



A hitchhiker's guide
TO PLANET B



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 service, Summer Sunday School is available for ages 3-3rd 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 “Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart” – arr. Lloyd Larson 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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Don't be afraid of the Spirit's flame,
Unpredictable, wild, and impossible to tame

The highs and lows, the joy and pain,
Are all part of the grand refrain.

Embrace the moment, seize the day,
For time flies fast and doesn't stay.

Let your heart sing, let your soul dance,
And make the most of every chance.

Life is a precious gift, it's true,
And it's up to us what we choose to do.

So let your light shine, bright and true,
And make the world a better place, too.

*OPENING HYMN

“There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

Words & Music: Doris Akers (1922 – 1995)

© 1962, Renewed 1990 Manna Music, Inc.

There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I
 know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are
 sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I
 know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.
 Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav-en - ly Dove, stay right here
 with us, fill - ing us with your love; and for these bless - ings
 we lift our hearts in praise; with - out a doubt we'll know that
 we have been re - vived when we shall leave this place.

POETRY READING "Sunrise" by Mary Oliver
 from *New and Selected Poems: Volume 1*, Beacon Press, 1992, page 125.

SCRIPTURES Psalm 104:24-34 (O.T. pg. 525) & Acts 2:11-21 (N.T. pg. 111)

SPECIAL MUSIC "Veni Sancte Spiritus" – Pentecost sequence, adapt. Jacques Berthier
Chancel Choir; Jenny Cochran, Jen Vilimonovic, Kellie Johns, Jerry Mason, soloists

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: A Hitchhiker's Guide to Planet B" Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

HYMN "Spirit of the Living God"

Words & Music: Daniel Iverson, 1926; © 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music, a div. of The Sparrow Corp.

LIVING GOD 7.5.7.5.8.7.5.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Spirit of the Living God". It consists of four staves of music in a 4/4 time signature, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first two staves are identical and contain the lyrics "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me." The third staff contains the lyrics "Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me." The fourth staff is identical to the first two and contains the lyrics "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me." The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests and a final cadence on each line.

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

Having received freely from God, we now respond with our own offering. Today's offerings will support the "Strengthen the Church" initiative of the United Church of Christ. Your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop leadership in our youth and young adults. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Thank you, Jesus, for the gift of your Holy Spirit! 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**

May the Spirit, who hovered over the waters when the world was created,
breathe into you the life She gives.

Amen.

May the Spirit, move you to offer joyful service to your neighbor.

Amen.

May the Spirit, who set the Church on fire upon the Day of Pentecost,
bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

Refrain



Ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing in my heart, I will



pray. Yes, ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing

Fine



in my heart, I will pray.

1. Up - on the moun - tain, my Lord
2. Jor - dan Riv - er chil - ly and
3. I have heart - ache, I have



spoke, out his mouth came fire and smoke. All a -
cold, chills the bod - y, not the soul. Ain't but
woe, I have trou - ble here be - low. While God



round me looks so fine, ask my Lord if all was mine.
one train on this track, runs to heav - en and right back.
leads me I'll not fear, I am shel - tered by God's care.

D.C.

***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 burn for nature and for God!

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 "Postlude in D Major" – Caleb Simper/arr. Michael Ryan 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 Beth Hari

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

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Cathy Fafrak, Organist & Office Assistant – cathy@uccmedina.org

Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – jen@uccmedina.org

Jack Sharpe, Maintenance - Sharon Perry, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

MAY 28, 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

May 28, 2023 thru June 4, 2023

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun PENTECOST

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

Mon *Operation Homes Week*

**OFFICE CLOSED TODAY IN
OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY**

Tues *Operation Homes Week*

7:00 pm Bible Study

Wed *Operation Homes Week*

10:30 am Quilters
6:30 pm Gathering Band rehearsal

Thurs *Operation Homes Week*

Fri *Operation Homes Week*

Sat *Operation Homes Week*

Sun *Operation Homes Week*

8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
4:30 pm Men's Group

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON
MONDAY, MAY 29TH IN OBSERVANCE OF
MEMORIAL DAY**

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE...

Hey Church, if you want a snack while you are watching the Memorial Day parade, stop by the Church and get your free popcorn. The Evangelism Team hopes to see you there!

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

Scriptures: Psalm 104:24-34 and Acts 2:11-21

Sermon: "Home Sweet Home:
A Hitchhiker's Guide to Planet B"

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: No one signed up to sponsor flowers this week. If you would like to sponsor the flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one, please sign up on the chart in the East Room Hallway. There are 6 spots remaining!

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING – TODAY, MAY 28TH

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 28th.

COMPASSION CAMP

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. **Deadline to register is this Tuesday, May 30th.**

ITEM OF THE MONTH

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.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

New Member classes are underway! These classes are a great place for us to cast our vision, hear your story, and help you take the next step to commit to calling UCC your church home.

The next New Member class will be on Monday, June 5th at 7 pm in the new library. New members will join the church on Sunday, June 11th.

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

OPERATION HOMES

Operation Homes held a very successful spaghetti dinner fund raiser at Prince of Peace Lutheran on March 16th 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 29th through June 5th. 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

TIME TO CELEBRATE YOU!

