

03 NOVEMBER 2024

ALL  
SAINTS  
DAY

UCCMEDINA.ORG



# 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, Jesus Vibes Sunday School is available for ages 3-8<sup>th</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*

### RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

**PRELUDE** “Shall We Gather at the River?”- Robert Lowry/arr. Joel Raney Cathy Fafrak, Piano

### WELCOME

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

### \*CALL TO REMEMBER

Today, we join in the ancient rhythm of remembrance, honoring the great cloud of witnesses who have traveled the path of faith before us.

**Across centuries and continents,  
through joy and struggle,  
they have shown us the way of Jesus.**

This day is a reminder that we do not walk alone,  
**upheld by the community of those who came before us. Glory to God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### \*OPENING HYMN

### “For All the Saints”

SINE NOMINE 10.10.10.with Alleluias

*William W. How, 1864, alt.*

*Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906*



1. For all the saints, who from their labors rest, who
2. Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might: their
3. O blest communion, communion! di-vine!
4. And when the strife is fierce, the conflict long,
5. From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through



1. thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy  
 2. strength and sol - ace in the well-fought fight;  
 3. We live and strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine;  
 4. steals on the ear the dis - tant tri - umph song,  
 5. gates of pearl streams in the count - less host,



1. name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.  
 2. thou, in the dark - ness drear, the one true light.  
 3. yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.  
 4. and hearts are brave a - gain, and arms are strong.  
 5. sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

Jesus, our Christ, your saints come from every nation and every tribe. Such is the beauty of your kingdom, where every race and people are honored and recognized as being made in your image. Help us live lives of peace and reconciliation that pay homage to the diversity of your great cloud of witnesses. Amen.

**CHOIR ANTHEM** "Saints Bound For Heaven" – Lloyd Larson Chancel Choir

**SCRIPTURE** Mark 12: 28-34 (N.T. pg. 46) Deb Waldron, 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** "Love, Love" The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

## HYMN

## "Let Us Be Bread"

## Refrain



Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord, bro-ken and shared,



life for the world. Let us be wine, love free - ly poured.



Let us be one in the Lord.

## Verse 1



1. I am the bread of life, bro - ken for all.

D.C.



Eat now and hun - ger no more.

## Verse 2



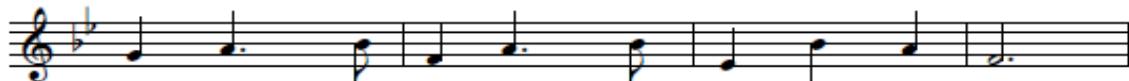
2. You are my friends if you keep my com-mands,

D.C.



no long - er ser - vants but friends.

## Verse 3



3. See how my peo - ple have noth - ing to eat.

D.C.



Give them the bread that is you.

## Verse 4



4. As God has loved me so I have loved you.

D.C.



Go and live on in my love.

## RITUAL FOR REMEMBERING ALL THE SAINTS

Each candle we light is an act of remembrance, a flame that defies darkness and calls us closer to you, O God.

**We remember that, in the vastness of the cosmos, you formed the stars and our spirits.**

We light these candles to honor those who have journeyed home to you,

**their lives a light on our path as we walk each other home.**

As these flames flicker and glow, we recall the beauty and warmth of those who have gone before us, how they lived and loved among us.

*Names are read*

In this quiet moment, as we light each candle, we hold the memory of each one in our hearts.

**Spirit of Life, breathe courage into us, that we might walk in hope and light, dancing with those who have gone before us. Amen.**

*Congregational remembrance*

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*All are welcome at the Lord's Table. You do not need to be a member of the United Church of Christ to partake in the Holy Sacrament. All bread served is gluten free.*

**Invitation to the Table**

**The Words of Institution**

**Distribution of the Elements**

**\*Prayer for Parting** (*adapted from the UCC Book of Worship page 258-259*)

**God of steadfast love, you hold all of us with compassion that endures. Help us trust the future that rests in your care. In the time we shared together, we laughed and wept, we dreamed and doubted. May we carry forward these memories with gratitude and allow them to shape our new paths, as we journey towards the wholeness of life with you and one another. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

Text: John 15: 9-17; Michael Joncas, b.1951  
Tune: Michael Joncas, b.1951  
© 1988. GIA Publications, Inc.

