



TRUTH TO POWER

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 “How Can I Keep from Singing?” – Quaker hymn/arr. Barbara Boertje Cathy Fafrak, Piano

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

GUEST SPEAKER Skip Sipos from Metro Housing Authority and Next Step-Up Emergency Shelter

*OPENING HYMN

“Woke Up This Morning”

WITH MY MIND 12.12.12. w/ Hallelujahs

Congregational Praise Song

Arr. Evelyn Simpson-Curenton, b. 1953 © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc.

1. Woke up this morn - in' with my mind,
2. Walk - in' and talk - in' with my mind, stayed on
3. No con - dem - na - tion with my mind,
mind, my mind was
Je - sus. Woke up this morn - in' with my mind,
Walk - in' and talk - in' with my mind, stayed on
No con - dem - na - tion with my mind,
mind, my mind was

Je - sus. Woke up this morn-in' with my mind,
Walk-in' and talk - in' with my mind, stayed on
No con-dem - na - tion with my mind, mind, my mind was

Je - sus. Hal - le - lu, hal - le - lu, hal - le - lu - jah.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, all who search for a place where truth is spoken, where justice is named, where courage is honored.

We gather before the God of truth, the One who sees all, the One who calls us to speak and act.
Though the world may discard truth, though power may resist accountability, still, God sends prophets to proclaim what is right.

We will not turn away. We will listen, we will speak, we will belong in God's kingdom of justice and grace.

Come, let us worship the One who calls us to truth, to justice, to love.

Let us worship God!

SPECIAL MUSIC "Processional" – Arnold B. Sherman

Alleluia Ringers

SCRIPTURE 2 Samuel 11: 1-5, 12:1-10 (O.T. pg. 271)

Deb Waldron, Liturgist

FAREWELL TO JENNY COCHRAN

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

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

Nathan risked power's wrath to remind the king of his calling:

to lead with justice, not selfish desire.

Today, we are called to do the same

to use what we have to build a world where truth is not silenced,

where all have enough,

where love prevails.

As we give, we declare:

greed will not rule us.

Fear will not silence us.

Lust does not belong in our hearts.

We belong to a kingdom of generosity and truth.

Let us give as those who know where we belong.

**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*

God of justice and mercy,

We thank You for the gifts we have received and the gifts we now offer.

May they be used to lift up the lowly,

To challenge the powerful,

To heal the broken,

And to proclaim your truth in all places.

Just as you sent Nathan to speak hard words to David,

Send us to be voices of justice,

To see the unseen,

To call out what is wrong,

And to stand with you on the side of truth.

Just as David heard these words and repented,

Help us see that we belong to You, O God.

Convict us, shape us, send us. Amen.



1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the reign of God!
2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the Cit-y of God!
3 You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: bring forth the reign of God!
4 We are a blessed and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the reign of God!



Share the fla-avor of life, O peo-ple: life in the Cit-y of God!
Shine so ho-ly and bright, O peo-ple: shine for the Cit-y of God!
Seeds of mer-cy and seeds of jus-tice, grow in the Cit-y of God!
Love our jour-ney and love our home-land: love is the Cit-y of God!



Bring forth the reign of mer-cy, bring forth the reign of peace;



Bring forth the reign of jus-tice, bring forth the Cit-y of God!

*ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION (Incorporating Psalm 51:17 and David's repentance)

Go forth, knowing that you belong—

Not to the powers of this world, but to the God of truth.

Go, with courage like Nathan,

With justice in your heart,

With words that challenge and love.

And when you fall short, when you fail, remember David's prayer:

"The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;

A humble and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise."

May God bless you with wisdom to see what is right,

The Spirit to speak boldly and to listen compassionately,

And Christ's love to guide your every step.

Go in peace, and do not be afraid— for you belong to God.

Amen!

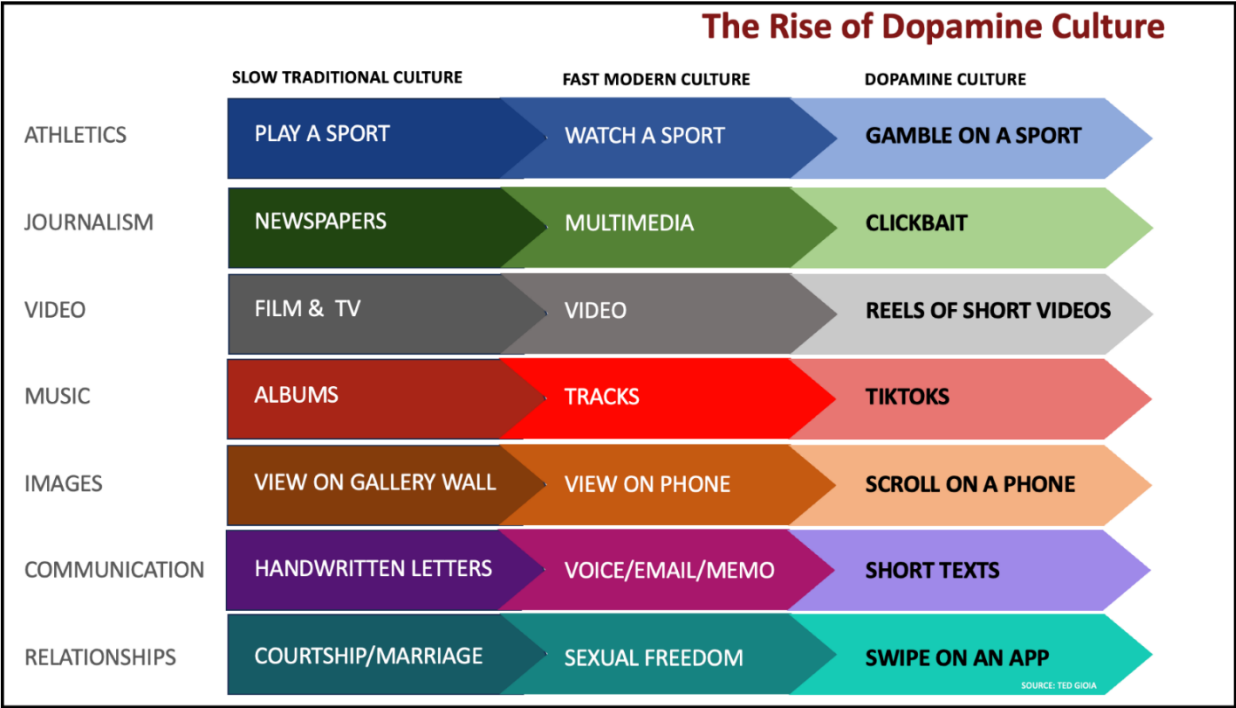
***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** **“God Be with You”**
God be with you ‘til we meet again; By His counsels guide uphold you;
With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you ‘til we meet again.

