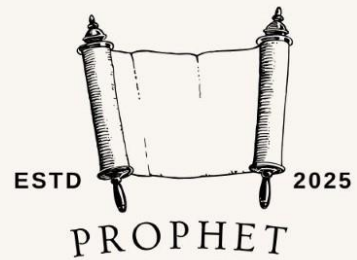


ANOINTING OF SAUL





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 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” – arr. Lloyd Larson

Cathy Fafrak, Piano

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***OPENING HYMN**

Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.

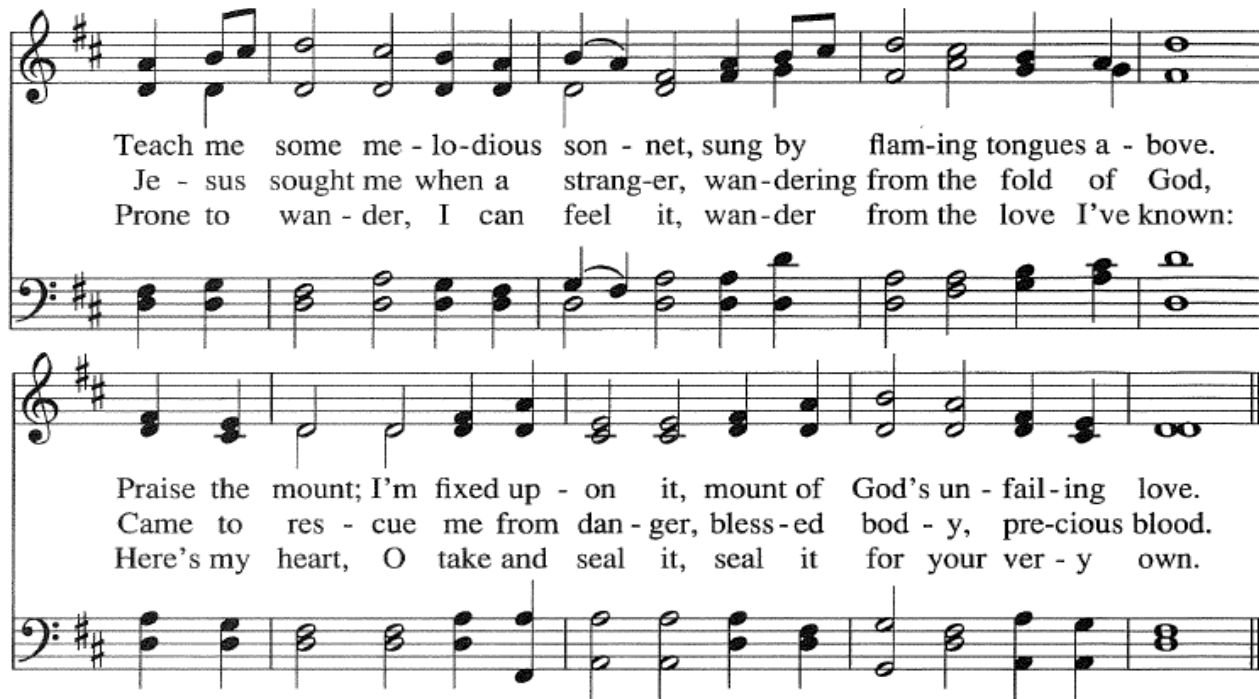
“Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”

NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.

John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!

streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas - ing, call for songs of end-less praise.
come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.



Teach me some me-lo-dious son-net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove.
 Je-sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
 Prone to wan-der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:

Praise the mount; I'm fixed up-on it, mount of God's un-fail-ing love.
 Came to res-cue me from dan-ger, bless-ed bod-y, pre-cious blood.
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver-y own.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Today's reading from 1 Samuel tells the story of Saul's anointing as Israel's first king.

Lord help us hear this ancient story.

A story that still resonates today!

With the complex dynamics of divine calling, human hesitation, and the weight of leadership.

Let us listen for how our still-speaking God,

Is present in sacred scripture and our lives today.

ANTHEM "Walk in the Light" – Coombs/Elderkin, ad. Whitfield/arr. Brandon Waddles Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE 1 Samuel 10:17-27 (O.T. pg. 241) Ashley Bonsell, 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 "The Anointing of Saul" The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

REFLECTION HYMN

"Like Cedars They Shall Stand"

Text and music by Daniel L. Schutte © 1972, 1992. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

Refrain

I will play for you on my harp, with my lute and
ten-stringed lyre. I will fill the night with your song.

I will sing of your ways, O Lord.

