

July 28th, 2024  
Medina UCC

**Confront boldly.  
Transform your  
circumstances with  
moral courage.**

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](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, Summer Sunday School is available for ages 3-3<sup>rd</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*

~ ~ ~

*"The status quo has a lot of power; even when we don't like it, it's what we know.  
But confronting what is broken or harmful or evil or dangerous is the beginning  
of healing our souls and the world around us. Keeping silent about what's wrong  
or unjust or simply uncomfortable doesn't change anything."*

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

## RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" – arr. David Lowe

Jerry Mason, Guest Organist

## WELCOME

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

## \*GATHERING HYMN

## "This Is the Day"

THIS IS THE DAY Irr.

Vs. 1 Leslie Garrett, 1967, alt; vs. 2 & 3 Traditional, alt.

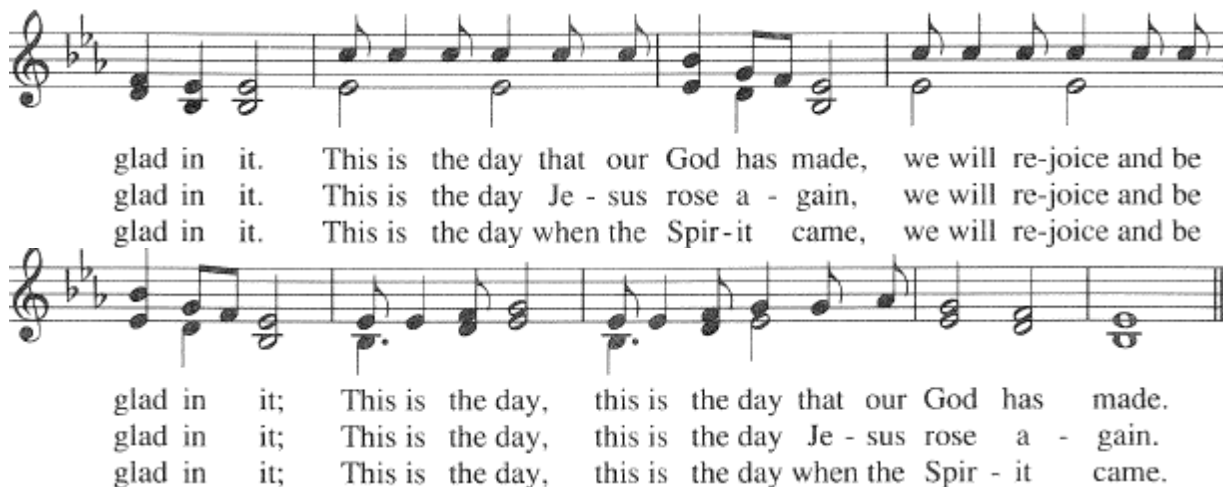
Leslie Garrett, 1967



1 This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our  
2 This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, Je - sus  
3 This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came, when the



God has made; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be glad in it, and be  
rose a - gain; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be glad in it, and be  
Spir - it came; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be glad in it, and be



glad in it. This is the day that our God has made, we will re-joice and be  
 glad in it. This is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, we will re-joice and be  
 glad in it. This is the day when the Spir-it came, we will re-joice and be  
 glad in it; This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.  
 glad in it; This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain.  
 glad in it; This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came.

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Lift up your voices to speak truth to power.

**God, give us boldness to change our circumstances.**

Be strong and courageous for God is with you!

**Let us find strength in the spirit of hope!**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "You Lift Me Up" – Brendan Graham & Rolf Lovland

