

SMASH
YOUR AVOIDANCE



26TH
MAR

MEDINA UCC

SMASH YOUR IDOLS: LENT 2023

uccmedina.org or on your socials @MedinaU3C

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 "Lenten Song" – Dennis Eliot

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 "Love Divine All Loves Excelling"

Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.

BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D
John Zundel, 1885

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
2 Breathe, O breathe your lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;
3 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all your life re - ceive;
4 Fin - ish, then, your new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less may we prove;

Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing, all your faith-ful mer-cies crown;
 Let us all in you in-her-it, let us find your prom-ised rest;
 Sud-den-ly re-turn, and ne-ver, ne-ver-more your tem-ples leave.
 Let us see your great sal-va-tion per-fect-ly re-stored in you;

Je-sus, you are all com-pas-sion; pure, un-bound-ed love im-part.
 Take a-way our love of sin-ning; Al-pha and O-me-ga be;
 You we would be al-ways bless-ing, love you as your an-gels love,
 Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry, till in heaven we take our place,

Vis-it us with your sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-ery trem-bling heart.
 End of faith, as its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
 Pray and praise for your un-fail-ing, wound-ed arms out-stretched a-bove.
 Crowned as saints, we ev-er shall be lost in won-der, love, and praise.

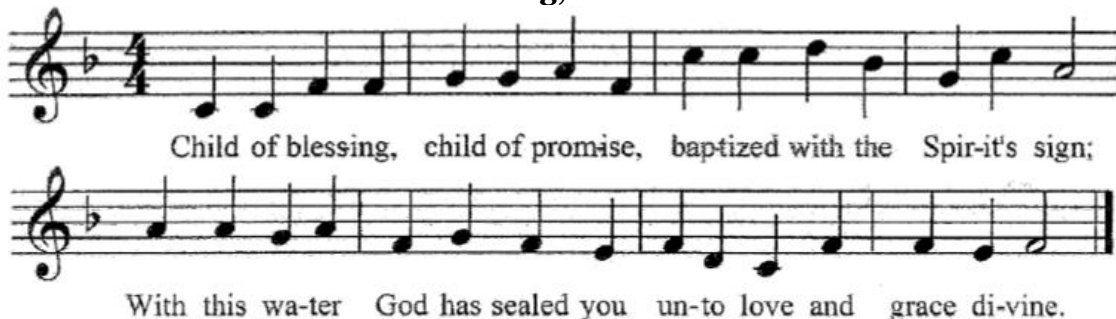
PAY VERY CLOSE ATTENTION TO: John 11:17-27 (N.T. pg. 99)
 Ashley Bonsell, liturgist

SPECIAL MUSIC "Your Word" Children's Choir

SACRAMENT OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

Kallie Reece Armbrust, Miles Oliver Armbrust,
 Finnley Elle Armbrust & Adalee Winn Armbrust

“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”



Question to the Congregation

I commend to your love **Kallie Reece, Miles Oliver, Finnley Elle and Adalee Winn Armbrust** whom we receive as children in the family of God. Through your lives and example, will you support these parents in their desire to guide **Kallie, Milo, Finn and Addie** in the knowledge and love of God and of our savior Jesus Christ?

People: In joyful response to God's grace, we promise our love, our support and our care.

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 Avoidance”

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

based on this sermon by Diana Butler Bass: <https://dianabutlerbass.substack.com/p/all-the-marys#details>

SPECIAL MUSIC

“O Lord, Hear My Voice” – Ralph E. Williams

Chancel Choir

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

Merciful God, we thank you for your word found within us, among us, and in our Bible.

It is a lamp unto our feet, a light for our path.

And in the shadows of our sorrow,

We are not left to ourselves.

We have the light of your promises to sustain and comfort us.

We have the gift of this day and we offer you our praise as we rise in body or spirit to sing.

*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

Jesus you are the resurrection and the life. May what we offer bring new life and hope to our neighbors. May we show our belief in you through our actions. We pray that others will know that we follow you by our love. Thanks be to you, Our God, Our Christ, Our Spirit; One God forever and ever. Amen!

