



Will you give me a drink?



**BEAUTIFUL
TOGETHER**



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, 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 “Prelude on Rhosymedre” – Ralph Vaughan Williams

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

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**

“You Are Welcome Here”

Words and Music: Gerard DeMan, © 2007. All rights reserved. Used by permission

G D G A D G/D D G A

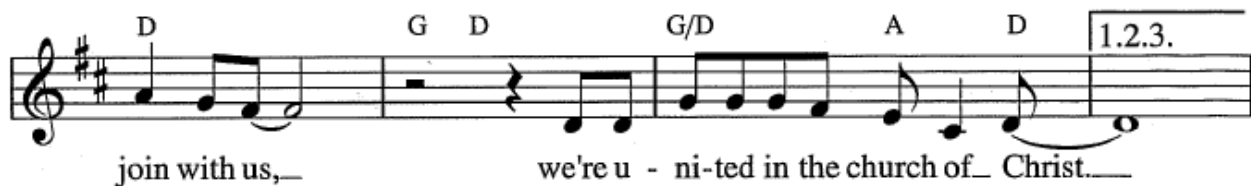
You are wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are,

G A D G D C G A

no mat-ter where you are, on life's jour - ney... You are

D G/D D G A G A

wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are, come and



A G/D D A D G/D D



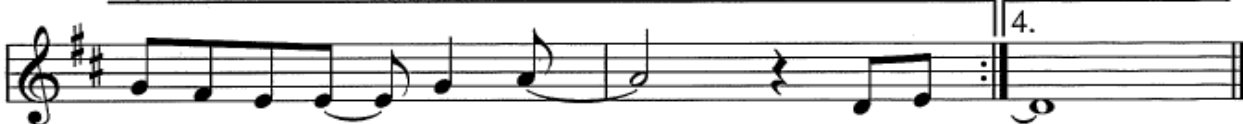
2. We pray for jus - tice; we pray for peace; we hear the word of the Sav-
 3. Lift - ing each oth - er; do-ing what's right; stand-ing to-geth-er, what-ev-

G/D A A G/D D A D



- ior of all_ We find God's mer - cy; we find re - lease,
 - er may come; prais-ing our Sav - ior, shin-ing our light,

G/D A



shar-ing the joy_ of_ Christ._ You are
 shar-ing the joy_ of_ Christ._ You are

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Our God is the maker of rainbows, the creator of flowers,
 and the designer of the night sky.

People: God made the Earth a technicolor work of art.

Leader: The diversity of the world around us is no accident, it is God's design, and humanity is no
 exception. We are uniquely and wonderfully made.

People: We grow in love through connection. We are beautiful together.

Leader: Let all who are yearning for connection come and worship.

People: Let us hold one another in community.

ANTHEM

"All That I Am" – William Hines

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE

John 4:5-29, 39-42 (N.T. pg. 89)

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

“Will You Give Me a Drink?”

Minister Meghan Malone

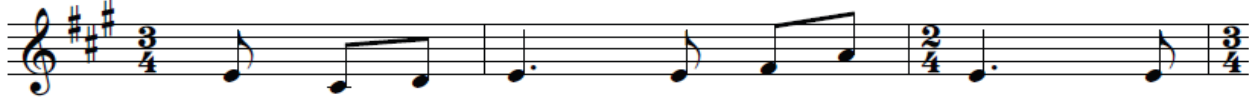
HYMN

“The Thirsty Cry for Water”

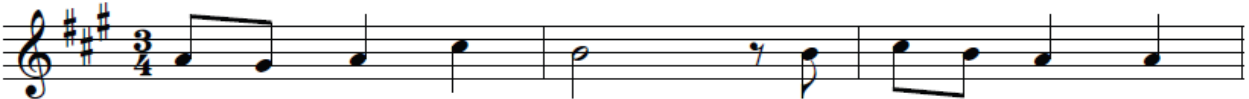
SHANTI CM

Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923-2007, © 1997 GIA Publications, Inc.


Marty Haugen, b. 1950, © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc.



