



GOD SO LOVED

NO MORE TEARS
+ OCT 2023 +
A GUIDE TO LIFE AFTER LIFE



If you judge people, you have no time to love them



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 10:30 service, Jesus Vibes Sunday School is available for ages 3-8th 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 “The Gift of Love” - setting, John Carter

Cathy Fafrak, Piano

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

O Lord, let me soul rise up to meet you,

As the day rises to meet the sun.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Amen.

Come let us sing to the Lord;

Let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation!

*OPENING HYMN

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.

Charles Wesley, 1743

John Zundel, 1870

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;
3. Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;
4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us be,

fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy faith-ful mer-cies crown;
 let us all in thee in - her - it, let us find thy prom-ised rest;
 sud-den - ly re - turn and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.
 let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee;

Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
 take a - way our love of sin - ning; al - pha and o - me - ga be;
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
 changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,

vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 end of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 pray, and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

***REFLECTION** from Frederick Buecher (from *Common Prayer: A liturgy for ordinary radicals*. Page 286)

Who knows how the awareness of God's love first hits people?

Each has their own tale to tell,

including the person who would not believe in God if you paid him.

Some moments happen in your life that makes you say YES

right up to the roots of your hair, that makes it worth having been born, just to have happen.

Laughing with somebody til tears run down your cheeks.

Waking up to the first snow...

Whether you thank God for such a moment or thank your lucky stars,

it is a moment that is trying to open up your whole life...

If you throw your arms around such a moment and hug it like crazy, it may save your soul.

BELL ANTHEM

“Come Let Us Eat” - arr. Cathy Mokolbust

Alleluia Ringers

SCRIPTURE

John 3:16-22 (N.T. pg. 88)

Deb Waldron, Liturgist

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

Cindy Talbert

Joining at other services this morning: Lexi Gruich & Natalie Peacock

Congregation: We promise our love, our support, and our prayer.

Then let us pray:

Almighty God, we thank you for adding to our community.

You bless us with the gift of these lives.

May we be curious. May we learn from them.

May we compassionately teach what we know.

**May you grant that we grow together and build your kingdom
in whatever way you guide us.**

Thank you, Gracious Mystery.

**Surround us all in a love that knows no end,
and may it be a reflection of your love for us all shown in
the life of Christ and the movement of the Spirit. Amen!**

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

SERMON

“God So Loved”

The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION ON WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

*All are welcome at the Lord's Table. You do not need to be a member of the United Church of Christ to
partake in the Holy Sacrament. All bread served is gluten free.*

Invitation to the Table

The Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

COMMUNION HYMN

"Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread"

ST. AGNES CM
John B. Dykes, 1866

James Montgomery, 1825

1. Be known to us in break - ing bread, but do not then de - part;
2. There sup with us in love di - vine; thy bod - y and thy blood,
Sav - ior, a - bide with us, and spread thy ta - ble in our heart.
that liv - ing bread, that heav - en - ly wine, be our im - mor - tal food.

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

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon God's many names;
make known God's deeds among the peoples.

*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 (Psalm 117)

Praise the Lord, all you nations:
Laud him all you peoples.
For God's loving compassion towards us is great,
And God's faithfulness endures forever. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"As Moses Raised the Serpent Up"

MORNING SONG CM

Versification The New Century Hymnal, 1993

Melody from Sixteen Tune Settings, 1812; harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1940

1 As Mo - ses raised the ser - pent up, God's
 2 For God so loved the world that God, all
 3 That Child was sent in - to the world not

Child is lift - ed high; And all who in that
 hu - man life to free, Gave to the world God's
 to con - demn but save; Now through Christ's name all

Child be - lieve shall nev - er, nev - er die.
 Child that all might live e - ter - nal - ly.
 are re - deemed— what won - drous love God gave.

***ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***BENEDICTION**

Triune love, you were with us at the beginning of time

Stay with us till the end of time.

You were with us when our lives were formed.

Remain with us till the end of life.

