasizes His rugged itality.



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 "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty" - arr. Lloyd Larson Cathy Fafrak, Organist

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

INTROIT

“Visioning Prayer”

Sharon Alberson, 2013



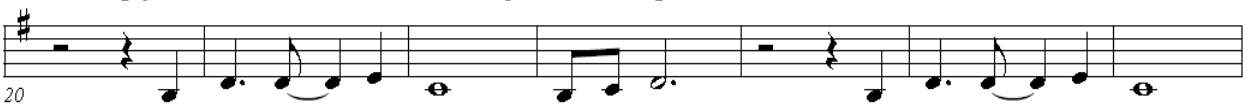
God, help us ___ to be wel-com-ing.



God, help us ___ to be lov-ing God, help us ___ to see that



ser-ving you can lead us to ___ a place full of grace with no li-mits where we can be free...



to o - pen ___ our hands, wel-com-ing to o - pen ___ our hearts,

27 lov-ing to be more than church on Sun-day, to live in the light from a - bove; to

33 cel - e - brate in ser - vice and love.

***CREEDAL CONFESSIONS** The Nicene Creed

Leader: I believe in one God,

People: the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,

Leader: of all things visible and invisible.

People: I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,

Leader: the Only Begotten Son of God,

People: born of the Father before all ages.

Leader: God from God, Light from Light,

People: true God from true God,

Leader: begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;

People: through him all things were made.

Leader: For us men and for our salvation

People: he came down from heaven,

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

Leader: For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,

People: he suffered death and was buried,

Leader: and rose again on the third day

People: in accordance with the Scriptures.

Leader: He ascended into heaven

People: and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead

Leader: and his kingdom will have no end.

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

Leader: who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

People: who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,

Leader: who has spoken through the prophets.

People: I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins

and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

"Come, Thou Almighty King"

ITALIAN HYMN 6.6.4.6.6.6.4.

Anonymous, ca. 1757

Felice de Gardini (1716-1796)

1 Come, thou Al - might - y King, help us thy
2 Come, thou In - car - nate Word, gird on thy
3 Come, Ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred
4 To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal

name to sing, help us to praise: Fa - ther, all
might - y sword, our prayer at - tend: come, and thy
wit - ness bear in this glad hour: thou who al -
prais - es be hence, ev - er - more! Thy sov - ereign

glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic - to - ri - ous,
peo - ple bless, and give thy word suc - cess:
might - y art, now rule in ev - ery heart,
maj - es - ty may we in glo - ry see,

come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
Spir - it of ho - li - ness, on us de - scend.
and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of power.
and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore!

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 67 (O.T. pg. 500)
John 14:23-29 (N.T. pg. 103)

Nick North, Liturgist

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.

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

SERMON

"The Nicean Times"

Rev. Luke Lindon

ANTHEM

"For the Beauty of the Earth" – John Rutter

Chancel Choir

A CELEBRATION OF JIM KISER'S 15-YEAR OFFERING

Responsive Invitation

Leader: Our church family is constantly changing.

People: People come and go.

Leader: Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another.

People: Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives.

Leader: Individuals move into our community and church life.

People: Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, and new opportunities.

Leader: It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings.

People: Today we share the time of farewell with a friend who is leaving.

Remembrance and Recognition

Liturgy of Release

Leader: On this day, May 22, 2022, this local church releases Jim Kiser who served us for fifteen years as our music director.

People: We give gratitude for the time and gifts you gave us. We ask forgiveness for mistakes we have made and forgive you for yours. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

Leader: Jim, while you'll remain with us until your new home is built in Indianapolis, we release you from your duties as music director.

People: You will always have a home and refuge here with us, anytime you visit. We offer our encouragement to you as you depart. We release you from your leadership and will no longer turn toward you as we once have. Go in peace. Well done good and faithful servant!

Leader: Let us pray,

People: Holy One, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care.

The time we were together in your name saw our laughter and tears;
our hopes and disappointment.

Thank you for walking with us.

Guide us as we hold these cherished memories and move in new directions.

Thank you for walking with us from this moment.

Hear your children as we sing out our praise for you for the gift of Jim.

*Doxology (Charles Coffin, 1736; translated, John Chandler, 1837; alt.)

To God, all glorious heavenly Light, to Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit now we raise our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen.

*Dedication

Holy One, we your church offer our time, talent, and treasure for the building of your Beloved Community in the land of the living. In Jesus name. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

SPANISH HYMN 6.6.6.6.D

Christian Henry Bateman, 1843

Trad. Melody; arr. Benjamin Carr, 1824; harm. Austin C. Lovelace, 1963

1. Come, Christians, join to sing: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
2. Come, lift your hearts on high: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
3. Praise yet the Lord a - gain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

loud praise to Christ our King: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
Let prais - es fill the sky: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
Life shall not end the strain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - joice;
 He is our guide and friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;
 On heav - en's bliss - ful shore his good - ness we'll a - dore,
 praise is his gra - cious choice. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 his love shall nev - er end: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 sing - ing for - ev - er - more: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

***BENEDICTION** (from *Stages on the Way*, Iona Community)

- Leader: Today and tomorrow.
People: Today and tomorrow!
 Leader: Lo, I am with you always,
People: When we try to do your will.
 Leader: I am with you always,
People: When we go where we do not know.
 Leader: I am with you always,
People: When we meet one we do not recognize.
 Leader: I am with you always,
People: Where faith ends and doubt begins.
 Leader: I am with you always,
People: And should we forget you...
 Leader: I am with you always,
People: Today and tomorrow. You are with us always until the end of the age.
 Leader: Having been blessed by this good news go and be a blessing!
 For this service has ended...
People: And our annual meeting now begins. Amen!

