

July 21st, 2024
Medina UCC

**Show kindness
and affection wildly.
Make fierce love real.**

A Bold Path to Ferocious Courage
and Rule-Breaking Kindness That
Can Heal the World

**Fierce
Love**

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

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*

~ ~ ~

“When we go crazy with affection and offer wild kindness to our neighbor across the street or across the globe, we make a new kind of space between us.

We make space for discovery and curiosity, for learning and growing.

We make space for sharing stories and being changed by what we share.”

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE “How Can I Keep from Singing?” – arr. Barbara Boertje

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

Frederick W. Faber (1814-1863), alt.

IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.
Oude en Nieuwe Boerenlities, c. 1710



1 There’s a wide-ness in God’s mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
 2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;



there’s a kind-ness in God’s jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
 and the heart of the E - ter-nal is most won-der - ful - ly kind.



There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's heaven;
If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;



there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Tell me your story, and I'll tell you mine.

We'll find common ground when we make space for it.

God's love is wide and wild, a passion you cannot extinguish.

What if we cared for each other like that?

SPECIAL MUSIC "Reckless Love" – Culver/Asbury/Jackson

Kimberly Gallagher, soloist

SCRIPTURE Song of Songs 8:6-7 (O.T. pg.592)

Pam Branscome, Liturgist

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

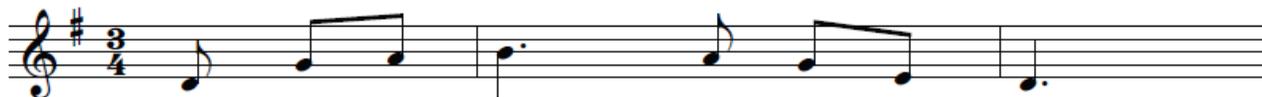
Pastoral Prayer

SERMON "Grow By Making Fierce Love Real"

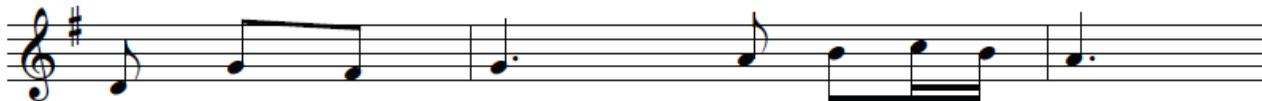
Rev. Meghan Malone

GROWTH HYMN "When Love Is Found" (vs. 1, 2, & 5)

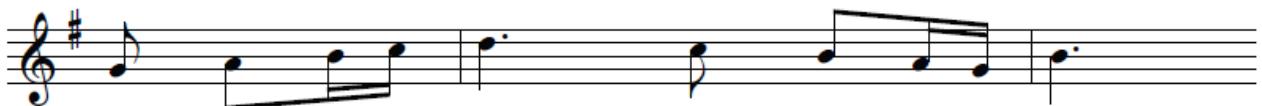
O WALY WALY LM
English melody



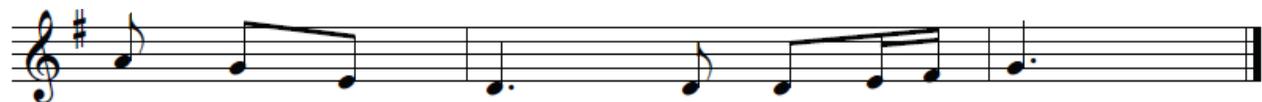
1. When love is found and hope comes home,
 2. When love has flow'ed in trust and care,
 3. When love is tried as loved-ones change,
 4. When love is torn, and trust be - trayed,



Sing and be glad that two are one.
 Build both each day, that love may dare
 Hold still to hope, though all seems strange,
 Pray strength to love till tor - ments fade,



When love ex - plodes and fills the sky,
 To reach be - yond home's warmth and light,
 Till ease re - turns and love grows wise
 Till lov - ers keep no score of wrong



Praise God, and share our Mak - er's joy.
 To serve and strive for truth and right.
 Through lis - t'ning ears and o - pened eyes.
 But hear through pain love's Eas - ter song.

5. Praise God for love, praise God for life,
 In age or youth, in calm or strife.
 Lift up your hearts! Let love be fed
 Through death and life in broken bread.

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!

Here is your invitation to show kindness and affection by giving. If you do, your neighbor may experience fierce love because of your gifts, and you may be changed by what you share. Such sacred gifts are worth celebrating, so let us rise and sing!

