

DATE August 20, 2023

SUBJECT Stay Near Me





# 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”

### RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE “We All Are One in Mission” - setting, Anne Krentz Organ

Cathy Fafrak, piano

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

#### \*INTROIT

#### “Visioning Prayer”

Sharon Alberson for Medina UCC © 2013



God, help us \_\_\_ to be wel-com-ing.



God, help us \_\_\_ to be lov-ing God, help us \_\_\_ to see that



ser-ving you can lead us to \_\_\_ a place full of grace with no li-mits where we can be free...



to o - pen \_\_\_ our hands, wel-com-ing to o - pen \_\_\_ our hearts,



lov-ing to be more than church on \_\_\_ Sun-day, to live in the light from a - bove; to



cel - a - brate in ser - vice and love.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** ("Loose-Leaf" by Gerhard Frost, *Seasons of a Lifetime* page 57)

When your options are either

**to revise your beliefs or reject a person**

look again.

Any formula for living

**That is too cramped for the human situation**

cries for re-thinking.

Hard-cover catechisms,

**are a contradiction to our loose-leaf lives.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

**"Together We Serve"**

*Text & Music: Daniel Charles Damon, 1996; © Hope Publishing Company*

SAN ANSELMO 5.5.11 D



1 To - geth - er we serve, u - nit - ed by love, in -

2 We seek to be - come a bea - con of hope, a

3 We wel - come the scarred, the wealth - y, the poor, the

4 To - geth - er, by grace, we wit - ness and work, re -



vit - ing God's world to the glo - ri - ous feast. We

lamp for the heart and a light for the feet. We

bus - y, the lone - ly, and all who need care. We

mem - ber - ing Je - sus, in whom we grow strong. To -



work and we pray through sor - row and joy, ex -

learn, year by year, to let love shine through un -

of - fer a home to those who will come, our

geth - er we serve in Spir - it and truth, re -



tend - ing God's love to the last and the least.

til we see Christ in each per - son we meet.

hands quick to help, our hearts read - y to dare.

mem - ber - ing love is the strength of our song.

## OPENING PRAYER

**Holy One, creator of all that is.**

## Why is it easier to burn a bridge than build one?

## Why is it easier in this world to destroy than to create?

**Is this true or does it only seem to be? Help us in our ponderings.**

**Guide our thinking, accompany us in our journey.**

**We lift up to you these questions and strain to hear your word for us today.**

**In Jesus name. Amen.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

## "Believe For It"

Colleen Rice & Ann Nagy, voice

*by CeCe Winans, Dwan Hill, Kyle Lee & Mitch Wong*

## MESSAGE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY OF GOD

Stacie Yates

# 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

## SCRIPTURE

## Genesis 45:1-15

Ashley Bonsell, Liturgist

*Today's reading can be found in your pew bible on page 40 of the Old Testament*

# SERMON

## “Be Near Me”

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

## HYMN

## "God Will Take Care of You"

MARTIN CM with refrain

*W. Stillman Martin, 1905*



1 Be not dis-mayed what-e'er be-tide, God will take care of you;  
2 Through days of toil when heart grows frail, God will take care of you;  
3 All you may need God will pro-vide, God will take care of you;  
4 No mat-ter what may be the test, God will take care of you;



Be - neath God's wings of love a - bide, God will take care of you.  
When dan - gers fierce your path as - sail, God will take care of you.  
Noth - ing you ask will be de - nied, God will take care of you.  
Lean, wea - ry one, up - on God's breast, God will take care of you.



God will take care of you, through ev - ery day, o'er all the way;



God will take care of you, God will take care of you.

## 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 trick ourselves into thinking we have power and own possessions. But everything we have comes from you. All is a gift. We give of our time, talent, and treasure in the spirit of Joe; saying to you Our God, and our neighbor, "Come closer to me."

### \*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

May you bless our offerings of our dollars and deliberations to say to our neighbors, "You shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children." May this establish a little more of your beloved community so that it shall be on earth as it is in heaven. In your many holy names, we pray. Amen.

