

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE "Aria, Op. 51" – Flor Peeters

Cathy Fafrak, Organ

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE



*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to worship,

As Jesus gathered for a dinner party.

May we be so bold to bust down the door,

And anoint him with costly perfume.

May this worship be a fragrant offering,

To our God, our Christ, our Spirit!

One God,

Whom we worship with our neighbor this morning. Amen!

SPECIAL MUSIC "Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow" – Lloyd Larson

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURES

Luke 7:36-50 (N.T. pg. 62) & Mark 14:3-9 (N.T. pg. 48)

Pete Metzloff, 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 First Dinner"

The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon



SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. You do not need to be a member of the United Church of Christ to partake in the Holy Sacrament. All bread served is gluten free.

Invitation to the Table

The Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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!

Offering Invitation

So

God grant us

In our last offering like this for our season,

May we reflect and write what is on our hearts and minds,

Knowing that we are being prayed for,

Believing that God will do something with us and for us,

Let us pause and reflect on the question....

Lenten Reflection: Who challenged you to see/think differently?

Fill out the card 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 (From AJ Levine, Entering the Passion of Jesus: A beginners guide to Holy Week. Leader Guide, page 41.)

God of Extravagant Giving,

You bless us with the impulse to respond to suffering with care.

Like the woman who anointed Jesus, You give costly gifts so that we can know blessings.

Help us not to offer you gifts that cost us nothing. Help us to risk being generous, And help us to see your image in the face of everyone we meet. Amen.



- 1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
- 2 Christ's ex am ple, Christ's in spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
- 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,

mor-row ways

to

UCC Medina @uccmedina



or - der hu - man life



deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of We re-spond with faith to trace. Let us fol - low, fal-tering, rec - on - cil - ing nev - er folk on earth. Help us bear each oth - er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence. That sur-round each per - son's sor-row with a calm that con - quers strife.



May we learn the shar-ing, of side by art side and friend with friend, Men and wom-en, all God's peo - ple, young and old, rich - er. poor-er, Words of com-fort, words of vi - sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care, our com - pas - sion Make us part-ners in our liv - ing, to in - crease.



E - qual part - ners in our car-ing to ful - fill God's cho - sen end. Blend-ing hu - man skills to - geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un - fold. Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair. Mes - sen - gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

*ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION (Adapted from AJ Levine, Entering the Passion of Jesus: A beginners guide to Holy Week. Leader Guide, p.46.)

Go forth in the name of God,

Who blesses us with community!

May you give thanks,

For the names we have written and the ones who surround us even now,

Whose love,

Infuses our lives and brightens our days,

May we give thanks that we have been blessed

not to journey alone.

And may we take the risk of blessing as well.

In Jesus' name and example, may it be so. 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 "Carillon, Op. 30, No. 4" – Léon Boëllmann

Cathy Fafrak, Organ

Please join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the service

Coffee Hour is hosted this week by Alice & Pete Metzloff.

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER APRIL 6, 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

Blake Donation List Posted

April 6 thru April 13, 2025 WEEK AT A GLANCE

8:00 am

Sun

| | 8:15 am | Chapel Worship |
|------------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| | 9:00 am | Gathering Worship |
| | 9:15 am | 3 rd Grade Bible Class |
| | 9:15 am | Choir Rehearsal |
| | 10:30 am | Sanctuary Worship |
| | 10:30 am | Jesus Vibes |
| | 11:30 pm | Women's Retreat Follow-Up |
| | 11:30 am | Brass Rehearsal |
| | 11:30 am | Children's Choir Rehearsal |
| | 4:30 pm | Youth Group |
| <u>Mon</u> | Cook for | Cups |
| | 8:00 am | Men's Breakfast |
| | 5:00 pm | Kids Book Club |
| Tues | 7:00 pm | Property & Grounds Meeting |
| | 7:00 pm | Worship Team |
| Wed | 10:30 am | Quilters |
| | 6:00 pm | Gathering Band Rehearsal |

6:00 pm Final Ecumenical Lenten Study

at St. Paul's Episcopal

7:00 pm Community Engagement Team

6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Thurs 6:30 pm Bible Study

<u>Fri</u> Sat

Sun PALM SUNDAY

| PALINI SUNDAT | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|--|
| 8:15 am | Chapel Worship | |
| 9:00 am | Gathering Worship | |
| 9:15 am | Choir Rehearsal | |
| 10:00 am | Children's Choir Rehearsal | |
| 10:00 am | Blake Food Donations Due | |
| 10:30 am | Sanctuary Worship | |
| 10:30 am | Jesus Vibes | |
| 11:45 am | Mission Team Meeting | |
| 11:45 am | Safety Team Meeting | |
| 3:00 pm | Confirmation | |

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

Scriptures: Luke 7:36-50 & Mark 14:3-9

Sermon: "The First Dinner"
The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

<u>Communion Table:</u> The flowers on the communion table today are given by Patrick & Jennifer Acurio in honor of Abbi and Ethan's birthdays.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

MAUNDY THURSDAY: A Service of Prayer Stations and Sacrament will take place at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. This service will not be livestreamed.

