

May 11, 2025



MEDINA  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL





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.

*\*Those who are able please stand*

## RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE "Hymn of Promise" - N. Sleeth/setting, John Carter

Cathy Fafrak, Piano

## WELCOME

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

### \*OPENING HYMN

### "Bring Many Names" vs. 1, 2, 5 & 6

WESTCHASE 9.10.11.9.

Brian Wren, 1989; © 1989

Carlton Young, 1989



1 Bring man - y names, beau - ti - ful and good, cel - e-brate, in  
2 Strong moth-er God, work-ing night and day, plan-ning all the



par - a - ble and sto-ry, ho - li - ness in glo - ry, liv - ing, lov - ing God.  
won - ders of cre - a - tion, set - ting each e - qua - tion, gen - i - us at play:



Hail and Ho - san-na! bring man - y names! great, liv - ing God!  
Hail and Ho - san-na, strong moth-er God!

5 Young, grow-ing God, ea-ger,  
on the move,  
say-ing no to false-hood and  
un-kind-ness,  
cry-ing out for jus-tice,  
giv-ing all you have:  
Hail and Ho-san-na,  
young, grow-ing God!

6 Great, liv-ing God, nev-er ful-ly known,  
joy-ful dark-ness far be-yond our see-ing,  
clos-er yet than breath-ing,  
ev-er-last-ing home:  
Hail and Ho-san-na,  
great, liv-ing God!

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, you weary and heavy-laden, burned out by good intentions and burdened by expectations.

**We come seeking rest, renewal, and resurrection.**

God sees not just your efforts, but your exhaustion. Not just your deeds, but your need.

**God meets us here—not to scold, but to restore.**

Like Peter at the bedside of Dorcas, we gather in faith.

**May we hear again the words of life: “Get up.”**

**Let us worship the One who raises the dead and revives the broken.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** “I Am Thine, O Lord” – arr. Linda R. Lamb

Alleluia Ringers

**SCRIPTURE** Acts 9: 36-43 (N.T. pg. 120)

Kimberly Gallagher, Liturgist

**SPECIAL MUSIC** “The Butterfly Song” – Brian Howard

Children’s Choir

## 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

**POET OF THE SEASON:** Bright Eyes. *If the Brakeman Turns My Way*. Track 2 on *Cassadaga*. Saddle Creek Records, 2007.

Are your brothels full, Oh Babylon, with merry middlemen?

Never peer out of their periscopes from those deep opium dens

All this death must need a counterweight, always someone born again

First a mother bathes her child, then the other way around

The scales always find a way to level out

I tried to pass for nothing

But my dreams gave me away

## COMMUNAL PRAYER

**Gracious Mystery, We confess that we are tired. Tired of doing good and trying to be good, Tired of carrying the weight of the world, Tired of trying to be everything for everyone.**

**We confess that we forget to rest. We confess that we mistake numbing with sabbath. We forget that joy is holy, that delight is divine. We have lost ourselves in the work and lost sight of the One for whom the work is done.**

**Remind us, O God, that we are not machines— we are your beloved. Call us back to life. Call us back to ourselves. Call us back to joy.**

**Raise us, as you raised Tabitha. And help us remember that even Jesus took time to rest and pray. Amen.**

## HYMN

## "In the Bulb There Is a Flower"

PROMISE 8.7.8.7.D..

Words &amp; Music by Natalie Sleeth, 1985

© 1986 Hope Publishing Company

*Unison*

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;  
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;  
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!  
 there's a dawn for ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.  
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,  
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,  
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,



un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

## 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

Give—not because you must,  
**but because it brings life.**  
 Give—not to prove your worth,  
**but to proclaim God's abundance.**  
 Let your giving be part of your resurrection.

*\*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

Holy One, We thank you for the gifts gathered today—  
not only in baskets or QR Codes,  
but in hearts, voices, and lives.  
May these offerings, small or great,  
be signs of your resurrection power.  
Use them to heal the sick, lift the weary,  
and strengthen your church.  
Let joy rise up in the giving and the receiving.  
Let your love move through us, again and again. Amen.

## \*SENDING HYMN

### "Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One!"

JUDAS MACCABEUS 5.5.6.5.6.5.6.5. w/ refrain

Edmond L. Budry, 1904; trans. The New Century Hymnal, 1993

G.F. Handel, 1751



1 Yours is the glo - ry, Res - ur - rect - ed One! End - less is the vic - tory  
2 See, it is Je - sus, Je - sus has ap - peared; do not doubt at all for  
3 Am I still fright - ened? One whom I a - dore, Je - sus, lives a - gain, gives



you o'er death have won. An - gels clothed in ra - dian - ce rolled the stone a -  
noth - ing you will fear. Let the church with glad - ness hymns of tri - umph  
peace for - ev - er - more. Je - sus is my vic - tory, life and strength and



way; con - quered is the grave in which your bod - y lay.  
sing; tell it with - out ceas - ing: Death has lost its sting.  
Head; Je - sus is my glo - ry, noth - ing shall I dread.



