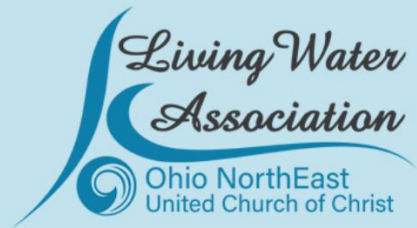


June 16, 2024
Medina UCC

Welcome
Minister of Faith in Action
Rev. Michael Howard!



IT'S TIME
TO GROW





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, Summer Sunday School is available for ages 3-3rd 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 “Be Thou My Vision” – arr. Tom Fettke

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

ELLACOMBE C.M.D.

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

Gesangbuch der herzoglichen, Wirtemberg, 1784



1. I sing the might - y pow'r of God That made the
2. I sing the good-ness of the Lord That filled the
3. There's not a plant or flow'r be - low, But makes thy



1. moun-tains rise, That spread the flow-ing seas a - broad, And
2. earth with food; He formed the crea-tures with his word, And
3. glo - ries known; And clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow By

1. built the loft - y skies. I sing the wis - dom
 2. then pro-nounced them good. Lord, how thy won - ders
 3. or - der from thy throne; While all that bor - rows

1. that or - dained The sun to rule the day; The moon shines
 2. are dis - played Wher - e'er I turn my eye; If I sur -
 3. life from thee Is ev - er in thy care, And ev - 'ry -

1. full at his com-mand, And all the stars o - bey.
 2. vey the ground I tread, Or gaze up - on the sky!
 3. where that I can be, Thou, God, are pres - ent there.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

In nature, nothing exists alone. (Quote from Rachel Carson)

We grow together. We rely on each other. We are connected.

Thanks be to God for covenants of care and support.

God, help us to thrive by stretching our arms out towards each other.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Awake, Awake to Love and Work"

Dan Hunter, soloist

SCRIPTURE 1 Samuel 15:34 – 16:13 (O.T. pg. 248)

Pastor Meghan, Liturgist

MESSAGE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY OF GOD

Pastor Meghan

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 "Your Part in the Story"

Rev. Michael Howard

GROWTH HYMN

"Be Now My Vision"



1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;
2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;
3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,
4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—
ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;
you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,
Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,
You and you on - ly are first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.
now and for - ev - er your child I will be.
great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

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!

God's blessings have been poured out on us. Let us give thanks to God and be generous with each other as God has been generous with us!

***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.

***Giving Thanks**

God, we give thanks for the life that we find together, the peace that we build together, and
the faith that we grow together. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

"In the Midst of New Dimensions" (vs. 1 – 3)

NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. w. refrain

Julian Rush, 1985, alt.

Julian Rush, 1985; arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994



1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
3 As we stand a world di-vid-ed by our own self-seek-ing schemes,
4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,



Who will lead the pil-grim peo-ples wan-dering in their sep-a-rate ways?
Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.
Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.
May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.



God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your



peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

***ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***BENEDICTION**

***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 “Rigaudon” – Andre Campra/ed. E. Power Biggs** **Cathy Fafrak, Organist**

“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”

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PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - luke@uccmedina.org
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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 & Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

JUNE 16, 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

June 16 thru June 23, 2024

WEEK AT A GLANCE

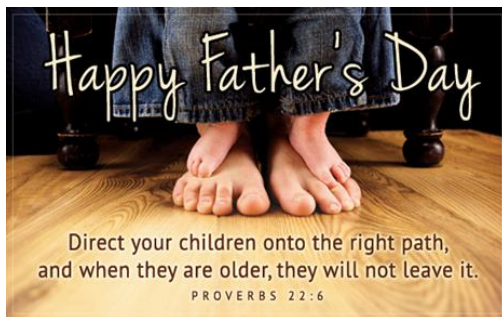
Sun	FATHER'S DAY	
	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	10:30 am	Sanctuary Worship
Mon	1:00 pm	Breadmakers
Tues	7:00 pm	Bible Study
Wed	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	
	10:30 am	Quilters
	6:00 pm	Gathering Band Rehearsal
Thurs	7:00 pm	Congregational Council
Fri		
Sat		
Sun	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	10:30 am	Sanctuary Worship

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

Scripture: 1 Samuel 15:34 – 16:13

Sermon: “Your Part in the Story”
Rev. Michael Howard, Guest Speaker

Communion Table: The communion table flowers are given by Kellie & Crell Johns in memory of Jerry Johns.



**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19TH IN OBSERVANCE
OF JUNETEENTH**

**Pastor Luke is on sabbatical May
27th – September 2nd. He will return
on September 3rd.**

GUEST SPEAKER – TODAY!

