



**SHAPED BY  
PRAYER**

**MEDINA**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST. CONGREGATIONAL.

*\*Those who are able please stand*

## RINGING OF THE BELL

**PRELUDE** "Softly and Tenderly" – Will L. Thompson

Sam Lindon, piano

## WELCOME

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

## \*OPENING HYMN

### "We Worship You, God"

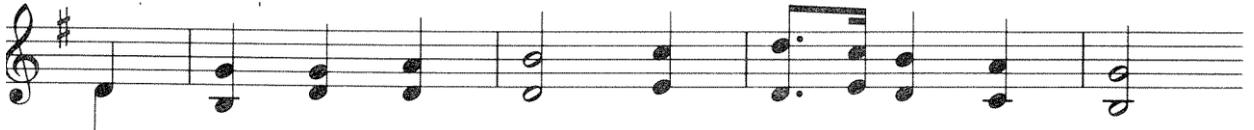
LYONS 10.10.11.11.

Robert Grant, 1833; alt. Word alterations © 1993 Pilgrim Press

Attrib. to Michael Haydn (1737-1806)



1 We wor - ship you, God; your power and your love  
2 We tell of your might, we sing of your grace,  
3 The earth, with its store of won - ders un - told,  
4 Your boun - ti - ful care, what tongue can re - cite?  
5 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,



are bla - zoned a - broad, a - round, and a - bove:  
whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space;  
Al - might - y, your power has found - ed of old,  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;  
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;



Our Shield and De - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,  
Your char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,  
Es - tab - lished it fast by a change-less de - cree,  
It streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,  
Your mer - cies how ten - der, how firm to the end,





Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me;



Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.



Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.



Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

## 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

Jesus said, "Which of you, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead?"

**Our God is not stingy with grace. God is generous with every good gift—especially the gift of the Spirit.**

In response, let us reflect God's generosity with our own.

**May what we give—our time, our money, our compassion—be used to bring daily bread and loving presence to a world in need.**

Let us rise in body or spirit and sing praise to our 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.**

*\*Give Thanks*

Gracious God, we thank you that you are not a distant judge but a loving parent— one who hears our prayers and delights in our asking. Thank you for every good gift: for daily bread, for forgiveness, for strength to forgive others, and for the Holy Spirit who dwells among us. Use these gifts we offer today, and use our lives as vessels of your mercy and justice. Make us persistent in love and bold in hope, trusting always in your goodness. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

**\*SENDING HYMN**

**"Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing"**

SICILIAN MARINERS 8.7.8.7.8.7.

Attrib. to John Fawcett, 1773; alt.

Sicilian melody, 18<sup>th</sup> cen.; The European Magazine and Review, 1792



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with  
2 We give thanks and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's  
3 So that when your love shall call us, Sav - ior, from the



joy and peace; Let us each your love pos - sess - ing,  
joy - ful sound; May the fruits of your sal - va - tion  
world a - way, Fear of death shall not ap - pall us,



tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace: Oh, re - fresh us,  
in our hearts and lives a - bound: Ev - er faith - ful,  
glad your sum - mons to o - bey: May we ev - er,



oh, re - fresh us, trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.  
ev - er faith - ful to the truth may we be found.  
may we ev - er live with you in end - less day.

**\*ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Go now as people who have asked, sought, and knocked.  
Go in the confidence that your prayers are heard,  
**Our needs are known, and the Spirit of God is with us.**  
And may the grace of Christ attend you,  
the love of God surround you,  
and the friendship of the Holy Spirit guide you—  
**Today and always. 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**

“Postlude in B flat” – Caleb Simper/ed. Michael Ryan

Cathy Fafrak, Organ

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**PASTORAL STAFF**

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Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian

## Biographical Information for the Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins Conference Minister, Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ



The Rev. Dr. Dave Long-Higgins has served since 2018 as the Conference Minister for the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ, serving the 309 UCC congregations in Ohio, Northern Kentucky and West Virginia. In that role, Dave has been called to strengthen the covenantal collaboration between congregations, associations, institutions of higher education, health and human service ministries, ecumenical and interfaith engagements, as well as partnerships local and global. Dave's passion is to see individuals and churches grow in their sense of the alive presence of God and all that this calls forth to be signs of Christ-love in the world, so that all may flourish.

It is out of this commitment toward the full flourishing of every human being and the whole creation, that Pastor Dave comes to the work of weaving personal faith commitments with public engagements. Toward that end he believes God calls followers of Jesus Christ to a movement toward the margins so that those normally overlooked or discounted can find themselves welcomed, placed at the center, and given space to thrive.

Pastor Dave has served in a wide variety of capacities throughout the United Church of Christ including service on the Wider Church Ministries Board, the Common Global Ministries Board of the United Church of Christ and Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, and on the former UCC Executive Council. He serves as a member of the Council of Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ, the Board of Directors of United Church Homes, the Board of Trustees of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, and as Chair of the Governing Board of the Ohio Council of Churches.

Pastor Dave is a graduate of Heidelberg University with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and music (violin performance). His Master of Divinity was earned at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities in New Brighton, Minnesota. He was honored with the conferral of the Doctor of Humane Letters by Heidelberg University. He is also a graduate of the Wellstreams Spiritual Direction Program of the Spirituality Network of Columbus (Ohio).

He is the author of the recently published book of prayers and photography titled, *Yes, Love, Thank You: Meditative Prayers and Pictures to Blossom Your Heart*. The sixty prayers and pictures in this collection come from the many he has offered through the weekly email of the Heartland Conference over a number of years.