***Please remain seated for the Congregational Meeting
 and join us in Fellowship Hall afterwards for a reception to honor Jim Kiser***

***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 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" -Johann Walther/ ed. Janet Linker**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”

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Rebecca Rosen, Nursery Supervisor
Sharon Perry, Custodian

ICE CREAM SOCIAL ON THE SQUARE

FRIDAY – JUNE 10, 2022

It's time again for the Ice Cream Social on the Square!

On Friday June 10th, our church will be hosting the Ice Cream Social on the square for the Friday Night Band Concert. There are still several items needed for that evening which are listed on the form (available from the ushers). If you are willing to donate any of these items, or help with set up, serving or clean up please fill out the form and return to the church office or contact Darlene Fazekas or call the church office at 330-725-4559. Items (not baked goods) need to be at church in the kitchen by Wednesday evening— June 8th. Baked goods need to be at the church by 3:00 pm on Friday June 10, 2022.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Once again our church will be offering free popcorn, lemonade, and water during the Medina Memorial Day Parade. Please come out and join us Monday, May 30th at 10:00 a.m. as we serve our community on this special day of remembrance.

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

MAY 22, 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 22, 2022 thru May 29, 2022

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun **ONE SERVICE TODAY AT 10am**
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**

Mon 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study
7:00 pm New Member Class

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
7:00 pm Gathering Band rehearsal

Thurs 7:00 pm Congregational Council

Fri

Sat

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

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.**

COFFEE HOUR

There will be no Coffee Hour the weekend of Memorial Day, Sunday May 29th. Coffee hour will resume in the Fall, but we will need volunteers to host. If you are interested in hosting, please sign up on the sheet available in the East Room hallway. Not sure what you need to do? The Caring Team will reach out to you with instructions.

Worship Highlights: 10:00 am **One Service**

Scripture: Psalm 67 & John 14:23-29

Sermon: "The Nicean Times"
Rev. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The flowers on the communion table are given by Alan Parkhurst in memory of his parents.

ANNUAL MEETING TODAY AT 11 AM

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! Join us and wish him well!**

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).

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!

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who gave to the special Mother's Day Offering for the family in Costa Rica. Thanks to your generous gifts we were able to send \$568 to the family we are building for and to help them out with the loss of all their possessions during a recent robbery. Your gifts are greatly appreciated.

SPECIAL NOTE

If anyone would like to contribute to the Retirement Gift for Jim Kiser, a gift account in his name has been set up through the church office. Please make checks out to UCC Congregational, Medina with "Jim Kiser Retirement" in the memo space.

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH SPECIAL OFFERING

Sunday, June 5th

Strengthen the Church offering helps build up the UCC churches locally and nationwide. The money collected supports and develops leadership through education and conferences. The collection establishes new UCC churches, furthers youth ministry and helps existing churches innovate new ideas. By your generosity you build up the body of Christ.



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.

NAME TAGS AND NEW FOLKS

As we invite new faces into our church family, please be sure to wear your name tag so we can get to know one another as we welcome, love, and serve.

If you need a new name tag, please let the church office know and we will make you one!



William Graham is my husband's uncle and attended your church with his wife Janet during the years they lived in Medina. **William will be celebrating his 100th birthday on May 25th!** We would like to ask anyone to send him a card as we are trying to see if we can get 100 birthday cards to help him celebrate his day. Send to William Graham c/o Jon Solt, 2895 Wheeling Rd. NE, Lancaster, Ohio 43130. Special thanks to any who helps celebrate.

May 22, 2022
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Rural Life Sunday

Acts 16:9-15

Disciples Together

In today's reading, Paul gets called to Macedonia, which is far from the urban centers he has known. On this rural life Sunday, we celebrate pastors in rural communities, who also answer calls far from cities. Today, a few of those pastors reflect on the joys and challenges of being a rural church pastor.

Dana Schindler, whose church recently celebrated 150 years together, says that a joy is that members feel a real connection to the church. A challenge is related to the joy. Almost everyone is related and it can be difficult for new people who are not members of the 2 mainfamilies to feel accepted.

Whitney Prose Bruno writes, "We really are family. (Often literally.) Everyone knows everyone. This means you're welcomed with flaws and merits both. But the challenge is that rural churches like most organizational groups are in decline. An urban congregation has the opportunity to share church space with other congregations, and nonprofits. Community continues. A rural congregation does not. If the handful stop meeting, there's not another socialization and community for the elderly (not online) members to join."

Rural churches understand the importance of feeding one another. Sara Bartlett gives thanks for the joy of shared vegetables from the many gardens in her community. Rev. Deanna Armstrong is proud of her small congregation which produced 200 pounds of food in its community garden. In a drought, at 6,200 feet of elevation.

Family and food are blended with a good bit of humor, too. Rev. Kimberly Shrader, who serves a two-point charge in Maine, says wryly, "The smaller of the churches I serve gave me a bit of a surprise when I first arrived. You see they have to turn the well pump off in late October, which means no restroom in the parish hall. The 200-year-old sanctuary building has no pumping at all. So, the worship service MUST BE 45 minutes, no longer, so they can get to the home of whomever is hosting fellowship."

When Paul received the call to Macedonia, the scripture tells us that he left for there immediately. Whether they heard and answered the call at once, or responded more slowly, give thanks for rural pastors and the churches they serve today.