

Miracle



of the moment



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 “Easter Joy” – Peter Benjamin

Cathy Fafrak, Piano

WELCOME

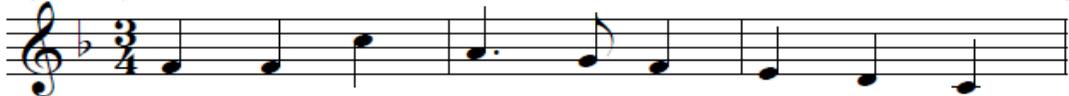
PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“This Is a Miracle Moment”

John Thornburg © 2010 by GIA Publications, Inc.

LOBE DEN HERREN
Stralsund Gesangbuch, 1665



1. This is a mir - a - cle - mo - ment which
 2. Few are the days when we feel so com -
 3. Now, as the wit - ness - es gath - ered at
 4. “Vast is the o - cean of choic - es and



God is re - veal - ing. Now is the
 plete - ly a - stound - ed: lost in our
 this cel - e - bra - tion, we praise the
 hopes that are swell - ing. Love is the

time for the vows the Cre - a - tor is
 joy, by our loved ones so ful - ly sur -
 One who, in Christ, is this cou - ple's foun -
 boat for the jour - ney, so deep and com -

seal - ing. This is the place.
 round - ed. This is the day
 da - tion. To them we say,
 pel - ling. Put out to sea!

Here is the foun - tain of grace,
 when, in God's sin - gu - lar way,
 on this un - par - al - leled day,
 See how sub - lime God can be!

source of all mer - cy and heal - ing.
 love is com - plete - ly un - bound - ed.
 "Hear our sin - cere ex - hor - ta - tion:
 Rest in God's ho - ly in - dwell - ing."

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The present moment is the gift of truly living;

May we take this hour to slow down.

May we consider the hurry and the harm that rushing about does to us and others.

May we have the courage to stop rushing and live life at a pace that allows enjoyment;

God created us to express love and life. The present moment is all we have.

Holy God, help us make now the primary focus of our lives. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Let There Be Peace on Earth"
 by Sy Miller & Jill Jackson; arr. Stickleles

Chancel Choir

POEM OF THE DAY

"Joy Chose You"

By Donna Ashworth

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

Mango Publishing Group, Coral Gables, FL, 2023. Page 9.

SCRIPTURES Psalm 16 (O.T. pg. 46g) & Ephesians 1:1-14 (N.T. pg. 180)

Deb Waldron, Liturgist

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 the Moment"

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

COMMUNION HYMN

"Table of Life"

Words & music by Steve Angrisano © 2004 by Steve Angrisano. Published by spiritandsong.com©.

E/G# Aadd9 A/C# B7sus4 E/G# Aadd9

All who thirst, come to the wa - ter. All who hun - ger,

A/C# E/B B7sus4 C#m Caug E/B F#m/A#

eat with - out price. Why spend your wag - es on what fails to sat - is - fy?

A E/G# F#m B7sus4 E/G# A

Come to the ta - ble of life,

A/C# B7sus4 1, 5
E/G# A A/C# B7sus4 *D.S.*

ta - ble of life.

2-4
E/G# A A/C# B7sus4 *to Verses* Final
E *Fine*

life. (2. This) life.

VERSE 1

E/G# A A/C# B7sus4 E/G# A

1. Come to me all who need rest and be sat - is - fied.

A/C# B7sus4 E/G# A A/C# B7sus4

1. All who are wea - ry will find that my bur - den is

E/G# A A/C# B7sus4 Dadd9 A/C#

1. light. _____ For the bread that I give will not

Am/C B7sus4 A/B B E/G# A A/C# B7sus4 D.S.

1. per-ish _____ but will bring you life. _____

VERSE 2

E/G# A A/C# B7sus4 E/G# A

2. bread that I break is my flesh, take and eat. _____

A/C# B7sus4 E/G# A A/C# B7sus4

2. This cup now poured out is my blood for a world in need. _____

E/G# A A/C# B7sus4 Dadd9 A/C#

2. _____ I lay down my life so you

Am/C B7sus4 A/B B E/G# A A/C# B7sus4 D.S.

2. might _____ come and fol - low me. _____

VERSE 3

E/G# A A/C# B7sus4 E/G# A

3. Dance now with joy be - fore God whose mer - cy runs free. _____

A/C# B7sus4 E/G# A A/C# B7sus4

3. The moun - tains will break in - to song for a might - y king. _____

E/G# A A/C# B7sus4 Dadd9 A/C#

3. _____ The trees will clap hands for our

Am/C B7sus4 A/B B E/G# A A/C# B7sus4 D.S.

3. _____ God. _____ God is great in - deed! _____

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

*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 Thanksgiving

Lord, you alone are our portion and our cup. You make us secure. Our boundaries have fallen in pleasant places, and surely we have a delightful inheritance with you. May we take joy! May we revel in the gratitude of now. For you are here now, with us. Our Emmanuel. Thanks be to you, our God, our Christ, our Spirit. Amen!

*CLOSING HYMN

"All My Hope on God is Founded"

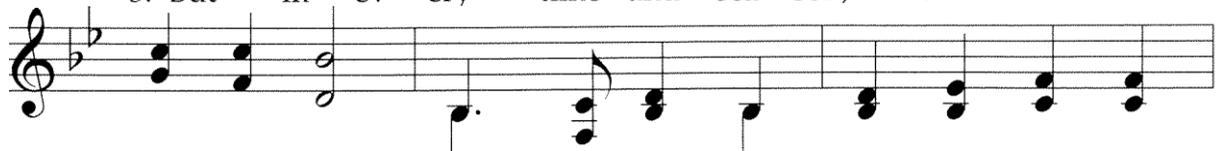
NEANDER 8.7.8.7.6.7.

