

ENTERING  
THE  
PASSION  
OF JESUS  
LENT 2025

The Temple

This Sunday, we will examine the Temple. This series is based on *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week* by author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine. We also meet with St. Paul's Episcopal and St. Matthew Lutheran to watch and discuss the video series by Dr. Levine each Wednesday in Lent at 6 p.m.

*\*Those who are able please stand*

## RINGING OF THE BELL

RELUDE "Herzlich tut mich Verlangen" – setting by Michael Burkhardt

Cathy Fafrak, Organ

## WELCOME

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

### \*OPENING HYMN

### "Children of God"

WELWYN 11.10.11.10.

*John Greenleaf Whittier, 1848; alt.*

*Alfred Scott-Gatty, 1900*



1 Chil - dren of God, lift hearts to one an - oth - er;  
2 For God whom Je - sus loved has tru - ly spo - ken:  
3 Fol - low with rev - erent steps the great ex - am - ple  
4 Then shall all shack - les fall; the storm-y clan - gor



where pit - y dwells, the peace of God is there;  
the ho - lier wor - ship which Christ deigns to bless  
of Christ whose ho - ly work was do - ing good;  
of wild war mu - sic o'er the earth shall cease;



To wor - ship right - ly is to love each oth - er,  
Re - stores the lost, and binds the spir - it bro - ken,  
So shall the wide earth seem a ho - ly tem - ple,  
Love shall tread out the bale - ful fire of an - ger,



each smile a hymn, each kind - ly deed a prayer.  
and feeds the wid - ow and the par - ent - less.  
each lov - ing life a psalm of grat - i - tude.  
and in its ash - es plant the tree of peace.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (*paraphrasing from Jeremiah 7:1-11 and Isaiah 56:6-7*)

Keep the Sabbath and do not profane it with deception.

**Don't worship in God's house one day and rob your neighbor the next.**

God will dwell with us if we amend our ways and act justly with each other.

**Then our offerings will be accepted, and there will be joy on God's holy mountain.**

From every nation, those who love and serve God will be welcomed.

**The house of God shall be a house of prayer for all peoples.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" – arr. Lloyd Larson Jerry Mason & Ann Nagy

**SCRIPTURE** Mark 11:15-19 (N.T. pg. 45) & John 2:13-21 (N.T. pg. 87) Leon Coard, 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 Temple" Rev. Meghan Malone

**HYMN** "O God, How We Have Wandered"

*Kevin Nichols, 1980; alt.*

*From the Resource Collection of Hymns and Service Music for the Liturgy,*

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HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN 7.6.7.6.D.

*Melody by Hans Leo Hassler, 1601; Harm. by J.S. Bach, 1729*



1 O God, how we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;  
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,  
3 O God of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



In fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.  
By faith we are re - turn - ing with hope and trust in you.  
Com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, our peace and hope as - sured.





But how, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we turn with fear and shame,  
In haste you come to meet us, and home re - joic - ing bring,  
Grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith-less-ness may cease.



As dis - tant but com - pell - ing, you call us each by name.  
In glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.  
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

## 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. Thank you for your prayerful  
consideration!*

UCC Medina  
@uccmedina



**venmo**

## Offering Invitation

AJ Levine tells us that, "Some people in Jeremiah's time, and at the time of Jesus, and today, take divine mercy for granted and see worship as an opportunity to show off new clothes rather than recommit to clothing the naked." Let's not take this time for granted and recommit ourselves to justice for our neighbors from every nation.

## Lenten Reflection: What just action will you commit to this Lent?

*Write your answer on the colored paper in your bulletin and come forward to offer it up to God. You can also take more time to reflect and make an offering at the end of the service.*

## \*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

**Christ who overturned tables in righteous anger, make us courageous enough to interrupt oppression and obstruct injustice against our neighbors. Let our offerings represent a commitment to amend our ways and live according to your holy covenant, seeking justice for people from every nation. Let this house of God be a house of prayer for everyone. Amen.**

## \*SENDING HYMN

Frances R. Havergal, 1874; alt.

## "Take My Life, God, Let It Be"

VIENNA 7:7:7.  
Justin H. Knecht, 1797



1 Take my life, God, let it be con - se - crat - ed faith - ful - ly.  
2 Take my spir - it, let it move at the im - pulse of your love.  
3 Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.  
4 Take my love and help it grow; let my lov - ing ov - er - flow.



Take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.  
Take my in - tel - lect and use all its pow - ers as you choose.  
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwell - ing place.  
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's com - mu - ni - ty.

## \*ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*BENEDICTION

Go from here inspired to interrupt business as usual.

**Go like Jesus, feeling righteous anger at systemic evil.**

You are all temples of the Holy Spirit, a burning flame who is never still.

**We are being moved to repent, change, reconcile, and grow.**

No longer take this house of prayer for granted.

