

ALIVE ON THE

MEDINA



UCC

SQUARE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559 www.uccmedina.org

“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS”

**Those who are able please stand*

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!

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God of Grace,
you have given us minds to know you,
hearts to love you,
and voices to sing your praise.
Fill us with your Spirit,
that we come to an awareness and see you already in our midst
and worship you in spirit and in truth,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*OPENING SONG

“Gather Us In”

Text & tune: Marty Haugen, 1981

GATHER US IN Irr.
© 1982, GIA Publications, Inc.



1. Here in this place, the new light is stream-ing, sha-dows of doubt are
2. We are the young—our lives are a mys-tery; we are the old, who
3. Here we re-ceive new life in the wa-ters; here we re-ceive the
4. Not just in build-ings, small and con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way. See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a-way, here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



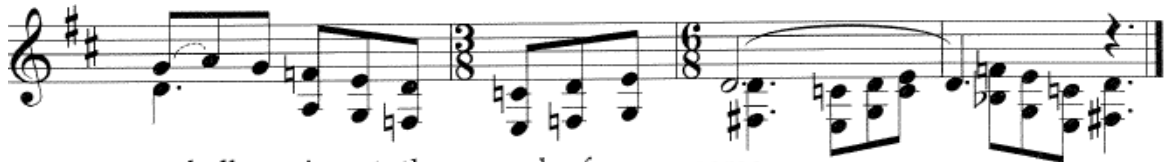
brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
now is God pres-ent, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in; our
Gath-er us in— the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in— the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pass-ion, give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



spir-its in-flame. Call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low-ly;
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

BLESSINGS FOR OUR CITY (inspired by Wild Goose Big book of Worship resources page 55)

How vibrant is the city alive at work and play.

The streets and parks echo with voices and stories both past and present.

Our coming together in council chamber and school,

hospital and places of work releases energy that expands into the corner of every home.

How vibrant is our city!

For the stay-at-home parent.

For the lonely and isolated.

For those overlooked and underserved.

Help us dream your dreams, God of all.

May your vibrant city arise. Amen.

PRAYER WITH THE CARING TEAM

Lord of Hosts, thank you for the gifts of these team. How they reflect you by hosting funeral luncheons. How they care through food and fellowship just as your son Jesus did. Bless them and all their work as the church this year. Amen.

PRAYER WITH THE EVANGELISM TEAM

Jesus, you have blessed us with good news! Your kingdom has come near! Forgiveness of sins! We shall love you with all our heart, mind, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves. Thank you for this team getting out the good news of your good news. For all the ways they tell others about our common life together as church. Bless them in their work. Amen.

PRAYER WITH THE MISSION TEAM, WISE AND A2A TEAM

Holy One, you guide your people unceasingly to care for one another. For the ways our teams cry justice! For how they clothe the naked, feed the hungry, comfort the afflicted, and do your will on earth as it is in heaven. Thank you for these teams and their witness. Bless them in their work this year. Amen!

PRAYER WITH THE DISCIPLESHIP & EDUCATION TEAM (DELTS)

Teacher Christ, you said, "Let the children come unto me." We do not hinder. We celebrate the work of the DELTS to turn stumbling blocks into building blocks. Bless them and all our youth. Thank you for this team and their work. In Your name we pray. Amen.

PRAYER WITH THE STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE TEAM

God, we know that the love of money is the root of all evil. We know that we are called to serve you and not money. May this team steward our resources. May we be joyful givers to our common life together. And may we know that our money serves you and your kingdom, not the other way around. Bless this team and their work this year. Amen!

PRAYER WITH THE MUSIC TEAM

Holy One, thank you for music! It is such a gift! For the songs of birds, whales, and the howls of wolves. How the trees clap their hands! How everything makes a joyful noise to you. Thank you for the gift of our choirs and band. Praise be to you, our God, from whom all blessings flow. Amen.

PRAYER WITH FRIENDS

Blessed be the ties that bind, oh God. Thank you for these disciples of yours, oh Christ. Thank you for the love of the Spirit within us. May we continue to be your church, your hands and feet. And may we look upon one another with your eyes of love. Amen.

*REGATHERING SONG

RECAP AND PREVIEW OF THE YEAR

*CLOSING SONG

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!

*BENEDICTION

For the blessings of being the United Church of Christ, Congregational!

For the blessings of the church of ages past,

For the lessons they bestow,

For the traditions and history they have given us.

For the church that will be,

That we can only dream about. The church of the future and of days to come.

So let us pray for the joys and concerns of being church in our day and our age,

For our pastors, our staff, and for the cloud of witnesses we are surrounded by.

