



ANN NAGY



LOVE
Kindness
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

“Let All Things Now Living” - arr. Lloyd Larson

Cathy Fafrak, Piano

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

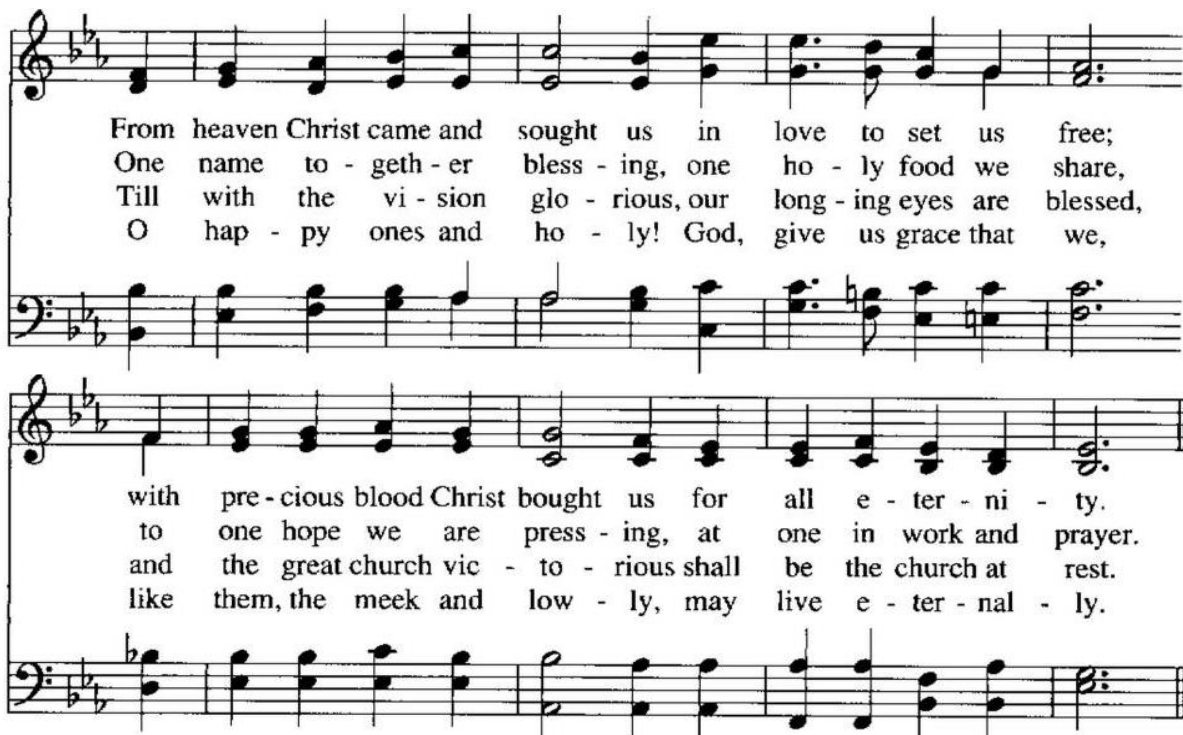
“The Church’s One Foundation”

Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.

AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.
Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ our Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of our war,
4 Yet we on earth have un - ion with God, the Three - in - One,

we are Christ's new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word;
one char - ter of sal - va - tion, one God, one faith, one birth,
we wait the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us free;
 One name to - geth - er bless - ing, one ho - ly food we share,
 Till with the vi - sion glo - rious, our long - ing eyes are blessed,
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! God, give us grace that we,
 with pre - cious blood Christ bought us for all e - ter - ni - ty.
 to one hope we are press - ing, at one in work and prayer.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather here to be reminded that we are part of something much larger than ourselves.
God's hand guides us, and God's Spirit surrounds us, drawing us closer to one another and to God.

God moves in mysterious ways, aligning paths and opening doors where we least expect.
We come with awe and wonder, open to God's presence in the quiet and in the extraordinary moments.

Let us worship the God of grace and abundance,
Who connects us, leads us, and calls us to be in community.

