

# Grief



**HEAVY**



a worship series on mental health



# 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](http://UCCMEDINA.ORG)

- During the 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 “We Three Kings” – arr. Janet Linker

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

### WELCOME

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

### \*OPENING HYMN

### “The Summons”

John L. Bell © 1987, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

KELVINGROVE 7.6.7.6.7.7.6.  
Scottish traditional, ar. John L. Bell



1. Will you come and fol - low me If I but  
 2. Will you leave your - self be - hind If I but  
 3. Will you let the blind - ed see If I but  
 4. Will you love the ‘you’ you hide If I but  
 5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true When you but



call your name? Will you go where  
 call your name? Will you care for  
 call your name? Will you set the  
 call your name? Will you quell the  
 call my name. Let me turn and

you don't know And nev - er be the same?  
 cruel and kind And nev - er be the same?  
 pris - 'ners free And nev - er be the same?  
 fear in - side And nev - er be the same?  
 fol - low you And nev - er be the same.

Will you let my love be shown, Will you  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, Should your  
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, And do  
 Will you use the faith you've found To re -  
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go Where your

let my name be known, Will you let my  
 life at - tract or scare? Will you let me  
 such as this un - seen, And ad - mit to  
 shape the world a - round, Through my sight and  
 love and foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and

life be grown In you and you in me?  
 an - swer prayer In you and you in me?  
 what I mean In you and you in me?  
 touch and sound In you and you in me?  
 live and grow In you and you in me.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

The shortest verse in the bible.

**Jesus wept.**

John 11:35. God feels grief. Knowing he could raise Lazarus.

**Jesus wept.**

Knowing that he would be the first born of the dead. Conqueror of the grave.

**Jesus wept.**

Jesus said to the grieving sisters of Mary and Martha,

**"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die."**

We believe, Lord. Help our unbelief.

**And thank you for understanding our tears. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

**“O Christ, You Wept When Grief Was Raw”**

ROCKINGHAM 8.8.8.8.

John L. Bell and Graham Maula © 1989 WGRG, c/o Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Adapt. Edward Miller, 1735-1807

1. O Christ, you wept when grief was raw, and felt for  
 2. The well - loved voice is si - lent now, and there is  
 3. We try to hold what is not here and fear for  
 4. In all our lone - li - ness and doubt through what we

those who mourned their friend; come close to where we would not  
 much we meant to say; col - lect our lost and wan - d'ring  
 what we do not know; oh, hold our hands in yours, good  
 can - not re - al - ize, ad - dress us from your emp - ty

be and hold us, numbed by this life's end.  
 words and keep them till the end - less day.  
 Lord, and free us to let our friend go.  
 tomb and tell us that life nev - er dies.

**SCRIPTURES**

Isaiah 42:1-9 (O.T. pg. 630)  
John 11:17-35 (N.T. pg. 99)

Deb Waldron, 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 "Heavy Burdened: Grief, with Waite & Son Funeral Home"**

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

**SPECIAL MUSIC "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" – Thomas A. Dorsey**

Jenny Cochran, soloist

## OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

*There is an offering plate if you feel led to deposit your envelope or an offering there.*

*You can also give through our Realm app or get the link to give by texting UCCMEDINA to 73256.*

*Thank you for your prayerful consideration!*

### Offertory Invitation

Let us consider what has been offered today. Let us consider how what we have learned has formed us and will form our world. Let us honor this space.

**I am not who I was. I will honor my becoming.**

Let us rise in body or spirit and sing our doxology.

**\*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**

**Holy and precious Christ, you said to us, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Comfort, oh comfort your people. Guide us to those mourning. Give us the courage to make the call, to send the card; to reach out in any way. Give us the words to speak our heart ache. Thank you, Jesus. Bless our intentions, plans, and work this day.**

**Amen.**

### \*CLOSING SONG

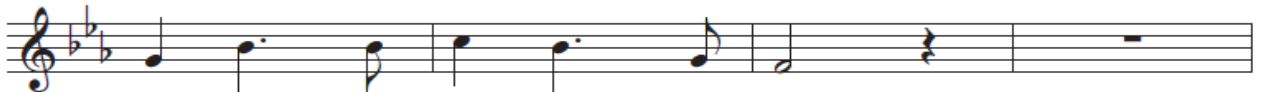
### "Jesus, Light of the World"

George D. Elderkin; verses by Charles Wesley

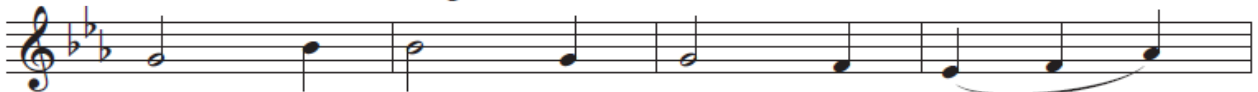
WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT 7.7.7.7. with refrain  
George D. Elderkin; arr. Evelyn Simpson-Curenton © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.



