



Agency

MEDINA
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL



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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

- *Summer Sunday School is available for ages 3 through those entering 3rd 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 “Come, Christians, Join to Sing” – arr. Roger Summers Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME

Leader: Good morning, Church! We are Medina, United Church of Christ, Congregational, and no matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey

People: **You are welcome here.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***OPENING HYMN** “Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life” (vs. 1, 2 & 6)

GERMANY L.M.

Frank Mason North, 1903; alt.

William Gardiner’s Sacred Melodies, 1815

1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the
 2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on shad-owed
 3 From ten - der child - hood’s help - less - ness, from hu - man
 4 The cup of wa - ter given for you still holds the

cries of clan and race, A - bove the noise of self - ish
 thresh-olds framed with fears, From paths where hide the lures of
 griefs and bur - dened toil, From fam - ished souls, from sor - rows'
 fresh - ness of your grace; Yet long these mul - ti - tudes to

 strife, O Christ, we hear your voice of grace.
 greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.
 stress, we know your heart does not re - coil.
 view the deep com - pas - sion of your face.

5 O Sav-ior, from
 the moun-tain-side,
 Make haste to heal
 these hearts of pain;
 A-mong these rest-less
 throngs a-bide,
 O tread the cit-y's streets a-gain:

6 Till all shall learn
 com-pas-sion's might,
 And fol-low where
 your feet have trod,
 Till glo-rious from
 your realm of light,
 Shall come the cit-y of our God.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Holy One, you created us,

People: Gifted us with parents, guardians, mentors,

Leader: who train us up in the way we need to go.

People: You gave us our intellect and our emotions,

Leader: and we assume you would like us to use them.

People: Use them to build your kingdom,

Leader: To learn more about our neighbor,

People: To use the agency you have gifted us with to choose the way of life,

Leader: over the ways of death, violence, and war.

People: Be with us in this hour, we pray. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Amazing Grace" – arr. Jay Althouse

Katherine Johns, voice

SCRIPTURES Luke 12:57-59 (N.T. pg. 71)

Pam Branscome, Liturgist

MESSAGE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY OF GOD

Pastor Luke

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

SERMON "Agency"

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

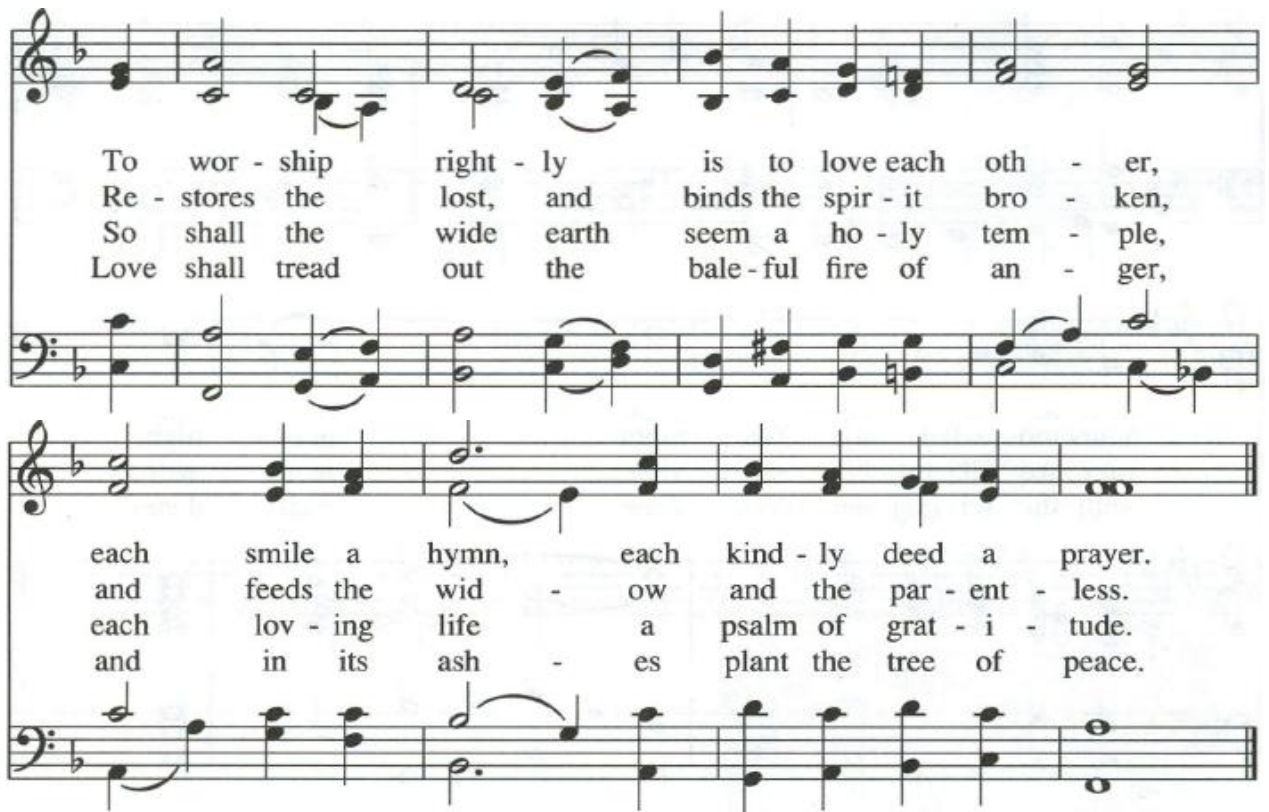
HYMN "Children of God"

