



SMASH YOUR EGO



Smash
your
idols
lent 2023

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

"Aria, Op. 51" - Flor Peeters

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

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Frederick William Faber (1854), alt. IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D
Dutch melody, arr. Julius Röntgen, 1906

The image shows the musical score for the hymn "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy". It is written for a single melodic line in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score consists of two systems of music. The first system has four measures, and the second system has four measures. Below the first two measures of the first system, there are two lines of lyrics: "1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;" and "2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;". The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes.

there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.

There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's heaven;
If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;

there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Source of our being, we are tired of pretending like we've got it all together.

All: We put ourselves together, just to watch ourselves fall apart.

One: So, for just a little while this morning, can we drop the act, take off the mask, and embrace our brokenness?

All: God, help us to bring our doubts into the daylight. Let us connect with each other through our shared uncertainty, and trust that your Spirit will meet us wherever we are. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

John 3:1-17 (N.T. pg. 88)

Ashley Bonsell, liturgist

SPECIAL MUSIC

"God So Loved the World" from "The Crucifixion"

by Sir John Stainer

Chancel Choir

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 Ego"

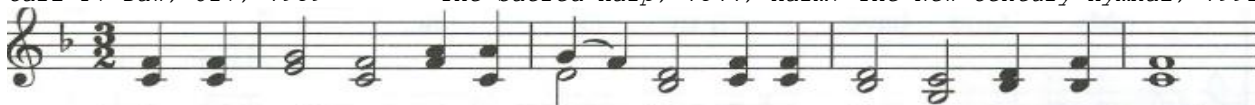
Rev. Meghan Malone

COMMUNION HYMN

"As We Gather At Your Table" BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7.D

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989

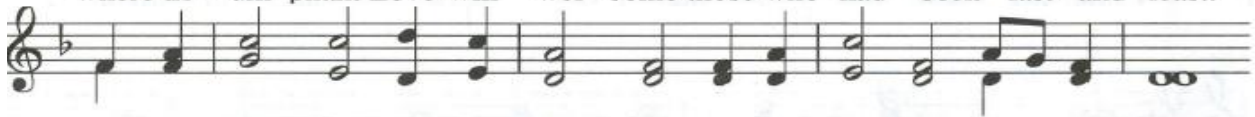
The Sacred Harp, 1844; harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1992



1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.



Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. You do not need to be a member of the United Church of Christ to partake in the Holy Sacrament. All bread served is gluten free.

Invitation

The Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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 Everything Is Alright by Motion City Soundtrack)*

One: We say that we're alright, just to end the discussion.

All: Underneath we're feeling nervous, fighting against the future, counting tiles on the ceiling, and ready to head for the hills.

One: It's hard to talk to strangers, but we have all this in common: the process, and the in-betweens, and the long goodbyes.

All: Everything's not fine, but together we can make it better.

*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, thank you for welcoming us as we are: holy hot messes who are known, loved, and enough. You meet our pain with compassion, our reservations with grace, and our issues with ever-ending patience. Bless the gifts we bring today, so that they might inspire more late-night talks with you. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN "As Moses Raised the Serpent Up"

Versification The New Century Hymnal, 1993

MORNING SONG CM
Melody from Sixteen Tune Settings, 1812
Harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1940

1 As Mo - ses raised the ser - pent up, God's
 2 For God so loved the world that God, all
 3 That Child was sent in - to the world not

Child is lift - ed high; And all who in that
 hu - man life to free, Gave to the world God's
 to con - demn but save; Now through Christ's name all

Child be - lieve shall nev - er, nev - er die.
 Child that all might live e - ter - nal - ly.
 are re - deemed—what won - drous love God gave.

*ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION

One: We're all human, so let's act like it. Less concerned with appearances, and more open with our raw and unpolished hearts. For God so loves this world that he came to be a part of it,

All: Jesus made himself vulnerable to share eternal life with us.

One: We are dust and ash, carried by water and wind from the Spirit,

All: And every speck of us is loved, and we are called to love each other.

*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 "If You But Trust in God to Guide you" - W. Schütze Cathy Fafrak, Piano

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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****No one signed up to host Coffee Hour this week.
If you would like to be a host, please sign up on the bulletin board
in the East Room hallway.*

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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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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

MARCH 5, 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 5, 2023 thru March 12, 2023

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon Cook for Cups
7:00 pm Evangelism Team

Tues **8:00 am Men's Breakfast**
12:00 pm Book Club
7:00 pm Bible Study

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm WISE Team
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thurs 7:00 pm Parent Support Group –
“Keep Talking About Mental Health”
7:00 pm Hobby Horse Team

Fri Confirmation Retreat
7:00 pm Lenten Board Game Night

Sat Confirmation Retreat

Sun THIRD 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
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting

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

Scriptures: John 3:1-17

Sermon: “Smash Your Ego”
Rev. Meghan Malone

Communion Table: The flowers are given by
Kellie & Crell Johns in honor of their 19th
anniversary.

