

ENCOURAGED



MORE THAN CHURCH
MEDINA UCC
ON SUNDAY



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”

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE “Here I Am to Worship” - Tim Hughes/arr. Victor Labenske Cathy Fafrak, piano

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*INTROIT

“Visioning Prayer”

Sharon Alberson for Medina UCC © 2013

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

8

God, help us to be lov-ing. God, help us to see that

15

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

20

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

27

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

33

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Friends, we are called to be learners.

We never stop learning.

Life is a journey with many seasons.

Sometimes we must be the one who speaks, and sometimes we must be the one who listens.

God our maker, grant us the wisdom to learn from each other.

God our teacher, help us to never stop seeking your revelations.

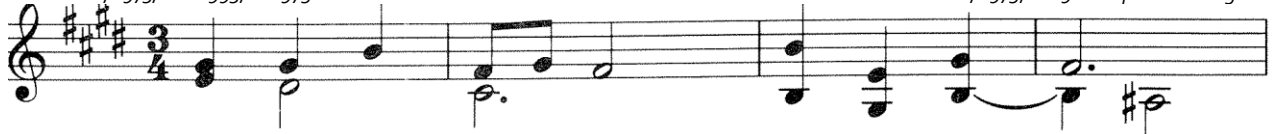
*OPENING HYMN

"We Are Your People" (vs. 1,2,& 5)

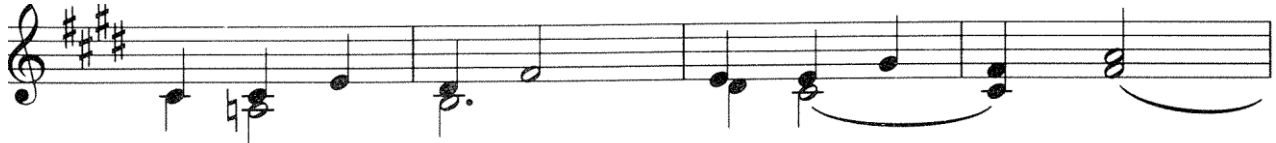
WHITEFIELD Irr.

Brian Wren, 1973; rev. 1993; © 1975

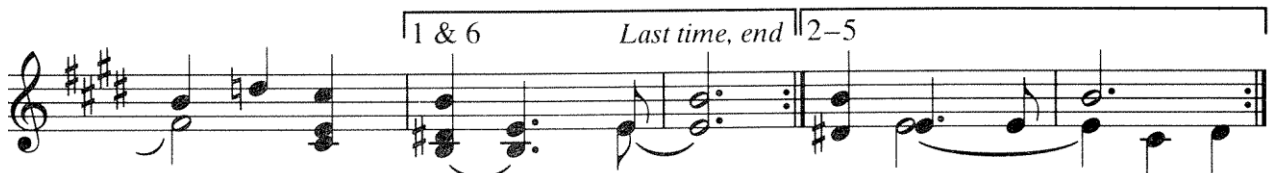
John Wilson, 1975; © 1980 Hope Publishing Co.



1 We are your peo - ple: Spir - it of grace,
2 Joined in com - mu - ni - ty, trea - sured and fed,
3 Rich in di - ver - si - ty, help us to live
4 Glad of tra - di - tion, help us to see



you dare to make us Christ to our neigh - bors
may we dis - cov - er gifts in each oth - er,
clos - er than neigh-bors, o - pen to strang - ers,
in all life's chang - ing, where Christ is lead - ing,



of ev - ery cul - ture and place.
will - ing to lead and be led.
a - ble to clash and for - give.
where our best ef - forts should be.

5 Give, as we ven - ture
jus - tice and care
(peace - ful, in - sist - ing,
risk - ing, re - sist - ing),
wis - dom to know when and where.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Stacie Yates

God bless these backpacks and everything they carry,*Stacie:* May their straps be strong enough to carry all the excitement of a new school year.

May there be enough room in their pockets for every big dream our students have.

May they be filled with possibility, curiosity, and courage to spare.

God bless the school lunches and the hands who prepare them.**God bless the books and the teachers who assign them.****God bless all the grown-ups, the helpers, and the leaders who touch our children's lives.***Meghan:* May our students be nourished in both body and in mind.

May they be well-rested as often as possible and encouraged by the friends around them.

May they be safe and protected, and know in the moments when they feel anxious or lonely, that you are a friend who is with them always, everywhere they go.

God bless the projects, the pencils, and the planners.**God bless all the homework, the class notes, and the study guides.***Luke:* May our students have abundant support for their learning.

May they know awe, and wonder at the fascinating world that we live in.

May they celebrate the beauty within themselves and rejoice in what they can create.

May they ask brave questions, be bold in seeking answers, and have faith in the unknown.

