

Miracle
of
forgiveness

Peace





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 “Sonatina, opus 36 no. 4” in F Major - by Clementi

Ruby Gabrielsen, Piano

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“This is the Day of New Beginnings”

Brian Wren, 1978, rev. 1987; © 1983, 1983 Hope Publishing Co.

BEGINNINGS 9.8.9.8.
Carlton R. Young, 1984



1. This is a day of new be - gin - nings,
 2. For by the life and death of Je - sus,
 3. Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing,
 4. In faith we gath - er round the ta - ble



time to re - mem - ber and move on,
 God's might - y Spir - it, now as then,
 step from the past and leave be - hind
 to taste and share what love can do.



time to be - lieve what love is bring - ing,
can make for us a world of dif - ference,
our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and griev - ing,
This is a day of new be - gin - nings;



lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
as faith and hope are born a - gain.
seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
our God is mak - ing all things new.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

It has been said that we don't view things how they are,

But how we are.

It has been said that to err is human,

To forgive, divine.

Gandhi once wrote, "The weak can never forgive..."

"Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong."

Let us flex today, church.

Let us consider today the miracle and impossibility of forgiveness!

SPECIAL MUSIC "The Forgiveness Song"
by Lisa Vischer (*from Veggie Tales*)

Children's Choir & Harry Buch, keyboard

POEM OF THE DAY

"And On We Go"

By Donna Ashworth

Wild Hope: Healing words to find light on dark days.

Mango Publishing Group, Coral Gables, FL, 2023. Page 3.

SCRIPTURE Philippians 3:7-21 (N.T. pg. 187)

BIBLE SUNDAY

Stacie Yates

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

REFLECTION HYMN

"Forgive Our Sins"

DETROIT CM

Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905-1987, © Oxford University Press

Supplement to Kentucky Harmony, 1820; harm. Gerald H. Knight, 1908-1979
© The Royal School of Church Music

1. "For - give - our sins as we for - give," You
 2. How can your par - don reach and bless The
 3. In blaz - ing light your Cross re - veals The
 4. Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls And

taught us, Lord, to pray, But you a - lone can
 un - for - giv - ing heart That broods on wrongs and
 truth we dim - ly knew: What triv - ial debts are
 bid re - sent - ment cease. Then, bound to all in

grant us grace To live the words we say.
 will not let Old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 owed to us, How great our debt to you!
 bonds of love, Our lives will spread your peace.

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

Director Tyler Perry once said, "It is not an easy journey, to get to a place where you forgive people. But it is such a powerful place because it frees you."

What we have been carrying has weighed us down. May we free ourselves, by rising in body or spirit, and giving it to you: our God, our Christ, our Spirit, in 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.**

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

APRIL 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

April 14 thru April 21, 2024

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	BIBLE SUNDAY
	8:15 am Chapel Worship
	9:00 am Gathering Worship
	9:45 am Children’s Choir
	10:30 am Sanctuary Worship (livestreamed) with Third Grade Bible Class Presentations
	2:00 pm Mission Trip Leader Meeting
	3:00 pm Confirmation Class

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

Scriptures: Philippians 3:7-21

Sermon: “The Miracle of Forgiveness”
Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The communion table
flowers are given by Carole Fawcett in memory
of her parents.

Mon OPERATION HOMES WEEK

	1:00 pm Breadmakers
	2:00 pm Miracle of the Moment Book Study
	6:30 pm Women’s Bible Study
	7:00 pm Miracle of the Moment 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 7:00 pm Congregational Council

Fri
Sat

Sun	8:15 am Chapel Worship
	9:00 am Gathering Worship
	10:00 am Children’s Choir
	10:30 am Sanctuary Worship (livestreamed)
	11:45 am Hospitality Team Meeting
	4:30 pm Youth Group

NEW BIBLE STUDY

The Miracle of the Moment Bible Study will begin meeting on **Mondays at 2 and 7 pm, April 15-May 20**. No need to read ahead, but you are welcome to! We’ll present the books. We’ll read a few together. For all ages and abilities.

April 15: Poetry of the Present featuring Hafiz, Jane Kenyon, Mary Oliver and more!

April 22: How to Be Here as Church, meet our new members and talk church.

April 29: Children’s Books in the Present

May 6: How to Be Here by Rob Bell

May 13: Be Here Now by Ram Dass

May 20: Wild Hope by Donna Ashworth

BIBLE SUNDAY

Bible Sunday is today Sunday, April 14th. On this day five special third graders will be presented their very own bible. We hope you can join us for their special day and help us celebrate them during a special coffee hour!

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Are you considering joining the church? Are you a seasoned member who might need a refresher, have questions, or just want to welcome those considering membership? On Monday, April 22nd at 2 and 7 pm, we'll have a membership class where the moderators and Pastor Luke will meet with you and talk life and church and give a tour of our grounds. So come on out and talk church. Sharing life, unscripted. Whether brand new or a 50-year member, all are invited.

