

They are still  
*in the World*

Annual Meeting Sunday



**MEDINA**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST,  
CONGREGATIONAL





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# 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 10:30 service, Jesus Vibes Sunday School is available for ages 3-8<sup>th</sup> grade*

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## “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** “Canon of Peace (Dona Nobis Pacem)” – arr. Jeffrey Honore Alleluia Ringers  
*(based on a traditional 3-part canon)*

### 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** (IV, from *Given* by Wendell Berry)

The woods and pastures are joyous

**in their abundance now**

in a season of warmth and much rain.

**We walk amidst foliage, amidst song.**

The sheep and cattle graze

**like souls in bliss**

(except for flies)

**and lie down satisfied.**

Who now can believe in winter?

**In winter, who could have hoped for this?**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

**"Jesus in the Morning"**  
Led by the Children's Choir

*Traditional Spiritual*

**Jesus, Jesus, Jesus in the morning, Jesus in the noontime;  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus when the sun goes down!**

**Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him in the morning, Praise Him in the noontime;  
Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him when the sun goes down!**

**Love Him, Love Him, Love Him in the morning, Love Him in the noontime;  
Love Him, Love Him, Love Him when the sun goes down!**

**Serve Him, Serve Him, Serve Him in the morning, Serve Him in the noontime;  
Serve Him, Serve Him, Serve Him when the sun goes down!**

**Jesus, Jesus, Jesus in the morning, Jesus in the noontime;  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus when the sun goes down!**

**POETRY READING**

"The Summer Day" by Mary Oliver  
*from New and Selected Poems: Volume 1, Beacon Press, 1992, page 94.*

**SCRIPTURES**

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 (O.T. pg. 500)  
John 17:1-11 (N.T. pg. 105)

Brad Rice, Liturgist

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

"Canticle of Brother Sun" *from Missa Gaia (Earth Mass)*

Chancel Choir

*Words: St. Francis of Assisi, Book of Job & F.S. Pierpont; adapt. Paul Winter; Music: Jim Scott & Paul Winter; adapt. Jennifer Cochran*

***Congregation is invited to sing along when prompted:***

**For the beauty of the Earth, sing oh sing today.  
Of the sky and of our birth, sing oh sing always.**

**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: They Are Still In The World"

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

**HYMN**

**"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"**

ELLACOMBE C.M.D.

*Isaac Watts, 1715; alt.*

*Gesangbuch der herzoglichen Wirtembergischen katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784*



1 I sing the might - y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,  
2 I sing the good-ness of our God that filled the earth with food;  
3 On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glo - ry known.



That spread the flow-ing seas a - broad, and built the loft - y skies.  
God formed the crea-tures with a word, and then pro - nounced them good.  
The clouds a - rise and spread their showers by or - der from your throne.



I sing the wis-dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;  
Oh, how your won-ders are dis-played, wher-e'er I turn my eye:  
All life is but a gift from you and ev - er in your care;



The moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.  
If I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!  
Wher - ev - er peo-ple gath - er, you, O God, are pres-ent there.





## 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

We are here in your name Creator God. We are the gathered body of Christ. We are following the guidance of your Holy Spirit. We are your mismatched, messed up people trying to do what you did while we are still in the world.

**Thank you, Jesus, for the cost and the joy of discipleship. Hear us as we 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

For you so loved the world, Abba God, you sent your only son, Jesus our Christ. Jesus, you came not to condemn but to save the world. May your Spirit stir gratitude within us for your gift of this life and this world. May we welcome, love and serve so to bend the world toward justice. For this is what we have decided to do with our one wild and precious life. Thanks be to you, One God forever and ever. Amen!

