



Miracle of Spirit  
the Holy Spirit





# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559 [www.uccmedina.org](http://www.uccmedina.org)

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

LIVE STREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT [UCCMEDINA.ORG](http://UCCMEDINA.ORG)

- During the 10:30 service, Jesus Vibes Sunday School is available for ages 3-8<sup>th</sup> 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 “Spirit Song” – John Wimber/setting by John Carter

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

### WELCOME

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

### \*OPENING HYMN

### “Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

Doris Akers, 1962 © 1962 Manna Music, Inc

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT Irr. With refrain

There's a sweet, sweet Spir- it in this place, and, I

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are

sweet ex - pres- sions on each face, and, I

know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.

*Refrain*

Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav - en - ly Dove, stay right here

with us, fill - ing us with your love; and for these bless - ings

we lift our hearts in praise; with - out a doubt we'll know

that we have been re - vived when we shall leave this place.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

May we be called to worship,  
**In the name of the God of all,**  
 In the name of the Son, Jesus our Christ,  
**In the name of the peaceful Spirit.**  
 May we and God be one.  
**May we worship in spirit and truth!**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "Canticle of the Spirit" – Lloyd Larson  
*Christopher Burdick, trumpet*

Chancel Choir

**POEM OF THE DAY** "When I Am No Longer Here"  
 by Donna Ashworth

**Wild Hope: Healing words to find light on dark days.**  
*Mango Publishing Group, Coral Gables, FL, 2023. Page 71*

**SCRIPTURES** John 3:8 (N.T. pg. 88) and John 14:15-21 (N.T. pg. 103)

Ashley Bonsell, 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 Holy Spirit"

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

**REFLECTION HYMN**

**"Spirit of the Living God"**

IVERSON

Words & Music: Daniel Iverson (1890-1977)

© 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music and BMG Songs, Inc.

Spir - it of the Liv - ing God, Fall fresh on, me,  
 Spir - it of the Liv - ing God, Fall fresh on me.  
 Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me.  
 Spir - it of the Liv - ing God, Fall fresh on me.

**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**

Holy Spirit, come into our hearts, and guide our offering,  
 To the hurting, the fearful, the places where it is needed the most.

*\*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

Gracious Mystery, you surround us with wisdom and power. You are greater than any circumstance in our lives. We are all souls on a journey of emotional and spiritual evolution; our life's purpose is not to amass material things, but to connect with the depth of who we are. We are your children, each a talented, rare, unrepeatable human being. We will not live this gift of life with an empty spirit. We give out what we have inside. All gifts from you, our God. Amen.

## \*CLOSING HYMN

### "Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

Traditional African-American Spiritual



Ev' - ry time I \_\_\_\_ feel the spir - it, \_\_\_\_ mov - ing



in my heart, \_ I will pray. \_\_\_\_ Ev - ry time I \_\_\_\_ feel the

**Fine**



spir - it, \_\_\_\_ mov - ing in my heart, \_ I will pray.



1. Up on the moun - tain

my \_\_\_\_ Lord spoke,

out of his

2. Jor - dan ri - ver

chil - ly and cold,

chills \_ the



1. mouth came \_\_\_\_ fire and smoke. \_\_\_\_

All a - round me

looked so

2. bod - y but not the

soul. \_\_\_\_ There ain't but one train

runs this



**D.C.**

1. fine, asked \_ my Lord if all was mine. \_\_\_\_

2. track,

runs to heav - en

and runs right

back. \_\_\_\_

**\*ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*BENEDICTION** (based on a 10<sup>th</sup> century Irish Blessing)

As you go on your way, may the Lord Jesus Christ go with you.

**May he be near you to defend you;**

may he go before you to show you the way;

**behind you to encourage you;**

beside you to befriend you;

**above you to watch over you;**

and within you to give you peace.

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, God forevermore.**

**\*\*\* PLEASE REMAIN SEATED FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING \*\*\***

**\*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.**

**"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"**

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*\*\*\*Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for a Dessert Celebration Sabbatical Send-Off  
for Pastor Luke*

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# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## MAY 19, 2024

**“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS.  
MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY!”**

Live streaming of the 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary service is available at [www.uccmedina.org/live](http://www.uccmedina.org/live)

### May 19 thru May 26, 2024 WEEK AT A GLANCE

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Sun</b>      | <b>PENTECOST</b>                          |
| 9:00 am         | Choir rehearsal                           |
| 10:00 am        | Children's Choir                          |
| <b>10:30 am</b> | <b>ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP</b>             |
| <b>11:30 am</b> | <b>Annual Congregational Team Meeting</b> |
| 11:45 am        | Hospitality Team Meeting                  |
| 4:30 pm         | Youth Group                               |
| <b>Mon</b>      | 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          |
| <b>Tues</b>     | 7:00 pm Bible Study                       |
| <b>Wed</b>      | 10:30 am Quilters                         |
| 6:00 pm         | Gathering Band Rehearsal                  |
| 6:15 pm         | Bell Choir rehearsal                      |
| 7:00 pm         | Finance/Stewardship Meeting               |
| 7:30 pm         | Choir rehearsal                           |
| <b>Thurs</b>    |   |
| <b>Fri</b>      |   |
| <b>Sat</b>      |   |
| <b>Sun</b>      | 8:15 am Chapel Worship                    |
| 9:00 am         | Gathering Worship                         |
| 9:45 am         | Children's Choir                          |
| 10:30 am        | Sanctuary Worship                         |

### **Worship Highlights:** 10:30 am

Scriptures: John 3:8 and John 14:15-21

Sermon: "The Miracle of the Holy Spirit"  
Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

**Communion Table:** The communion table flowers are given in honor of Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon by his church family as we send him off to rest and refresh.

