

**On the  
Eights**

**MEDINA**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

*\*Those who are able please stand*

## RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE "This Is My Father's World" – arr. Phillip Keveren

Cathy Fafrak, Piano

## WELCOME & PASSING OF THE PEACE

### \*OPENING HYMN

### "Creator God, Creating Still"

ST. ANNE C.M.

Jane Parker Huber, 1977; rev. 1993. © 1980 Jane Parker Huber (Admin. Westminster/John Knox Press)

William Croft, 1708

The musical score is written for voice and piano in 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. The first system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The third system concludes the piece with a final vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

1 Cre - a - tor God, cre - at - ing still, by will and word and deed,  
2 Re - deem-er God, re - deem-ing still, with o - ver-flow-ing grace,  
3 Sus - tain - er God, sus - tain - ing still, with strength for ev - ery day,  
4 Great Tri - une God, for this new day we need your pres-ence still.

Cre - ate a new hu - man - i - ty to meet the pres-ent need.  
Pour out your love on us, through us, make this a ho - ly place.  
Em - power us now to do your will. Cor - rect us when we stray.  
Cre - ate, re - deem, sus - tain us now to do your work and will.

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP *Based on Psalm 8 and Proverbs 8*

Wisdom cries out in the streets and lifts her voice in the public square!

**She calls to all creation, to all people: "Come and listen!"**

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**You have set your glory above the heavens and crowned us with wonder.**

Come, let us worship the One who shaped the foundations of the world.

**Let us praise the God who gives wisdom, dignity, and delight to all!**

### SPECIAL MUSIC "Just a Closer Walk With Thee"

Harry Buch, Voice & Guitar

Originally collected by Kenneth Morris and published in 1940 by Martin & Morris, Inc. Chicago; Public Domain

*When prompted, please join in singing the refrain:*

**Just a closer walk with Thee; Grant it, Jesus, is my plea.  
Daily walking close to Thee; Let it be, dear Lord, let it be**

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

"On the Eights"

The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

HYMN

"Dream God's Dream"

Words & music by Bryan Sirchio © 1992 Crosswind Music

Chorus

Dream God's  
 dream! Ho - ly Spir - it help us dream of a world where there is  
 jus - tice\_ and where ev - 'ry one is free to build and grow and love, and to  
 sim - ply have e-nough. The world will change, when we dream God's dream.

Verses

1. I'm dream - ing\_ of a world where the  
 2. I'm dream - ing\_ of the call God is  
 3. I'm dream - ing\_ of the way that I  
 col - or of one's skin will mean less than\_ what's with - in the per - son's  
 of - fer - ing to me, how to use my\_ en - er - gy and my best  
 want my life to go. I've got hope and\_ I've got goals I'd like to

heart. gifts; meet. A world where wa - ter's clean and where to do the work of Christ to say I'm reach - ing for the stars, but I

air is safe to breathe. And ev - 'ry\_\_ chi - ld born has e -  
God, please use my life to spread Your heal - ing love and to  
won't for - get the scars of Christ who\_ died to show that the

-nough to eat. dream.  
live Your truth. dream's for all.

## 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

When Wisdom danced beside God at the dawn of creation, she rejoiced not only in mountains and oceans, but in us—in humanity—delighting in the lives we live and the good we can do.

**God has placed the work of love and justice into our hands. As stewards of this beautiful, complicated world, let us give—not out of obligation—but from delight.**

**Let our gifts reflect our joy in God's creation, and our role in tending it.**

### \*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

**Gracious and Wondrous God, You have crowned us with glory and honor, and still, we marvel that you care for us.**

**Thank you for the gift of Wisdom, calling out to us through Scripture, through one another, and through creation.**

**Thank you for the gift of this church, where we can learn, grow, question, and serve.**

**Bless these gifts we bring today.**

**May they bring wisdom where there is confusion, justice where there is harm, and joy where there is despair. In your holy name we pray, Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN**

**"Holy, Holy, Holy"**

NICAEA 11.12.12.10

Reginald Heber, 1826; alt words © 1993 The Pilgrim Press

John B. Dykes, 1861



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God the Al - might - y!  
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Saints a - dore you tru - ly,  
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though we know but dim - ly,  
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God the Al - might - y!



