

JOINED



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 “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” - arr. Douglas E. Wagner Cathy Fafrak, Piano

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*INTROIT

“Visioning Prayer”

Sharon Alberson for Medina UCC © 2013



***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We are united in this worship,

If even here.

We enter intending to worship.

May we bless you and our neighbor, oh God. Amen!

***OPENING HYMN**

"Lord, You Give the Great Commission"

ABBOT'S LEIGH 8.7.8.7.D.

Jeffery Rowthorn, 1978 © 1978 Hope Publishing Co.

Cyril V. Taylor, 1941 © 1942, renewed 1970, Hope Publishing Co.



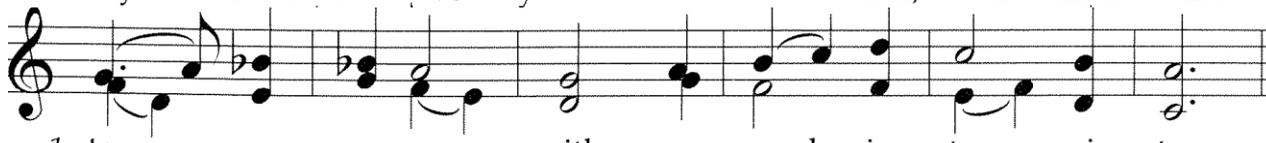
1. Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and
2. Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -
5. Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you



1. preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,
2. tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,
5. to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,



1. and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness
2. life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new
5. may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the



1. to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty.
2. fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty.
5. cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty.

Refrain



With the Spir - it's gifts em - power us for the work of min - is - try.

***OPENING PRAYER** (Selections from "Prayers for the weary, the angry, the anxious, and the hopeful"
by Nadia Bolz-Weber)

God of compassion, enter our city gates.

**Enter the somber roads down which our hearses drive
and the glad streets down which our children run.**

Walk uninvited into starter mansions and public housing and cheap motel rooms.

**Stroll into the cool-air freezer section where the pregnant women escape the heat
and the bus stop benches where the weary wait.**

Enter every law office and adult bookstore.

**Step into the spaces we say we feel your awesomeness and the places where we claim your
forsakenness. Enter our city gates, God of Compassion. And bless.**

Bless the things we mistakenly think are already dead.

Bless that which we have already begun to carry out of town to bury.

Bless our rocky marriages and our college age kids who smoke too much pot.

Bless the person at work who we love to hate.

Bless the young adult who wonders if they are too young to really be an alcoholic
and bless the 60 year old woman who's had too much work done.

Bless the public-school lunch ladies and the guy who stole my kid's bike.

Bless the chronically sick. Bless the one who has no one.

Bless what we call insignificant and which you call magnificent.

Bless it all and love what only you can love: the ugly, abandoned, and unsanitary in the wash of
humanity upon which you have nothing but a gleaming compassion when we have none.

God of Compassion, we thank you for seeing us.

**It's a mess down here, Lord, and we've prayed that whole "Thy kingdom come" line a LOT
already so we might stop asking nicely.**

We need your Kingdom of love and grace and mercy to speed up.

**And if that's not possible then open our eyes to where your kingdom already is taking root and
growing among us, turn our eyes from our despair to any amount of light which is spreading,
however small.**

**And help us to know when we do not have enough compassion for the road ahead, that you do,
and that that is enough. AMEN.**

ANTHEM "Al Shlosha D'Varim" - Allan E. Naplan

Chancel Choir

The translation of the text: The world is sustained by three things, by truth, by justice, and by peace.

SCRIPTURE Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16 (N.T. pg. 182)

Ashley Bonsell, 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

“Joined”

The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

HYMN

“We All Are One In Mission”

Rusty Edwards, (b. 1955) © 1986 Hope Publishing Co.

AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.
Samuel S. Wesley (1810-1876)



1 We all are one in mis - sion, we all are one in call,
2 We all are called for serv - ice to wit - ness in God's name.
3 We all be - hold one vi - sion, a stark re - al - i - ty:
4 Now let us be u - nit - ed and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min - is - tries are dif - ferent, our pur - pose is the same:
the au - thor of sal - va - tion was nailed up - on a tree.
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle, great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
to touch the lives of oth - ers by God's sur - pris - ing grace,
Yet res - ur - rect - ed Jus - tice gives rise that we may share
We all are one in mis - sion, we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
free re - con - cil - i - a - tion and hope a - mid de - spair.
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

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

"Sing a New Church"

NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.

Dolores Dufner, O.S.B. © 1993 (Admin. OCP Publications)

John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813



1 Sum-moned by the God who made us rich in our di-ver-si-ty,
2 Ra-diant ris-en from the wa-ter; robed in ho-li-ness and light,
3 Trust the good-ness of cre-a-tion; trust the Spir-it strong with-in.
4 Bring the hopes of ev-ery na-tion; bring the art of ev-ery race.
5 Draw to-geth-er at one ta-ble all the hu-man fam-i-ly;



gath-ered in the name of Je-sus, rich-er still in u-ni-ty:
male and fe-male in God's im-age, male and fe-male, God's de-light:
Dare to dream the vi-sion prom-ised sprung from seed of what has been.
Weave a song of peace and jus-tice; let it sound through time and space.
shape a cir-cle ev-er wid-er and a peo-ple ev-er free.