Yours is the glo - ry, Res - ur - rect - ed One!



End - less is the vic - tory you o'er death have won.

## \*ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*BENEDICTION**

Beloved of God, when you feel worn out and used up,  
**may we remember that even Christ took time to breathe.**  
When all you can see is what's undone,  
**may we remember that God calls us very good.**  
When the world feels heavy,  
**may we feel the strength of this community lifting with us.**  
Now go in joy.  
Go with rest as your resistance.  
Go with grace as your guide.  
Go, and get up—again and again.  
For Christ has risen,  
and so shall you.  
**Thanks be to our God, our Christ, our Spirit! 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                      "Praise the Lord" - Robert J. Hughes    Cathy Fafrak, Organ**

\*\*\*\*\*  
*\*\*\*Please join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the service\*\*\**  
***Coffee Hour is hosted this week by Tammy Rundle & Lydia Grandinetti***  
\*\*\*\*\*

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](mailto:luke@uccmedina.org)  
Rev. Meghan Malone, Associate Pastor of Youth & Mission - [meghan@uccmedina.org](mailto:meghan@uccmedina.org)  
Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor – [karen@uccmedina.org](mailto:karen@uccmedina.org)

***OFFICE STAFF***

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)  
Pete Metzloff, Church Treasurer - [pete@uccmedina.org](mailto:pete@uccmedina.org)

***PROGRAM STAFF***

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education – [stacie@uccmedina.org](mailto:stacie@uccmedina.org)  
Tracy Gabrielsen, Jerry Mason, Jen Vilimonovic, Interim Music Staff  
Cathy Fafrak, Organist & Office Assistant – [cathy@uccmedina.org](mailto:cathy@uccmedina.org)  
Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – [jen@uccmedina.org](mailto:jen@uccmedina.org)  
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian

# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## MAY 11, 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)

### May 11 thru May 18, 2025 WEEK AT A GLANCE

<b>Sun</b>	<b>HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY</b>
8:15 am	Chapel Worship
9:00 am	Gathering Worship
9:15 am	Choir Rehearsal
9:45 am	Bell Choir Warm-up
10:00 am	Children's Choir
10:00 am	Blake Food Donation Due
10:30 am	Sanctuary Worship
10:30 am	Jesus Vibes
11:45 am	Mission Team
11:45 am	Safety Team
<b>Mon</b>	6:00 pm Finance/Stewardship Meeting
	7:00 pm How We Learn to Be Brave Book Study
<b>Tues</b>	7:00 pm Property & Grounds Meeting
	7:00 pm Worship Team Meeting
<b>Wed</b>	10:30 am Quilters
	6:30 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal
	7:00 pm DELTs Meeting
<b>Thurs</b>	6:30 pm Bible Study
	7:00 pm Community Engagement Team
<b>Fri</b>	
<b>Sat</b>	
<b>Sun</b>	<b>ANNUAL MEETING &amp; SOUP LUNCH</b>
	<b>NEW MEMBERS JOIN</b>
9:15 am	Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am	Blake Food Donation List Posted
10:30 am	ONE SERVICE ONLY!
10:30 am	Jesus Vibes
4:30 pm	Youth Group

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

Scripture: Acts 9:36-43

Sermon: "The Only Prerequisite"  
The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

**Communion Table:** The flowers on the communion table today are given by Alan Parkhurst in memory of his mother, Martha Parkhurst.

## AMANDA FUND OFFERING TODAY, MAY 11<sup>TH</sup>

The Amanda Fund provides assistance to families with medical bills and other related costs that arise during extended or frequent hospitalizations of their children. We ask that you be generous in supporting this either by check (made payable to our church with "Amanda Fund" noted in the memo) or online through Realm.

## NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 18<sup>TH</sup>: ANNUAL MEETING & ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP at 10:30 a.m.

Next Sunday, we will have the Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund preach during worship after which we will have our annual team meeting. The Rev. Dr. Lund will also 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.

## STAY FOR LUNCH AFTER

Everyone is invited to lunch after the annual meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>! Soup and salad will be served by our youth in Fellowship Hall. Plan to bring cash and make a donation towards our High School summer trip to Oklahoma!

Annual Reports are ready  
for you to preview!  
Pick one up today  
OR

Go to our website and view online  
[www.uccmedina.org](http://www.uccmedina.org)

## SUMMER MUSIC

---

Here at UCC, the chancel, bell, and children's choirs break for the summer. This is where we need you! Summer is a great time to showcase one of your musical talents for the anthem. Individuals, groups, ensembles, dancers, kids, singers, instrumentalists, pets (just kidding about the pets)... you can perform your selection at the 8:15 or 10:30 service or both. So, dust off those accordions, recorders, and ukuleles and share your talent or have your child share theirs! The sign up and details are hanging on the bulletin board in the East Room Hallway. See Tracy Gabrielsen if you have any questions.

## EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

---

My name is Josh Swantek. I am an eighth-grade student at Buckeye Jr. High School and a member of Boy Scout Troop 500. During my four years in Boy Scouts, I have earned 36 merit badges. In my Troop, I have served as Librarian, Outdoor Ethics Guide, Troop Guide, Instructor, Patrol Leader, and Quartermaster. I have also attended the National Youth Leadership Training program and hope to return in 2026 as a staff member. My current rank is Life Scout, and I am working on attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. One thing that I need to do to reach this goal is to complete a service project.

The service project that I am working on is to build a table to house all the donations that come into the church for the Mission Team. It will be a permanent fixture and will replace the existing plastic table opposite the elevator in the welcoming area. The table will have space to display information about our church's missions and will have space to collect and store the items that the Mission Team collects. I thought to start this project:

- To increase the safety of the collection area by reducing the number of obstacles at the bottom of the steps in the donation area.
- To improve the overall organization of the collection space
- To improve the appearance of the donation area

Before I can begin building the storage unit, I need to raise money to purchase supplies. Based on my planning budget, I expect the cost to be \$900. Any funds that I raise beyond what is needed to complete this project will be directed to the church. If you would consider helping me with this part of my project, I would very much appreciate it. If you would like to help me raise money for this project, please send a check to the church payable to "Boy Scout Troop 500" and write "Joshua Swantek Eagle Project" in the memo line. Please either send this to the church office, or to my home at 898 Bunker Hill, Medina, OH 44256. If you would like a receipt for your donation, we will work with the church to ensure that one is provided for you. Thank you for your consideration!

Very Sincerely,  
Joshua Swantek

## NEW BOOK STUDY

---

### *How We Learn to Be Brave*

Join us on **Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the East Room** for a one-night discussion of Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde's *How We Learn to Be Brave*. We'll explore what it means to live courageously—both in moments of public challenge and personal decision. All are welcome!

## MAY MONTHLY DONATION

---

We will be collecting **personal hygiene items**. These items will be used to stock up the 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!



## FINANCE UPDATE

---

Through April 30, 2025, we received \$156,442 in pledges, contributions or other receipts plus an unusual item of ERTC (covid era tax credits) of \$142,705. We spent \$173,6214 on our regular church operations, so through April we are in the black by a large number that will increase the Operating Fund reserves for future budget years.

If you have any questions about pledging or other church financial matters, you can contact Pete Metzloff via email at [pete@uccmedina.org](mailto:pete@uccmedina.org).

## LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 9-12<sup>TH</sup> 9 am-12 pm

---

**DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, MAY 16<sup>TH</sup>!**

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. 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.



## UPPER ROOMS AVAILABLE

---

Our church receives bi-monthly editions of "The Upper Room", a daily devotional. Feel free to take one home with you to enrich your prayer life. Large print copies are available, as well. Look for them near the tower entrance and the chapel lobby.

---

**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**

# Ice-Cream Social

Friday, June 6th

Donations:



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C44AFAE28A20-56752280-icecream>

Volunteer:



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C44AFAE28A20-56752616-icecream>

Acts 9:36-43

### Life-giving Acts

In this season of Easter — where we journey 50 days to Pentecost — we continue to see how the power of Jesus, our Risen Lord, is now in the hands of his followers as they teach, preach and heal in his holy name. Today we have one such healing.

Peter is in the city of Joppa, a prosperous port on the west coast of Israel, where he learns of the death of a faithful widow named Tabitha (Dorcas in Greek). Her great acts of charity and kindness are spoken of by the number of mourners who come to her home. Many are widows themselves wearing dresses made by Tabitha, who was a skilled seamstress.

Following in the footsteps of Jesus, Peter revives the dead woman by calling out to her, extending his hand and commanding her to get up once again. And she does. There is celebration, and news of this incredible life-giving act spreads throughout the populous city, gaining a record number of Jesus believers.

Bringing someone back from the dead is the ultimate life-giving act. But as Jesus followers in 2025, we need to remember that that life-giving act is still possible through each one of us. We might not be reviving the actual dead from their slumber, but we can bring life back to those who are among the walking dead — spiritually or emotionally. An inspiring word of encouragement reaching the ears of someone who has been belittled all their life is a life-giving act. A strong hand extended to lift the one who has been kicked to the gutter is a life-giving act.

There was a recent social media post from a resident of a tiny rural community thanking an anonymous donor for paying her ailing cat's veterinary bill. Some selfless soul, hearing of the woman's financial situation, opened wide their wallet to ease the stress and burden. A life-giving act for a worried fur mom and her elderly cat.

Life-giving acts are still possible.

And perhaps the great act in our reading today is not Peter's raising Tabitha from the dead. Perhaps the acts of life that we should applaud are the many ways Tabitha served others, performing life-giving acts daily without ever drawing attention to herself — a new dress, a listening ear, an understanding heart. Tabitha shows us this day that faithfulness is better than greatness. Tabitha showed that serving others is out we serve God. Who are the Tabithas among you this day?

*God of new life, we praise you for the Tabithas who selflessly give to make this world better. We ask that you open wide our hearts and hands so that we may also perform life-giving acts to those in need who you place on our paths. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*