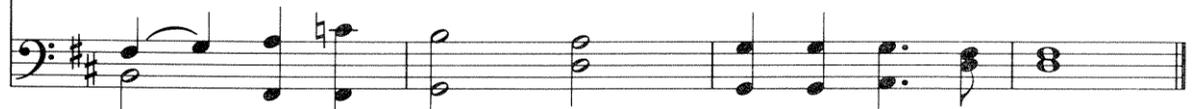
Ear - ly in the morn - ing we praise your maj - es - ty.  
 Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
 Though the eyes of hum - an - kind your glo - ry may not see,  
 All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea.



Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!  
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim bow be - fore you on - ly,  
 You a - lone are ho - ly, you a - lone are wor - thy,  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
 From the be - gin - ning, God e - ter - nal - ly.  
 Per - fect in power, in love and pur - i - ty.  
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!



**\*ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Go now with eyes lifted to the heavens,  
with hearts attuned to Wisdom’s song and with hands ready to serve the world God so lovingly made.  
May you walk in wonder,  
live in wisdom and rejoice in the One who delights in us.  
Go in peace. 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 “Festival Piece on ‘Nicaea’” – arr. Jerry Westenkuehler Cathy Fafrak, Organ**

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# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## JUNE 15, 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)

### June 15 thru June 22, 2025 WEEK AT A GLANCE

#### Sun FATHER'S DAY

8:15 am Chapel Worship  
9:00 am Gathering Worship  
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship  
10:30 am Summer Jesus Vibes  
11:45 am Hospitality Team Meeting

Mon 1:00 pm Breadmakers  
7:00 pm Women's Bible Study

#### Tues

#### Wed CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

10:30 am Quilters  
6:30 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal

#### Thurs JUNETEENTH

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**  
6:30 pm Bible Study

#### Fri CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

#### Sat

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship  
9:00 am Gathering Worship  
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship  
10:30 am Summer Jesus Vibes

### CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, June 18th thru Friday, June 20th.  
June 18th - All staff retreat  
June 19th - Juneteenth holiday  
June 20th - closed

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

Scripture: Proverbs 8:1-4,22-31 and Psalm 8

Sermon: "On the Eights"  
The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The flowers on the communion table are given by Dorothe Edinger in memory of Dave Edinger.

### JUNE MONTHLY DONATION

We will be collecting bags of sugar, creamer cups, to-go coffee cups with lids, and canned meals with pull tabs (ex: SpaghettiOs or soups). Please place your donations for the Mission Team in the marked bins across from the elevator by the Mission table.

Also, Meijer is helping to support Feeding Medina County by offering \$10 Meijer Simply Give donation cards which can be purchased at the time of checkout through the end of June.

### SUMMER MAILING SCHEDULE FOR THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

The Pilgrim Messenger will only be mailed every other week for the summer months beginning on June 8<sup>th</sup> and will run through August 24<sup>th</sup>. Regular mailings will begin on August 24<sup>th</sup>.

### SAVE THE DATE ALIVE ON THE SQUARE WORSHIP AUGUST 24<sup>TH</sup> @ 10:30 A.M.

Come one, come all, and bring a friend to "Alive on the Square" for worship **Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am!** Don't forget to bring your lawn chair!

## **ICE CREAM SOCIAL THANK YOU!**

Many thanks to all who baked and brought supplies and to those who set up, served, and cleaned up after this year's Ice Cream Social on June 6! We sold all fifteen gallons of ice cream, many bags of popcorn, and almost all of the cookies and brownies. The Community Band was most grateful to receive the baked goods that were left. The crowd was much smaller than last year, but we experienced a wonderful sense of community, both among our fellow church members and with the neighbors we served.

## **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. I am working on attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. 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 need to raise approximately \$900. Any funds that I raise beyond what is needed to complete this project will be directed to the church. If you would like to help me raise money for this project, I would very much appreciate it. You may 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. Thank you for your consideration!

## **UPCOMING DONATIONS**

Just a heads up for the July Mission Team Donation of the Month...

If you are out shopping and see any of these items, consider stocking up for July! Here is the suggested list:

Ziplock baggies (gallon & sandwich sizes)  
Disinfectant wipes  
Boxes of facial tissues  
Pencils

## **MAY FINANCE UPDATE**

Pledges and non-pledge giving of \$26,393 was \$4,536 more than the budget for the month. Another \$34,101 of net proceeds for the Employee Retention Tax Credit ("ERTC") were received.

