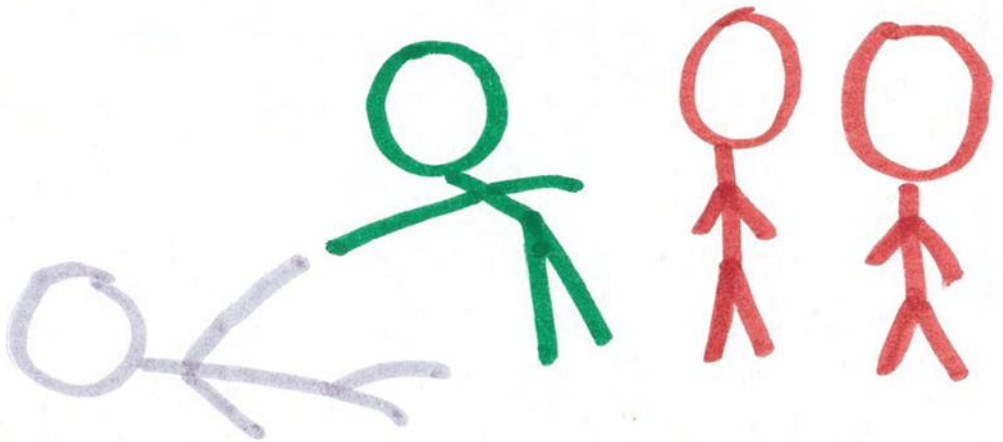


The
GOOD



SAMARITAN



PARABLES

LENT 2024



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559 www.uccmedina.org

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

LIVE STREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT UCCMEDINA.ORG

• *During the 10:30 service, Jesus Vibes Sunday School is available for ages 3-8th 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 “My Song Is Love Unknown” – arr. Michael Burkhardt

Cathy Fafrak, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

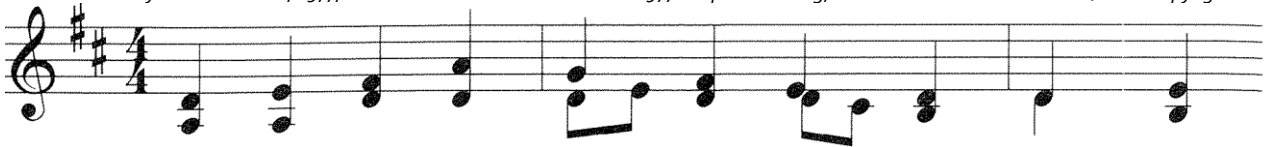
*OPENING HYMN

“The Servant Song”

THE SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.

Words & Music by Richard Gillard, 1977, alt.

© 1977 Scripture in Song, admin. by Maranatha! Music c/o The Copyright Co.



1. Sis - ter, let me be your ser - vant, bro - ther,
 2. We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, fel - low
 5. Broth - er, let me be your ser - vant, sis - ter,



1. let me walk with you; pray that I may
 2. trav - 'lers on the road. We are here to
 5. let me walk with you; pray that I may



1. have the grace to let you be my ser - vant too.
2. help each oth - er walk the mile and bear the load.
5. have the grace to let you be my ser - vant too.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

They may not be beaten down or lying by the road,
but there are people we pass by, Watching God.

Some are family and friends
we take so much for granted

we cannot see how we have stripped
them of our love and compassion.

Others are neighbors:

**who have been left half-dead by crushing work; who have fallen into the hands of despair;
who have been abandoned by all those who walked on by them.**

Many are strangers, people we don't know,
but quickly judge:

because they are weak,

or poor,

or the enemy

or because they remind us of who we once were, or could become.

SPECIAL MUSIC "They Asked Who's My Neighbor" - Jan Wesson

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE Luke 10:25-37 (N.T. pg. 67)

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 Good Samaritan"

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

REFLECTION HYMN

"No Greater Love"

Michael Joncas, b. 1951

Michael Joncas, © 1988, GIA Publications, Inc.

