



DAVID AND
JONATHAN

ESTD



2025

KING



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 “O Perfect Love” - Joseph Barnby/arr. Samuel Wellman

Cathy Fafrak, Piano

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“O Perfect Love”

O PERFECT LOVE 11.10.11.10

Dorothy F. Gurney, 1858-1932

Joseph Barnby, 1838-1896

1. O per - fect Love, all hu - man thought tran - scend - ing,
2. O per - fect Life, be Thou their full as - sur - ance
3. Grant them the joy which bright - ens earth - ly sor - row,

Low - ly we kneel in prayer be - fore Thy throne,
Of ten - der char - i - ty and stead - fast faith,
Grant them the peace which calms all earth - ly strife,



***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Today we'll read of a bro-mance,
Or something more.
 We'll read of a meet-cute
Of Love at first sight.
 We'll encounter this ancient story again for the first time
and glean wisdom from it.
 Thanks be to our God,
the God of our ancestors who brought this story through time to us. Amen!

ANTHEM "Come Christians, Join to Sing" – Bateman, arr. Mark Hayes Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE 1 Samuel 18:1-4, 20:35-42 (O.T. pg. 250 & 253) 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

REFLECTION HYMN

"What Wondrous Love Is This?"

Appalachian folk hymn

WONDROUS LOVE 12.9.12.12.9

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!

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

May we give of our time, talent, and treasure.

May what we give in all aspects of our lives

be acceptable and multiplied by you, our God;

to whom we now sing 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.

***Give Thanks** (adapted from "For Friendship" by John O'Donohue, *To Bless The Space Between Us*, page 43)

Holy One, you have blessed us with good friends, help us learn to be a good friend to ourselves.

Guide us to that place in our souls where there is love, warmth, and feeling.

May this change us. May you transfigure what is negative, distant, or cold within us.

Bring us to real passion, kindness, and loyalty.

May we treasure our friends and receive all challenges, truth, and light we need from them.

And from you, our God, our Christ, our Spirit. One God forever.

In whom we move and have our being. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

"I Love to Tell the Story"