**We will make it a house of prayer for all people.**

Go beyond your worship and live Godly lives of service and love for the vulnerable,

**For we have been blessed to be a blessing to the whole wide world. 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 "Toccata in e minor, P.462" – Johann Pachelbel

Cathy Fafrak, Organ

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\*\*\*No one signed up to host Coffee Hour this week. If you would like to host in the future, please sign up on the sheet in the East Room hallway\*\*\*  
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Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian

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## **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 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.

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## **EASTER FLOWERS**

**This year will be a little different for ordering flowers for Easter.** If you would like to order an easter flower, please plan to take it home after 10:30 worship on Easter Sunday, or plan to deliver it to someone yourself. ***We no longer have a “flower committee” to deliver flowers.*** *An assortment of lilies, tulips, daffodils and hyacinths will be used to decorate the Chapel, Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary for Easter services (type of flower claimed will be on a first come, first served basis).* Flowers are \$10 each. You can order on Realm or by filling out a paper form (can get these from the ushers) and returning it to the office.

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**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](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)**

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9 am – 3 pm MONDAY THRU THURSDAY; FRIDAY 9 am – 12 pm**

# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## MARCH 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](http://www.uccmedina.org/live)

**March 23 thru March 30, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Class  
9:15 am Choir Rehearsal  
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship  
10:30 am Jesus Vibes  
11:30 am VBS Meeting

**Mon**

**Tues**

**Wed** 10:30 am Quilters  
6:00 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal  
**6:00 pm Ecumenical Lenten Study  
at St. Paul's Episcopal**

**Thurs** 6:30 pm Bible Study

**Fri**

**Sat**

**Sun** **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

8:15 am Chapel Worship  
9:00 am Gathering Worship  
9:15 am 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Class  
9:15 am Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 am Blake Donations Due  
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship  
10:30 am Teen Church  
10:30 am Jesus Vibes  
11:30 am Children's Choir Rehearsal

### **VBS MEETING**

There will be a meeting after the 10:30 service on Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> for anyone who would like to help with VBS. During this meeting we will go over all that is needed to make VBS 2025 the best one yet.

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

Scriptures: Mark 11:15-19 and John 2:13-21

Sermon: “The Temple” – Rev. Meghan Malone

**Communion Table:** The flowers on the communion table today are given by Keith Demerest in honor of Easley Demerest's 8<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## **COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED!**

Please consider signing up to host a coffee hour. **April 13<sup>th</sup> and all of May are still open to host!!** If you have any questions, Jane Watt will be your “go to” person for help. **If no one signs up to host, we will not have coffee hour.** Signups are in the East Room Hallway.

## **LENTEN SERIES**

### **ENTERING THE PASSION OF JESUS**

### **SUNDAY WORSHIP SERIES:**

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**

## WOMEN'S RETREAT FOLLOW-UP

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A group will meet on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> after the 10:30 service to continue the dialog and fellowship from the January retreat. All are welcome!

## SAVE THE DATE!

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Vacation Bible School will be held June 9-13!  
More details will be available soon and  
registration will begin in April.

## TEEN CHURCH

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Next Sunday, teens in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and up can head to the youth room during the 10:30 service for quality time, snacks, and conversation that are just for them.

## EASTER CANDY NEEDED

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The DELTS will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt at church after the 10:30 service on Easter Sunday. We are asking for **individually wrapped** Easter candy donations to stuff the Easter Eggs. There will be a container outside in the welcome area to put your donations in. Thank you in advance! The kids appreciate it!

## HUGS IN A BOX

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Our graduated UCC, C students were so touched by our "Hugs in a Box" care packages, we are going to do one more round this academic year: "GOOD LUCK ON FINALS" boxes.

The lists were posted online on Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. Any unclaimed items will be put on paper lists (near the Blake Family sign-ups) on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**All donations due to the church on Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.**

If church members would prefer to donate to defray shipping costs, they can do so via the church Venmo:

<https://account.venmo.com/u/uccmedina> (last four digits of the church phone number is 4559).  
Type "Hugs in a Box" in the 'what's this for' box.  
Thank you! Ellen Nolan & Liz Wolff

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING IS NEXT SUNDAY

**March 30, 2025**

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One Great Hour of Sharing is a UCC Church Wider Mission that can help those in need and change the trajectory of their lives! This Lenten offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the UCC. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty the wider church ministries provides resources, educated staff, and volunteers to help shelter, calm, uplift and guide others through these devastating times. Immediate help is given along with long-term guidance. Your contributions make a difference! Please consider a generous donation on March 30. Checks should be made payable to our church with "OGHS" noted in the memo. Your donation may also be made online through Realm - see the line item for OGHS.

## EASTER BAGS

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It's time again to make Easter bags for kids with incarcerated parents. If you would like to help, please grab a white bag and plastic eggs on March 30<sup>th</sup>, fill the bags with age-appropriate items, and return by April 13<sup>th</sup> (Palm Sunday) to be blessed. Thanks for helping the Mission Team spread some love to kids whose parents are not able to celebrate Easter with them!

## MONTHLY DONATION FOR MARCH:

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**Shelf stable and individual packages of  
snacks for Claggett Middle School**

Please place your donations for the Mission Team in the marked bins across from the elevator by the Mission table. Thank you for your generosity!