### \*CLOSING HYMN

### "Creative God, You Spread the Earth"

1. Cre - a - tive God, you spread the earth with  
2. The plan - et teemed with liv - ing things be -  
3. O play - ful God, you fill the field with

life in man - y forms: the deer and elk and  
fore all hu - man birth, and e - ven fire and  
lav - en - der and blue. You paint the bird with

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff. The first system contains the first three lines of the hymn. The second system contains the remaining lines. The music is written in a simple, accessible style with many chords and some melodic lines.

col - um - bine, the bee in hum - ming swarms. For -  
 beasts of prey re - newed the life of earth. For -  
 in - di - go, with red or tawn - y hue. For -

give us for each flow'r and bird now van - ished by our  
 give us, that, the last to come, we threat - en sea and  
 give us that we grieve your heart, de - stroy - ing what you

hand. Teach us to treat with  
 air. Teach us to tend life's  
 do, and teach us simp - ler,

lov - ing care the crea - tures of the land.  
 frag - ile web with wise and ten - der care.  
 gen - tler ways to live on earth with you.

**\*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 take your place in the world!

For this service has ended,

**And our annual meeting now begins. Amen!**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**\*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**    "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" – arr. Anna Laura Page

Cathy Fafrak, Organ

**"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"**

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**\*\*\* *Please join us for a***

***"Soup-er" Lunch in Fellowship Hall following the service.***

***Hosted by the Youth for their Mission Trip Fundraiser***

***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)

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Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – [jen@uccmedina.org](mailto:jen@uccmedina.org)  
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance  
Sharon Perry, Custodian

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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



# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## MAY 21, 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)

**May 21, 2023 thru May 28, 2023**

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

#### **Sun ANNUAL TEAM MEETING SUNDAY**

**10:00 am One Service of Worship**  
**11:00 am Annual Team Meeting**  
11:30 am Soup-er Lunch  
11:30 am Caring Team Meeting

**Mon** 7:00 pm New Member Class

**Tues** 7:00 pm Bible Study

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

**Thurs** 7:00 pm Congregational Council

**Fri** 5:30 pm Hobby Horse Trike-a-Thon

#### **Sat**

#### **Sun PENTECOST**

8:15 am Chapel Worship  
9:00 am Gathering Worship  
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship

### **SOUP-ER LUNCH AFTER THE ANNUAL MEETING TODAY**

After the Annual Meeting today, head to the Fellowship Hall for a soup and salad lunch served by our teens to raise funds for their trip to Back Bay Mission.

### **COMPASSION CAMP**

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. **Deadline to register is Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>.**

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

Scriptures: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 & John 17:1-11

Sermon: "Home Sweet Home:  
They Are Still in the World"

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

**Communion Table:** The flowers are given by the Johns family in honor of Carleigh's 17<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### **OUR ANNUAL MEETING FOLLOWS ONE SERVICE ONLY TODAY AT 10 A.M.**

We'll vote on new moderators and review the miles traveled this past year. Let's show up and give of our time, ask good questions and discern together the direction of the church. **Annual Reports are available from the ushers if you did not already pick one up.**

### **STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING – MAY 28<sup>TH</sup>**

Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

We hope you will continue to sustain this work by giving generously to this offering on Pentecost, May 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **NEW ITEM OF THE MONTH**

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This month the Mission Team is collecting crafting supplies for The Society, which supports individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Crafting supplies needed can include: markers, crayons, paper, construction paper, paints, glue sticks, hole punchers, etc. You can find a complete list of items by the donation drop off box.

## **JOIN THE CARING TEAM**

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Do you want to establish a connection with others in our church, be on a team where serving is fun and serve on a team that makes a difference in other people's lives? Then join the Caring Team! We are the hospitality group that plans, oversees, and supports receptions and dinners celebrating special events in the life of the church as well as annual fellowship events such as Ladies Lenten Lunch, Ladies & Girls Tea, 50-year Member Luncheon, Ice Cream & Pie Social, Alive on the Square Picnic, Chili Cook Off, and Bereavement meals to name a few. If you are still not sure, talk with one of our Caring Team members listed below, volunteer at one of the events, or come join us at one of our monthly meetings held in the new library on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month after the 10:30 service. No skills needed!

Caring Team members are: Carol Sandora, Myra Fabian, Sandy Behler, Lori Price, Diane Howard, Kathi Kavouras, Sue Dean and Darlene Fazekas. You may also call the church office if you are interested.

