

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





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 “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” – arr. Roger House Jerry Mason, piano
“Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)” – Chris Tomlin & Louie Giglio Ryan Routh, voice

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 delve into another intriguing story from Genesis,
Filled with sibling rivalry, trickery, and a sense of bewilderment.
Let us remember the lessons we have gleaned thus far:
That God is the hero of the Hebrew Scriptures,
That these stories describe rather than prescribe,
That God accompanies us in both big and small aspects of life,
And that while people engage in deception,
God extends grace abundantly. Thanks be to God!

***OPENING HYMN**

“Seek Ye First”

SEEK YE FIRST Irr.



1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God and God's
2. Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and



righ - teous - ness, and all these things shall be
ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be



add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

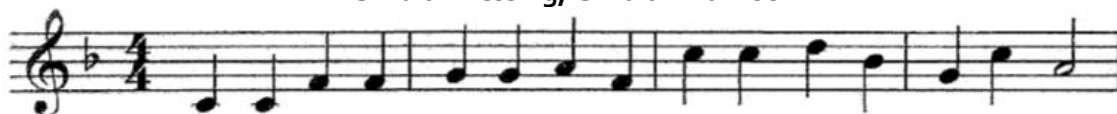
SPECIAL MUSIC "The Servant Song" – Richard Gillard

Sam Lindon, voice

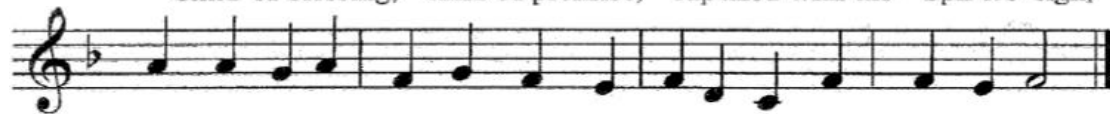
SACRAMENT OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

Kimberly Lynn Spencer & Charles Allen Spencer II

"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"



Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spir-it's sign;



With this wa-ter God has sealed you un-to love and grace di-vine.

Question to the Congregation

I commend to your love **Kimberly Lynn Spencer and Charles Allen Spencer** whom we receive as children in the family of God. Through your lives and example, will you support these **parents** in their desire to guide **Kimberly and Charles** in the knowledge and love of God and of our savior Jesus Christ?

People: In joyful response to God's grace, we promise our love, our support and our care.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 29:15-28 (O.T. pg. 25) & Matthew 13:44-46 (N.T. pg 14)

SERMON

"Sisters"

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

HYMN

"Lord of All Hopefulness"

SLANE 10.11.11.12

Jan Struther (1901-1953)

Irish melody; harm. Jack Schrader (b. 1942)

© 1931 Oxford University Press

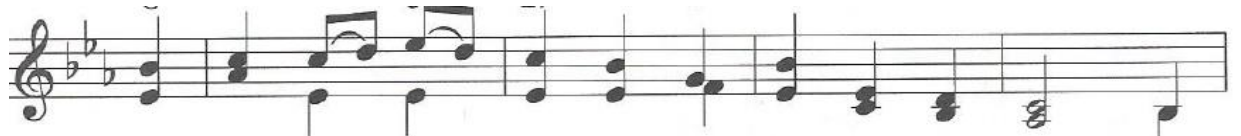
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1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like no cares could de - stroy,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace,
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm,



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray, your
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray, your
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray, your
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray, your



bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

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 we offer our time, talents, and resources,

Let us remember those who have experienced deceit and mistreatment,

Those who are regarded as possessions rather than individuals.

May our giving promote freedom and equality for all of God's people.

*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

Holy One, we dedicate these gifts in Your name,

For those among us who lack the essentials:

Enough nourishment and warmth, adequate shelter,

Sufficient employment and financial stability,

And access to necessary healthcare and medications.

May they receive the respect and recognition they deserve,

Granting them their inherent humanity.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We also lift up in prayer those who possess abundance,

Yet wrestle with finding meaning and purpose in life,

Indulging in perilous or self-centered endeavors

To numb their anguish or loneliness.

Lord, hear our prayer.

God, Your grace encompasses us all,

Calling us to live as citizens of heaven,

Unifying us with one heart and mind.

Grant us strength to embody the Good News we have received,

Offering ourselves in service to Your kingdom,

Where the last are first, and the first are last,

And where grace abounds for all.

Lord, hear our prayer.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,

We dedicate our words, wealth, and work. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"They'll Know We Are Christians"

ST. BRENDAN'S Irr.

Words & Music: Peter Scholtes

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1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come.



We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
And all praise to Christ Je - sus, his on - ly Son.



And we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored.
And to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
And we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride.
And all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one.



And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our love.



Yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

***ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***BENEDICTION**

For all our brothers and sisters in Christ,
For all guys, gals, and non-binary pals,
For the discovery of God’s kingdom,
A treasure in a field, a pearl of great value,
For liberation and freedom in our land,
For the healing of the world.

You church, have been blessed with this good news! Be unleashed on an unsuspecting world
To bend it to blessing and community.
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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“Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)” © 2006 Rising Springs Music, Vamos Publishing & worshiptogether.comsongs (all admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

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THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

JULY 30, 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 30, 2023 thru August 6, 2023
WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon

Tues 8:00 am Men's Breakfast
7:00 pm Bible Study

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

Thurs OFFICE CLOSED FOR
STAFF PLANNING REATREAT

Fri

Sat

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

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

Scripture: Genesis 29:15-28 and Matt 13:44-46

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

Communion Table: The communion table flowers are given by Greg & Barb Shaffer in honor of Greg's birthday.

DONATION OF THE MONTH

This month we will continue 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.

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.



Saturday, July 29th
10am - 1pm

We are looking for volunteers to help with projects on our Recovery Run Farm! Volunteers will be assigned tasks the day of based on availability and ability. Volunteer details & directions will be provided after registration is completed.

****Registration Required // Space limited**



Hope Farm: Space is limited, and registration is REQUIRED! Volunteers will be assigned tasks the day of based on availability and ability. Volunteer details & directions will be provided after registration is completed. Register here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E45AEAA23ABF4CF8-farm>

Heartland House Build: Register here: <https://heartlanducc.doubleknot.com/event/the-heartland-house-build/2984804>

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you ever wonder what the different color paraments stand for? Well, now you know!

PURPLE is the color of royalty and penitence, of wisdom, creativity, and nobility. It's a calming color, one we use during periods of preparation and reflection - Advent, the season before Christmas and Lent, the season before Easter.

WHITE is the color of joy and celebration, of renewal and cleansing, and newness. It represents purity and goodness and hope. In the church year, white is used during seasons of celebration - Christmas/Epiphany and Easter - and on special Sundays like Transfiguration Sunday, Trinity Sunday, All Saints' Day, and Reign of Christ Sunday.

GREEN is the color of growth and new life. We use this color the most throughout the church year - all during Ordinary Time. "Ordinary Time" means measured time, marked days of the journey, of our walk with the Lord. It's a time of growth and learning and the community and moving forward.

RED is the color of fire, passion, and love. It's bold and strong and vital. Red is used to symbolize Christ's passion during Holy Week and the gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday.



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

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Saturday, August 19th from 10:00 AM-12:00

I hope to have a robust children's choir. We'd love to have all of our members back, plus more!! Please join me for a fun-filled Saturday morning workshop to jump start our voices for the year!

ACCEPTING NEW MEMBERS TO THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR!! COME JOIN US MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!!

10:00-10:30 Have some breakfast and chat (mini bagels, donuts, granola bars, fruit, juice)

10:30-11:30 Theater and Music Games! Warm up our voices and bodies for great singing!

11:30-12:00 Learn the first song we will be singing this year!

First official Children's Choir will be September 10th - 9:45-10:15 AM

The first musical offering will be sung at the 10:30 service on September 17th!

Hope to see many of you on August 19th! Please respond to my email: jenny@uccmdeind.org no later than Sunday, August 13th, with your child(ren)'s name(s) and a yes or no. This choir is for K-6 grade.

See you all soon! Peace & Blessings, Mrs. C

CHANCEL CHOIR

I hope you are all enjoying your summer! I'd like to hold a "getting back in vocal shape" workshop and repertoire sight-singing evening, beginning with a pizza party on **Wednesday, August 30th**:

5:30-6:30 Dinner & Discourse (Pizza, Water, pop, crudité, cookies, and summer stories)

6:00-6:30 Warm up the Warble (Vocal, physical, and fun ways to warm up the voice and body)

6:30-8:30 Read the Rep! (Sight-read through the Sept.- Dec. Choir repertoire)

Please respond no later than Sunday, August 13th, with your name, a YES, I am coming 😊, or NO I cannot attend. 😞

THIS IS OPEN TO ANYONE IN THE CONGREGATION WHO WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE CHANCEL CHOIR - INCLUDING YOUTH IN GRADES 9-12

I hope many of you will attend as we head into a new choir season with our first official rehearsal on Wednesday, September 6th at 7:30 PM.

