



I will remember the
everlasting covenant
between God and
every living creature

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256

330-725-4559

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon, Senior Pastor

Rev. Meghan Malone, Associate Pastor of Youth & Mission

Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor

Cathy Fafrak, Organist Jen Vilimonovic, Hobby Horse Preschool Dir

Jenny Cochran, Dir of Music Jeff Miller, Financial Dir

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager Jack Sharpe, Maintenance

Stacie Yates, Dir of Christian Education Nick Brlan, Custodian

*This service comes from February 20, 1994, a service of thanksgiving,
remembrance, and consecration.*

**Those who are able, please stand.*

WELCOME

(Please sign/pass and return the Ritual of Friendship Form)

ORGAN PRELUDE

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We give you our thanks, Great God of all Pilgrim Peoples.

Cong.: The God named by Abraham, Issac and Jacob!

Leader: Come, let us adore...

Cong.: The God who named Jesus, Son!

Leader: Come, let us praise...

Cong.: The God who called this congregation into being in 1819.

Leader: Come, let us love...

Cong.: Our God, our Christ, our neighbor, our brothers and sisters in Christ.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN, No. 29 "Morning Has Broken"

*INVOCATION & LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

Let us pray, Lord of our life and God of our salvation,
blessed be your Holy Name. On this special occasion we come
full of gratitude for your Spirit which continues to guide
this generation of your people. We cannot, we will not forget
those saints who make this day a reality. We celebrate the
ministry of the laity and clergy over the years of our
congregation's life. We offer you the prayer of Christ, which
unites us all with the faithful who have led us to this time.
'Our Father'... (*debts*)

ANTHEM "Kumbaya" Arr. Paul Sjolund/reworked by Jennifer Cochran
Children's & Chancel Choirs & Alleluia Ringers

JR. SERMON

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord Be with You

Cong.: AND WITH YOUR SPIRIT

Leader: Let us pray in silence

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SCRIPTURES 1 Samuel 18:1-4 (O.T. pg. 250)
 1 Samuel 20:12-17 (O.T. pg. 253)
 2 Samuel 1:24-27 (O.T. pg. 263)

RESPONSE, No. 349 "Let Thy Word Abide"

MEDITATION "The Road to Harmony With Myself and God" Michael Sferro

HYMN, No. 39 "God Moves in a Mysterious Way"

LITANY FOR A CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Leader: We praise you, O God, for the joy we find in the church:
for communion with one another; for sharing of bounty and of burden;
for nurturing the next generation by the last; for expressions of
holiness made visible in our midst.

**People: O God, lead us in your ways through this, the instrument
of your church.**

Leader: We give you thanks, our God, for the strengths which have brought this day into being, the vision which came to dwell in the house of Isaac Barnes near the village of Weymouth [two hundred and five years ago.]

People: Seven charter members, whose memories we carry in our hearts worshipped together, in that house, and then moved their young church to a log cabin, sharing worship with our Episcopalian sisters and brothers.

Leader: God of history, make us ever mindful of the contribution of the saints of this congregation, the Northrup family, Sarah Barnes, whose father became the first full-time pastor of this congregation and the long list of believers who supported the mission of Christ in the young community of Medina.

People: We stand in awe, Wonderous God, of the stories that have brought us to this day, the devotion of those businessmen in 1833 who raised the money to build the brick church, the trip to Cleveland by Lewis Nettleton in 1838 to investigate a forced heat furnace for our church, and the strong church community in 1919 whose Sunday School attendance was 400 adults and children.

Leader: We call you, Almighty God to cast your spirit among us this day. Let us continue to be builders of a holy temple, a place where human beings may find peace in the face of turmoil, but not a place where complacency finds a home. Let us be servants and visionaries both: planters and harvesters each, stewards of a living treasure, this church.

People: May the celebration of this day become a promise for the future as we dedicate our lives to you, our God now and ever more. Amen.

A SILENT PRAYER TIME FOR THANKSGIVING, REMEMBRANCE, AND CONSECRATION

*RECESSIONAL HYMN, No. 290 "What a Fellowship"

*****PLEASE REMAIN SEATED FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING*****

*RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

L: God has placed a vision in our hearts...

C: **God bids us go and make the vision real for all peoples.**

L: Christ walks with us down every lane of life...

C: **He was faithful to those seven saints who placed their names on the line. He will not forsake us!**

L: The Holy Spirit has been promised to us...

C: **We will receive the power of the Holy Spirit as we live loving and faithful lives.**

ALL: WE COMMIT ONE ANOTHER AND ALL CREATION INTO THE CARE AND LOVE OF GOD OUR REDEEMER, CHRIST OUR LORD AND THE HOLY SPIRIT OUR COMFORTER AND GUIDE. AMEN.

