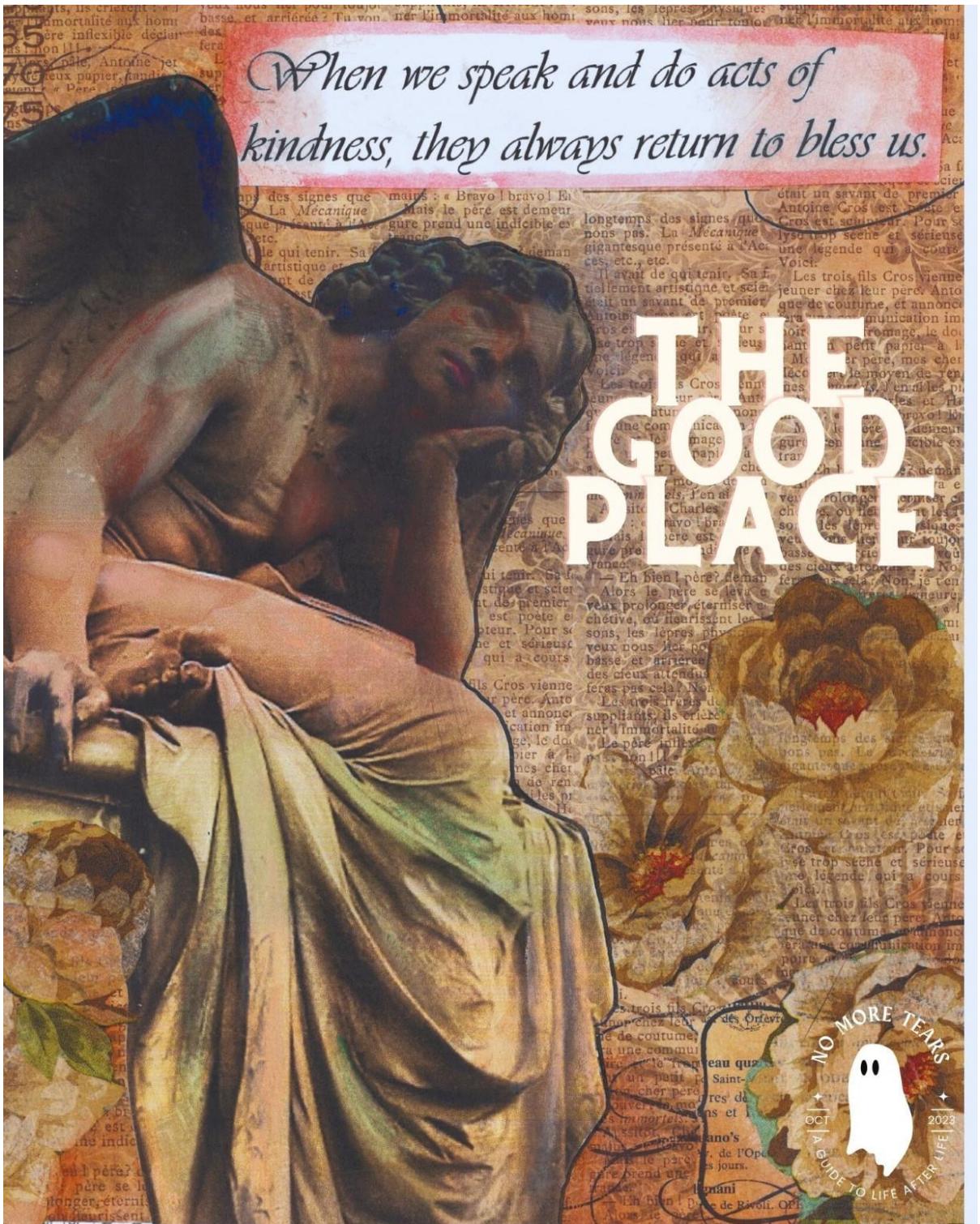


When we speak and do acts of kindness, they always return to bless us.

THE GOOD PLACE





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 “Hymn of Promise” – setting, John Carter

Cathy Fafrak, Piano

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Adapted from Psalm 106)

Let’s thank the Lord, for the Lord is good.

God’s love endures forever.

Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord or fully declare God’s praise?

Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right. Our God is worthy of our Praise!

Remember us, O Lord, when you show favor to your people that we may enjoy your blessings.

Let us worship our good God, who blesses us with infinite love and abundant grace. Amen!

***OPENING HYMN**

“Seek Ye First”

Music and words by Karen Lafferty, © 1972 CCCM Music | Universal Music – Brentwood Benson Publishing, All rights reserved.



1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God
 2. Man shall not live by bread a - lone
 3. Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you,



and His right - eous - ness, and all these things shall be
 but by ev - 'ry word that pro - ceeds from the
 seek and ye shall find, knock and the door shall be



add - ed un - to you— Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
 mouth of God— Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
 o - pened un - to you— Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

***OPENING PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, we gather to worship you today with hearts full of joy and appreciation for the beauty of your diversity and extravagant welcome. We invite your Holy Spirit to this space to celebrate your goodness and presence in our gathering time together. Prepare our hearts to receive what you have for us today. Amen!