Verses

1. Good it is that we should sing to
2. Great and wide your kind - ness, Lord, and
3. Up - on my head you pour your oil; you
4. The just shall grow as tall as palms; like

1. hon - or your great name, to thank you for your
2. fath - oms deep your love. The wick - ed heart can -
3. mark me as your own. And filled with glad - ness
4. ce - dars they shall stand. And plant - ed firm - ly

to Refrain

1. love at dawn, your faith - ful - ness through night.
2. not con - ceive, the fool - ish heart will fail.
3. I shall sing; my horn shall sound your call.
4. on their God they shall not break nor bow.

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. You can also give through VENMO. Look for our Venmo QR codes by the offering plates. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

Offering Invitation

Just as God called Saul to step forward with humility, we are invited to step forward with our gifts, trusting that God will use them for the work of love, justice, and peace. Let us bring our offerings with grateful hearts.

***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.**

*Give Thanks

Gracious God, we give thanks for the gifts You have entrusted to us. Bless the offerings we bring today, and may they be used to bring Your kingdom closer to earth. Empower us to live as stewards of Your grace, ready to respond to Your call in our lives. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

"We All Are One in Mission"

AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.

Rusty Edwards (b. 1955) © 1986 Hope Publishing Company

Samuel S. Wesley (1810-1876)

1 We all are one in mis - sion, we all are one in call,
2 We all are called for serv - ice to wit - ness in God's name.
3 We all be - hold one vi - sion, a stark re - al - i - ty:
4 Now let us be u - nit - ed and let our song be heard.

our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min - is - tries are dif - ferent, our pur - pose is the same:
the au - thor of sal - va - tion was nailed up - on a tree.
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.

A sin - gle, great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
to touch the lives of oth - ers by God's sur - pris - ing grace,
Yet res - ur - rect - ed Jus - tice gives rise that we may share
We all are one in mis - sion, we all are one in call,

to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
free re - con - cil - i - a - tion and hope a - mid de - spair.
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

***ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***BENEDICTION**

Go now as people called to lead with courage and humility.
May the God who called Saul from his hiding place call us to step forward in faith.
May the Spirit guide you to embrace your gifts and share them boldly.
And may the peace of Christ strengthen us for the work ahead.
Go, for this service has ended.
And our service now begins. 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 “Variations on an American Hymn Tune: Var. 7 Allegro con fuoco” – Gordon Young
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 Lorna Lindsley

+++++

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PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - luke@uccmedina.org
Rev. Meghan Malone, Associate Pastor of Youth & Mission - meghan@uccmedina.org
Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor – karen@uccmedina.org

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Jennifer Cochran, Director of Music - jenny@uccmedina.org
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Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – jen@uccmedina.org
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

JANUARY 19, 2025

**“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

January 19 thru January 26, 2025

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Blake Donation tems Due
10:00 am Children's Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
10:30 am Jesus Vibes
4:30 pm Youth Group Snow Tubing
Boston Mills Ski Resort

Mon **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED TODAY**
2:00 pm Prophet & King Bible Study
6:30 pm Women's Bible Study
7:00 pm Prophet & King Bible Study

Tues 6:30 pm Bible Study

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
6:00 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal

Thurs

Fri

Sat 10:00 am Women's Retreat

Sun 8:00 am Blake Donation List Posted
10:00 am 3rd Grade Bible Parent Meeting
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 Annual Budget Meeting
12:00 pm Chili Cook-Off
3:00 pm Confirmation Class

**The church office will be closed on
Monday, January 20th
in observance of MLK Day**

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

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 10:17-27

Sermon: "The Anointing of Saul"
The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The communion table flowers are given by Lou & Jane Schaefer in honor of their 60th anniversary

ONE SERVICE - NEXT SUNDAY ANNUAL MEETING/CHILI COOK-OFF

JANUARY 26TH: ONE SERVICE at 10:30 am
ANNUAL MEETING at 11:30 am
CHILI COOK OFF TO FOLLOW at noon

YOUTH GROUP SNOW TUBING



For Youth Group on January 19th, we will go tubing at Boston Mills from 4:30-6:30pm. Youth who want to participate must register on Realm (Cost is \$15). Meet at the church at 3:45pm for carpooling! Scan the QR code for registration!

PARENT MEETING FOR 3RD GRADE BIBLE CLASS

There will be a meeting for parents of third graders who are interested in receiving a Bible. The meeting will be at 10:00 on next Sunday, January 26th. We will meet in the library to discuss expectations, schedule and other important information. Please see Stacie Yates with any questions.

BROKEN CHRISTMAS LIGHTS?

Rhett Behler is collecting broken, non-working, or used holiday lights for recycling to benefit the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and their efforts to support the lion and cheetah conservation program! Please look for the labeled box if you'd like to donate from now until February 2nd, 2025.



