



RIGHT IN  
**FRONT**

of us.





# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559 [www.uccmedina.org](http://www.uccmedina.org)

**\*\*\*Assisted Listening Devices Available – Please Ask Your Usher\*\*\***

LIVE STREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT [UCCMEDINA.ORG](http://UCCMEDINA.ORG)

- *During the service, Jesus Vibes Sunday School is available for ages 3-8<sup>th</sup> 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** “For the Beauty of the Earth” with “This Is My Father’s World” – arr. Bill Wolaver  
Cathy Fafarak, 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**

May the time we spend together in your presence, oh God;  
**Nourish our hearts and minds.**  
May it strengthen our relationship with you,  
**And renew our commitment to live in this world as your faithful disciples.**  
For you alone are God,  
**the Source and Sustainer of life. Amen.**

#### **\*OPENING HYMN**

*Eleanor Farjeon, 1931, © 1957 Eleanor Farjeon,  
used by permission of Harold Ober Associates*

#### **“Morning Has Broken”**

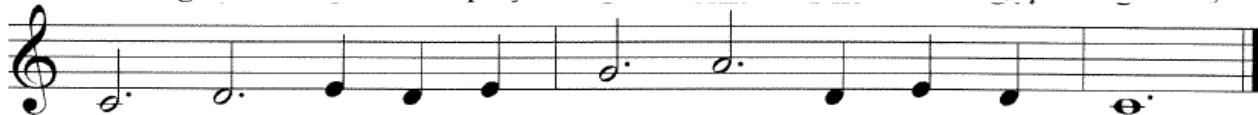
BUNESSAN 5-5-5-4-D.  
*Gaelic melody; arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985,  
arr. © 1987 CRC Publications*



1. Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing, black - bird has  
 2. Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en, like the first  
 3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing born of the



spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the  
 dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet  
 one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery



morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!  
 gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.  
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

**POETRY READING** "The Place I Want to Get Back To" by Mary Oliver from *Thirst*, Beacon Press, 2006

**SCRIPTURES** Psalm 147 (O.T. pg. 549) Brad Rice, Liturgist  
 Luke 24:13-27 (N.T. pg. 84)

**ANTHEM** "The Blue Green Hills of Earth" (from *Missa Gaia/Earth Mass*) Chancel Choir  
 Words and music by Kim Oler; choral setting by Paul Halley

**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** "Home Sweet Home: Right In Front of Us" Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

**HYMN** "For Beauty of Meadows" ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.  
 Walter H. Farquharson (b. 1936), © 1971 Walter Farquharson Welsh melody



1 For beau - ty of mead - ows, for gran - deur of trees,  
2 As stew - ards of beau - ty re - ceived at your hand,  
3 Teach us once a - gain to be gar - deners in peace;



for flow - ers of wood - lands, for crea - tures of seas,  
as crea - tures who hear your most ur - gent com - mand,  
all na - ture a - round us is ours but on lease;



for all you cre - at - ed and gave us to share,  
we turn from our waste - ful de - struc - tion of life,  
your name we would hal - low in all that we do,



we praise you, Cre - a - tor, ex - tol - ling your care.  
con - fess - ing our fail - ures, con - fess - ing our strife.  
ful - fill - ing our call - ing, cre - at - ing with you.

## 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

Such gifts, bestowed, can't be repeated.

**We shall continue talking with one another, and you Giver of All Gifts.**

Our address is gratitude.

**Our destination is service in your name.**

Let us rise in body or spirit and sing out our praise!

**\*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

Creator, you are creating still. Christ you are right in front of us. Spirit, you are within and among us. One God, now and forever more! Amen!