1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing.  
2. Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise.  
3. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored.  
4. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace.



Je - sus, the light of the world.



Glo - ry to the new - born King,  
Join the tri - umph of the skies.  
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!



Je - sus, the light of the world. We'll walk in the

light, beau - ti - ful light. Come where the  
dew - drops of mer - cy shine bright. Oh, shine all a -  
round us by day and by night. Je - sus, the light of the world.

**\*ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*BENEDICTION** (From the Rev. Kate Braestrup, as heard on The Moth Radio Hour.)

May you walk boldly into the house of mourning,  
**for grief is simply love come up against its oldest challenge.**  
And after all these mortal years,  
**Love knows just what to do.**  
May you go from here with thanksgiving and hope, for this service has ended,  
**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 Magi" based on a traditional Provençal carol – setting by Kenneth T. Kosche  
Cathy Fafarak, Organist

**“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”**

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**\*\*\*There will be no Coffee Hour today. There was no one signed up to host.  
If you would like to sign up to host a coffee hour,  
please sign up on the bulletin board in the East Room Hallway.**

# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## JANUARY 8, 2023

**“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)

**January 8, 2023 thru January 15, 2023**

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

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

**Mon** **OPERATION HOMES**  
7:00 pm Worship Team Zoom Meeting

**Tues** **OPERATION HOMES**  
2:00 pm Defense Against the Dark Arts  
7:00 pm Defense Against the Dark Arts

**Wed** **OPERATION HOMES**  
10:30 am Quilters  
6:15 pm Bell Choir rehearsal  
7:00 pm DELTs Meeting  
7:00 pm WISE Team Meeting  
7:30 pm Choir rehearsal

**Thurs** **OPERATION HOMES**  
7:00 pm Preschool Team Meeting

**Fri** **OPERATION HOMES**

**Sat** **OPERATION HOMES**

**Sun** **OPERATION HOMES**  
8:15 am Chapel Worship  
9:00 am Gathering Worship  
9:45 am Children’s Choir  
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship  
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting  
4:30 pm Men’s Group  
4:30 pm Youth Group

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

Scriptures: Isaiah 42:1-9 and John 11:17-35

Sermon: “Heavy Burdened: Grief”  
*With Waite & Son Funeral Home*

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

**Communion Table:** The flowers are given by Jill & Ron Linek in honor of their 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### **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.

### **ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE!**

Annual Report time is near! As we are working on our 2023 budget, we will also need a few other reports to put this together. **I will need an annual report from our Church Clerk, Church Treasurer, the Stewardship Team, and the Endowment Team. Please email me your reports as soon as possible.** Thank you.

### **OPERATION HOMES GUESTS RETURN THIS WEEK!**

Please see the sign-up sheets in the downstairs entryway to see how you can volunteer to be a part of this important housing ministry.

## PLEDGE UPDATE

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Thank you to everyone who has pledged for 2023. We have \$239,645 pledged of our \$400,000 goal and a total of 120 pledges. If you have not yet pledged, you are still invited to! Pledges are used to make our projected budget as accurate as possible, so they are very important for the life and ministry of the church. There are pledge cards available or Realm online where you can set up automatic electronic donations. Any amount helps keep our church beautiful and ministries growing!

## DEFENSE AGAINST THE DARK ARTS

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In this class, Pastors Luke and Meghan will instruct you one how to defend yourself against the Dark Arts of using scripture to support acts of homophobic cruelty. Join us as we practice reading the Bible with flexibility and curiosity together on Tuesdays at 2pm and 7pm. All youth and adults welcome!

## MLK SERVICE DAY OPPORTUNITY

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On Monday January 16<sup>th</sup> from 9am - 1pm, you are invited to join the Mission Team in a day of service at the Hope and Healing Survivor's Center here in Medina. You must register online through [Signup Genius](#) in order to participate and receive the address. We will be assembling new furniture for Hope and Healing which is being purchased with an MLK Day Project Grant from ServeOhio. Pizza for lunch will be provided!

## SENIOR HIGH SUMMER SERVICE TRIP INFORMATION SESSION

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If you are interested in participating in our trip to Back Bay Mission, July 9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, please come to this informational session in the library **after worship on Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>**! This trip is for youth who are entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2023, and older. We also need adult volunteers who can help with driving, home repairs, and preparing group meals. See you there!

## SAVE THE DATE

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IT'S BACK, so please mark your calendars as the Ladies and Girls Tea will be held on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. "All The Tea In China" will be the program presented by our own Vicki Miller. More information will be coming, and ticket sales will begin in April. Please direct questions to Beth Hari, Becky Weber, or Darlene Fazekas.

## 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 are up for January, February & March.

## CIRCLE OF CARING GREETING CARDS TABLE

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This group is a volunteer outreach ministry who send greeting cards of Birthday (80+ years), Get Well, Thinking of You, and Sympathy to keep in touch with our congregation-at-large, and with our most Senior Adult church membership who are homebound, shut-in, and in resident care facilities.

