



THE REV. MEGHAN MALONE



DO Justice STEWARDSHIP
MICAH SIX-EIGHT



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 “All Creatures of Our God and King” – arr. Lloyd Larson

Cathy Fafrak, Piano

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

LAUDES DOMINI 6.6.6.6.6.6.

Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1828. Trans. Edward Caswall, 1854; alt.

Joseph Barnby, 1868

1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries,
 2 New strength comes night or day when from the heart we say,
 3 Dis - cor - dant hu - man - kind, in this your con - cord find,
 4 Be this, while life is mine, my can - ti - cle di - vine,

may Je - sus Christ be praised! A - like at work and prayer,
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let sin and e - vil fear,
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! Be this the e - ter - nal song,

one pur- pose I de- clare: may Je- sus Christ be praised!
 when this sweet chant they hear: may Je- sus Christ be praised!
 ring joy- ous with the sound: may Je- sus Christ be praised!
 through all the a- ges long: may Je- sus Christ be praised!

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (inspired by Micah 6:8)

Fellow human beings, God already told us what is good.

And what does the Lord require of us?

Only that we do justice -

To the stranger, the outsider, the grieving, and the vulnerable;

That we are faithful in loving goodness

And kindness, and mercy, and compassion, and grace;

And that we walk humbly with our God who was there in the beginning,

Who is here now, and ever shall be. Amen.

ANTHEM "Everywhere I Go"- Natalie Sleeth

Children's Choir

SCRIPTURE Deuteronomy 10:12-22 (N.T. pg. 161)

Kimberly Gallagher, Liturgist

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Jacob Koehler, Sarah Koehler, Sharon Poole, Mark Way, and Susan West

Admitted by Letter of Transfer: Lesley Field, Donna Murray, Cindy Rickly, and Rex Rickly

Congregation: We promise our love, our support, and our care.

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, we praise you for calling us to faith and for gathering us into the church, the body of Christ. We thank you for your people gathered in this local church and rejoice that you have increased our community of faith. Together may we live in the Spirit, building one another up in love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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.

HYMN "Companions on the Journey" vs. 1 & 2

Text and music © 1985, Carey Landry and OCP. All rights reserved.

Refrain



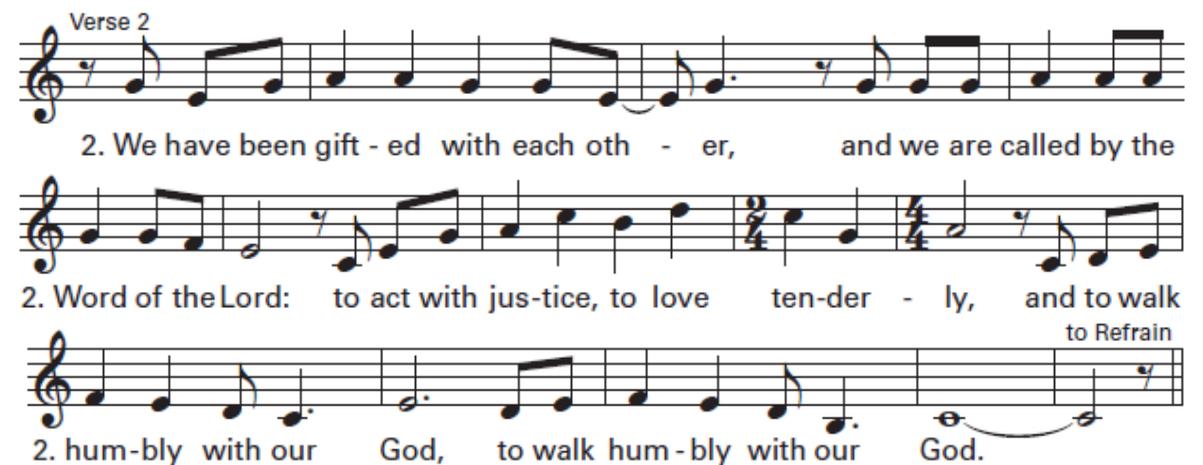
We are com - pan - ions on the jour - ney, break - ing bread and
shar - ing life; and in the love we bear is the hope we share for we be -
lieve in the love of our God, we be - lieve in the love of our God.

