





# 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*

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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** “Prélude” from Suite Bergamasque - Claude Debussy

Ian Morgan, piano

### WELCOME

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,  
**You are welcome here!**

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (a scriptural creation litany)

read by Eve Lindon

In the beginning was the Word,  
**and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**  
He existed in the beginning with God  
**and God created everything through him. (John 1:1-3a)**

Christ is the visible expression of the invisible God.  
**He existed before creation began,**  
for it was through him that everything was made,  
**whether spiritual or material, seen or unseen. (Colossians 1:15-16a)**

Nothing was created except through him.  
**The Word gave life to everything that was created,**  
and his life brought light to everyone. (John 1:3b-4)  
**Every detail was crafted through his design,**  
by his own hands and for his purposes.  
**He existed before anything else began, and he holds all creation together. (Colossians 1:16b-17)**

O Lord, what a variety of things you have made!

**In your wisdom you have made them all.**

The earth is full of your creatures.

**Every one of them is dependent on you to give them what they need to survive.**

When you send out your breath, life is created,

**and the face of the earth is made beautiful and is renewed.** (*Psalm 104:24, 27, 30*)

May your glory endure forever, O God,

**and may you find joy in the splendor of your own creation. Amen!** (*Psalm 104:31*)

**\*OPENING HYMN**

**"God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale"**

ROEDER 5.4.6.7.7.

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983; © 1983 Jaroslav J. Vajda

Carl F. Schalk, 1983; © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

*Unison*



1. God of the spar - row God of the whale  
3. God of the rain - bow God of the cross  
6. God of the a - ges God near at hand



1. God of the swirl - ing stars How does the crea - ture say  
3. God of the emp - ty grave How does the crea - ture say  
6. God of the lov - ing heart How do your chil - dren say



1. Awe How does the crea - ture say Praise  
3. Grace How does the crea - ture say Thanks  
6. Joy How do your chil - dren say Home

**POETRY READING**

"The Ponds" by Mary Oliver

read by Leah Medley

from *New and Selected Poems: Volume 1*, Beacon Press, 1992. Page 92

**SCRIPTURES**

Job 12:7-25 (O.T. pg. 438)

read by Nora Nolan

Colossians 1:15-20 (N.T. pg. 188)

read by Ruby Gabrielsen

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

"The Lord Bless You and Keep You" –Peter C. Lutkin

Chancel Choir

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: Perfectly Imperfect"

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

\*HYMN

"I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry"

WATERLIFE Irr.; John C. Ylvisaker, 1985

1 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be  
 2 When you heard the won - der of the Word I was  
 3 In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too

there when you are old. I re - joyced the day you  
 there to cheer you on. You were raised to praise the  
 old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you (Fine)

were bap - tized to see your life un - fold.  
 liv - ing Lord to whom you now be - long.  
 through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.

I was there when you were but a child with a  
 If you find some - one to share your time, and you  
 When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es, in and you

faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you  
 join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your  
 shut your wear - y eyes, I'll be there as I have

wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell.  
 vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.  
 al - ways been with just one more sur - prise. *D.C. (vs. 1) al fine*

## ORDER OF CONFIRMATION

### Invitation to the Confirmands

### Questions to the Confirmands

*When prompted, the congregational replies:*

**We promise our love, our support and our prayer.**

Then let us pray:

**Almighty God, in baptism you showered upon each of these children your love.**

**We promised to share with them the good news of your grace and peace.**

**May we all continue to grow and deepen our relationship with you and with one another.**

**By the power of your Holy Spirit, grant them a fond welcome in our covenant life,**

**a love for all people**

**joy in serving you,**

**comfort in suffering,**

**courage to face evil,**

**faithfulness in their journeys.**

**Strengthen them and all of us for ministry in the world through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

### Litany of Confirmation

Reminder of Baptism

Reading of the Selected Scripture

Remark of the Confirmand

Blessing of the Confirmand

### Blessing of the Church

**Moderator:** Let us, the members of Medina United Church of Christ, Congregational express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

**People:** **We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers, as we share in the hope and the struggle of the church of Jesus Christ.**

**By the power of the Holy Spirit**

**May you find your voice and passion here**

**and may we continue to grow together**

**in God's knowledge and love,**

**and be witnesses of our risen savor.**

**Hear your church sing out our praise for your life and presence among us.**

**\*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.**

**Blessing and welcoming the newly confirmed**

### **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 to the Table**

**The Words of Institution**

**Prayer**

**Jesus, we gather around your table. Generations of families. Strangers who have become friends and friends who have become family. You gather all your people here and today we have humbly added to your kingdom those whom you have called and accepted in baptism. We thank you for them. We remember you in this sacrament together. We celebrate your presence at your table. We give you thanks. Amen!**

**Distribution of the Elements**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

lead by Katherine Johns

**Teacher Christ, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us your presence. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into your world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### **\*CLOSING HYMN**

#### **"New Earth, Heaven's New"**

*Harris J. Loewen, 1982, Assembly Songs, 1983*

ALEXANDRA 5.6.5.6.5.6. with refrain  
text & music © 1992 Hope publishing Co.



