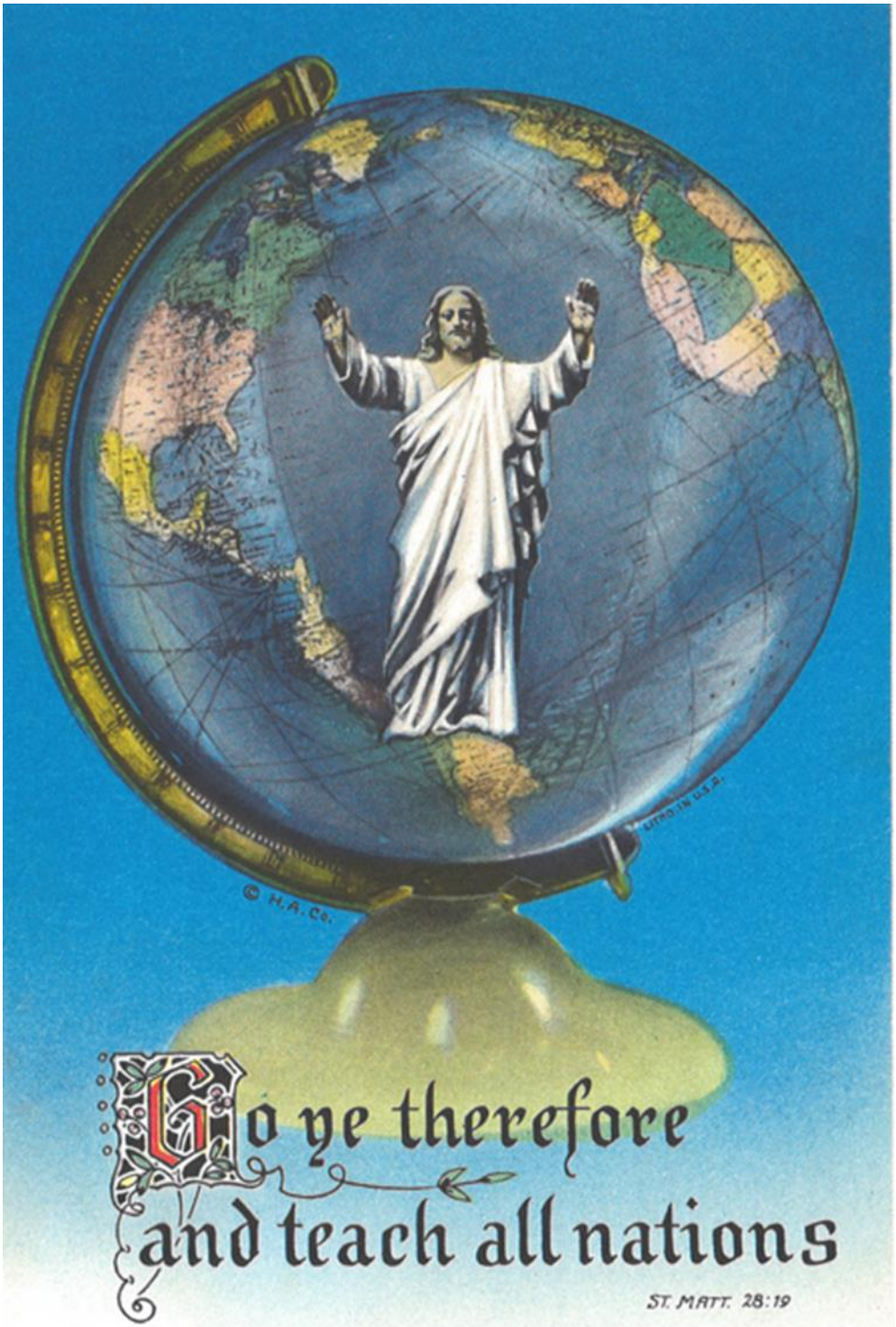
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Go ye therefore
and teach all nations
ST. MATT. 28:19

The First Congregational Church

MEDINA, OHIO

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon, Minister
Rev. Meghan Malone, Associate Minister
Jennifer Cochran, Music Director
Cathy Fafrak, Organist

Sunday, January 14, 2024

ORDER OF SERVICE
Ten-Thirty O'clock

PRAYER OF PREPARATION (silently upon entering)

O God, the source of all pure desires and holy affections, give me now a quiet mind, and a reverent and devout heart, that I may worthily worship thee at this time, and think how I am living and resolve how to live better. Amen. (*Original wording from 1959 bulletin.*)

ORGAN PRELUDE — "Andante tranquillo" from 3rd Sonata for Organ (Mendelssohn)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The past sticks with us,
Our ancestors are alive in us.
Their strengths, their mistakes, their joy, and their traumas,
Are like patches sewn into our DNA.
It is up to us to break the cycles that no longer serve us,
And it is up to us to preserve everything good we've been given.