In 2023, we need help for the months of April, July, October, November, and December due to volunteers retiring.

Circle of Caring thanks all the volunteers who served with Greeting Cards Table. You are greatly appreciated and will be missed.

Interested? Contact Alice Metzloff at [iamalsblugown@gmail.com](mailto:iamaalsblugown@gmail.com) or 330-242-3602.

## COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

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We have several openings to sponsor the communion table flowers. Please consider signing up today! 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.**



## DONATED NATIVITY

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When we were setting up our Advent and Christmas decorations, we discovered a large, ceramic nativity set. The pieces had been carefully wrapped and placed into 3 plastic tubs and left behind the Fellowship Hall stage in our storage area.

If this belonged to you or you are aware of where it might have come from, please let the church office know. We are sorry that we were unable to find a space for this set to be displayed.

## PASTOR'S CORNER

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### CHECK OUT THE NEW GATHERING SERVICE AT 9 A.M.!

This Sunday will be a lot of music from the Gathering Band before we do a holy experiment. I think we have a great opportunity to lean into a new format and embrace the roots of our service. 20 years ago, folks yearning for a different way to worship embarked with great care and consideration. They found a new format with new music. A new style. It is time to innovate once again.

Dan Marty, Pastor Luke, our mission and youth pastor Meghan, and our seminary intern Ryan all met and have developed a simple worship pattern. We'll start with a word. Then go from there.

This worship is extremely interactive and conversational. It will have music and prayer and scripture. We'll end with communion and then ask you, "So what?" We talked about this word and had a conversation, and so what are we going to do now? If you would like the words in advance, we can talk about where they came from and why we want to discuss them, but that'll wait until Sunday.

We'll develop this together over the course of the next three months. The band will practice and spend time building their chemistry and repertoire. We'll have a break from setting up tables and communion and power point. We may discover we don't need those. Or that we do, but in a different way. Or that we liked the way we've been doing it, and we've found a new energy to carry out the task.

Liturgy means "The work of the people." As Dan put it, "This is like a work-shop. A worship that you have to work to build." I really like that. I thought of Harry's woodwork with our beautiful, handcrafted table and I put together a draft logo. It's not permanent, but playful. I hope you don't mind.

We'll talk more on Sunday, and we'll build this together. For now, I just hope that we can trust one another in this journey. I'm here to answer any questions.

Yours in Christ,  
-Luke



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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



- Upcoming Events**
- January 1 One Worship Service, 10 a.m.
  - January 4 Hobby Horse Preschool Open House, 5:30 p.m.
  - January 8 Heavily Burdened Worship Series Begins  
A Series on Mental Health with Guest Speakers
  - January 10 Defense Against the Dark Arts Begins  
Tuesdays through Feb 7th, 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
  - January 15 Youth Group, Rise Above! 4:30-6 p.m.
  - January 16 MLK Service Day at Hope & Healing
  - January 17 Hobby Horse Preschool church  
member registration opens
  - January 29 Annual Budget Meeting, 11:30 a.m.
  - January 30 New Member Class, 7:00 p.m.
  - February 5 Church Wide Game Night, 4:30 p.m.

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#### **PASTORAL STAFF**

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - [luke@uccmedina.org](mailto:luke@uccmedina.org)  
Rev. 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);  
Ryan Collins, Ministerial Intern - [ryan@uccmedina.org](mailto:ryan@uccmedina.org)

#### **OFFICE STAFF**

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org); Jeff Miller, Financial Director - [jeff@uccmedina.org](mailto:jeff@uccmedina.org)

#### **PROGRAM STAFF**

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

Mathew 3:13-17

### Possibilities Unfolding

*Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."*

Don't you wonder what Jesus remembered about the day of his baptism? Was it his thoughts, the inner knowing that this would be the "proper" way to "fulfill all righteousness"? Was it his relationships and conversations, like John's reluctance to perform the sacrament, followed by his consent? Was it his physical sensations, like the feel of the cool water on dry and dusty skin? Would he most remember the miraculous arrival of the dove and the voice from heaven asserting his belovedness?

When asked what they remembered about baptisms, their own or loved ones', two United Church of Christ clergywomen shared these strong memories.

Nicole Pickens recalls, "I remember my baptism vividly. I was 12 years old. The baptistry was located behind the chancel, with a window cut to about waist height. I could see my family and friends below. It was January 6, and the waters in which I was immersed were chilly! My pastor gently hurried me to my mom and a hair dryer. On the way home, Mom smiled and said we should stop at the grocery store for cake because we had a new birthday to celebrate."

Meg Wilson adds, "When my daughter was baptized the minister said to the congregation "is she worthy of God's love?" Everyone applauded and answered yes! Since becoming ordained I ask the question and people joyfully respond yes. I do it when I introduce the child to the congregation. Worthy is a powerful word!"

What do you remember about your baptism? The physical sensations? The words spoken? The relationships with others present? Your own internal knowing? If you don't remember your own, what other baptisms have been impactful to you?