1 New earth, heav - ens new, Spir - it of God  
2 New love, mer - cies new, Spir - it of God  
4 New earth, heav - ens new, Spir - it of God



mov - ing; new seed, crea - tures new,  
mov - ing; new strength, hope - ful - ness new,  
mov - ing; new birth, crea - tures new,



Spir - it of life mov - ing; new man,  
 Spir - it of life mov - ing; new hearts,  
 Spir - it of life mov - ing; new men,



wom-an new, im - age of God mov - ing.  
 spir - its new, im - age of God mov - ing.  
 wom-en new, im - age of God mov - ing.



Sing a new song to the One who has said, "Be - hold, I make all things



new."

new."

**\*ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*BENEDICTION**

read by Nellie Alber

*(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 welcome, love, and serve!

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.**

**"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"**

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***Please join us in Fellowship Hall immediately following the service  
for a special reception to honor our Confirmands.***

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***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



# Confirmation Class 2022 – 2023

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***Nellie Alber***

*Parents: Greg & Alyson Alber*

*Mentor: Katey French*



***Katherine Johns***

*Parents: Crell & Kellie Johns*

*Mentor: Matt Yates*



***Ruby Gabrielsen***

*Parents: Alex & Tracy Gabrielsen*

*Mentor: Stephanie Manhoff*



***Eve Lindon***

*Parents: Luke & Kate Lindon*

*Mentor: Matt Yates*



***Leah Medley***

*Parents: Mike & Katy Medley*

*Mentor: Tammy Daubner*



***Nora Nolan***

*Parents: Josh & Ellen Nolan*

*Mentor: Maureen Walker*



***Noah Spence***

*Parents: Barry & Stephanie Spence*

*Mentor: Andy Johnson*



***Jack Raub***

*Parents: Corey & Jaclyn Raub*

*Mentor: Stacie Yates*



***Lily Wolff***

*Parents: Ken & Liz Wolff*

*Mentor: Rev. Meghan Malone*



**ICE CREAM SOCIAL ON THE SQUARE**  
**FRIDAY – JUNE 9, 2023**

It's time again for the Ice Cream Social on the Square!

On Friday June 9th, our church will be hosting the Ice Cream Social on the square for the Friday Night Band Concert. We will start serving at 6 pm. Band Concert will follow at 8:30 pm. The following is a list of items needed for that evening. If you are willing to donate any of these items, please fill out the form below.

Items (not baked goods) need to be at the church kitchen by **Wednesday June 7th** by 3:00 pm (church office closes at 3 pm)

**Baked goods** need to be at the church **by 3:00pm on Friday June 9th.**

Any questions call the church office at 330-725-4559.

-People to help set up, serve, clean up

-Pies (We need at least 40 pies please, **no cream pies**) homemade is greatly appreciated, purchased pies are great too!

-Cookies / Brownies (pre wrapped)

-12 / 5 pound or larger bags of Ice

-1 can Decaf Coffee

-1 can Regular Coffee

-4 Cases of Bottled Water

-5 Cases of Pop (coke, diet coke, sprite)

-500 Napkins

-150 Ice Cream Bowls

-200 (8 ounce) Hot Cups

-350 Dessert Plates

-Stirring Sticks

-400 Plastic Forks

-200 Plastic Spoons

-100 Ice Cream Cones

-6 Buckets of Ice Cream  
(vanilla, strawberry, chocolate)

-3 Buckets of Sherbet

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

I WILL DONATE \_\_\_\_\_

I WILL SET UP \_\_\_\_\_ I WILL HELP SERVE \_\_\_\_\_ I WILL HELP CLEAN UP \_\_\_\_\_

# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## MAY 7, 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 7, 2023 thru May 14, 2023

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

#### Sun CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

8:15 am Chapel Worship  
9:00 am Gathering Worship  
9:45 am Children's Choir  
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship  
4:30 pm Men's Group  
4:30 pm Youth Group

Mon 2:00 pm Religion & Science Study  
6:00 pm Religion & Science Study

Tues 7:00 pm DELTs Meeting  
7:00 pm Worship Team Meeting  
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 7:00 pm Hobby Horse Team Meeting  
7:00 pm Support Group – Keep Talking  
About Mental Health

Fri  
Sat  
Sun MOTHER'S DAY

8:15 am Chapel Worship  
9:00 am Gathering Worship  
9:45 am Children's Choir  
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship

### NEW ITEM OF THE MONTH

This month the Mission Team is collecting crafting supplies for The Society of the Handicapped. This means things such as: 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.