Rev. Michael Howard:

Michael has been serving as the Minister of Faith in Action since March 2019. From the wooded knobs of Kentucky countryside, Michael is a teacher, community organizer, and prophetic Christian leader. He has taught and served around the world, including Peru, Brazil, India, and Ethiopia; along with Kentucky, Virginia, and New Jersey. In addition to traditional pastoral ministry, Michael has coached and co-founded a number of community organizations, nonprofits, and small businesses. Michael is an ordained minister in the UCC and has an MPA from Morehead State University and an MDiv from Drew Theological Seminary.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Maker Space and Jesus Vibes will be taking a break for the summer. Summer Sunday School will be available for children ages 3 through those entering the third grade in the fall. Older children will be in worship for the summer.

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. The new sign-up sheets are up for July through September.

JUNE MONTHLY DONATION

This month we're collecting packs of 4-6 toilet paper rolls. Factory sealed please! Donations should be placed in the bins next to the mission table, which is across from the elevator downstairs. This month's donations will be split between the Medina Personal Care Pantry and the little free pantries around town.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

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

COSTA RICA MISSION TRIP

The paint isn't even dry on our March 2024 house and it's time to start planning for the 2025 trip. If you are interested in going or have any questions about this amazing mission experience, please email Vicki Miller at tamvic1@aol.com. If we have a large team this year we will need to fundraise for a 2nd home!

ICE CREAM SOCIAL THANK YOU

Our 2024 Ice Cream Social was a great success, bringing in \$1641.02 after expenses! Many thanks from the Hospitality Team to all who generously donated pies, baked goods, ice cream, and supplies. A huge thank you also to the enthusiastic group of helpers who pitched in to set up, serve, improvise, and clean up on the evening of June 7th. Special thanks to staff members Cindy Korecky, Jack Sharpe, Pete Metzloff, and Pastor Meghan for the time and effort they put into making this event run smoothly.



PROPERTY & GROUNDS TEAM

Each year we plant the bedding plants in the urns on the east side of the building as well as in front of the sign on public square.

Much thanks to Dick and Dorie Christy for doing this over so many years and this year, to John Sandora and Alan Parkhurst.

SUMMER SERMON SERIES

Sabbaticals aren't just for Pastors. How will you grow in fierce love this summer?

6/16 – Rev. Michael Howard, Minister of Faith in Action.

6/23 – Grow Through Service – Mission Trip Reflection Sunday.

6/30 – Love Yourself. Unconditionally. It All Starts Here.

7/7 – Speak Truthfully. It Will Set You Free.

7/14 – Travel Lightly. Downsize The Burdens You Carry.

7/21 – Show Kindness and Affection Wildly. Make Fierce Love Real.

7/28 – Confront Boldly. Transform Your Circumstances with Moral Courage.

8/4 – Think Inclusively. They're Your People Too!

8/11 – Live Justly. Choose Fairness and Equality Every Day.

8/18 – Find Joy Purposefully. It Is The Water Of Life.

8/25 – Believe Assiduously. Have Faith in Love. Alive On the Square.

During this series we'll decorate with houseplants! Bring a plant from your home to decorate the altar.

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

Mark 4:26–34

“Flourishing”

Jesus spoke to his followers in a parable about planting seeds. In cold climates, seeds planted can take many months to grow into plants and bear fruit. The job of gardeners and farmers is not only patience. The job is also to tend; to fertilize and water and weed until at last the fragile plants break forth, and then leaves, then flowers and finally produce. *It takes a long time for seeds planted to bear fruit.*

This week, many congregations will be celebrating Juneteenth. Juneteenth has been celebrated for generations in African-American communities, although for some communities this will be the first year that this celebration is acknowledged. *It takes a long time for seeds planted to bear fruit.*

The seeds of Juneteenth were planted on June 19th, 1865 when troops rode into Galveston, Texas announcing the end of the civil war, and the freedom of all enslaved Americans. This was good news, yes. But this good news came more than two and half years after the signing of the emancipation proclamation. *It takes a long time for seeds planted to bear fruit.*

Juneteenth was heartily celebrated in the early part of the 20th century with rodeos, speakers, preachers, music, worship and heaping tables of food, but those celebrations were largely shut down during the Jim Crow era. Recognition of Juneteenth began to be revived in black communities by activists in the 1960s and 1970s. The first legislation to make Juneteenth a national holiday was introduced in 1996. The legislation was finally signed into law in 2021. *It takes a long time for seeds planted to bear fruit.*

Whether your Juneteenth celebration this year is generations old, or is new this year, remember that it is the fruit of a seed planted decades before you were born. And the cycle does not end with this generation. As is the nature of growing things, the fruit that you enjoy in this season will produce seeds that will also, in their time, bear fruit. *It takes a long time for seeds planted to bear fruit. May the seeds you plant this Juneteenth, however small or mighty, grow beautiful fruit in its season.*