Ryan Routh, soloist

**SCRIPTURE** Romans 12:9-21 (N.T. pg. 151)

Leon Coard, Liturgist

### MESSAGE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY OF GOD

#### 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

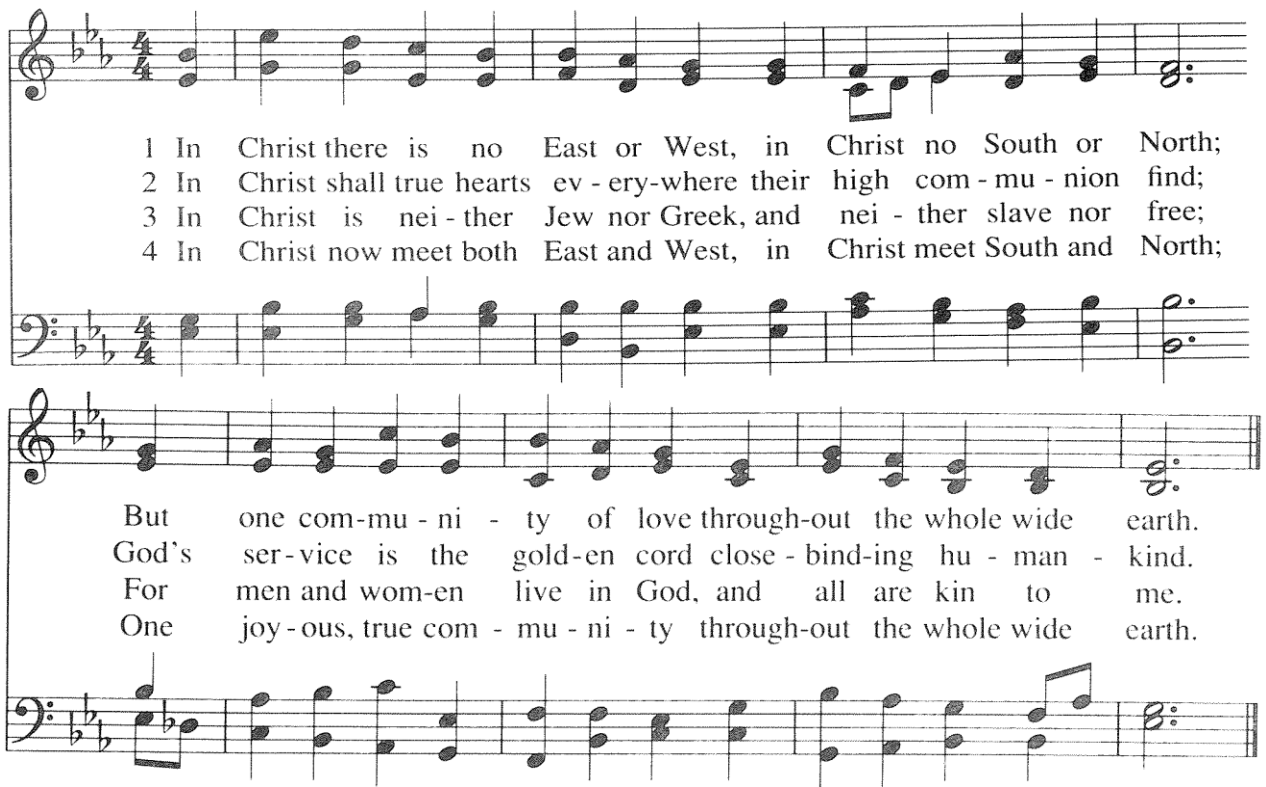
**SERMON** "Grow By Confronting Boldly"

Rev. Meghan Malone

**GROWTH HYMN** "In Christ There Is No East or West"

*John Oxenham, 1908, alt. Vs. 3, Laurence Hull Stookey, 1987*

ST. PETER C.M.  
*Alexander R. Reinagle, 1836*



1 In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North;  
 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery-where their high com - mu - nion find;  
 3 In Christ is nei - ther Jew nor Greek, and nei - ther slave nor free;  
 4 In Christ now meet both East and West, in Christ meet South and North;

But one com-mu - ni - ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.  
 God's ser-vice is the gold-en cord close - bind-ing hu - man - kind.  
 For men and wom-en live in God, and all are kin to me.  
 One joy-ous, true com - mu - ni - ty through-out the whole wide earth.

## 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!*

Wherever there is even one person, one action of righteousness in the midst of evil, struggle, or oppression, there is God. So, we bring our stories, our talents, our resources, and all that makes us who we are to God, in service to love and liberation. Let us rise in body or spirit 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 of prophets and apostles, you call us to courage.  
 You show us your way through ancient wisdom, and you are still speaking through us now.  
 For all the ways your grace enables us to grow, we thank you, and we renew our commitment to pursuing what is good, and true, and just. Amen.

## \*SENDING HYMN

### "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

SOLID ROCK L.M. with refrain

Edward Mote, c. 1834; alt.

William Bradbury, 1863



1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je - sus' love and  
2 When shad - ows veil my Sav-ior's face, I rest up - on un -  
3 Christ's oath and cov - e - nant and blood sup - port me in the  
4 When Christ shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in



rig - teous-ness; I dare not trust this earth - ly frame, but  
chang-ing grace; In ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my  
ris - ing flood; When all a - round my soul gives way, Christ  
Love be found, Dressed in God's rig - teous - ness a - lone, fault -



whol-ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
an-chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand;  
then is all my hope and stay.  
less to stand be - fore the throne.



all oth - er ground is sink-ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink-ing sand.