1. The thirst - y cry for wa - ter, Lord; The
2. The cup of wa - ter poured in love The
3. But help us al - so hear the cry Of
4. And come to us, O ris - en Christ, Our



hun - gry plead for bread. And man - y long to
pangs of thirst will still. The bread of earth you
hun - g'ring, thirst - ing hearts For liv - ing wa - ter,
rest - less souls re - lieve; And sat - is - fy our



rise a - gain Where hope, cast down, lies dead.
bid us share, The fam - ished child can fill.
bread of life Your grace a - lone im - parts.
starv - ing hearts That we may rise and live.

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 (from Enfleshed - Liturgy that Matters)

God is always reaching out to the people, places, and parts of us that are weary from isolation or cast out by exclusion. God comes to lift up the lowly and make prophets of the dejected. With thanks for the subversive ways of love, let us bring what we have together.

*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

Holy One, we ask that you will use these gifts to create connection and care in the world around us. Receive them and amplify them, so that they may serve our neighbors. Do likewise with the love we share. May our care expand through you to all the members of our community, with whom we are woven together. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Draw the Circle Wide"

Words & Music: Gordon Light, © 1994 Common Cup Company.
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This arrangement: Michael Bloss © 1998 Wood Lake Books.
All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Draw the cir-cle_ wide. Draw it wid-er still. Let this be our_

song, no one stands a - lone, stand-ing side by side, draw the cir-cle_

To verses Last time, Fine

wide. wide.

1. God the still - point of the cir - cle, 'round whom all cre -
2. Let our hearts touch far hor - i - zons, so en - com - pass
3. Let the dreams we_ dream be larg - er, than we've ev - er

- a - tion turns; noth - ing lost, but
great and small; let our lov - ing
dreamed be - fore; let the dream of

D.C.

held for - ev - er in God's gra - cious arms. _____
 know no bor - ders, faith - ful to God's call. _____
 Christ be in us, o - pen ev - 'ry door. _____

***ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: Beloveds, our differences are what make us stronger.
People: Let us make space for all God’s people.
 Leader: We need each other in order to see the bigger picture.
People: Let us expand our community ever wider.
 Leader: We are enriched by each other’s questions, knowledge, and feedback.
People: Let us bring our full selves to this church, as we invite others to do the same.
 Leader: May God go with you (and sometimes push you) until we meet again. Amen.

MODERATORS AND VOTING ON CANDIDATE OF ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF YOUTH AND MISSION

***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 “Trumpet Tune” – Gordon Young** Cathy Fafrak, Organist

“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”

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PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - email: luke@uccmedina.org
 Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor – email: karen@uccmedina.org
 Ryan Collins, Ministerial Intern - ryan@uccmedina.org

OFFICE STAFF

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - email: office@uccmedina.org
 Jeff Miller, Financial Director - email: jeff@uccmedina.org

PROGRAM STAFF

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education – stacie@uccmedina.org
 Nicole Rubino, Co-Director of Youth – nicole@uccmedina.org
 Jennifer Cochran, Director of Music - jenny@uccmedina.org
 Cathy Fafrak, Organist – cathy@uccmedina.org
 Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – jen@uccmedina.org
 Rebecca Rosen, Nursery Supervisor
 Sharon Perry, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 18, 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

September 18, 2022 thru September 25, 2022 WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun **Candidate Sunday**

8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:45 am Children & Youth Choir Meeting
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
11:45 am Caring Team
4:30 pm Youth Group
4:30 pm Men's Group

Mon 1:00 pm Breadmakers
7:00 pm New Member Class

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
6:15 pm Bell Choir rehearsal
6:30 pm Gathering Band rehearsal
7:30 pm Choir rehearsal

Thurs *First Day of Autumn*
7:00 pm Congregational Council

Fri

Sat

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:45 am Children & Youth Choir
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
3:00 pm Confirmation Class

CANDIDATE SUNDAY IS TODAY WE NEED YOUR VOTE!

Our Pastor of Youth and Mission candidate, Meghan Malone, will be preaching at all three services and we will vote by paper ballot. If we have a majority vote, Meghan will start on Monday, September 19th.

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

Scriptures: John 4: 5-29, 39-42

Sermon: “Will You Give Me a Drink”

Minister Meghan Malone

Communion Table: The flowers are given by Becky Weber in memory of Dave Weber.