Please respond to my email jenny@uccmedina.org as soon as you can so I may prepare for our evening together! Peace and Blessings! Jenny

HANDBELL CHOIR

Handbell Workshop I spoke of at the end of our season. The music budget will be paying for your attendance (\$20). I will be registering us as a group, so I only need your response and commitment to the date and time in an email by Wednesday of this week (July 26th). There is an optional music packet available for \$10. If you would like to purchase an optional packet for \$10, please let me know with your response, as they are discounted (at door \$12) when purchased beforehand with the registration. I will collect the money from you for your packets (which we will receive when we arrive) on the workshop day. These packets are not required for the workshop. I will be purchasing a couple for the music files, so don't feel obliged to buy.

THIS IS OPEN TO ANYONE IN THE CONGREGATION THINKING ABOUT JOINING THE HANDBELL CHOIR THIS YEAR

See information below and please respond with your name, a yes or no for attendance, and if yes, let me know if you want to buy a packet.

Responses due by Sunday, July 30 via my email: jenny@uccmedina.org Hoping to have many of you at the workshop!

Saturday, August 26, 2023
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Rocky River United Methodist Church
19414 Detroit Street
Rocky River, OH 44116

Dear Church,

Summer is a gorgeous time here in NE Ohio where all is green. As the poet Joe Pintauro wrote, "Green is a God color." Summer is also a very busy time for pastors. We're busy planning for the fall, and we have a lot of cool things to look forward to!



Rev'd Up With Meghan and Luke: Meghan and I will launch a podcast! A podcast is like a radio program on the internet. We'll post the link where you can listen to it. We hope to launch in September. Meghan and I will be talking about things that get us rev'd up like church, the bible, and all things religious. We'll bring back our Defense Against the Dark Arts classes we had last winter, but we'll rename it Reading with Pride. We'll talk about the clobber passages and how to read the bible and be an ally to the LGBTQ+ folks.

More Than Church on Sunday worship series: Starting August 27 at our Alive on the Square worship we will begin the "More than Church on Sunday" worship series. This phrase comes from our 2013 Mission statement and it is designed to explore the significance and practical application of the Epistles in the Christian faith. Going beyond the routine of attending church on Sundays, this series aims to delve into the richness of the Epistles, which are letters written by the apostles and early Christian leaders to various churches and individuals.



Throughout the series, attendees will get into the flow of church through discovery, delving into the timeless wisdom, teachings, and guidance found within these letters. The series will emphasize the Epistles' call to live out our faith beyond Sunday gatherings, encouraging attendees to become true disciples of Christ in every aspect of their lives.

We will emphasize our small groups, bible studies, and host a few cool events. We hope to organize a "dining around" series where church members can sign up and then dine in one another's homes. Lots of fun coming up with this series.



No More Tears: A guide to life after life: The "No More Tears: A Guide to Life After Life" worship series is designed to explore the concept of the afterlife and provide biblical guidance and comfort regarding what lies beyond this earthly existence. Spanning every Sunday in October 2023, this series seeks to provide a safe and inclusive space for individuals to engage in meaningful conversations about life after death and to discover hope in a loving and inclusive God.

We will have an accompanying Bible Study through the Bible For Normal People and their work on the afterlife. These will be held on Mondays in October at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Meghan and I really dig these series logos and may even have t-shirts made of them if y'all are interested. Fall 2023 is going to be amazing! Let's savor summer and be present to it's joys and also know that good things are coming!

Yours in Christ,
-Pastor Luke

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Weaving the Future

Today's reading contains many mini-parables, a couple sentences each. Parables, short and seemingly simple stories meant to instruct and guide, are used often by Jesus as a means of teaching. Although they are simple, the parables sometimes leave the listener scratching their head and asking, "what did that mean?" It's a paradox of our faith, that it is the very mysteriousness of the parables which reveals so much. Because there are nearly infinite meanings to each one, parables are one of the strongest examples that, as we say in the United Church of Christ, "God is still speaking."

Your reaction to the parable reveals a God who continually invites us into the surprise of an ongoing conversation, one in which the partners know and love one another but still can't guess what the other is going to say next. As you dive into the mystery of the parable you are invited to get curious, ask questions, and express wonder, ultimately growing in your understanding of God's work in your life, and your own faith journey.

But your reaction to the parables is not the only measure of your ability to ask questions as you grow in your faith. Take a look at the order of service (also called the liturgy) for your worship service today. Does it contain a prayer of confession? The prayer of confession works like a parable - it invites you into conversation with God and with yourself. As you say the words of the prayer of confession, you are invited to get curious, ask questions and express wonder about God's work in your own life and the life of your faith community.

One of the parables today says that the kingdom of heaven is the net that is thrown into the sea, catching fish "of every kind." One of the many ways of thinking of this parable is that in the Reign of God, all are drawn into, and pulled together into the divine. But then some fish are kept, and some are not. Perhaps we include the prayer of confession as a small parable in our worship services because we do not believe that fish are born worthy or unworthy. Instead, we believe that within each person is the power to grow, change and be transformed.