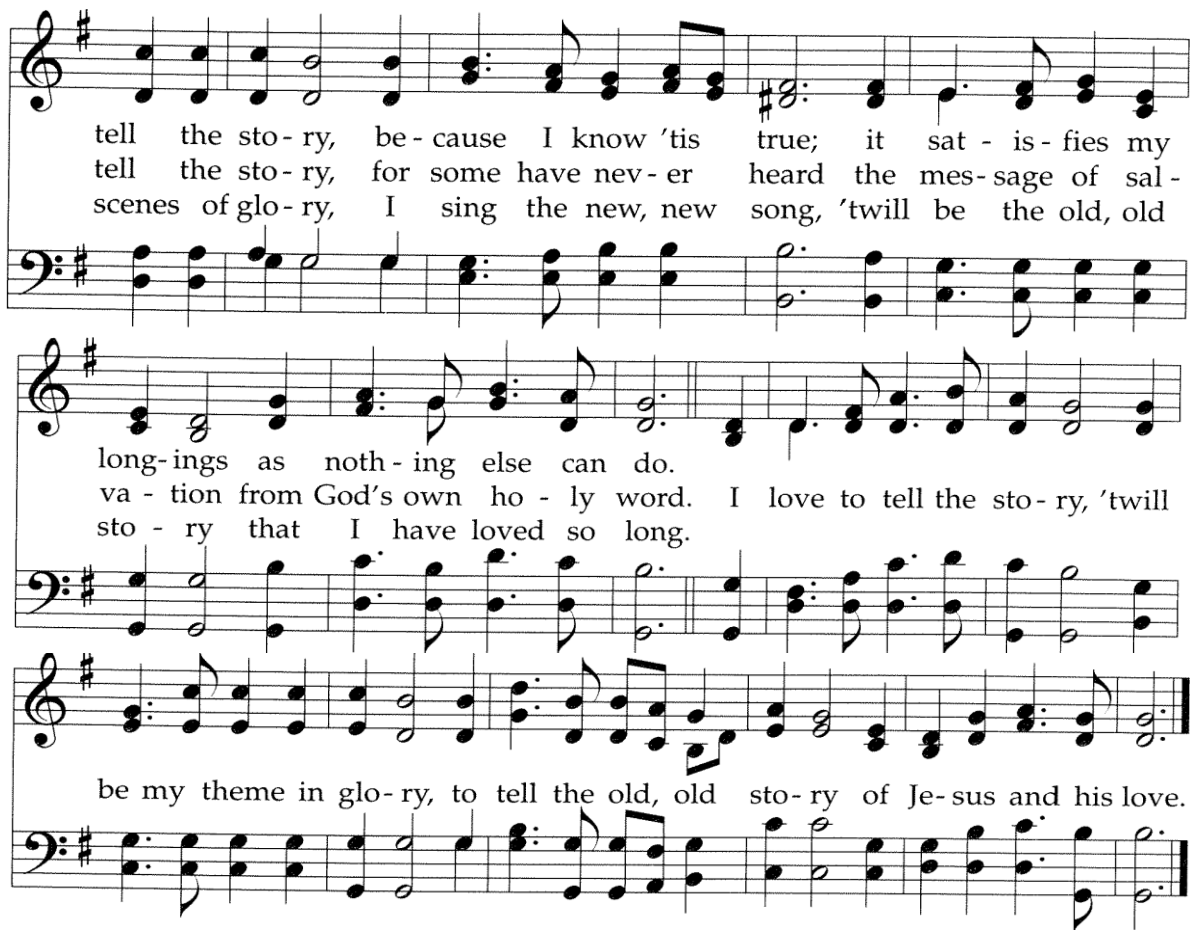
Katherine Hankey, c. 1868

HANKEY 7.6.7.6.D w/ refrain

William G. Fischer, 1869

1. I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove, of
2. I love to tell the sto - ry; 'tis pleas - ant to re - peat what
3. I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best seem

Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love. I love to
seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet. I love to
hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest. And when, in



tell the sto-ry, be-cause I know 'tis true; it sat-is-fies my
 tell the sto-ry, for some have nev-er heard the mes-sage of sal-
 scenes of glo-ry, I sing the new, new song, 'twill be the old, old
 long-ings as noth-ing else can do.
 va-tion from God's own ho-ly word. I love to tell the sto-ry, 'twill
 sto-ry that I have loved so long.
 be my theme in glo-ry, to tell the old, old sto-ry of Je-sus and his love.

*ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION

May you depart from here in gratitude,
For what we have learned and experienced.
 May you find harmony between your soul and your life,
in our friendships and in our love.
 May you treasure loyalty and longevity,
in a disposable culture.
 May you resist being reduced to what is far too small,
for the horizons of our dreams and the sanctuary of our souls.
 And may the Lord of Hosts, Incarnate Love, and the fruit of the Spirit,
be ours now, and forevermore. 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.

"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 Mission Team

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Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 16, 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

February 16, thru February 23, 2025 WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am 3rd Grade Bible Class
9:45 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Blake Donations Due
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
10:30 am Jesus Vibes
11:45 am Hospitality Team Meeting
4:30 pm Youth Group
Family Game Night

Mon **President's Day – Church Office Closed**
2:00 pm Prophet & King Bible Study
6:30 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm Prophet & King Bible Study

Tues 6:30 pm Bible Study

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

Thurs

Fri

Sat *Mission Trip to Costa Rica*

Sun

8:00 am Blake Donation List Posted
8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am 3rd Grade Bible Class
9:15 am Bell Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
10:30 am Jesus Vibes
10:30 am Teen Church
3:00 pm Confirmation Class

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH
IN OBSERVANCE OF PRESIDENTS DAY**

Worship Highlights: 8:15, 9:00 & 10:30 am

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 18:1-4, 20:35-42

Sermon: “David and Jonathan”

The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The flowers on the communion table today are given by Syd & Pete Benson in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary on February 20th.

FAMILY BOARD GAME NIGHT FEBRUARY 16TH

Bring your favorite board game from home and snacks to share **4:30-6pm!** Everyone is invited to come relax and have fun together in Fellowship Hall!

FEBRUARY DONATION

February's Donation of the Month is Period Products. During the month of February, we will collect tampons, sanitary pads, menstrual cups, and period underwear to be donated to the Medina Personal Care Pantry. Let's show our love for people who have periods this month!

SAVE DATES FOR YOUTH LOCK-INS

This year we will have separate lock-ins for different age groups!

