



# RELATIONSHIPS

BEING 101:  
You Exist.  
Now What?!

# MEDINA

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST. CONGREGATIONAL



# 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*

### RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE “O Waly Waly” -trad. English/setting by Daniel Q. Kane, CSC Cathy Fafrak, Piano

### WELCOME

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

### \*GATHERING HYMN

### “Your Love, Oh God, Has Called Us Here”

*Russell Schulz-Widmar, 1982*

*William Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, 1815*

1 Your love, O God, has called us here, for all love  
 2 O gra-cious God, you con - se - crate all that is  
 3 O God of love, in - spire our life, re - veal your

finds its source in you, The per - fect love that casts out  
 love - ly, good, and true. Bless those who in your pres - ence  
 will in all we do; Join ev - ery hus - band, ev - ery



fear, the love that Christ makes ev - er new.  
 wait, and ev - ery day their love re - new.  
 wife in mu - tual love and love for you.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

We come answering the call to do the long work of love;

**We come with tense and broken relationships.**

We come acknowledging that how we tell love stories does us a disservice;

**Often they end at the wedding, when the real work of marriage begins.**

May we make new friends;

**And keep the old.**

That involves three things:

**Faith. Hope. And Love.**

May we remind ourselves of the work set before us today,

**And leave inspired to take the work back up. Amen!**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**      "Change the World With Love" – Joseph M. Martin & Grad Nix      Chancel Choir

**SCRIPTURE**      Mark 10: 1-12 (N.T. pg. 43)      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

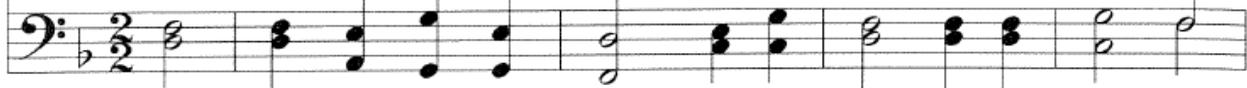
Pastoral Prayer

**SERMON**      "Relationships"      The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

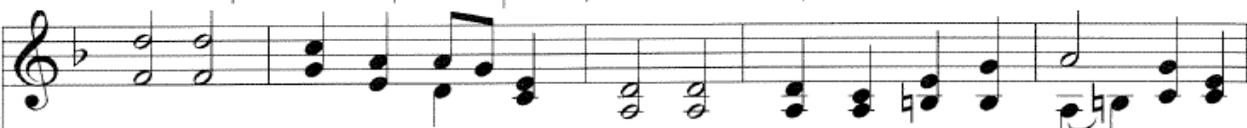
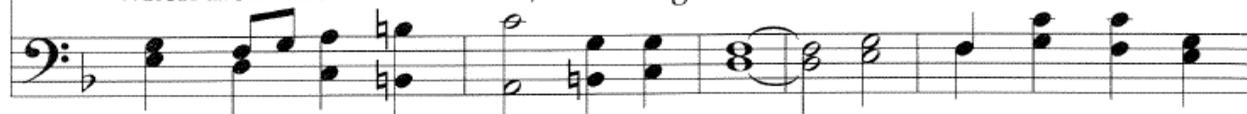
**COMMUNION HYMN**      **"What Wonderful Love Is This"**      WONDEROUS LOVE 12 9.12 12 9.  
 WORDS and MUSIC: Appalachian folk hymn



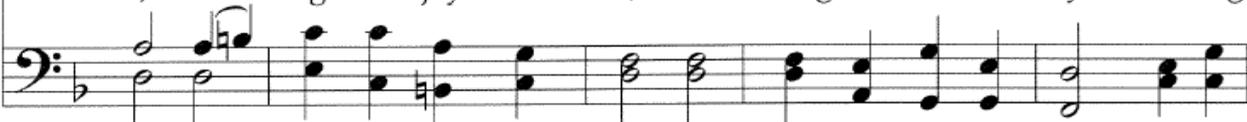
1. What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what  
2. When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when  
3. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to  
4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is  
I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down; when I was sink-ing  
God and to the Lamb I will sing! To God and to the  
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on! And when from death I'm



this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
down be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my  
Lamb, who is the great "I AM," while mil-lions join the theme, I will  
free, I'll sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!  
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul!  
sing, I will sing, while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing!  
on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on!



## 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 of Thanksgiving**

## 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!*

Beloved community,

As we gather in the spirit of love and grace, we are reminded of the call to embody loyalty, equality, and trust in our daily lives. God has given us these gifts in abundance, and now we are invited to respond.

**In a world often marked by division, let us offer our gifts—whether of time, talent, or treasure—as a sign of our commitment to justice and equality. Let us give generously, trusting that God will use what we offer to build a world that reflects the wholeness and love of the divine.**

Let us rise in body or in spirit and sing out our praise.