ANNUAL REPORT TIME!

Teams, Committees and Leadership of the church are being asked to write up their Annual Reports to be presented at the May 19th Annual Meeting immediately following ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP at 10:30 am. The due date for your report will be no later than Monday, April 29th . Please email or drop off your reports to me in the church office. Please try to limit your reports to one page for the purpose of space limitations. **Also, please inform me as to any changes on your team.** I appreciate all your efforts in getting these to me on time. Please email to: office@uccmedina.org

COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

There are still open spots on the 2024 Flower Chart 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 \$25.00**, which is due prior to the date you sponsor.

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

LITURGIST SIGN-UP

Check out the bulletin board in the East Room hallway to sign up to be a liturgist during the 10:30 Sanctuary service. There are still remaining spots in May and June.

DONATIONS FOR APRIL

April's donation of the month is laundry detergent. Many friends in the community struggle to get their clothes clean because of the time and financial burden of going to the local laundromats. Many outreach locations have a washer and dryer but keeping detergent available is difficult because the need is great! One of the most popular items to ask for at the local food pantries is detergent. If you can help, please place a detergent jug or pods in the donation of the month bin. Thank you for considering!

LADIES AND GIRLS TEA

Tickets to the Ladies and Girls Tea will be **sold April 7- April 21 after the services** in the East Room or you may purchase here through [REALM](#) beginning April 7th. The price is \$15 for ladies and \$10 for girls under 10. **BETTER BUY YOUR TICKETS EARLY as it has been sold out in the past.....**and we have an exciting program this year. The Tea will be held on Saturday, April 27th from 12:00 - 2:00pm in our Fellowship Hall. The menu will include scones, soup, tea sandwiches, fruit, fancy sweets, and of course tea. It is truly a full lunch. The program will be "First Ladies Tea" presented by Women In History from Lakewood, Ohio. Think of what will happen when First Ladies of the United States have tea together and share their stories. You won't want to miss this... Once again, we are in need of teacups and teapots. Please let us know if you can share your items and how many of each are available, If you have questions please contact Beth Hari, Darlene Fazekas, or Becky Weber

SAFETY TEAM

Interested in joining the Medina UCC Safety Team? Please consider joining us for our first meeting back together since the pandemic on Sunday, June 9th at 11:30 am in the new library (downstairs by the entry way off the parking lot). If you have questions, please text (or call) Julie Gilliland at 216-990-5767 or Ken Zuehlke at 216-990-3368. We look forward to reigniting this team and bringing some new members into the group.

PINWHEEL WALK

Please join us for The Children's Center Pinwheel Walk. Meet in the church parking lot on Sunday, April 14th at 12:45 to join community members in the Medina square. The event is from 1:00 to 3:00 and there will be a variety of pre-walk activities and speakers. The event will culminate with a one mile walk from the square, ending at the courthouse where the garden of 544 pinwheels will then be planted at the library. The number of pinwheels each year represents the number of open child abuses cases The Medina County Children's Center saw the preceding year. Register at the event or prior to at MedinaCountyChildrensCenter.org

PINWHEEL GARDEN MAINTENANCE

There will be 544 Pinwheels at the Medina Library, put there by the Children's Center of Medina County during the Pinwheel Walk on Sunday April 14th. They've asked if our church can help to maintain the garden, by checking on it every day, and setting upright the pinwheels that fall over. There will be chopsticks available in the library and church office which you can ask for to stabilize the pinwheels that don't want to stand up! You can check on the garden any time during your day that works best for your schedule.

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFA628ABFB6-48909924-medina>

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

April 14, 2024
Third Sunday of Easter

Luke 24:36b-48

“Christ Among Us”

Luke 24: 41-43 *Yet for all their joy they were still disbelieving and wondering, and he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.*

Dear Brother Jesus, Dear Christ now Risen -
We are always asking you for things, it seems.
Someone wants healing from illness.
Someone needs freedom from addiction.
The nations cry for peace.
The groaning planet sighs for relief.
For these we pray in our requests,
We pray also that we will recognize
You when you give us these things - healing, freedom, peace, relief.

But hey there Jesus, hey there Christ now Risen,
Here is how we will actually-factually recognize you.
One day, You will come to us.
We'll be sitting together, (probably wondering aloud where you've gotten to now)
and there you'll be.

You'll say, “Do you have anything to eat here, siblings?”

That day, you might be in one of your disconcerting disguises, brother Jesus.
You might not smell good or speak our language.
You might not look like us or think like us.

But this is how you let us know
That we can recognize you.
Because you will ask us, like this,
“Don't you have anything to eat here?”
And all we will be able to say is yes, yes, yes.
And then, Oh! It's you!