



SMASH YOUR EXPECTATIONS



Smash
your
idols
leht2023



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"

■ *Those who are able please stand*

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" - arr. Don Wyrzten

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

***OPENING HYMN**

"Forty Days and Forty Nights"

George H. Smyttan, 1856, alt.

HEINLEIN 7.7.7.7.

Attr. Martin Herbst, 1676



1. For - ty days and for - ty nights you were fast - ing in the wild;
2. Shall not we your sor - row share and from world - ly joys ab - stain,
3. Then if Sa - tan on us press, flesh or spir - it to as - sail,
4. So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;
5. Keep, O keep us, Sav - ior dear, ev - er con - stant by your side;



1. for - ty days and for - ty nights tempt-ed, and yet un - de - filed.
2. fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with you to suf - fer pain?
3. vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant that we not faint nor fail!
4. round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as served you faith - ful - ly.
5. that with you we may ap - pear at the - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: It's okay to be different. Blessed are all the freaks, the outcasts, and the weirdos. Beloved are you, when you don't conform to the expectations of others. Holy are the rule-breakers, trouble-makers, and risk-takers who keep the world on its toes.

All: There's more to life than measuring up to someone else's standards. We are free to find our own way!

One: The world needs way more punks and rebels like you, and life is too short not to be yourself. Who cares what they say?
You rock!

All: Express yourself. Stand up for that you believe in. Cast off the boxes and labels that don't fit you. Sacred is the pursuit of living in a way that makes us feel alive!

SPECIAL MUSIC "When Jesus Walked the Wilderness" - Lloyd Larson
Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURES Deuteronomy 8:1-5 (O.T. pg. 159) Pam Branscome,
Matthew 4:1-11 (N.T. pg. 3) 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 "Smash Your Expectations" Rev. Meghan Malone

REFLECTION HYMN

"Amazing Grace"

NEW BRITAIN CM

John Newton, 1779; st. 4 anonymous Virginia Harmony, 1831; harm. Edwin O. Excell, 1900



1. A - maz - ing grace! How sweet the sound that
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
4. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace hath brought me
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved.
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

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!

OFFERING (Inspired by lyrics from "Playing God" by Paramore)

One: If God's the game that we're playing, well, we must get more acquainted

All: Because it has to be so lonely to be the only one who's holy

One: It's just my humble opinion, but it's one that I believe in

All: You don't have a wide enough point of view if the only thing you see is 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 THANKSGIVING

All: God encircle us with your Holy presence. Protect us from the temptation of getting caught up in our expectations, and guard our lips from stifling the awesomeness that lives inside our neighbor. May every gift we've given here today be used to smash down barriers, not make them. Amen!

* CLOSING HYMN

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

African-American spiritual

harm. J. Jefferson Cleveland and Verolga Nix, 1981

SOJOURNER 8.8.8.9

© 1981 The United Methodist Publishing House

Unison



1. I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 2. In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me.
 3. When I'm trou - bled, Lord, walk with me.

I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me.
 When I'm trou - bled, Lord, walk with me.

All a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 When my heart is al - most break - ing,
 When my head is bowed in sor - row,

O, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 O, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 O, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

* ANNOUNCEMENTS

* BENE_DICTION

One: We've been so caught up with over thinking, working hard just to keep breathing, We are famished in the wilderness, but we don't live on bread alone.

All: We live on every empowering word that comes from the mouth of God.

One: So smash those expectations, no matter your age, it's never too late.

Quit testing God through formulaic living, and be the person you've always wanted to be!

All: Let's smash our idols and love ourselves this Lent.

Humble enough to follow Jesus, courageous enough to walk with Christ. 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 Glory of These Forty Days" - arr. Robert J. Powell
Cathy Fafrak, Piano

"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 Kellie Johns,
Tracy Gabrielsen & Lorna Lindsley*

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - luke@uccmedina.org

Rev. Meghan Malone, Associate Pastor of Youth & Mission -
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Jack Sharpe, Maintenance

Sharon Perry, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 26, 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 26, 2023 thru March 4, 2023 WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Costa Rica Mission Trip
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
3:00 pm Confirmation Class

Mon Costa Rica Mission Trip
6:30 pm Women's Bible Study

Tues Costa Rica Mission Trip
7:00 pm Bible Study

Wed Costa Rica Mission Trip
10:30 am Quilters
6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm Evangelism Team
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thurs Costa Rica Mission Trip

Fri Costa Rica Mission Trip
7:00 pm pLenten Foundry Social

Sat

Sun SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

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

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

Scriptures: Deuteronomy 8:1-5
and Matthew 4:1-11

Sermon: "Smash Your Expectations"
Rev. Meghan Malone

Communion Table: The flowers are given by
Luke Lindon in honor of Kate's birthday.

DONATION OF THE MONTH

The February item we are 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!

ENDOWMENT FUND GIVING

Every February, the ENDOWMENT FUND asks our church family to consider sharing in the growth of the FUND by a donation. What better way to show your love of a family member or dear friend than by honoring them with a donation in their name. These donations to the FUND can be used for projects throughout the mission life of the UCC Church.

PASTOR LUKE'S SCHEDULE

Pastor Luke will be out of the office Monday, February 27th through Friday, March 3rd.

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!

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!

