



"Here I Am"





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 “This Is My Song” – arr. Laura Bergquist

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

*OPENING HYMN

“Jesus Calls Us”

Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-1895

GALILEE 8.7.8.7.
William H. Jude, 1851-1922



1 Je - sus calls us o’er the tu - mult of our
 2 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
 3 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
 4 Je - sus calls us— by thy mer - cies, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea; day by day his sweet voice
vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thine o -



sound - eth, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me."
keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
pleas - ures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Welcome—

You truth-tellers, you healers, you dreamers, you way-makers.

God celebrates the courageous and creative!

He loves the work of soulful community-making!

Welcome—

You brokenhearted, you righteously angry, you wonderful and weary human kin.

God privileges the stories of the vulnerable!

She demands accountability from those who cause harm!

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Heal Our Land" (2 Chronicles 7:14) by Michael Card

Nick North, voice

MESSAGE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY OF GOD

Rev. Meghan Malone

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

SCRIPTURES

Genesis 22:1-14 (O.T. pg. 17)

Matthew 10:40-42 (N.T. Pg. 10)

Deb Waldron, Liturgist

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 Communion

The Spirit of Creation is with you!

And the Spirit of Creation walks next to you.

Open wide your souls.

We open them to the Creator's love.

Let us give thanks to the God of Earth and Rain.

With joyous voices, hearts, and hands, we exclaim to God our praise.

Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God, Divine Designer-

With gentle compassion, you unite us as vine and branches, whether near or far. For your meal we share our gratitude. With thanksgiving we voice our joy for our siblings in faith who shared the table with Christ and with us. Our souls are rejuvenated with your Holy Refreshment. Send us into the world today with joy in our hearts, excited to proclaim your radical love in this world. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Here I Am, Lord"

HERE I AM, LORD 7-7.7.4. D with Refrain
© 1981 OCP

Words & Music: Dan Schutte, . 1947

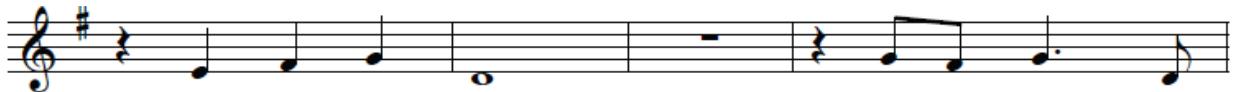
Verses



1. I, the Lord	of sea and sky,	I have heard	my
2. I, the Lord	of snow and rain,	I have borne	my
3. I, the Lord	of wind and flame,	I will tend	the



peo - ple cry.	All who dwell	in dark	and sin
peo - ple's pain.	I have wept	for love	of them.
poor and lame.	I will set	a feast	for them.



My hand will	save.	I, who made	the
They turn a -	way.	I will break	their
My hand will	save.	Fin-est bread	I

stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
 hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love a - lone.
 will pro - vide Till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you
 call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you
 lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

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

Wiseperson, Audre Lorde, wrote in her journal: "How can we use each other's differences in our common battles for a livable future? All of our children are prey. How do we raise them not to prey upon themselves and each other? And this is why we cannot be silent, because our silences will come to testify against us out of the mouths of our children."

We gather our offerings today honoring our differences and our shared purpose of a livable future. Come, let us worship God by collecting our gifts.

***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

We refuse to prey upon each other. We will not mirror the ways of oppression in our relationships. We will work towards our shared dreams of communal thriving. For this is the invitation of the Spirit of Radical Hospitality who blesses our offerings. Thanks be to God, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"In Christ There Is no East or West"

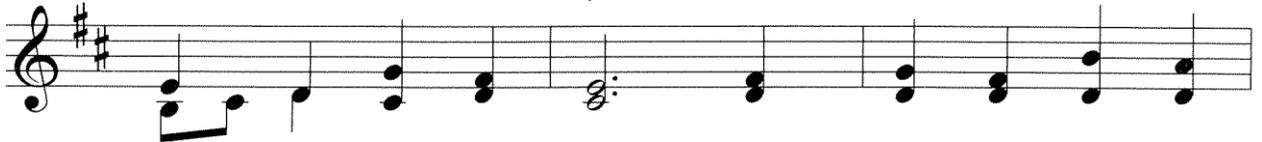
ST. PETER CM

John Oxenham, 1908; alt.

Alexander R. Reinagle, c. 1830



1. In Christ there is no east or west, in
2. In Christ shall true hearts ev' - ry - where their
3. Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what -
4. In Christ now meet both east and west in



him no south or north, but one com - mu - ni -
high com - mun - ion find; his ser - vice is the
e'er your race may be; all chil - dren of the
him meet south and north; all lov - ing hearts are



ty of love through - out the whole wide earth.
gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

*ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION

Go forth, blessed to be a blessing.

Your reward for loving one another is the delight of being in relationship.

Your reward for solidarity is a community built from compassion.

Your reward for the work of healing is the sweet song of liberation.

Go! For this service has ended

And our service now begins. Amen!

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

JULY 2, 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 2, 2023 thru July 9, 2023

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun GENERAL SYNOD 6/30 - 7/4

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

Mon CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Cook for Cups Café

Tues Independence Day
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
6:30 pm Gathering Band rehearsal
7:00 pm Evangelism Team

Thurs

Fri

Sat

Sun YOUTH LEAVE FOR BACK BAY MISSION

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

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

MONDAY JULY 3RD & TUESDAY JULY 4TH

**IN OBSERVANCE OF
INDEPENDENCE DAY**

LITURGIST SIGN-UP

Check out the bulletin board in the East Room hallway to sign up to be a liturgist during the 10:30 Sanctuary service. The new sign-up sheets are up for July thru September.