WELWYN 11.10.11.10
Alfred Scott-Gatty, 1900

John Greenleaf Whittier, 1848; alt.

1 Chil - dren of God, lift hearts to one an - oth - er;
 2 For God whom Je - sus loved has tru - ly spo - ken:
 3 Fol - low with rev - erent steps the great ex - am - ple
 4 Then shall all shack - les fall; the storm-y clan - gor

where pit - y dwells, the peace of God is there;
 the ho - lier wor - ship which Christ deigns to bless
 of Christ whose ho - ly work was do - ing good;
 of wild war mu - sic o'er the earth shall cease;



To wor - ship right - ly is to love each oth - er,
 Re - stores the lost, and binds the spir - it bro - ken,
 So shall the wide earth seem a ho - ly tem - ple,
 Love shall tread out the bale - ful fire of an - ger,
 each smile a hymn, each kind - ly deed a prayer.
 and feeds the wid - ow and the par - ent - less.
 each lov - ing life a psalm of grat - i - tude.
 and in its ash - es plant the tree of peace.

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

Help us settle with our opponent. Help us judge for ourselves what is right. Be with us as we discern how to use our time, talent, and treasure to be your agents and apostles in our time. Hear us as we rise in body or spirit and sing our praise to you.

***Doxology** (words, Ruth Duck, ©2005, GIA Publications)

**Praise God, the Source of life and birth; Praise God, the Word, who came to earth;
 Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame; All glory, honor to God's Name! Amen.**

***Dedication**

Lord, we might not have the right words. Give us the courage to ask questions instead of walking away. Help us overthrow unhealthy and unhelpful attitudes and our addiction to certainty. May our gifts help free folks, and ourselves, from all that would bind us. In the chain-breaking name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

*CLOSING SONG

"Song for the Nations"

CCLI Song # 20340

Words and music by Chris Christensen

©1986 Integrity's Hosanna! Music



1. May we be a shin - ing light to the na - tions, A shin - ing
2. May we bring a word of hope to the na - tions, A word of
3. May we be a heal - ing balm to the na - tions, A heal - ing
4. May we sing a song of joy to the na - tions, A song of
5. May _____ Your _____ king - dom come to the na - tions, Your will be



light to the peo - ples of the earth, Till the whole world sees the _____
life to the peo - ples of the earth, Till the whole world knows there's sal -
balm to the peo - ples of the earth, Till the whole world knows the _____
praise to the peo - ples of the earth, Till the whole world rings with the
done to the peo - ples of the earth, Till the whole world knows that _____



glo - ry of Your name. May Your pure light shine thro' _____ us.
va-tion thro' Your name. May Your mer - cy flow thro' _____ us.
pow - er of Your name. May Your heal - ing flow thro' _____ us.
prais-es of Your name. May Your song be sung thro' _____ us.
Je-sus Christ is Lord. May Your king - dom come in _____ us.

*ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION

Leader: My fellow agents of God, I hope this worship has reminded you of the freedom you have in Christ,

People: The support we have had from our family and friends

Leader: The love that surrounds you

People: The grace that God grants us each and every day

Leader: And that you have a choice

People: A choice to forgive and reconcile

Leader: A choice to settle up

People: A choice to bring heaven here,

Leader: so that it shall be

People: On earth as it is in heaven.