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

WOMEN'S LENTEN LUNCHEON

Do you want great fellowship? A time for spiritual reflection? Then come join us in Fellowship Hall for the Women's Lenten Luncheon on **Thursday, March 23rd from Noon - 2 pm**. All you need to do is sign up in the East Room (so we can plan seating arrangements) and bring a side dish to share for lunch. Following lunch, join us in the sanctuary for some spiritual moving music by Jenny Cochran and Cathy Fafrak.

Any questions, please contact Darlene Fazekas on the Caring Team.

LENTEN SEASON

Lent 2023 will be based on the book "The Idolatry of God" by Peter Rollins. This book talks about the advertising formula of the idol: certainty and satisfaction. "Buy this product, and you'll be completely satisfied or your money back." This formula has been adopted by the church onto God: "Be certain of your belief, and you'll be satisfied."

Lent is a time in the church year to re-evaluate our faith. Often, Christians give something up. Sometimes we need to give up our certainty and be more open to questions to become a more loving and active manifestation of Christ's love. Rollins says that joyfully embracing our brokenness, facing the unknown, and accepting difficulties can lead to the life abundant that Christ offers.

LADIES AND GIRLS TEA

The tea will be held on Saturday, May 20th from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm in our Fellowship Hall. Tickets will be \$10 per person and \$5 for girls under 10. Ticket sales will begin on Sunday, April 16th in the East Room. Vicki Miller will be presenting the program "For All the Tea in China." The committee is seeking to borrow teacups and tea pots as well as volunteers to help. If you have items that you would be willing to let us borrow for the day or would like to help, please contact Beth Hari, Darlene Fazekas or Becky Weber.

JUNK DRIVE FOR YOUTH MISSION

Recycle your old, broken, unused tech to support the youth summer mission trip! Bins will be out on the upstairs landing from March 5th to April 2nd. We can take your unused/broken computers, phones, tablets, cables, monitors, radios, video game consoles, small appliances and old power tools. Questions? Reach out to Logan Malone at 740-975-8558. Pickups can be arranged.

SANCTUARY BANNERS

As we begin the season of Lent, take notice of the banners that hang in the Sanctuary. Not unlike the Chrismon Tree, some people may not know the exact meaning of the different elements and symbols of each banner. You will notice the banners have been changed for the Lenten Season. Here is what they mean:



"Now is the Day of Salvation"

(Ash Wednesday Cross)

The verse is taken from the pericopes for Ash Wednesday. Violet (color for Lent) indicates sorrow for the sins that put Jesus on the cross. The thorns reinforce the earthly reality of Jesus' suffering. The sunrise of Easter Morning appears in the background showing the completion of God's promise of salvation for all.

"Lent Lamb"

The halo distinguishes the Lamb as Christ. The Lamb of God was sacrificed on the cross for the forgiveness of all sins. Violet represents the sorrow and suffering of the Lenten season.



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

ALL CHURCH LENTEN GATHERINGS

3-3 Foundry Social @ the Foundry

Go-Karts, Duck Pin Bowling, Shuffleboard, Cornhole etc.

3-10 Board Game Night @ the Church

Bring a game to play or join in a game!

3-17 Brad Rice Art Night

Come and paint with Brad Rice to show you how!

3-24 Bowling @ Medina Lanes

All above activities begin at 7 pm on Fridays

4-2 Palm Sunday Worship

4-6 Maundy Thursday Service in Fellowship Hall

Taizé & Foot Washing Featuring the Gathering Band

4-7 Good Friday Service in Sanctuary

Blues & Lamentations with Gateway Band

4-9 Easter Sunday Worship

7:00 Sunrise @ spring Grove Cemetery

8:15 in the Chapel

9:00 in Fellowship Hall

10:30 in the Sanctuary

February 26, 2023
First Sunday in Lent
Seminary Sunday/Church Vocations Sunday

Matthew 4:1-11

Abundant Grace

UCC General Minister and President Rev. John Dorhauer produces and presents a weekly podcast called *Into the Mystic*, a reminder that the art of spiritual reflection should be made a priority, taken seriously and practiced regularly.

On this Seminary Sunday and Church Vocations Sunday, his emphasis on spiritual reflection is especially timely for those on the path to theological education and church work.

On a recent episode of the podcast called "Watch Over Your Heart's Integrity," he begins with a favorite quotation from the ancient and wise desert fathers, "In your exploration of God, whatever path you find your soul longs after in your quest for the Sacred, do that, and always watch over your heart's integrity."

Rev. Dorhauer goes on to say that he was surprised to learn as a student that there were so many different theologies and that so many of them were incompatible with each other. The more he studied, the more in awe he became of all the ways there are to access God and determine what Her primary characteristics might be. Was God removed and heavenly, or accessible and willing to sit with us, or present in sanctuaries and available to priests alone, or over seeing judge. He learned as a student that the answer to all these is a resounding YES. Dorhauer was further in awe that those who put together the texts seemed to accept, even to celebrate, these dichotomies.

How do you find God? In a soaring cathedral? In nature, being on a mountain? In a quiet and rustic chapel in silence? In the smile of a child or a hug from a loved one? In a beautiful and artistic turn of phrase? Any of these things and many more can call to mind the goodness of God.

"There are as many pathways to God as there are people walking the earth," Dorhauer concludes. Whatever path you might find yourself on, follow the words and wisdom of the desert fathers. "In your exploration of God, whatever path you find your soul longs after in your quest for the Sacred, do that, and always watch over your heart's integrity."