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

Scriptures: Genesis 22:1-14 & Matthew 10:40-42

Sermon: “Here I Am” – Rev. Meghan Malone

Communion Table: The communion table flowers are given by John & Joan Walschon in memory of John’s mother, Bette Robertson.

DONATION OF THE MONTH

Thank you so much for the personal care supplies collected in June! The bin was overflowing with items, which will be delivered to local pantries and the free little pantries around town. **In July, we will be 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!

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.

COMPASSION CAMP: WHAT EVERY LIVING THING NEEDS

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's VBS such a success! The week of June 5th, we had a blast learning about Shelter, Food, Water, Air, and Community and how God takes care of us. I am always amazed at the generosity of everyone for the missions we help each year. We collected a lot of outside toys for the families in the WIC program and we also collected over \$200 for the Community Garden! We can't do this every year without the help of so many! Thank You!

SPONSORING FLOWERS

If you wanted to sponsor flowers for the communion table and thought all the spots were filled, now's your chance. **There are still 2 open spots on July 16th & 23rd.** This is a wonderful way to honor or remember someone, or to celebrate a special occasion.

Please fill in your name on the chart in the East Room hallway and **check "Church" or "Self"** to let us know if you would like the church to order the flowers for you or if you will be ordering them yourself. The cost of the flowers ordered through the church office is \$22.50.

Also, please write what you would like printed in the Messenger and if you want to claim your flowers after the 10:30 service.

PLAN AHEAD! SPARK & UCC,C EVENT 9/30

This SPARK event, which is open to the public, is a mega collaboration between several fantastic groups to raise awareness about mobility disabilities. Participants will create change by learning how to make rope pulls for distribution to persons in Medina with disabilities ([email SPARK Medina](#) if you are interested in one) and local businesses for improved access to their facilities, including our church.

Special thanks to collaborators: A2A Access Committee at Medina United Church of Christ, Congregational and Canine Companions for Independence.

Special thanks to our sponsor: Thrivent Financial, Hannah Magrum (Medina Agent)

PASTORS LUKE AND MEGHAN ARE OFF TO GENERAL SYNOD

UCC National Synod is a biannual family reunion held this year in Indianapolis, IN from June 30th - July 4th. It's great to see old classmates, clergy colleagues, and the full expression of the UCC in its diversity. Meghan and Luke will be travelling to check it out and Meghan will be back to preach and administer the sacrament of communion on July 2nd.

Pray for your pastors as we journey to Indianapolis. Pray for our denomination to have a good gathering in which God is praised, Christ is present, and the Spirit moves us forward as the body of Christ.

UPDATED VISITATION LISTS

For anyone who would like one, we have updated visitation lists for you. This is a list of our homebound and people who are in nursing facilities. If you would like to visit any of them, you need to call first to arrange a visit, or you may use this list to simply reach out and send a card or make a phone call. This is a way to keep them connected to our church family! You can find these lists in the rack outside the church office.

MEDINA COUNTY LIBRARY

Did you know that Medina County District Library's Outreach Services Department makes free monthly deliveries of regular or large print books, audio books, DVDs and other items to people of all ages who have difficulty coming to the library? The Outreach Librarian offers a personalized selection of materials based on requests or interests. Those materials may be delivered via mail, library staff or the Bookmate Volunteers. This service may be ongoing or short term while someone is recovering from an accident or illness.

Call 330-722-2590 for more information or visit: www.mcdl.info/outreach to register for this service online.

GLOW IN THE DARK PARTY

Our friends over at Cups Café will be hosting a Saturday Social for middle and high school students on 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

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

Matthew 10:40-42

Holy Welcome

[Jesus said:] "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me."

These are the very last words in the stirring and challenging set of instructions that Jesus gives to the disciples before he sends them forth to heal and to drive out evil. Their task is daunting, to go from town to town, carrying nothing with them. As they go, they are to speak to anyone who will listen, of Christ's healing and saving power. Jesus warns them this task will be difficult and at times even feel divisive. If anyone does not listen to the disciples, they are to shake the dust of that place from their feet and move on, preaching and teaching to new people. Jesus ends his instructions by reminding his followers that those who welcome them welcome Christ among them, and those who welcome Christ among them will find their way to God.

These words continue to ring out for our denomination as delegates gather in person this weekend for the 34th United Church of Christ General Synod in Indianapolis, Indiana, under the theme, **Making All Things New**. During this time, attendees and delegates have the opportunity to fully live Jesus' welcoming vision. Like the disciples, they are encouraged to speak the truth of Christ's healing and life-giving presence. Like those who encountered the first disciples, sometimes that truth can feel challenging or even divisive. But Christ calls General Synod attendees to both speak and listen anyway.

This speaking and listening happens at General Synod this week over committees with clear agendas, in less formal conversations in hallways and parking lots, in worship and workshops, over vendor tables and, of course, in the main assembly, where all delegates gather to pray, deliberate, listen and speak. We do all this because Christ continues to assure us that where our words are welcomed, God is present. And when we can discern God's presence, we can better sense what God is calling us towards.

As the 34th General Synod draws to a close, we thank God for the opportunity to follow these old instructions as we Create A New Thing!