Joachim Neander, 1680, alt; st. 3 tr. Fred Pratt Green, 1986 © 1989 Hope Publishing Co.

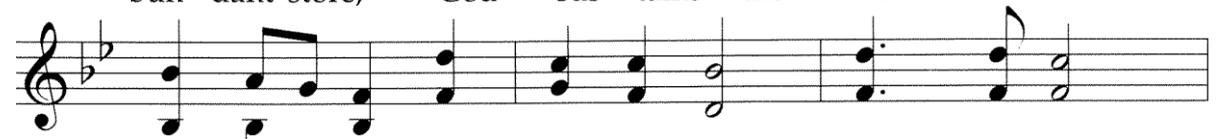
Joachim Neander, 1680



1. All my hope on God is found-ed, who does still my
2. Hu - man pride and earth - ly glo - ry, sword and crown be -
3. But in ev - ery time and sea - son, out of love's a -



trust re - new. Safe through change and chance God guides me,
tray our trust; though with care and toil we build them,
bun - dant store, God sus - tains the whole cre - a - tion



ev - er faith - ful, ev - er true. God un - known,
tower and tem - ple fall to dust. But God's power,
fount of life for - ev - er - more. We who share



God a - lone, seeks to claim my heart as home.
hour by hour, is my tem - ple and my tower.
earth and air count on God's un - fail - ing care.

***ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***BENEDICTION**

Joy has adopted us!

May we consider the lilies!

May we take the sabbath as a command.

May we consider the crows!

Having been blessed to be a blessing, may you go from here and take things a day at a time, savoring all God has created, living as Christ to your neighbor, and following the nudge of the Holy Spirit!

One God forever more! 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 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" – Johann Walther/ed. Janet Linker**

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 Lorna Lindsley.

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*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!*

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

APRIL 7, 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 7 thru April 14, 2024

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	9:45 am	Children’s Choir
	10:30 am	Sanctuary Worship (livestreamed)
	11:30 am	Third Grade Bible Class
	4:30 pm	Youth Group

Mon **CHURCH OFFICE
CLOSED – Solar Eclipse**

Tues 7:00 pm Worship Team

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
6:00 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal
6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm DELTs Meeting
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thurs 7:00 pm Bible Study

Fri 7:00 pm Mental Health Support Group

Sat

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: Psalm 16 & Ephesians 1: 1-14

Sermon: “Miracle of the Moment”
Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table Flowers: The flowers are given by Beth & Craig Hari in memory of their parents.

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

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.

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.

NALOXONE TRAINING

The church is hosting a Naloxone training for anyone interested on **Thursday, April 11th at 12:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall**. Training will be provided by the Medina County Health Department. They will provide overdose/naloxone information, demonstrate how to use it, and answer any questions. This is being offered to anyone in the congregation for free who could benefit from this knowledge. After the training, anyone who is interested may take a kit home.

Please contact the church office at 330-725-4559 or office@uccmedina.org if you would like to attend.

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 the 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 tea cups 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

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.

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! At the local food pantries one of the most popular items to ask for is detergent. If you can help, please place a detergent jug or pods in the donation of the month bin. Thank you for considering!

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 about 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.

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 for The Children's Center Pinwheel Walk. 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>

EASTER BAG THANK YOU

Thank you for the continued support filling and delivering Easter bags for kiddos with incarcerated parents! All the families receiving the bags appreciated the kindness and were touched by the love they felt from getting a Easter bag delivered! Everyone was so grateful! Thank you for taking the time to fill the bags and doing it so quickly! Once again, experiencing our Church in action is humbling! Thank you!

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 Fafarak, Organist & Office Assistant – cathy@uccmedina.org

Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – jen@uccmedina.org

Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian

April 7, 2024
Second Sunday of Easter

John 20:19-31

“Marks of Faith”

https://www.ucc.org/science_and_technology_network_page/

Today you are invited into the story of Thomas. Whether it is new to you or very familiar, take a few moments to read his story in the book of John. Sit with one or more of these questions. What words, phrases, or ideas jump out at you? What seems comforting? What is unsettling? What about this story stands the test of time? What part of this story seems better left in the past? What is God calling you to, using this story?

Although he is sometimes called “Doubting Thomas,” the disciple’s willingness to ask questions does not show doubt but in fact its opposite; curiosity and a deep desire to experience the risen Christ using all of his senses. This post-Easter impulse, to deeply know the risen Christ however one can, is at the heart of the United Church of Christ’s Science and Technology Network.

The Network is guided by the Pastoral Letter on Faith and Science, an epistle that turns twenty-five years old this year. Some issues, like the rise of the use of AI, for example, and a more global awareness of the seriousness of climate change, are new. But the questions the Pastoral Letter on Faith and Science asks are just as salient today as they were two and half decades ago.

As you were invited into the story of Thomas, take some time to read or re-read the the Pastoral Letter on Faith and Science. You can find it online at <https://www.ucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/pastoral-letter-on-faith-and-science.pdf>

As you read, ask yourself the What words, phrases, or ideas jump out at you? What seems comforting? What is unsettling? What about this letter stands the test of time? What part of this letter seems better left in the past? What is God calling you to, using this letter?