

The image shows the interior of a church with a high, vaulted wooden ceiling. The ceiling is made of dark wood with a complex network of beams and trusses. Two large, white, cylindrical light fixtures are mounted on the ceiling. Below the ceiling, a wooden beam runs across the width of the church. The walls are also made of wood, and there are windows on the sides. In the foreground, there are rows of wooden pews with rounded ends. The floor is made of dark wood. In the background, there is an altar area with a small table and some items on it. The overall atmosphere is warm and rustic.

holy language

MEDINA
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL



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”

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 Episode on “Dunlap’s Creek” (We Walk By Faith) – David Paxton Cathy Fafrak, Organist

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** (Greek Orthodox traditional call to worship, requested by John Kavoras)

Χριστός ανέστη εκ νεκρών, θανάτω θάνατον πατήσας, και τοις εν τοις μνήμασι ζωήν χαρισάμενος.

Christ is risen from the dead, and by his death he has trampled upon death
and given life to those who were in the tomb.

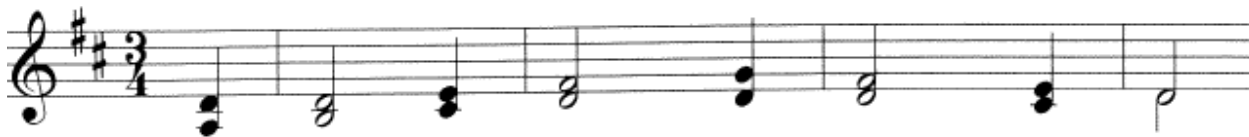
***OPENING HYMN**

“That Easter Day with Joy was Bright”

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR LM

Latin Hymn (5th c.); tr. John Mason Neale, 1852, alt.

Trier manuscript (15th c.); adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609;
harm. George R. Woodward, 1904



- | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|-----|---|------|---------|------|-----|---|--------|---------|
| 1. That | Eas | - | ter | day | with | joy | - | was | bright, |
| 2. His | ris | - | en | flesh | with | ra | - | diance | glowed; |
| 3. O | Je | - | sus, | strong | in | gen | - | tle | - ness, |
| 4. Come, | ris | - | en | Christ, | with | us | - | a | - bide |



the sun shone out with fair - er light,
his wound - ed hands and feet he showed
come now your - self our hearts pos - sess,
in this our joy - ful Eas - ter - tide;

when, to their long - ing eyes re - stored,
those scars their sol - emn wit - ness gave
that we may give you all our days
your own re - deemed for ev - er shield

the glad a - pos - tles saw their Lord.
that Christ was ris - en from the grave.
the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.
from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 16 (O.T. pg. 469)
John 20:19-31 (N.T. pg. 108)

Deb Waldron, Liturgist

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Jesus Loves Me"

Kaelyn Miller, soloist

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.

THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATIONS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

SERMON

"Holy Language"

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

HYMN

"Now the Green Blade Rises"

NOEL NOUVELET 11.10.10.11.

John M. C. Crum, 1928; © 1928 Oxford University Press

French carol

Unison



1. Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
 2. In the grave they laid the love by ha - tred slain,
 3. Christ came forth at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,
 4. When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
 think - ing that Je - sus would not wake a - gain,
 who that for three days in the grave had lain;
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,

love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
 raised from the dead, the ris - en Christ is seen;
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;

Love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

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

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, enter into the locked rooms of our heart. Free up the stuck parts of our spirit. May we not doubt your ways but believe. May we be the extension of our sacred stories: your body doing many other signs. Your covenant promise to this world for the forgiveness of sin.

Thanks be to you, our God, our Christ, our Spirit; one God forever and ever. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"Christ Rose Up From the Dead"

ASCENSUS 7.6.7.6.7.6.9. with refrain

Arr. Phil V. S. Lindsley, 20th c.

African American traditional; alt.

Refrain



Christ rose, Christ rose, Christ rose up from the dead, Christ rose,



Christ rose, Christ rose from the dead, Christ rose Christ rose,



Christ rose up from the dead, and God's grace will bear my spir - it home.



- 1 They cru - ci - fied my Sav - ior up - on a com - mon cross, they
- 2 And Jo - seph begged his bod - y, and laid it in the tomb, and
- 3 An an - gel came from heav - en and rolled a - way the stone, an
- 4 Oh, Mar - y, she came run - ning and found an emp - ty tomb, oh,



cru - ci - fied my Sav - ior up - on a com - mon cross, They
Jo - seph begged his bod - y, and laid it in the tomb, And
an - gel came from heav - en and rolled a - way the stone, An
Mar - y, she came run - ning and found an emp - ty tomb, Oh,



cru - ci - fied my Sav - ior up - on a com - mon cross,
Jo - seph begged his bod - y, and laid it in the tomb,
an - gel came from heav - en and rolled a - way the stone,
Mar - y, she came run - ning and found an emp - ty tomb,



(1-4) and God's grace will bear my spir - it home.

*ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BENEDICTION** (written by the Rev. M Jade Kaiser, enfleshed liturgies,

www.enfleshed.com/liturgy/ordinaryworshipsettings/)

We believe the resurrecting power of Christ
cannot be overcome by evil,
but persists in all collective efforts
to make life flourish in the midst of destruction,
to birth beauty in places of death,
and to tend gently to the aches of this world.

We profess the transforming power of love.

We profess that justice is a form of love.

We profess that we are still growing into the mystery of love.

In the company of the saints who go before us,

we journey together by grace,

seeking always to unlearn all that obstructs authentic relationship,

listening for the guidance of Sacred Wisdom,

And praying earnestly for the day

the Kingdom of God is born anew.

Until it is so, we live in hope,

for God is with us. Having been blessed to be a blessing, go wherever the Spirit sends you.

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** "Alleluia! The Strife Is O'er" – arr. Franklin Ritter Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"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 DELTS

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

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Jeff Miller, Financial Director - jeff@uccmedina.org

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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

APRIL 16, 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

April 16, 2023 thru April 23, 2023 WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun BIBLE SUNDAY

8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:45 am Children's Choir
10:30 am Traditional Worship
11:45 am Caring Team Meeting
4:30 pm Youth Group

Mon 1:00 pm Breadmakers
2:00 pm Religion & Science Study
6:00 pm Religion & Science Study
6:30 pm Women's Bible Study

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study

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

Thurs

Fri
Sat 11:00 am Don Canfield Memorial Service

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

BIBLE SUNDAY

Bible Sunday is today 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: Psalm 16 and John 20:19-31

Sermon: "Holy Language"
Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The flowers are given by Diane Howard in memory of Brian Howard.

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.

WHY IS CHRISTIANITY IN DECLINE AND WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

Only 28% of Generation Z (those generally 25 years old and younger) attend church at least once a month, and 31% of both Generation Z and 31% older adults never attend church service outside of special occasions such as weddings and funerals. Why is this and how can we reverse these trends? I believe we have the potential and opportunity to forge a Christianity that is exciting, growing, impactful, and engaging. You are invited to join Ryan Collins as he presents his seminary capstone project on April 16th following the 10:30 am service in Fellowship Hall. The presentation and discussion time will be about an hour and a half long. I hope to see you there!

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.

LADIES & GIRLS TEA TICKETS

Just a reminder that the Tea will be held on Saturday, May 20 from 11:30 - 1:30pm in our Fellowship Hall. The menu will include scones, soup, tea sandwiches, fruit, fancy sweets, and of course tea. It is truly a full lunch.

Tickets will be sold every Sunday in the East Room after the services until May 13. The price is \$10 for ladies and \$5 for girls under 10. You may register through REALM here:

<https://tinyurl.com/uccladiestea>

This year we will begin our tea with the program, "All The Tea In China" presented by our own Vicki Miller. The entire event will be held in Fellowship Hall with the luncheon following the program.

PLEASE BE PROMPT.

If you have questions please contact Beth Hari, Darlene Fazekas, or Becky Weber.

QUILTS FOR KIDS

Expecting a new baby in your life? Want to be ready for the next baby shower? Have a special little one in your life? The Caring Team presents... "Quilts for Kids" a raffle fundraiser. Check out the quilts on display in the East Room on Sunday starting April 16th. Money raised will be used to purchase highchairs/child friendly seating for Fellowship Hall. Tickets will be sold for \$2 each or 6 for \$10. The drawing will take place at the Ladies and Girls Tea on Saturday, May 20th.

DONATION OF THE MONTH

The Mission Team's item for the month is **laundry detergent/pods**. We collected 73 boxes of granola bars in March! Thank you for your continued support!

LAWN MOWER CREW

"The Lord God took humans and put them in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." – Genesis 2:15

If you admire the beautiful landscaping of our church's grounds, please consider joining the mowing crew. The time commitment for mowing the lawn averages and 1½ hours every two weeks in the spring and once a month in the summer and fall. The Property and Grounds team provides a riding mower, push mower, gasoline and trimming tools. Please contact Carl Skorepa at carlskorepa@yahoo.com or call 330-421-3189 for more details.