## \*CLOSING SONG

### "No Greater Love"

Refrain

The musical score is written on three staves in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "There is no great-er love, says the Lord, than to lay down your life for a friend; there is no great-er love, no great-er love, than to lay down your life for a friend."

Verse 1



1. As the Fa-ther has loved me, so I have loved you.



Live on in my love. You will live in my love if you

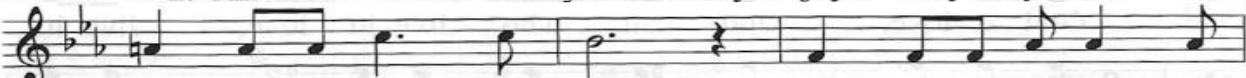


keep my com-mands, e-ven as I have kept my Fa-ther's.

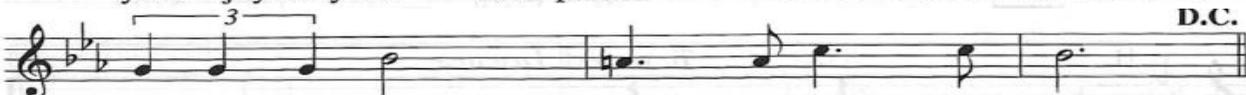
Verse 2



2. All this I tell you that my joy may be yours and



your joy may be com-plete. Love one an-oth-er as



I have loved you: This is my com-mand.

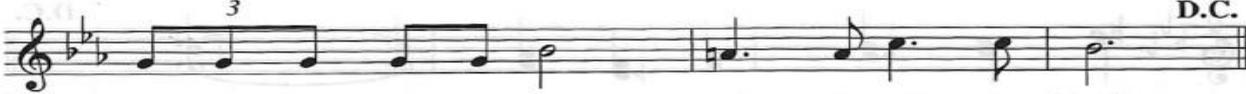
Verse 3



3. You are my friends if you keep my com-mands;



no long-er slaves but friends to me. All I heard from my Fa-ther,



I have made known to you: Now I call you friends.

Verse 4



4. It was not you who chose me. it was I who chose you, chose



you to go forth and bear fruit. Your fruit must en-dure, so



you will re-ceive all you ask the Fa-ther in my name.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## \*BENEDICTION

Triune God, you were there in the beginning,  
**and you will be with us until the end.**  
 You were present when we were formed,  
**and you will remain with us until the last breath.**  
 You rise with us at dawn;  
**stay with us until day's end.**  
 Go with us now,  
**as we carry the light of the saints in our hearts. 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    "For All the Saints" – setting, Robert Hobby & Wilbur Held                      Cathy Fafrak, Organist

## **"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"**

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*\*\*\*Please join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the service\*\*\**

***Coffee Hour is hosted this week by the Welday family.***

***If you would like to host a coffee hour, please sign up in the East Room Hallway\*\*\****

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## **How You Can Give to UCC, Congregational...**

*There is an offering plate by the East Room and by the tower doors if you feel led to deposit your envelope or an offering there. You can also give through our Realm app or text-to-give by texting 73256 and following the prompts. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!*

# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## NOVEMBER 3, 2024

**“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS.  
MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY!”**

Live streaming of the Sanctuary service is available at [www.uccmedina.org/live](http://www.uccmedina.org/live)

**November 3 thru November 10, 2024**

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**MAKE SURE YOU SET YOUR CLOCK BACK!**

