

the hidden truth

max





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 “Give Me Jesus” – arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Cathy Fafrak, Piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

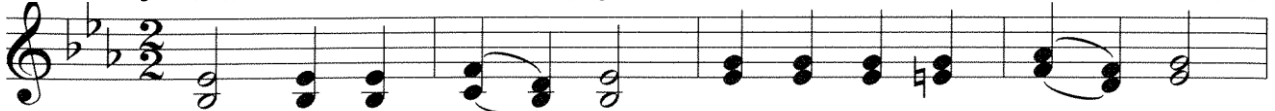
PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

Münster Gesangbuch, 1677; tr. Church Chorals and Choir Studies, 1850, alt.

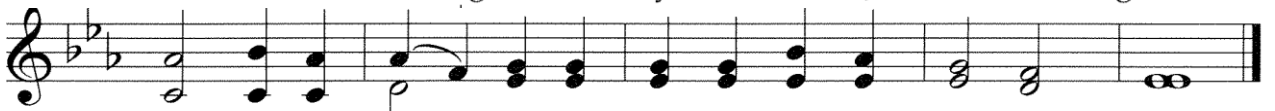
ST. ELIZABETH 5.6.8.5.5.8.
Schledidche Volkslieder, 1842



1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus, rul - er of all na - ture,
2. Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the wood - lands,
3. Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the moon - light,



O thou of God to earth come down; thee will I cher - ish,
robed in the bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,
and all the twink - ling, star - ry hosts: Je - sus shines bright - er,



thee will I hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
Je - sus is pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
Je - sus shines pur - er, than all the an - gels heaven can boast.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We want clouds and pearly gates, oh Christ,
You give us dirt and digging.
We would like things served up on a silver platter,
You hid things in a field somewhere.
We would prefer a list of rules and an owners manual for life,
You speak to us in parables.
Come, let us ponder and worship together.
It is right and good that we should.

SPECIAL MUSIC "God So Loved the World" – John Stainer Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE Matthew 13:44 (N.T. pg. 14) Deb Waldron, 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 hidin tretr" (The Hidden Treasure) Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

REFLECTION HYMN "I Come With Joy"

Brian Wren, 1969; rev. 1982, 1995 © 1971 Hope Publishing Co. DOVE OF PEACE CM
Southern Harmony, 1835; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1987
© 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House



1. I

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1. loved and free, the life of Je - sus to re - call, in
2. all are fed, the new com - mun - i - ty of love in
3. vi - sion ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
4. ev - er near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
5. God has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



1. love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
2. Christ's com - mun - ion bread, in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
3. strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
4. live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
5. love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. You do not need to be a member of the United Church of Christ to partake in the Holy Sacrament. All bread served is gluten free.

Invitation to the Table

The Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

Thank you for continuing to financially support the work and mission of the church! You can give in many ways of your time, talent and treasure. You can send your offering via mail or online at uccmedina.org/give. Or, you can use your talents and time to strengthen the ties that bind.

Let us now sing the doxology to our God, from whom all blessings flow.

***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**

Hidden Treasure. Pearls of great price. May what has been offered here be what someone has been seeking all their life. May what we offer be pleasing to you, our God, our Christ, our Spirit. One God for ever more. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

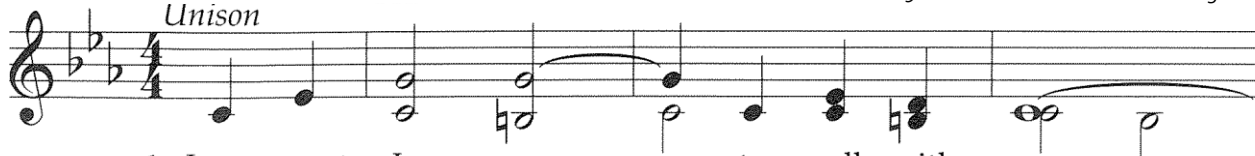
"I Want Jesus to Walk With Me"

SOJOURNER 8.8.8.9.

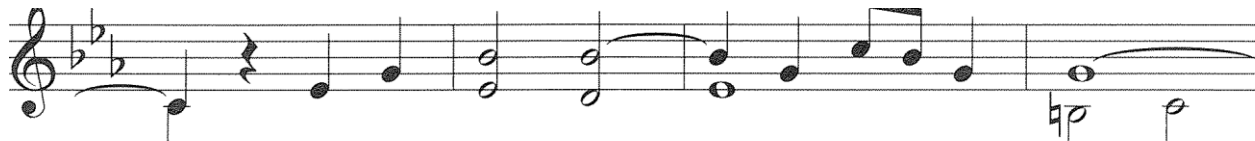
African-American spiritual

harm. J. Jefferson Cleveland & Verolga Nix, 1981
© 1981 The United Methodist Publishing House