You were with us at the rising of the sun.

Be with us when the day is done.

***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** "Rigaudon" - David H. Hegarty Cathy Fafrak, organ

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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****Please join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the service****

Coffee Hour is hosted this week by the Welday Family

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Bulletin Cover: Elaine Taylor is the artist behind our cover art. Pastor Luke only added the words "God so loved" and the worship series logo. A big thanks to the artistry of Elaine!

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THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

OCTOBER 1, 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

October 1, 2023 thru October 8, 2023

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	New Members Join
	8:15 am Chapel Worship
	9:00 am Gathering Worship
	9:45 am Children's Choir rehearsal
	10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
	11:30 am Caring Team Meeting
	2:00 pm Trekking Through Autumn @ Plum Creek Park North <i>2390 Plum Creek Pkwy, Brunswick</i>
	4:30 pm Youth Group Pumpkin carving
	4:30 pm Men's Group
Mon	2:00 pm Afterlife Bible Study
	7:00 pm Afterlife Bible Study
Tues	8:00 am Men's Breakfast
Wed	10:30 am Quilters
	6:15 pm Bell Choir rehearsal
	6:00 pm Gathering Band rehearsal
	7:00 pm Evangelism Team Meeting
	7:30 pm Choir rehearsal
Thurs	6:30 pm Theatre Group
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
	11:45 am Mission Team Meeting
	2:00 pm Trekking Through Autumn @ Hubbard Valley Park <i>8600 Hubbard Valley Rd, Seville</i>
	3:30 pm Confirmation Class

CHANGE OF OFFICE HOURS

Church Office hours are Monday-Thursday from 9 am-3 pm, and Fridays from 9 am-Noon.

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

Scripture: John 3:16-22

Sermon: "God So Loved" - Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The communion table flowers are given by the Johns family in honor of Katherine's birthday.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED SPECIAL OFFERING TODAY

Today, October 1st, UCC congregations are called upon to collect a special mission offering for the Justice and Witness Ministries of the UCC, which supports a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. One-third of the funds raised are used to support CAIM (the Council for American Indian Ministry). Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. CAIM supports these local churches and their pastors.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

October 29, 2023

On this Sunday we will remember those persons who have passed away this past year. By having the time of remembrance during a worship service, we encourage family members and others to come and share this time together. During the worship service, the names of the members of Medina UCC who have passed away between Oct. 2022 & Oct. 2023 will be read. We would also like to read the names of family members and loved ones who have passed away during this past year. **If you have a loved one that you would like to remember, please call the Church Office no later than October 22nd with the full name of the loved one, their relationship to you, and the date of their passing.**

DONATION OF THE MONTH

In October, you will have an opportunity to support Hope and Healing Survivor Resource Center of Medina (formerly known as The Battered Women's Shelter). The Center serves all survivors of intimate partner violence regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, race, creed, country of origin, immigration status, income or ability. We have partnered with Hope and Healing with the sponsorship of a new dining room in the renovated shelter. They have recently received their residency permit and are open to those in need but could use assistance stocking much-needed items.

We can help by providing the following donations: new twin and full sheet sets; bleach; Scrubbing Bubbles; Pine Sol; kitchen trash bags and shelf-stable snack items.

Items may be placed in the bin at the bottom of the stairs in the lobby any time during the month. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity.

COOKING FOR CUPS CAFÉ

It is Cups Café sign up time again! Please consider signing up to provide a free meal to youth and families in need. Plan on enough food to serve 60-80 guests. The cooking schedule for the upcoming months are:

October 2 - Evangelism

November 6 - OPEN

December 4 - OPEN

January 7 - OPEN

Please let us know if you or your team would like to cook for one of the open days. You can cook individually or have a few people from your circle of friends/team split the workload. The meals can be delivered hot or cold (to be reheated) at 10:00 am on the day.

Dan Daubner can assist in bringing the food to Cups Café on the drop date, if needed. Just let him know.

