

Parents

a worship series on mental health





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 “Three Arias for Piano & Solo Instruments: II. Reflections” – Keith Kolander

Jenny Cochran, flute & Cathy Fafrak, piano

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

They are right, those who doubt what we do.

It is purely the product of over-active imaginations.

Who but the foolish would look at untamed wilderness,

And imagine a town square. A courthouse. A sanctuary.

Who but the foolish would look at the barren ground,

And imagine food for all.

Who but the foolish would look back at their founders,

And see the future.

So if faith is the terrain of the deluded,

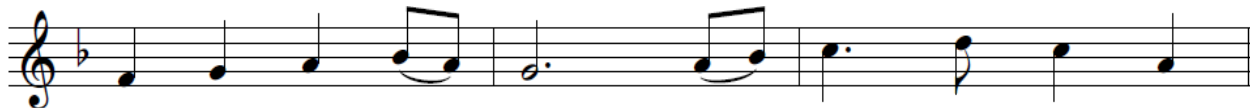
We the foolish faithful will continue the march with this, our worship.

*OPENING HYMN

“All Are Welcome” (vs. 1,3 & 5)



1. Let us build	a house	where	love	can	dwell	And
3. Let us build	a house	where	love	is	found	In
5. Let us build	a house	where	all	are	named,	Their



all can safe - ly live, A place where saints and
wa - ter, wine and wheat: A ban - quet hall on
songs and vi - sions heard And loved and treas - ured,



chil - dren tell How hearts learn to for -
ho - ly ground, Where peace and jus - tice
taught and claimed As words with - in the



give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions,
meet. Here the love of God, through Je - sus,
Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter,



Rock of faith and vault of grace; Here the
Is re - vealed in time and space; As we
Prayers of faith and songs of grace, Let this



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
share in Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
house pro - claim from floor to raft - er:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

*OPENING PRAYER

God of our ancestors, we give you thanks for this day.

For the toil and vision that created these walls. For the lives that dwelt within. For the lives changed and enriched by the fellowship created here. For the bold acts of justice. For the simple acts of kindness.

For the multitude of prayers lifted to you.

For the vision of Christ they were.

For how they followed to the best of their ability the movement of your Spirit.

For all that have come before us that brought us to this day.

For all that has come before that propels us into the future.

We give you thanks and praise. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Children's Praise" – Fred S. Opalinski/arr. Ronald A. Nelson Children's Choir
Maggie Bixler, violin, Ruby Gabrielsen, viola, Jane Langol, cello

SCRIPTURES

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (O.T. pg. 179)
Matthew 11:25-30 (N.T. pg. 11)

Pam Branscome, Liturgist

MESSAGE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY OF GOD

Stacie Yates

WELCOME AND RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Jim & Keri Lichtenberg, Mike & Becky Rusyniak, Karl Stone

Congregation: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this Church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the Church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

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.

SERMON

"Heavy Burdened: Parents"
With Alicia Davies, member of Medina UCC, Congregational

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

SPECIAL MUSIC

"God's Love Is Everlasting" – Mark Hayes Chancel Choir
Commissioned for the 200th anniversary of Medina UCC, Congregational

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Thanks be to all our parents. To what we have heard and are considering. For this worship series. **For the ways in which God is leading us to become a welcoming, inclusive, supportive, and engaged congregation. Oh Lord, in your wisdom, help us be WISE.**

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.**

UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH IN THE FORM OF A DOXOLOGY

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being,
create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.
In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior,
you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people
of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.
Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"The Church's One Foundation"



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ our Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of our war,
4 Yet we on earth have un - ion with God, the Three - in - One,



we are Christ's new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word;
one char - ter of sal - va - tion, one God, one faith, one birth,
we wait the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us free;
One name to - geth - er bless - ing, one ho - ly food we share,
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious, our long - ing eyes are blessed,
O hap - py ones and ho - ly! God, give us grace that we,



with pre - cious blood Christ bought us for all e - ter - ni - ty.
to one hope we are press - ing, at one in work and prayer.
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

Samuel J. Stone, 1866, alt

AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D
Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

*ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION

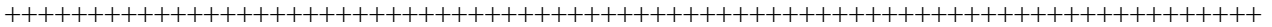
As you depart from here, may you walk with God;
Giver of life who blesses us with community and creation.
May you seek Christ;
In ourselves and in one another.
May you follow the Spirit;
wherever She may send us.
One God forever and ever;
In whose image each of us are made.
You have been blessed to be a blessing,
And we will never meet someone whom God does not love.
Go with this good news, 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 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" – Johann Walther/ed. J. Linker Cathy Fafrak, Organist**

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"



Music in this bulletin reprinted/podcast/streamed with permission under:
ONE LICENSE, License #A-605137. All rights reserved and CCLI, License #1637380 & #21333812

******Please join us for Coffee Hour following the Annual Meeting in Fellowship Hall***
Coffee Hour is hosted this week by the Evangelism and Endowment Teams.***

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

OFFICE STAFF

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - office@uccmedina.org
Jeff Miller, Financial Director - 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
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance
Sharon Perry, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 12, 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

February 12, 2023 thru February 19, 2023

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun FOUNDER'S DAY

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
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting
3:00 pm Confirmation Class

Mon 12:00 pm Women's Book Club

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study

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

Thurs

Fri

Sat

Sun HOBBY HORSE SUNDAY

8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:30 am 3rd Grade Bible Class
9:45 am Children's Choir
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
4:30 pm Youth Group
4:30 pm Men's Group

MEDINA ICE FESTIVAL ON THE SQUARE

Don't forget to check out the church's ice festival sculpture at the Medina Ice Festival next weekend!

Worship Highlights: 8:15 am & 10:30 am

Scriptures: Deuteronomy 30:15-20 and
Matthew 11:25-30

Sermon: "Heavy Burdened: Parents"
Rev. Luke Lindon with Alicia Davies, member of
UCC, Congregational

9:00 am "Space"

Communion Table: The flowers are given by
Syd & Pete Benson in celebration of their 58th
anniversary (on 2/20/23).

ENDOWMENT FUND GIVING

Every February, the ENDOWMENT FUND asks our church family to consider sharing in the growth of the FUND by making a caring donation in honor or in memory of a loved one. What better way to show your love of a family member or dear friend than by honoring them with a donation in their name. Please stop by the *Endowment Giving Tree* near the elevator and take a heart reminder off the tree. Consider a donation to the FUND so that those dollars can be used for projects throughout the mission life of the UCC Church.

DONATION OF THE MONTH

Can you believe it is February already! The next item we will be collecting is... **Dish Soap!**

If you would like to donate an item, place it in the bin by the elevator in the lobby and the Mission Team will distribute the items to the organizations in need! We collected rolls of paper towels in January! Thank you for your generosity!

FEBRUARY 19TH IS HOBBY HORSE SUNDAY!

The church has put out a special invitation to all our Hobby Horse Preschool families to join us in worship. The hope is that they will see what a welcoming, loving and serving community we really are, and consider joining our church family as well.

We will also be collecting donations for the Hobby Horse Scholarship Fund. This means that all offerings, other than your usual pledge, will go directly to the Scholarship Fund. Please consider a donation for the smallest among us and greet them all with your usual warm welcome!

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP

Beginning on Friday, March 3rd from 7:00-8:30 pm, we will hold our first Mental Health Support Group in Fellowship Hall. This is a peer-to-peer support group where vulnerability is encouraged. This is a safe space to share our pain, our tears and our hopes for deep healing in our lives. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the East Room Hallway. See you there!

OPERATION HOMES UPDATE

Thank you to all who made our last visit with our Operation Homes friends such a success! Please keep the families who have stayed with us in your prayers. There are a few items that one family is in need of: baking trays, oven mitts, a knife set, plates and a vacuum. They have also asked for read-a-long books for a four-year-old. If you would like to donate any of these items, please place them in the tote by the elevator marked "Operation Homes."

CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

The Evangelism team is looking for new ideas for spirit wear. If you feel creative please submit your artwork or T-shirt design idea to Jen Cockrell at Jenn27@zoominternet.net. If your idea is selected, it will be on the new spirit wear. Plus you will win a \$10 gift card to Courthouse Pizzeria. Deadline is March 31. Good luck, everyone!

CALLING ALL INTERESTED MUSICIANS!