## \*CLOSING HYMN

### "We All Are One In Mission"



1 We all are one in mis - sion, we all are one in call,  
2 We all are called for serv - ice to wit - ness in God's name.  
3 We all be - hold one vi - sion, a stark re - al - i - ty:  
4 Now let us be u - nit - ed and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.  
Our min - is - tries are dif - ferent, our pur - pose is the same:  
the au - thor of sal - va - tion was nailed up - on a tree.  
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle, great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove  
to touch the lives of oth - ers by God's sur - pris - ing grace,  
Yet res - ur - rect - ed Jus - tice gives rise that we may share  
We all are one in mis - sion, we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.  
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.  
free re - con - cil - i - a - tion and hope a - mid de - spair.  
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

## \*ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*BENEDICTION (from *A New Creed* United Church of Canada, 1968)

We are not alone,  
**we live in God's world.**

We believe in God:  
**who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence,**

**to live with respect in Creation,**

**to love and serve others,**

**to seek justice and resist evil,**

**to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

**God is with us.**

**We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God.**

Go in the name of the Triune God, to do the hard work of reconciliation where you are able and forgiveness everywhere. Not in spite of, but because of. This service has ended,  
**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      "Postlude in D" - Lemmens**

Cathy Fafrak, organ

**"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"**

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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)

**OFFICE STAFF**

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)

Jeff Miller, Financial Director - [jeff@uccmedina.org](mailto:jeff@uccmedina.org)

**PROGRAM STAFF**

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education – [stacie@uccmedina.org](mailto:stacie@uccmedina.org)

Jennifer Cochran, Director of Music - [jenny@uccmedina.org](mailto:jenny@uccmedina.org)

Cathy Fafrak, Organist & Office Assistant – [cathy@uccmedina.org](mailto:cathy@uccmedina.org)

Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – [jen@uccmedina.org](mailto:jen@uccmedina.org)

Jack Sharpe, Maintenance

Nick Brlan, Custodian



# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## AUGUST 20, 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)

### August 20, 2023 thru August 27, 2023 WEEK AT A GLANCE

<b>Sun</b>	<b>OPERATION HOMES WEEK</b>	
	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	10:30 am	Sanctuary Worship
	<b>11:45 am</b>	<b>Caring Team Meeting</b>
	4:30 pm	Men's Group
<b>Mon</b>		
<b>Tues</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>
<b>Wed</b>	10:30 am	Quilters
	6:30 pm	Gathering Band rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Finance/Stewardship Meeting
<b>Thurs</b>	7:00 pm	Congregational Council
<b>Fri</b>		
<b>Sat</b>		
<b>Sun</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>ONE SERVICE ONLY ALIVE ON THE SQUARE WORSHIP</b>

### DONATION OF THE MONTH

For August, 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!

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

Scripture: Genesis 45:1-15

Sermon: Humankind: Be Both:  
"Be Near Me" - Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

**Communion Table:** The communion table flowers are given by Chuck & Nancy Masi in honor of Chuck's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday!

### ALIVE ON THE SQUARE WORSHIP ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP AUGUST 27<sup>TH</sup> @ 10 A.M.

Come one, come all, and bring a friend to "Alive on the Square" for worship **Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am!** This will kick off our next sermon series, "More Than Church on Sunday." Kiwanis will serve a picnic lunch (hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans) after the service for a cash donation.

**Don't forget to bring your lawn chair!**



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



## 2024 COSTA RICA MISSION BUILD

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I can't believe it's that time of the year again, but we are beginning to plan for our 2024 Costa Rica build. This year we will be building in a new location near Liberia. The name of the town is Pijije and the family has been waiting for over a year. We will be travelling from March 9<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in joining the build, please email Vicki Miller at [tamvic1@aol.com](mailto:tamvic1@aol.com) for more information. As always, thanks to Medina UCC for the continued support!

## OPERATION HOMES

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Our week to welcome guests to our church is Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup> - Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. We will need some help with welcoming the guests to our church, meals, and staying at the church overnight. Please sign up in the lobby or contact Maureen Walker at [rini72@zoominternet.net](mailto:rini72@zoominternet.net) if you would like to help!

A few of our guests will be moving into homes soon! This is exciting news! Here is a link to some of the items they need.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090D4CA9A62BA5FB6-household1>

Please click on the link and sign up to see if you can donate some items!

## QUESTION FOR OUR YOUTH

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Do you want to build a service? Do you want to sing cool songs? Do you want to make up your own prayers that you can share while others pray along? Together you'll create it, and once a month...you'll lead everyone in Praise!

Do you want to build a service...your very own Youth Service...led your way?

**Bring ideas and let's chat about it at Youth Group on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm**

## CONFIRMATION GROUP OUTING

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Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmands are invited to Glow-In-The-Dark Painting, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm.

Parents will drop off and pick up from 2572 Kellogg Road, Hinckley 44233.

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY UPDATES

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Habitat will be dedicating their 50<sup>th</sup> home in Medina County on Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. There will be an open house from 1-2 pm, followed by the dedication at 2 pm. The home is located at 3515 Grafton Rd. in Brunswick, next to Brunswick Reformed Church. They are also looking to build a list of volunteers to do minor home safety repairs that will help local residents to age in place.