*INVOCATION AND LORDS PRAYER

*HYMN No. 33— "This Is My Father's World"

RESPONSIVE READING, No. 401—Psalm 46

GLORIA PATRI No. 338

SCRIPTURE LESSON— John 8:30-40, 56-58

ANTHEM: "Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree" - Elizabeth Poston (Chancel Choir)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (Children dismissed to Jesus Vibes following)

PASTORAL PRAYER AND RESPONSE

HYMN No. 349 – "Let Thy Word Abide"

SERMON — “Breaking the Cycles” Rev. Meghan Malone

HYMN No. 275 — “Love Divine, All Loves Exceling” vs. 1 & 2

OFFERTORY INVITATION

The time we spend here, the gifts we give here, and the community we build here, are added to the gifts of our ancestors that brought us here today. Together we create the future of this place, where we still welcome, love, and serve our city.

*DOXOLOGY No. 356

*DEDICATION OF OFFERING (in unison)

We could give thee nothing, O thou great Giver of every good and perfect gift, if thou hadst not first given it to us. Grant us grace to consecrate not only our gifts but ourselves to thy service, according to the measure and pattern of Him who gave himself for us. Amen. (*Original wording from 1959 bulletin.*)

*HYMN No. 291— “We Shall Overcome”

*BENEDICTION and “God Be with You”

ORGAN POSTLUDE— “Postlude in A-flat” (Henri D’Aubel/arr. E.L. Ashford)

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
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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 – jen@uccmedina.org
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance
Nick Brlan, Custodian

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THE PILGRIM MESSENGER
JANUARY 14, 2024

"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

January 14, 2024 thru January 21, 2024
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
	3:00 pm	Confirmation Class
Mon		**MLK DAY**
		CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
	7:00 pm	MLK Service
Tues	7:00 pm	Bible Study
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
	3:00 pm	Confirmation Class

Medina County Churches Presents
Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Monday, January 15, 2024 @ 7 p.m.
UCC, Congregational
Guest Speaker
Pastor Jason Hunter
Truth in Love Church - Brunswick, Ohio
For more information
call Pastor Ruffin @ 330-952-2055

ALL CHURCH FAMILY GAME NIGHT

FEBRUARY4TH - 4:30 – 6:00 pm
Families bring games and a snack to share.

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

Scripture: John 8: 30-40, 56-58

Sermon: "Breaking the Cycles"
Rev. Meghan Malone

Communion Table Flowers: (No Sponsor)
If you would like to sponsor the flowers you may sign up in the East Room Hallway.

Coffee Hour Hosts: Join us in fellowship hall following the 10:30 service for Coffee Hour hosted by John & Kathi Kavouras.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
ONE SERVICE ONLY 10:30 A.M.
& ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 28th

CHILI COOK-OFF

Chili Cook-Off Sunday, January 28th following the Annual Meeting.
We are celebrating the New Year the best way with fellowship, chili, and family fun! Bring your favorite Crock Pot of WARM Chili, enough for at least 12 servings. Chili is not your specialty? Feel free to bring a dessert to share. All are welcome (kids and adults) to join and vote on your favorite chili. If you are planning to bring a crock pot of chili and/or attending please RSVP at the sign up table in the East Room starting on Sunday, January 7th. The last day to sign up will be Sunday, January 21st. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners!

AUTO-GIVING IN REALM

Want to Edit or Change your scheduled auto-giving date/amount in Realm? Please see the process below. Feel free to give me a call in the office if you have questions or need help completing.

1. Sign into your church's Realm site.
2. Click Giving in the main menu.
3. Click Scheduled.
4. Click ••• next to the recurring gift you want to edit and select Edit.
5. Make any necessary changes, then click Continue.

Note:
You can edit the start date, fund, and dollar amount of your recurrence only if it has not begun yet. If your recurrence has started, you must cancel the gift and enter a new one.

6. Make further changes, if necessary, then click Give. A confirmation message displays.
7. Click Finish.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

The Stewardship & Finance committee has recommended a 2024 operating budget. It's not the budget we'd like to have presented. We included a cost-of-living increase for all paid staff, but most committees received cuts from their requests. Our budget shows a $69,595 loss which we partially offset with church reserves but that is not sustainable year after year.

We need help from the congregation for our continued operations. Completed pledge cards would go a long way in clearing up our financial picture. A pledge card is not a contract but does show your intent of support for the year. We have 308 families in the church and 225 of those families did not complete a pledge card. Help us out by completing and returning your pledge to the church office.

CHOIR/MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS!