## **ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP & ANNUAL MEETING TODAY**

We will have **ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP today, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.** The Annual Meeting will immediately follow.

## **STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING MAY 19<sup>TH</sup>**

Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. We hope you will continue to sustain this work by giving generously to this offering on Pentecost, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Checks should be made payable to our church with "Strengthen the Church" noted in the memo. Your donation may also be made online through Realm – see the line item for Strengthen the Church

**THE CHURCH OFFICE  
WILL BE CLOSED ON  
MONDAY, MAY 27<sup>TH</sup>  
IN OBSERVANCE OF  
MEMORIAL DAY**

## FINANCIAL UPDATE...

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Through April 30, 2024, we have received \$162,261 in pledges, contributions or other receipts. We have spent \$170,836, for a net deficit of \$8,575 for our regular church operations. This is actually good news, because our annual budget is a projected deficit, and we are doing better than this plan. Our utility costs are always higher in the first four months of the year. I would like to take a moment to thank you in advance for keeping up with your pledges and contributions during the upcoming summer months.

## MAY MONTHLY DONATION

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This month we will be collecting personal care items! As the summer approaches many of the kids in our community will not have access to personal care items because the schools will not be open to provide such items. We would love to supply the Garfield families with some personal care items for the whole family. Examples: toothpaste, toothbrushes, floss, mouthwash, deodorant, body wash, bar soap and shampoo. We would really appreciate some "kid" personal care items to place in the Garfield care packages. Whatever you feel so moved to place in the donation box will be distributed with love and kindness throughout the community.

## SAFETY TEAM

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Interested in joining the Medina UCC Safety Team? Please consider joining us for our first meeting back together since the pandemic on Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

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Congrats to Jim & Keri Lichtenberg on the birth of their son: Will James Lichtenberg on May 13<sup>th</sup> weighing in at 7 lbs. 4 oz. and 21 ½ inches long. Blessings to the family!

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

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It's that time of year again! Vacation Bible School will be held June 3<sup>rd</sup> – June 6<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme is "Just Like Me." Come and join us in the garden as we celebrate who we are, learn how to use our voice, and share our gifts with our community. We will meet every day for stories, games, snacks, music, science and crafts. Our week will conclude with a visit from Ohio Bird Sanctuary and some of their amazing birds and, of course, ice cream sundaes! Registration is open now! **Deadline is May 28<sup>th</sup>** [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#). If you have any questions, please contact Stacie Yates.

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

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Last July, Habitat for Humanity in partnership with the Medina County Office of Older Adults, started an 'Aging in Place' program. The purpose of this program is to serve seniors here in Medina County through completing minor repairs and modifications to their homes which will allow them to remain in their homes longer and safer. They are currently seeking volunteers to help complete these projects. If you're interested, please reach out to their volunteer coordinator, Alexis Freet, at [alexis@medinacountyhabitat.org](mailto:alexis@medinacountyhabitat.org)

## JUNK DRIVE TOTALS

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Thank you to everyone who supported our Junk drive! This year we recycled: 125 pieces of AV equipment, 140 laptops, 92 desktops, 60 tablets, 203 smart phones, 154 flip phones, 28 CRT TVs, plus 856 lbs. of scrap metal and wire, which raised \$5,345 for our summer trip! There were so many more things we were able to donate and rehome as well.

We made a lot of changes to our process this year, and the best one was getting the teens of our church more involved with the drive by having drop-off hours. They got to take a little tour through all the layers of technology history through your donations.

Thank you to Logan Malone for leading our volunteers and teaching our teens about recycling along the way! Thank you to Penske for letting us use the truck, it helped us so much to have a place to sort and store!

## PASTOR'S CORNER

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The theme of the Lancaster Theological Seminary's Alumni Day was "Renewal." It was all about the command to keep Sabbath. One pastor spoke about his practice of sometimes praying, sometimes reading the Bible, sometimes taking a nap. Yet his favorite thing to do these days is to ride his bike around town. While on his bike, he's not pastor or professor or responsible for anyone or anything; he's just enjoying the wind in his hair and God's creation. He often sings "Great is Thy Faithfulness" while riding.

That sounds amazing.

My sabbatical runs from May 27 to September 3. During this time, I will be focused on reconnecting with my family. I'll take a trip with Kate, Eve, and Sam individually. We as a family will be traveling on the Pacific Coast Highway from San Francisco to Seattle. I'll also have a silent retreat sometime in August before re-entry into church life to reconnect to myself and God.

