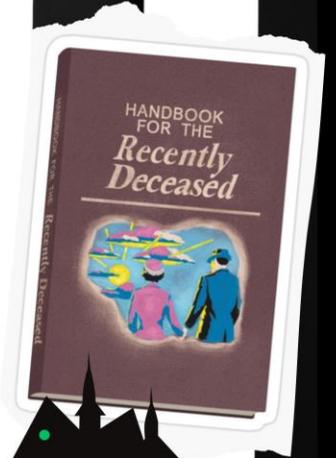


EXPANDING OUR  
UNDERSTANDING OF  
THE AFTERLIFE





# 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 “Come, Now Is the Time to Worship” – Doerksen/arr. Carol Tornquist Cathy Fafrak, Piano

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

It’s a beautiful morning to think about the afterlife.  
In the words of Beetlejuice, “it’s showtime.”  
**Let’s turn on the juice and see what shakes loose.**

### \*OPENING HYMN

### “When Morning Gilds the Skies”

LAUDES DOMINI 6.6.6.D.

*Trad. German; trans. Edward Caswall (1814-1878)*

*Dr. Joseph Barnby (1838-1896)*



1. When	morn - ing	gilds	the	skies,	My	heart, a -
2. Does	sad - ness	fill	my	mind?	A	sol - ace
3. In	heav'n's	e - ter -	nal	bliss	The	love - liest
4. Be	this, while	life	is	mine,	My	can - ti -



wak - ing,	cries,	May	Je - sus	Christ	be	praised!	A -
here	I find:	May	Je - sus	Christ	be	praised!	Or
strain	is this:	May	Je - sus	Christ	be	praised!	The
cle	di - vine:	May	Je - sus	Christ	be	praised!	Be



like at work and prayer To Je - sus I re -  
 fades my earth - ly bliss? My com - fort still is  
 pow'rs of dark - ness fear When this sweet chant they  
 this the e - ter - nal song, Through all the a - ges



pair: May Je - sus Christ be praised!  
 this: May Je - sus Christ be praised!  
 hear: May Je - sus Christ be praised!  
 long: May Je - sus Christ be praised!

**\*REFLECTION POEM** *"Hope for the Here and Now,"* written by Layton E. Williams, from *The Words of Her Mouth: Psalms for the Struggle*, edited by Martha Spong.

I have never been one to hang my hopes on heaven,  
 To see the hurts and hardships of the world  
 Through the lens of "only temporary."  
**You have given this world to us and us to it**  
**For some stretch of time, surely to be more than a waiting room.**  
 I believe your goodness isn't merely elsewhere  
 But here and alive, seeking for us to know it.  
 Though I confess that I grow weary of  
 This life and place so marred with scars and fissures,  
**Tangible and not, urgent and creeping,**  
**I cannot quite imagine healing. Wholeness.**  
 Still I believe in goodness—yours—alive and well, here and now.  
 I hang my tired hope on it.

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "Love, Love, Love, Love" - traditional Children's Choir

**SCRIPTURE** Mark 12:18-34 (N.T. pg. 46) Brad Rice, 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

"Expanding Our Understanding of the Afterlife"

Rev. Meghan Malone

## REFLECTION HYMN

"Softly and Tenderly" (vs. 1 & 3)

Words and music: Will L. Thompson, 1880

THOMPSON 11.7.11.7. w/ refrain



1. Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing,  
2. Why should we lin - ger when Je - sus is plead - ing,  
3. O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised,



call - ing for you and for me; pa - tient and lov - ing, he's  
plead - ing for you and for me? Why should we wait, then, and  
prom - ised for you and for me; tho' we have sinned he has



wait - ing and watch - ing, watch - ing for you and for me.  
heed not his mer - cies, mer - cies for you and for me?  
mer - cy and par - don, par - don for you and for me.



Come home, come home, ye who are



wea - ry, come home; ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing— call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

## 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

Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.

In the spirit of these commandments, we offer our gifts to God and neighbor.

### \*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

Giver of all life's gifts, maker of all strange and unusual things. Help us to ride life's highs and to cherish it's lows, so that before the curtain is lowered, we can say we enjoyed the show.

Amen.

## \*CLOSING HYMN

### "When We All Get to Heaven" (vs. 1-3)

Eliza E. Hewitt (1851-1920)

HEAVEN 8.7.8.7. w/ Refrain

Emily D. Wilson (1865-1942)



- 1 Sing the won-drous love of Je - sus, sing his mer - cy and his grace;
- 2 While we walk the pil - grim path-way clouds will o - ver - spread the sky,
- 3 Let us then be true and faith - ful, trust - ing, serv - ing ev - ery day;
- 4 On - ward to the prize be - fore us! Soon his beau - ty we'll be - hold;



in the man - sions bright and bless - ed he'll pre - pare for us a place.  
but when trav - eling days are o - ver, not a sha - dow, not a sigh.  
just one glimpse of him in glo - ry will the toils of life re - pay.  
soon the pearl - y gates will o - pen, we shall tread the streets of gold.

### Refrain



When we all get to heav - en, what a day of re -

joic - ing that will be! When we all see

Je - sus we'll sing and shout the vic - to - ry.

