



Blox 118
July 9-15, 2023



Do justice, love kindness,
walk humbly.

Reflecting on
our trip to
Back Bay Mission
Sunday Aug. 6, 2023





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 “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” – arr. Anne Krentz Organ Cathy Fafrak, piano

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**

Back Bay Mission has a simple mission: to strengthen neighborhoods, seek justice and transform lives.

To do justice. To love kindness. To walk humbly with God.

They seek justice by getting people engaged in their community, by educating people about the realities of poverty, and by advocating on behalf of the marginalized people they serve.

They proclaim that all people are first and foremost the precious children of a loving God,

They taught us that poverty is best understood as a lack of access to the things a person needs to be treated as a full member of society: things like food, clothing, and shelter.

God, help us to embody your extravagant welcome as they do!

***OPENING HYMN**

“Bring Many Names”

Carlton R. Young, 1987

WESTCHASE 9.10.11.9.
Brian Wren, 1987; © 1989 Hope Publishing Co.

1. Bring man - y names, beau - ti - ful and good,
 4. Old, ach - ing God, grey with end - less care,
 5. Young, grow - ing God, ea - ger, on the move,
 6. Great, liv - ing God, nev - er ful - ly known,

1. cel - e - brate, in par - a - ble and sto - ry, ho - li - ness in
 4. calm - ly pierc - ing e - vil's new dis - guis - es, glad of good sur -
 5. say - ing no to false - hood and un - kind - ness, cry - ing out for
 6. joy - ful dark - ness far be - yond our see - ing, clos - er yet than

1. glo - ry, liv - ing, lov - ing God. Hail and Ho -
 4. pris - es, wis - er than de - spair: Hail and Ho -
 5. jus - tice, giv - ing all you have: Hail and Ho -
 6. breath - ing, ev - er - last - ing home: Hail and Ho -

1. san - na! Bring man - y names!
 4. san - na, old, ach - ing God!
 5. san - na, young, grow - ing God!
 6. san - na, great, liv - ing God!

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 32:22-31 (O.T. pg. 29)

Deb Waldron, Liturgist

SPECIAL MUSIC

"We Gather at Your Table, Lord"

Jerry Mason, voice

Text by Wade Alexander Mansur, alt. by Dale Wood; Traditional Irish melody/arr. by Walter Ehret

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

STORIES AND LESSONS FROM THE BACK BAY MISSION TRIP

Owen Stepsis, Maggie Bixler, Eve Lindon, Ruby Gabrielsen & Nora Nolan

SERMON

"Face to Face"

Rev. Meghan Malone

HYMN

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

LINSTEAD LM with refrain

Fred Kaan, 1975; alt.

Jamaican folk song; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1975 © 1975 Hope Publishing Co.



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em-ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear-ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach-ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - ery-where!



Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a-bound!

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy One, let this meal be a reminder that you are as close to us as our nearest neighbor, as visible to us as the one with whom we are breaking bread, and that whenever we come face to face with you, we will always be transformed. Amen.

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

The trip to Back Bay Mission was made possible by the generosity of this community.

The gifts we share are multiplied through the transformation of people's lives.

Let us rise in body or spirit, and praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

***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**

Creator, sustainer, redeemer – thank you for human community, for the privilege of being connected with each other, and for the impact of love that ripples ever outward from your church. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service"

BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7.D.

Albert F. Bayly, 1961, alt..

© 1961 Oxford University Press, Inc

Attr. B.F. White, 1844; The Sacred Harp, 1844; arr. Jack Schrader

Arr. © 1992 Hope Publishing Company



1 Lord, whose love through hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
2 Still your chil - dren wan-der home-less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal-ing light
4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, of - fered mer - cy's per - fect deed;
still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great-ness, dawns up - on our quick-ened sight,
to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a - lone, but heart,
As, O Lord, your deep com - pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak-ing known the needs and bur - dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,
hope and health, good will and com-fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - ery gift that you im-part.
use the love your Spir - it kin - dles still to save and make us whole.
stir-ring us to tire-less striv - ing, your a - bun-dant life to share.
that your ser-vants, Lord, in free - dom, may your mer - cy know and live.

***ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***BENEDICTION**

So church, where did you see God today?
We saw God in each other at the table, and in the face of our neighbor.
Where else did you see God today?
We saw God in Biloxi, in the volunteers at Back Bay Mission, and in everyone they serve.
Anywhere else you saw God today?
We see God in ourselves, in our community, and in every effort to bring peace and justice.
Well then, you have come face to face with God today.
May you be forever changed by it and go from this place blessed to be a blessing.
We will! 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 “Trumpet Tune in F” – Martha Sobaje** Cathy Fafrak, organist

“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”

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PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - luke@uccmedina.org
Rev. Meghan Malone, Associate Pastor of Youth & Mission - meghan@uccmedina.org
Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor – karen@uccmedina.org

OFFICE STAFF

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - office@uccmedina.org
Jeff Miller, Financial Director - jeff@uccmedina.org

PROGRAM STAFF

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education – stacie@uccmedina.org
Jennifer Cochran, Director of Music - jenny@uccmedina.org
Cathy Fafrak, Organist & Office Assistant – cathy@uccmedina.org
Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – jen@uccmedina.org
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance
Nick Brlan, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 6, 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 6, 2023 thru August 13, 2023 WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	8:15 am	
Chapel Worship	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	10:30 am	Sanctuary Worship
	4:30 pm	Men's Group
Mon	Cook for Cups	
	5:00 pm	Youth Book Club
Tues	7:00 pm DELT Meeting	
	7:00 pm Worship Team Meeting	
	7:00 pm Bible Study	
Wed	10:30 am	Quilters
	6:30 pm	Gathering Band rehearsal
Thurs	7:00 pm Hobby Horse Team Meeting	
	7:00 pm	Support Group: Keep Talking About Mental Health
Fri	7:00 pm	Mental Health Support Group:
Sat		
Sun	8:15 am	
Chapel Worship	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	10:30 am	Sanctuary Worship
	11:30 am Mission Team Meeting	

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

Scripture: Genesis 32:22-31

Sermon: Humankind: Be Both:
“Face to Face” - Rev. Meghan Malone

Communion Table: The communion table flowers are given by Deb Waldron in honor of Betty Zarney's 101st birthday on August 9th.