Leader: Go and be about this work 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 "The Work of Creation" – Colin Curtis** Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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Rebecca Rosen, Nursery Supervisor
Sharon Perry, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 14, 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

August 14, 2022 thru August 21, 2022

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	10:30 am	Traditional Worship
Mon	1:00 pm	Breadmakers
Tues	7:00 pm	Bible Study
Wed	10:30 am	Quilters
	7:00 pm	Gathering Band Rehearsal

Thurs

Fri

Sat

Sun BLESSING OF THE BACK PACKS

	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	10:30 am	Traditional Worship
	11:30 am	Caring Team
	11:45 am	Mission Team
	4:30 pm	Men's Group

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THIS VERY SPECIAL DAY!

Our church has the honor of hosting the **Ordination of Leila Jindra** on Sunday, September 11, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.

Please plan to attend and mark the date on your calendar! Details to follow soon.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Next Sunday, August 21st your child/children can bring their backpacks to church **at the 10:30 service**. We will bless them for a fun and safe school year with lots of learning, growing and friendships! If you can't make it to church, stop by during the week.

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

Scripture: Luke 12:57-59

Sermon: "Agency"

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The flowers on the communion table are given by Kara Lee Blazer in honor of Colton Blazer.

YOU CAN STILL SPONSOR A BIBLE!

To show our gratefulness for the inspired word, the Endowment Fund, the Worship Team and the Caring Team have been sponsoring an initiative to replace the Bibles in the pews, many of which were torn, faded and damaged. We are seeking a \$25.00 donation for each bible. \$5.00 of that amount will be allocated to the Endowment Fund. We still have about 76 bibles left to be sponsored. **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 use the REALM app and go to "Registration Events" and fill in the information and pay there. What better way to celebrate someone by making a gift of \$25.00 to lift up the living word. Won't you make your donation this week?

You can also [click here](#) to sponsor your bible.

CWS DISASTER BUCKETS

THANK YOU to all who donated items and helped fill the disaster buckets! 22 buckets were filled to help others in need! THANK YOU!

WELCOME BAGS

The Evangelism Team would like to welcome first time visitors to our church! We're so glad you are here. Please be sure to grab a welcome bag before you leave which is our gift to you. The white handled welcome bags are located near the tower doors in the sanctuary, located near Fellowship Hall and in the East Room. Thank you for visiting Medina UCC today where we are welcoming, loving, and serving.

BLESSING BAGS

Looking at the Christian community, we strive to love and serve everyone around us. To provide support for our community, we are going to be creating Blessing Bags as a church. Have you ever driven past a person in need and wondered what you could do to help? A Blessing Bag is a small assortment of basic toiletries, socks, and snacks in a bag that can be kept in the car, purse, etc. to hand to those you come across who might be in need. Items for the bags might include socks, toothbrushes/toothpaste, feminine products, tissues, band-aids, gift cards, hand warmers, granola bars, etc. We will start collecting items for these in September. More details to come!

COOKING FOR CUPS CAFÉ

Thank you, Maureen Walker, for cooking for June and Dan and Vicki Marty for cooking for July. Cups has a new director, Cindy Maxwell. There will be an open house at Cups next Sunday, August 21st from 1:00 to 4:00 if any of you would like to stop by.

Here's the schedule for the coming months:

Tuesday, September 6th – Dan Daubner

Monday, October 3rd – Open

Monday, November 7th – Open

Monday, December 5th - Open

You can cook individually or get a few people from your circle of friends to split the workload. The meals should serve 60 people. They can be delivered hot or cold (to be reheated) at 10:00 am on the day. Cups politely requests no soup as they already get plenty of soup donations. The church will reimburse you if you bring in your receipts.

If you would like to cook for one of the open days or need help getting the food to Cups Café on the drop off date, contact Dan Daubner.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR OPERATION HOMES

Our first day to have guests at our Church is September 5th so we need your help! We are looking for gently used...

Towels, Wash cloths, Hand Towels, Sheets (queen size or larger), Fitted sheets (queen size or larger) and standard pillowcases

We also needed...

Travel size toothpaste, toothbrushes, bar soap, travel size shampoo, socks

Please place items in the bin across from the elevator.

We are still looking for volunteers! If you are interested and haven't received an informational packet, please reach out to Nick North at 330-421-7163.

