



# THE BAD PLACE



THE GHOST OF THE FUTURE

2023



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559 [www.uccmedina.org](http://www.uccmedina.org)

**\*\*\*Assisted Listening Devices Available – Please Ask Your Usher\*\*\***

LIVE STREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT [UCCMEDINA.ORG](http://UCCMEDINA.ORG)

- *During the 10:30 service, Jesus Vibes Sunday School is available for ages 3-8<sup>th</sup> 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** “Petite Prelude” Op. 43, No. 1 – Reinhold Glière/arr. David Sarandon

Cathy Fafrak, Piano

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (from Andrea Gibson, “What sucks about the afterlife” poem on social media, part 1)

On earth, everyone loved butterflies

**but I trusted caterpillars more.**

I trusted the ones who knew

**they were not done growing.**

On Earth, I was a work in progress,

**I was comforted in the knowing that I had a million mistakes still in me to learn from.**

Who wants to be today who they were yesterday?

**Becoming was how I prayed.**

### \*OPENING HYMN

### “There’s a Spirit in the Air”

LAUDS 7:7:7.

Brian Wren, 1969, rev. 1990

John Wilson, 1969 © 1979 Hope Publishing Co.

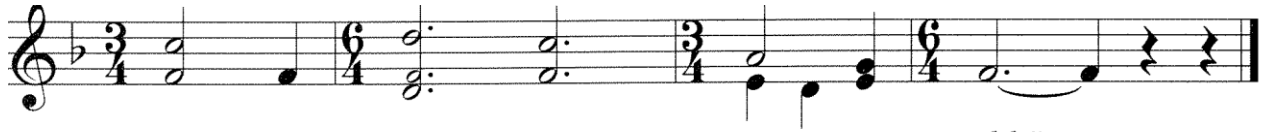
*Unison*



1. There's a spir - it in the air, tell - ing Chris - tians
2. Lose your shy - ness, find your tongue, tell the world what
3. When be - liev - ers break the bread, when a hun - gry



1. ev - ery- where: "Praise the love that Christ re - vealed,
2. God has done: God in Christ has come to stay.
3. child is fed, praise the love that Christ re - vealed,



1. liv - ing, work - ing, in our world."
2. Live to - mor - row's life to - day.
3. liv - ing, work - ing, in our world.

**\*OPENING PRAYER** (from Andrea Gibson, "What sucks about the afterlife" poem on social media, part 2)

They handed me a sticker that said, "My name is"

**and I wrote "Everyone" by accident. I can't remember what selfishness is.**

In the afterlife, I'll apply for a job at a mistake factory,

**They'll be awed by my resume.**

If anything, I'm overqualified.

**But there's no place where they make mistakes here. Everyone is flawless.**

Everyone's blunders are photoshopped right off their lives before they happen.

**Is this heaven or hell?**

I can't tell.

**I looked that famous carpenter up in the phone book but his number wasn't listed,**

and I wanted to ask him where to find the wood to build some missteps.

**I'm not about to spend eternity burning in the lie that holy and perfect are the same thing.**

Do you understand?

**A promised land is not a promised land if we can't keep learning.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "Shut De Do (Keep Out the Devil)" Chancel Choir and Jerry Mason, soloist  
*Words & music by Randy Stonehill; arr. by Tom Fettke & Thomas Grassi*

**SCRIPTURE** Matthew 25:31-46 (N.T. pg. 27) 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 "The Bad Place"

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

## REFLECTION HYMN

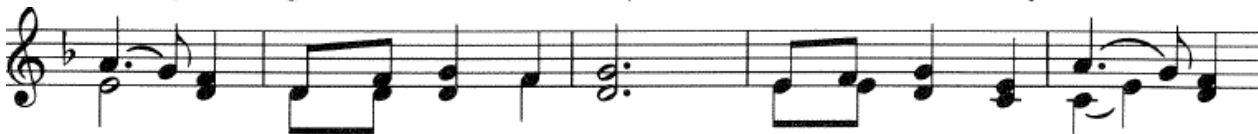
### "Come To Tend God's Garden"

John A. Dalles, 1992

KING'S WESTON 6.5.6.5.D.  
Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1925, © Oxford University Press



1 Come to tend God's gar - den, seeds of hope to sow, plant-ing fields of  
2 As we tend God's gar - den, from its fur-rows rise stems of fresh be -  
3 May God's gar - den flour - ish, may our toil suc - ceed, may God bless our



jus - tice, watch-ing mer - cy grow! In an ar - id waste - land,  
gin - nings, stretch-ing toward the skies! Gra-cious-ness, our mead - ow,  
ac - tions, ev - ery word and deed! Serv-ing Christ each sea - son,



spread a ver-dant heath! In a land of tu-mult, cul - ti - vate God's peace!  
joy - ful - ness, our root, u - ni-ty, our fo-liage, righ-teous-ness, our fruit!  
with God's di - a - gram, chart-ed by the Spir-it, for the task at hand!

