



He's gone



HAPPY EASTER





UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559 www.uccmedina.org

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LIVE STREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT UCCMEDINA.ORG

“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 "Christus Resurrexit (Fanfare for Easter Day)" - Gordon Young Cathy Fafrak, Organist

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Early in the morning, while it was still dark, Mary came to the tomb.

She came seeking Jesus, but found the stone rolled away.

Whom are you looking for?

We are looking for Jesus, the Christ, the Risen One!

Christ is risen! Alleluia! Amen!

*OPENING HYMN

Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with Alleluias
Lyra Davidica, 1708

**Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! All creation, join to say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!**

**Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia! Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!**

**Love’s redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!**

**Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

***UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH**

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

ANTHEM "Hallelujah from Mount of Olives" – Ludwig van Beethoven

Chancel Choir & Brass

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.

EASTER CONFESSION

Before resurrection, there was confusion. Before new life, there was grief.

We confess, O God, that we do not always look for you in the right places.

Too often, we assume the worst in others and in ourselves.

Too often, we dismiss your presence in our daily lives.

Forgive us when we fail to recognize you—in the stranger, in the neighbor, in ourselves.

Open our eyes to see you, our hearts to receive you, and our hands to share you with the world.

Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

People of God, hear the Good News: Christ is risen!

There is no condemnation in Christ, only the promise of new life.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen!

PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE John 20:1-18 (N.T. pg. 108)

Deb Waldron, Liturgist

SERMON "What Can We Hold Onto?"

Rev. Meghan Malone

PRAISE RESPONSE "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright"

LASST UNS ERFREUEN 8.8.4.4.8.8. w/ refrain
Geistliche Kirchengesänge, 1623; arr. Hal H. Hopson

Latin, 5th century; tr. John Mason Neale, 1852; alt.

1. That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the
2. His ris - en flesh with re - diance; glowed; his
3. All praise to you, O ris - en Lord, now

sun shone out with fair - er light, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
wound - ed hands and feet he showed; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
both by heav'n and earth a - dored. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia! when, to their long - ing eyes re - stored, the a -
lu - ia! those scars their sol - emn wit - ness gave that
lu - ia! To God the Fa - ther e - qual praise, and

pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
Christ was ris - en from the grave. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
God the Spir - it now we raise! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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

Offertory Invitation

When Mary found Jesus alive, she ran to share the news. As we celebrate resurrection, let us respond with generosity, sharing our gifts that the Good News may spread throughout the world.

With joy and gratitude, we bring our offerings to God.

*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.**

*Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, we give thanks for the ways you surprise us with your presence. You appear in our grief and call us by name. You move in our ordinary lives and awaken us to your love. Bless these gifts, that they may be used to reveal your presence in the world. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Henry van Dyke, 1907, alt.

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You"

HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7.D.
Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; arr. Edward Hodges, 1846

(Those wishing to sing the Hallelujah Chorus are invited to the Choir Loft during the final verse of the hymn)



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry, God of love;
2 All your works with joy sur-round you, earth and heaven re - flect your rays,
3 You are giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blessed,
4 Mor-tals, join the might-y cho - rus which the morn - ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore you, open - ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round you, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
Bound - less love is reign - ing o'er us, re - con - cil - ing race and clan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the storms of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Lov - ing Spir - it, Fa - ther, Moth - er, all who love be - long to you;
 Ev - er sing - ing, move we for - ward, faith - ful in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 Chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, teach us what our praise should be.
 Teach us how to love each oth - er, by that love our joy re - new.
 Joy - ful mu - sic leads us on - ward in the tri - umph song of life.

***BENEDICTION**

As you go from this place, may you seek and find Christ in the faces around you, in the kindness of strangers, and in the stories shared with friends.

May we see Jesus in the world, and may we be Jesus to the world.

Go in peace, and may the Spirit propel you forward, the love of God sustain you, and the grace of Christ shine through you. Go! For this service has ended;

And our service now begins! Amen and Amen!

***ANTHEM**

“Hallelujah Chorus” – from “Messiah” by G.F. Handel

***POSTLUDE**

“Tocatta” from *Symphony No. 5 for Organ, Op. 42, No. 1* – Charles-Marie Widor

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”

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There will be no coffee hour today so you may spend your Easter Sunday with family and friends.

Thanks to the brass ensemble members who joined us today!

