

**This is a
worship at
Medina UCC
The name of
the sermon is
Brothers.**





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 “Cathedral Voluntary” – Charles Callahan

Cathy Fafrak, organ

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** (Romans 8:38-39)

Holy One, we are always tricking each other.

Grabbing for what is not ours.

Either in word or deed, attempting to

take one another’s inheritance.

Yet we give you thanks for the inheritance we have in you,

For we are convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,

neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,

neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,

will be able to separate us

from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

To this truth, we gather in worship.

To this truth, we lift every voice and sing! Amen!

*OPENING HYMN

Paraphrase by Marty Haugen, 1986; alt.

“Bring Forth the Kingdom”

BRING FORTH Irr. w/ refrain
Music by Marty Haugen, © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc



1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the reign of God!
2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the Cit-y of God!
3 You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: bring forth the reign of God!
4 We are a blessed and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the reign of God!



Share the fla- vor of life, O peo - ple: life in the Cit-y of God!
Shine so ho - ly and bright, O peo - ple: shine for the Cit-y of God!
Seeds of mer-cy and seeds of jus - tice, grow in the Cit-y of God!
Love our jour-ney and love our home-land: love is the Cit-y of God!

Refrain



Bring forth the reign of mer-cy, bring forth the reign of peace;



Bring forth the reign of jus - tice, bring forth the Cit-y of God!

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 25:19-34 (O.T. pg. 20)

John Kavouras, Liturgist

SPECIAL MUSIC

"All Things Bright and Beautiful" - arr. Sandra Eithun

Handbell quartet: Whitney Bixler, Cathy Fafrak, Melanie Kasten-Krause, Diane Stoll

MESSAGE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY OF GOD

Pastor Luke

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 "Brothers"

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

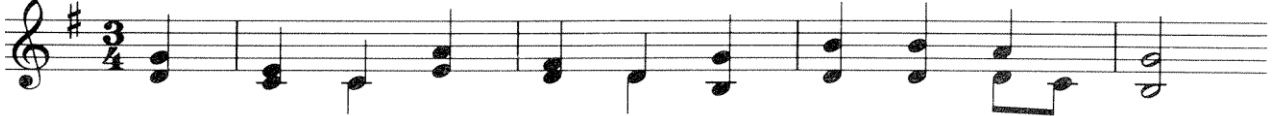
HYMN

"God Made From One Blood"

ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.

Thomas H. Throeger © 1988, Oxford university Press, Inc.

Adapt. From a Welsh ballad in John Roberts' Caniadaeth y Cysegr, 1839



1 God made from one blood all the fam - ilies of earth,

4 Help fam - ilies in all of their var - i - ous forms



the cir - cles of nur - ture that raise us from birth,
to face with in - teg - ri - ty strug - gles and storms;



Com - pan - ions who join us to work through each stage
Grant peace to our homes that will nur - ture the bud



of child - hood and youth and a - dult - hood and age.
of peace for the fam - ilies you made from one blood.

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 submit that all things came into being through The Word. All our gifts, resources, and blessings come from the Generous God, our Creator.

May we return a portion of these gifts in grateful generosity for the ministry of the kingdom.

**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** ("God's Kindergarten" by Gerhard E. Frost, *Seasons of a Lifetime* page 25)

"Some day we'll see this spinning world is one vast day-care center,
God's kindergarten, our home away from Home.

Then we will know that God has no grown-up children here,
but toddlers all, and blunderers,

failing, falling, stumbling, picked up to try again, tripping,

always tripping over many things that make us fall, but mostly just our own two feet."

May what we offer today go to pick up one of our fellow classmates.

May our time, talent, and treasure put someone, maybe even ourselves, back on their feet.
Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"Now Thank We All Our God"

NUN DANKET 6.7.6.7.6.6.6.6.

Martin Rinkart, 1647; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1858; alt.

