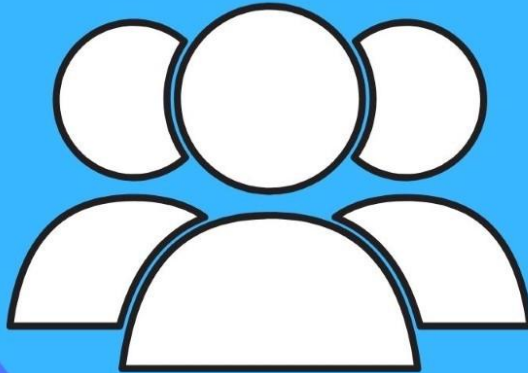


WE WHO ARE



MANY





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 “One, Two, Three, Jesus Loves Me” - Lisa Mazak

Children’s Choir

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 - brate in ser - vice and love.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (written by Torin Eikler, co-pastor Morgantown Church of the Brethren, WV.

Posted on the Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren website. <http://rockhay.tripod.com/worship/>)

One: The body is a unit, made up of many parts.

Right: Are all prophets?

Left: Do any speak in tongues?

All: We are the body of Christ.

One: We are baptized by one Spirit and given one Spirit to drink.

Right: Are any healers?

Left: Do all work miracles?

All: We are the body of Christ.

One: If one part suffers, all suffer with it. When one part is honored, all are honored with it.

Right: Are all apostles?

Left: Do any interpret?

All: We are the body of Christ.

One: God has bound us together as the church, so that we might share the good news that God's realm is at hand.

Right: Are any leaders?

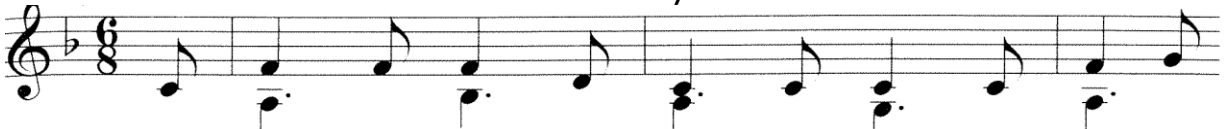
Left: Do all teach?

One: For we are the body of Christ,

All: Gathered in love to worship the One who brings us life.

***OPENING HYMN**

"I Come With Joy"



1. I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en,
4. The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but
5. To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that



1. loved and free, the life of Je - sus to re - call, in
4. ev - er near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
5. God has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



1. love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
4. live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
5. love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

***OPENING PRAYER** (From the *Didache*, 2nd century, the oldest Christian liturgy we have ever found)

We give you thanks, O Father,
for the life and knowledge which you have made known to us
through your Son Jesus;
yours is the glory for ever and ever.
As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now united on this table in bread and wine,
so, Lord, may your whole church soon be gathered together
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom;
for yours is the glory and power,
through Jesus Christ,
for ever and ever. Amen.

ANTHEM "Let Us Build a House (All Are Welcome) by Marty Haugen/ arr. Lloyd Larson
Chancel Choir with Jennifer Vilimonovic, voice, Pam Branscome, cello, & Jennifer Cochran, flute

SCRIPTURE Romans 12:1-13 (N.T. pg. 151) Nick North, Liturgist

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 "We Who Are Many" The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

HYMN "Called As Partners In Christ's Service" BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.
Jane Parker Huber, 1981 John Zundel, 1855



1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
4 So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life



We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
Help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
That sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quers strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-enge, said with care,
Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



E-qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
Blend-ing hu-man skills to-gether gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
Mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.

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

As members of one body, we are called to offer what we can, how we are gifted. Through our time, talent, and treasure, our work is multiplied and expanded through our gracious God, our Christ, and our Spirit.

Let us rise in body or spirit and sing praise to the Triune God.

**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 (from the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand)*

On my own what I have to give doesn't amount to much in the light of all you have given to me and in the face of so much need.

Put together as a congregation, what we offer you here in love becomes more, not simply added together, but somehow multiplied in its usefulness.

We ask you to bless our gifts and with the addition of your blessing, just as it was with the loaves and fishes, there is enough for all. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"Go Make a Difference"

Text & music: Steve Angrisano (b. 1965) and Tom Tomaszek (b. 1950)

©1997, 1998, Steve Angrisano & Thomas N. Tomaszek.

Published by OCP Publications

Refrain



Go make a dif - f'rence. We can make a dif - f'rence.



Go make a dif - f'rence in the world.



Go make a dif - f'rence. We can make a dif - f'rence.

To verses To repeat refrain



Go make a dif - f'rence in the world.

Verses 1, 2



1. We are the salt of the earth, called to let the peo - ple
2. We are the hands of Christ reach - ing out to those in



see the love of God in you and me.
need, the face of God for all to see.