I'm thankful for this time away. After seven years of leadership and 13 years of ordained pastoring with all its roses and thorns, plus pastoring through a global pandemic, I can tell you that this break is needed. Plans are in place for the summer as well as coming back for the fall. I am a little anxious to be away from the church for so long. I will not be answering emails, doing weddings or funerals, or engaging in any way with church life during this time. Yet we'll be together sooner than we think. Refreshed and renewed and ready to follow where the Holy Spirit leads.

Deb Waldron recently hung up the picture with all the pastors in the East Room. Being competitive, I looked to see who was our longest serving pastor. That honor would go to the Rev. Ormond Schulz who served 14 years, from 1942 until 1956. I'm halfway there already! I'm coming for you, Schulzy! And we know I like to win by large margins... so we have that to look forward to.

I believe there is yet still more truth and light to break forth from us. Settle in, keep the faith, and we'll see one another soon.

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## GATHERING MUSIC SUNDAY

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Please join the Gathering Service @ 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>  
to celebrate the Gathering Band.

We will be honoring Mary Ann Blosser's 20 plus years of singing in the band!  
Continental breakfast provided.

## LAST BIBLE STUDY

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The Miracle of the Moment Bible Study concludes on **Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 2 and 7 pm with Wild Hope by Donna Ashworth.** No need to read ahead, but you are welcome to! For all ages and abilities.

## SUMMER MAILING SCHEDULE FOR THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

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The Pilgrim Messenger will only be mailed every other week for the summer months beginning on June 9<sup>th</sup> and will run through August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Regular mailings will begin on August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

# CIRCLE OF CARING GREETING CARDS RESUPPLY DONATIONS DRIVE 5/12 – 5/26

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Over this calendar year greeting cards were sent to our congregation-at-large and to our senior adult 80+ year old church members. The CARD SUPPLY IS VERY LOW OR DEPLETED. Circle of Caring is asking for help with resupplying these types of greeting cards: birthday (women/men), thinking of you, get well and sympathy. A free-will donation is greatly appreciated. A donation drop-off box and a donation can will be available in the East Room each Sunday for the remainder of May. Thank you for your support.

## CHEERS TO 100 YEARS!

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Mary Alice Ziegler will celebrate her Centennial Birthday on May 20th, 2024. Her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, along with all their spouses and life-long friends, will gather at Western Reserve Masonic Community to celebrate! Mary is a UCC member, enjoys her bridge club, is a voracious reader, and NEVER forgets a birthday or anniversary for her expanding family! She has kept in close touch with family and face-times many of them on a regular basis. She has loved dogs her whole life and insisted that her “grand dog” Juno, join in the Birthday festivities. She keeps up with the changing culture and often says, “I want to go with the flow and not get left behind!” Her example of rock-solid love for her family has made for a great foundation for us all!

## ICE CREAM SOCIAL ON THE SQUARE

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Friday, June 7th our church will be hosting the Ice Cream Social on the Square starting at 6 pm with a band concert to follow at 8:30 pm. (bring your lawn chair)

**Please consider donating some ice cream, sherbet, or pies! Other items needed are:**

**Cookies/Brownies (pre-wrapped)**

**Ice**

**Bottled Water**

**Cases of Pop (coke, diet coke, sprite)**

**Ice Cream Cones**

**Ice Cream Bowls**

**Hot cups**

**Dessert Plates**

Please have your items (not baked goods) to the church on Wednesday, June 5th by 3 pm. All baked goods need to be at the church by 3:00 pm, Friday, June 7th. We do have access to a truck, but we **need people to help set up at 5 pm, and/or clean up at 8:30 pm.** Any questions call or email the church office at 330-725-4559 [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)



## MEMORIAL DAY PARADE...

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Stop by the church for FREE popcorn, lemonade, and water before/during the City of Medina's Memorial Day Parade beginning at 9:30 AM! While supplies last. Parade kicks off at 10. Donations accepted for the Community Engagement Team.

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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](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9 am – 3 pm MONDAY THRU THURSDAY; FRIDAY 9 am – 12 pm**

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May 19, 2024  
Pentecost

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Acts 2:1-21

## “Spirit for All”

*Acts 2:1-4 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*

Today many churches will receive the Strengthen the Church offering.

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.\*

It's especially poignant to receive the Strengthen the Church offering on Pentecost, the day in which God's presence as wind and fire was heard, felt and seen by all those gathered. As winds of the Spirit swept over the waters in Genesis beginning Creation, the winds of Spirit sweep over people creating community anew.

On this day, we remember that we are co-creators with God of the reign which is to come. Pentecost reminds us that we are never alone in this co-creation. Both those within our church walls and those without can be vessels of the Holy Spirit, and when we speak, we will be heard and understood. And the promise of Pentecost is that the Holy Spirit does not just fill us with words, but also incites us into action on behalf of the divine.

Look around! What work is the Holy Spirit ready to do through your community? How might the Strengthen the Church offering be a part of that work?

\*<https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/strengthen-the-church/>