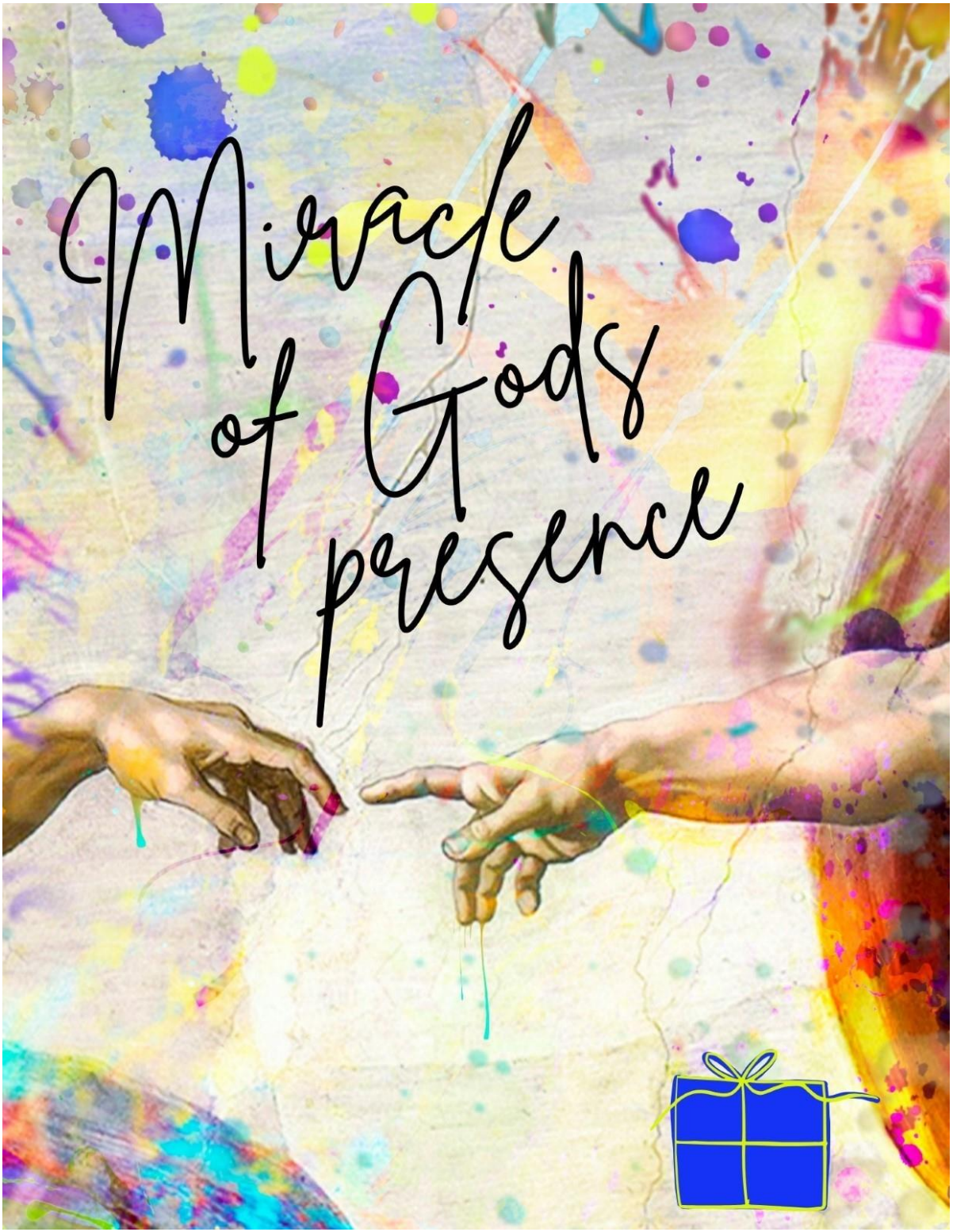

Miracle
of Gods
presence

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

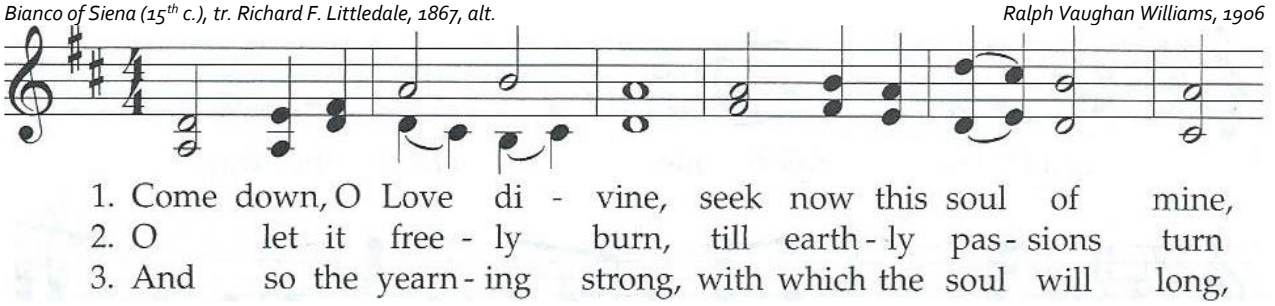
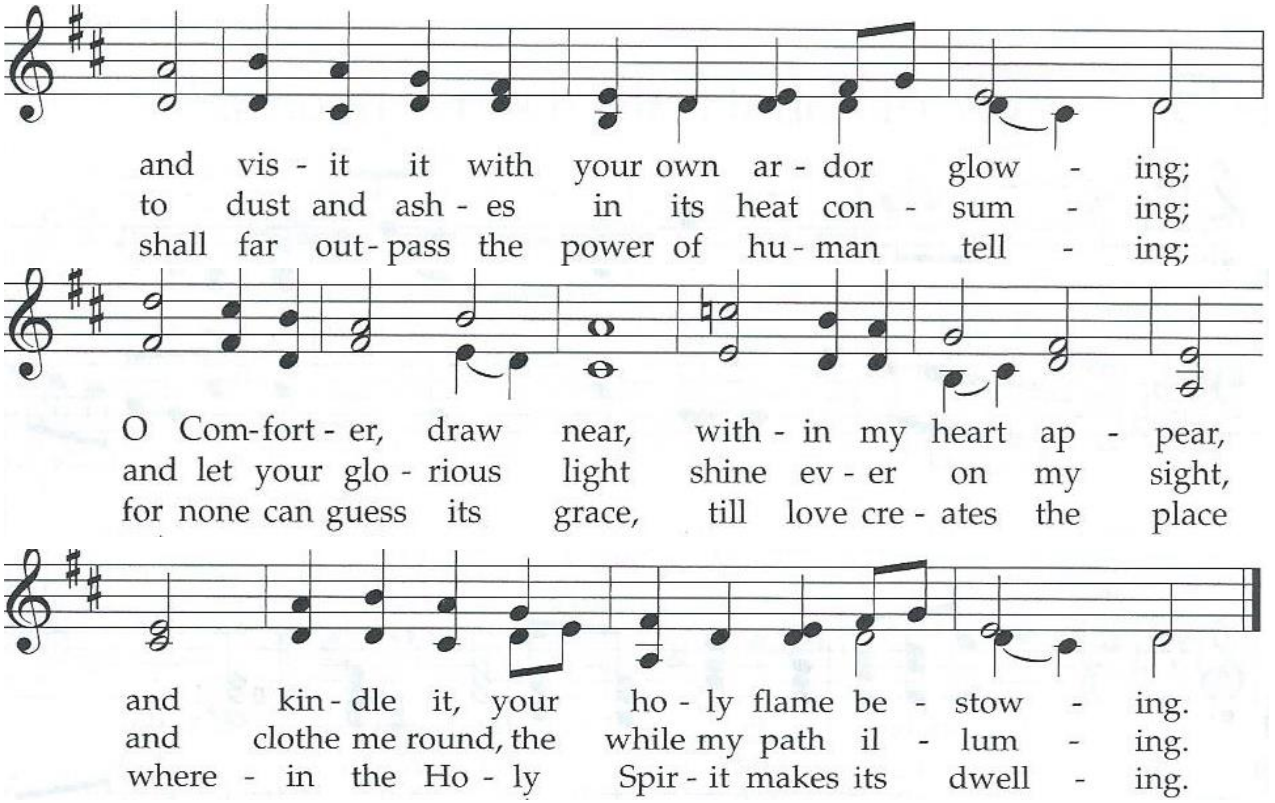
PRELUDE "Contemplation at Sunrise, Op. 4, No. 1" – Trygve Torjussen/arr. David Sarandon
Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***OPENING HYMN** **"Come Down, O Love Divine"**