ANTHEM

"The Time for Turning" – Courtney & Tomlinson

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE

Micah 4:6-12 (O.T. pg. 814)
 Psalm 139:7-10 (O.T. pg. 545)

Alice Metzloff, Liturgist

BAPTISM OF JILLIAN & MEGHAN BISCHOF

Question to the Congregation

I commend to your love **Jillian Elizabeth and Meghan Marie Bischof** whom we receive as children in the family of God. Through your lives and example, will you support these parents in their desire to guide **Jillian & Meghan** in the knowledge and love of God and of our savior Jesus Christ?

People: In joyful response to God's grace, we promise our love, our support and our care.

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 Kindness”

Ann Nagy

HYMN

“Companions on the Journey” (vs. 3)

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 3



3. We will seek and we shall find; we will knock and the door will be 3. o - pened; we will ask and it shall be giv - en, for we be - lieve in the 3. love of our God, we be - lieve in the love of our God.

to Refrain

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!

God is always working, drawing us toward community and compassion. Just as we have been blessed by the love and support of others, we are called to give so that this place may continue to be a beacon of hope, support, and purpose.

Let us give, trusting that God will use our offerings to build something beautiful within and beyond these walls.

***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**

Loving God, we thank you for the moments that align in ways only you could orchestrate, guiding us with purpose and peace. Thank you for the relationships, communities, and encounters that reveal your presence. Bless these gifts we bring, that they may be used to offer hope, shelter, and love. May our generosity reflect your boundless grace. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

“Go Make Of All Disciples”

Leon M. Adkins, 1896-1986, alt. © 1964 Abingdon Press

ELLACOMBE 7.6.7.6.D.
Gesangbuch der Herzogl, Wirttemberg, 1784

1. “Go make of all dis - ci - ples:” We hear the call, O
2. “Go make of all dis - ci - ples:” Bap - tiz - ing in the
3. “Go make of all dis - ci - ples:” We at your feet would
4. “Go make of all dis - ci - ples:” We wel - come your com -

Lord, That comes from you, our Fa - ther, In
name Of Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it— From
stay Un - til each life’s vo - ca - tion Ac -
mand; “Lo, I am with you al - ways:” We

your e - ter - nal Word. In - spire our ways of
age to age the same. We call each new dis -
cents your ho - ly way. We cul - ti - vate the
take your guid - ing hand. The task looms large be -

learn - ing Through earn - est, fer - vent prayer, And
ci - ple To fol - low you, O Lord, Re -
na - ture God plants in ev - 'ry heart, Re -
fore us— We fol - low with - out fear. In

let our dai - ly liv - ing Re - veal you ev - 'ry - where.
deem - ing soul and bod - y By wa - ter and the Word.
veal - ing in our wit - ness The Mas - ter Teach - er's art.
heav'n and earth your pow - er Shall bring God's king - dom here.

*ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION

As you leave this place, may you go forth with open eyes to see the “God Winks” in your life—
the subtle signs, the remarkable moments, and the connections that reveal God’s love.

Walk with peace, knowing that God is with you,
guiding our steps and aligning our path with grace.

Go now, blessed by the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, today and always.

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** “Sortie” from Les Heures Mystiques, Op. 30 - L. Boellmann 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 the Finance & Stewardship Team

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THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 17, 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 17 thru November 24, 2024 WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon 1:00 pm Breadmakers

Tues 6:30 pm Bible Study

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
6:00 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal
6:00 pm Bell Rehearsal
6:00 pm DELT Meeting
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thurs

Fri

Sat

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Blake Food Donations Due
10:00 am Children's Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
10:30 am Jesus Vibes
10:30 am Teen Church
11:30 am DECORTE THE CHURCH!

JACKIE'S JARS

The Mission Team is putting out Jackie's jars during this season of giving. Collect all your loose change and give it to a place it is needed. In honor of our own saint, Jackie, these donations will be given to the Medina County Office for Older Adults which offers Monday, Wednesday, and Friday lunches for county residents. Jars due back on December 22nd.

