

A close-up photograph of a wooden gavel resting on the cover of a dark green, textured leather book. The gavel is positioned diagonally, with its head on the left and its handle extending towards the top right. The word "persistent" is written in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font across the middle of the gavel's head.

persistent



COMMUNION  
OF SINNERS



# 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, 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** “Entrée Solennelle” – Léon Boëllmann

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

### “God Is Here”

ABBOT’S LEIGH 8.7.8.7.D.

Fred Pratt Green, 1978, © 1979 Hope Publishing Co.

Cyril V. Taylor, 1941, © 1942, renewed 1970, Hope Publishing Co.

1. God is here! As we your peo- ple meet to of - fer  
 2. Here are sym- bols to re - mind us of our life - long  
 3. Here our chil- dren find a wel- come in the Shep - herd's  
 4. Lord of all, of church and king- dom, in an age of

praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure  
need of grace; here are ta - ble, fount, and pul - pit;  
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,  
change and doubt keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;

what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world a -  
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es - ty of  
Christ sus - tains us, as of old. Here the ser - vants of the  
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's ded - i -

round us, all our var - ied skills and arts wait the  
preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech, here, in  
Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore what it  
ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive; we, who

com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come cognizant of our differences.

**People: We come with our labels and realities that divide us from one another.**

Leader: We seek unity with our God and a community in the name of God.

**People: We ask forgiveness for our hesitance and outright denial of community.**

Leader: We are a communion of sinners.

**People: We come to you to bring about justice for us,  
we who cry to you day and night.**

Leader: Will you keep putting us off?

**People: May we see justice quickly and may this worship help guide our feet  
upon the narrow way.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

"Be Thou My Vision" – arr. Hal Hopson

Alleluia Ringers

## SCRIPTURE

Genesis 32:22-31 (O.T. pg. 29)  
Luke 18:1-8 (N.T. pg. 76)

John Kavouras, 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.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

## SERMON

"Communion of Sinners: Persistent"

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

## HYMN

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

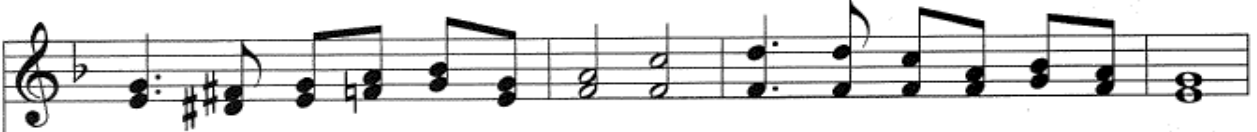
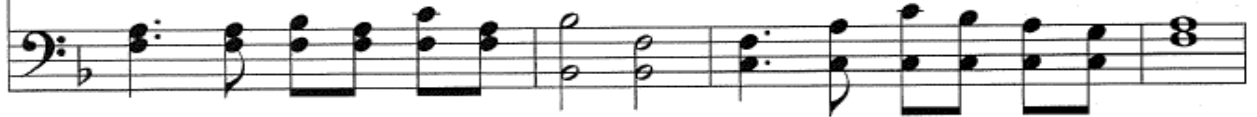
Joseph Scriven, 1855

CONVERSE 8.7.8.7.D.  
Charles C. Converse, 1868

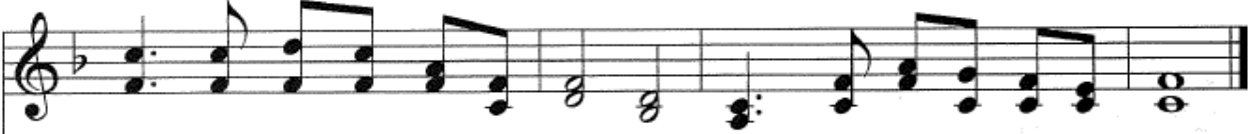
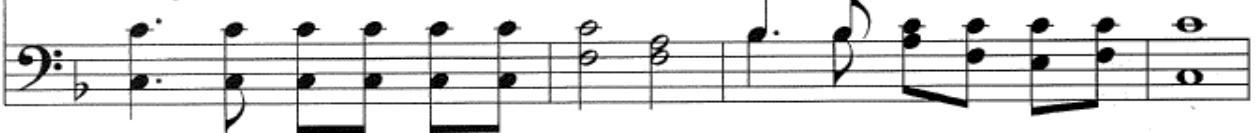
1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?  
3. Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