DOWN AMPNEY 6.6.11.D

Bianco of Siena (15th c.), tr. Richard F. Littledale, 1867, alt. *Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906*



***CALL TO WORSHIP**

This there a line that I could write where in this moment
we would awaken to God's promise.
I can only promise that no one here knows
Exactly how God is present.
I can only say the mystery of faith that Jesus taught us,
"When two or three are gathered in my name, I am there in their midst."
Trusting this, may we worship together
Trusting that God is already here within and among us. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC "In God's Presence" – Dick & Melodie Tunney Tracy Gabrielsen, soloist

POEM OF THE DAY **"You're Not For Everyone"**
by Donna Ashworth
Wild Hope: Healing words to find light on dark days.
Mango Publishing Group, Coral Gables, FL, 2023. Page 149

SCRIPTURES Psalm 139:1-18 (O.T. pg. 553) Ashley Bonsell, Liturgist
John 15:11-17 (N.T. pg. 215)

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Jim & Vicki Birce, Aaron & Cori Collier, Nadine Cotton,
Michelle Doyle, Kimberly Gallagher, Evan & Samantha Harper,
Allison Lehman, Andrew & Allison Oswald, Jaron & Kaiti Rader

Admitted by Letter of Transfer: ***Wayne & Tania Grant***

Joining at the 8:15 service this morning: Katherine Baker, Mike & Courtney Bischof

Congregation: We promise our love, our support, and our prayer.

Then let us pray:
Almighty God, we thank you for adding to our community.
You bless us with the gift of these lives.
May we be curious.
May we learn from them.
May we compassionately teach what we know.
May you grant that we grow together and build your kingdom
in whatever way you guide us.
Thank you, Gracious Mystery.
Surround us all in a love that knows no end,
and may it be a reflection of your love for us all shown in the life of Christ
and the movement of the Spirit. Amen!

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

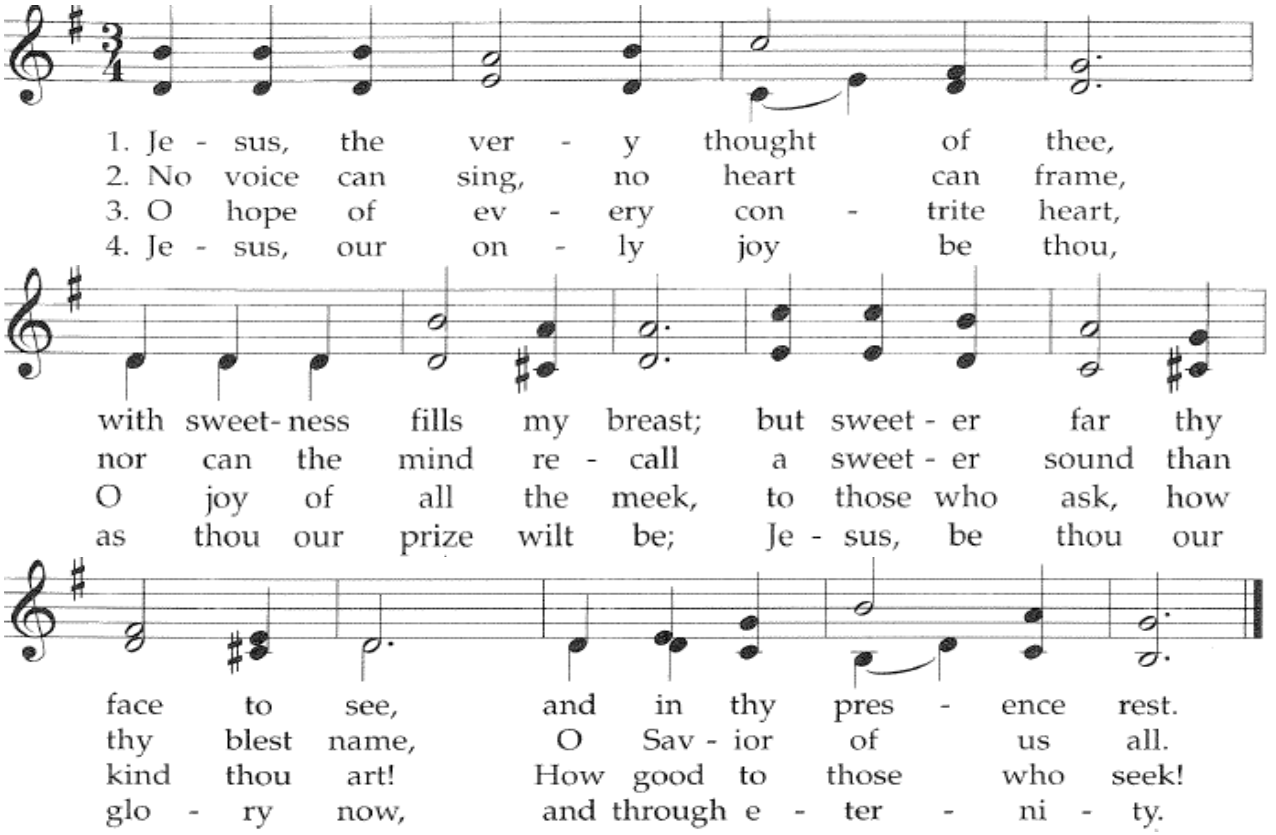
Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