CHILDREN & YOUTH CHOIR INFORMATIONAL MEETING TODAY

Calling all children, teenagers, and parents! We will have an informational meeting on **September 18th at 9:45 am** so we can talk about the plan for the Children & Youth Choir. 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 jenny@uccmedina.org with any questions.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Join us for our upcoming New Member classes! We believe anyone is welcome to gather with us, but there is something special about making a deeper commitment to contribute to what God is doing in and through Medina UCC – and these classes are a great place for us to cast this vision, hear your story, and help you take the next step to commit to calling UCC your church home.

Join us for our next New Member classes on Monday September 19th and 26th at 7 pm in the new library. New Members will join the church on Sunday, October 2nd. You may contact the church office at 330-725-4559 or register here through [REALM](#).

HOST COFFEE HOUR

Coffee Hour has resumed on **Sundays after the 10:30 am service**. Please pick a date and consider hosting Coffee Hour by signing up on the calendar by the East Room Hallway. Never hosted before? No worries! You will receive a letter specifying your hosting responsibilities, and a Caring Team member will call you to ask if you should have any questions. Hosting is to be simple with coffee, tea, punch, and your choice of pastries, donut holes, or cheese and crackers. It's good old-fashioned hospitality, so, would you please consider hosting one Sunday?

NEIGHBORS IN NEED SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING

The Neighbors in Need offering supports efforts to create a just and compassionate United States and beyond. One-third of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support justice throughout our communities. Neighbors in Need also offers grants to UCC churches. The grant money offered through Neighbors in Need funds projects that advocate for others and promotes a just world for all. Please consider a donation on October 2nd.

BOOK STUDY "BLESSED ARE THE CRAZY"

Are you interested in conversations about mental health? The mental health WISE team will be hosting a book study lead by Ryan Collins on "Blessed are the Crazy" by the national UCC's Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice, Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund. We will be meeting every Monday night at 7 pm beginning Oct. 3 and ending Oct. 24th followed by a Q&A session with Rev. Lund via Zoom at a date to be determined. You can purchase this book online or get an electronic copy through the library. Please RSVP at ryan@uccmedina.org or with the office (330) 725-4559.

PET BLESSING

Bring your pet to be blessed on Saturday, October 1st from 10 am – 12 pm outside the church on the square! Any pet that is safe to bring is welcome. Each pet will be individually blessed by Pastor Luke. Free pet treats from One Lucky Dog Bakery, bandannas, and blessing cards while supplies last! Let's celebrate God's compassion and concern for all creatures.

HELP WANTED

Come experience the miracle of breadmaking- see a blob of white dough be transformed into a golden loaf of bread!

You may have been a visitor of the church, experienced a health issue or hospitalization, grieved over the death of a loved one, rejoiced in the birth of a child or were a shut-in who needed to be remembered and received a warm loaf of bread from Medina UCC Breadmakers.

Carolee Rafn and I have had the joy of helping provide this experience for over twenty years. We've been supported by many other church members over the years but now find we are in need of more help to keep this project going.

Breadmaking is done on the 3rd Monday of the month, starting at 1:00 pm. We need volunteers to mix and knead the dough, shape it into loaves, address and attach cards for recipients, make containers out of foil and cardboard and wash dishes. At 4:15 pm, delivery people pick up the bread, usually 2-3 loaves each, and deliver it to people designated on the cards. Maps are provided to them.

You can volunteer for any part of this process or for the whole session depending on your availability. Tasks can easily be divided into groups.

Please contact Carolee Rafn (330-952-0258) or Shirley Krcmar (216-272-2926) to let us know how you can help. If this project is going to continue, we need more volunteers!

CHILI COOK-OFF

We are celebrating Fall in the best way with fellowship, chili and family fun! Save the date for the Chili Cook-Off, **Sunday, October 23rd in Fellowship Hall following one service at 10 am**. Bring your favorite Crock Pot of chili enough for 10 servings. Chili not your specialty? Feel free to bring a dessert to share. All are welcome to join and vote on your favorite chili. RSVPs will begin September 18th in the East Room Hallway. The cut off date will be Sunday, October 16th. Prizes will be awarded. Stay tuned for more details.

MEET OUR CANDIDATE FOR ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF YOUTH AND MISSION: MEGHAN MALONE!