Let us bring the gifts that dif-fer and, in splen-did, var-ied ways,



sing a new church in-to be-ing, one in faith and love and praise.

***ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***BENEDICTION** (inspired by Ephesians 6:23-24)

Peace be to the whole community,

and love with faith,

from God the Father who joined us together through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Grace be with us all as we depart to be as Christ to our world. 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** **“Allegro con fuoco”** from Variations on an American Hymn Tune by Gordon Young

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 Carol & John Sandora.

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PASTORAL STAFF

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Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor – karen@uccmedina.org

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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

SEPTEMBER 24, 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 24, 2023 thru October 1, 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
	10:30 am	Teen Church
	2:00 pm	Trekking Through Autumn at Mugrage Park 4985 Windfall Rd. Medina
	3:00 pm	Confirmation Class
Mon	7:00 pm	High School Mission Trip Meeting
	7:00 pm	New Member Class
Tues	7:00 pm	Bible Study
Wed	10:30 am	Quilters
	6:15 pm	Bell Choir rehearsal
	6:30 pm	Gathering Band rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Finance/Stewardship Meeting
	7:30 pm	Choir rehearsal
Thurs	6:30 pm	Theatre Group
	7:00 pm	Congregational Council Meeting
Fri		
Sat	2:00 pm	SPARK & A2A event
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
	4:30 pm	Youth Group Pumpkin Carving
	4:30 pm	Men's Group

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: Ephesians 4: 1-7, 11-16

Sermon: "Joined" - Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The communion table flowers are given by Alan Parkhurst in memory of his parents.

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.

ACOLYTE TRAINING TODAY

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

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.

HOLY DINNERS DEADLINE

Those who would like to host or attend a Holy Dinner group with other church members, please call or email the office by Wednesday, September 27th.

NEW MEMBER CLASS TOMORROW

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](#).

A2A & SPARK EVENT

Please join our A2A committee and SPARK Medina on Saturday, September 30th at 2 pm in Fellowship Hall as we create rope pulls to aid building access for persons and businesses in Medina while learning about disabilities and community access. All ages welcome!

Please register in advance at <https://www.sparkmedina.org/events/spark-together-rope-pulls>.

CRAFTS ARE READY

FALL CRAFTS are ready for delivery. The display table is set up in the Welcome Area. Please sign out a craft on the sheet provided and call the recipient ahead of time to make arrangements for visit/delivery. Thank you for reaching out to our church membership who are homebound, shut-in, and resident care facilities.

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?

SUMMER HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP MEETING

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!

DONATION OF THE MONTH

For September, we will be working in conjunction with the nonprofit group SPARK Medina to help eliminate period poverty. We are collecting boxed products, period underwear and mini detergent bottles. 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.

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

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 during 2022 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.**

HOBBY HORSE SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

The church received \$862.75 in donations to the Hobby Horse Scholarship Fund.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY CHANGE

The Tuesday night bible study will be taking a break during the month of October in order to attend Pastor Luke's Afterlife bible study in Fellowship Hall. We will resume our Tuesday night meetings on 11/7.

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: katewllindon@gmail.com.

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

September 24, 2023

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

American Indian Ministry Sunday ∠ *United Samoan Ministries Stewardship Sunday*

Exodus 16:2-15

Tensions in the Wilderness

Today, receive a letter of wisdom and compassion from The Alliance of Associate Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ and The Council of Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ. The letter, written earlier this year and excerpted here, is an invitation and a challenge to churches to care for their pastors in a radical way. How can your setting respond to these powerful words?

"...We are aware that there is a particular burden, often unseen by many, that you who serve in authorized ministry carry because of the inherently relational nature of ministry. We see you, and we hear your weariness and often discouragement. We also love you and hold you in our prayers.

As such we are aware that there is a need to tend to the particular needs of you who serve as our authorized ministers so that your spirits may be renewed and so that the long-term health of God's mission manifest in the many expressions of the church may be strengthened. The collective care of all our Conferences and indeed the church in every setting compels us to offer a word of encouragement regarding the need for care in ways that give space for rest and rejuvenation; clarity and the renewal of one's calling.

While we recognize that resources vary widely throughout the settings of our shared life, there are several suggestions we would offer for consideration by local congregations and other settings of ministry.

- First, we urge you to intentionally pray for your leaders and the renewal they may need.
- Second, we encourage you to give permission and blessing for two consecutive weeks away for renewal leave, not counted as vacation time. This time alone will not be enough to process all that has happened or continues to happen in the life of the church, but it will offer space for a new ground to be cultivated to engage in ongoing practices of self-care, necessary for sustained and life-giving ministry.
- Third, we encourage you to trust that your setting of ministry will not be diminished by this time away but rather strengthened by it.

...Grief and loss are inherent in this season. Some of us even feel shame, which is a burden that we need not carry. We are hopeful that this time away helps you reconnect deeply with your call and with God, who loves you."