Refrain



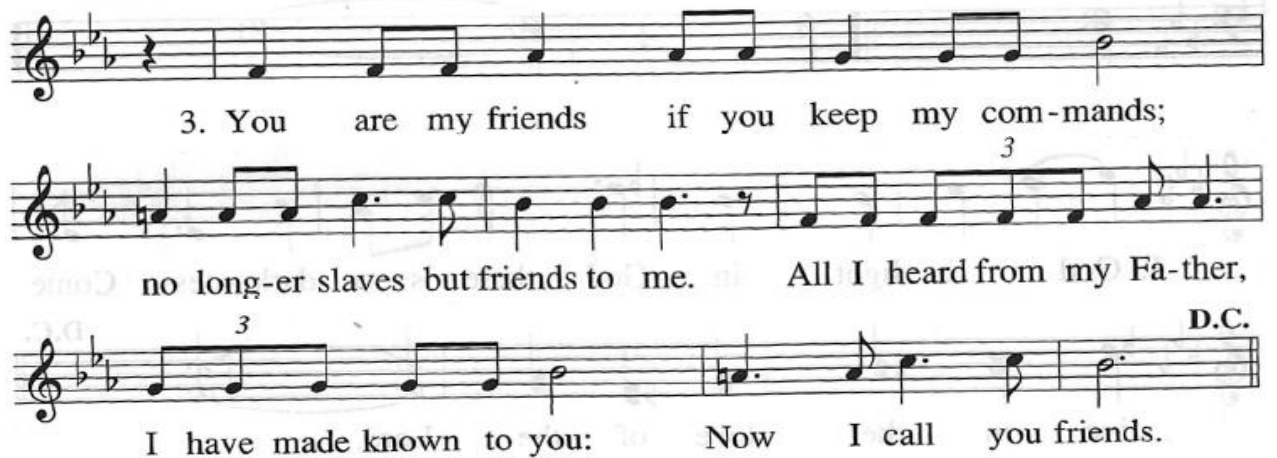
There is no great-er love, says the Lord, than to
lay down your life for a friend; there is no great-er love,
no great-er love, than to lay down your life for a friend.

Verse 2



2. All this I tell you that my joy may be yours and
your joy may be complete. Love one another as
I have loved you: This is my command.

Verse 3



3. You are my friends if you keep my commands;
no long-er slaves but friends to me. All I heard from my Father,
I have made known to you: Now I call you friends.

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

Two coins. Two coins for the benefit of those lying in the ditch. Two coins for our church, our mission, and your world Oh God. **Let us rise in body or spirit and sing out our praise!**

*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.**

*Dedication

**Gracious Mystery, rescue us from our apathy,
Pour out your justice on us, rather than your judgement,
that we would be moved with pity, and spurred to action;
that we would hear of the hope that is ours,
and share it with our sisters and brothers;
that we would shower mercy on all we meet,
even as we have received forgiveness for our sins
through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN

Steve Angrisano & Tom Tomaszek

"Go Make a Difference"

Acc by Rick Modlin (co 1997, 1998 Steve Angrisano & Thomas N. Tomaszek.

Published by OCP Publications

Refrain



Go make a dif - f'rence. We can make a dif - f'rence.



Go make a dif - f'rence in the world.



Go make a dif - f'rence. We can make a dif - f'rence.

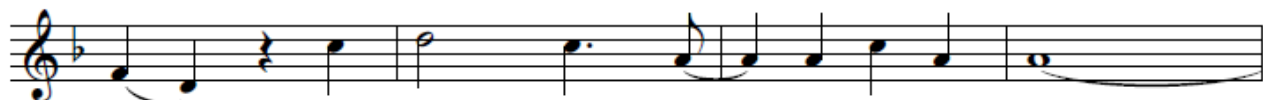


Go make a dif - f'rence in the world.

Verses 1, 2



1. We are the salt of the earth, called to let the peo - ple
2. We are the hands of Christ reach-ing out to those in



see the love of God in you and me.
need, the face of God for all to see.



We are the light of the world, not to be hid - den but be
We are the spir - it of hope; & we are the voice of



seen. Go make a dif - f'rence in the world.
peace. Go make a dif - f'rence in the world.