Lorna Lindsley, Joel DeSario, Nora Nolan, Bobby Nolan

Alex Swantek, Jimmy Cervenak, Sam Lindon

Griffin Oswald, Bella Lindsley, Eve Lindon

Easter Flowers



NAME OF DONOR

Anonymous
Richard & Dorie Christy
Dave Butler & Rebecca Cline
Jan Coleman
Ken & Sue Dean
Ken & Sue Dean
Edward L. Farnham
John & Judy Gorsek
John & Judy Gorsek
Diane Howard
Faye Jessie
Karen & Frank Kish
The Koehler Family
Pete & Alice Metzloff
Kathy Miser
Kathy Miser
Gary & Ali Mullins
Earle & Medith Olson
Lori Price
Lily & Evelyn Rader
Dennis & Allayne Reese
Cindy & Rex Rickly
Bonnie Shuman
Bob Smith
Deb Waldron
John & Joan Walschon
Susan West

IN MEMORY OF

Louise & Alex
Betty Einhart
Eldred & Donnabell Rennpage
Mr. Jack & Mrs. Jean Post
Kenneth C. & Jean K. Dean
Marian Lareau
Helen W. Farnham
John & Dorothy Gorsek
John, Dorothea, & Dennis Sattler
Brian Howard
Carl Jessie
Our parents & Pastor Terri Elwitz
Our loved ones who have passed
Loved ones
My mother, Meda Kovacic
Richard Miser
Gayle Stack & Mary Mullins
Loved ones
Loved ones
Cecilia Dugan
Loved ones
Our loved ones
Loved ones
Dr. & Mrs. Robert E. Smith
My parents & grandparents
Our loved ones
Melinda Wilcox (sister)

NAME OF DONOR

The Bischof Family
Dave Butler & Rebecca Cline
Sue & Ken Dean
Katherine Murray
Deb Waldron
Jeff & Diane Welday

IN HONOR OF

Our parents
Vivian Cline's 100th Birthday
George Dean
Yeager, Murray & Dye families
My family

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

APRIL 20, 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

April 20 thru April 27, 2025
WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun EASTER SUNDAY

- 7:00 am Sunrise Service @ Spring Grove Cemetery Chapel
- 8:00 am Blake Donation List Posted
- 8:15 am Chapel Worship
- 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal
- 9:00 am Gathering Worship
- 10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
- 11:30 am Easter Egg Hunt



Mon CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Tues

- Wed**
- 10:30 am Quilters
 - 6:00 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal
 - 6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

- Thurs**
- 6:30 pm Bible Study
 - 7:00 pm Congregational Council Meeting

Fri

Sat

Sun BIBLE SUNDAY

- 8:15 am Chapel Worship
- 9:00 am Gathering Worship
- 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal
- 9:30 am Bell Choir Warm-up
- 10:00 am Blake Food Donations Due
- 10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
- 10:30 am Teen Church
- 10:30 am Jesus Vibes
- 11:30 am Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 5:30 pm Confirmation Rehearsal & Dinner

BIBLE SUNDAY - April 27th

Join us next Sunday as five very special girls receive their very own Bible. They have worked very hard for this day and are very excited about receiving their Bible. Please join us in celebrating them!

Worship Highlights: 7, 8:15, 9 & 10:30 am

Scripture: John 20:1-18

Sermon: "What Can We Hold Onto?"
Rev. Meghan Malone

CONGRATULATIONS

Eight years ago, Pastor Luke joined us for Holy Week and has been here ever since! Please join us in congratulating him on his continued ministry here at UCC, Medina!

EASTER OFFERING APRIL 20th

This year's Easter Offering will support our Shepherd's Fund. This Fund assists local community members who need a helping hand. Many members of the community come to the Church in need of food, laundry money, hotel stays and help with their utilities and other bills. The office staff provides a list of local agencies that support their needs and some monetary assistance.

Thank you for your generous donations to help our neighbors.

NO JESUS VIBES EASTER SUNDAY

Children will stay upstairs with their families during the service.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday, April 20th after the 10:30 service
Children should bring their Easter Basket or a bag so they can add a few more eggs to their collection! We will have a quick Easter Egg Hunt in the grass area by the pergola.

APRIL MONTHLY DONATION

We will be collecting **laundry detergent** to distribute to Cups Café, Prospect Pantry and other local pantries. 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!

WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER?

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. The next New Member class will be on **Tuesday, May 6th at 7 pm in the new library**. New members will join the church on Sunday, May 18th at one service of worship at 10:30 a.m.. If you wish to participate, you may contact the church office at 330-725-4559.

NEW MISSION OPPORTUNITY

****Calling All Cooks!**** Help prepare a meal for up to 30 residents at the newly opened *Next Step Up* Emergency Housing Shelter. Our church will provide meals on select dates in the coming months—this is a great opportunity to serve our community and share God's compassion with our neighbors! For details, contact Maureen Walker or the church office 330-725-4559.

PROPERTY AND GROUNDS

The Property and Grounds Team is recruiting new members! We are responsible for ensuring that the church buildings and grounds are properly maintained. We meet once per month and conduct some of our business over email between meetings. The monthly time commitment is minimal, and we ask that members participate on the team for a three-year term. Basic knowledge of buildings and grounds is helpful but not required. If you have the ability to coordinate onsite with vendors during normal business hours, we're especially interested in talking with you!