Know that you are blessed to be a blessing. Go! For this service has ended,

And our LUNCH now begins! Amen!

***POSTLUDE**

Kiwanis will serve a picnic lunch (hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans) after the service for a cash donation. If you don't have cash, we'll cover you!

There are offering baskets on either side of the gazebo. You can place your offering there now or at the end of the service. You can also give through our Realm app or text-to-give by texting 73256 and following the prompts. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”

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COMING ATTRACTIONS AT MEDINA UCC,C

Church! Look at this year we have planned! Thanks to the moderators, the teams, and all y'all for helping shape our fall and Advent series. Please pick up the 2023 Fall Happenings book or you can request a PDF version from the office. Here are some important dates to be aware of:

- 9/10:** We'll have a Hobby Horse Sunday and a blessing of the backpacks on this day at all services.
- 9/24:** Due date for those who wish to join our Holy Dinners small group event.
- 10/2:** Afterlife Bible Study in Fellowship Hall begins, classes at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. (save for 10/23, just at 7 p.m.).
- 10/29:** Our All Saints worship will be one service at 10:30 a.m. with a chili cookoff to follow, sponsored by the Caring Team.
- 11/19:** Candlelight Walk Weekend and Jenny doing a special Christmas Carol program at 2 p.m.
- 12/15:** Jazzy Christmas: Jenny and the Gateway Band jazzed up our Advent season last year, and she's bringing it back at 7 p.m.!
- 12/24:** We'll have Advent 4 at 10:30 a.m. for one service and then Christmas Eve services at 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.
Winter/Spring 2024 packets will be released for the second half of the year.
- 12/31:** One service at 10:30 a.m.

The Holy Spirit is with us in both the planning and in your presence at these events. Church is a communal art. Showing up is 90% of anything, especially church. Blessings on what you are able to make and for the things you can't... Well, sabbath is a command. Any feedback and hopes for future events are welcome. I'm really looking forward to continuing to be the church together.

Yours in Christ,
Luke

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 27, 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

August 27, 2023 thru September 3, 2023

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun 10:00 am **ONE SERVICE ONLY**
ALIVE ON THE SQUARE WORSHIP

Mon

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
 5:30 pm Choir Dinner & Workshop
 6:30 pm Gathering Band rehearsal

Thurs

Fri

Sat

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship
 9:00 am Gathering Worship
 9:45 am Children's Choir rehearsal
 10:30 am Sanctuary Worship

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Join us for our upcoming New Member classes! We believe anyone is welcome to gather with us, but there is something special about making a deeper commitment to contribute to what God is doing in and through Medina UCC – and these classes are a great place for us to cast this vision, hear your story, and help you take the next step to commit to calling UCC your church home.

The next New Member class will be on Monday, September 25th at 7 pm in the new library. New members will join the church on Sunday, October 1st.

If you wish to participate, you may contact the church office at 330-725-4559 or register here though [REALM](#).

Worship Highlights: 10:00 am

“Alive on the Square”

Flowers: Today's flowers are given by Jen Welday in honor of Jeff & Diane Welday's anniversary.

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH
IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY**

ALIVE ON THE SQUARE ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP TODAY!

Come one, come all, and bring a friend to "Alive on the Square" for worship **TODAY at 10 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! (In case of rain, worship will be in the Sanctuary and lunch will follow the service in Fellowship Hall).

BIBLE STUDY DATE CHANGE

The Tuesday night Bible study will meet each Tuesday in the new library from 7 - 8:30 pm **EXCEPT for the 2nd Tuesday of the month when it will meet on Thursday.** This is to avoid a conflict with the Worship Team meeting.

COFFEE HOUR RESUMES

The Caring Team will start off hosting the first Coffee hour on September 10th after the 10:30 service. Signups are available in the East Room Hallway. Never hosted before? No worries! A week prior to your coffee hour date, you will receive a letter specifying your hosting responsibilities, plus a Caring Team member will call you to ask if you should have any questions. Hosting is to be simple with coffee, tea, water, punch, and your choice of pastries, donut holes, or cheese and crackers. Coffee Hour is meant to entice people of all ages to stay and mingle with each other. It's good old-fashioned hospitality, welcoming long-term members and new visitors alike. So, would you please consider hosting Coffee Hour one Sunday?