**\*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**

**Gracious and Trustworthy God,**

**We give thanks for Your unwavering love, which is a model of loyalty for us to follow.**

**Thank You for the gift of equality, for in your eyes we are all your children,**

**Each one equally valued, equally loved, and equally covered by your grace.**

**We thank you for the strength we find in trusting you with our hopes, our dreams, and our challenges.**

**Help us to live lives that reflect loyalty to your kingdom,**

**To build communities of equality, and to grow in trust for one another,**

**For all that you have given, and all that you promise, we give you thanks. Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN**

**"When Love Is Found"**

O WALY WALY 44.44D

*WORDS: Brian Wren, 1978, rev. 1992 MUSIC: Traditional English melody, harm. Martin West  
Words and harm. © 1983 Publishing Co.*

1. When love is found and hope comes home, sing and be  
 2. When love has flowered in trust and care, build both each  
 3. When love is tried as loved-ones change, hold still to  
 4. When love is torn, and trust be - trayed, pray strength to  
 5. Praise God for love, praise God for life, in age or

1. glad that two are one. When love ex - plodes and fills the  
 2. day, that love may dare to reach be - yond home's warmth and  
 3. hope, though all seems strange, till ease re - turns and hope grows  
 4. love till tor - ments fade, till lov - ers keep no score of  
 5. youth, in calm or strife. Lift up your hearts! Let love be

1. sky, praise God, and share our Mak - er's joy.  
 2. light, to serve and strive for truth and right.  
 3. wise through list - 'ning ears and o - pened eyes.  
 4. wrong, but hear through pain love's East - er song.  
 5. fed through death and life in bro - ken bread.

**\*BENEDICTION**

May you feel the freedom of the Good News;

**No hierarchy can save us, only the love of God found in Jesus Christ.**

May you feel that love pour over you;

**Through the movement of the Holy Spirit, and in the love found in and through our neighbors.**

May you go filled with the love of the Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit;

**One God forever and ever. 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**

"Trumpet Tune in F" - Martha Sobaje

Cathy Fafrak, Organ

**"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"**

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## PASTOR'S NOTE...

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I cannot stand this graphic. As a pastor and scholar of scripture, the “umbrella hierarchy meme” just misses the mark entirely. We have a term for missing the mark: “sin.” This meme is sinful. I don’t use that word often so when I do, please take note.

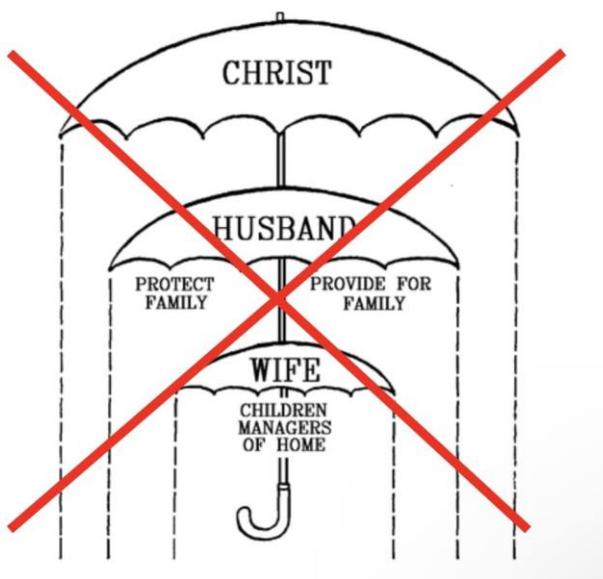
From the very beginning, God intended Adam and Eve to co-lead and care for creation together in the garden, not for one to rule over the other. It’s only after that hierarchy was established. If the Kingdom of God is a return to the garden, then we must unlearn hierarchy to get there. Marriage is meant to be an equal partnership where both spouses lead based on their unique strengths.

And honestly, the whole umbrella diagram? It doesn’t make sense. This is not how umbrellas work. Have you ever seen someone walking around with a double or triple decker umbrella? You only need one! Jesus doesn’t leak!

Plus, the idea that staying in a specific “role” protects us from suffering just isn’t true. Jesus never promised us an easy, pain-free life if we follow the rules. What he promised is that he would be with us through whatever comes our way, offering hope and strength in the midst of it: Emmanuel, God with us.

Finally, the Bible doesn’t talk about hiding under umbrellas; it talks about putting on armor—the breastplate of righteousness, the belt of truth, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation (Ephesians 6:10-18). Or as Colby Martin reminded us of *The (not so) Secret of Life*: faith, hope, and love. And the greatest of these is love (1 Corinthians 13:13). Our protection is in Christ, not in outdated views of gender roles or awful cartoons.