If you're interested in joining our team, please reach out to Ryan Bilikam via ryanbilikam@gmail.com or 330-304-0637. We are currently recruiting 2-3 new team members.

ANNUAL REPORT TIME!

Teams, Committees and Leadership of the church are being asked to write up their Annual Reports to be presented at the May 18th Annual Meeting immediately following **ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP at 10:30 am. Also, please inform me as to any changes on your team.** I appreciate all your efforts in getting these to me on time. Due date is April 29th. Please email to: office@uccmedina.org

TEEN CHURCH

Next Sunday, teens in 8th 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.

KITCHEN UPDATE

Our kitchen has reopened! The Property & Grounds Team would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the church for being patient as we worked to complete the project. We have a brand-new dishwashing machine, a new convection oven, and a new cooktop! If anyone would like to receive training on how to use the appliances, we are happy to provide it to you.

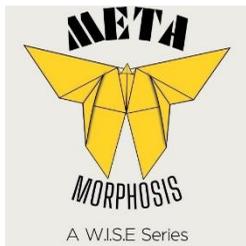
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 9-12 9 am-12 pm

Registration has begun for VBS 2025! The theme is Road Trip – On the Road with God. Road Trip VBS is more than just fun, it's a journey of faith, friendship, and unforgettable memories.



Registration is available online or you may pick up a registration form in the church office. Registration is open now and ends Friday, May 16th. **PLEASE FILL OUT ONE FORM PER CHILD...** Registration is not complete until payment is received. Scan the QR code to register. You may drop off your money to the church office or pay through REALM. Please contact Stacie Yates with any questions.



NEXT WORSHIP SERIES: “METAMORPHOSIS: A WISE SERIES”

Series Description: Medina UCCC’s WISE Covenant calls us to welcome, include, support, and engage those with neurodiverse mental health experiences. In *Metamorphosis*, we affirm that all people—regardless of ability—are created in God’s image and called to ministry. As the Body of Christ, we walk together in love, breaking stigma and embracing each person’s unique gifts. Through Scripture, we’ll explore transformation, resilience, and God’s work in every life.

ANNUAL MEETING DETAILS

On May 18th, we will have the Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund preach at our **ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP at 10:30 a.m.** after which we will have our annual team meeting. The Rev. Dr. Lund will deliver a talk at 3 p.m. entitled “Celebrating Neurodiversity and Supporting Mental Health.” The Rev. Dr. Lund is a UCC pastor and the head of our denomination’s mental health advocacy team. We voted to become a WISE congregation at our January meeting. WISE stands for Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged in the Mental Health of our community.

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

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
Tracy Gabrielsen, Jerry Mason, Jen Vilimonovic, Interim Music Staff
Cathy Fafrak, Organist & Office Assistant – cathy@uccmedina.org
Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – jenn@uccmedina.org
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian

April 20, 2025
Easter Sunday

John 20:1-18

“Resurrection Joy”

The morning sun was peeking over the hills of the cemetery where the faithful had gathered to sing the first alleluias of Easter. As the sky turned from black to gray to an orangey pink, casting a warm glow on the sleepy headstones, the pastor spoke of a stone rolled away, an empty tomb revealed, and angels in bright clothing asking the living among the dead, “Who are you looking for?”

It was then a young woman attending the sunrise service could no longer hold back her tears. With them flowing freely, she offered no apologies but rather she proclaimed the message of Easter more eloquently than any pastor ever could.

It's amazing that Easter joy begins in a graveyard! There is resurrection all around! We live because He lives!

Those around her smiled. Some even joined her in the tears she shed.

Yes, isn't it amazing, my friends, that Easter joy begins in a graveyard. Isn't it amazing that God brings new life from what has passed away? Death does not have the last word. Endings are new beginnings. Good-byes are followed by blessed hellos.

And yet, how many times do we fully embrace the Easter promise, believing beyond belief that the end is never the end with God?

The late Episcopal Bishop John Shelby Spong once said that “the Easter moment is a call to life, to love and to the courage to be all that God created us to be.” We will never get to that Easter life, though, if we linger among that which is dead. For what are we hoping to revive? What are we clinging to? Who are we looking for?

As the angels proclaimed that first Easter morning, Jesus is alive. He is waiting to meet us on our paths where we discover the Risen Christ in the care shown to us from strangers as well as the compassion we give in return. We might not always recognize Jesus, but He is indeed there. Our cynical eyes just need to see through the lenses of faith.

May this Easter we stop our woeful gaze into the tomb of dead dreams and hopes and shout to the world, as Mary did, “I have seen the Lord!” For you have. He is alive among us — within all our hearts.

God of Easter new life, we thank You and praise You for fresh beginnings. May we begin to live as Easter people, holding tightly to the promise that death is no more. With our Risen Lord by our sides, there is always hope and amazing possibilities. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.