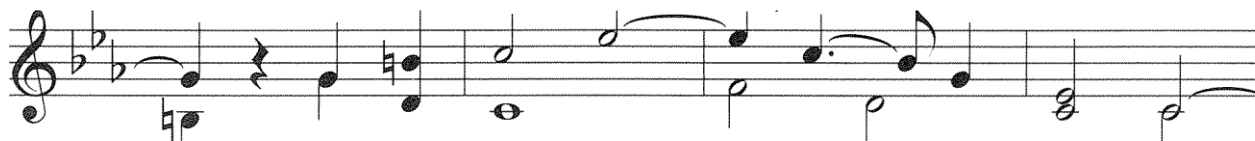
Unison



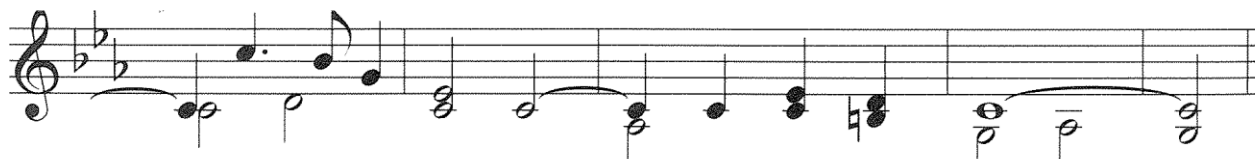
1. I want Je - sus to walk with me.
2. In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me.
3. When I'm trou - bled, Lord, walk with me.



I want Je - sus to walk with me.
In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me.
When I'm trou - bled, Lord, walk with me.



All a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
When my heart is al - most break - ing,
When my head is bowed in sor - row,



O, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
O, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
O, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

*BENEDICTION

It is out there,

Let us grab our shovels!

It is worth more than what we already have,

We shall sell all we have upon finding.

And may you boldly follow where Christ leads you,

Bearing the Fruits of the Holy Spirit

And having been blessed by God,

We shall be a blessing to God's world and all God's people. 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 “I Want Jesus to Walk With Me” – arr. Lynn L. Peterson** 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 Kathi & John Kavouras.

If you would like to host a coffee hour, please sign up in the East Room Hallway***

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Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor – karen@uccmedina.org

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Cathy Fafrak, Organist & Office Assistant – cathy@uccmedina.org
Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – jen@uccmedina.org
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance
Nick Brlan, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

MARCH 3, 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

March 3 thru March 10, 2024 WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	3rd SUNDAY OF LENT Operation Homes Week 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
Mon	Cooking for Cups 5:00 pm Youth Book Club 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study
Tues	8:00 am Men's Breakfast 5:00 pm Junk Drive (Last day!)
Wed	10:30 am Quilters 6:00 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal 7:00 pm Short Stories By Jesus Study @ Medina UCC,C 7:00 pm Evangelism Meeting
Thurs	6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Hobby Horse Preschool Team 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
Fri	Confirmation Retreat
Sat	Confirmation Retreat
Sun	4th SUNDAY OF LENT DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS 2 A.M. 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 11:30 am Mission Team Meeting

THANK YOU

On February 18th, Hobby Horse Thank You Sunday, we took up a “Noisy Coin” offering for the young man we adopted through Watoto. We collected \$401.00! Thank you for your generosity!

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

Scripture: Matthew 13: 44

Sermon: “the hidin tretr” (The Hidden Treasure)
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. If no one signs up to host, we will not have coffee hour, so would you please consider hosting one Sunday?

DID YOU KNOW...

Did you know that the Endowment Fund allocated \$2,400 to support the recent trip to Costa Rica? The Funds were used to build and support construction of safe housing for families in need.

YOU ARE INVITED

The Open & Affirming Team invites you to comment on the board by the entrance in the Welcome Area.

Whom do we welcome?

To whom do we offer an extravagant invitation? Let us hear from YOU as we begin our conversations about crafting our ONA Covenant Statement.

Thank you!

“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:

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](#)

PARKING NOTICE NEXT WEEK

We want to make you aware that there will be a Shamrock 5K running race next Sunday, March 11th from 9-10 am. The start and finish will be located in the County Administration building lot next door and the County will close the entrance to that lot. **Please adjust your parking routine if you’re planning on coming to worship during that time and regularly park there.**

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who donated items and helped serve at the Hope Recovery Community dinner on February 24th. Over 60 individuals were served that evening. Your generosity and caring is appreciated!

EVANGELISM TEAM NEEDS YOU!

The Evangelism Team is looking for men, women, and teenagers that are members of the church to join the team. We do activities throughout the year to pull people into the church. If interested, please contact Jen Cockrell at jenn27@zoominternet.net

DONATION OF THE MONTH

Spring is approaching! The Mission Team hopes the need for hats, socks and gloves are no longer needed for a few months, but the Mission Team would like to collect these items in March! Usually, the stores start to clearance these items as the days get warmer. The team understands the need to ask for items like these when it is budget friendly, We will store these items until the community is in need. Gently used items are also welcomed! Place your donations in the box across from the elevator. Thank you for considering

OPEN AND AFFIRMING NOTES

Each member of the ONA team has his or her reasons for wanting our church to be Open and Affirming and reasons that we are passionate in our commitment. Here's Brad Rice's reflection.