We’ll talk about what are the foundations of health relationships with the Prepare Enrich Inventory on Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 2 and 7 p.m.



# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## OCTOBER 6, 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)

### October 6 thru October 13, 2024 WEEK AT A GLANCE

#### Sun World Communion Sunday

- 8:15 am Chapel Worship
- 9:00 am Gathering Worship
- 9:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 am Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
- 10:30 am Jesus Vibes
- 2:00 pm Trekking Through Autumn

@ Granger Wetlands - 4023 Beachler Rd., Medina

#### 4:00 pm Fall Family Bonfire

#### Mon Cook for Cups

- 8:00 am Men's Breakfast
- 2:00 pm Being 101
- 5:00 pm Kids Book Club
- 6:00 pm Finance & Stewardship Team
- 7:00 pm Being 101

#### Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study

- 7:00 pm Property & Grounds Team
- 7:00 pm Worship Team

#### Wed 10:30 am Quilters

- 6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal
- 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study
- 7:00 pm Discipleship & Education Team
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

#### Thurs

#### Fri

#### Sat

- #### Sun
- 8:15 am Chapel Worship
  - 9:00 am Gathering Worship
  - 9:30 am Children's Choir Rehearsal
  - 10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
  - 10:30 am Jesus Vibes
  - 11:45 am Mission Team
  - 2:00 pm Trekking Through Autumn

@ Princess Ledges – 4361 Spruce Ave., Brunswick

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

Scripture: Mark 10: 1-12

Sermon: “Relationships” - Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

**Communion Table:** The communion table flowers are given by Ken & Sue Dean in memory of their parents.

### **MEN'S BREAKFAST**

Mark your calendars for the next Men's Breakfast on Monday, October 7<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!

### **NEIGHBORS IN NEED SPECIAL OFFERING TODAY**

On the first Sunday in October, UCC congregations are called upon to collect a special mission offering to support a just and compassionate United States and beyond. One-third of the funds raised are used to support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds are used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as advancing a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

Please consider giving generously to this special offering. Checks should be made payable to our church with “Neighbors in Need” noted in the memo. Your donation may also be made online through Realm – see the line item for Neighbors in Need.

## COFFEE HOUR

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Please consider signing up to host a coffee hour. **There is still an open spot on Oct 20<sup>th</sup>.** If you have any questions, Liz Wolff will be your “go to” person for help in Oct. If no one signs up to host, we will not have coffee hour. Signups are in the East Room Hallway.

## FALL FAMILY BONFIRE TODAY

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**Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm**

Join us at Tom & Jenny Wolff's home (6951 Egypt Rd., Medina) for an afternoon of food, fellowship and fun! They'll be outdoor games, a bonfire with smores, and swimming if the weather is good. Hot dogs and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share and don't forget your camping chairs! Hope to see you there!

## SPECIAL THANKS

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Many thanks to our Property & Grounds Team for taking such care of our property! Also, thanks to the mowing crew who have been around to keep the grass looking so great.

Special credit to Dick and Dorie Christy for their contribution as well as John Sandora and Alan Parkhurst who all helped with the planting. The profuse growth is credited to Dick Christy's magical knowledge and use of the right fertilizers and planting techniques. The church always looks so beautiful!

Thank you to Alan Parkhurst for the fall decoration in memory of Rose Olson, that adorns our beautiful water fountain.

Thank you to the many hands that help!

## PET BLESSING

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Bring your pet to be blessed on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 pm outside the church at the corner of Broadway and Liberty streets. Any pet that is safe to bring is welcome and will be individually blessed by our pastors. Free pet blessing cards while supplies last! The pet blessing will be part of Main Street Medina's Witches Night Out. Let's celebrate God's compassion and concern for all creatures!

## ENDOWMENT FUND GRANT APPLICATIONS

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Grant applications are available now to apply for funding for special projects and improvements beyond the 2025 Operating/Mission Budgets or individual Team Budgets. Each fall for the past few years the Endowment Committee has awarded funds for many worthwhile projects. 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 Charnley 330-421-3313 or Matt Yates 330-321-9679.

## YOUNG ADULT CARDS

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Please stop by the East Room to sign Halloween cards for our church young adults who are away at college or venturing out on their own. Thanks in advance for spreading love their way! Please feel free to sign the other cards on the table as well.

If you have a child in that age range who's currently in college, working, or otherwise setting out in life, please share their current address with the office at [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org) or 330-725-4559.