SPECIAL MUSIC "Shine On Me" – Rollo Dilworth Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURES John 14:1-14 (N.T. pg. 102) Pete Metzloff, Liturgist
 1 Corinthians 15:52-53 (N.T. pg. 166)

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 "The Good Place" Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

REFLECTION HYMN "Hymn of Promise"

Words & music by Natalie Sleeth (1930-1992), © 1986 Hope Publishing Company

PROMISE 8.7.8.7.D.

Unison

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o -
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i -

tree; in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be
 dy; there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness bring - ing hope to you and
 ty; in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni -

free! In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to
 me. From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter -
 ty; in our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to -

be, un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 y, un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 ry, un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

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

All we have comes from you, O Lord. So, we give our offerings and tithes with generous hearts in thanksgiving for all you do for us.

May these gifts given today offer hope in proclaiming and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ our Savior with all the world.

**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*

Take our offerings and tithes, O God, bless them that they may be used to share your love and blessing in our community and the world. May these offerings provide for the least of these needs and the proclamation of your word to those seeking hope. Amen!

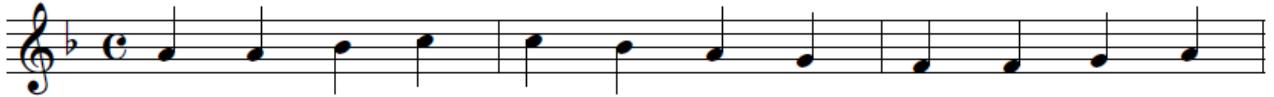
*CLOSING HYMN

"Sing With All the Saints in Glory"

HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7.D

William J. Irons (1812-1883), alt.

L. van Beethoven (1770-1827), arr. Edward Hodges (1796-1867)



1. Sing with all the saints in glo - ry, Sing the res - ur -
2. O what glo - ry, far ex - ceed - ing All that eye has
3. Life e - ter - nal! heav'n re - joic - es: Je - sus lives who
4. Life e - ter - nal! O what won - ders Crowd on faith; what



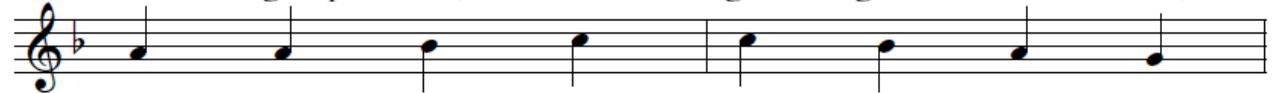
rec - tion song! Death and sor - row, earth's dark sto - ry,
yet per - ceived! Ho - liest hearts for a - ges plead - ing,
once was dead; Shout with joy, O death - less voic - es!
joy un - known, When, a - midst earth's clos - ing thun - ders,



To the for - mer days be - long. All a - round the
Nev - er that full joy con - ceived. God has prom - ised,
Child of God, lift up your head! Pa - tri - archs from
Saints shall stand be - fore the throne! O to en - ter



clouds are break - ing, Soon the storms of time shall cease;
Christ pre - pares it, There on high our wel - come waits;
dis - tant a - ges, Saints all long - ing for their heav'n,
that bright por - tal, See that glow - ing fir - ma - ment,



In God's like - ness, we a - wak - en,
Ev - 'ry hum - ble spir - it shares it,
Proph - ets, psalm - ists, seers, and sag - es,
Know, with you, O God im - mor - tal,



Know - ing ev - er - last - ing peace.
Christ has passed the e - ter - nal gates.
All a - wait the glo - ry giv'n.
Je - sus Christ whom you have sent!

***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 "Postlude on Hymn to Joy" – Gordon Young**

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 Pete Metzloff.

+++++

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

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

OCTOBER 15, 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 15, 2023 thru October 22, 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
2:00 pm Trekking Through Autumn @
Allardale Park Lodge
141 Remsen Rd. Medina
4:00 pm All-Church Hayride

Mon 1:00 pm Breadmakers
2:00 pm **Afterlife Bible Study**
7:00 pm **Afterlife Bible Study**

Tues

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
6:00 pm Gathering Band rehearsal
6:15 pm Bell Choir 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
2:00 pm Trekking Through Autumn @
Chippewa Inlet Trail North
5803 Lafayette Rd., Medina
3:30 pm Confirmation Class

ALL SAINTS DAY BRUNCH

After the 10:30 service, the teens going on this summer's mission trip will serve brunch in Fellowship Hall. An assortment of fruits, casseroles, and pastries will be served. Donations appreciated!

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

Scriptures: John 14:1-14
and 1 Corinthians 15:52-53
Sermon: "The Good Place"
- Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The communion table flowers are given by Marilyn Canfield in memory of Don Canfield.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

October 29, 2023

On this Sunday we will remember those people 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 October 2022-October 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.**

GIVING ENVELOPES

The leaves are falling and it's hard to believe that it's time to re-order 2024 Giving Envelope Books! If you would like a booklet of 52-weekly envelopes for your weekly giving, please email jeff@uccmedina.org by next Sunday, October 22nd. If you give online there is no need to order envelopes.