*GOD BE WITH YOU

POSTLUDE

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ENDOWMENT FUND CELEBRATES

The history of our UCC church is like a branching tree with strong boughs and leaves that shows the support and vitality of the trunk and roots of the tree. In celebration of FOUNDERS DAY in February, we honor the tree of genealogy that we share with members of the past. Thirty years ago, a small group of church members established the ENDOWMENT FUND in hopes of gathering dollars for the unseen future use of our church. That was 30 years ago. Now we are ready to celebrate this sacred history by asking for a donation of \$30 in honor of those with a giving heart. The theme "30 4 30" is a way to remember. Please consider giving \$30 to the ENDOWMENT FUND to honor 30 years of faithful generosity.

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

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

JANUARY 28, 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 28, 2024 thru February 4, 2024 WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun 9:45 am Children’s Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am ONE SERVICE ONLY
11:30 am Annual Budget Meeting
12:00 pm Chili Cook-Off
3:00 pm Confirmation Class

Mon 2:00 pm “Life As We Know It” Book Study
7:00 pm “Life As We Know It” Book Study

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
9:30 am Third Grade Bible Class
9:45 am Children’s Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
4:30 pm Men’s Group
4:30 pm Family Board Game Night

FAMILY BOARD GAME NIGHT

Bring your favorite board game from home and snacks to share on **Sunday, February 4th, 4:30-6pm!** DELTS will provide the drinks. Everyone is invited to come relax and have fun together in Fellowship Hall!

Worship Highlights: One service at 10:30 am

Scripture: 1 Samuel 18:1-4
1 Samuel 20:12-17,
2 Samuel 1:24-27

Sermon: Mr. Michael Sferro
“The Road to Harmony with Myself and God”

Communion Table: The communion table flowers are given by John & Joan Walschon in memory of Joan’s parents.

ANNUAL MEETING TODAY!

Friendly reminder to ask you to please join us for our Annual Meeting taking place today, January 28th after the 10:30 service.

Annual Reports are available in the East Room and Fellowship Hall for you to view prior to the meeting.

THIRD GRADE BIBLE PARENT MEETING TODAY

There will be a meeting for third graders and their parents about the Third Grade Bible Class today, January 28th at 10:00 am. We will meet in the library and go over the expectations, calendar, and answer any questions you may have. If you are unable to make the meeting but would still like the information, please email Stacie Yates at stacie@uccmedina.org

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

We will be taking a break from our usual Tuesday evening bible study during Lent. We will be joining the church Lenten Studies on Wednesdays. After Easter we will resume our Tuesday Bible Studies.

“LIFE AS WE KNOW IT” BOOK STUDY

This guided book journey will take you deeper into the lives of your friends, family, neighbors and beyond. Come at 2 or 7 pm on Mondays, January 22nd – February 12th in Fellowship Hall to work your way through this book and learn to share our stories together. Topics include how we’ve redeemed pain, learned life lessons, and talked about God’s unfolding narrative of our life. Books available while supplies last.

SAVE THE DATE

The Ladies and Girls Tea will be held on Saturday, April 27th from 12 pm – 2 pm. Tickets will go on sale on Sunday, April 7th in the East Room following the worship services. The program this year will be “A First Lady Tea” presented by Women in History from Cleveland. MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Contact Beth Hari, Becky Weber or Darlene Bagley-Fazekas with any questions.

SONshine MEALS

Did you know we have a ministry that provides meals for members in need? If you’re ill, expecting or have fallen on hard times, please let us help! If you know of a need or would like to help fulfill a need, please contact Becky: beckybauer@zoominternet.net or 216-288-6877.

We will be refreshing our list of volunteers so if you’d like to be (or continue to be) on the list of people we call to possibly provide meals, please text or email Becky.

NEW PODCAST HOME

Heads up if you listen to our worship podcast: We have a new look and name! Search for “Medina UCC Sermons,” currently on Spotify and Apple podcasts. Look for this graphic. Listen to the Scripture and sermon while you cook, walk the dog, drive, or sip your hot cocoa...it’s up to you!



MLK SCHOLARSHIP FUND

We raised \$1,659 at our Martin Luther King, Jr. service for the scholarship fund operated by Sister Circle of Medina! #wearestrongertogether
Thank you to all who donated!

COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

The 2024 Flower Chart is now hanging in the East Room hallway. This is a wonderful way to honor or remember someone, or to celebrate a special occasion. Please fill in your name and **write “Church” or “Self”** to let us know if you would like the church to order the flowers for you or if you will be ordering them yourself. The cost of the flowers ordered through the church office is \$22.50.