If you want to volunteer to serve at Cups, please call 330-214-5990 or visit this link:

<https://signup.com/go/tnfTzBu>

Thank you all for taking care of our community!

COFFEE HOUR

Please consider hosting coffee hour one Sunday. If we don't have hosts for Coffee hour, we can't have it. Sign ups are available in the East Room hallway. Never hosted before? No worries! You'll receive a letter and a call from a Caring Team member should you have any questions. Hosting is to be simple, so would you please consider hosting Coffee Hour one Sunday?

HOBBY HORSE SCHOLARSHIP THANK YOU

Words cannot express how grateful we are at Hobby Horse Preschool for your very generous donations to our scholarship fund these past few weeks. With these gifts, we will be able to continue helping and serving ALL who wish to attend our wonderful preschool. 1,000 times over, thank you! -Jennifer Vilimonovic

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Mark your calendars for the next Men's Breakfast on Tuesday, October 3rd 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!

PET BLESSING

Bring your pet to be blessed on Thursday, October 12th from 5-7 pm outside the church at the corner of Broadway & Liberty Streets. Any pet that is safe to bring is welcome and will be individually blessed by our pastors. Free pet treats from One Lucky Dog Bakery, bandannas, and blessing cards while supplies last! The pet blessing will be part of Main Street Medina's Witches' Night Out. Let's celebrate God's compassion and concern for all creatures!

ALL CHURCH HAYRIDE

Sunday, October 15th from 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

One of the most anticipated events of the year is just around the corner. The annual fall hayride is once again at Richardson's Farm on Sunday, October 15th from 4:00-7:00-pm. The cost for the evening is \$11 for ages 4-5, \$12 for ages 6-15 and \$13 for adults. Ages 3 and under are free. This includes hayride, pumpkin, apple cider and apples. We will also have hotdogs, chips and s'mores to enjoy. **You need to sign up for this event and pay in advance.** We encourage everyone to [sign up and pay through Realm by clicking here](#). You can also call the church office and put the payment in Stacie Yates' mailbox in the church office. Make checks payable to Medina UCC and put hayride in the memo. Deadline to sign up is October 13th. Hope to see you there!

TREKKING THROUGH AUTUMN CONTINUES

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: katewinds@gmail.com.

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)

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 am – 3 pm MONDAY THRU THURSDAY; FRIDAY 9 am - 12 pm

October 1, 2023

18th Sunday after Pentecost | *Neighbors in Need Offering* | *World Communion Sunday*

Exodus 17:1-7

God's Sustaining Presence

...I would like to beg you dear Sir, as well as I can, to have patience with everything unresolved in your heart and to try to love the questions themselves as if they were locked rooms or books written in a very foreign language. Don't search for the answers, which could not be given to you now, because you would not be able to live them. And the point is to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps then, someday far in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer.

Rainer Maria Rilke, 1903, in, "Letters to a Young Poet".

Today's Bible story, as God's people wander in the wilderness and begin to be disgruntled and fractious, is packed full of questions.

Moses first asks, "Why do you quarrel with me?" and immediately after, "Why do you test the Lord?"

The people chorus back with a question of their own, asking, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt to kill us and our livestock and our children with thirst?"

Finally, Moses, fearful he will be killed, pleads to God, "What shall I do with the people?"

In the end, the area where they are wandering brings up so many questions that they decide to name the place after the question they all keep asking, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

A century and a couple of decades ago, the poet Rilke urged his young correspondent to "live the questions." Moses and his people certainly lived the questions in this story. But are they the kind of questions that deepen relationships or cause more alienation?

Are we willing to ask questions of God, of our leaders, and of each other that draw us into better conversations? And what would it mean to consider the questions on our minds, rather than just ask them? What would it mean to sit with the questions over time? How might the questions deepen and enrich our faith? What questions strengthen and empower our faith communities? Which questions encourage and support community leaders? Which questions are worth living? Can we begin asking those questions, here and now?