

MEDINA
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

COMMUNITY

YOU EXIST. NOW WHAT?!
BEING 101



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, Jesus Vibes Sunday School is available for ages 3-8th 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

“Gather Us In” - arr. John A. Behnke

Cathy Fafrak, Organ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

VISIONING PRAYER

Written for Medina, UCC by Sharon Alberson, © 2013



God, help us___ to be wel-com-ing.



God, help us___ to be lov-ing God, help us___ to see that



ser-ving you can lead us to___ a place full of grace with no li-mits where we can be free...



to o - pen___ our hands, wel-com-ing to o - pen___ our hearts,



lov - ing to be more than church on — Sun - day, to live in the light from a - bove; to



cel - a - brate in ser - vice and love.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

"Gather Us In"

GATHER US IN Irr.

Marty Haugen, b. 1950 © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc.

Marty Haugen



1. Here in this place new light is stream - ing,
2. We are the young— our lives are a mys - t'ry,
3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter,
4. Not in the dark of build - ings con - fin - ing,



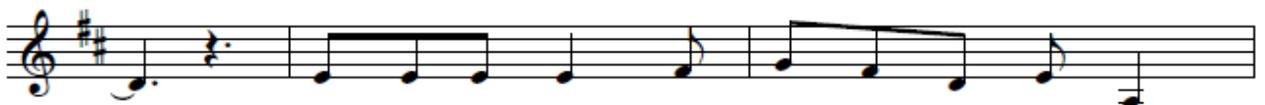
Now is the dark - ness van - ished a - way,
We are the old— who yearn for your face,
Here we will take the bread of new birth,
Not in some heav - en, light - years a - way, But



See in this space our fears and our dream - ings,
We have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
Here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
Call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
Now is the King - dom, now is the day.



Gath - er us in— the lost and for - sak - en,
 Gath - er us in— the rich and the haugh - ty,
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion,
 Gath - er us in and hold us for ev - er,



Gath - er us in— the blind and the lame;
 Gath - er us in— the proud and the strong;
 Give us to eat the bread that is you;
 Gath - er us in and make us your own;



Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 Give us a heart so meek and so low - ly,
 Nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 Gath - er us in— all peo - ples to - geth - er,



We shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 Give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.
 Lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from weavers.org)

Our society is living through a crisis of connection.

Suicide rates have risen dramatically, especially among the youth.

Addiction disorders have devastated communities.

58% of us say they are lonely.

Violence, hatred, and political gridlock have become normal.

Holy One, help us to grow in hope. To grow in you.

You who are Trinity.

You who are community.

You who were with us

Always traveled in a group.

Remind us of your ways in this hour,

Remind us of your hope and love of you and our neighbor. Amen.

ANTHEM "Let Us Build a House" – Lloyd Larson

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURES James 2:1-10 (N.T. pg. 215)
Mark 7:24-30 (N. T. pg. 40)

Kimberly Gallagher, 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 "Community"

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

HYMN

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

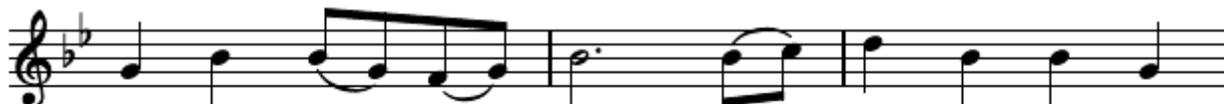
McKEE CM

John Oxenham, 1852-1941

Spiritual; adapted by Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949



1. In Christ there is no east or west, In
2. In him shall true hearts ev - 'ry - where Their
3. Join hands, dis - ci - ples in the faith, What -
4. In Christ now meet both east and west, In



1. him no south or north; But one great fam - 'ly
2. high com - mu - nion find; His ser - vice is the
3. e'er your race may be! Who serve each oth - er
4. him meet south and north; All Christ - ly souls are



1. bound by love Through - out the whole wide earth.
2. gold - en cord Close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
3. in Christ's love Are sure - ly kin to me.
4. one in him, Through - out the whole wide earth.

OFFERING INVITATION

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!

May we not just be hearers of the word, But also doers.