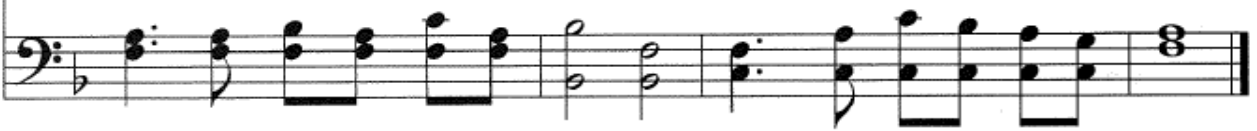
What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!  
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, take it to the Lord in prayer!



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need - less pain we bear,  
Can we find a friend so faith - ful, who will all our sor - rows share?  
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer.  
Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.



## 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

We will wrestle with our sacred stories. We will strive for justice and for blessing, even though we might walk with a limp following. When they ask our name, may we respond, "The ones who strive." Hear us as we rise in body or spirit and sing out our praise.

**\*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**

We strive for your blessing, Gracious Mystery. We strive with you and with humans and seek to prevail in your ways. Take all that we are. Take all that we offer and intend and use it for blessing. For justice. To dismantle systems. To end apathy. To welcome the stranger in hospitality and entertain angels unaware. In the name of Jesus our Christ and with your Spirit within us, One God forever. We pray. Amen.

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

**"Seek Ye First"**

Words and Music: Karen Lafferty, 1972

SEEK YE FIRST Irr.

© 1972 CCCM Music & Universal Music (both admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.)

1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God and God's  
2. Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and

righ - teous - ness, and all these things shall be  
ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!  
o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

**\*ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CLOSING PRAYER**

Yours is the kin-dom, oh God. Not ours. Keep us from crowning ourselves the sovereign. Send moths to eat the robes of the unjust judge we wear too often. Help us persistently struggle with and for others. And may your justice break forth. Amen.

**\*BENEDICTION**

Leader: Go forth from here and be persistent!

People: We shall pray without ceasing. Our lives will tell of the glory of God.

Leader: For you have been blessed to be a blessing.

**People:** We shall work to bend the world toward blessing.

Leader: May you plot peace, conspire community, and most importantly,

**People:** Be the church to a hurting world: welcoming, loving, serving.

Leader: 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 "Forever" – Chris Tomlin/arr. Victor Labenske**

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

**"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"**

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*\*\*\*Please join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the service.  
Coffee Hour is hosted this week by Maureen Walker & Becky Bauer*

**PASTORAL STAFF**

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - [luke@uccmedina.org](mailto:luke@uccmedina.org)

Minister Meghan Malone, Associate Pastor of Youth & Mission - [meghan@uccmedina.org](mailto:meghan@uccmedina.org)

Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor – [karen@uccmedina.org](mailto:karen@uccmedina.org)

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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

## OCTOBER 16, 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)

**October 16, 2022 thru October 23, 2022**

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

<b>Sun</b>	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	9:45 am	Children’s & Youth Choir
	10:30 am	Sanctuary Worship
	4:30 pm	Men’s Group
	4:30 pm	Youth Group – Pumpkin carving
<b>Mon</b>	1:00 pm	Breadmakers
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Book Study “Blessed Are the Crazy”</b>
<b>Tues</b>	7:00 pm	Bible Study
<b>Wed</b>	10:30 am	Quilters
	6:30 pm	Gathering Band rehearsal
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Twenty Somethings Halloween Party</b>
	7:30 pm	Choir rehearsal
<b>Thurs</b>		
<b>Fri</b>		
<b>Sat</b>		
<b>Sun</b>	10:00 am	One Service of Worship
	11:00 am	<b>Chili Cook Off</b>

## **PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH!**

Remember to take a moment to thank your Pastor! The month of October is Pastor Appreciation time! **Thank you, Pastor Luke**, for your, caring, guidance, and leadership! Your church family appreciates all that you do for your church and community!