Johann Crüger, 1647; harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1840



1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God our Maker now be given,



Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
To Christ, and Spirit, too, our help in highest heaven,



Who, from our parents' arms, has blessed us on our way
And keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,



With countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.
For thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

***ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***BENEDICTION**

Church, may we depart from here encouraged

Let us go from this time of word and worship to work and witness.

May the moments, movement, and ministry of our lives

reveal the God we know and love to a world we know and love.

May our voices echo the rhythm and message of good news to a world in need of encouragement, community, and hope.

Go in peace...go as peace fortified and nurtured by The Word.

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 "Now Thank We All Our God" from Cantata No. 79 – JS Bach/arr. Janet Linker**

Cathy Fafrak, Organ

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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Nick Brlan, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

JULY 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

July 16, 2023 thru July 23, 2023

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon 1:00 pm Breadmakers
6:30 am Women’s Bible Study

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study

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

Thurs

Fri

Sat

Sun

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

PASTOR VACATION SCHEDULE

Pastors Luke and Meghan will be out of the office Monday, July 17th through Friday, July 21st.

LITURGIST SIGN-UP

There are still dates available in July, August and September to be a liturgist during the 10:30 Sanctuary service. Check out the bulletin board in the East Room hallway to sign up.

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

Scripture: Genesis 25:19-34

Sermon: Humankind: Be Both “Brothers”
Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The communion table flowers are given by Pete & Alice Metzloff in memory of their daughter, Jeannette E. Pettit who passed away November 7, 2022. Her birthday was July 16, 1981.

DONATION OF THE MONTH

This month we are collecting non-refrigerated protein items, like tuna (canned or pouches), beef stew, canned chicken, peanut butter, canned beans and protein bars.

We will also be collecting vegetables from your gardens throughout the growing months! Please place them in the basket down by the Mission Team table. Thank you!

FINANCE INFORMATION

We have seen a nice response from our recently mailed Stewardship letter. As a reminder, when selecting to pay your annual pledge through Realm you must authorize your giving each year, as it does not automatically role over year-to-year. This is a safeguard to ensure your desired amounts and funding source is to your desire. Quarter 2 statements will be mailed out this week. Please review to ensure your pledges were applied, per your direction. If you have any questions relating to your financial transactions with our Church, please contact Jeffrey T. Miller, Director of Finance.

SYNOD FOLLOW UP:

For Eve's kindergarten spring break, we went to The Childrens Museum of Indianapolis. We fell in love with Indy and just loved our time there.

Now Eve is heading to high school. Sam is heading to middle school. It has gone so fast. Yet I am so thankful for this family tradition of taking off to spring break to somewhere we've never been before. We have rarely returned to these places. So when our UCC National Synod was held in Indy, we knew we had to go.

We loved catching up with our former choir director, Jim Kiser, who sends his regards. He has joined a UCC church and is playing board games most nights. He's doing great and it was wonderful to stay with him.

We visited some old favorites from our trip way back when. We were able to recreate some photos. It was a holy time. A reminder of the passage of years, the growth of children into thriving young adults. Memories gone by and the present to savor and a bright future to hope for.

I came face-to-face with a core memory from my own childhood. We spent almost 6 hours at the [The Children's Museum of Indianapolis](#). Half of that time was in the "Power of Children" exhibit. We learned about Ruby Bridges, Anne Frank, Malala Yousafzai, and Ryan White.

Ryan White is foundational for me. His book was one of the first chapter books I ever finished. It put me on track to be a life-long reader and maybe what started me down the path of being an ally to LGBTQ+ folks and folks with chronic illnesses. The Children's Museum has Ryan White's room recreated and tells his story of how he got AIDS from his drugs to treat his hemophilia. While we were there, we met Ryan White's mom, Jeanne, and sister, Andrea. The Elton John Foundation flies them in 4x/year to speak at the museum to visitors, we didn't even know it was that day! We sat in his recreated bedroom (all his original stuff) for their talk. We were overwhelmed with emotion.