Also, please write what you would like printed in the Messenger and if you want to claim your flowers after the 10:30 service.

COFFEE HOUR

Please consider hosting coffee hour one Sunday. Signups for March through May 2024 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?

DONATION OF THE MONTH

February’s donation of the month is period products!

Period poverty (lacking access to menstrual products) affects millions of people, and stigma about menstrual hygiene makes it taboo for us to talk about. The Mission Team will distribute your donations to local charities to reduce period poverty here in Medina! Thank you!

STEWARDSHIP STORY

So why do we choose to pledge to our Medina UCC? We pledge because we believe in our church. We love it here. We have attended many churches. I like to think we've tried the rest, but we have found the best. We originally came to the Medina UCC because of Hobby Horse. We bounced around to other churches, but we have never felt the sense of community and belonging that we do here. Medina UCC is quite simply a special place. We have never before found a church that treats and supports everyone equally. Medina UCC is our church.

Can't you just donate every week? My wife and I choose to pledge to Medina UCC to help the church better plan for annual expenses. It's our way of telling the church we're good for it. We chose to setup a weekly pledge. I love the ability to set it and forget it. It's easy to do, it's easy for us to budget, and we know our donation goes through every week whether we're here in person or online. We even get a weekly confirmation when the donation is withdrawn.

I donate every week, what's the advantage of a pledge? As a member of the Finance and Stewardship committee I can assure everyone that Medina UCC greatly appreciates all donations and pledges. However, pledges allow us to plan better. Otherwise, it's a little bit of a guess on how and when the church can make its budget work. As an example, consider your own personal expenses: would you be comfortable spending money not knowing how much income you have each month? Would you accept a job not knowing what you would earn? Pledges are like a big stress relief for the church.

Why is it important to support our church? My wife and I feel proud knowing we are helping serve the people in our congregation, community and others around the globe through the myriad programs and charitable causes that our church supports throughout the year. (Did you know that our mission fund supports approximately 20 initiatives in our community and around the globe every year? That's like donating to 20 different organizations for every dollar you contribute to the church). By selecting the Operating Fund we can choose to allocate a portion of our donation to the operation of the church, or we can choose the Mission Fund to allocate money to charitable causes around our community and the world, or we can choose the Capital Fund and allocate money to future capital projects for our church. Regardless of how we choose to allocate our pledge, we know it allows the church to better plan for its expenses and serve our community.

On behalf of both of us and the rest of the Finance and Stewardship committee members, we thank everyone who has donated throughout the year and to those who have made pledges for 2024. We thank you all for your continued support so we can improve the mission, ministry, and finances within our congregation.

I ask you all to consider a pledge for 2024 and beyond. Know that any gifts you provide will be prayerfully and thankfully received by the church.

Corey and Jaclyn Raub

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 20, 1994

Genesis 9:16

Make of us an ark to house your hope. Double our strength against the deluge of this day. Couple our silence with song, our loss with laughter. Teach us that we are one family of all your creatures surviving the storms on this small ship, that to come to shore and see the sign of peace, we must save every precious pair, the least of these your little ones as well as the greatest. When we despair, send us your rainbow radiance, your jeweled necklace in the sky, your warm colors of compassion. And when we are lost, show us that you will begin with us again.

Rev. Susan Virginia Hull
Circular Congregational Church
Charleston, SC

RECLAIMING A PART OF OUR HISTORY

We in the United Church of Christ have forgotten an important part of the shared history. Our antecedent denominations grew and expanded, building new churches and baptizing new Christians, as the American nation grew and expanded, but we have forgotten *how!* New churches in the old Congregational, Reformed, Christian, and Evangelical faiths grew as a result of deliberate policies of evangelism, supported with generous offerings from established congregations.

For example, when the Dakota territory was opened to settlement during the 1880's, and settlers flocked onto that virgin land, our ancestors grasped the opportunity for evangelism and responded to the need for pastors.

"Do you want to put the needs and charms of the Dakotas before the minds of Yale Theological Seminary students?" one recruiter wrote the Home Mission Board. "Then please send me such a clear and detailed statement or description of them as would influence you, under like conditions, to choose Dakota for your future field."

Eight Yale graduates answered the first call to the Dakotas. Supported by offerings from congregations in the East, they were assigned strategic communities in which to work and gather churches.

Today, there are new Dakotas—new frontiers of need and opportunity for church growth. New areas of the country are growing rapidly, new suburbs are being developed, and new ethnic groups are arriving from abroad. And they all need churches.

If we are to respond to these opportunities for mission today, we must reclaim our history of generous financial support for evangelism through Our Church's Wider Mission.