- Sun All Saints Day  
Service of Remembrance**  
8:00 am Blake Food Donation List  
Posted  
8:15 am Chapel Worship  
9:00 am Gathering Worship  
9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
9:45 am Children’s Choir Rehearsal  
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship  
10:30 am Jesus Vibes  
4:30 pm Youth Group
- Mon** Cook for Cups  
8:00 am Men’s Breakfast  
5:00 pm Kids Book Club  
6:30 pm Women’s Bible Study  
7:00 pm New Member Class
- Tues** 6:30 pm Bible Study
- Wed** 10:30 am Quilters  
6:00 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal  
6:00 pm Bell Rehearsal  
7:00 pm Community Engagement Team  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- Thurs**
- Fri** 6:30 pm Watoto Children’s Choir Concert
- Sat**
- Sun NEW MEMBERS JOIN**  
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 Mission Team  
11:45 pm Safety Team Meeting  
3:00 pm Confirmation

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

Scripture: Mark 12: 28-34

Sermon: “Love, Love”  
Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

**Communion Table:** The communion table flowers are given by Edward Farnham in memory of Helen W. Farnham.

### **SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE**

Today we will remember those people who have passed away this past year. By having the time of remembrance during a worship service, we encourage family members and others to come and share this time together. During the worship service, the names of the members of Medina UCC who have passed away between Oct. 2023 & Oct. 2024 will be read. Please join us

### **NEW MEMBERS**

Join us for our New Member class tomorrow evening! We believe anyone is welcome to gather with us, but there is something special about making a deeper commitment to contribute to what God is doing in and through Medina UCC – and these classes are a great place for us to cast this vision, hear your story, and help you take the next step to commit to calling UCC your church home.

New Member class will be on **Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the new library.** New members will join the church on Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to participate, you may contact the church office at 330-725-4559 or register here through [REALM](#).

## STEWARDSHIP SEASON

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In an effort to save postage, **your Stewardship materials are ready to be picked up.** They are in alphabetical order **on a table in the Welcome Area.** If you know of someone who can't make it to church, consider visiting them and dropping theirs off. Materials will be available for pickup this Sunday. After that, any remaining will have to be mailed. **Stewardship Sunday is November 24<sup>th</sup>.** Please return your pledge on or before that day.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

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Mark your calendars for the next Men's Breakfast on Monday, November 4<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!

## ENDOWMENT FUND GRANT APPLICATIONS

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The 2024 calculations have been made and the Endowment Committee is pleased to announce that there is over \$51,000 available for distribution. Grant applications are still available for any 2025 projects that may not fall in the 2025 Budget for Operations, Mission or Capital. Many worthwhile projects have been funded in the past and we look to continue that going forward. Pick up an application soon in the rack near the church office, complete it and return to the Endowment Committee mailbox in the church office by November 30<sup>th</sup>. Any questions contact Kelly Chamley 330-421-3313 or Matt Yates 330-321-9679.

## COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

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The 2025 Flower Chart is now hanging in the East Room hallway. This is a wonderful way to honor or remember someone, or to celebrate a special occasion. Please fill in your name and **write "Church" or "Self"** to let us know if you would like the church to order the flowers for you or if you will be ordering them yourself. The cost of the flowers ordered through the church office is \$25. **Also, please write what you would like printed in the Messenger and if you want to claim your flowers** after the 10:30 service.

## NOVEMBER DONATION

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Every month the Mission Team collects items to benefit a local organization. **During the month of November,** we have two collections we will be running. We would like to collect your extra Halloween candy. Our youth will make goodie bags from these and attach notes with uplifting phrases and affirmations. They will then be distributed to local groups in our community. Cups Cafe and Hope Recovery Community really enjoyed them last year!

**Also, for November** we will be accepting donations of new and gently used games and activities for Claggett Middle School. They need these for the kids' lunch periods.