*CLOSING HYMN

"We Limit Not the Truth"

OLD 22nd C.M.D.

George Rawson, 1853; alt.

Anglo-Genevan Psalter, 1556

1 We lim - it not the truth of God to our poor reach of mind,
2 Who dares to bind to one's own sense the or - a - cles of heaven,
3 E - ter - nal God, In - car - nate Word, Spir - it of flame and dove:

to no - tions of our day and place, crude, par - tial, and con - fined;
for all the na - tions, tongues, and climes and all the a - ges given?
en - large, ex - pand all liv - ing souls to com - pre - hend your love;

The musical score consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

No, let a new and bet - ter hope with - in our hearts be stirred:
 That u - ni-verse, how much un - known! that o - cean un - ex - plored!
 And help us all to seek your will with wis - er powers con - ferred:

O God, grant yet more light and truth to break forth from your Word.

***ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***BENEDICTION**

(written by Pádraig Ó Tuama and found here: <https://peterrollins.com/go-in-pieces>)

The task has ended. Go in pieces.

Our faith has been rear-ended, certainty amended, and something might be mended that we didn't know was torn.

And we are fire, bright, burning fire,

turning from the higher places from which we fell,

emptying ourselves into the hell in which we'll find our loving and beloved brother,

mother, sister, father, friend.

And so friends, the task has ended. Go in pieces to see and feel your world.

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 "Give Me Jesus" -arr. Douglas E. Wagner 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 the Armbrust Family.***

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PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - luke@uccmedina.org
Rev. Meghan Malone, Associate Pastor of Youth & Mission - meghan@uccmedina.org
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Rebecca Rosen, Nursery Supervisor
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance
Sharon Perry, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

MARCH 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

March 26, 2023 thru April 2, 2023

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:45 am Children's Choir
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship

Mon OPERATION HOMES WEEK

6:30 pm Women's Bible Study

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

PALM SUNDAY

8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:30 am Third Grade Bible Class
9:45 am Children's Choir
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
11:30 am Bible Project Presentations
4:30 pm Men's Group

REMINDER FOR PARENTS

This is just a friendly reminder for parents to please go downstairs to pick up your child/children immediately following the service. Thank you for your understanding and support

BIBLE SUNDAY

Bible Sunday will be Sunday, April 16th. On this day four special third graders will be presented their very own bible. We hope you can join us for their special day and help us celebrate them.

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

Scriptures: John 11:17-27

Sermon: "Smash Your Avoidance"
Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The flowers are given by Chuck & Nancy Masi in honor of their 66th anniversary.

HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday will be led by the Gathering Band in Fellowship Hall at 7 p.m. on April 6th.

Good Friday "Blues and Lamentations" service will be held in the Sanctuary at 7 p.m. on April 7th featuring Jenny Cochran and Gateway Band.

Easter Sunday Worship

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service at Spring Grove Chapel
8:15 a.m. in our Chapel
9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

LAST DAY - EASTER FLOWERS

You may donate a flower in honor or memory of someone to decorate the Chapel, Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary for Easter and claim it afterward, or have it delivered to a shut-in by the Flower Committee. **This year there will once again be an assortment of different flowers. There is no way to specify what type you can order, but they will be first come, first serve as to which type of flower you can take.** The cost is \$10.00 for any one of them. Deadline for ordering is **March 27th**. Please fill out a yellow order sheet (available from the ushers) and turn it in to the church office OR you can purchase directly through REALM. <https://tinyurl.com/4twpex2k>

MISSION TEAM

The Mission Team is making a gardening gift basket to benefit Operation Homes. The basket will be auctioned off at their April 16th spaghetti lunch fundraiser at Prince of Peace Church. There will be a collection box for these items under the Operation Homes sign up table. All donated items should be received by Saturday, April 9th so the basket can be created and delivered. Thank you so much for your help! Items requested may be found on this SignUp Genius link: <https://tinyurl.com/4s7kwxar>

OPERATION HOMES SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

Please plan to join us for this very worthy cause! Sunday, April 16th from noon-3pm, there will be a spaghetti dinner at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church to raise funds for Operation Homes. Tickets are \$12 per person and \$8 for 6 yrs. and under. There will also be a raffle basket. Order your tickets online at operationhomes.org/store/ or call 330-419-4863.