- **Fri. March 14:** 3rd-7th grade lock-in (Sun. March 16: 8th-12th grade only youth group)
- **Fri. April 4:** 8th-12th grade lock-in (Sun. April 6: 3rd-7th grade only youth group)

FEBRUARY 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 will begin **Part 2: King David (February - March 2)**

Transitioning to King David, we reflect on his rise from shepherd to king, his complex humanity, and his legacy in Israel. This part of the series will highlight themes of vulnerability, repentance, and God's enduring grace in imperfect people.

OUR TALENT BANK IS OPEN!

Check out our gallery wall of talents in the welcome area!

Discipleship is a journey of life-long learning, and we grow best when we learn together. Our community is full of talented members eager to share their knowledge and skills with you! From careers and computers to crafts, cooking, fitness, and hobbies, there's something for everyone to explore and enjoy.

SAVE THE DATE

It's time to mark your calendars for **the Ladies and Girls Tea on Saturday, April 26th** from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. More information will follow concerning the event. Ticket sales will begin in April. Please plan to attend!

COFFEE HOUR

Please consider hosting coffee hour one Sunday. Signups for March through May 2025 are available in the East Room hallway. Never hosted before? No worries! You'll receive a letter and a call from a Hospitality Team member should you have any questions. Hosting is to be simple, so would you please consider hosting Coffee Hour one Sunday?

MEDINA ICE FESTIVAL ON THE SQUARE

Don't forget to check out the church's ice festival sculpture at the Medina Ice Festival this weekend!

COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

We have lots of openings on the Flower Chart. 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**, 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.

LENTEN SERIES

ENTERING THE PASSION OF JESUS:

Ash Wednesday service – March 5th 7 p.m.

Sunday Worship Series -

March 9: Introduction

March 16: Jerusalem

March 23: The Temple

March 30 : Teachings

April 6: The First Dinner

April 13: The Last Supper with Dr. Greg Carey preaching

April 13 at 4 p.m.: **Guest Speaker: Dr. Carey in the Sanctuary**

ECUMENICAL WEDNESDAYS

WEEKLY AT 7 P.M.

Join us for our Wednesday Lenten series, along with St. Matthew's and St. Paul's churches.

March 12 - Jerusalem: Risking Reputation
UCC, Congregational - 217 E. Liberty St.

March 19 - Temple: Risking Righteous Anger
St. Matthew Lutheran - 400 N. Broadway St.

March 26 - Teachings: Risking Challenge
St. Paul's Episcopal - 317 E. Liberty St.

April 2 - The First Dinner: Risking Rejection
UCC, Congregational - 217 E. Liberty St.

April 9 - The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends

St. Paul's Episcopal - 317 E. Liberty St.

Dear Church,

I want to thank Jenny Cochran for her 2.5 years of service for our choirs. She has introduced an energy, many new hymns, and many a joyful noise during her time with us.

I also want to update you, church, on the plan going forward. From March through May, Jerry Mason and Tracy Gabrielsen will lead the adult choir, while Jen Vilimonovic will direct the children's choir.

Looking ahead to the future of our music program after May, we have two plans:

Plan A: a targeted search for a candidate who has first right of refusal

Plan B: If said candidate declines, we will launch an open search with the Worship Team, choir members, and Cathy assisting in reviewing candidates.

I will keep you updated as further events warrant.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

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

Luke 6:17-26

“Surprising Teaching”

All Johanna ever wanted was a home in the woods with a pond where she could sit and watch the sun glisten on the water as she wrote poetry.

She got the home — and the pond. And poetry of praises for God’s blessings in her life flowed from her heart onto paper. Praises for God binding her broken heart after losing her fiancé to cancer. Thanks for God giving her courage in her own cancer diagnosis. Gratitude for God making a way for her, after many starts and stops, to finally finish seminary and be ordained in the Episcopal Church — at the age of 60.

So much in awe of God’s blessings in the storms of life, that Johanna lovingly named her pond “Beatitude Pond,” after the “beatitudes” Jesus spoke about in what is his longest and most surprising teaching that we know as the Sermon on the Mount.

It is in this sermon that we are not only introduced to the Lord’s Prayer, but we hear the teaching of the Beatitudes, which comes from the Latin word *beatus*, meaning “blessed” or “fortunate.”

But Jesus’ illustrations of what being blessed looked like was not what the crowd gathered that day on the mountainside expected to hear. Rather his disciples, curious onlookers — as well as many downtrodden and beleaguered families and individuals who knew intimately about hardships and struggles — were stunned to hear that those who were hungry, hated, poor and weeping, were among the blessed ones.