## \*ANNOUNCEMENTS

## \*BENEDICTION

Beloveds, stand up for yourself, and for each other, in the name of Jesus!

**It's time to confront the hard stuff and change what needs changing.**

Only then can you heal what needs to heal and make a way for harmony.

**We will not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good. 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      “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” – arr. David Lowe      Jerry Mason, Guest Organist**

**“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”**

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Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian

# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## JULY 28, 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)

### July 28 thru August 4, 2024 WEEK AT A GLANCE

<b>Sun</b>	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	10:30 am	Sanctuary Worship
<b>Mon</b>		
<b>Tues</b>	7:00 pm	Bible Study
<b>Wed</b>	10:30 am	Quilters
	6:00 pm	Gathering Band Rehearsal
	6:30 pm	Music Workshop
	6:30 pm	Women's Bible Study

**Thurs**

**Fri**

**Sat**

<b>Sun</b>	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	10:30 am	Sanctuary Worship

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

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

Scripture: Romans 12:9-21

Sermon: **“Grow by Confronting Boldly”**  
Rev. Meghan Malone

**Communion Table:** The communion table flowers are given by Barb & Greg Shaffer in memory of “Our loved ones who went before us”.

## 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](mailto: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.

## 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!

**Coming up for August**, our donation of the month will be Laundry Detergent.

## 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!



## LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP!

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**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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup>. **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 29<sup>th</sup>.**

## SPEND YOUR SUMMER WITH LUKE & MEGHAN!

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**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

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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 ( [scott.ockunzzi@gmail.com](mailto:scott.ockunzzi@gmail.com) ), Alyson Alber ( [alysonalber@gmail.com](mailto:alysonalber@gmail.com) ), Ellen Nolan ( [ellenknolan@gmail.com](mailto:ellenknolan@gmail.com) ), or the church office ( [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org) ) 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...

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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.



# **MEN'S BREAKFAST**

## **(First Mondays of the Month)**

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Mark your calendars for the next Men's Breakfast on Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at Buehler's River Styx at 8:00 am. **All men of the church are invited.** No reservations required. We hope to see you there!

## **SUMMER SERMON SERIES**

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

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.

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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**

John 6:1–21

### “God’s Abundant Presence”

**Ecumenical** means promoting or relating to unity among the world's Christian Churches. The United Church of Christ, which was founded just under seventy years ago out of an **ecumenical** impulse following the second world war, is founded on the principle that working together, people of many faith traditions can achieve more justice than any one organization working alone.

Inspired by today’s story, in which one gift multiplies to feed an entire crowd, many UCC churches have gathered **ecumenically** with other organizations to create feeding programs inspired by the story of the loaves and fishes.

One of those is Pilgrim Church in Fond du Lac, WI. Founded in 1982, Loaves and Fishes in Fond du Lac provides meals to approximately 150-200 local people twice a week. Pilgrim church provides volunteers for quarterly meal preparation that include donating and preparing food, set-up, serve, clean-up and distributing leftovers. The number of families served continues to grow and the program’s websites emphasizes its open and welcoming nature. “Sometimes they may not be hungry for food but for companionship. The lonely people are hungry too; we never judge. This is everyone’s program. It is **ecumenical** and covers all faiths.”

Another is St. Luke’s UCC in Jeffersonville IN. Loaves and Fishes in Jeffersonville is a weekly community meal in partnership with other local congregations and housed at St. Luke’s. Every Saturday, groups volunteer to plan, prepare, serve and clean up a meal for individuals who might not otherwise have a hot meal that day. Much more than a soup kitchen, Loaves and Fishes provides a sense of community and welcome to those who might not find welcome elsewhere.

Another Loaves and Fishes (this one called Fish and Loaves) program in Taylor, MI counts St. Paul UCC in Taylor among its charter members. Fish & Loaves Community Food Pantry, a cooperative, non-sectarian, non-profit, faith based initiative seeking to insure adequate food and nutrition for all residents within seven local communities: "client choice" pantry that allows individuals and families to "shop" on a monthly or bi-monthly basis for items they need, providing not only food but dignity to all they serve.

How will the story of the loaves and fishes inspire YOUR congregation?