SERMON "The Miracle of God's Presence" Mr. Alan Parkhurst

REFLECTION HYMN **"Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee"** ST. AGNES CM

Attr. Bernard of Clairvaux (12th c.); tr. Edward Caswall, 1849 *John B. Dykes, 1866*



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

For the words of a 50-year member.
For the rejoicing of the visitor whose first worship is with us.
For those who won't return for a while
and those who are here each and every week
May our collected offering
honor you our God, our Christ, our Spirit as we sing out.

***Doxology** *(words, Ruth Duck, ©2005, GIA Publications)*

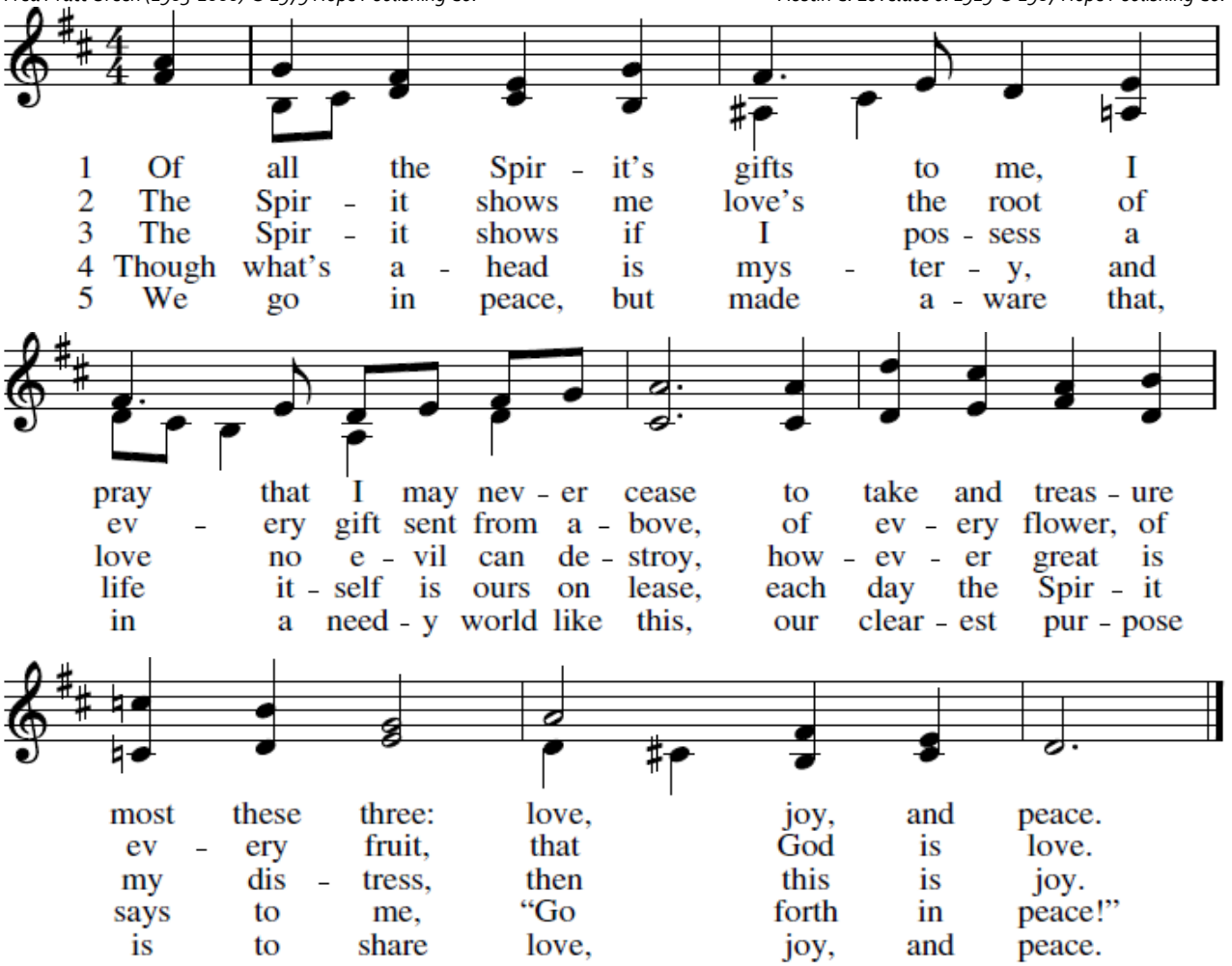
Praise God, the Source of life and birth;
Praise God, the Word, who came to earth;
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame;
All glory, honor to God's Name! Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Because heaven has made itself so low
that we could glimpse it through a stable door
or hear it through a Habitat hammer blow
calls us through the voices of the poor
hidden light breaks through
on the clutter of our every day
illuminating things we thought we knew
and the dark glass brightens as we give thanks and praise. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** **"Of All the Spirit's Gifts to Me"**