Adult Choir, Bell Choir, and Gathering Band: our winter party will be at 4:00 on Sunday, January 21. All musicians and their families are invited. It's a pot luck--bring something to share. Place is Ann Nagy's home, 4614 Ridgestone Way in Medina. Please let Ann know if you're coming. 216-374-0936

SUPER BOWL SQUARES FUND RAISER

It is time for the Mission Team to travel again to Costa Rica. The Church has been very generous subsidizing much of the cost. However, this year, the cost of the trip is significantly higher than it has been in previous years. Each team member pays for their own flight, transportation, food, and housing. Flights this year are double what they have been in past years, the building materials cost has gone up and the bus rental has increased. To help defray some of the U.S. and Costa Rica Team costs, as well as purchase additional items for the host home family, we are selling Super Bowl Squares as a fund raiser.

The board will have 100 squares with 10 numbers across the top and 10 numbers along the side (0-9). The square that intersects with the last digit of both teams scores will win. Each square will cost $75 (You may purchase more than one square). If you have the winning square at the end of the 1st or 3rd quarter, you will win $750.00. If you have the winning square at half time or the end of the game, you will win $1000.00.

To purchase squares please either:
Venmo to tamvic1
PayPal to vmiller0723
email to tamvic1@aol.com to arrange to arrange payment by check (or if you have any questions).

Once you purchase your square, please send your name, email address, phone number and your Venmo/PayPal account name to tamvic1@aol.com. This is very important so I can send you your square and pay you your winnings! Also, feel free to email with any questions. The full rules and details will be provided before the Super Bowl.

Thank you very much for your support! We will be providing more information about our host home family over the next few weeks.

ONA NOTES

On September 19th, in the Medina Gazette, Rini Jeffers had an article on the opinion page. She described the experiences of Sol Rizzato, an organ tuner who is headed for seminary for a Master of Divinity degree. Sol happens to be trans. The Catholic Diocese of Cleveland had just instituted a policy to ban all expressions of LGBTQ-positive identity, including the use of pronouns, nicknames, using a gender-neutral restroom, attending a dance with a same-sex partner, or displaying a rainbow flag. Jeffers wrote: "The policy extends even to 'social transitions', which would include social media posts, and includes adult employees and volunteers as well as students at 79 elementary schools and five high schools in the diocese." When a friend told someone, Sol lost their job as an organist at a major Catholic Church in Oklahoma City. Sol was issued a canonical penalty and censure for refusal to live closeted. The letter from the diocese read in part: "We separate her from the society of all Christians . . . we declare her excommunicated and anathematized, as well as judge her condemned to eternal fire with Satan and his angels and all the reprobates." The vicar general said to Sol, "In the eyes of the church, you do not exist." Sol's response: "I forgive you."

Who among us would we declare to be condemned to eternal fire and an anathema? We in the United Church of Christ have a very different message. How do we get the word out?

Your ONA Task Force: *Dan Daubner, Vicki Marty, Lily Wolff, Brad Rice, Pam Branscome, Alan Parkhurst, and Mike Sferro*

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today —

9:30 — Service of Worship, Mr. Dibble preaching; nursery care for children through two years of age.

9:30 — Church School; classes for three-year olds through seventh grade.

10:30 — Social Hour, Fellowship Hall.

10:50 — Board of Trustees

Monday —

8:00 — Board of Christian Education, all board members and ex-officio members, at the Nichol's home, 248 South Harmony.

Sunday, July 26 —

9:30 — Church School; Service of Worship, Mr. Whitaker preaching.

10:30 — Pastoral Committee

10:30 — Family Life Committee

Sunday, August 2 —

9:30 — Celebration of Holy Communion and reception of members.

* * *

Special Music

The Quartet today is composed of Thelma Wegst, Kathy Clement, Earl Vannaman, and Donald Wilder. In addition, Mr. Wesley Abbott will sing a solo at the Offertory.

The Church's Welcome

Extending the welcome of the Church as you came to worship today were: (west door) Mr. and Mrs. James Bauer; (east door) Mr. Harry Aylard and Mrs. May Aylard.

Hosts at the punch table in the East Room following the service are Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Demuth. Friends and visitors, as well as the members of the church, are cordially invited to share in this fellowship hour.

* * *

An Invitation To Membership

New meembers will be received into the Church on Communion Sunday, August 2. Those desirous of uniting are asked to speak to Mr. Whitaker today.

* * *

Church School Recess

At the last meeting of the Board of Christian Education, on the recommendation of the Church School Superintendents, it was voted to recess the Church School, August 9 through September 6, five Sundays in all. Our loyal Church School staff deserve a vacation! Families are urged to bring their children to the service of worship each Sunday.

Rally Sunday will be September 13. This will mark the first session of the Church School for the fall and winter months.

* * *

Memorial Flowers

Flowers on the altar are in memory of Doris Waltz, and are placed by the family, Mrs. Alice Waltz, Miss Virginia Waltz, and the Harry Waltz family.