Verse 3



3. So let your love shine on, let it shine for all to see.



Go make a dif - f'rence in the world. And the



spir - it of Christ will be with us as we go.



Go make a dif - f'rence in the world.

D.C.

***BENEDICTION**

You have been blessed by those who stopped along their way.

God surprises us with community!

We have been challenged by the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Jesus is our teacher and our way.

May you feel that our time together has lifted you out of the ditch, and mended something you didn't know was torn.

The Holy Spirit stirs within our hearts.

Having been blessed by the Trinity to be a blessing, go from here for this service has ended...

And our service now begins. 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 "Toccata in e minor" – Johann Pachelbel**

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 the Evangelism Team.

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PASTORAL STAFF

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Jack Sharpe, Maintenance
Nick Brlan, Custodian

THE 2024 JUNK DRIVE IS HERE!

This fundraiser takes broken and unwanted electronics and turns them into funds for our high schooler's summer mission trip! We're accepting Laptop and Desktop Computers, DVD/VHS players, Cords, Cables, Mice, Keyboards, Cellphones, Tablets, Smart Watches, Gaming Consoles, Games, Stereos, Radios, Mp3 players, iPods, old power tools, and small metal appliances.

There will be four drop-off windows in the church parking lot:

Tuesday, Feb. 27 (5:00pm-8:00pm)

Saturday, March 2 (9:00am-1:00pm)

Tuesday, March 5 (5:00pm-8:00pm)

A huge shout out to Tracy Gabrielsen for setting us up with a storage truck from Penske! Please see the posters that are all around the building for answers to FAQs and reach out to Logan Malone with any other questions you may have. Thank you to Logan for leading this fundraising effort!

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

FEBRUARY 25, 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

February 25 thru March 3, 2024

WEEK AT A GLANCE

| | |
|------------|--|
| Sun | 2nd SUNDAY OF LENT |
| | 8:15 am Chapel Worship |
| | 9:00 am Gathering Worship |
| | 9:45 am Children’s Choir Rehearsal |
| | 10:30 am Teen Church |
| | 10:30 am Sanctuary Worship |
| | 11:30 am 3 rd Grade Bible Class |
| | 3:00 pm Confirmation Class |

Mon

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Tues | 5:00 pm Junk Drive (Parking Lot) |
| | 7:00 pm Bible Study |

| | |
|------------|--|
| Wed | 10:30 am Quilters |
| | 6:00 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal |
| | 7:00 pm Short Stories By Jesus Study @ St. Paul’s Episcopal |
| | 7:00 pm Finance/Stewardship Meeting |

| | |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| Thurs | 6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal |
| | 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal |

| | |
|------------|--------------------------------------|
| Fri | 6:00 pm Confirmands to Temple Israel |
|------------|--------------------------------------|

| | |
|------------|----------------------------------|
| Sat | 9:00 am Junk Drive (Parking lot) |
|------------|----------------------------------|

| | |
|------------|--|
| Sun | 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT |
| | 8:15 am Chapel Worship |
| | 9:00 am Gathering Worship |
| | 9:45 am Children’s Choir Rehearsal |
| | 10:30 am Sanctuary Worship |
| | 11:30 am 3 rd Grade Bible Class |
| | 4:30 pm Youth Group |

DID YOU KNOW...

Did you know that **donations to the “30 4 30”** Campaign supporting the **Endowment Fund** can be easily made electronically on REALM, our digital method of giving? Check it out today.

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

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

Sermon: “The Good Samaritan”
Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: There are no sponsors for the flowers this week. Please sign up in the East Room Hallway.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a UCC Church Wider Mission that can help those in need and change the trajectory of their lives! This Lenten offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the UCC. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty the wider church ministries provides resources, educated staff, and volunteers to help shelter, calm, uplift and guide others through these devastating times. Immediate help is given along with long-term guidance. Your contributions make a difference! Please consider a generous donation on March 10th. Checks should be made payable to our church with “OGHS” noted in the memo. Your donation may also be made online through Realm – see the line item for OGHS.

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 Hospitality Team member should you have any questions. Hosting is to be simple, so would you please consider hosting Coffee Hour one Sunday?