*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 (adapted from weavers.org)

Gracious God, we give thanks for the weavers among us—those who show up in our communities, building connections and trust in ways both big and small. We celebrate the people whom neighbors count on, who see the value in every person, embrace our differences, and create spaces of belonging. Bless those who bring people together to address our shared needs.

May we be inspired by these weavers, who create deep relationships where they live and work, strengthening the bonds of love and trust. Guide us to follow their example, that we too may weave threads of connection, healing, and hope in our communities. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"The Summons"

KELVINGROVE 13.13.7.7.13

John L. Bell & Graham A. Maule, 1987 © 1987 WGRG,
Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

Scottish melody; arr. John L. Bell, 1987; © 1987 WGRG,
Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't know and
your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and
your name? Will you set the pris - oners free and
your name? Will you quell the fear in - side and
my name. Let me turn and fol - low you and



nev - er be the same? Will you let my love be
nev - er be the same? Will you risk the hos - tile
nev - er be the same? Will you kiss the lep - er
nev - er be the same? Will you use the faith you've
nev - er be the same. In your com - pa - ny I'll



shown; will you let my name be known; will you
 stare should your life at - tract or scare? Will you
 clean, and do such as this un - seen, and ad -
 found to re - shape the world a - round, through my
 go where your love and foot-steps show. Thus I'll



let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
 let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
 mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
 sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
 move and live and grow in you and you in me.

***BENEDICTION**

Beloved, as you go forth from this place, remember the words of James:

"Show no partiality as you hold the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ."

May we, like the weavers among us,

see the value in every person, regardless of our differences.

Go now to build connections and trust, to create spaces of belonging, and to bring people together to meet shared needs.

May the Spirit guide us to weave relationships of love and justice,

following the example of our Lord,

who shows no favoritism but welcomes all with grace and mercy.

And may the peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you. 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 "In Christ There Is No East or West" - arr. Gilbert M. Martin**

Cathy Fafrak, Organ

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 8, 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

September 8 thru September 15, 2024 WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun RALLY DAY

8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:45 am Children's Choir rehearsal
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
2:00 pm Trekking Through Autumn
@ Allardale Park 401 Remsen Rd., Medina
4:00 pm Confirmation Outing

Mon 2:00 pm Being 101
5:00 pm Kids Book Club
7:00 pm Being 101

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Property & Grounds Meeting

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
6:00 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal
6:00 pm Bell Choir dinner & workshop
7:00 pm DELTs Meeting

Thurs 7:00 pm Hobby Horse Team Meeting

Fri

Sat

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:45 am Children's Choir rehearsal
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
10:30 am Jesus Vibes
11:45 am Hospitality Team Meeting-Library
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting-rm 9&10
11:45 am Safety Team Meeting-rm 8
2:00 pm Trekking Through Autumn
@ Plum Creek Park South
2500 Plum Creek Pkwy., Brunswick
4:30 pm Youth Group

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

Scriptures: James 2:1-10 & Mark 7:24-30

Sermon: "Community"
Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The communion table flowers are given by the Swantek family in honor of loved ones.

RALLY DAY IS TODAY

Sunday, September 8th

On Rally Day, we officially celebrate the return of fall and kick off our school year programming. Jesus Vibes will kick off with a party for 3rd-7th graders during the 10:30 am service, and Confirmands will get together with their mentors for duck-pin bowling in the afternoon at Foundry Social at 4 pm. Pastor Luke will return from his 3-month sabbatical to lead our fall worship series and educational series, "Being 101: You Exist, Now What?"

COFFEE HOUR TODAY!

Join us for our 1st coffee hour of the season on September 8th to celebrate Rally Day and welcome back Pastor Luke! Coffee hour follows the 10:30 worship service and is in Fellowship Hall. Please consider signing up to host a future coffee hour. Hosting is simple! If you have any questions, Liz Wolff will be your "go to" person for help in Sept., Oct. and Nov. Signups are in the East Room Hallway.

JESUS VIBES & JR. VIBES

Jesus Vibes officially begins on Sunday, September 15th during the 10:30 service. We can't wait for another great year!

SEPTEMBER MONTHLY DONATION

The Mission Team is collecting big bags of sugar, paper towels and toilet paper for Cups Café. Please place items in the donation box next to the mission table, across from the elevator!