THREEFOLD GIFTS 8.8.8.4.

Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000) © 1979 Hope Publishing Co. *Austin C. Lovelace b. 1919 © 1987 Hope Publishing Co.*

***ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***BENEDICTION**

When our expectations no longer cloud our eyes,
when the veil is lifted likewise from our hearts,
God's presence hold us in our strange surprise,
The gates of paradise are blown apart,
we see the tree of life, blossoms on the bough
and nothing can be ordinary now.
May you go from here having been blessed to be a blessing,
with our presence, our forgiveness, our trust, and walking humbly with our God
and in whatever creative way that occurs to you. Go, 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** "Trumpet Tune" – Gordon Young Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"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 Circle of Caring Team

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THE PILGRIM MESSENGER
APRIL 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

April 28 thru May 5, 2024
WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	**NEW MEMBERS JOIN**	
	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	10:30 am	Teen Church
	10:30 am	Sanctuary Worship
	3:00 pm	Confirmation Class
	5:00 pm	Confirmation Rehearsal
Mon	2:00 pm	Miracle of the Moment Book Study
	6:30 pm	Hobby Horse Art Show
Tues	6:30 pm	Hobby Horse Art Show
	7:00 pm	Bible Study
Wed	10:30 am	Quilters
	6:00 pm	Gathering Band Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Evangelism Team Meeting
Thurs		
Fri		
Sat		
Sun	**CONFIRMATION SUNDAY**	
	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	9:00 am	Choir rehearsal
	10:00 am	Children's Choir
	10:30 am	Sanctuary Worship
	11:45 am	Mission Team Meeting
	4:30 pm	Youth Group

NEW BIBLE STUDY

The Miracle of the Moment Bible Study continues on **Mondays at 2 and 7 pm, April 21st - May 20th.** 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 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

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

Scriptures: Psalm 139: 1-18 & John 15: 11-17

Sermon: "The Miracle of God's Presence"
Guest Speaker: Alan Parkhurst

Communion Table: The communion table flowers are given by John & Kathi Kavouras in honor of their anniversary on May 4th.

ANNUAL MEETING

We will have **ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP on Sunday, May 19th at 10:30 a.m**. The Annual Meeting will immediately follow.