The whole exhibit kept asking "What can you do?" The Whites moved to a new city because of the bullying... a teen saw they were going to move there & got the new school to start educating everyone about AIDS beforehand. Jeanne said how welcoming everyone was in the whole city, with kids and moms stopping by on the first day to introduce themselves. Small acts of kindness. Of being a kind human. Of educating yourself and being a good neighbor.

Oh yeah, and Synod was great and God was present in that gathering, but God shows up in Children's Museums. And was with us in our childhood. And in our growing up and aging and is still with us. For the God that was there to hear our borning cry is still by our side and still speaking, still teaching, still on the move for wholeness and peace.

I see my whole purpose of going to church is learning how to be a better, kinder, more Christ-like human. I can't say that I wouldn't have been a bully to Ryan growing up. Because of his story, I know not to be now. His life has impacted mine and because of him, I hope my children are much more kinder and willing to listen and not stigmatize those whom they don't initially understand. I think they are like this a little from the parenting and wisdom that living has given Kate and me. They are also kinder and better humans because of you, church. Because of your parenting, wisdom, and stories.

Keep being kind. Keep speaking. Keep showing up for each other. You are impacting generations.

GLOW IN THE DARK PARTY THIS SATURDAY

Our friends over at Cups Café will be hosting a Saturday Social for middle and high school students this Saturday July 22nd from 5-8pm. The theme for this party is Glow In The Dark. **If you would like to purchase some glow in the dark party favors for them**, please bring them into the office labeled for Pastor Meghan, or purchase directly from this amazon wish list!

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/16JXNSFEOTCOR?ref_=wl_share

49th ANNUAL ART IN THE PARK

A Fine Art Show & Sale

When: Sunday, July 16, 2023 from 10am -5pm

Where: Square in Medina, Ohio

What: Set in Medina's charming Courthouse Square, Artists' exhibits are arranged around the park's gazebo, the central focus of the historic Public Square Area. Spend the day perusing artists' paintings, sculptures, photos and other works, and grab lunch at one of the local eateries. **Stop by and visit our own Elaine Lamb, who will be at booth 40, and Brad Rice, who will be at booth 55!**

Hopefully, you'll find a favorite piece for that empty wall you've been meaning to fill!

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**

July 16, 2023
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

A House Divided

In their very conservative town of Colorado Springs, CO, Vista Grande UCC has long been visible as an LGBTQ+ ally, using their sign and flagpole "to proclaim that Black Lives Matter, immigrants deserve justice and queer people are uniquely made in the image of an expansively loving God."*

Rev. Mallory Everhart, Vista Grande's pastor, believes that the church's visible commitment to providing safe haven for all on the margins helped the wider community and city to trust the congregation in the wake of last November's tragic shooting at Club Q on the eve of Trans Day of Remembrance. The shooter killed 5 people and injured 22, but Rev. Everhart adds that he "traumatized an entire community."

Everhart reflects, "On Nov. 20 and beyond, we were true to our reputation and rose up to hold space and provide care to a stunned and terrified community. In their book, *Emergent Strategy*, activist adrienne maree brown writes that community organizing 'moves at the speed of trust.' If I have any advice about crisis response, it's this: make connections and build trust now. No matter your good intentions, you will not be a community partner in times of crisis if you don't."*

In today's reading, Jesus tells the parable of the sower, warning that not all seed that is planted falls on fertile ground. He is speaking as loudly to the church of the 21st century America as he did to his little community in 1st century Palestine. In a world with growing visible division and terror, your church community has the opportunity to sow seeds now that will grow and flourish or will wither and fall away when a crisis arrives. Today is the right day to ask where the seeds you are planting are growing in your congregation, in your community, and in all the world.

*Quotations from: Larkman, C. (2023, January 13). *UCC pastor: In the new year, resolve to listen, make connections, build trust*. United Church of Christ. <https://www.ucc.org/ucc-pastor-in-the-new-year-resolve-to-listen-make-connections-build-trust/>