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.

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:

Greeting Card Outreach – sends greeting cards of Get Well, Sympathy, Thinking of You and Birthday Greetings (over 80 yrs) to church members. Look for the sign-up sheet in the East Room.

Breadmakers – make & deliver homemade bread once a month for sympathy, illness or visitors

BEING 101: YOU EXIST, NOW WHAT?

Fall Educational Series: Mondays at 2 and 7 pm

- Sept 9th: About the Weave Community
- Sept 16th Parts Theory with Melanie Schwieterman from Bloom Counseling
- Sept 23rd: Intergenerational Ministry and Think Orange
- Sept 30th Social Media and Children
- Oct 7th: Prepare Enrich
- Oct 14th: Theodicy with Meghan and Luke (a live Rev'd Up Podcast)
- Oct 21st: Rule of Life with Deacon Paul Kipfstuhl from Catholic Charities and St. Francis Xavier Church
- Oct 28th: The Ignatian Examen with Kimberly Gallagher

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING WITH COLBY MARTIN!

Join us on Sunday, September 29th at 4 pm in Fellowship Hall to hear author, pastor and speaker Colby Martin talk about navigating the shift from conservative to progressive Christianity.

FALL SERMON SERIES

“Being 101: You Exist, Now What?” is a holistic guide for those seeking spiritual growth within the realities of everyday life. It’s an invitation to embrace the journey of existence with courage, vulnerability, and a profound awareness of the divine presence that accompanies us every step of the way. We’ll explore the image of doors. There are so many opportunities open to us, seemingly limitless. But certain doors are locked to us. There are doors we don’t want to walk through, and there are doors of celebration and loss that each one of us will one day walk through. Join us this fall as we explore the art of being human together and discover the transformative power of living with purpose and love.

PARKING ALERT

On September 3, 2024, Medina County began an extensive repaving project of the County Administration Building parking lot. This project is estimated to be completed by mid-November. During this time, the Admin. Building parking lot will not be available for use during the construction period and parking opportunities for employees and members of the public will be greatly limited on weekends. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Please be kind to those in our congregation who may need to park close and leave our parking lot for them. Thank you.

YOUTH GROUP KICK-OFF

This year’s youth group kick-off will be Sunday, Sept. 15th at 4:30 pm. Youth Group is for all youth of our church from 3rd – 12th grade. We will meet at Alien Vacation Mini-Golf (260 S. Court St.). If time permits, we will walk to the square for ice cream and then to the church for pick-up at 6 pm (though this one may run a little late). If you haven’t done so, or if your information has changed (address, health insurance, etc.), please fill out the Youth Group Registration and Release Form which is available right outside of the church office and bring it with you.

TREKKING THROUGH AUTUMN 2024 STARTS TODAY!

Get out and explore your Medina County Parks with your church friends! Hike 8 trails this fall to receive an award from the Park District (backpack for first timers, pin for veterans). Hikes leave promptly at 2:00 PM on Sundays. All hikes under 2 miles. Award tracking sheets will be available at the first few hikes and in the church office. No RSVP required, come to any you can. Rain or shine except if storming. Email Kate Lindon at katewllindon@gmail.com to be added to the email reminder list.

- 9/8: Allardale Park, 1.5 miles, 401 Remsen Rd, Medina
- 9/15: Plum Creek Park South, 1.5 miles, 2500 Plum Creek Pkwy, Brunswick
- 9/22: Schleman Preserve, 1.2 miles, 6701 Wedgewood Rd, Medina
- 9/29: Lake Medina, 1.4 miles, 3798 Granger Rd entrance, Medina
- 10/6: Granger Wetlands Sanctuary, 1.3 miles, 4023 Beachler Rd, Medina
- 10/13: Princess Ledges Preserve, 1.54 miles, 4361 Spruce Ave, Brunswick
- 10/20: Lake Medina, 1.4 miles, 3798 Granger Rd entrance, Medina
- 10/27: Alderfer-Chatfield Sanctuary, 1.5 miles, 6100 Ridge Rd, Wadsworth (no pets; turn in award sheet here)