If you have not yet submitted your annual report, please do so no later than tomorrow, 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

AMANDA FUND OFFERING

MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 12TH

The Amanda Fund, founded by a Medina UCC member, provides assistance to families with medical bills and other related costs that arise during extended or frequent hospitalizations of their children. On May 12th, we ask that you be generous in supporting the Amanda Fund with your contribution. Checks should be made payable to our church with "Amanda Fund" noted in the memo. Your donation may also be made online through Realm - see the line item for Amanda Fund.

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.

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.

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!

ENDOWMENT FUND PRINTS AVAILABLE

Just a reminder that the Endowment Fund is offering a Fred Graff print of our blessed UCC church free for a donation of $30 to the "30 4 30" campaign, honoring 30 years of fund history for a $30 contribution to the Endowment Fund. See the East Room table for details.

MAY 4TH IS SERVICE SATURDAY

On Saturday, May 4th youth and their families are invited to a day of service at the Domestic Violence Shelter of Richland County, located in Mansfield, Ohio. Hours will be from 10 am-2 pm with pizza for lunch. Please sign up through this google form to receive the address which is not public knowledge.
https://forms.gle/AzkFSKSaMZ8MZbLo7

PINWHEEL GARDEN MAINTENANCE

There are 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 through May 3rd, 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

CRAFTS READY FOR DELIVERY

Circle of Caring Outreach Spring Crafts are available for delivery to our most senior adult church members who are homebound and in care facilities. Visit the display in the Welcome Area. Please sign your name or initials to a recipient's name on the sheet provided to indicate a craft has been taken for delivery. Please call the recipient ahead to make arrangements for delivery. Thank you for your help, it is greatly appreciated.

APRIL MISSIONS REPORT

In April, the Mission Team supported the following initiatives thanks to your generous support:

The Children's Center, Operation Homes, and SPARK Medina

Just a bit of clarification regarding funding for the Mission Team. Six times per year we have special offerings. All monies collected for these goes directly to the designated recipient. These include:

One Great Hour of Sharing (March)
Shepherd's Fund (Easter)
Amanda Fund (May)
Strengthen the Church (May)
Neighbors in Need (October)
Veterans of the Cross/other designated recipient (Christmas)

Second, your pledges and other giving go into the Mission Team's annual budget and is used for all the various non-profits and groups that we support. These are being reported monthly to keep you apprised of the many ways your shared dollars are being used to support our local community and beyond.

Lastly, the monthly donation that we ask for is typically gifts in kind…actual items of food, clothing, or supplies that benefit so many in so many ways.

Thank you for your continued support and outreach. Making a positive difference is made possible by your kindness and 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

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - luke@uccmedina.org
Rev. Meghan Malone, Associate Pastor of Youth & Mission - meghan@uccmedina.org
Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor – karen@uccmedina.org

OFFICE STAFF

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - office@uccmedina.org
Pete Metzloff, Interim Financial Director - pete@uccmedina.org

PROGRAM STAFF

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education – stacie@uccmedina.org
Jennifer Cochran, Director of Music - jenny@uccmedina.org
Cathy Fafrak, Organist & Office Assistant – cathy@uccmedina.org
Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – jen@uccmedina.org
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian

April 28, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter

John 15:1-8

"Abiding in Love"

"We are aware that there has been increased violence against indigenous women and transgender persons. Our increased awareness of these issues that disproportionately affect women will impact our response as global advocates." –Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson

On this Break the Silence Sunday, churches can raise their awareness of gender-based violence by participating in Thursdays in Black.

*Thursdays in Black grew out of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women (1988-1998), in which the stories of rape as a weapon of war, gender injustice, abuse, violence, and many tragedies that grow outward from such violence became all the more visible. But what also became visible was women's resilience, agency, and personal efforts to resist such violations. Join Wider Church Ministries, and our partners, in the campaign by doing the following:

Pause

Pause for a moment of silence on Thursdays at noon your local time to remember and honor those who have died at the hand of sexualized or gender-based violence.

Pray

Pray with us:
We stand with invisible victims of sexual and gender-based violence. We see you. We hear you. You are not forgotten.

Post

Post your prayers, photos, or inspirations on social media using the hashtags #ThursdaysinBlack, #UnitedChurchOfChrist, and tag us.

If you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship, please seek help immediately. You can call the 24-hour National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233).

*https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/wider-church-ministries/thursdays-in-black-campaign/