## BEING 101: YOU EXIST, NOW WHAT?

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**Fall Educational Series: Mondays at 2 and 7 pm**

- Oct 7<sup>th</sup>: Prepare Enrich
- Oct 14<sup>th</sup>: Theodicy with Meghan and Luke (a live Rev'd Up Podcast)
- Oct 21<sup>st</sup>: Rule of Life with Deacon Paul Kipfstuhl with Catholic Charities and St. Francis Xavier Church
- Oct 28<sup>th</sup>: The Ignatian Examen with Kimberly Gallagher

## OPERATION HOMES

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Jordan Johnston, a board member with Operation Homes, will join us at all three worship services on October 13<sup>th</sup> to announce the launch of an exciting new vision to help our unhoused families in Medina County! Please plan to join us to learn how you can be a part of this important initiative.

## YOUTH GROUP FEE PAYABLE ON REALM

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If you have a child who is in youth group (3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade), you can now pay your yearly \$20 Youth Group fee through the Realm website! Go to the events tab and look for Youth Group 2024-2025. When you “register” for the event you will be able to pay the fees for each child through Realm. No one is excluded from Youth Group because of inability to pay, but the fee helps us pay for snacks, supplies, and fun outings! You may also use this link: <https://tinyurl.com/3wa7nnsu>

## SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

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**November 3, 2024**

On this Sunday 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. We would also like to read the names of family members and loved ones who have passed away during this past year. **If you have a loved one that you would like to remember, please call the Church Office no later than October 21<sup>st</sup> with the full name of the loved one, their relationship to you, and the date of their passing.**

## FALL CRAFTS READY

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Please sign out a craft and call the recipient to make arrangements for a delivery. Thank you!

## SAVE THE DATE FOR 50+!

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Those who have been members of our church for 50 years or more, please save **Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>** from 11:30 am to 2 pm for a special celebration luncheon. Invitations were mailed out last week.

## UPCOMING MISSION OPPORTUNITIES!

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Your Mission Team has been hard at work planning small ways in which you can make a BIG impact. Every month we collect items to benefit a local organization. **During the month of October**, we will be collecting needed items for Hope and Healing Survivor Resource Center (sometimes known as Medina’s Domestic Violence Shelter). They’re in need of twin and full-sized blankets and sheet sets and NEW underwear and sports bras (all sizes).

**Looking ahead to 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.

Look for the donation bins across from the elevator near the bottom of the stairs. As always, your continued support and generosity is greatly appreciated.

## COMMUNITY LEVY CHAT

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Join Kids First Medina and Medina City Schools Superintendent Aaron Sable for an informative community chat at our church Tuesday, October 15 at 6:00 PM about the upcoming school levy. This is your chance to learn more, ask questions, and understand how this vote impacts our schools and community. Bring your questions and your neighbors!

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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

Mark 10:2-16

## “Enfolding Love”

Many times we find ourselves skipping over the topic of divorce that we have in the first part of Mark 10:2-16, in favor of the more polite dinner conversation of Jesus blessing the children.

Divorce is never easy to discuss. It's deeply personal with complexities unique to each couple. Yet many still weigh in with their opinions, just as they did in Jesus' day.

Here, it's the religious legal experts — the Pharisees — who bring the topic to Jesus, hoping to catch the rising star of the Galilee in a false statement.

They ask straight out, “Is divorce lawful?”

At the time, there were two main teachings about divorce circulating among the Jews. There was the teaching of Hillel, a liberal rabbi, and then there was the more conservative rabbi, Shammai.

The Pharisees wanted to know which camp Jesus was in. Neither.

Jesus was in the God camp, reminding them — and us — that life is complicated and messy. It is only God who knows each tangled heart intimately.

Jesus proceeds to answer their question by asking one of his own, “What did Moses say?” The Pharisees acknowledge that Moses allowed a certificate of dismissal.

And there you go. Moses allowed — not God, Jesus points out. It was never the plan for God's beloveds to experience the heartache of separation.

In a perfect world, there would be a love so strong that the ties that bind would never break. But we don't live in a perfect world. We live in a fallen one where God has given us free will to make decisions. Thankfully, God's redeeming love has the power to repair the brokenness in our lives.

Let's now go beyond married couples. What about the “divorces” — the breakups and breakdowns — among siblings, co-workers, church members and dear friends?

What if we realize that our fragile hearts are always at risk of the “hardening” that Jesus spoke of which led Moses to allow certificates of dismissal among God's children?

What if this day we made a vow to all humanity to keep our hearts forever opened, allowing the space for the Spirit to come and heal the hurts, forgive the betrayals and grant the patience needed in our trying moments?

What if the pressing question isn't about the lawfulness of divorce, but more about the condition of our hearts?

*Loving God, we pray for Your enfolding love to come into our lives — revive relationships that are languishing, mend families who are torn, and grant peace and understanding for those whose partnerships have ended. May our hearts soften and beat in sync with Yours. Amen.*