***POSTLUDE** **“Sing Praise to God” – arr. Paul Laubengayer** 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 Community Engagement Team

Music in this bulletin reprinted/podcast/streamed with permission under:
ONE LICENSE, License #A-605137. All rights reserved and CCLI, License #1637380 & #213338



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

OFFICE STAFF

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - office@uccmedina.org

Pete Metzloff, Church Treasurer - pete@uccmedina.org

PROGRAM STAFF

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education – stacie@uccmedina.org

Jennifer Cochran, Director of Music - jenny@uccmedina.org

Cathy Fafrak, Organist & Office Assistant – cathy@uccmedina.org

Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – jen@uccmedina.org

Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 23, 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 23, thru March 2, 2025

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

Mon 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

Sun

8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am 3rd Grade Bible Class
10:00 am Blake Donation List Due
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
10:30 am Jesus Vibes
3:00 pm Confirmation Class
4:30 pm Youth Group

**JOIN US TODAY AS WE SAY
FAREWELL TO
OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR
JENNY COCHRAN**

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

Scriptures: 2 Samuel 11: 1-5, 12:1-10
Sermon: “Truth to Power” - Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The flowers on the communion table today are given by Lesley Field in celebration of Donna Murray’s 81st birthday on February 24th.

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 6 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.

MISSED A SERMON? OR WORSHIP?

Did you know that we have 8 years of sermons on our website?

You can find them at uccmedina.org/sermons. You can also rewatch our services on Facebook or on our website at uccmedina.org/live and also on our YouTube channel by searching "Medina UCC, Congregational"

We also have a podcast where many of our sermons are. You can find them on Spotify by searching "Medina UCCC Sermoncast"

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?

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.

FINANCIAL UPDATE...

Through January 31, 2025, we received \$50,814 in pledges, contributions or other receipts. We spent \$50,479 on our regular church operations, so January was break-even. We always have higher utility bills in January and there were some unexpected pipe repairs to our “historic” steam heating system. We have sent out the giving statements for 2024. Many thanks to all who have been faithful in their giving to our church! If you have any questions about pledging or other church financial matters, you can contact Pete Metzloff via email at pete@uccmedina.org.

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 6:27-38

“Love Your Enemies”

In her book, *The Hiding Place*, Corrie ten Boom shares how during World War II, at the age of 50, she joined the Dutch resistance, working with her older sister, Betsie, in helping to hide their Jewish neighbors from the Nazis behind a sliding panel in a bedroom of their family home in Holland.

In 1944, though, the family was caught and arrested by the Gestapo. The sisters were subsequently sent to a concentration camp. Despite the brutal conditions, Betsie and Corrie clung to Jesus' command of loving one another, loving even the very people who were holding them captive.

Corrie, though, recalled how one especially trying day her sister spoke words of faith and encouragement to her, reminding her that, “if people can be taught to hate, they can be taught to love.”

“We must find a way, you and I, no matter how long it takes,” said Betsie to the younger Corrie.

Corrie did find a way. After the war was over, she committed the remainder of her days modeling what is perhaps one of the hardest things Jesus asks of us here in Luke's gospel: *Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.*

Corrie ten Boom modeled radical love by forgiving the guards in the concentration camp. She continued to write and give lectures about the healing power of God's love extended to those who hurt us, and how that love was the only thing capable of healing a broken world.

Decades have passed since ten Boom wrote *The Hiding Place* and hate still seems to be winning over love. We read the news headlines and hear the broadcasts of retaliation and retribution rather than redemption and forgiveness. The few times the media does share such a story of love winning over hate, we find it hard to imagine — let alone imagine us being the ones displaying such love. It seems impossible. Unfathomable.

But we must find a way to love our enemies, bless those who curse us and pray for those who mistreat us. No matter how long it takes, the world, which has mastered how to hate, needs to be taught love. It's a lesson that begins at home, with each one of us choosing love to be our guide this day and always.

Merciful God, You who are our hiding place in times of trouble, we boldly ask for the strength to do the impossible this day — love our enemies and forgive those who have hurt us. All things are possible with You, O God. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.