



 **COMMUNITY
HARVEST**

PLACE





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 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 “For the Beauty of the Earth” – arr. Victor Labenske 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 “Enter, Rejoice, and Come In”

Words and music: Louise Ruspini © 1992

ENTER, REJOICE 7-7.8-7.
Harmonization © 1993 The Pilgrim Press

1 En - ter, re - joice, and come in. En - ter, re - joice, and come in.
 2 O - pen your - self to the song. O - pen your - self to the song.
 3 O - pen your hearts ev - ery - one. O - pen your hearts ev - ery - one.
 4 Don't be a - fraid of some change. Don't be a - fraid of some change.
 5 En - ter, re - joice, and come in. En - ter, re - joice, and come in.

To - day will be a joy - ful day; en-ter, re-joyce, and come in.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: This morning we have come to worship God our creator at Medina United Church of Christ, Congregational. A particular church building, in a particular town, serving a particular purpose for a particular people

People: **We give thanks for our building and this particular place where we can gather together to be the church and to worship God together**

Leader: Today we remind ourselves that while we are the church, no matter where we gather, that God has called us to this place, in the heart of Medina City, to serve the people of Medina

People: **We have come together to celebrate 203 years of God calling us to serve the people of Medina and look forward to serving God in this place for another 200 years**

Leader: Let us join together as the people of God here in this place given to us by God

People: **Praise be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC "The Ash Grove" -Welsh Folk Tune, arr. Jane Ross

Alleluia Ringers

SCRIPTURES Isaiah 65:17-25 (O.T. pg. 654) & Luke 21:5-19 (N.T. pg. 80)

Nick North, 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 "Community Harvest: Place"

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

HYMN "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

St. 1. Henry Alford, 1884; St. 2 & 3 Anna Barbauld (18th century)

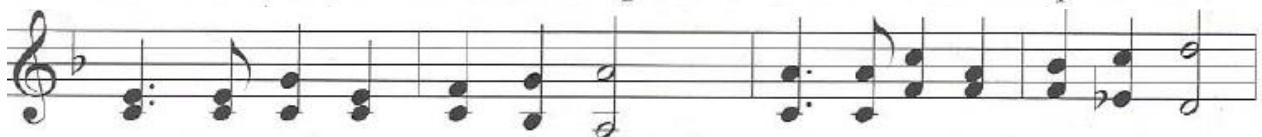
ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR 7.7.7.D
George J. Elvey, 1858



1. Come, ye thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home;
2. All the bless-ings of the field, all the stores the gar-dens yield,
3. These to thee, our God, we owe, source whence all our bless-ings flow;



all is safe-ly gath-ered in, ere the win-ter storms be-gin;
all the fruits in full sup-ply, rip-ened 'neath the sum-mer sky,
and for these our souls shall raise grate-ful vows and sol-emn praise.



God, our Mak-er, does pro-vide for our wants to be sup-plied;
all that spring with boun-teous hand scat-ters o'er the smil-ing land,
Come, then, thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home;



come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home.
all that lib-eral au-tumn pours from its rich o'er-flow-ing stores,
come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home.

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

Leader: God who is present with us, countless times through history you have called people to build tables in particular places of importance, places where people have had transformative experiences with you. We bring our gifts to serve this place where you have called us to build and maintain a table for people to worship you.

People: **Help our gifts support this church.**
Use our gifts to bring people transformation in this place.
Hear us as we sing out 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.

***Prayer of Dedication**

God of Generosity, you have blessed us with this building in this place and given us the task of stewarding it and using it to further the spread of your Realm in Medina. Bless this offering and guide its use so that we can continue to care for this building and care for the people of Medina through it.

***CLOSING SONG**

"Take My Gifts"

TALAVERA TERRACE 8.7.8.7.D.

Shirley Erena Murray, 1991, © 1992 Hope Publishing Company

Colin Gibson, 1991



1 Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
2 Take the fruit that I have gath - ered from the tree your Spir - it sowed,
3 Take what - ev - er I can of - fer— gifts that I have yet to find,



gave me light and food and shel - ter, gave me life and set me free,
har - vest of your own com - pas - sion, juice that makes the wine of God,
skills that I am slow to sharp - en, tal - ents of the hand and mind,



now be - cause your love has touched me, I have love to give a - way,
spiced with hu - mor, laced with laugh - ter— fla - vor of the Je - sus life,
things made beau - ti - ful for oth - ers in the place where I must be:



now the bread of love is ris - ing, loaves of love to mul - ti - ply!
tang of risk and new ad - ven - ture, taste and zest be - yond be - lief.
take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

***ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***CLOSING PRAYER**

God of all creation, many times before you have called people to certain places: Israel to the Promised Land, Jonah to Nineveh, Paul to Antioch, and us to Medina. We ask that you guide us on how best to fulfill our call to this place, to serve Medina through your love. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

***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 "Sortie" from Les heures mystiques, Op. 30 – Léon Boëllmann**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"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 Kathi & John Kavouras.*

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - luke@uccmedina.org
Rev. Meghan Malone, Associate Pastor of Youth & Mission - meghan@uccmedina.org
Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor – karen@uccmedina.org
Ryan Collins, Ministerial Intern - ryan@uccmedina.org

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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 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

NOVEMBER 13, 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

November 13, 2022 thru November 20, 2022 WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

- 8:15 am Chapel Worship
- 9:00 am Gathering Worship
- 9:45 am Children's & Youth Choir
- 10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
- 11:45 am Pageant rehearsal
- 11:45 am Mission Team Meeting
- 3:00 pm Confirmation Class

Mon OPERATION HOMES WEEK

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 CANDLELIGHT WALK
7:00 pm **Congregational Council Meeting**

Fri CANDLELIGHT WALK

Sat CANDLELIGHT WALK
10:30 am Eagle Scout Court of Honor
Alex Swantek
4:30 pm CE BAKE SALE

Sun STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

- CANDLELIGHT WALK
- 8:15 am Chapel Worship
- 9:00 am Gathering Worship
- 9:45 am Children's & Youth Choir
- 10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
- 11:45 am Pageant rehearsal
- 4:30 pm Youth Group
- 4:30 pm Men's group

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

Scriptures: Isaiah 65: 17-25 &
Luke 21: 5-19

Sermon: “Community Harvest: Place”

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The flowers are given by the Stoll & Huffman families with glory to God for a beautiful fall and a bountiful harvest.

COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

The 2023 Flower Chart is now hanging in the East Room hallway. This is a wonderful way to honor or remember someone, or to celebrate a special occasion. Please fill in your name and **write “Church” or “Self”** to let us know if you would like the church to order the flowers for you or if you will be ordering them yourself. The cost of the flowers ordered through the church office is \$22.50.

Also, please write what you would like printed in the Messenger and if you want to claim your flowers after the 10:30 service.

STEWARDSHIP CARD ERROR

There was a computer error in the creation of the QR code on the pledge cards. Please do not use the QR code as it will take you to the wrong destination in Realm. We will continue to have people helping anyone who would like to sign up for Realm on Sunday morning.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

Save The Date! Senior High Summer Service Trip, July 9th-15th, to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi! More details coming soon...

VOLUNTEER WITH VIBES

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>

WE NEED YOUR POP TABS!

Just a reminder that we collect pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald Houses of Northeast Ohio. We will take any tab (pop, soup can, beverage, pet food, canned fruit and vegetables) in any color or size. There is a container in the Welcome Area in which to put your tabs. Thanks for collecting!

THE GREAT CANDY BAR CONTEST

The Mission Team is collecting FULL SIZE candy bars that will be used for Christmas care packages to be provided to people incarcerated in the Medina County Jail and Juvenile Detention Center. **Sue Jarvis, the chaplain at the jail, has requested FULL SIZE Snickers, Three Musketeers, and Milky Way bars.** Our goal is to collect a total of 300 bars, and whichever candy bar we receive the most of, the congregation will get a fun-size version of the week after the contest ends. There will be containers to turn your candy bars in to **beginning Sunday, November 6th thru November 27th.**

JAZZY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Music & Performing Arts Ensembles will be hosting a Bake & Craft Sale on Friday, December 16th, the night of our "Jazzy Christmas" Concert beginning at 7 pm. The concert will feature the Handbell Choir, Chancel Choir, and Jennifer Cochran & Gateway Band. The sale will be held pre-concert at 5:30 pm and at intermission. The whole evening will end with Santa who will invite us to bundle up and enjoy hot chocolate, donuts, and Christmas Caroling around the square! **All proceeds from the concert and sale will go to support the music and future performing arts events at Medina UCC, Congregational! So please offer your talents of baking and crafting!**

CE CANDLELIGHT WALK BAKE SALE

Calling all bakers! The CE Board will once again be hosting a bake sale during the Candlelight Walk on Saturday, November 19th from 4:30 - 7:00 pm. If you would like to donate a yummy baked good for the bake sale, please sign up here and let us know what you are bringing.