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

Scriptures: Genesis 32:22-31 and Luke 18:1-8

Sermon: “Communion of Sinners:  
Persistent”

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

**Communion Table:** The flowers are given by Alan Parkhurst in memory of his parents

## **CHILI COOK-OFF**

**Next Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Today is the last day to sign up for the Chili Cook-Off, next Sunday in Fellowship Hall following one service at 10 am.** Bring your favorite Crock Pot of WARM chili enough for 10 servings. Spaces for the chili contestants are filling up. In addition to chili, hot dogs, walking tacos, desserts, and drinks will be provided. While the adults are judging the chili, the children will be creating some fall crafts with Stacie. Bring your family and friends, all are welcome. Cook and compete or just come to eat!

## **BOOK STUDY CONTINUES “BLESSED ARE THE CRAZY”**

Are you interested in conversations about mental health? The mental health WISE team is 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 continue to meet every Monday night at 7 pm through Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>. A date for a Q&A session with Rev. Lund via Zoom has yet to be determined. You can purchase this book online or get an electronic copy through the library. Please RSVP at [ryan@uccmedina.org](mailto:ryan@uccmedina.org) or with the office (330) 725-4559.



## SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

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October 30, 2022

### ALL SAINTS DAY

On this Sunday we will remember those persons who have passed away this past year. By having the time of remembrance during a worship service, we encourage family members and others to come and share this time together. During the worship service, the names of the members of Medina UCC who have passed away during 2022 will be read. For each member a candle will be lit and a chime will ring. We would also like to read the names of family members and loved ones who have passed away during this past year. **If you have a loved one that you would like remembered, please call the Church Office no later than October 24<sup>th</sup> with the full name of the loved one, their relationship to you, and the date of their passing.**

## GARFIELD SEEKING TUTORS

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Mrs. McGinty has come to us with a request to help fill a need at Garfield Elementary for volunteer tutors. If you or your responsible teens are interested in working with kindergarteners on letters and sounds for ½ hour weekly, please contact Katy Medley at 330-591-7485 or [kathrynamedley@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynamedley@gmail.com).

## VOLUNTEER WITH VIBES

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Jesus Vibes needs your help! We are looking for adult volunteers to spend time with kids during the 10:30 service on Sundays. No experience or preparation is necessary!

Please sign up for a Sunday or two at <https://tinyurl.com/vibesvolunteer>

## SONSHINE MEALS

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Did you know we have a ministry that provides meals for members in need? If you're ill, expecting, or have fallen on hard times, please let us help! If you have a need, know of a need, or would like to help fulfill a need, please contact Becky at [beckybauer@zoominternet.net](mailto:beckybauer@zoominternet.net)

## HALLOWEEN PARTY!

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### Calling All Twenty Somethings...

Pastor Meghan is inviting all twenty-somethings to gather for a Halloween Party on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in classrooms 9 and 10. Dress up if you would like to and bring a spooky snack to share. We will play party games and get to know one another!

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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On November 7<sup>th</sup> the Monday Night Women's Bible Group will begin a new study by Nancy Guthrie called "Saints & Scoundrels in the Story of Jesus." For more information or to join in the study, please contact Carol Rhodes at 330-722-1626 or [rhodesc@zoominternet.net](mailto:rhodesc@zoominternet.net). There is a small fee for the workbook.

## LITURGIST SIGN-UP

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Check out the bulletin board in the East Room hallway to sign up to be a liturgist during the 10:30 Sanctuary service. The new sign-up sheets still have spots remaining in October & November.