HELP ELIMINATE PERIOD POVERTY

One aspect of Period Poverty is the lack of access to menstrual products, and we can make an impact on this very present problem in our county schools. In addition to collecting boxed products to distribute, we are placing a bigger emphasis on collecting period underwear and mini detergent bottles with hand wash instructions. Every pair of period underwear we can provide can save each menstruator as much as \$100 a year in products. We have a list of desired products to make purchasing (and direct shipping if desired) easier. Links to this list can be found on the Church social media pages or printed out on the Mission table. In addition, we plan to distribute product bags to area Little Free Food Pantries.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, feel free to donate cash, write a check, or electronically transfer and include in message line "Period Products." Monetary donations can also be accepted in the church office.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Mark your calendars for the next Men's Breakfast on Tuesday, September 5th at Buehler's River Styx at 8:00 am. All men of the church are invited. No reservations required. We hope to see you there!

QUESTION FOR OUR YOUTH

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!

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

TREKKING THROUGH AUTUMN

Hike with your church friends this fall on Sunday afternoons at various Medina County Parks! Hikes leave promptly at 2 pm. No RSVP required, rain or shine except if storming. Most hikes are under 2 miles. Contact Kate Lindon with questions: katewllindon@gmail.com.

9/10: Chippewa Inlet Trail North, 5803 Lafayette Rd., Medina

9/17: Killbuck Lakes West, 7996 White Rd., Burbank

9/24: Mugar Park, 4985 Windfall Rd., Medina

10/1: Plum Creek Park North, 2390 Plum Creek Pkwy, Brunswick

10/8: Hubbard Valley Park, 8600 Hubbard Valley Rd., Seville

10/15: Allardale Park lodge entrance, 141 Remsen Rd., Medina

10/22: Chippewa Inlet Trail North, 5803 Lafayette Rd., Medina

10/29: Alderfer-Chatfield Wildlife Sanctuary, 6100 Ridge Rd., Medina (no pets; turn in award sheet here)

2024 COSTA RICA MISSION BUILD

I can't believe it's that time of the year again, but we are beginning to plan for our 2024 Costa Rica build. We will be travelling from March 9th - 17th. If you are interested in joining the build, please email Vicki Miller at tamvic1@aol.com for more information. As always, thanks to Medina UCC for the continued support!

DONATION OF THE MONTH

For September, we will be working in conjunction with the nonprofit group SPARK Medina to help eliminate period poverty. Please see that article for more details.

We will also continue to collect vegetables from your gardens! Please place them in the basket down by the Mission Team table.

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

We're almost off to another year. I hope some of you will think about joining us!

Chancel Choir begins rehearsals this Wednesday, August 30th with a pizza dinner at 5:30 pm, followed by reading through some new pieces for September. **If you would like to attend, please email me ASAP so I can plan enough food for everyone.**

Rehearsals will continue each Wednesday from 7:30 - 8:30 pm, except during Lent (6 weeks), when will move to Thursdays at the same time until after Easter when we'll go back to Wednesdays.

Bell Choir begins rehearsals on Wednesday, September 6th from 6:15 - 7:15 pm in the Sanctuary. As with the choir, we will move to Thursday rehearsals in Lent and go back to Wednesday nights following Easter.

Children's Choir had a fun kick-off workshop on August 19th and will begin rehearsals on Sunday, September 3rd from 9:45 - 10:15 am. If you are in kindergarten through 6th grade, come rehearse with us on Sunday mornings in the Chapel before the 10:30 service.

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.

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**

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Be Transformed

A new king rose to power. This king did not understand the past or remember that it was Joseph's wisdom and God-given insight that had saved his people in generations gone by. Instead, like many in power, he began to be afraid of Joseph's many children and grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. What if they join my enemies, he wondered, in the event of war? So, he conscripted and enslaved the people, forcing them into hard labor. Our Book tells us that Pharaoh and his slave drivers were ruthless, imposing harder and harder tasks upon God's people. He could force them to work, even to build great cities, but he could not steal their joy and love. And so, God's people grew in numbers.

Then Pharaoh called the midwives, the women who attended the births and brought the babies, squalling and slimy and so preciously alive, into the world. The midwives must have wondered if they would be killed when they went cautiously before the terrible ruler, but Pharaoh instead commanded them to do something horrible. He commanded that the women, called by God to bring life into this world, would instead kill the boy babies they helped birth.

The midwives left Pharaoh's presence breathing a sigh of relief. They knew just what to do. Instead of killing the babies, they lied to Pharaoh about the birth process, something he obviously knew nothing about.

God's preference for those on the margins is shown strongly throughout the scriptures, but perhaps nowhere as strongly as this story. How can the midwives help you find your power against those who would abuse or oppress? What skills do you have that keep giving life, even times and place that ask you to deal in death?