

THE FUNNY THING ABOUT

# JACOB'S LADDER



BE BOTH



# 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, Summer Sunday School is available for ages 3 - 3<sup>rd</sup> 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** “Come, Christians, Join to Sing” – arr. David Lowe Jerry Mason, guest organist

### **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**

Today, we will read of Jacob and his dream.

**Oh! We know this one!**

Jacob had a dream...

**That his four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.**

No. That was the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. That’s a great dream but Jacob had a dream...

**Like a heartbeat, drives you mad**

**In the stillness of remembering what you had**

**And what you lost**

No, that’s Fleetwood Mac. Y’all have great taste in music.

**He had a dream where he saw a ladder resting on the earth.**

It's top reaching to heaven.

**The messengers of God were ascending and descending on it.**

That’s the one!

**Let us worship our God and recount this ancient story and what it might mean for us!**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

**"Surely the Presence of the Lord"**

WOLFE 11.11.9.7.12

Words & Music: Lanny Wolfe, 1977

© 1977 Lanny Wolfe Music; Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing



Sure - ly the pres - ence of the Lord is in this place;  
I can feel his might - y pow - er and his grace.  
I can hear the brush of an - gels' wings,  
I see glo - ry on each face; sure - ly the  
pres - ence of the Lord is in this place.

**SCRIPTURE** Genesis 28:10-19a (O.T. pg. 20)

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" – Thomas A. Dorsey Jen Vilimonovic, voice

**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

## HYMNN

## "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.

## 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

As recipients of the many ways in which God provides, let us share this generosity with others whose dreams have not yet been dreamt.

**For those waiting to ascend the ladder and get a message from God, we dedicate our offering as we sing out our praise to the source of all dreams!**

### \*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 dedicate these resources to doing God's work among God's people.

**Holy One, may these gifts plant seeds of justice for God's children who seek it; may they remind us to love more mercifully; may all walk humbly as we learn to tread gently upon this earth. Amen.**

### \*CLOSING HYMN

#### "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder"

We are climbing Jacob's ladder, We are climbing Jacob's ladder  
We are climbing Jacob's ladder, Children of the Lord

Ev'ry round goes higher, higher...

Rise and shine and give God glory...

Climbing up from earth to heaven...

### \*ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*BENEDICTION

For your dream for our world,

**A vision from God for the love of our neighbor.**

May you find the courage to make it real,

**For we all have the ability to be an angel, a messenger from God.**

Having been blessed to be a blessing, go from here and dream your dream!

**We shall go, 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      "Rejoicing" from Music for the Royal Fireworks - G.F. Handel**

Jerry Mason, guest organist

**"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"**

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"Precious Lord" Words & Music © 1938 Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp. (Admin. by CURB/Word Music Publishing)

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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

## JULY 23, 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)

**July 23, 2023 thru July 30, 2023**

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

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

**Mon**

**Tues** 7:00 pm Bible Study

**Wed** 10:30 am Quilters  
6:30 pm Gathering Band rehearsal  
7:00 pm Finance/Stewardship Meeting

**Thurs** 7:00 pm Congregational Council Meeting

**Fri**

**Sat**

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

### **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.

### **NEED A RIDE TO VOTE?**

Ohio has a very important special election coming up August 8 on Issue 1. Early voting at your county Board of Elections is going on now. If you need a ride to early vote at the Medina County Board of Elections, 3800 Stonegate Dr, Medina, or to the polls, please email Kate Lindon at [katewilmington@gmail.com](mailto:katewilmington@gmail.com) or text/call 330-663-1801.

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

Scripture: Genesis 28:10-19a

Sermon: Humankind: Be Both:  
“The Funny Thing About Jacob’s Ladder”  
Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

**Communion Table:** The communion table flowers are given by Karen & Mark Woodling in celebration of their grandbabies.

### **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!

### **MISSING BREAD TOWELS**

Have you ever received a loaf of warm baked bread from our bread makers? If so, you know how delicious it is, and that it is made with love! To do this, they need all their special tools, including their special flour sac towels. They have been missing for over a month now. If by chance you have accidentally taken one home to wash it and you still have it, please return it to the kitchen as soon as possible. We want them to be ready to bake again next month! Thank you.

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July 23, 2023  
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

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Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

## Wheat and Weeds Together

When St. John's United Church of Christ, in the southern Illinois town of Belvidere, decided to plant a community garden that would be open to all, they did not go small. In a video on the church's website, the large garden occupies a whole swath of the church's side yard. The plot also has some raised boxes, for folks who don't feel like kneeling when they harvest, and other pots for plants that are important to the garden, but not good for spreading. A share table holds free produce from the church garden, as well as other local gardens throughout the community. And anyone who would like to is invited to come at any time and gather the food that's ready for harvest, so that all might enjoy fresh produce during the harvest season.

Church pastor Rev. Muriel Morley Jahn explains in a video filmed in 2021 and available on the church's Facebook page, "This year, we're working to do a number of partner plantings, so we have the three sisters system with the corn stalk, and the beans growing up it and the gourds covering the root...Another way we're doing partner planting is with our blueberry bushes...in between each blueberry bush we have some herbs growing. Here is some thyme growing between these bushes and down here we have some basil that'll be growing up between the berries. We're trying to get as much food out of our garden as possible and one of the ways we do that is through our partner planting. Thyme especially likes the soil that blueberries like, so we're hoping they pair well together and appreciate each other's company."

By their intentional growing methods, the church is not just feeding the community. It's modeling a system of interdependence and mutual cooperation that helps not just thyme and blueberries but people to flourish.

You can see the whole video tour of the St. John's UCC community garden here: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=235969421622372> or at <https://stjohns401.org/>