# UNMASKING POWER REVELATION AND THE FORCES OF DOMINATION



## DR. GREG CAREY

**PROFESSOR OF NEW TESTAMENT AT  
LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

Sunday | 217 E Liberty Street

April 13 | Medina, OH 44256

PREACHING: 8:15, 9 AND 10:30 AM

4P.M. AFTERNOON TALK

MEDINA  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST. CONGREGATIONAL

# JUNK DRIVE 2025

## A Medina UCC Youth Trip Fundraiser

RECYCLE YOUR OLD, BROKEN, & UNUSED TECH TO SUPPORT OUR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SUMMER TRIP!

PLEASE READ THE LISTS BELOW CAREFULLY BECAUSE WE EDIT THEM YEARLY  
BASED ON WHAT WE CAN RECYCLE TO RAISE FUNDS

### We Can Recycle

Cellphones, Tablets, MP3 players and Smart Watches  
Laptops, Desktops, and All-In-One Computers  
Gaming Consoles and Video Games  
Metal Encased Stereo Receivers  
Small Metal Appliances  
VHS/DVD Players  
Cords and Cables



### We Cannot Recycle

Printers, Fax Machines, and Plastic Analog Phones  
Refrigerators or any items containing refrigerant  
Plastic or Wood Encased Radios and Speakers  
Thermostats or anything containing Mercury  
Vacuum Cleaners and Plastic Appliances  
Marine, Deep Cycle, or Car Batteries  
Humidifiers or Air Conditioners



### Recycling Guidelines

- 1) Please remove your personal data before donating, or let us know if you need help doing so.
- 2) Smart phones and tablets must be unlocked and removed from your personal accounts before donating.
- 3) Please remove disposable batteries (AA/AAA/C/D batteries) from your devices and recycle appropriately.
- 4) We will take CRT/Tube TVs and Monitors for a \$20 donation and LCD Monitors and flat screen TVs up to 55" for \$10.  
We still want to help you recycle them, but these cost money rather than make it!
- 5) If we can't take your items, you can find an e-waste recycling bin near you at <https://summitecycle.com/bin-locations/>

### Drop-Off Schedule and Locations

**At Medina United Church of Christ**  
217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio

TUES. APRIL 8, 4:30-6:30PM

SAT. APRIL 12, 8:30-11:30AM

TUES. APRIL 22, 4:30-6:30PM

SAT. APRIL 26, 8:30-11:30AM

Questions?

Call the church office at 330-725-4559  
or email [meghan@uccmedina.org](mailto:meghan@uccmedina.org)

**At The Lodi Family Center**  
301 Mill St. Lodi, OH 44254

SAT. APRIL 12, 4:30-6:30PM

TUES. APRIL 15, 4:30-6:30PM

SAT. APRIL 26, 4:30-6:30PM

We are excited to partner with  
the Lodi Family Center  
Robotics and Tech Club  
who will help us with  
disassembling computers  
for better recycling!



Isaiah 55:1-9

### Open Invitation

There's a general store in a sleepy New England village that hasn't sold a stick of penny candy or a bolt of fabric for more than 50 years. Residents are now turning the storefront into a community center, hoping to restore a sense of neighborly belonging that has vanished in recent years.

While clearing out cobwebbed corners and opening squeaky drawers, a thick leather ledger was discovered. Amid its columns, fading ink revealed not only the cans of corn and bottles of milk families consumed, but that many had not yet paid for the items. Page after page were the words "payment to come."

An elderly man who bought many a stick of penny candy as a boy smiled when he heard about the ledger, remembering how the store's owners would always give what was needed to families even if they could not pay for the items just yet. It's no wonder the store didn't survive, he mused.

Perhaps the storeowners, though, crafted their business plan from the words of the prophet Isaiah, who delivers an open invitation to us now on our Lenten journey to come, drink if we are thirsty, eat even if we have no means to pay for the bread. Come, no matter who we are or what our circumstances, and find belonging, acceptance and sustenance.

Come, and let us take in all that God is offering.

This passage from Isaiah is so full of welcome, with God imploring us to come — and listen. Listen to the words of life. Come and listen — and look. At what? Look first at the past, remembering God's care and grace. And then, look to the future and know this care and grace is still abundant.

What are we thirsting for this day? What are we hungering for? Do we remember in our wanting that God is really all we need. Are we listening to the voice of love? Are we looking for the grace that was, is and will always be? Can we accept that we this day are being given an open invitation to experience the goodness of life?

There's a general store in a sleepy New England town seeking to offer something other than the penny candy and bolts of fabric of yesteryear. It wants to restore community. And that's perhaps, my friends, the thing we are most thirsty and starved for. For there is a divine ledger in which by our name our running tab is marked "paid in full."

Let us pray.

*God of community, let us say "yes" to that open invitation to come as we are before Your glory. Let us drop our pretenses and let go of judgments. Let us remember that there is a banquet table where all are invited to find fullness once again. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*