## **MISSING TOWELS**

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We are so grateful for all the people who have volunteered to host coffee hour! For other groups, as well as coffee hour hosts, if you have taken towels home to launder, please be sure to return them to the kitchen as soon as possible. There are other things that come up during the week where towels are needed, and at this point, most of the towels are dispersed between homes to be laundered, leaving none in the kitchen. Please return whatever kitchen towels you may have at home. Thank you so much for taking them home to be washed!

## **ICE CREAM SOCIAL ON THE SQUARE**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 9th at 6 pm**

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"Come represent our church at "The Ice Cream and Pie Social" on the square! Our church will be the social hosts on the square, Friday, June 9th at 6 pm. The band concert will follow at 8:30 pm so bring your lawn chair. If you are willing to donate, **we are in need of: 28 pies** (homemade or purchased), buckets of ice cream/sherbet, bags of ice, cases of pop and individually wrapped cookies/brownies. Also, we need people to help set up at 5 pm, serve at 6 pm or help clean up at 8:30 pm. Every Sunday a Caring Team member will be available in the East Room for signups. Any questions? Call the church office at 330-725-4559.

## **NEW MEMBER CLASSES**

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Join us for our upcoming New Member classes! We believe anyone is welcome to gather with us, but there is something special about making a deeper commitment to contribute to what God is doing in and through Medina UCC – and these classes are a great place for us to cast this vision, hear your story, and help you take the next step to commit to calling UCC your church home.

The next New Member classes will be on Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> and June 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the new library. New members will join the church on Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>.

If you wish to participate, you may contact the church office at 330-725-4559 or register here though [REALM](#).

## **OPERATION HOMES**

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Operation Homes held a very successful spaghetti dinner fund raiser at Prince of Peace Lutheran on March 16 and cleared about \$3,300. Thanks to all from Medina UCC who attended and to Jan Simmons and Quinn Behler who prepared a wonderful garden-themed gift basket for the silent auction. We will be hosting again from May 29<sup>th</sup> through June 5<sup>th</sup>. We encourage you to sign up to be a welcoming or overnight host or to provide an evening meal during this week.

Sincerely, Nick North

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May 21, 2023  
Seventh Sunday of Easter  
*Mental Health Sunday*

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John 17:1-11

### **Spirit of Witness**

"Pandemic has us living at 80% of our stress capacity. This is why those minor things set us off. We aren't going from 0 to 100 without cause. We are going from 80 to 100 with good reason. If there was no pandemic, the dog incessantly barking might cause usual stress levels to go up 20 points. We get annoyed and yell at the dog with a little more volume than strictly necessary. However, given the 80% stress we endure as a result of COVID-19, the same constant barking puts us at or over maximum capacity to cope. We might end up crying over the stubborn dog or feeling way more anger than the situation calls for.

Of course, not all of us are in the same boat. Those of us with more resources have an obligation to support those with fewer resources. We need to remember that for some of our neighbors pandemic conditions have elevated their stress levels to maximum; they are coping the best they can. Now is a time to practice compassion and not judgment. Remember that Paul tells us in Romans that we are to "owe no one anything, except to love one another." If you are doing okay today, right now, what can you do to help someone else alleviate some of their stress? Reach out and listen before choosing what to do. Remember that people living alone, single parents, healthcare workers, retail workers, delivery people, people with physical disabilities, people with mental health challenges, People of Color, and many others have increased stress, often more than the 80% we can attribute to COVID-19.

One of the most often over-looked spiritual need is the need for community. A good spiritual practice is to intentionally connect with a community (church, AA, book club, etc.). Remember that it is okay to be stressed, to be overwhelmed, to feel what you feel in any given moment. It is not okay to ignore the stress, self-destruct, or take out our emotions on another person. We are not alone. God wants us to find life in God's ways even now."\*

\*Keefe, Rev. Dr. Rachael. "Recognizing Reality: The Stress of Pandemic." *United Church of Christ Mental Health Network*, 7 Sept. 2020, <https://www.mhn-ucc.org/2020/09/07/2281/>.