*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 who knows us, each and every one, kindle in us a passion for each other. Help us not to grow weary of sharing wild kindness. Seal our hearts with the kind of love that is worth more than anything. Thank you for the blessings of your Spirit in us. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

"Creator God, Creating Still"

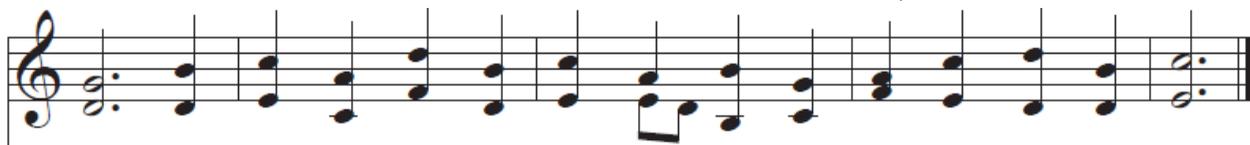
ST. ANNE CM

Jane Parker Huber © 1980 Jane Parker Huber (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

Attr. William Croft, Supplement to the New Version, 1708



1 Cre - a - tor God, cre - at - ing still, by will and word and
2 Re - deem - er God, re - deem - ing still, with o - ver - flow - ing
3 Sus - tain - er God, sus - tain - ing still, with strength for ev - ery
4 Great Trin - i - ty, for this new day we need your pres - ence



deed, cre - ate a new hu - man - i - ty to meet the pres - ent need.
grace, pour out your love on us; through us, make this a ho - ly place.
day, em - pow'r us now to do your will. Cor - rect us when we stray.
still. Cre - ate, re - deem, sus - tain us now to do your work and will.



*ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BENEDICTION**

Beloveds, make fierce love real through extravagant acts of kindness.

Let’s show affection wildly!

Make curiosity your default response to others and find God in them.

Let’s grow by discovering our common ground!

Make space for people to share their stories with you and transform you.

Let’s reach across boundaries and turn strangers into friends! 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 “Fanfare” – Michael Helman**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”

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PASTORAL STAFF

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

Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

JULY 21, 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

July 21 thru July 28, 2024 WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	10:30 am	Sanctuary Worship
Mon		
Tues	7:00 pm	Bible Study
Wed	10:30 am	Quilters
	6:00 pm	Gathering Band Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Finance & Stewardship Team Meeting
Thurs	7:00 pm	Property & Grounds Meeting
Fri		
Sat		
Sun	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	10:30 am	Sanctuary Worship

SONshine MEALS

Did you know we have a ministry that provides for members in need? If you're ill, expecting or have fallen on hard times, please let us help! If you know of a need or would like to help fulfill a need, please contact Becky at beckybauer@zoominternet.net or 216-288-6877. We will be refreshing our list of volunteers so if you'd like to be (or continue to be) on the list of people we call to possibly provide meals, please text or email Becky.

New Foster Families Support Group

Keri Lichtenburg is working with Heartland Community Church to create a new support group for families of foster children. A meeting will be held on July 25, 6:30-8pm at The McBees' Home, 1071 Skyland Falls Blvd, Hinckley, OH 44233. Anyone interested in helping with this ministry is invited to join!

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

Scripture: Song of Songs 8:6-7

Sermon: "Grow by Making Fierce Love Real"
Rev. Meghan Malone

Communion Table: The communion table flowers are given by Diane Howard in memory of Brian Howard.

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

JULY MONTHLY DONATION

**July's Donation of the Month is
School Supplies**

The Mission Team is collecting school supplies to donate to local schools in the fall. We're looking for: 24 packs of crayons, cleaning wipes, folders, glue sticks, boxes of tissues, scissors (safety and school size right and left-handed), colored pencils, markers (washable) and # 2 pencils. Please place them in the donation box next to the mission table, across from the elevator!

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Through June 30, 2024, we have received \$231, 103 in pledges, contributions or other receipts. We have spent \$242,780 for our regular church operations. We are doing better than our annual budget, which is a projected deficit. Giving of all types is about \$11,000 more than the budget through the first half of the year.

We recently sent out pledge statements for the first half. Check your email...Many thanks to all who have been faithful in their giving to our church!

AED & CPR TRAINING

The church is offering AED & CPR training for anyone who wants to be trained.

The staff will be updating their certificates and be recertified in CPR & on the AED (Automated External Defibrillator) machine. When you become certified, you need to recertify every 2 years to stay current.

Final Testing for training will take place on Thursday, August 15th at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

You must attend in person for this test.

The training itself will be just like the last time. You will need to complete your training online along with a test, prior to the final in person testing on the 15th. **Anyone interested in being trained in these areas should contact Cindy in the church office.** There is no cost for members to take this class and we urge anyone in a volunteer position to consider the class (Team Leaders, Committee Leaders, Volunteers with the youth, Choir members, etc.). Ushers and Safety Team members are strongly encouraged to attend. Once we have everyone signed up, we will be sending out a link to take your online class.