WOMEN'S RETREAT

Pastor Meghan and Kim Gallagher will lead a women's retreat on Saturday, Jan. 25th from 10:00 am – 3:30 pm. Our theme is "Held" based on Psalm 94:17-19. We'll spend the day being held in community, being held by God, and holding space for each other. This event is free for all the feminine folks in our church, but please register on Realm so we'll have plenty of supplies. Youth in 6th grade and up (who don't mind a lot of sitting-still activities) are welcome to join us. If you'd like to help with lunch, please bring a cold salad to share (pasta, fruit, veggie, whatever!) and we'll have a nice light potluck. Other than that – dress comfy and simply bring your beautiful selves!

HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER TRIP WITH OTHER+WISE

This summer's trip is going to be a bit different. This is not a service or mission trip, but a cross-cultural experience to broaden our understanding. We will travel to Tahlequah, Oklahoma to be immersed in Cherokee culture and indigenous spirituality with the organization Other+Wise, run by Lutheran pastors. This trip will be both enlightening and fun! The dates for this trip are June 26th-July 3rd, and the cost will be \$180 per student (entering 9th grade or higher next school year). Please register for this trip on Realm by the end of January!



JANUARY BIBLE STUDY

We're going through the books of Samuel! First and Second Samuel contain some of the most important and consequential characters of Israel: Samuel, King Saul, and King David among many others.

Continuing Mondays at 2:00 and 7:00 PM in the downstairs library, we'll study all the way until Lent! Come when you can! No pre-reading is expected. The study will follow the progression of the sermon series, in January with the life of Samuel and transitioning in February to David's rise and reign. Each session will correspond to the upcoming weekly sermon text, giving us an opportunity to dig deeper into the Scripture and themes. You may even hear your insights from the pulpit!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Luke

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Join us for our next New Member Class! 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 **Wednesday, January 29th at 7 pm in the new library**. New members will join the church on Sunday, February 2nd. If you wish to participate, you may contact the church office at 330-725-4559.

JANUARY DONATION

The donation of the month for January is fleece fabric! The youth group is going to make blankets for Project Linus on February 2nd! Project Linus distributes blankets to children in hospitals, shelters, social service agencies, or anywhere else children might be in need of a big hug. **Please note:**

- Must be "blizzard" or "anti-pill" fleece.
- Must be 1- & 1/2-yard pieces of fleece that is 58" - 60" wide.
- Fun, colorful, happy prints with children in mind are best!

HUGS IN A BOX

Help us create LOVE themed boxes to show our young adults that they are in our hearts no matter where they are! We are piloting outreach to the young adults active in our congregation who have recently graduated from high school. View the list here: <https://wshl.st/iseibp>

You do not have to buy from the linked vendors. If you want to add any small items not on the list please buy in quantities of 16. If you prefer to donate towards supplies or mailing costs use the church Venmo: @uccmedina (last four phone number digits: 4559)

Please deliver these items to a marked bin in the mission area by **Sunday, February 2nd** so our Youth Groups can help us assemble the packs!

With gratitude, Ellen Nolan and Liz Wolff

EXCITING NEWS! – KITCHEN UPDATE...

Our Property and Grounds team has been hard at work, and we have some exciting updates to share! This past summer brought challenges and opportunities. One of our ovens, which has served us faithfully for decades, finally gave out. Unfortunately, it was so old that repairs were no longer an option. Around the same time, we mourned the loss of two remarkable saints of our church, Mary Ann Andrews and Sally Bauer. These incredible women touched countless lives in our congregation, and their families chose to honor their memory by directing memorial gifts toward kitchen repairs—a tribute that reflects their generous and nurturing spirits.

In God's timing, everything has aligned to make this project possible. With contributions from our healthy capital fund, support from the Endowment, and the memorial gifts, we are thrilled to announce that construction on our kitchen will begin the end of January / beginning of February!

The updates will include a new dishwasher, a state-of-the-art oven and range, and a redesigned layout that makes the space more functional and welcoming. As a church, we know the heart of our ministry is Jesus, who so often gathered with others around the table to share meals and meaningful conversations. This kitchen will be a vital tool for fostering connection, hospitality, and discipleship in Christ's name.

JOIN US FOR THE CHILI COOK-OFF!

Sunday, January 26, 2024

Immediately following the Annual Meeting

This event is free to attend, with a free will offering accepted. How to participate: **All attendees and participants should RSVP/Sign up** online or after any church service no later than Sunday, January 19th.

Participating chilis should be brought to church (warmed/in crock pot) by 10 a.m. on Sunday, January 26th.

