

August 11th, 2024
Medina UCC

**Live justly.
Choose fairness
and equality
every day.**

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

~ ~ ~

"A movement to build a more just society begins with little steps taken by good people every day... You have the power to be an agent of change in your everyday living; you can influence your posse to also be the change you seek. And ultimately, together, in community, small steps can lead to morally courageous behavior that loves the world all the way to healing."

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" – arr. Barbara Boertje

Cathy Fafrak, Pianist

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN

James Montgomery, 1821; alt.

"We Hail You God's Anointed" (vs. 1, 2, & 4)

ELLACOMBE C.M.D.

Gesangbuch der herzoglichen Wirtembergischen katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784



1 We hail you God's a - noint - ed, the long - a - wait - ed One!
2 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
3 The wise shall bow be - fore you and gold and in - cense bring;
4 O'er ev - ery foe vic - to - rious, you on your throne shall rest;



Hail in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!
and joy and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.
all na - tions shall a - dore you, and praise all peo - ples sing;
from age to age more glo - rious, all - bless - ing and all - blessed:



You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap-tive free;
 Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald, go,
 To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows be said,
 The tide of time shall nev - er your cov - e - nant re - move;
 to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
 and righ - teous-ness, in foun - tains, from hill to val - ley flow.
 your realm is still in - creas - ing, with you, O Christ, as head.
 your name shall stand for - ev - er, your change-less name of Love.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*lyrics to the song In God's Hands by Rev. Tracy Howe Wispelway*)

The world is in God's hands, which are our hands.

The world is in our hands, which are God's hands.

Live justly. Choose fairness and equality every day.

And justice will come when it is embodied in us.

SCRIPTURE James 1:19-27 (N.T. pg. 215)

Alice Metzloff, Liturgist

SPECIAL MUSIC "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" – Thomas A. Dorsey

Cheri Ingraham, soloist

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 Living Justly"

Rev. Meghan Malone

GROWTH HYMN

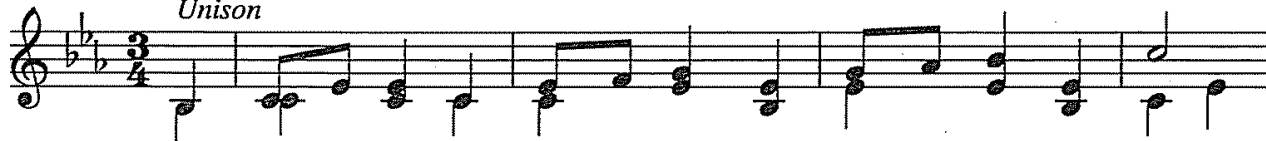
"Now Let Us All in Hymns of Praise"

OPEN DOOR C.M.D.

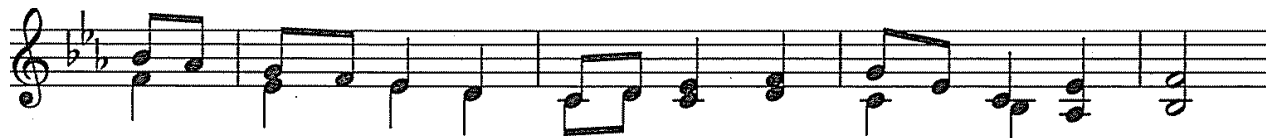
Fred Pratt Green, 1982 © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

Roy Hopp, 1990; © 1990 Selah Publishing Co., Inc.