SUICIDE PREVENTION WALK TODAY

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.

DONATION OF THE MONTH

In October, we're supporting 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. 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.

HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP

Thanks to all who came to learn about our trip to the Appalachia Service Project, June 9th-15th. If you or your youth would like to go on the trip with us, please register through Hudson UCC (who is partnering with us on this trip) by **October 31st**, and pay the \$75 deposit to reserve your spot on the trip, at this link:

<https://www.hudsonucc.org/youth/asp/>

50 YEAR MEMBERS

Many of these members who joined our church over 50 years ago attended a luncheon in their honor on October 14th.

Constance Anderson '64	Joellyn Leget '69
Lois Anderson '64	Anitra Lilly '63
Bruce Bauer '53	Jill Linek '61
Pete Benson '72	Ron Linek '62
Sydney Benson '72	Rebecca Marshall '73
Ron Brockway '72	Charles Masi '46
Marilyn Canfield '65	Nancy Masi '54
Dave Chase '59	Katherine Murray '64
Richard Christy '66	Marilyn Neidert '64
Doris Christy '66	Elaine Nichols '55
Barbara Clark '55	William Nichols '54
Lavonne Clement '58	Earle Olson '72
Jan Coleman '61	Alan Parkhurst '69
Rhea Curtis '69	Pat Rickard '50
Ruth Dunn '55	Betty Riegger '38
Edward Farnham '64	David Riegger '41
Robert Fenn '55	Stuart Root '56
Ruth Gifford '49	Jane Schaefer '72
Ralph Goodwin '62	Lou Schaefer '72
Mary Beth Goodwin '62	Harold Sickels '69
Jennifer Greising '73	Linda Sickels '69
Barb Grimm '65	Elaine Taylor '69
John Grimm '65	Jim Thornburg '59
Dan Hunter '72	Robert Tollafield '61
Arnold Ingraham '54	Lloyd Vaughn '57
Elmira Jack '67	Vivienne Vaughn '66
Faye Jessie '60	Deborah Waldron '66
Marilyn Koehler '41	Robert Wilder '67
Joyce Komjati '48	Betty Zarney '36
Richard Komjati '44	

BUTTER BRAID SALE

Hobby Horse is selling Stoller butter braids and cake rolls! There are several yummy flavors to choose from. Orders can be placed through October 23rd on Realm under "Registration Events/Hobby Horse Butter Braid Fundraiser" or there is an order sheet on the wall across from the Sanctuary doors. Orders cannot be shipped. Local pick-up only on November 16th from 10:30-3:00. Funds are being raised to purchase more outdoor play toys and equipment. Contact Jen Vilimonovic at 330-722-1445 for more information.

ENDOWMENT FUND REQUEST TIME

The Endowment Fund Committee is pleased to announce that applications are available to apply for funding for special projects and improvements for operating year 2024. Each Fall, Endowment provides financial support from the Endowment Fund earnings to underwrite mission trips, property and grounds improvements, outreach projects and any additional items not covered within your Team Budget. Copies of the Grant Application Form are available in the Church Office, East Room and Fellowship Hall. Deadline for submission: Friday, November 17, 2023. Questions? Contact Jane Langol at 330-813-1367 or Kelly Chamley at 330-421-3313.

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.

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

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 – jenn@uccmedina.org

Jack Sharpe, Maintenance

Nick Brlan, Custodian

Philippians 4:1-9

Praiseworthy Living

Today is Laity Sunday, the day we celebrate the many astounding gifts of people who are not authorized or ordained ministers, and yet serve the church in manifold ways. On this day, we remember that the priesthood of all believers means that every person has a vital part to play in the life of local congregations.

Laity Sunday is a day of joy, a day to remember that when we focus on standing with one another, even as we maintain a variety of perspectives or behaviors, we are living God's dream for us. Laity Sunday is a day to remember the gladness of giving into the spaciousness of God's call and purpose for all people. Laity Sunday is a day to focus on, as the letter writer exhorts in the epistle to the Philippians, "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise."

Laity Sunday is a day to remember that this journey can be full of wonder and bursting with possibility. In short, Laity Sunday is a perfect day to play together. If you haven't already, it's a good day to check out "*Grow Your Church: A Board Game for Engaging the Marks of Faithful and Vital Local Congregations*".

This game is designed to get people talking about church vitality through the Marks of Faithful and Vital Local Churches. It will help deepen relationships with each other and with the congregation's covenantal partners while laughing, thinking creatively and having critical conversations.

This game is for the decision makers and strategic thinkers. It's for the board room and the dining room table. It's for the flower arranging committee and the deacons. This game is for people who love their church and want to experience it grow in vitality and faithfulness. Roll the dice and move about a garden path with your church friends!

You can learn more about the "*Grow Your Church: A Board Game for Engaging the Marks of Faithful and Vital Local Congregations*", and order one for your own congregation at uccresources.org.