Sign up today to participate! Register/RSVP at: <https://tinyurl.com/38n7y6s7>

Contact Liz Wolff at lizwolff@gmail.com with any questions

Menu: Chili samples, bowls of previous winning chilis, corn bread, hot dogs/chilidogs, desserts, drinks, & toppings bar.

FOUNDERS DAY: February 9th

Every February, the ENDOWMENT FUND asks our church family to share in the growth of the fund by making a loving donation in honor or memory of a loved one or special friend. What better way to show we care than to recognize loved ones with a donation! Dollars are used for the special projects throughout the church that are not covered by the Operating Budget. Please consider a gift today.

Gifts may be made by cash or check made payable to UCC, Congregational, with Endowment Fund in the memo line. Gifts may also be made on the Realm app by choosing Endowment Fund in the Fund dropdown when making a gift. In honor of Founders Day, the Endowment Committee will be hosting coffee hour after the 10:30 service on Feb. 9th.

UNDECORATING HELP

Thank you to the gracious members of our UCC church family. We participated in our Medina Community “Promise of Christmas” for families of the Helene flooding. Your hospitality exhibited our Welcoming, Loving and Serving ideals.

After the kitchen and fellowship hall were cleaned up, a brief Ecumenical service was held and culminated with city fireworks that rattled our stained-glass windows. We should all be proud of who we are.

Thank you all for coming together once again on Sunday morning to dismantle the Christmas decorations. Many hands completed our tasks in record time. It was all put away shortly after noon. With volunteers who helped after the two earlier services, we were able to accomplish this and be ready for next season.

Thank you also to all who helped to set up the decorations for the beginning of our Lenten season. We have several volunteers who have participated throughout the years and have new people whom we appreciate joining in.

Blessings and Thankfulness,
Jan Coleman

VOLUNTEERS ARE AMAZING!

I too, would like to add my thanks to everyone who came out and helped us show the people of North Carolina such a fun time and fantastic hospitality on Saturday night for the “Promise of Christmas” dinner! With a total of 60 + volunteers, I thank you all for your time volunteering with set up, cooking, clean up, serving, and welcoming friendship to these folks. They all seemed to genuinely appreciate and enjoy all of you! This church never has a problem showing up when asked, so with the Promise of Christmas in all our hearts, *thank you* again for your love, support and kind help.

Joy, Peace, and Love, Cindy

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

John 2:1-11

“Extravagant Sign”

Jesus is making his public debut as the Son of God, performing the first of seven recorded miracles in John’s gospel — turning 120 gallons of water into wine at a wedding in Cana of Galilee.

Now it wasn’t the place or the time that Jesus had intended to display his divinity, but when your mother asks you to do something, as Mary did, you do it.

Mary’s insistence for Jesus to intervene was out of concern for their hosts, as running out of wine was a great embarrassment. It was expected for food and drink to be abundant for the many days of wedding feasting. (Weddings in Jesus’ time weren’t just a sit-down dinner or a morning brunch. They went on for days.)

John’s telling of this miracle, though, is not about saving face — or even just revealing the face of God in Jesus.

There’s a life-changing lesson for us today that is swishing around the six stone jars of water that are on the premises of the wedding banquet.

To start, John’s point of telling us there are six jars is important. Numbers have great significance in Jewish teachings. Seven, for example, represents perfection and completeness. Six, however, symbolizes imperfection. Jesus viewing those six jars as valuable for this miracle moment shows us how God sees all the things we deem unworthy as worthy.

There’s more. The water in those jars were not meant for drinking, but rather for ceremonial washing. It was customary for Jews to wash their hands and say a blessing before any meal that included bread. It would be considered disgusting to drink from those six jars.

Jesus, though, does the unthinkable. He disregards Jewish beliefs and traditions, turning the untouchable water into the best wine anyone has ever tasted. Had the guests known the water for ceremonial washing was used for the wine they were sipping; they would have been aghast. Yet those privy to this miracle were getting preview of what Jesus’ mission would be: To dismantle the systems that separate the clean from the unclean, that keep the downtrodden down and the oppressed oppress.

Would we have sipped that wine if we knew we it came from? Would we be willing to bend rules, break traditions, rid ourselves of rituals if it meant experiencing amazing water-into-wine miracles that God has for us?

There’s so much God wants to do in our lives, but first we need to let go of our assumptions of how life should be. Are you ready for a boundary-breaking, rule-busting God to turn your water into wine?

God, forgive us for those times we are so set in our ways that we close our hearts to the new thing You want to do in our lives. Open us this day to all the beautiful and exciting possibilities. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.