Verse 1



1. No long - er stran - gers to each oth - er; no long - er stran - gers
1. in God's house; we are fed and we are nour - ished by the
to Refrain
1. strength of those who care, by the strength of those who care.

Verse 2



2. We have been gift - ed with each oth - er, and we are called by the
2. Word of the Lord: to act with jus - tice, to love ten - der - ly, and to walk
to Refrain
2. hum - bly with our God, to walk hum - bly with our God.

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!

Together, we bend the world toward justice. Together, we support many strangers in need.
Together, we multiply our generosity and invest in each other's well-being.
Let us rise and give thanks to God with all our hearts and with all our souls.

***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 Heaven and Earth and all that is in them, thank you for leading us in the wilderness,
and for the love that binds us together. Help us to keep your commandment to care for the
stranger by taking risks and making sacrifices for the well-being of others. Amen.**

*SENDING HYMN

"Precious Lord"

Words and music by Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932; alt.

PRECIOUS LORD Irr. w/ refrain



1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2 When my way grows drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,
3 When the shad - ows ap - pear and the night draws near,



I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
when my life is al - most gone,
and the day is past and gone,



Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
Hear me cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall:
At the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:



Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

***ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***BENEDICTION**

Beloved of the Lord of lords, go and set your heart on God.

Let love transform us and lead us through.

May you have the courage to care about strangers, a dangerous unselfishness.

Let us walk with each other, hand in hand toward justice.

May you give what you can and ask for what you need in beloved community.

Precious Lord, give us hopeful and determined spirits

to serve you and our neighbors, who are numerous as the stars in heaven.

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 "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" – Anna Laura Page Cathy Fafrak, Organ**

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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

Coffee Hour is hosted this week by John & Kathi Kavouras & Lorna Lindsley

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PASTORAL STAFF

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Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 10, 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

November 10 thru November 17, 2024

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun NEW MEMBERS JOIN

- 8:15 am Chapel Worship
- 9:00 am Gathering Worship
- 9:45 am Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 am Blake Food Donations Due
- 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

Mon

- #### **Tues**
- 6:30 pm Bible Study
 - 7:00 pm Property & Grounds Meeting
 - 7:00 pm Worship Team Meeting

- #### **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

Sat

- #### **Sun**
- 8:00 am Blake Food Donation List Posted
 - 8:15 am Chapel Worship
 - 9:00 am Gathering Worship
 - 9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 - 10:00 am Children's Choir Rehearsal
 - 10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
 - 10:30 am Jesus Vibes
 - 11:45 am Hospitality Team Meeting
 - 4:30 pm Youth Group

50+ YEAR LUNCH PHOTO

If you attended the 50+ year luncheon, your copy of the group photo can be picked up in the East Room now!

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

Scripture: Deuteronomy 10:12-22

Sermon: "Do Justice" - Rev. Meghan Malone

Communion Table: The communion table flowers are given by Dennis & Allayne in celebration of their 61st wedding anniversary.

COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

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 \$25.00**, which is **due prior to the date you sponsor**.

Also, please write what you would like printed in the Messenger and if you want to claim your flowers after the 10:30 service.

OCTOBER MISSION REPORT

The month of October was quite busy for the Mission Team distributing your donations of money and gifts in kind. This month your generosity reached out to: Operation Homes, Friends in Need, The Children's Center, and Hope and Healing. Watch for upcoming information on outreach opportunities through the very near holiday season. Thank you for your continued love and diligence to those in need in our community and beyond.

NOVEMBER DONATION

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.

ENDOWMENT FUND GRANT APPLICATIONS

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 30th**. Any questions contact Kelly Charnley 330-421-3313 or Matt Yates 330-321-9679.