We have some adult choir members who are "snowbirds" and away for a while. This would be a great time to welcome some new members who love to make music, whether it be ringing bells or singing! Our rehearsal schedule is listed below. The Chancel Choir sings 2-3 times a month, plus a few special events; the Alleluia Ringers usually play once a month, and sometimes at a special event, and the Children's Choir has been providing one special musical offering monthly-bimonthly.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Wednesday Evenings: **6:15-7:15 p.m. Alleluia Ringers & 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Chancel Choir**
Sunday Mornings: Bells and Choir usually practice before the 10:30 a.m. service.
Children's Choir meets from 9:45-10:15 most Sundays.

INSTRUMENTALISTS NEEDED FOR EASTER!

We are calling all instrumentalists for the Easter Sunday 10:30 Service! Let me know if you would like to play and you will receive music from me in February. Stay tuned for several rehearsal dates prior to Easter. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord! Email Jenny Cochran at jenny@uccmedina.org.



CONGRATULATIONS!

We welcome Alita Ruth Gast into the world weighing in at 5 lbs. 15 oz. & 19" long! Alita was born on February 7, 2023 to Paige & Reginald Gast. The proud grandparents are Ruth & Dave Sinclair.

A VERY SPECIAL BUILD

The Costa Rica Mission Team will be heading south in about 2 weeks. Every family and build are special, but this year will be exceptional! Let me introduce you to the family we are building for. The father, Gabriel, is 70 years old. He has some significant health issues including diabetes. His wife is Marta, and they have two sons. The oldest son, Lusito, is 50 years old and confined to a wheelchair with cerebral palsy. We do not know much about the second son other than his name is Juan Gabriel and he is 20 years old. Marta is the primary care giver for Lusito, taking care of his daily needs, transferring him in/out of bed and bathing. Maximo said the house conditions are very bad. We will not only be providing the family a new home, but we will also be providing them a wheelchair accessible home! This will be something very new to our team and Mercy Home Ministries.

We would like to thank the Church Mission Team and the Congregation for your very generous support to the Team and the Mission! That being said, we would like to reach out one more time for some additional help. Now that we understand the very difficult situation the family is in, trying to manage the care of Lusito, we have found a simple and portable Hoyer Lift that can drastically improve the life of Marta and her son. **If you would like to help us fund the Lift**, please send your donation to the Church office and indicate it is for the Costa Rica Mission Team. **We would need to have the funds by Feb. 15th** to give us time to get the lift purchased and delivered. As always- thank you for your support, prayers, and good wishes! We will keep the Congregation updated on the Church Facebook page.

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

February 12, 2023
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Racial Justice Sunday/Science and Technology Sunday

Matthew 5:21-37

From the Heart

First Congregational Church UCC of Poughkeepsie, NY knows that most people find new churches through webpages, and they want to assure that all who visit understand their stand on the importance of science as a companion to faith. Their website has a whole page dedicated to explaining their stance on the value of science.

“For too long, science and faith have had a combustible relationship...Some people like to describe science as being true whether you believe in it or not because it is based in conducting repeatable experiments, collecting measurable data and arriving at conclusions that match the data. Many consider faith, if not contrary to science, at least completely separate from it because they regard faith as believing in what cannot be proven.

But in the United Church of Christ, we don't regard science and faith as mutually exclusive, or as occupying completely separate realms. Instead, we want them to be engaged in conversation because we think they each have something to offer to the other. For we trust that God is still speaking, and we listen for God's voice not just in places of quiet contemplation or majestic beauty, but also in labs and lecture halls, through the lenses of microscopes and telescopes, in moments of discovery and through efforts to understand the world around us. We value intellectual curiosity and the way that science can uncover new information that expands our perspective. Because we are committed to service, social and economic justice, and careful stewardship of creation, we also are interested in the ways scientific discoveries can support or undermine these commitments.

So it is not surprising that since 2008, our congregation has chosen to recognize in worship the mutually valuable insights that can be gained when science and faith are in open and honest dialogue with one another. Indeed we desire a faith that is “scientifically sophisticated, technologically advanced, morally just, ecologically sustainable, and spiritually alive.” (from the UCC's Pastoral Letter on Faith Engaging Science and Technology).

We want to make clear the UCC's belief that science and religion are not mutually exclusive, and we extend our unequivocal welcome to persons who devote their lives to scientific inquiry, no matter the discipline.

We are a thoughtful, thinking church.”

“Faith and Science.” www.opentogod.org/science.