**\*ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Life is pain, and joy, and suffering. Failing but recovering.  
 You might be feeling alone. Utterly alone.  
**We're all just trying to find our way back home.**  
 Beloveds, life is short.  
**So look within and let love in, somehow.**  
 No more hiding, tragic and static, trapped in an attic.  
 Seek the God of the living,  
 And trust, that what awaits us beyond this life,  
 is just another adventure, which is also in God's hands.  
 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 "Concerto in a minor (1<sup>st</sup> mov't) – Vivaldi-Bach/arr. V.D. Thompson 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 Colleen & Brad Rice.***

+++++

Music in this bulletin reprinted/podcast/streamed with permission under:

ONE LICENSE, License #A-605137. All rights reserved and CCLI, License #1637380 & #21333812

**United Church of Christ, Congregational**  
**Meet our New Members**  
**October 1, 2023**



**Lexi Gruich**

Hello! I grew up in Akron and have been looking this past year for a church to call home. Thankfully, I have found that here and I'm excited for what the next year holds in my faith journey and fellowship with you all! A little bit about me... I am a nurse at Akron General, I have a 5 year old boxer mix named Ace, I love to hike, back pack, hang out with family and friends, and gardening! If you see me, please don't hesitate to come say hi!



**Natalie Peacock**

I was raised in Medina and currently reside here with my two cats, Benny and Gizmo. I work for the park district and have spent most of my career in non-profit. I enjoy being out in nature, hiking, reading, music, and cooking vegetarian food. I consider myself a lifetime student and love learning. I look forward to being a part of UCC Medina!



**Cindy Talbert**

Hi, my name is Cindy and I am 61 years old and have lived with my partner, Carl Nowak, for 15 years. We have two cats and enjoy flea markets, antique shopping and spending time with family and friends. I am so happy that I found your church and look forward to getting to know everyone.

# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## OCTOBER 8, 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 8, 2023 thru October 15, 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
	<b>11:45 am</b>	<b>Mission Team Meeting</b>
	2:00 pm	Trekking Through Autumn @ Hubbard Valley Park <i>8600 Hubbard Valley Rd, Seville</i>
	3:30 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>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Worship Team Meeting</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>DELT Meeting</b>
	7:30 pm	Choir rehearsal
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>Pet Blessing</b>
	7:00 pm	Support Group: Keep Talking About Mental health
<b>Fri</b>	7:00 pm	Mental Health Support Group
<b>Sat</b>	11:30 am	50 Year Member Luncheon
<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 @ Allardale Park Lodge <i>141 Remsen Rd. Medina</i>
	4:00 pm	All-Church Hayride

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

Scripture: Mark 12:18-34

Sermon: “Expanding Our Understanding of the Afterlife” - Rev. Meghan Malone

**Communion Table:** The communion table flowers are given by Jean & Dave Linderman in memory of their son, Peter Linderman.

### **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 Oct. 2022 & Oct. 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 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**

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!

## **DONATION OF THE MONTH**

---

In October, you will have an opportunity to support 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.

## **50 YEAR MEMBERS**

---

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

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

## **COFFEE HOUR**

---

Please consider hosting coffee hour one Sunday. If we don't have hosts for Coffee hour, we can't have it. Signups 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?

## **HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP**

---

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/>

## **PET BLESSING**

---

Bring your pet to be blessed on Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 pm outside the church at the corner of Broadway & Liberty Streets. Any pet that is safe to bring is welcome and will be individually blessed by our pastors. Free pet treats from One Lucky Dog Bakery, bandannas, and blessing cards while supplies last! The pet blessing will be part of Main Street Medina's Witches' Night Out. Let's celebrate God's compassion and concern for all creatures!

## **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.

# ALL CHURCH HAYRIDE IS NEXT SUNDAY!

---

Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup>. 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: [katew@lindon@gmail.com](mailto:katew@lindon@gmail.com).

**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](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)

### OFFICE STAFF

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)

Jeff Miller, Financial Director - [jeff@uccmedina.org](mailto:jeff@uccmedina.org)

### PROGRAM STAFF

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education – [stacie@uccmedina.org](mailto:stacie@uccmedina.org)

Jennifer Cochran, Director of Music - [jenny@uccmedina.org](mailto:jenny@uccmedina.org)

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

---

October 8, 2023  
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
*Access Sunday and Disabilities Awareness Week*

---

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

### **Wisdom for the Way**

On this Access Sunday and Disabilities Awareness Week, we pause for a moment to give thanks for the work of the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministry (UCCDM). According to their website, "The UCCDM envisions a world in which all people are included in the fullness of life because they are created in the image of God. The mission of UCCDM is to support all settings of the United Church of Christ (UCC) including but not limited to Local Congregations, Associations, Conferences, camps, Historically Underrepresented Groups (HUGs), and national settings, as they seek to recognize and provide access to people with disabilities in all aspects of the church's life and ministry.

This includes, but is not limited to, affirming and claiming as its own the commitments of the UCC to be a multiracial, multicultural, Open and Affirming, Just Peace, and Accessible to All ministry, recognizing that people with disabilities have a multitude of other identities, and that all justice movements are interconnected; encouraging all settings of the wider church to be physically, socially, and virtually accessible to and welcoming of people with disabilities; encouraging and providing guidance to UCC settings as they work to become Accessible to All (hereafter A2A), and supporting them as they sustain their commitment; participating in denominational and ecumenical conversations related to disabilities and working with the UCC national setting and community partners to promote disability justice through an intersectional framework".

For many churches, one of the greatest barriers to full participation is their buildings. Many church buildings, erected before a time of greater understanding, are not built to be fully inclusive. With generations of time, attention, and money given to maintain church buildings, it can be hard to think of changing them, even if it means being more inclusive.

And yet, Exodus 20:4 says it clearly. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. That includes the buildings in which we work and worship.

Look around you now. Has this building become an idol, and object to appease and be worshiped rather than a sanctuary of welcome? How can your community join the UCCDM movement of full inclusivity?