OPERATION HOMES

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

YOUTH GROUP SERVICE PROJECT

On November 17th, 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/SPARKMedinaHygieneHypeVid>) 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 17th.

FINANCIAL UPDATE...

Through October 31, 2024, we have received \$374,122 in pledges, contributions or other receipts for the Operating Fund. We have spent \$403,568 for our regular church operations. So, we are doing better than our annual budget, which is a projected deficit of \$69,595 for the entire year (and for which we have adequate reserves).

If you would like to learn more about the REALM system or have any questions about pledging or other church financial matters, you can contact me via email at pmetzloff@gmail.com.



DELT SURVEY

The Discipleship & Education Leadership Team (DELT) is beginning to develop a strategic plan for the future of the children and youth ministry. We have created a survey to help us gain information about our current programming. We would appreciate your honest feedback — constructive criticism is welcome! Your opinion is valued even if you do not have a child participating. The survey can be found through the QR code or at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/MUCCyouthministrysurvey>
Thank you!

BAKE SALE

Calling all bakers! The Discipleship & Education team will once again be hosting a **bake sale during the Candlelight Walk on Saturday, November 23rd** from 4:30-7 pm. If you would like to donate a yummy baked good for the bake sale, please sign up at 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 22nd 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.

IT'S POINSETTIA TIME!

It's time to order your beautiful poinsettia again! You may donate a poinsettia to decorate the church for Christmas services and claim it afterward, or you may donate a poinsettia to be delivered by the Flower Committee to a shut-in to be enjoyed before the holiday. The cost is \$10.00. **The deadline for ordering is December 9th.** Pick up an order slip from one of the ushers, call the church office or download one off the [church website here](#) under "Upcoming Events" or you may order through [REALM here](#).

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

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17

Risk and Restoration

A seminary student was struggling to prepare a youth Bible study on how Ruth, a widowed Moabite gleaned fields in Bethlehem, cozies up one night to the owner of the land, Boaz, on the threshing room floor in the dark of night. Yikes!

The pastor-in-training had no idea what to do with a text that seemed so racy for teens. And there lies the problem. Many times, ancient texts like this are read through modern lenses that sully a story pure with hope and redemption.

Ruth's and Boaz's story isn't R-rated. It's more H-rated. "H" for the Hebrew word "hesed," which is defined as a love that is merciful, steadfast, loyal and charitable. It is a story of love that transcends the physical. It is a story of love that illustrates God's love towards us.

When read through the lens of hesed, we see Boaz's charitable love that permitted Ruth to glean his fields. We see the caring love of Naomi when she tells her daughter-in-law to wash and anoint herself and then present herself to Boaz.

This isn't advice on how to snag a husband. Rather, the act of washing and anointing symbolized that the time of mourning was over. Out of love and concern, Naomi is telling Ruth it's time to live again. It's time to think about securing a more sustainable future. Remember, widows in ancient times were vulnerable. Marriage was viewed as security.

Ruth listens to her mother-in-law and goes to the granary at night to see Boaz, thus, putting her reputation on the line. The granary was a man's place. Reputable women didn't go there alone nor at night. There on the threshing room floor, Boaz, who is a kinsman of Naomi's, gets past his initial shock of this young woman before him and looks upon her with eyes full of merciful love. Ruth's risk was worth taking. They marry and have a son, Obed.

It's amazing to think what a love that is merciful, steadfast, loyal and charitable can do in our lives. It is awe-inspiring to see just how a risk-taking love led to not only the restoration of Ruth's and Naomi's lives, but the restoration of all humankind. For in the genealogical opening of the Gospel of Matthew, among all the "begots," there is the name of Ruth and her son as the noteworthy ancestors of Jesus the Christ.

And that's the Bible study the seminary student presented to the teens that day, as together they explored the story of Ruth, Naomi and Boaz, through the ancient lens of hesed — God's powerful and restoring love.

Merciful God, may today we be open to the transformative power of Your love — love that is charitable, kind, loyal and steadfast. May this love restore Your world. Amen.