Reach out to [toconnell@medinahabitat.org](mailto:toconnell@medinahabitat.org) if you are interested in being on that list.

## LET'S START A UCC THEATER COMPANY!

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Jenny has some great ideas for a Medina UCCC production during the Candlelight Walk weekend! How would you like to hone your acting skills while creating our own version of a Dickens classic we'll call "A UCC Christmas Carol"? Our very own version of Scrooge will be visited by three spirits and brought to his/her senses! Members of the Chancel Choir will add Christmas Caroling to the mix! If you are interested come to a meeting on: **Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup> from 3 - 4 pm.**

# NOTES FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

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Hello Congregation!

I hope you have had a wonderful summer and have enjoyed all the beautiful special music offerings you have heard since June. All those you heard worked very hard and all the musicians honed their offerings in a group session, helping and supporting one another along the way. Great things happened during these sessions to bring about such lovely summer music! We're almost off to another year. I hope some of you will think about joining us! Additionally, I will continue to offer private voice and flute lessons during the year. If you are interested, please contact me at [jenny@uccmedina.org](mailto:jenny@uccmedina.org).

## **First Chancel Choir Workshop: Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> 5:30-8:30 pm**

***(First Musical Offering: Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>)***

Calling all adult singers and students in grades 9-12 who'd like to sing in the Chancel Choir!

5:30-6:30 Pizza Dinner & Discourse

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 September repertoire)

**Please email me to RSVP for this event.**

Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays from 6:15-7:15 pm, except during Lent, when will move to Thursdays, at the same time until after Easter (6 weeks). Following Easter, we'll go back to Wednesdays.

***Oh, sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!***

## **First Alleluia Ringers Rehearsal: Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> 6:15-7:15 pm**

***(First Musical Offering: Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>)***

All ringers and potential hand-bell enthusiasts, we have our first AWAY workshop on Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup> in Rocky River. 12 of our members have signed up to attend! Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays from 6:15-7:15 pm, except during Lent, when will move to Thursdays at the same time until after Easter (6 weeks). Following Easter, we'll go back to Wednesdays. Please email me with any questions.

**Come join us! Let's ring in this new church year with the beautiful sound of the bells!**

## **First Children's Choir Rehearsal: Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> 9:45 - 10:15 am**

***(First musical offering: Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>)***

Calling all children grades K-6! Those who couldn't attend our workshop are still welcome to join us. Come rehearse with us Sunday mornings in the Chapel before the 10:30 service.

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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**

Genesis 45:1-15

### **Bold Moves**

In today's story, Joseph, having achieved success and power in Egypt, is reunited with his brothers who assumed that he was dead or enslaved in terrible conditions. Consider the words of this meditation as an invitation to reconcile a difficulty in your own life.

Imagine yourself standing, beginning to walk. You move with ease, each step making you stronger, never tiring...Imagine that you come to a hill and you begin to climb, noticing the terrain around you. It is the most beautiful kind of hill you can imagine.

What does it look like? Is it dry desert and rock? Rain forest? Mountain meadow? Glaciers?

Now imagine that you get to the top of the hill, and the view of the valleys and plains around you opens up. You can see a long way. Imagine that the place spread before you is the country of your life...It is populated with all the people you have known and every place you have ever been and everything you have ever done. As you look over it, you can see it at a distance, yet you can see it all clearly – the country of your life...Take a few moments to locate someone precious, or something that brings you joy, or someplace that brings you peace from sometime in your life. Enjoy your memories and feelings as you look upon that beloved person, object or place....

Now turn your gaze. Somewhere in the vast country of your life, there is something that still feels out of place. It is time to look at the thing that it is time to forgive. From your safe place, high on the hill, you can look at it with fresh eyes. You can see that thing for what it is – one thing in the country of your life, not the whole of it.

You know what it is – this thing that needs forgiving....

Is it something in yourself? Or done by another?... Look at it from this distance and with this clarity. See again how the thing that needs forgiving is only one place in the country of your life – one part (whether large or small) of all the vastness that you have seen and known....

Allow yourself to imagine how it would change the geography of the country of your life if you were to forgive the thing that needs forgiving...Would the thing change in shape or color? Would it reflect or absorb the light in a different way? ... Would it become smaller? Would it disappear altogether, leaving room for something new? ....

Allow yourself to imagine forgiving that thing. Allow yourself to imagine that it is already forgiven by a God whose love is more powerful than any human act. When you are ready, return to this place and this time.