God bless these backpacks and the students who carry them.**In every way that we can, let us help them to flourish and grow,****In the name of our teacher, Jesus, who taught us to pray by saying...**

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

ANTHEM

"Dona Nobis Pacem - A Hymn for World Peace" by David Fanshawe
Chancel Choir with Tracy Gabrielsen, Sam Lindon, & Jennifer Vilimonovic, soloists

*Dona nobis pacem. Magne Deus, Deus noster, benedicte Domine.
Ex hoc nunc, et usque in saecula. Pater, qui fecisti caelum et terram.*

Grant us peace. Great God, our God, bless the Lord.
From now on and forever. Father, who made heaven and earth.

SERMON

"Encouraged"

Rev. Meghan Malone

HYMN

"Be Now My Vision"

SLANE 10.10.9.10.

Ancient Irish text, c. 8th c; transl. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912; adapt.

Trad. Irish melody; harm. David Evans. 1927

© 1927 Oxford University Press. From the REVISED CHURCH HYMNARY. 1927

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Be Now My Vision". It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first two lines of lyrics are numbered 1 and 2. The music ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;
2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—
ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;

You my best thought, by day or by night,
Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.
now and for - ev - er your child I will be.

A WORD OF GRATITUDE

Jen Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool

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

Every gift we give is the fruit of a gift once given to us. We bring our offerings today, because of our dreams for tomorrow, and so the song of love continues with us. Let us rise in body or spirit and sing out our praise together!

***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**

God, our friend who is full of wonder, fill our hearts and bless our hands. Help us to bring revelations to each other this year, to be more than church on Sunday, and to find encouragement in being together. In your many holy names we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"They'll Know We Are Christians"

Words and music by Peter Scholtes; © 1966, 1967 F.E.L. Publications. Assigned 1991 Lorenz Publishing Co.

ST. BRENDAN'S Irr.



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.

Refrain



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**

We worship a God who is never fully known.
There is always something new for us to discover.
We are a part of something that is much bigger than ourselves.
We are a line in a hymn that is still being sung.
Beloveds, go from this place and make beautiful music together.
Let everything you do be to build each other up,
So that all may learn, and all be encouraged.
Go in peace until we meet again.

***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 "When in Our Music, God is Glorified" - arr. Anna Laura Page Cathy Fafrak, organ**

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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Jack Sharpe, Maintenance
Nick Brlan, Custodian

**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**

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 10, 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

September 10, 2023 thru September 17, 2023 WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	FAITH FORMATION SUNDAY
	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 Theatre Group meeting
	11:45 am Mission Team meeting
	3:00 pm Confirmation Class
Mon	5:00 pm Youth Book Club
Tues	7:00 pm Worship Team Meeting
	7:00 pm DELTs Meeting
Wed	10:30 am Quilters
	6:15 pm Bell Choir rehearsal
	6:30 pm Gathering Band rehearsal
	7:30 pm Choir rehearsal
Thurs	7:00 pm Bible Study
	7:00 pm Support Group: Keep Talking About Mental Health
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
	11:30 am Caring Team Meeting
	11:30 am Connection Outreach Circle (COC) Meeting
	4:30 pm Youth Group Kick Off

LITURGIST SIGN-UP

Check out the bulletin board in the East Room hallway to sign up to be a liturgist during the 10:30 Sanctuary service. The new sign-up sheets are up for October - December.

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

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 14:26-31

Sermon: "Encouraged" - Rev. Meghan Malone

Communion Table: The communion table flowers are given by Jen Cockrell in memory of Gordon Cockrell.

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 through [REALM](#).

ALIVE ON THE SQUARE VIDEO

If you missed the annual worship outdoors on the Medina Square or just want to revisit it, you can watch it online now at www.uccmedina.org/live under "Alive on the Square August 27, 2023." You can watch other worship videos there as well! The worship podcast (audio only) is also available each week on Google/Apple podcasts, so you can listen while you drive, walk the dog, or cook dinner!

CHANGE OF OFFICE HOURS

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

COFFEE HOUR RESUMES TODAY

The Caring Team will host today's coffee hour after the 10:30 service. If you would like to sign up to host, dates are posted on the board in the East Room Hallway.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

From Cindy Korecky, our office manager...

I would like to say Thank You to everyone for all the thoughts, prayers, and well wishes during my surgery and recovery. The flowers and numerous amounts of cards have really brightened my days. Also, thank you to everyone who has helped to cover me in the office by answering phones, etc..

Blessings to you all and I hope to be back in the saddle soon!

CONNECTION OUTREACH CIRCLE (COC) MEETING

(Formerly known as Circle of Caring)

Sunday, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 at 11:30am

This meeting will kick-off our 2023-2024 year of outreach ministry to our most Senior Adults (80+years old) church membership who are homebound, shut-in, and in residential care facilities. Interested? Come join us, meet our teams, and see what Connection Outreach Circle is about. All are welcome!

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

Jen Cockrell's photography work will be on display in Beck Center for the Arts' Cultural Heritage Exhibition & Experience, a FREE visual arts exhibition in the main building at 17801 Detroit Ave, Lakewood. Please stop by Beck Center starting Sept 8 to see her work! And mark your calendars for a FREE reception with the artists on Friday, October 27th, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. No RSVP needed. More details here at <https://www.beckcenter.org/events>.