EASTER FLOWERS

It's time to order your Easter Flower! 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>

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 or use this link: <https://tinyurl.com/2p97f6tz> (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.

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.

DONATION OF THE MONTH

Thank you all for your continued support for the Monthly Donations! We collected 51 paper towel rolls in January and 41 bottles of dish soap in February! Thank you! The Mission Team is delivering the items to our partnership locations and pantries in our area! **The monthly donation for March will be 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

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.

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.

BIRTHDAY BAG DONATIONS

Our Youth Group will be assembling birthday bags on March 19th that will be distributed to kids in our Garfield families and two local food pantries. The bags will contain a variety of items to help with celebration and a few small treats for the birthday kid. Most donation items cost \$1.25 at Dollar Tree. If you would like to help a local kid celebrate, we invite you to look at the list, sign up, and bring donations back to church by Sunday, March 19th. Look for the cubbies with signs on our beautiful wood shelves in the mission area to leave your donations. **Specified items** are listed on the UCC Families facebook page or you may click here: <https://tinyurl.com/mrybc87n>

PARENT/CAREGIVER MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP

"Keep Talking About Mental Health"

Are you a parent or caregiver to a child that struggles with a mental health diagnosis (including, but not limited to ADD, ADHD, Autism, OCD, Anxiety, SPD, etc.)? Do you feel you are on your journey alone and searching for support? Do you feel lost and need help navigating? Join us every second Thursday at 7 pm in the East Room for a group that can offer support, experiences, education, and a sense of belonging to a community that shares the struggle. Feel free to bring your "support person". What is this? Maybe it's a friend, sibling, or anyone that you share your experiences with. They need support and education too!

Don't walk this path alone: let us walk together! Our first meeting is Thursday, March 9th.

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!

GREETING CARD OUTREACH

Circle of Caring Greeting Cards Outreach Ministry asks...
For help with some very important tasks.

Circle of Caring is in much-need of a team member...
Available to take on one month either April, July, November, or December.

Cards of Thinking of You, Get Well, Sympathy, and 80+ Birthday cheer...
Are pulled each week, each month, each calendar year.

Sending God's love out in the world is our outreach ministry...
Keeping in touch with church membership-at-large is the key.

Looking for a way to serve God and our church?
Volunteering with this group may end your search.

Not sure what Greeting Cards Table is about, or what you are to do?
Information, supplies, and training are provided to you.

Interested in serving God and our congregation in this way?
Contact Alice Metzloff by phone, or email, or in person on Sunday.

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 5, 2023

Second Sunday in Lent
UCC Women's Week, March 5-11

John 3:1-17

Bold Blessing

Today we meet Nicodemus, a leader and teacher of the law. As a leader and teacher, Nicodemus is the one who other people come to for answers. If a conundrum is too complicated for the average person to unravel, Nicodemus knows what to think.

But although he is the teacher, Nicodemus knows he is not done learning yet. Whatever discomfort or even danger compels him to visit Jesus in the dead of night, his questions are even stronger than his fear. Because of his practice of learning and teaching in the temple, Nicodemus knows that the very best way to learn is in communities of other learners. He does not try to answer the unanswerable questions by himself. He is an example and a model of what it means to be a lifelong learner.

Like Nicodemus, participants in the United Church of Christ's Nollau Leadership Institute are life-long learners, ready to take the risks associated with seeking community to answer life's biggest questions. According to their website, the institute "is designed to cultivate today's leaders who are committed to creating a just, caring, and compassionate world. It is a program that acknowledges the many ways this hoped-for world is alive in each one of us, and how it comes into fuller expression when we journey together...Through in-person retreats, online interactions, and peer mentoring, Nollau provides leadership formation through a variety of learning modalities and within a community of practice. Small group work, journaling, art, embodiment, and spiritual practices are all part of the program alongside the interactive didactic sessions. The program culminates with a capstone project and consecration as a Diakonal Minister at the CHHSM Annual Gathering.

If you are interested in examining what it means to be a leader by exploring what it means to be human, to be in relationship, and to be part of something larger than yourself, CHHSM welcomes you to apply to this transformative year-long program:
<https://www.chhsm.org/leadership/nollau/>.

"Nollau Institute." *CHHSM*, 25 Feb. 2022,
<https://www.chhsm.org/leadership/nollau/>.