We are the light of the world, not to be hid - den but be
We are the spir - it of hope; we are the voice of D.C.



seen. Go make a dif - f'rence in the world.
peace. Go make a dif - f'rence in the world.

Verse 3

3. So let your love shine on, let it shine for all to see.
 Go make a dif - f'rence in the world. And the
 spir - it of Christ will be with us as we go.
 Go make a dif - f'rence in the world. D.C.

***ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***BENEDICTION**

We have been blessed by our time together.
We thank God that we showed up.
 Whether you were here, here;
Or on the livestream, the cloud of witnesses that surround us.
 God has blessed us with one another.
In the billions of years that have passed, we are blessed to exist at the same time.
 We have been blessed to be a blessing!
We are more than church on Sunday. We Are The Church.
 To bend the world toward blessing. Go! For this service has ended,
And 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 E-flat" - Caleb Simper/arr. Michael Ryan Cathy Fafrak, organ**

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

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

Coffee Hour is hosted this week by Maureen Walker & Michelle Doyle.

+++++

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THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 17, 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 17, 2023 thru September 24, 2023 WEEK AT A GLANCE

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
Mon	1:00 pm	Breadmakers
	6:30 pm	Women's Bible Study
Tues	7:00 pm	Bible Study
Wed	10:30 am	Quilters
	6:15 pm	Bell Choir rehearsal
	6:30 pm	Gathering Band rehearsal
	7:30 pm	Choir 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
	3:00 pm	Confirmation Class

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

Scripture: Romans 12:1-13

Sermon: "We Who Are Many"
- Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The communion table flowers are given by Alice & Pete Metzloff family in memory of their parents and granddaughter, Sahara Jade Pettit.

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](#).

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.

CHANGE OF OFFICE HOURS

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

CONNECTION OUTREACH CIRCLE (COC) MEETING

Sunday, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 at 11:30am

This meeting will kick-off our 2023-2024 year of outreach ministry. Interested? Come join us, meet our teams, and see what Connection Outreach Circle is about. All are welcome!

YOUTH GROUP KICK-OFF TODAY!

Our first youth group of the school year will be today, 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!

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.

HELP ELIMINATE PERIOD POVERTY

Your donations during the month of September can help combat period poverty. 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. 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.

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.

For those who already acolyte, a new schedule has been posted in the choir room. Please sign up for days that work for you.

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!

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.

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. A percentage of the total sales will come back to the youth to help pay for the Production Room Equipment for Jesus Vibes. <http://tinyurl.com/JesusVibesTee> The link will also be on our Facebook pages! The last day to order will be September 22nd!

NEIGHBORS IN NEED SPECIAL OFFERING

On the first Sunday in October, 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.

THANK YOU

Many thanks from the Property & Grounds Team and the congregation to Pete & Sydney Benson for providing the new boxwood shrubs and urns that have added to the beauty of the pergola.

STEP UP TO PREVENT SUICIDE

On Sunday, October 15, 2023 the Medina County Coalition for Suicide Prevention will be hosting their annual community walk beginning on the Medina Square, 12:00-3:00pm. The event will engage hundreds of walk participants and raise funds for the coalition. The one-mile walk begins at 1:00pm and there will be additional activities for those who can't walk. The mission of the coalition is to provide coordinated strategies to increase awareness that suicide is a public health problem and empower people to seek help for themselves or others. The coalition works to prevent suicide, as well as support survivors in the aftermath of a death by suicide.

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: katew@lindon@gmail.com.

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

9/24: Mugrage 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)

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

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

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Jeff Miller, Financial Director - jeff@uccmedina.org

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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

September 17, 2023
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Just Peace Sunday

Exodus 14:19-31

Road to Freedom

Even if you have not spent much time in church or in Bible study, the story of the crossing of the Red Sea is probably a little familiar. Take a look at the story with new eyes today, reading it through a lens that is new to you. What new message or insight do you get from this story by reading it in this new way?

A **literary** reading considers the story from the point of view of literature. How does the plot arc and flow keep you, as the reader or listener, engaged? What are some of the literary devices, such as use of language? Who are the characters and how are they developed? What is your point of view as a reader or listener? How does the story change if you consider it from another point of view?

A **historical** reading considers the story from the point of view of its place in history. Take into account the place and time that the story takes place. What is the culture of God's people and of Pharaoh's people at the time? What are other forces at work in these societies?

Another way to read a Bible story is as a story of **God's work in the world**. In reading this way, pay attention to where God is and what God is doing. What is God like in this story and how does this compare to God's presence in other stories? How does God look and sound? In what ways does God circumvent expected or natural law in order to accomplish Divine goals?

You may also want to read a scripture story **devotionally**, as a way to intentionally deepen your walk with God. In reading this way, read the story slowly three times. The first time, pay attention to any words or phrases that jump out at you and make note of them. The second time, read while asking God to show you God's purpose in the world. The third time, read asking God to reveal something that you need for your own particular faith walk.