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.

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.

MEDINA FALL FESTIVAL HELP

The Evangelism Team is looking for volunteers to help at our booth at the Medina Fall Festival on September 16th from 10 am to 2 pm. Signup to volunteer can be done on REALM. We hope to see you there!

PASTOR'S CORNER

Hey Church!

I'm in Leadership Medina County, class of 2024. My class retreat was held on August 29th and 30th and I met some wonderful people. I sat down at a table with strangers, and in two hours we had built a bridge and friendship. A realtor, two pastors, a CEO of a steel company, and a school administrator built a bridge that could hold a huge phone book.

We learned, bonded, and got set for an amazing year. I'm so thankful for this opportunity to learn more about our county and its history and industry. In fact, history day is coming up on September 13, 2023! I'll be out of the office and learning all about the history of Medina county.

There is also a class project. We had 5 nonprofits come in and ask for help:

- Project LEARN needs an marketing campaign to raise awareness of their book stores and literacy programs
- Feeding Medina County needs drivers to sign up to deliver food to folks
- Hope Recovery Farm needs grant writers
- CUPS Café would like to form connections to area restaurants to feed their guests and eliminate food waste
- Medina County Metro Housing is developing an emergency shelter and they want to get the word out.

Our church has a great relationship with all of these groups! I went around and told each that I would pick whoever had the least amount of people at their table. The emergency shelter is where I landed. I'll keep you all updated on all that I'm learning and the status of our group projects.

Grace and Peace,
-Luke



JESUS VIBES IS BACK TODAY!

All youth are welcome to join us downstairs after the 'Message for the Whole Family of God' for Jesus Vibes. We have big things planned for this year. Hope you join us!

YOUTH GROUP KICK-OFF

Our first youth group of the school year will be September 17th from 4:30-6 pm. We will be making tie-dyed T-shirts, so please dress accordingly. We will also sing songs, play lawn games, and eat snow cones!

TEEN CHURCH

On the last Sunday of each month, teens in 8th grade and up can head to the youth room during the 10:30 service for quality time, snacks, and conversations that are just for them.

SUMMER HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP

Next summer's trip will be to Appalachia Service Project, June 9th - 15th. We will travel alongside our friends from Hudson UCC. Cost will be \$250/youth. We will hold an information meeting on Monday, September 25th at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall. Adults interested in volunteering to go along please let Pastor Meghan know!

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

A new acolyte schedule is now up in the choir room. Please sign up for days that work for you!

ACOLYTE TRAINING

There will be training for any youth who would like to learn how to acolyte on **Sunday, September 24th** immediately following the 10:30 service. If you have any questions, please see Stacie Yates or Olivia Miller.

QUESTION FOR OUR YOUTH

Do you want to create a youth service all your own and once a month lead everyone in praise? **Bring ideas and let's chat about it at Youth Group on Sunday, September 17th 4:30-6 pm.**

JESUS VIBES T-SHIRTS

Our youth have created their own Jesus Vibes t-shirts. They are available for anyone who would like to purchase one. <http://tinyurl.com/JesusVibesTee> A percentage of the total sales will come back to the youth to help pay for the Production Room Equipment for Jesus Vibes The link will also be on our Facebook pages! The last day to order will be September 22nd!



September 10, 2023
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Faith Formation Sunday

Exodus 12:1-14

Remember, Restore, Renew

God's people have been through so much. After generations of slavery, they too have undergone the plagues that tormented all of Egypt. Now, God's people are given an opportunity to mark themselves as God's own ones by placing a sign, a mark on the door. The mark they place means not only that they belong to God. It also means that they are prepared to move on, out of the place they and their ancestors have lived for so long. By placing the mark on the door, they indicate that they are ready to move forward into freedom, and a new relationship with God.

Doorways are not a place to linger. On the threshold, the invitation is to pass from one space to another. On this Faith Formation Sunday, what mark are you placing on the doorways of your heart and mind? What sign are you giving to God that you are ready to move forward into a new life?

Faith Formation, the willingness to be educated and grow into our faith, is often focused on children. Many adults seem to believe that they already know everything they need to know in order to live out their faith. But the invitation of Faith Formation Sunday is for everyone who is willing to make a step forward and out, and a step into the freedom and new life which comes from knowing and following God.

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, Faith Formation is a door available for you to walk through. Are you a person who never learned the stories of the Bible and your ancestors of faith, or never wrestled with how you might bring the practices of our faith into your daily lives? Or, are you someone who has many years of Sunday School under your belt?

If you are either of those, or somewhere in between, listen to God's call and invitation. Today, put a mark on the door of your heart, a sign to God that you are ready. And then, open the door and step through. Whether teaching a class or taking one, whether studying with a couple of companions or a couple dozen, take the opportunity of this day to step out, into the adventure of learning, growth, and freedom in God that awaits.