GOOD FRIDAY: a holy time for prayer and reflection as we encounter the story anew, pausing to pray and meditate along the way of Christ's journey to the cross. This service will also be at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall and will not be livestreamed.

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

7:00 am – Sunrise Service at Spring Grove Chapel 8:15 am – UCC Chapel 9:00 am – Fellowship Hall 10:30 am – Sanctuary (Livestreamed)

11:30 am - Easter Egg Hunt

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. Hope to see you then!

WOMEN'S RETREAT FOLLOW-UP

A group will meet today, April 6th after the 10:30 service to continue the dialog and fellowship from the January retreat. All are welcome!

BIBLE SUNDAY - April 27th

Join us on Sunday, April 27th 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 to help them celebrate this very special day.

LENTEN SERIES

ENTERING THE PASSION OF JESUS SUNDAY WORSHIP SERIES:

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

FINAL ECUMENICAL WEDNESDAY

Join us for the final session of our Wednesday Lenten series, along with St. Matthew's and St. Paul's churches on **April 9th at 6 pm**. This week's topic is "The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends." Please join us at St. Paul's Episcopal, 317 E. Liberty St.

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!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Mark your calendars for the next Men's Breakfast on Monday, April 7th at Buehler's River Styx at 8:00 am. Breakfast is always the first Monday of the month, and **all men of the church are invited.** No reservations required. We hope to see you there!

EASTER BAGS DUE BACK

To those who picked up an Easter Bag last week, make sure you fill the bags with age-appropriate items, and return by next Sunday, April 13th (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!

EASTER CANDY NEEDED

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

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.

Any unclaimed items can be found on paper lists (near the Blake Family sign-ups). All donations are due to the church next Sunday, April 13th. If church members would prefer to donate to defray shipping costs, they can do so via the

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

church Venmo:

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 WORSHIP at 10:30 am. The due date for your report will be Monday, April 28th. Please email or drop off your reports to me in the church office. Please try to limit your reports to one page. Also, please inform me as to any changes on your team. I appreciate all your efforts in getting these time. Please me on email office@uccmedina.org

LAST CHANCE FOR EASTER FLOWERS!

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. The due date is tomorrow, Monday, April 7th.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2025

June 9-12 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Registration has begun for VBS 2025! The theme is Road Trip – On the Road with God. Through engaging Bible stories, interactive games, and fun challenges, we will discover that God is always with us. 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 begins Monday, April 6th and ends Friday, May 16th.

PLEASE FILL OUT ONE FORM PER CHILD... Registration is not complete until payment is received. Click Here to Register Online

Download registration form here

You may drop off your money to the church office or <u>pay here now.</u> Please contact Stacie Yates with any questions.

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 – jen@uccmedina.org
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian

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



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



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

At The Lodi Family Center

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



April 6, 2025 Fifth Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 45:16-21 Something New

If someone asked who your favorite prophet was, who would you say? Would it be "the weeping prophet" Jeremiah? Or maybe Hosea? He displayed the redeeming love of God by marrying a prostitute, repeatedly taking her back after many attempts to return to her former vocation. Perhaps it would be Micah, who spoke of a Shepherd King who would lead God's children. What about Isaiah?

Often referred to as the prophet of Advent, Isaiah makes a rare Lenten appearance with his reminder that God is one who makes all things new — starting with creation, then with the foretold birth of a Mighty Counselor — Jesus — whose death and resurrection opened a path of new beginnings for us.

Hearing Isaiah speak to us in the season of Lent is our invitation to a holy reset. And we love resets, don't we? The internet is full of promises that by following this plan or that we will have more energy, restful sleep, perhaps even a smaller waistline. We will be better than ever.

Isaiah's Lenten reset, though, doesn't involve gimmicks or empty promises. His reset is simply this: Remember once again that God is God and there is no other. That is all we need to bring focus back to our confusing and chaotic days where our Good Friday crosses forever loom on the horizon.

For just as Isaiah says in today's passage, God had no intention for Jacob's descendants to seek the Lord in vain. Rather, they would seek AND find. So it is for us today. Seeking the Lord is never an exercise in futility.

There's been a lot of news lately about the mental health epidemic plaguing all ages. For the young, social media has ironically created a sense of isolation. For the elderly, loss of loved ones and no strong family network is fueling loneliness. Even those who have social supports in place are experiencing an emptiness inside.

Perhaps you or someone you know is experiencing a soul-crushing emptiness right now? If so, take heart. Your Lenten reset is here. Seek the Lord and you will find. For God who made the earth, did not create it to be empty. There is so much glory to take in and beauty for our eyes to see, our ears to hear and our hearts to embrace.

We were not created to be a shell of ourselves. Now is the time for our Lenten reset that leads to a full and fulfilled life.

God of great grace, may we remember that You sent Your Son Jesus to us so that we could have life abundant. Fill our hearts with this knowledge as we seek to love and serve You now and forever. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.