## VETERANS DAY

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Please join the Mission Team in honoring the Veterans of our church. Take a card from the table in the lobby across from the elevator to write a quick note of thanks to a veteran. Please return the completed card to the basket provided. We will also be writing cards on October 16<sup>th</sup> during coffee hour and will distribute the cards and celebrate our veterans during the November 6<sup>th</sup> coffee hour. Please join us in thanking the veterans of our church for their service! If you are a veteran or know of a veteran that you would like to send a card to, please sign-up at the table across from the elevator.

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

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Great news! There is an opportunity to join with the Mission Team to help refurbish a Habitat House in Brunswick, **this Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Contact Maureen Walker for more information.

## YOUTH GROUP FAMILY FALL PUMPKIN EXTRAVAGANZA

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Join us today, **October 16<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6 pm at the church pergola** for our 3rd annual pumpkin carving extravaganza! This is a Youth Group Family event. You will need to bring your own pumpkin (any size pumpkin and as many as your family would like to carve) as well as any carving tools. We will end the night with a fire and some s'mores.

If you have not completed and handed in your registration/medical forms, please bring them with you. We look forward to seeing everyone and having some fall family fun!

## HAYRIDE AND FALL FUN AT RICHARDSON FARMS Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>

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One of the most anticipated events of the year is just around the corner. It is the same event at a new place. Our friends at Boyert's made the decision to no longer offer hayrides at their farm, but have no fear, we will be able to continue our fun tradition at Richardson Farms. The annual fall hayride is on Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 pm. The cost for the evening is \$10 for ages 4-5, \$11 for ages 6-15 and \$12 for adults. Ages 3 and under are free. This includes the hayride, a pumpkin, apple cider and apples. We will also have hotdogs, chips and s'mores to enjoy. **You need to sign up for this event and pay in advance.** We encourage everyone to sign up and pay through [Realm by clicking here](#). You can also call the church office and put the payment in Stacie Yates mailbox in the church office. Make checks payable to Medina UCC and put hayride in the memo. Hope to see you there!

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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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October 16, 2022  
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
*Children's Sabbath/Laity Sunday*

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Luke 18:1-8

**Ask Boldly; Live Justly**

Holy One,

Today we open our mouths and these words travel from our hearts all the way to Your ear. As we pledge to be a voice for all who are voiceless, we pray also that our words may impel us to action. *Like the widow, who knocked and pounded and BANGED on the doors of oppression until they were opened, make us tireless, as we seek and find You and Your way of justice.*

We pray today for those children who lack safe water to drink. We know that water is life, but for too many, water is poison. We know that water is abundant, but for too many, water must be carried or painfully rationed. *Like the widow, who knocked and pounded and BANGED on the doors of oppression until they were opened, make us tireless, as we seek and find You and Your way of justice.*

We pray today for those children in need of access to medical care. As you healed all whom you touched, make us healers in your name - not only of individuals but of sick health care systems. Use us to ensure that medicines and healthcare are available to all. *Like the widow, who knocked and pounded and BANGED on the doors of oppression until they were opened, make us tireless, as we seek and find You and Your way of justice.*

Today we pray for children in captivity. For those caught up in the swirling storm that is modern-day slavery, for those separated at the border from the parents who only sought a better life for them, for those incarcerated unjustly, we vow to break down walls and fling open doors. *Like the widow, who knocked and pounded and BANGED on the doors of oppression until they were opened, make us tireless, as we seek and find You and Your way of justice.*

We pray for those children who have no home, or whose home is a place of violence. We especially today remember your beloved LGBTQ children, made in Your beautiful image and yet too often cast out of their families and faith traditions in Your name. Open our arms wide, that we might embrace all of your children as we welcome all of them home. *Like the widow, who knocked and pounded and BANGED on the doors of oppression until they were opened, make us tireless, as we seek and find You and Your way of justice.*