### **Year To Date Through May:**

For the year-to-date, actual pledge and other offering income of \$153,089 exceeds the budget of \$134,483. Utility costs are higher than the budget due to the cold winter. Other elements are consistent with the budget, as modified somewhat regarding utilization of some of the ERTC money. Of course, the excess of revenue over expenses is and will remain very high for the rest of the year due to the ERTC unusual item. Looking Ahead:

If you have any questions or comments, please let me know at 330.241.1316 or [pete@uccmedina.org](mailto:pete@uccmedina.org).

## **PICNIC AT HOPE RECOVERY FARM**

Join SPARK Medina at the HOPE Recovery Farm for a tour and picnic lunch. Since our last youth program had a rain relocation and we were unable to be at the farm, we would love to have the youth get a tour and place their signs and bird feeders into the children's garden themselves.

July 8<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM – 1 PM Hope Recovery Farm, 4092 Medina Rd. Medina

Drop off/pick up at the turn around in the driveway. If you are an older youth volunteering and need a place to park, please park at the Medina County Extension on the corner of Medina Rd. and Foote Rd. (there's a sidewalk connecting the two).

### ***Don't forget:***

- A packed lunch
- Wear farm friendly clothes & shoes/boots
- Bring full water bottles
- Wear sunscreen/hats to protect your face

## ENJOY OUR PODCASTS!

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Enjoy a preview, on Facebook, of Pastors Meghan and Luke recording Season 3 of their podcast, *REV'D UP! With Meghan and Luke*.

This season: Adult Confirmation! We'll be cracking open big questions—God, faith, doubt, the Bible, Jesus, justice, and what it all means for your real life. No easy answers, just honest conversation.

 New episodes every week starting July 7, 2025 on Spotify! 

## VBS THANK YOU

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A huge thank you to everyone who helped in any way with Vacation Bible School. Thank you to those who donated *Road Trip* decorations and helped make signs. Thank you to those who helped decorate throughout the week and for those who stayed on Sunday after church to help. Thank you to those who prepared snacks. A huge thank you to all the volunteers we had to teach the children and lead them throughout the week of VBS. It truly takes a village! *Road Trip* VBS was a huge success with 60 children attending. The children enjoyed a week full of stories, games, music, science and crafts. We collected road trip snacks and money to donate to the *Next Step Up* shelter. The week culminated with the kids singing a couple of songs and making ice cream sundaes!

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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**

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

### Wisdom Calls

I had a seminary professor who would start each class reading from his dogeared copy of *Aesop's Fables*, regaling us with lessons from Greek antiquity such as slow and steady always wins the race. (Thank you wise tortoise for showing us how to outsmart the hare.)

After closing the book, he would sit seemingly lost in thought before letting out a deep sigh and remarking, "Wisdom is a precious gift many seek, yet so few find."

The quest for wisdom has been around since the dawn of time, even before the classic, ageless tales Aesop told. For Christians, wisdom come to us in the person of Jesus Christ, who models for us through word and deed the smart choices we all need to make in if love is to prevail and justice is to reign.

Before God sent Jesus into the world, though, wisdom was often personified in literature as a woman crying out to be heard as we have here in today's reading from Proverbs.

It is here that personified wisdom is found standing beside the gates at the entrance of a town, calling out to those who would dare to stop and listen. The location of the town's gate wasn't random. In ancient society it was that spot where the town's elders would conduct business and settle legal matters.

Now many of us don't live in a gated community, which leads me to wonder how then can we hear wisdom's call in our lives? What is it going to take for wisdom's life-changing lessons to reach our ears?

Perhaps for wisdom to be heard we can start first by learning how to hold our tongues from quickly spewing out the answers we think we have. Maybe that is what Socrates was getting at when he said that "wisdom is in the knowing that we don't know anything."

Admitting we don't know anything doesn't come easy to us as it is often viewed as being inferior or powerless. But in a world where a slow tortoise can win a race against a speedy hare, perhaps it is time for us to start listening more to the cries of wisdom who stands by our proverbial gates, urging us to drop the pretenses of knowing everything to finally listen to the One who does indeed have the answers: God.

*All-knowing God, we admit we don't have the answers that are needed in this world today. We turn to you now for wisdom from above, which will guide us in the right direction always. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's *Sunday Bulletin*.)