50 + YEAR MEMBERS SAVE THE DATE!

If you've been a member of our church for 50 years or more, please save **Saturday, October 14th, 2023 from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm** for a celebration luncheon. Invitations will be mailed out in early September. If you haven't yet been here for 50 years and want to help with the luncheon, put this date on your calendar and contact the church office or Sue Dean at 330-952-1840.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL ON THE SQUARE

FRIDAY, JUNE 9th at 6 pm

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.

Our current need for donations include:

14 pies (homemade or purchased)

3 buckets of ice cream

3 buckets of sherbet

bags of ice

3 cases of pop

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**. Any questions? Call the church office at 330-725-4559.

JOIN THE CARING TEAM

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. If you are still not sure, talk with one of our Caring Team members listed below, or volunteer at one of the events. No skills needed!

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

QUILT RAFFLE RESULTS

We raised \$590 to purchase highchairs and booster seats for Fellowship Hall! Thank you! Congratulations to our winners:

Jan Coleman: Car and Truck quilt

Ruth Dunn: Multicolored Star quilt

Elaine McCarroll: Doll House quilt

Melanie Kasten-Krause: Multicolored Baby quilt.

JUNK DRIVE TOTALS

Check out how much we were able to recycle!

- 103 iPhones
- 97 Android phones
- 147 Flip Phones
- 204 Laptops
- 83 Desktop computers
- 119 Printers
- 29 iPads
- 34 iPods
- 63 Tablets
- 72 LCD monitors
- 713 lbs. of Scrap Wire

For a rough total of 4,600 lbs. of recycling, which raised \$3,234.85 for our trip to Back Bay Mission! Thank you again to everyone who helped us haul all of this recycling to various centers in the area. We couldn't have done it without you!

HELP RING THE BELL!

We will be bringing back an opportunity for folks of all ages to ring the big church bell! This Memorial Day, those who want to take a turn at ringing our bell can visit the Evangelism Team's Popcorn-Lemonade stand and request one of the invitation tickets that will be distributed. These tickets will be good for up to one hour after the parade has ended. When the parade is over, bring your ticket to the bell tower and test your skill at filling Medina's square with the sounds of celebratory tintinnabulation.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Thank you so much to everyone who attended the soup-er lunch last Sunday. Your donations raised another \$602 towards the youth trip to Back Bay Mission! Thank you to everyone who made soup, salad, or bread for us to enjoy. Everything was delicious! Thank you to the youth, their parents, and our adult chaperones for their hard work in serving the meal and cleaning up afterwards. Your enthusiasm and leadership made the event a great time for all!

SUMMER MAILING SCHEDULE FOR THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

The Pilgrim Messenger will only be mailed every other week for the summer months beginning on June 1st and will run through August 10th.

Regular mailings will begin on August 24th.



Our summer worship series **Human Kind: Be Both** aims to foster a culture of empathy, compassion, and action already found within our church. We will introduce you to our Accessible to All (A2A) team along with themes and concepts from that United Church of Christ national designation. Our worship series encourages attendees to view accessibility as an integral part of worship, ministry, and mission, ensuring that everyone can fully participate and contribute their unique gifts and talents. By embracing diversity and actively supporting people with disabilities, the church endeavors to reflect God's love and grace in a tangible and transformative way.

Drawing inspiration from the book of Genesis, this series explores the fundamental question of what it means to be human, while making profound connections to how we can support individuals with disabilities.

Human Kind: Be Both is an invitation to embody love, justice, and solidarity, reminding us that we are all interconnected members of the human family, called to support one another and build a world where everyone can thrive.

**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**

May 28, 2023
Pentecost Sunday
Strengthen the Church Offering

Acts 2:1-21

You might have heard someone joke, “King James English was good enough for Jesus, it’s good enough for me.” Today’s story is about the first day a small and ragtag group of Jesus followers became a church – the church we still are today. It’s our story, and it’s not a story about everyone suddenly speaking the same language. It’s a story about everyone speaking - all of them, all at once - the languages of each other. This is not a story about understanding each other. It’s a story about understanding that each of us speaks to God in our own way, and God speaks to us each in our own way.

Pentecost understood this way happens all the time. It happens whenever you have a meal with a youngster whose music and ideas you don’t understand, but who you love just the same. It happens when you sit with a loved one, whose words have been lost to disease, and so you no longer understand, but you love just the same. You are speaking the language of Pentecost, when you really listen to the person sitting next to you right now, whose hopes and dreams and visions you have only gotten a glimpse of, even after a lifetime of knowing each other.

That we don’t all speak the same language doesn't make us less of a community, it makes us more of one. Whether you came to worship this morning speaking the language of health or of illness, the language of joy or of sorrow, the language of despair or hope, the language of a pounded nail or a warm hug, Pentecost is the hope that your congregation can be a place where all those languages are spoken, all are heard. May your community be a place where people, when they hear you speak, can say in wonder “they are speaking in words I can understand.”

Today, many churches receive the Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering. STC reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.