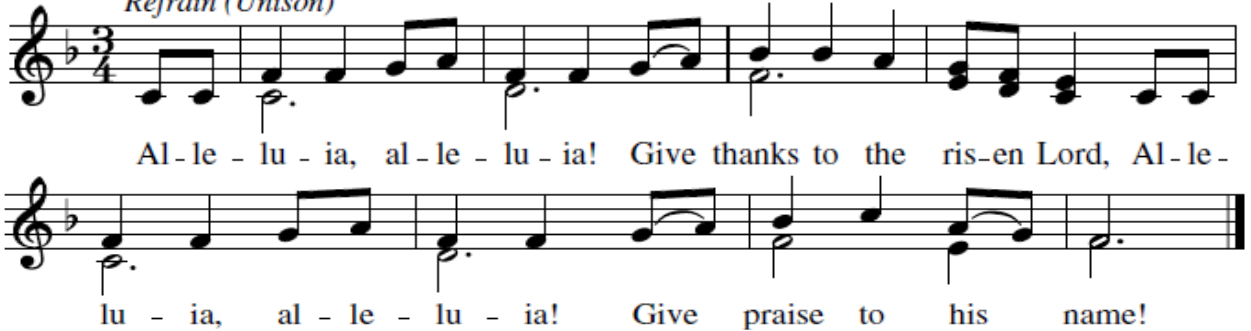
## \*CLOSING HYMN "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks to the Risen Lord"

ALLELUIA NO. 1

Words and music: Donald Fishel (b. 1950)

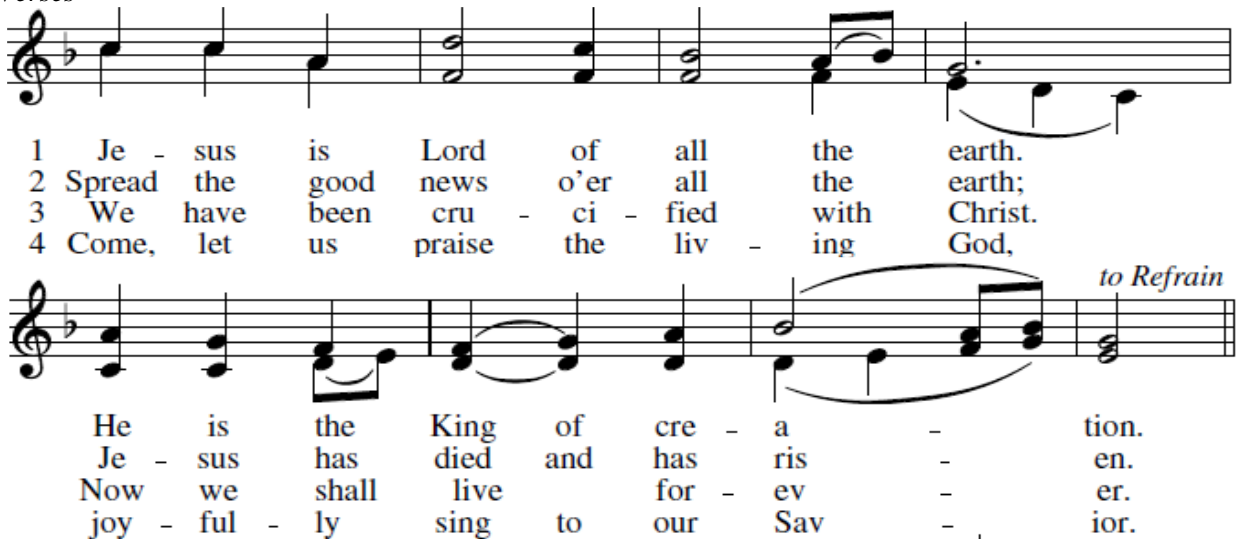
© 1973 The Word of God Music (Admin. The Copyright Company)

### Refrain (Unison)



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the ris - en Lord, Al - le -  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give praise to his name!