## 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

If we didn't share, if we didn't give of our time, talent, or treasure and only sought to receive...  
**We would be very far from the Kingdom of God indeed.**

**\*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

### "God of Grace and God of Glory"

CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930

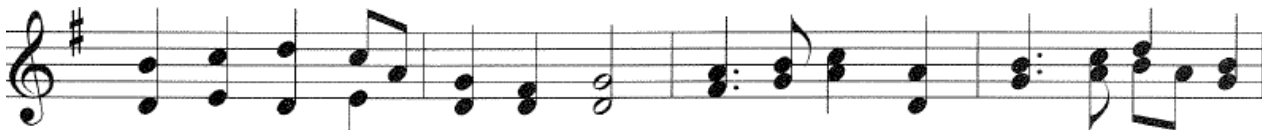
John Hughes, 1907



1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
3. Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4. Set our feet on loft - y pla - ces; fill our lives that
5. Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



1. pour thy power; crown thine an - cient church - 's sto - ry;
2. sail thy ways! From the fears that long have bound us,
3. thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
4. we may be strength - ened with all Christ - like gra - ces
5. we de - plore; let the search for thy sal - va - tion



1. bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
2. free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
3. rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
4. pledged to set all cap - tives free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
5. be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



1. for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
2. for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
3. lest we miss thy righ - teous goal, lest we miss thy righ - teous goal.
4. lest we fail our call from thee, lest we fail our call from thee.
5. serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

**\*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      "Sortie" from Triptyque – Léon Boëllmann/ed. & arr. Bryan Hesford**

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 Ashley Bonsell & Alice Metzloff.***

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

# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## OCTOBER 22, 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](http://www.uccmedina.org/live)

**October 22, 2023 thru October 29, 2023**

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

<b>Sun</b>	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 <i>5803 Lafayette Rd., Medina</i>
	3:00 pm	Confirmation Class
<b>Mon</b>	<b>2:00 pm</b>	<b>Afterlife Bible Study</b>
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Afterlife Bible Study</b>
<b>Tues</b>		
<b>Wed</b>	10:30 am	Quilters
	6:00 pm	Gathering Band rehearsal
	6:15 pm	Bell Choir rehearsal
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Finance/Stewardship Meeting</b>
	7:30 pm	Choir rehearsal
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Congregational Council Meeting</b>
<b>Fri</b>		
<b>Sat</b>		
<b>Sun</b>	9:45 am	Children’s Choir rehearsal
	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>All Saints Service</b>
	10:30 am	Teen Church
	11:30 am	All Saints Day Brunch
	2:00 pm	The last Trekking Through Autumn @ Alderfer-Chatfield Wildlife Sanctuary <i>6100 Ridge Rd., Medina</i>
	4:30 pm	Podcast Talkback

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

Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon: “The Bad Place” - Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

**Communion Table:** The communion table flowers are given by John & Carol Sandora in honor of their anniversary.

## **ALL SAINTS SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE NEXT SUNDAY**

**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 TODAY, October 22<sup>nd</sup> with the full name of the loved one, their relationship to you, and the date of their passing.**

## **ALL SAINTS DAY BRUNCH**

Following our one service at 10:30, 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!

## **BUTTER BRAID SALE**

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Hobby Horse is selling Stoller butter braids and cake rolls! There are several yummy flavors to choose from. Orders can be placed through October 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **DONATION OF THE MONTH**

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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**

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Thanks to all who came to learn about our trip to the Appalachia Service Project, June 9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. 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 31<sup>st</sup>**, and pay the \$75 deposit to reserve your spot on the trip, at this link:

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

## **GIVING ENVELOPES**

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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](mailto:jeff@uccmedina.org) by next Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you give online there is no need to order envelopes.

## **TEEN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY**

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

## **LEFTOVER CANDY?**

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Are you wondering what to do with all that leftover Halloween candy you always have? The Mission Team will be collecting all your candy and treats throughout November. We plan to make goodie bags with the candy and distribute them to various groups in our community over the next few months. Thank you!

## **ENDOWMENT FUND REQUEST TIME**

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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 Matt Yates at 330-321-9679 or Kelly Charnley at 330-421-3313.



## TREKKING THROUGH AUTUMN FINAL TWO HIKES

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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: [katewlindon@gmail.com](mailto:katewlindon@gmail.com).

**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)

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**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](mailto: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](mailto:luke@uccmedina.org)

Rev. Meghan Malone, Associate Pastor of Youth & Mission - [meghan@uccmedina.org](mailto:meghan@uccmedina.org)

Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor – [karen@uccmedina.org](mailto:karen@uccmedina.org)

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Cathy Fafrak, Organist & Office Assistant – [cathy@uccmedina.org](mailto:cathy@uccmedina.org)

Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – [jen@uccmedina.org](mailto:jen@uccmedina.org)

Jack Sharpe, Maintenance

Nick Brlan, Custodian

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

### Living Messages

In the 1920's when minister's wife Lesbia Scott's three children were young, she enjoyed writing simple hymns for them about everyday things. "Make us a hymn about a picnic," they would ask. Or "write a hymn about a foggy day." She collected the songs she wrote for her children in a long-out-of-print collection.

The only one that remains in regular circulation was not a favorite of hers, or her children's, but it continues to capture the imagination of singers generations later. *I Sing A Song of the Saints of God* (\*#295 in *The New Century Hymnal*) canonizes the gospel writer Luke, queen Margaret of Scotland, Joan of Arc, John Donne and Ignatius of Antioch - not by name but by characteristics. Today will you sing this song in your church? Which image makes you smile? Which image makes you wonder? Which image makes you understand something about God's people you didn't before?

I sing a song of the saints of God,  
Faithful their whole lives through  
Who bravely labored, lived, and died  
for the God they loved and knew.

And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,  
And another a shepherd in pastures green:  
they were saints of God,  
if you know what I mean.  
God, help me to be one too.

They loved their God and they lived that love,  
It was loving that made them strong;  
They did what was right for Jesus' sake,  
Lived justly their whole lives long.

And one was a prophet, and one was a priest,  
and another was slain by a fierce wild beast:  
and there's no earthly reason, none in the least,

They lived not only in ages past;  
there are hundreds of thousands still;  
the world is filled with the living saints  
Who choose to do God's will.  
You can meet them in school,  
on the road, or at sea,  
in church, in a train, in a shop, or at tea;  
for the saints are folk like you and me,  
and I mean to be one too.