Space is limited, so don't delay! Because we will need time to do the online testing first, **the deadline for signing up for this class will be Monday, July 29th.**

SPEND YOUR SUMMER WITH LUKE & MEGHAN!

Podcast - Rev'd Up!

New episodes every Wednesday

Join hosts Meghan and Luke as they take you on a transformative journey through the world of faith, spirituality, and social justice. Each episode, Meghan and Luke, both ordained ministers in the UCC, bring their depth of knowledge, experience, and contagious energy to deliver an enlightening show that will leave you charged. So, whether you're a Christian seeking inspiration, questioning traditional beliefs, or simply interested in exploring a more inclusive spirituality, this is your place for transformative conversations.

Podcast Link: <https://open.spotify.com/Revdup>

TIME & TALENT TREASURES

A large part of supporting the church includes the gifts of Time and Talent. Please consider contributing your time and talent and serve on a team or committee this year. This is an opportunity to reinforce our foundation as we anticipate the return of our fearless leader, Pastor Luke! Contact Scott Ockunzzi, Alyson Alber, Ellen Nolan, or the church office if interested in serving on the following:

Worship Team—Worship & Fellowship

Community Engagement Team—Engage and welcome all

Mission Team—Benevolence, Missions

Hospitality Team—Bringing our congregation together in fellowship, support events in the life of our church

Stewardship/Finance Team—Financial management and coordinate stewardship strategies

Property & Grounds Team—Oversee building, facilities and grounds maintenance and repairs

Discipleship and Education Team—Nurtures Christian education and faith development of youth and adults

Music—Choir, Handbells, Children's Choir and special music

Endowment—Educate congregation and control expenditures

Memorial Gifts—Discern special gift spending

DID YOU KNOW...

There are many ways that you can contribute to the Endowment Fund of our church. A true way to honor a family member's love is to give a cash donation to the Endowment Fund to honor their birthday, anniversary, retirement, etc.

Cash donation gifts may be made by cash or check made payable to the UCC-Congregational. Please mark Endowment Fund on the memo line.

This is a lasting gift that assures that the love you share in your family can be reflected in the love we share for the future of our church.

SUMMER SERMON SERIES

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

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.

50TH ANNUAL ART IN THE PARK

A Fine Art Show & Sale

When: Sunday, July 21, 2024, from 10 am – 5 pm

Where: Square in Medina, OH

What: Set in Medina's charming Courthouse Square, artists' exhibits are arranged around the park's gazebo, the central focus of the historic Public Square area. Spend the day perusing artists' paintings, sculptures, photos and other works, and grab lunch at one of the local eateries. Stop by and visit our own Elaine Lamb, who will be at booth 40, and Brad Rice, who will be at booth 55!

This year Elaine will be recognized as one of the two artists that have been at Art in the Park since its inception!

Hopefully, you'll find a favorite piece for that empty wall you've been meaning to fill or perhaps some beautiful pottery!

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

2 Samuel 7:1–14a

“Wherever You Are”

In today’s reading, the Holy One speaks and asks for a place to live, and then offers specifications about what is needed. Is God still speaking to your congregation, asking for a place to live? Even if you are in the early stages of listening for God’s voice, the time may be right to call on the Church Building and Loan Fund.

According to their website, “Our vision is to transform communities by helping the Church live into God’s economy. We assist new and renewing congregations of the United Church of Christ—and other Christian denominations in the United States—with programs and services that help a congregation plan, raise, finance, and build projects, including property and social enterprises, that advance the mission of the church.”

“The United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund offers several programs to support and help facilitate your project planning process, including: Visioning & Strategic Planning, Leadership & Capacity Building, Training & Learning Programs, including Partners in Building, and Congregational Legacy Planning...

Fulfill your vision and mission. Build a new sanctuary. Renovate an old building or construct a new one. Add space for your educational or family life ministry. Expand your staff. Grow your endowment...

The United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund offers the only professional capital campaign services authorized by the United Church of Christ. Our capital fundraising executives help churches meet their fundraising goals, and our services are cost-effective...

Our loan programs are available for site purchase, construction and renovation, building purchase, loan refinancing, energy and environmental upgrades and disaster recovery. We serve new United Church of Christ congregations that are younger than 30 years, as well as renewing UCC congregations of any age—and Christian churches (regardless of denomination) in the U.S....

The United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund facilitates several programs that support the development phase of projects and enterprises, including the Adese Fellowship, Redeem!, and Partners in Vision.”

Find out details about all these opportunities at <https://cblfund.org/>