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

Scriptures: Job 12:7-25 and Colossians 1:15-20

Sermon: “Home Sweet Home: Perfectly Imperfect”  
Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

**Communion Table:** The flowers are given by Alan Parkhurst in memory of his mother, Martha S. Parkhurst.

### AMANDA FUND OFFERING MOTHER'S DAY MAY 14<sup>TH</sup>

The Amanda Fund, founded by a Medina UCC member, provides assistance to families with medical bills and other related costs that arise during extended or frequent hospitalizations of their children. We have depleted this fund within the last year, so we would like to build it back up again to be able to assist others with this need. On May 14<sup>th</sup>, we ask that you be generous in supporting the Amanda Fund with your contribution.

### OUR ANNUAL MEETING FOLLOWS ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10 A.M. ON MAY 21<sup>ST</sup>

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.

### SOUP-ER LUNCH AFTER THE ANNUAL MEETING

After the Annual Meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 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. You can sign up to bring soup, bread, or salad here: <https://tinyurl.com/2vbmjzws>

## SAVE THE DATE!

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The Ice Cream Social on the square is coming up on Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars to listen to the wonderful band concert on the square and enjoy ice cream and pie too! Stay tuned for more details.

## LADIES & GIRLS TEA TICKETS

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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 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 also 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 Vicki Miller, with the luncheon following the program.

PLEASE BE PROMPT.

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

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

## SUMMER MUSIC

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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 in the East Room hallway outside of my office. Please sign up for interested date(s). Once you've signed up, an email will come to you with more specific information!

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

Peace & Blessings, Jenny

## 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. 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>.

## MEDINA COMMUNITY GARDEN YARD SALE

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On June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9 am - 2 pm, Medina Community Garden will hold a yard sale in partnership with Main Street Medina Kids Day of Play to raise funds for a new driveway for the garden. Between now and May 20<sup>th</sup> you may drop off your donations of gently used kids toys/clothing by the mission table to contribute to their yard sale.

## CONNECTION OUTREACH CIRCLE

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On April 27, 2023, Council approved our group's proposal to change our name from "Circle of Caring" to "Connection Outreach Circle" (not to be confused with Caring Team).

**Our name has changed, our outreach has not.**

Connection Outreach Circle (CoC) is a group of teams that includes Visitation, Craft Makers, Seasonal Flowers, Greeting Card Table, Prayer Shawls and Breadmakers. Though independent of one another, with a common ministry, our group is about keeping connection on a regular basis with our church membership who are homebound, shut-in, and in residential care facilities, and with our church membership-at-large. Interested in serving with Connection Outreach Circle on a team? Contact the coordinator of the team you are interested in or call the church office for contact information.

Visitation: Visitation Pastor, Karen Brocco-Kish

Craft Makers: Alice Metzloff

Seasonal Flowers: Syd Benson

Greeting Card Connection: Alice Metzloff

## **NEED A FILE CABINET FOR HOME?**

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Property & Grounds is clearing out four file cabinets of various sizes. Please contact John Sandora if you have any interest. We can even deliver!

## **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 class 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 through REALM.

## **MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP**

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Needing some deep healing and comradery in your life? We are of the belief that vulnerability is key to deep healing. Please feel free to join in the Mental Health Support Group, where what is said in the group...stays with the group. The meeting is held on a monthly basis at Ann Nagy's house.

If you are interested in partaking with the Mental Health Support Group, there is a sign-up sheet in the East Room hallway. Ann will reach out to you personally to let you know when the next meeting will be.

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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**

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May 7, 2023  
Fifth Sunday of Easter

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John 14:1-14

### Enduring Witness

A communion liturgy based on John 14, NRSV.

Leader: Jesus said, "Believe in God, believe also in me."

**People:** And the people said, "How can we know The Way?"

Leader: And Jesus said, "I am the Way. And the truth. And the light."

**People:** And the people said, "Show us, and we will be satisfied."

Leader: And Jesus said, "If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it. And so since you have asked, today I will show you one of the ways that I will always be here with you."

**People:** And so Jesus took the bread, and broke it, and gave it to them and said, "I am the Way and the truth and the life."

Leader: If you know me, you will know my Abba God also. And I will show you, so you remember. Take this bread. This bread is just like my body, whenever you eat it and remember all that unites you, I am with you."

**People:** And after supper, Jesus took the cup and poured it out sharing it with them. And again he told them. "I am the Way and the truth and the life."

Leader: Then he said "In my Abba's house there are many rooms. And I will show you, so you remember. This is the cup of forgiveness, which is as vast as my Abba's house in heaven. This cup is grace, poured out abundantly on all and for all."

**People:** Then Jesus said, "I go and prepare a place for you, so that where I am, there you will be also."

Leader: This is Christ's table and all are welcome here. Come from the East and the West, from the North and the South to gather at this feast for forgiveness and unity.