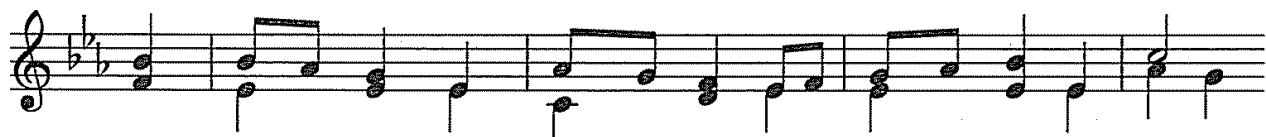
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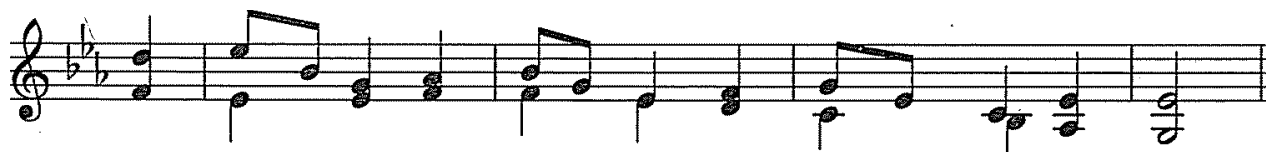
1 Now let us all, in hymns of praise, bear wit - ness with one voice
2 What chang-es, chal-leng - es, and tests the church of Christ sur - vives!
3 Of all our la - bors, who can say what har - vest there shall be,



to God's re-deem-ing work in Christ, and bid the world re - joice.
How rich the rec - ords left to us of ded - i - cat - ed lives!
when time, that lim - its and dis-torts, be - comes e - ter - ni - ty?



To - day we call to mind the things that time can - not e - rode:
Still must the church pro - claim to all that now, and ev - er - more,
Then shall our hymns, re - hearsed be - low, be per - fect praise a - bove,



what God, Cre - a - tor of the world, is do - ing for our good.
the house of God is o - pen house, and Christ the O - pen Door.
as, face to face, we ful - ly know what this means: God is love!

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!

James 1:17 says, "Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above." Perhaps God has given you gifts to bring more justice, fairness, and equality into the world today. Let us rise and sing to celebrate the good we can accomplish together with God!

***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 wisdom, make us wise enough to do your will and not just hear it. Help us to build a more just world through little steps every day. Through your gifts, let us be a community that loves the world all the way to healing. In your name we pray, amen.

*SENDING HYMN

"O For a World"

Medical Mission Sisters has given permission to share this music
Miriam Therese Winter, 1987; © 1987 Medical Mission Sisters

AZMON C.M.

Carl G. Gläser, 1828; adapt. Lowell Mason in Modern Psalmody, 1839



1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,



Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

*ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION

May the word of God be implanted and take root in you.

We will embody God's word in our daily choices and let God save our souls.

Once the commandment to love becomes a part of you, you will never be the same.

We're the ones we've been waiting for to fill the world with fierce love!

*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 "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" – setting, Paul Manz

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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PASTORAL STAFF

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Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 11, 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

August 11 thru August 18, 2024 WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	Senior Recognition Sunday	
	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	10:30 am	Sanctuary Worship
	11:30 am	Mission Team Meeting
Mon		
Tues	7:00 pm	Bible Study
Wed	10:30 am	Quilters
	6:00 pm	Gathering Band Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Discipleship & Education Team
Thurs	10:00 am	AED/CPR Training
Fri		
Sat		
Sun	Blessing of the Backpacks	
	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	10:30 am	Sanctuary Worship
	11:30 am	Hospitality Team Meeting

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

SENIOR RECOGNITION

Today, August 11th, we will celebrate last year's high school graduates and bless them as they head off to college.

BACKPACK BLESSINGS

Next Sunday, August 18th, we will bless our backpacks, and any kind of bag that may be headed into a school building this year! Bring yours for a special Medina UCC tag and blessing.

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

Scripture: James 1:19-27

Sermon: “Grow by Living Justly”
Rev. Meghan Malone

Communion Table: The communion table flowers are given by Dick & Dorie Christy in honor of their anniversary.

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.

ALIVE ON THE SQUARE! SAVE THE DATE

Our annual church service on the square will be on Sunday, August 25th at 10:30am around the gazebo on the square. Bring a friend and your own lawn chairs and come hungry! Lunch will be served by our neighbors from Medina Creative Housing. They're bringing a variety of sandwiches and side salads to show off the food from their Grande Café, featuring ingredients grown in the Creative Living Produce greenhouse. Donations towards the cost of the meal are appreciated, and the suggested amount is \$10 per plate. We hope you will join us for this unique outdoor worship experience and fellowship!