## YOUTH GROUP SERVICE PROJECT

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On November 17<sup>th</sup>, Youth Group will partner with SPARK Medina to battle hygiene poverty in our county. SPARK Medina requests that all Youth Group members complete an important survey (<https://tinyurl.com/UCCCHygieneSurvey>)

and watch the hype video

(<https://tinyurl.com/SPARKMedinaHygieneHypeVideo>)

prior to the meeting. Part of the learning will involve taking action to combat hygiene poverty by building bags for the Medina Personal Care Pantry, who service our county with monthly drive-through distributions.

Sign up (<https://tinyurl.com/UCCCHygieneSignup>) for products that fit your budget to donate to our neighbors. Feel free to include kids when shopping to create conversation! Thank you for your generosity! Please bring donations to church by Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>.

## OPERATION HOMES UPDATES

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Huge thanks to our amazing volunteers for last week's dinners – they were a hit! Our final meal delivery is set for December 9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>.

*Save the Date:* Join us for the Transitional Housing Capital Campaign Fundraising Dinner on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 5:30-8:30 pm at Williams on the Lake. This is Operation Homes biggest fundraising event of the year! RSVP by November 12<sup>th</sup> to Patrick Acurio at [pha312@gmail.com](mailto:pha312@gmail.com). Thank you for your support!

# BAKE SALE

Calling all bakers! The Discipleship & Education team will once again be hosting a **bake sale during the Candlelight Walk on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>** from 4:30-7 pm. If you would like to donate a yummy baked good for the bake sale, please sign up [tinyurl.com/2024UCCBakeSale](https://tinyurl.com/2024UCCBakeSale) and let us know what you are bringing. All baked goods should be labeled and pre-wrapped for individual sale and dropped off at the church kitchen on Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> between 9 am – 12 pm. Past patrons have been very grateful for allergy safe treats. Funds collected from the bake sale will be used for Christian education and youth programming. Thank you so much for your support.

## THANK YOU

A hearty “thank you” to the mowing crew from property and Grounds for their work during the year. Please thank the following people the next time you see them: Owen Stepsis, Mark Woodling, Dave Linderman, Chet Simmons, Joe Behler, John Sandora, Carl Skorepa, Dick Christy and Bill Glasenapp.



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**

### PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - [luke@uccmedina.org](mailto:luke@uccmedina.org)

Rev. Meghan Malone, Associate Pastor of Youth & Mission - [meghan@uccmedina.org](mailto:meghan@uccmedina.org)

Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor – [karen@uccmedina.org](mailto:karen@uccmedina.org)

### OFFICE STAFF

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)

Pete Metzloff, Church Treasurer - [pmetzloff@gmail.com](mailto:pmetzloff@gmail.com)

### PROGRAM STAFF

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education – [stacie@uccmedina.org](mailto:stacie@uccmedina.org)

Jennifer Cochran, Director of Music - [jenny@uccmedina.org](mailto:jenny@uccmedina.org)

Cathy Fafrak, Organist & Office Assistant – [cathy@uccmedina.org](mailto:cathy@uccmedina.org)

Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – [jen@uccmedina.org](mailto:jen@uccmedina.org)

Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian

## PASTOR'S CORNER

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We've wrapped up our *BEING 101* series, and I'm thrilled to be back in the pulpit! I've missed you all and am grateful for the feedback and conversations we've shared. Cathy and Jenny chose fantastic music, and our choirs have been stellar. With new members and gear, our Gathering Band sounds outstanding—I look forward to Sundays with excitement.

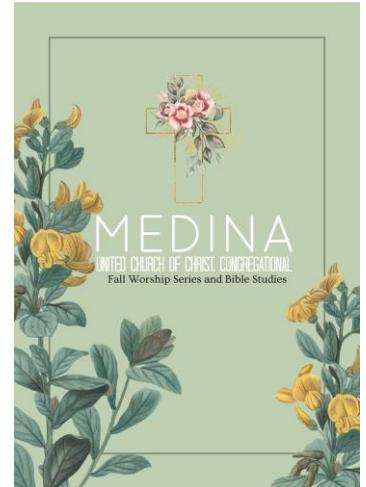
Our Monday Bible studies averaged 25 attendees at both 2 and 7 p.m. Many thanks to Melanie Schwieterman, Deacon Paul Kipfstuhl, and Kimberly Gallagher for their contributions. Special thanks to the Endowment Team for sponsoring author Colby Martin's talk, "The (Not So) Secret of Life," which drew 92 people, half from outside our congregation, including visitors from Avon Lake and Millersburg!