COMPASSION CAMP HELP

This year's Vacation Bible School, "Compassion Camp" will be held June 5th-8th. **Registration has begun!** 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.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Pastor Luke and our congregation have been selected to receive the United Church Homes' **2023 Diakonie Award for The Chapel Hill Community.** This award is presented to congregations who have demonstrated faithfulness in their support of the mission of United Church Homes. Pastor Luke, and a few others, will receive this honor at a reception in August. Thank you, church, for continuing to support United Church Homes!

ACCESSIBILITY VIDEO

As part of their Committed to Inclusion project, the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities is creating a series of videos that show local efforts to create inclusion for people with disabilities. The newest video interviews Pastor Luke and takes a look at our church!

You can watch it at

<https://www.tinyurl.com/UCCAccessible>. If

you'd like to join our Accessible to All team, let Pastor Luke know!

NEXT SERMON SERIES: “HOME SWEET HOME”

In our new Worship Series HOME SWEET HOME, we'll celebrate nature. From April 23 to May 27, we'll journey with the poet laureate of nature Mary Oliver as we explore God's first testament of Nature! We'll examine our relationship with the earth and remind one another to love our home and take care of it and one another.

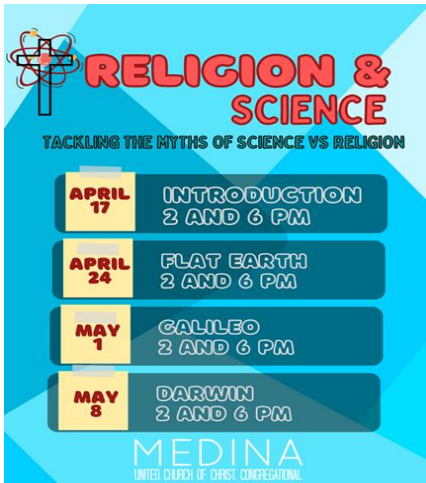
NEW BOOK STUDY...

Religion and Science:

Tackling the Myths of Science vs. Religion

The UCC is part of Mainstream Christianity. This term has been forgotten, but it has great impact for those who know. It means that we come from a stream that sees no divide between science and religion. Science and religion can be viewed as two ways of telling the same story. Science deals with the how and religion deals with the why. Science can tell us about the nature of things where religion can tell us about the nature of the universe.

This Monday class April 17th – May 8th, with identical sessions at 2 pm and 6 pm, requires no book or prior learning, just an open mind as Pastor Luke will tackle some of the myths of science vs. religion, how they came to be, and what the true stories are. All ages are welcome.



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

April 16, 2023
Second Sunday of Easter

John 20:19-31

Holy Language

Tuesday, April 18 is Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. On a recent Yom HaShoah, Rev. Sigrid Rother of Westerville Community United Church of Christ in Columbus, Ohio was invited by a rabbi at a local reform synagogue to speak at a Holocaust Remembrance Day service for the local Jewish community.

"I was probably the only Christian in the room. It was kind of an odd feeling," pastor Rother remembers. But she took a breath and told her story. Rother was born and grew up in a Germany imbued with a common guilt over the atrocities of the Holocaust. Her sense of responsibility was personal as well as national. Her own father, just ten years old when Adolph Hitler came to power, had been part of the Hitler Youth and then later a Nazi pilot. Growing up in a small and impoverished Polish village, Rother believes her father's Nazi involvement had provided an outlet for activities like camping and sports that were not offered elsewhere. "I say this," Rother explains, "not justifying, just trying to understand. I don't want to make him into a victim." In the post-war years, her father worked as a miner and became a difficult alcoholic. Rother's mother's family was less enthusiastic about the Nazi party, but were coerced in joining the party, even though they did not agree with its policies.

All of this was in the background, but rarely mentioned in her childhood. Rother got a call to ministry while still in Germany but felt constrained by the limits of the state church there. She studied in South Africa when apartheid was being dismantled, and that experience along with her childhood gave her a strong sense of justice. "When Black Lives Matter happened, I could not but stand up, because it is so ingrained in me," she says.

As she told this story to the group at the Remembrance Day service, Rother admits, "I was so nervous! Who do I think I am? Here are people who lost family members. Seeing survivors, with tattoos on their arms... there were tears in my eyes." But at the end of the event, the only response was an outpouring of love and gratitude.

It took courage for Sigrid Rother to break generational silence and admit her family's complicity in her nation's violent past. The first steps were nerve-wracking, but the path she walked led to greater understanding and healing. May her story inform us as we take the journey toward reconciliation and the creation of the Reign of God.