All baked goods should be pre-wrapped for individual sale and dropped off at the church kitchen on Friday, November 18th between 9:00 am - 3:00 pm.

Funds collected from the bake sale will be used for supplies, equipment and help for mission for Christian Education and Youth programming. Thank you so much for your support.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Monday Night Women's Bible Group has begun its study called "Saints & Scoundrels in the Story of Jesus." The next meetings are on November 28th at 6:30 pm and December 12th at 6:30 pm. For more information or to join in the study, please contact Carol Rhodes at 330-722-1626 or rhodesc@zoominternet.net. There is a small fee for the workbook.

MEDINA UCC CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSALS

We are excited to bring back a live performance this year on Sunday, December 4th! Practices will take place immediately following the 10:30 worship service on November 13th, 20th and 27th and last about 30 minutes. We will also have a dress rehearsal with pizza on Friday, December 2nd.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED

Please consider hosting Coffee Hour by signing up on the calendar by the East Room Hallway. Never hosted before? No worries! Hosting is to be simple with coffee, tea, punch, and your choice of pastries, donut holes, or cheese and crackers. Dates are available in December, January and February.

FROM THE PASTOR

Our staff took a retreat in August and we're about to retreat in Advent. We gathered to pray and plan where we would need to go this year. My friend, the Rev. Joanna D'Agostino from Lakewood Congregational gave a sermon on Jeremiah 17:7-8, "Like a tree planted by water." She stated how it's good to be rooted. Rooted in the past, in tradition, in history. With 203 years behind us, I would say we're very rooted here on the Square in our town and region.

Yet it's not good enough to just be rooted. Jesus said you judge a tree by its fruit in Matt. 7:15. We have to generate something. 'Rooted and generative' is the phrase we wanted to work on.

Three areas we wanted to focus on is to generate a growth budget. Generate good design. Generate a good team with Jenny and Meghan joining us. Another way we thought about this was to make it work (budget), make it beautiful (design), and make it together (team).

I feel our team has really come together quickly and in a short amount of time. Jenny is bringing us more sound and energy in our music than I've ever heard anywhere. Meghan is bringing her gift for writing, design, and a heart for mission in everything she does.

Our design has been shown in our Beautiful Together paintings we made at Alive on the Square. We made Beautiful Together stickers. Ryan Collins, our seminary intern, has signed us up for Canva, an online design program where the staff can collaborate on designs like never before. Meghan, Nicole, and Stacie have been hard at work in rooms 7, 8, 9/10 making a "youth corridor." They are clearing out, cleaning up, and adding a fresh coat of paint to things.

Which brings me to budget. A few folks wondered if the misprint in the letter was the \$50 a week pledge. No, that's just a suggestion the stewardship team came up with. They saw that our average income in Medina is around \$85k. The national average of church giving is around 3% which would be a \$2,550 yearly pledge or around \$50 a week. This is just a suggestion based on the data we have. We won't check your W2 or any draconian thing. Everything we do here is invitational. If your household is making around the average income, then there's your bar. If you're pledging more than this, thank you for your generosity! If you're on a fixed income or make (like I do) less than the average, then whatever you pledge is the right and generous amount.

We have come out of the pandemic strong. Strong enough to hire an associate with a specific purpose. Strong enough to hire a musical force which has reinvigorated our music program. Strong enough to keep welcoming, loving, and serving for another 200 years. With our people, in this place, I see great possibility. Let's go seize it!

FROM THE DESK OF THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

A reminder that our Music Director, Jenny, is offering voice and flute lessons. if interested, please contact her as soon as possible

Also, Jenny has had some inquiries regarding theater classes. She'd love to have an Adult Group as well as a Youth Group. Both groups should have no less than 6 (and of course the more the merrier) participants for a fun and imaginative class. She'd love to get started so please contact her if you are interested.

Lastly, she is putting out an urgent call to instrumentalists wanting to perform in an ensemble at the 9:00PM Christmas Eve service. There will be a couple of rehearsals on Sundays after church. You'll play 5 songs in the service, and Jenny will get music to you as soon as you contact her.

For all three of the above, contact jenny@uccmedina.org

SEND A CHRISTMAS CARD

Cindy Korecky has updated our UCC Christmas card list for Circle of Caring. Please pick up a card list and reach out to our homebound members and those in care facilities with the Spirit of the Season-LOVE.