### Verses



1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.  
2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth;  
3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.  
4 Come, let us praise the liv - ing God,  
He is the King of cre - a - tion.  
Je - sus has died and has ris - en.  
Now we shall live for - ev - er.  
joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*BENEDICTION (St. Augustine, from UCC Daily Devotional from April 13, 2023 written by Mary Luti)

We are praising God now assembled here in church, but when we go our separate ways,

**it might seem like we stop praising God.**

But if we do not cease to live a just life,

**we shall always be praising God.**

You cease to praise God only when you swerve from the path of justice.

**If you never turn aside from that path,**

your tongue may be silent,  
**but your life will cry, 'Alleluia!'"**

Having been blessed to be a blessing, go from here to cry Alleluia! 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      "All Things Bright and Beautiful" – arr. Anna Laura Page      Cathy Fafrak, organ**

**"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 Evangelism Team***

***PASTORAL STAFF***

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - [luke@uccmedina.org](mailto:luke@uccmedina.org)

Rev. Meghan Malone, Associate Pastor of Youth & Mission - [meghan@uccmedina.org](mailto:meghan@uccmedina.org)

Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor – [karen@uccmedina.org](mailto:karen@uccmedina.org)

Ryan Collins, Ministerial Intern - [ryan@uccmedina.org](mailto:ryan@uccmedina.org)

***OFFICE STAFF***

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Jeff Miller, Financial Director - [jeff@uccmedina.org](mailto:jeff@uccmedina.org)

***PROGRAM STAFF***

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education – [stacie@uccmedina.org](mailto:stacie@uccmedina.org)

Nicole Rubino, Co-Director of Youth – [nicole@uccmedina.org](mailto:nicole@uccmedina.org)

Jennifer Cochran, Director of Music - [jenny@uccmedina.org](mailto:jenny@uccmedina.org)

Cathy Fafrak, Organist – [cathy@uccmedina.org](mailto:cathy@uccmedina.org)

Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – [jen@uccmedina.org](mailto:jen@uccmedina.org)

Rebecca Rosen, Nursery Supervisor

Jack Sharpe, Maintenance

Sharon Perry, Custodian

# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## APRIL 23, 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](http://www.uccmedina.org/live)

**April 23, 2023 thru April 30, 2023**

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

<b>Sun</b>	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	9:45 am	Children’s Choir
	10:30 am	Traditional Worship
	11:30 am	Mission Team meeting
	3:00 pm	Confirmation Class
<b>Mon</b>	<b>2:00 pm</b>	<b>Religion &amp; Science Study</b>
	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Religion &amp; Science Study</b>
	6:30 pm	Hobby Horse Art Show
<b>Tues</b>	6:30 pm	Hobby Horse Art Show
	7:00 pm	Bible Study
	7:00 pm	Endowment Team Meeting
<b>Wed</b>	10:30 am	Quilters
	6:15 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	6:30 pm	Gathering Band rehearsal
	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Congregational Council</b>
<b>Fri</b>		
<b>Sat</b>		
<b>Sun</b>	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	9:45 am	Children’s Choir
	10:30 am	Traditional Worship
	5:00 pm	Confirmation Rehearsal & Dinner

### VBS MEETING

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup> 7:00 pm**

On Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 there will be a planning meeting for all those who would like to help with Compassion Camp in June. We will meet in the Maker Space (Rooms 9/10). If you cannot make it, but would like to help, please see Stacie Yates. Hope to see you there.

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

Scriptures: Psalm 147 and Luke 24:13-27

Sermon: “Right In Front of Us”  
Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

**Communion Table:** The flowers are given by Kathy Murray in memory of her mother.

### NEW SERMON SERIES: “HOME SWEET HOME”

In our new Worship Series HOME SWEET HOME, we’ll celebrate nature. From April 23<sup>rd</sup> to May 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 17<sup>th</sup> – May 8<sup>th</sup>, 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.

## LADIES & GIRLS TEA TICKETS

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Just a reminder that the Tea will be held on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm 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<sup>th</sup>.

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

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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 16<sup>th</sup>. 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 20<sup>th</sup>.