AED/CPR TESTING

If you signed up for the AED/CPR class, **you must have your online portion of the class finished by Thursday, August 15th for our in-person testing at 10:00 a.m.** If you didn't receive an email with instructions to connect to the online class, please contact the office.

AUGUST MONTHLY DONATION

The Mission Team is collecting laundry detergent for this month's donation. Please place items in the donation box next to the mission table, across from the elevator!

COFFEE HOUR

Please consider hosting coffee hour one Sunday. Signups for September through November 2024 are available in the East Room hallway. Never hosted before? No worries! You'll receive a letter and a call from a Hospitality Team member should you have any questions. Hosting is to be simple, so would you please consider hosting Coffee Hour one Sunday?

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>

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 October and November.

SUMMER SERMON SERIES

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

8/11 – Live Justly.

Choose Fairness and Equality Every Day.

8/18 – Find Joy Purposefully.

It Is The Water Of Life.

8/25 – **Alive on the Square** Believe Assiduously.

Have Faith in Love.

TIME & TALENT TREASURES

A large part of supporting the church includes the gifts of Time and Talent. This is an opportunity to reinforce our foundation as we anticipate the return of our fearless leader, Pastor Luke!

Contact one of our moderators for more options: Scott Ockunzzi (scott.ockunzzi@gmail.com), Alyson Alber (alysonalber@gmail.com), Ellen Nolan (ellenknolan@gmail.com), or the church office (office@uccmedina.org) if interested in serving on the following:

Mission Team –Benevolence, Missions

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

ART EXHIBIT

Historical Figures in Medina Library

Church member Brad Rice's latest exhibition, "Icons," will be hosted by the B. Smith Gallery on the 3rd floor of the Medina County District Library. From now through August 24th, you can explore 30 impressive portraits of significant people and participate in a trivia challenge to match the names of the icons with their portraits, making the viewing experience both fun and educational.

CONFIRMATION OUTING

Our first confirmation outing will be on Sunday, September 8th. We will meet at 4 pm at Foundry Social and go duck-pin bowling with our mentors.

COOK FOR CUPS

Please consider signing up to provide a free meal to youth and families in need. Plan on enough food to serve 60-80 guests. We know this can sound overwhelming, but we can make it last throughout the day with some other items we have in the café. Bring all supplies needed (i.e. if it's hot dogs, include hot dog buns.) You can also bring supplemental items for snacks or dessert too! Food can be dropped off when we open Monday-Friday from 9:30-9:45 or the day before, between 10 am-4 pm. If you get stuck or have questions, call the Café at 330-241-5990. Thanks for your consideration.

We still have two open dates for the year if you would like to sign up. Please contact Dan Daubner at ddaubner@zoominternet.net if you would like to take one of these days...

Monday, September 2nd or Monday, October 7th

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

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

“Shaping Community”

In the passage from Ephesians today, Paul calls the members of the church in Ephesus to build and shape their community. Because God is still speaking today, prophets continue to urge the church to intentionally build and shape the communities they are called to.

If you are interested in reading a more recent twist on how to build the body of Christ, take a look at Pilgrim Press’s *Building Up a New World: Congregational Organizing for Transformative Impact* by Anne Dunlap and Vahisha Hasan.

The book asserts that “the church is an organizing body. No matter how big or small the membership roll, no matter a rural or urban location, churches around the world and across generations organize people:

- to educate in Sunday school or at public lectures;
- to feed at potluck luncheons and soup kitchens;
- to comfort through funerals, visitation, and refugee resettlement;
- to uplift with worship, public witness, and policy advocacy.

There's not a congregation that doesn't organize!

But how to organize—effectively and justly for the transformation of the world—remains a frequently asked question. Audre Lorde wrote, “The master's tools will never dismantle the master's house,” therefore community-organizing tools from diverse and marginalized groups are essential for the work of liberation.

Congregations will be invaluablely equipped through the stories, practical wisdom, and diverse perspectives of *Building Up a New World*, with chapters such as:

- Organizing Congregations for Impact
- Building a Just Economy
- Resisting White Nationalism
- From Potluck to Policy Reform
- and many more.”

You can order this and many other books on leadership, congregational change, and community building from the Pilgrim Press. <https://www.thepilgrimpress.com/>