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.

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



ALIVE ON THE SQUARE WORSHIP ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP AUGUST 27TH @ 10 A.M.

Come one, come all, and bring a friend to "Alive on the Square" for worship **Sunday, August 27th 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!

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.

OPERATION HOMES

Our week to welcome guests to our church is Monday, August 21-Monday, August 28. 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 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!

CHANCEL CHOIR

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

I am holding 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**

****6:00-6:30 Warm up the Warble**

****6:30-8:30 Read the Rep!**

Please respond no later than Sunday,

August 13th to jenny@uccmedina.org so I may prepare for our evening together!

Our first official rehearsal will be on Wednesday, September 6th at 7:30 PM.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

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

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 Chat and have some breakfast (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!

Please respond to my email: jenny@uccmedina.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



July 31, 2023

RE: Financial Update

On behalf of the stewardship and finance team, I want to let you know some good news and some bad news.

The Good News:

- Our average household giving is up:
 - Jan to June 2021 = \$795.72 average gift
 - Jan to June 2022 = \$801.60 average gift
 - Jan to June 2023 = \$960.15 average gift
- Between our Capital, Operating, Mission & Youth Fellowship Restricted Funds, we have \$370,042 in the bank, marked as restricted reserves.
- Year-To-Date Operating Expenses are down \$4,800 to budget.
- Year-To-Date Pledged Giving to Operating is up \$13,616.
- Year-To-Date Non-Pledged Giving to Operating is up \$3K over last year same time frame.

The Bad News:

- As of June 30th, 2023, our net operating proceeds are down \$22,625. We are averaging a monthly shortfall of \$3,700. If this trend continues through year-end, we will be looking at a negative \$45,250 operating shortfall.

For 2023, we took an aggressive approach to building out our Operating Budget, to position our Church for future growth and programming for our youth. We knew and all agreed that it was the right time to make the investment and have certainly already seen the wins. We do have roughly 18% of current members, from whom we have not yet received a gift to Operating in 2023. Some of these members give later in the year via means such as IRA disbursements. So, the hope is that we will see an influx of funds in the 2nd half of the year. We do, however, need to continue seeing an increase in non-pledged giving. We have little doubt that our shortfall will be diminished, as this is a Church that always steps up and meets and beats all challenges.

Jeff Miller
Financial Director
jeff@uccmedina.org
330-725-4559

Dear Church,

Jeff's data is troubling. However, in my 6 years, we've surpassed our budget expectations each and every year due to your generosity and the movement of the Holy Spirit. The best indicator of the future is past behavior. While I'm nervous, I'm not troubled.

I will never ask you to do something I'm not willing to do myself. My family will add \$157 on top of our pledge to help cover the shortfall. Here's how Corey Raub from our Stewardship and Finance Team came to this number: We have a projected shortfall of \$48,000 and 305 contributing families. \$48,000 divided by 305 is \$157 per contributing family or \$3 per week. I hope you will consider giving an extra \$3 per week through the end of the year to help out the church. My family and I will write a check and hope you will, too. You can also give through REALM or contact Jeff in the office.

We will continue to impact our community through our missions. We'll continue to provide inspiring and thought-provoking worship. We'll continue to retain our wonderful staff. We will be the church. I have faith in us. If you can do a little bit to help with finances, please consider. If you can't, I understand. If something is troubling you and you would like to talk about it, please reach out to me.

With faith in God and in one another, there is no mountain we can't climb.

Yours in Christ,
The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon
luke@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

Matthew 14:13-21

Face to Face

When Jesus fed miraculously produced loaves and fishes to the crowds who followed him, here's what he did *not* do. He did *not* ask them to show evidence that they were gainfully employed. He did *not* make them prove that they followed a certain set of guidelines or adhered to a particular set of behaviors. He did *not* make them sign an oath of allegiance to him. He just...fed them. Every single person who was gathered there that day was fed.

Lost in the wonder of Jesus' production of the loaves and fishes, we can lose sight of how this story can guide us in our own lives. In order for Jesus to feed everyone, he had to believe not only in the abundance providence of God but in the inherent worthiness of each person, without discussion or question. How often we forget these things!

It is perhaps no accident that we hear this story of abundance and worth on Hiroshima Day of Remembrance. As we recall the atomic bomb that was dropped on August 6, 1945, on the city of Hiroshima, we join the citizens of that city and people around the world in pausing for a moment to pray for peace, and for the will to see the abundant worthiness in all of creation as stronger than our weapons of mass destruction.

If you look on the timeline of Iao Congregational UCC in Maui, Hawaii, you will notice that in 1942, months after the bombing of Pearl Harbor by Japanese forces, the church changed its name from Wailuku Japanese Christian Church to Iao Congregational Church. This was no coincidence, but a move designed to protect the church members of Japanese descent. These American citizens, many with generations in the country, were interred in great numbers on suspicion of spying or treason, even though no evidence was ever found against a single Japanese-American Hawaiian during the second world war.

As we pray for peace this day, may we also pray for the willingness to be changed from within, to follow Christ's example of abundance and compassion for all.