MISSION UPDATE

Your generosity and love have impacted the following church and community initiatives in January and February.

- Operation Homes
- Garfield Families
- Period Products
- Hope Recovery
- Jackie's Jars donations going to Medina County Sr. Center - \$1,110.55!

We continue to reach out to local and broader areas of need with your help and loving care. Thank you for your ongoing and unfailing support.

“SHORT STORIES BY JESUS” – A LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

In this wise and entertaining series, Amy-Jill Levine offers a fresh, timely reinterpretation of Jesus' narratives. She analyzes these “problems with parables,” taking readers back in time to understand how their original Jewish audiences understood them. Levine reveals the parables' connections to first-century economic and agricultural life, social customs, and morality, Jewish scriptures and Roman culture. With this revitalized understanding, she interprets these moving stories for the contemporary reader, showing how the parables are not just about Jesus, but are also about us – and when read rightly, still challenge and provoke us 2,000 years later.

We are partnering with our friends at St. Paul's Episcopal and St. Matthew's Lutheran for this companion study to our worship series!

We'll meet Wednesdays at 7 pm at the following locations:

February 28: St. Paul's Episcopal, 317 E. Liberty St.

March 6: UCC, Congregational

March 13: St. Matthew's, 400 N. Broadway St.

March 20: UCC, Congregational

EASTER FLOWERS

It's time to order your Easter Flower! You may donate a flower in honor or memory of someone to decorate the Chapel, Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary for Easter and claim it afterward, or have it delivered to a member in a care facility, local first responders, or businesses. **This year there will once again be an assortment of different flowers. There is no way to specify what type you can order, but they will be first come, first serve as to which type of flower you can take.** The cost is \$10.00 for any one of them. Deadline for ordering is **March 17th**. Please fill out a yellow order sheet (available from the ushers) and turn it in to the church office OR you can purchase directly through REALM. [Order Easter Flowers](#)

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!

AN UPDATE ON OPERATION HOMES

As you may already be aware, there is a plan to build a homeless shelter here in Medina that will house the individuals currently being housed through Operation Homes (OH). The board of OH is already preparing for the transition to supporting this shelter. In the meantime, OH will continue to provide refuge for the unsheltered. There are now only 6 churches participating in the program, so we've been asked to host three more weeks before the end of June – one more week than we were expecting. Those weeks are March 4-10, April 15-21, May 27-June 2. Guests will stay in hotels for the remainder of the year, and we will still help to provide their meals. Thank you for the time, energy, and love you give to make these guests feel at home with us.

Psalm 22:23-31

Always Close

Psalm 22:30-31

Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

The psalmist is confident that those to come will be taught about the ways of God, and proclaims boldly that even generations yet to be born will know to praise the Divine One.

How confident are you and your congregation that “future generations will be told” about God? If your confidence is wavering, maybe now is the time to look around, to notice those who have gifts for leadership and ministry, and to lift them up. Maybe it’s time for your church to be a place that nurtures ministers.

Congregations who successfully call out gifts of ministry from among their members do so intentionally and prayerfully. Wondering how your congregation can nurture the call to ministry in young people? Here are some ideas to try.

1. Remember that the church needs a variety of kinds of leadership in the future. Maybe that tech genius who always helped you fix the projector in your confirmation class is called to ministry. Maybe the young person who is always ready to argue with authority figures or scripture is ready for ministry. Maybe the artist, whose bulletin doodles often echo the theme of worship, is ready for ministry.
2. Too often we see gifts in others and fail to recognize or celebrate them. Calling out what we see in others can help them see something new in themselves. If you think someone has a gift for ministry, say so!
3. Create an atmosphere where people can try and mess up and try again. Ministry has a steep learning curve, and giving lay people the chance to preach, to make pastoral calls and to stretch their skills in other ways can be the best preparation of all for those who are called to ministry.
4. Support those who are called to ministry spiritually and practically. Pray for and with them. And find ways to support those who are called to ministry materially as well, whether it's through gifts of money, books or just the occasional cup of coffee and listening ear.