## HELLO CHURCH!

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We are looking for vocal and instrumental solos, duets, trios, quartets, etc. to provide special music this summer for the 8:15 and/or 10:30 services.

A sign-up sheet for all three months has gone on the music board outside of my office. Please sign up for interested date(s). Once you've signed up, an email will come to you in May with more specific information!

We are looking forward to wonderful music from the church this summer! **Sign-up by May 14th and thank you!**

Peace & Blessings, Jenny



## COMPASSION CAMP

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This year's Vacation Bible School, "Compassion Camp" will be held June 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. **Registration has begun!** So, mark your calendars and plan to be part of the fun.

## ACCESSIBILITY VIDEO

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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!

## DONATION OF THE MONTH

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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!

## THANK YOU, UCCC MEDINA!

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Dear Congregation,

Thank you so much for all of the support you have shown me over the past several months. From continuing to support the Easter Bag outreach, to attending my book studies and classes, supporting my capstone presentation, and all of the feedback you have given me has been really supportive and made my internship here a great time of learning and growing for me. Officially my internship will be up on April 30<sup>th</sup> but my family and I will still be around regularly as I progress through the rest of my Membership in Discernment (ordination) process. Thank you again for all of the support and encouragement you have given to me during this time!

Ryan Collins, Ministerial Intern

United Church of Christ, Congregational Medina

## THANK YOU!

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Thank you to everyone who donated candy for our Easter Egg Hunt. It was a huge success and so much fun! Thank you for your support.



# HOBBY HORSE PRESCHOOL'S 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ART SHOW

Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8 pm

It's Art Show time again! The theme for this year is "Books are Beautiful! Bringing Literacy and Art Together." Start the tour of the fantastic artwork created by our wonderfully talented children at the Hobby Horse Lobby, wind your way through the halls of the preschool, and end up in Fellowship Hall for more art, cookies, punch, and a fun family photo taking display. It's going to be an evening to remember!



## A BIG THANK YOU!

The Caring Team sends a big thank you to all who donated for the 40 Day Lenten Food drive. It was such a success that we were able to donate to 4 of our local food banks!

## THANKS FOR SUPPORTING THE JUNK DRIVE

Our first Junk Drive was a great success! Not only in the amount of money raised, but also in the amount of e-waste kept out of landfills, and the number of neighbors we were able to connect with and help through this project. Final numbers will be coming soon, after the last few boxes of items are processed!



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](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)  
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm MONDAY THRU FRIDAY

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April 23, 2023  
Third Sunday of Easter  
*Break the Silence Sunday*

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Luke 24:13-35

### **Breaking Bread**

A conversation about Break the Silence Sunday.

**One:** Today we Break the Silence about sexual abuse and violence, because breaking the silence can bring about healing and reparation.

**Two:** Usually we don't break something in order to heal it. How does breaking the silence lead to repair?

**One:** The silence must be broken, because the silence in this case is one of the tools that makes violence seem acceptable, or shameful to the victims rather than the perpetrators.

**Two:** I see. It's like the silence is another act of violence!

**One:** Yes, exactly.

**Two:** So the healing comes from talking about it.

**One:** For some people it does, if they want to talk and when they are ready to do so.

**Two:** Do you know that talking helped lead to healing in today's scripture story?

**One:** What do you mean?

**Two:** The disciples thought Jesus was dead and gone forever. It might have been tempting to just keep quiet about their feelings, and the events that had occurred. They might have thought that keeping it inside would make the feelings about that time go away. But they knew better. Starting with the women who told the story, they kept talking about it. And eventually, that led to all of them seeing the Living Christ.

**One:** That's right! Breaking the silence has been a path for healing since the beginning!

Break the Silence Sunday is a day set aside each year for United Church of Christ churches to speak up about the epidemic of sexual abuse and violence. Learn more about Break the Silence Sunday at <https://www.ucc.org/break-the-silence-sunday/>.