Minister Meghan Malone has a bachelor's degree in Comparative Religious Studies from The Ohio State University and a Master of Divinity Degree from The Methodist Theological School in Ohio. Though she was raised as a Methodist, Meghan is approved for ordination (pending call) with the Central Southeast Ohio Association of the UCC. Meghan previously served as a minister for The United Church of Granville, working in different aspects of ministry there for over 5 years and finishing her time there as their Transitional Pastor in January 2022. During the pandemic, Meghan completed her Clinical Pastoral Education at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and worked there as a chaplain resident and contract chaplain.

Meghan grew up in Johnstown, Ohio - a small town on the outskirts of Columbus - where she was a marching band kid, an avid reader of fantasy books, and of course a fan of youth group. Meghan loves iced coffee, music, stickers, and rainbows. She enjoys telling the stories of the Bible through queer and feminist lenses, asking questions, working for justice, talking about mental health, and helping people fall in love with the Bible again. Her traveling party includes her spouse Logan, their dog Leo, and their cats, Alice and Midnight. Together they love antiquing, Star Wars (and many other fandoms), traveling, trying out new restaurants, and going to concerts! She made a Spotify playlist for you so that you can get to know her better. She can't wait to meet you and hopes you'll share your favorite music with her, too. You can find it in the Spotify phone app by clicking on the camera icon on the search page.

Spotify



Find out what our search team for Pastor of Youth & Mission has to say about our candidate, Meghan Malone...

"Meghan has had a positive attitude throughout the process. She will be a great fit because she is a caring and passionate servant. I think she will be caring and patient with our youth and help them on the right path with serving our church and in life." - Nora Nolan

"I think Meghan would be a good candidate because she will listen to what you need to say and is not afraid to engage in conversation. You will also always see her with a smile on her face, and a happy attitude." - Alex Swantek

"I knew Meghan was special from the very first interview when the tone quickly changed from 'I hope we like Meghan' to 'I hope Meghan likes us.' Meghan is exactly who we need to help us grow our youth and mission ministries." - Katy Medley

"I appreciated Meghan's comfort with her fit in this role and in ministry in general. She also demonstrated a willingness to be vulnerable, relatable, and real during our interviews and informal conversations. She was consistently reflective and thoughtful in her responses to the committee's questions. Meghan has a great perspective on connecting with youth and the congregation, on developing faith, and on engaging in service - her personal faith and her seminary training are evident. It was a pleasure getting to know her and envisioning her future in our church." - Andy Bixler

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**

Calling All Musicians!

If you sing, think about joining the choir!

Choir members can sign up for a solo.

If you ring, think about joining the bells!

If you play an instrument READ BELOW!

*Anyone interested in playing a solo, or
being in a small ensemble please sign up!*

Name _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Instrument _____

Comments _____



September 18, 2022
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Just Peace Sunday

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Prayerful Living

Michael Neuroth has served for more than a dozen years as the International Policy Advocate at the national United Church of Christ office in Washington, DC. Michael, and his colleagues on this small but mighty staff, are the UCC ear and voice in the nation's capital.

Their work is multiplied by relationships fostered in the Washington Interreligious Staff Community (WISC), an ecumenical group from across a variety of faith traditions. WISC is made up of at least twelve working groups, which find ways to collaborate and let leadership emerge where there is expertise. They follow public policy and give voice in DC to various issues. Michael's leadership on the Peace and Security Working Group and the International Affairs Working Group have been especially valuable.

As we acknowledge the 30th anniversary of the Just Peace resolution this year, everyone in the United Church of Christ can celebrate that identity whether or not they declare the local church a Just Peace church. Just Peace is part of our connection and identity as UCC, since the United Church of Christ was the first denomination to so designate.

On this Just Peace Sunday, local congregations are invited and encouraged to publicly witness and articulate locally what Just Peace means to them as they pray about and act on issues they feel called to in church communities and the world. By celebrating and upholding Just Peace Sunday, you can raise your local profile and also lift up the hard work of our national UCC staff. Just Peace Sunday creates synergy between what we say we are at the national level and who we are at the local level.

According to Michael Neuroth, the work of Just Peace is the work of avoiding conflict and war in the first place. As we look for ways to eliminate weapons of mass destruction, the ecumenism and cooperation that is lived out daily by our staff in the DC office and their colleagues in WISC is one beautiful model for a path forward.