BIG BIBLE BUY LAST CHANCE

To date we have 130 bibles sponsored! Thank you to everyone who has sponsored a new bible for our pews. Our goal was to cover all 200 bibles. The month of November will be your last chance to sponsor a pew bible in honor of someone and have their name printed in the bible, as given by you. Bibles are \$25 each, \$5 of which will go to the Endowment Fund. If you would like to sponsor a bible, you may do so through [REALM here](#). You may also sign up in the East Room hallway and send a check with "Bible Buy" in the memo line.

JACKIE'S JARS FOR SENIORS

It's time again for our change collection that provides funds to Mobile Meals (county-wide) to benefit the seniors in our community. Coin jars are available in the East Room and are due back by Sunday, November 27th.

NEWS FROM THE ENDOWMENT FUND

Every fall since 1995, the Medina UCC Endowment Fund Committee meets to discuss the results of the Fund's activity during the past year. The Endowment Fund's purpose is to provide funding for the future and funding for special projects and efforts of the church that are not covered by the Operating Budget. Past financial allocations supported: Mission trips to Costa Rica, the portable sound system for the Gathering Team, new furniture for the Welcome Area and the Bicentennial Debt Reduction, plus much more. A complete listing is available in the Church Office.

The year 2022 was a different year for the Endowment Fund. There were stock market losses that resulted in a lack of earnings to support the projects that might have been financed by the Endowment Fund for the operating year 2023. Being good stewards of the Fund's assets, the Committee decided that there will be no Endowment Fund allocations dispersed for 2023.

The church's finances are strong and stable. If any of the teams are planning to apply for an Endowment Fund allocation, please bring those ideas and needs to the attention of the Endowment Fund Committee whose members are Ellen Hunter, Jan Coleman, Kent Daugherty, Virginia Hall and Earle Olson. Other resources within the church family are available to support worthy requests. Our Financial Director, Jeff Miller, is always open to discussion of projects that will further the Mission of the church.

THE AMANDA FUND

Your Mission Team distributes monies from this fund to families with a child in medical crisis. Its funds are replenished through your generous donations. It was started by a family who lost their young daughter many years ago due to a devastating illness. A couple Sundays ago, we were privileged to welcome Jake Wuersig and his family to the 10:30 service. The Wuersig family received the Amanda Fund after Jake sustained life-threatening injuries resulting from a fall during a hike. He was in a coma and hospitalized for several months but is making a recovery that is nothing short of miraculous - praise the Lord! They are grateful for the loving and caring support of our congregation. Please continue to keep the Wuersig's in your prayers.

NOTICE!

WE WILL NOT BE MAILING THE PILGRIM MESSENGER THE WEEK OF THANKSGIVING.

YOU CAN STILL READ THE PILGRIM MESSENGER IN ITS ENTIRETY **ONLINE!**

JUST GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT: WWW.UCCMEDINA.ORG, SCROLL DOWN UNTIL YOU FIND WORSHIP BULLETINS AND PILGRIM MESSENGER ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE PAGE.

November 13, 2022
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
Stewardship Sunday

Isaiah 65:17-25

Infinite Possibilities

On this Stewardship Sunday, we look ahead with hope and make promises for how we as individuals will contribute to the health of the whole of the body of Christ in the year to come.

Our theme this year, *From Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving*, is a reminder that we give out of the goodness and abundance that we have received from a loving God. Of course, we don't just need this message and reminder at Stewardship time. At all times of year, through scripture, study, prayer and connection with our community and the wider world, we can be recalled back to the God whose love for us overflows. If you would like more resources to encourage your generous response to a gracious God, check out the books and brochures available at uccresources.com.

Everyone in the church would appreciate a copy of the brochure, "What Scripture Says About Giving," a quick and thoughtful guide to how and why to give to the work of the church.

Inspiring Generosity: A Stewardship Resource for the Local Church is a comprehensive guide to year-round stewardship. This 118-page manual is available in either book form or PDF download and features 4 fundraising methods for the local church, including "Consecrating Stewards," as well as chapters on the theological background on the motivation for giving and understanding mission.

The Gifting God: Change the Way You Look at Giving is a small group study that invites you and your small group into an exploration of what scripture has to say about giving, over the course of several weeks or sessions.

For Such a Time As This: A Bible Study for Stewardship in Challenging Times is a guide that helps readers recall the story of Esther and to ponder anew how this story might inform generous giving here and now.