TURNING CONFLICT INTO CONVERSATION

Join us for a transformative series in partnership with Braver Angels, designed to equip you with the tools to navigate our polarized world with empathy and understanding. Learn how to depolarize within, master the art of respectful disagreement, foster healthier family dynamics amidst political differences, and engage thoughtfully on social media. Registration is free but required. Space is limited. See fliers for more details

- Sept 25th: “Depolarizing Within” 6:30 – 9 pm at Cornerstone Chapel, Medina
- Oct 30th: “Skills for Disagreeing Better” 6:30 – 9 pm at Cleveland Clinic Medina Hospital
- Nov 21st: “Families and Politics” 6:30 – 9 pm at Cleveland Clinic Medina Hospital
- Jan 11th: “Skills for Social Media” 9 am – 12 pm at Medina UCC, C

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

Hello Congregation! I hope you have had a wonderful summer! I hope you have enjoyed all the beautiful Special Music Offerings as part of our Summer Solo Series. We're off to another year. I hope some of you will think about joining us! We need more singers in the Chancel Choir AND because of a very generous donation from Jerry Mason and Mark Muranko, we have added more bells to our collection and would love more Alleluia Ringers in the ensemble! Come join us for our workshops to meet the ensembles and sing or ring!

Calling all adult singers and students in grades 9-12 who'd like to sing in the Chancel Choir!
Regular Wednesday rehearsals will begin on September 18th 7:30-8:30PM (Sometimes 9:00)

Calling all adults and students in grades 9-12! Welcome back all you Alleluia Ringers and potential members! We have our first workshop on Wednesday, September 11th. We'll have dinner at 6:00, followed by a workshop with a clinician from the “Area 5 Handbell Association”. Please email me to RSVP for this event. Regular Wednesday rehearsals will begin on September 18th 6:00-7:15PM

First Regular Children & Youth Choir Rehearsal will be Sunday, September 8th from 9:45-10:15 AM
Rehearsals will be on Sunday mornings before the 10:30 service (start times may vary on calendar).

Jenny Cochran will continue to offer private voice and flute lessons during the year. If you are interested in taking lessons, please contact her at jenny@uccmedina.org for further information.

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 7:24-37

Be Opened

Can you imagine your life being changed for the better with just a gentle touch, a loving word or even a compassionate smile?

The people we encounter in Mark's Gospel can. Their stories, packed into what is the shortest of the four gospels, tell of how the Son of God brings healing and hope to *all* he meets.

Rich, poor, men, women, children, sinners, outcasts — it doesn't matter who you are. There's nothing Jesus can't do to turn our lives around. But for that to happen, we must ask: Are we opened to the Divine impossible possibilities?

Mark brings us today a perfect illustration of new life in the healing of the deaf and mute man.

In the story, Jesus starts by placing his fingers in the deaf man's ears. Jesus is acknowledging nonverbally his understanding of what the problem is. It's a loving act that puts the man at ease.

He then spits on his fingers and touches the deaf man's tongue. Yes, a cringing moment for our modern sensibilities, but spit was believed to have healing qualities in ancient times.

The final step in this healing comes with Jesus' sigh, "Ephphatha!" — which is Aramaic for "be opened."

And with that, a man whose life was closed from the community because of his disability, opens to belonging and acceptance.

The word "Ephphatha" only appears eight times in the New Testament, almost always with stories of healing. It is a word, though, that we should add to our spiritual vocabularies, as the reminder to "be opened" is an important one in the healing of whatever needs to be healed in our lives.

Too often doubt and cynicism take over our lives, closing us off to the that healing of body, mind and spirit. Yet Jesus sees our situations and sighs, "Be opened!" For what has being closed to God's possibilities done for us?

In the Catholic tradition there is an optional baptismal rite that parents can request as part of the sacrament where the priest says a prayer as he touches the infant's ears and then mouth. The prayer is for the child to hear God's voice and to speak of God's grace as they grow. As you might have already guessed, it is known as the Ephphatha Rite.

Take a moment this day to touch your ears and then your mouth, praying to hear the Divine speaking to you and for the grace to speak words of love.

Caring Healer, may today we "be opened" to the many ways you are renewing, reviving and restoring us. May we hear Your Son's loving word spoken to us now and always, "Ephphatha!" Amen.