



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

Monday, January 15, 2024 @7:00PM

Medina United Church of Christ

**217 E. Liberty St.
Medina, OH 44256**

#wearestrongertogether



**Guest Speaker
Pastor Jason Hunter
Truth in Love Church
Brunswick, Ohio**

For more information call Pastor Ruffin @330.952.2055



MEDINA COUNTY CHURCHES PRESENTS

HONORING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

**Those who are able please stand*

WELCOME & RECOGNITION Rev. Meghan Malone, Pastor of Youth & Mission, UCC Congregational
Mayor Dennis Hanwell

CALL TO WORSHIP Pamela Miller, Medina Diversity Project
(from ucc.org/mlk-resources-2022-join-the-movement)

With the rolling waters of mighty streams, we gather to join the movement of God's justice.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny.

Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."¹

the future dreams of a mustard seed, we come together to join the movement of Jesus' liberation.

"Every step towards the goal of justice requires...struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action."²

With the shining light of a tender flame, we bring our hearts, to join the movement of the Spirit's love.

"It is true that as we struggle for freedom in America we will have to boycott at times.

**But we must remember...that a boycott is not an end within itself
...the end is the creation of the beloved community.**

It is this love which will bring about miracles in the hearts of [people]."³

Ringing with prayer and praise, bringing our unique gifts and passions, we become the Body of Christ, moving with faith and action in the world.

Joining this great movement of hope, let us worship God.

***OPENING HYMN**

"Soon and Very Soon"

Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

SOON AND VERY SOON 12.12.12.14
© 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music (ASCAP)

**Soon and very soon we are going' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are going' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are going' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!**

No more cryin' there we are going' to see the King...

No more dyin' there we are going' to see the King...

Soon and very soon we are going' to see the King...

CONFESSION *(all in unison)*

Pastor Mike Gardiner, Cornerstone Chapel

God of many gifts and one Spirit, we confess that sometimes it is easier to celebrate a single prophetic voice, than to honor the complex movements that give rise to freedom.

When in our desire to honor leaders, we forget or gloss over all those who make change possible, forgive us.

When we lift up Martin Luther King, Jr. as a visionary and leader, and ignore or disbelieve that we have a part to play in making his dreams a reality, forgive us.

Empower us to take up our roles in the movement toward racial justice, knowing that each of us has unique gifts to offer, and together, we are the Spirit's movement toward love. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Beloved of the Holy One, hear the good news: "unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word."¹

We are forgiven and freed to become God's love together.

Praise God, who equips us to join the movement of the Spirit.

"For when people get caught up with that which is right and we are willing to sacrifice for it, there is no stopping point short of victory."²

COMBINED CHOIR SELECTION

"Total Praise" – Richard Smallwood

Comprised of choir members from Fellowship Baptist, Second Baptist and UCC Congregational

SCRIPTURE

Samantha Davis, Cleveland Clinic Medina

MESSAGE

Pastor Jason Hunter, Truth in Love Church, Brunswick

*HYMN OF REFLECTION

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

PRECIOUS LORD Irr.

Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899-1993 © 1938 Unichappell Music, Inc.

George N. Allen, 1812-1877; adapt. Thomas A. Dorsey



1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, help me
2. When my way grows drear, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger
3. When the dark - ness ap - pears And the night draws



stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
near; When my life is al - most gone,
near, And the day is past and gone;



Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the
 Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my hand lest I
 At the riv - er I stand, Guide my feet, hold my



light, Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.
 fall; Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.
 hand; Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

OFFERING

Pastor Tracy Ruffin, Sister Circle Medina

Offertory Music "His Eye Is On the Sparrow" – Civilla Martin & Charles Gabriel

Featuring soloists from our combined choirs

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Dr. Richard Shewbridge, Cleveland Clinic Medina

*** HYMN**

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

ANTHEM 6.6.10.6.6.10.14.14.6.6.10

James W. Johnson, 1871-1938

J. Rosamund Johnson, 1873-1954 © 1921 (renewed) Edward B. Marks Music Co.



1. Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing, Till earth and heav - en
 2. Ston - y the road we trod, Bit - ter the chas - t'ning
 3. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent



ring, Ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -
 rod, Felt in the days when hope un - born had
 tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far on the



ty; Let our re - joic - ing rise High as the lis - t'ning
 died; Yet with a stead - y beat, Have not our wea - ry
 way; Thou who hast by Thy might, Led us in - to the



skies, Let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
feet Come to the place for which our peo - ple sighed?
light, Keep us for ev - er in the path, we pray.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met Thee,



Sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has
We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we for -



brought us; Fac - ing the ris - ing sun Of our new
slaugh - tered; Out from the gloom - y past, Till now we
get Thee; Shad - owed be - neath Thy hand, May we for



day be - gun, Let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
stand at last Where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.
ev - er stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Arthur Ruffin, Second Baptist Church

(Martin Luther King Jr's prayer for the church)

Lord, we thank you for your church, founded upon your Word, that challenges us to do more than sing and pray,
but go out and work as though the very answer to our prayers depended on us and not upon you.

Help us to realize that humanity was created to shine like the stars and live on through all eternity.

Keep us, we pray, in perfect peace.

Help us to walk together,

pray together,

sing together,

and live together

until that day when all God's children

- Black, White, Red, Brown and Yellow -

will rejoice in one common band of humanity

in the reign of our Lord and of our God, we pray. Amen.

Works Cited

Call to Worship:

¹ Martin Luther King, Jr. Letter from a Birmingham Jail, April 16, 1963.

² Martin Luther King, Jr. *Stride toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story* 1958.

³ Martin Luther King, Jr. Facing the Challenge of a New Age, address delivered at the first annual Institute on Nonviolence and Social Change, 1956.

Confession and Assurance

¹ Martin Luther King, Jr. Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech, Oslo, Norway, 1964.

² Martin Luther King, Jr. "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech, April 3, 1968.