MEET OUR NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR, JENNIFER COCHRAN



Jennifer Cochran received her BM and MM degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music and Case Western Reserve University. As soprano soloist, conductor, and cantor at Trinity Cathedral,

Cleveland, she performed many classical, gospel and jazz works. She was most recently the Director of the *Mostly Jazz Mass* at the Cathedral. She has performed as a soloist in New York City, Cape Cod, Edinburgh, Scotland and numerous churches in the Greater Cleveland area as a classical musician and with her jazz band, *Gateway*. Jennifer recently retired from her post as a Director of Performing Arts at Trinity High School, where she taught for 11 years. She was a finalist and prize winner in the Savannah "American Traditions" vocal competition in 2012. Her vocal quartet *A Note of Class* performed in the greater Cleveland area and was invited to perform at the White House. She performed on the soundtrack to a special arts video that premiered on National PBS. She currently directs the *MusiGals*, an adult women's choir on Cleveland's east side and "gigs" with *Gateway Band*. Jennifer is excited to start her tenure at UCC Medina!

Notes from the new Music Director



Alive on the Square: Sunday, August 28th 10:00 AM

Our new Music Director, Jennifer Cochran and her spirit-filled band *Gateway* will be leading the music for “Alive on the Square” on Sunday, August 28th at 10:00AM. Come sing, dance, worship and “Be Beautiful Together!” Following the service, Jennifer would love to meet all the wonderful UCC Medina musicians!



“Don’t be shy, come say hi!” *Jenny Cochran*

First Handbell Choir Rehearsal!!!: Wednesday, August 31st 6:30-7:15 PM



Hi all you ringers and potential hand-bell enthusiasts! We’ll have our first rehearsal on Wednesday evening, August 31st at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary! I’m looking for a few folks to meet me at 6:00 to help set up the tables and the bells! “**Many hands make light work**”. Please email me at jenniferhcochran1@gmail.com (that will change in September to a UCC Medina email address).

Let’s ring in a new season of joyous music making!

First Choir Rehearsal!!!: Wednesday, August 31st 7:30-8:30 PM

Calling singers 18 and above! We will have our first choir rehearsal on Wednesday evening, August 31st from 7:30-8:30 PM in the Chapel! I’m looking for a few choir members who are not bell-ringers to help empty the folders from last year, while I work with the hand-bell choir. “**Teamwork makes the dreamwork**”! Please email me at jenniferhcochran1@gmail.com (that will change in September to a UCC Medina email address). Our first musical offering at the 10:30 service will be on Sunday, September 18th.



Come make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

First Children and Youth Choir Meeting!! Sunday, September 18th 9:45-10:15 AM

Calling all children, teenagers, and parents! We will have an informational meeting on September 18th so we can talk about the plan for the Children and Youth Choir. I’m excited to see the talent of our young people at UCC Medina! We’ll have some donuts and juice on hand for all, we’ll talk a bit, sing a bit, and get energized about bringing some great music to our services from the kids and teens of the church! The Children & Youth choir will meet regularly on Sundays and sing bi-monthly to start out, building up to a musical offering once a month! Please email me with any questions at jenniferhcochran1@gmail.com (that will change in September to a UCC Medina email address).



*I sing because I’m happy! I sing because I’m free!
God’s eye is on the sparrow, that’s the reason why I sing!*

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

Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19

Restore Us

In today's psalm, God's people are envisioned as a vine, planted and carefully tended by God. How might we participate with God in being planters and tenders of the church and its leaders?

Last winter, UCC President John Dorhauer and Pension Board President and CEO Brian Bodager encouraged church members to be vine tenders, as they described one of the crises facing church leadership.

"Seminary and educational debt, the debilitating nature of limited income and the uncertainty of a secure financial future represent a deepening crisis for many pastors in the United Church of Christ," they wrote in a joint letter. The Ministers' Financial Vitality Initiative (MFVI) is a program to help ministers address this problem with practical tools. Participants in the program receive financial gifts of \$9000 for debt reduction, \$1000 to seed a retirement account and the support of a cohort of fellow pastors and financial experts.

The Ministers' Financial Vitality Initiative strengthens ministry in the UCC by:

- increasing and enhancing financial literacy among UCC authorized ministers, with a particular emphasis on ministers from historically underrepresented groups within the denomination;
- assisting UCC ministers and their Ministry settings, Associations, Conferences, and the National Setting of the Church in "breaking the conspiracy of silence" that exists around pastoral finances;
- providing financial assistance to UCC authorized ministers toward repayment of educational and personal debt as well as seeding of pension funds;
- engaging key lay leaders in UCC churches in collaborative efforts to identify and address the connection between pastoral financial challenges and ministry setting financial challenges; and;
- launching a major fundraising campaign to solicit major gifts that will enable the long-term sustainability, and continued expansion of the program

You can be a vine-tender along with God, planting and nurturing growth. One way is to support the MFVI with your gift at pbucc.org.