EASTER CANDY NEEDED

The DELTs will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt at church after the 10:30 service on Easter Sunday. We are asking for **individually wrapped** Easter candy donations to fit in the little eggs. There will be a container outside the church office to put your donations in. Thank you in advance!

EASTER EGG HUNT

After the 10:30 service on Easter Sunday, we will once again have a quick Easter Egg Hunt for the children in the grassy area by the pergola. The kids should bring their Easter Basket or a bag so they can add a few more eggs to their collection!

DONATION OF THE MONTH

The Mission Team's item for the month is **granola bars/ breakfast bars**. We heard there is a need for the snacks at the middle schools and Cups! Thank you all!

JUNK DRIVE FOR YOUTH MISSION: LAST WEEK!

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.

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 31st. Good luck, everyone!

40 DAYS OF GIVING

During the 40 Days of Lent the Caring Team is collecting various nonperishable food items and would like to challenge other teams and members of the church to do the same. Collection bins are located beneath the monitor in the Welcome Area along with lists of food items needed. Just look for the "40 Days of Giving" sign. The food will be donated to local food pantries in Medina.

PINWHEEL WALK TO PREVENT CHILD ABUSE

On Sunday April 16th from 1-3pm, let's head out to the Medina Square to support the Children's Center of Medina County as they plant 595 pinwheels representing each case of Child Abuse or Neglect investigated by Medina County Job and Family Services during 2022. Participants are encouraged to wear blue, the designated color for child abuse prevention awareness.

COMPASSION CAMP

I can't believe that it is time to start thinking about Vacation Bible School. Compassion Camp will be held June 5th-8th. Registration will begin on Easter Sunday! So, mark your calendars and plan to be part of the fun. If you are willing to help and volunteer in any way, please see Stacie Yates. We will start having planning meetings soon.

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.

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

March 26, 2023
Fifth Sunday in Lent

John 11:1-45

Breath of Hope

Traveling with his disciples, Jesus learns that his friend Lazarus is ill. Although his friends urge him to go to Lazarus at once, Jesus continues to travel and teach. When he reaches Lazarus's hometown, he meets his friends Mary and Martha, who give him the news that their beloved brother Lazarus has died. Jesus is moved to tears at this.

This is a short recap of a long story that is worth reading in its entirety. You will find in the book of John, chapter 11, if you have not heard it already in worship. As you read, notice that several times Jesus proclaims that the healing of Lazarus will be to show God's glory. This story reveals that God's glory is revealed not only when Lazarus is raised but whenever those who are bound or considered dead are set free.

As far as we know, this is the only time Jesus commands someone to "Come out!" As you read this story, listen! Is The Living Christ saying those same words to you? What death do you need to come out of?

Perhaps it is time to come out of the closet, embracing for yourself and to others in your life the totality of who God made you to be. Maybe it's time to come out of a suffocating relationship, one that stifles your growth and life. Maybe it's time to come out of a job or career, taking new steps into a new life. Maybe it's the right time to come out from under the heavy weight of limits you or others have placed on you because of your abilities.

Listen! Jesus is saying, Come out! because it shows God's glory when you live no longer bound, but as your full and true self.

And pay close attention to the end of the story. After commanding Lazarus to come out, Jesus gives another command to the wider community. They are to help to unbind the resurrected man. So, the process of coming out is not an individual one. It requires the help of a wider supportive community who can provide prayer, assistance, shelter, and encouragement.

How can you both come out yourself and support others in the process of coming out? This is how the glory of God is shown indeed!