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

Scripture: Micah 4: 6-12 & Psalm 139: 7-10

Sermon: "Love Kindness" – Ann Nagy

Communion Table: The communion table flowers are given by the Stoll and Huffman families with glory to God for a beautiful fall and a bountiful harvest.

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.

BAKE SALE ITEMS DUE FRIDAY!

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.

CHURCH DECORATING

With Advent quickly approaching, we need to turn our attention to the Christmas decorating process of our beautiful church. We plan to assemble immediately **after the 10:30 church service on Sunday, November 24th. Please come and join us if you would like to help!** Photos and instructions will be provided for each area. With the help of our veteran volunteers, we should be completed well before 3:00 pm. Thank you in advance.

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 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

During the month of 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.

DONATIONS DUE TODAY!

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/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 17th.

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.

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!

TEEN CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

On the last Sunday of each month, teens in 8th grade and up can head to the youth room during the 10:30 service for quality time, snacks, and conversations that are just for them.

ADVENT FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Families of all ages are invited to come to Fellowship Hall on December 1st, 4:30-6pm to have some Advent-themed fun. There will be crafts for all ages, sugar cookies to decorate, and plenty of hot cocoa for all of us!

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 24TH

Giving to the church is essential to its mission and ministry, allowing it to serve as a beacon of hope and a force for good in the community. Financial support enables the church to provide resources, programming, and support services that benefit not only the congregation but also those in need around them. Through stewardship, members actively participate in the church's call to build a more compassionate, inclusive world, grounded in the teachings of love, justice, and mercy.

Contributions are what keep the doors open, the lights on, and the ministry vibrant.

Moreover, giving is a spiritual practice that invites individuals to connect their faith with generosity. When we give, we participate in something larger than ourselves, aligning with a legacy of giving that goes back to the early church. Giving cultivates gratitude, reminds us of our interconnectedness, and reflects a commitment to the values we hold dear. For example, so far in 2024 through our Shepherd's Fund, we have supported 55 people and helped them with over \$6,000.00 for utilities, food, and medical expenses.

In this way, our contributions go beyond mere financial support; they signify a dedication to living out the gospel, fostering a community rooted in doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with God. Make sure to get your 2025 pledge in by November 24, 2024.

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

“Praise the Holy One”

*Are you weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care, precious Savior still our refuge,
take it to the Lord in prayer.*

Joseph M. Scriven knew what it was like to be cumbered with a load of care. Early on, Scriven had to drop out of military school due to poor health. Then, in 1844, on the eve of this wedding his fiancé drowned. After moving to Canada, Scriven found — and lost — love again. His fiancé died this time after a short illness.

Yet through it all, Scriven kept believing that there was a Heavenly Ear listening to his cries. In 1855, he expressed that belief in the ever-popular hymn, “What a Friend We Have in Jesus.”

Scriven’s reminder to take our sorrow-riddled sighs and desperation-filled whys to God is one we need today. We live in a time where we no longer know how to wait for anything — let alone God’s answer to prayer. We live in an on-demand society expecting God to be an on-demand God.

God, though, never forgets us. It might seem like God keeps us waiting in our sorrow, questions and trials, but God’s timing is not like ours. In the waiting, we need to draw closely to God and remain persistent with our prayers.

Hannah is the poster child for being persistent. Although her load of care — her infertility — was breaking her heart, she kept asking God to “open her womb.” Hannah’s husband, Elkanah, was kind to her, but Peninnah, the other wife, loved to flaunt her fertility in front of Hannah.

Years of societal shame, marital failure and personal grief, would have taken its toll on any person of faith. Hannah, though, kept praying.

In the end, Hannah’s prayers were heard. She conceived a son and, as promised, to show her praise to the Lord, she gives the child to the service of the priest, Eli.

What are the unanswered prayers you are carrying this day? How long have you been lifting them to God? Whatever you do, don’t stop praying. For you just can’t see how close you really are to receiving God’s answer.

Dear God, grant us the persistence we need this day to keep on praying, knowing that You are not only listening but that You are working on the most beautiful answer to our deepest desires. Thank you for the answered prayers that we know will come — in your perfect timing. Amen.