Looking ahead, our stewardship series will focus on Micah 6:8 as we explore justice, kindness, and walking humbly with God. Stewardship packets are available at the north entrance to save postage, allowing more of your tithe to support our mission of welcoming, loving, and serving. Stewardship Sunday is 11/24; please submit your pledge then, and join us as we build a "talent bank"—a way to connect our gifts with those eager to learn, strengthening our community.

Advent is on the horizon! Our theme, *The Weary World Rejoices*, from Kate Bowler, captures Advent's "fragile hope that everything broken will be made whole." Limited copies of her devotional will be available, or download one from Kate's website: [https://katebowler.com/seasonal\\_devotional/the-weary-world-rejoices/](https://katebowler.com/seasonal_devotional/the-weary-world-rejoices/)

In January, our new worship series, *The Prophet and the King*, will focus on the journeys of the Prophet Samuel and King David in 1 & 2 Samuel. Our Worship Team is preparing another enriching series with Bible studies and small groups.

Take heart, Church—good things have been done, and even more are coming. Thanks be to God!



# Watoto

## Children's Choir

LIVE

### YOU'RE INVITED

Join the **Watoto Children's Choir** as they sing, dance, and share their stories of restoration and hope.

**Medina United Church of Christ, Congregational**  
**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8 @ 6:30 PM**

Enjoy this **FREE CONCERT** featuring music from the new album, **"Better Days—There Is Hope"**.

LOVE OFFERING WILL BE COLLECTED



**WATOTO.com**

Ruth 1:1-18

### Wherever You Go

The Book of Ruth has been heralded as a beautiful romance novella, where the main character — Ruth — displays courage and undying love amid great uncertainty and heartache.

Even before we begin reading, though, we get a sense of how this story unfolds, as Ruth's name in Hebrew means "compassionate friend." And that's exactly what this young widow becomes to her mother-in-law, Naomi.

A great famine in the land of Moab led to deaths of their spouses, so Naomi prepares to return to Bethlehem. She tells Ruth and her other daughter-in-law, Orpah, to stay with their own people. Orpah does. Ruth doesn't. Instead, she clings to Naomi. The word "cling" being the same word used in Deuteronomy that describes God's steadfast embrace of the children of Israel.

Ruth then proclaims her love and devotion, saying, "Where you go, I go; your people shall be my people and your God, my God."

Is it any wonder Ruth's heartfelt words are often recited at weddings? You are not alone anymore. No longer are decisions made solely. We will navigate life's detours together. Your people will be my people. Your God, my God.

Ruth is not only committing to her mother-in-law, but in doing so she is willingly relinquishing the beliefs that have shaped her identity. She is opening herself to all the new God possibilities that are being born out of adversity.

So often we cling to our beliefs and expect others to fall in line with them. Change, even compromise, are not favorite words in our vocabularies anymore. Yet what would happen if in our relationships we held loosely to our wants, needs and beliefs? What if we dared to allow room for God's Spirit to open us to new customs, ideas, traditions — even a new way forward?

Ruth not only models for us the importance of being compassionate friends on the road of life, but she also shows us that nothing ever grows in the soil of comfort.

It is beyond our comfort zones where the blessings lie. Just ask Ruth. The Moabite widow never would have dreamt her faithful steps would lead to being part of God's plan of salvation. And yet they did. Where are your steps leading you?

*God, thank you for Your steadfast love and companionship in our lives. May we cling to Your truth that while life brings many changes, Your great care for us changes not. We are never alone in this world. Amen.*