I have 29 first cousins on my mom's side alone. Add to that 5 on my dad's side and I come from a large family. Many of my cousins are not close and I still am being introduced at certain family events. My mom had two sisters with kids living in Lodi and we were all like siblings. One cousin, Tom, was gay. I was the cousin who had found God. I had a spiritual experience at the age of 19 and it was known that I was becoming "evangelical."

When my gay cousin got married, he invited both my parents and my sister to his celebration, but I was not invited. Apparently, being a Christian meant I was not in support of a gay marriage. Quite honestly, I hadn't thought very hard about it. At one point I suggested to him that I wasn't necessarily opposed but thought the word marriage wasn't the correct word to be used as marriage should be reserved for religious people. Perhaps "union" or something would be a better word. He challenged me on that, and it did in fact cause me to think harder about my position. But too late, I missed out on his important life event. I later became close with him and his partner. They had a beautiful marriage up until his partner died of cancer last year.

I was on a church board where a board member suggested the church draft a constitutional amendment banning gays from membership. They wanted to say, "all were welcome," just not welcome to become members. I started to think about my gay cousin and whether he would feel welcome. I decided he would not and started challenging their position to no avail. I eventually realized I had to find another church. "All are welcome" is a bold statement as was Jesus' commandment to love one another. I'm excited UCC Medina is working on a statement of Open and Affirming and if the congregation supports it, we are not going to "miss out" on celebrating the lives of so many and will truly welcome all.

Questions/comments? Email ONA@UCCMedina.org

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

LADIES AND GIRLS TEA

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.

WORSHIP BEYOND WALLS CONFERENCE

The 2024 Worship Beyond Walls Conference is coming to Heartland Community Church on April 12th and 13th. Join with other women to hear special guests and women from across the Midwest in praise and worship to our Lord. Share stories and experiences and build meaningful connections that impact our regional and local communities. Go to www.neowomen.org to sign up

LAWN MOWER CREW

"The Lord God took humans and put them in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." – Genesis 2:15
If you admire the beautiful landscaping of our church's grounds, please consider joining the mowing crew. The time commitment for mowing the lawn averages and 1½ hours every two weeks in the spring and once a month in the summer and fall. The Property and Grounds team provides a riding mower, push mower, gasoline and trimming tools. Please contact Carl Skorepa at carlskorepa@yahoo.com or call 330-421-3189 for more details.

THE 2024 JUNK DRIVE CONTINUES!

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 are two remaining drop-off windows in the church parking lot:

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!

MESSAGE TO THE CONGREGATION

It is with mixed emotions that I have decided to resign my position as Finance Director for UCC Medina. I came into the role 3 years ago with big shoes to fill. I feel confident that in this short amount of time we have been able to further position our church with the needed technology, innovation, and strategic focus to help ensure ongoing accountability and financial stability.

My family and I will continue to worship with you, and I look forward to becoming more involved with our church through volunteering my/our time with various teams and projects as called. I thank you for the opportunity and look forward to our future endeavors.

Jeffrey T. Miller

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

Psalm 19

“Beautiful Law”

Today in the United Church of Christ, we celebrate both Amistad Sunday and the first day of UCC Women’s Week. As we honor the heroes of the Amistad, we remember the captured people of African descent who spoke up and fought for freedom for themselves and those who would follow. During UCC Women’s Week, we give thanks for the women who, long before most congregations would ordain women into ministry, offered lifetimes of service, wisdom, justice work and leadership to local congregations and the wider church.

The Oxford Dictionary defines intersectionality as the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage.

On this day, a day to celebrate and honor the accomplishments of women and people of African descent, take a moment to celebrate the 2023 election of Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson as the first woman woman of African descent to be elected to the UCC’s highest office, the office of General Minister and President.

“Rev. Thompson is the third woman nominated for the post, after the Revs. Yvonne Delk (in 1989) and Barbara Brown Zikmund (in 1999), but the first to be elected. A Jamaican immigrant, Thompson is the third person of African descent to serve as leader of the denomination.

‘Today, United Church of Christ, we created a first together,” she said after the vote. “It won’t be the last first.”’*

Jesus calls us to explore intersectionality, those boundary places where social categories like race, class and gender meet and merge. Rev. Dr. Thompson has bumped into those places all of her life. Now, her leadership will provide new ways for the United Church of Christ to understand our place in the intersections of intersectionality.

*<https://www.ucc.org/karen-georgia-thompson-becomes-first-woman-to-lead-ucc-in-historic-vote/>