Prior to beginning his role with the Conference, Dave was a parish pastor for over 30 years. Together with his wife, Beth, who is also an ordained UCC clergyperson, Dave has served two congregations, Bethany UCC, in Louisville, Kentucky, and David's United Church of Christ in Canal Winchester, Ohio. Dave and Beth have two adult children, Andrew and Hannah. When not on the ministry trail Dave enjoys spending time with his family, playing violin and guitar, bicycling, travel, writing prayer poems, watching movies, and photography.

THE HEARTLAND CONFERENCE'S  
PORTAL TO MINISTRY RESOURCES!



SCAN ME

# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## JULY 27, 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)

### July 27 thru August 3, 2025 WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

**Mon**

**Tues**

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

**Thurs** 6:30 pm Bible Study

**Fri**

**Sat**

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

### CONFIRMATION INFO MEETING

Calling all teens who are entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade and their parents! You are invited to an informational meeting about our confirmation classes for 2025! We will meet in the youth room on Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup> after the 10:30am worship service.

### THANK YOU

*“The Lord God took humans and put them in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” Genesis 2:15.* Here at Medina UCC we have a great crew of people who work and take care of our grounds. Please give a pat on the back to: Joe Behler, Mike & Wyatt Branam, Dick Christy, Bill Glasenapp, Alan Parkhurst, John Sandora, Chet Simmons, Carl Skorepa, Owen Stepsis, and Mark Woodling for taking care of our garden. This crew mows the lawn, plants grass and tends to our flowers. Thank you, crew!

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

Scripture: Colossians 2:16-19 and Luke 11:1-13

Sermon: “The Ligamental Life”

Rev. David Long-Higgins,  
Heartland Conference Minister

**Communion Table:** The flowers on the communion table are given by Diane Howard in memory of Chloe.

### JULY MONTHLY DONATION

For the month of July, we will be collecting:

Pencils	Crayons	Markers
Glue Sticks	Erasers	Folders
Paperclips	Disinfecting Wipes	
Tissues	Hand Sanitizer	

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

### PLEASE BE AWARE!!!

We no longer have permission to use the small lot to the back of the church (Birch Lot) for parking. We have been asked to use the administration lot or the parking deck in the future. Thank you.

### SPEND YOUR SUMMER WITH LUKE & MEGHAN!

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!

SOMEONE

*berry & sweet*

IS ON THE WAY!

PLEASE JOIN THE HOSPITALITY TEAM FOR A  
BABY SHOWER HONORING

*Pastor Meghan & Logan Malone*

SUNDAY | AUGUST 17 | 4:30PM

MEDINA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
217 E LIBERTY ST  
MEDINA, OH 44256

LIGHT SNACKS AND REFRESHMENTS TO BE SERVED

REGISTERED AT MYREGISTRY.COM



INSTEAD OF A CARD, PLEASE  
CONSIDER BRINGING A CHILDREN'S  
BOOK WITH A SPECIAL MESSAGE  
WRITTEN BY YOU INSIDE TO HELP  
BUILD BABY'S FIRST LIBRARY.

**Help Stock the Stash!!!**

**Bring a pack of diapers, any size will do, and you'll be  
entered to win a prize or two in our diaper raffle!**

Please contact Liz Wolff at [lizwolff@gmail.com](mailto:lizwolff@gmail.com) with any questions.

Link:

<https://www.myregistry.com/baby-registry/meghan-malone-and-logan-malone-medina-oh/4742862/giftlist>

## PASTOR'S CORNER

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### Needs and Wants: What's the Scope of the Campaign?

So what's the scope of this capital campaign? We're still figuring that out. We're looking at a spring launch. We'll keep you posted.

With Property & Grounds leading the way—alongside Church Council, Worship, and Staff—we're in the process of identifying our *needs* and *wants*. Here's a quick look at how we're thinking about the difference:

#### Needs

These are the things we *must* address to keep our building safe, functional, and welcoming:

- Heating System: Our boilers are holding up, but much of the connected system is not. Repairs or replacements will be necessary.
- Air Conditioning: You may have noticed it's been hot in the chapel and sanctuary. Of the 9 units serving those areas, only 3 are still working. These aging units (now 10 years old) need to be replaced with newer, more efficient ones.
- Brick & Mortar: The steeple and exterior brickwork of our 1880s building need attention and pointing up to preserve the structure and keep water out.

#### Wants

These are things that would enhance our worship space and improve aesthetics:

- A sanctuary refresh—new wallpaper, paint, and carpeting.
- A reimagined East Room that better serves our ministries and gatherings.

We want to hear from you! What do *you* see as a need? What feels like a want?

Let's dream faithfully together.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Luke

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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**

Luke 11:1-13

## Shaped by Prayer

St. Augustine once wrote, “Pray as if everything depends on God.” The problem for many of us, though, is that we feel as if our prayers are inadequate. We often wonder if we are even doing “it” right. No wonder Jesus’ friends, upon watching him in deep conversation with God — which is the best definition for what prayer is, a conversation from the heart — asked Jesus to teach them to do the same. And so, Jesus teaches them by giving them an outline to follow known as The Lord’s Prayer.

It is a beloved prayer connecting Christians throughout the world for no matter what language it is said and whether “debts” or “trespasses” is used. It is the go-to prayer when we don’t know what to pray. But as always happens when something like The Lord’s Prayer becomes so routine, so taken for granted, so oft recited, we forget the power of the words we are speaking. So, let’s have a quick refresher this day on a prayer that has the power to shape us, now and always.

**Our Father, who art in heaven.** Jesus teaches us that the first thing we do when praying is simply start by addressing God.

**Holy (hallowed) is your name.** Jesus then reminds us to add words of praise and adoration.

**Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.** After acknowledging God and praising God’s greatness, we are to pray for God’s kingdom of love and goodness to come down from heaven, remembering always that this kingdom is not what we envision but what God has planned.

**Give us this day our daily bread.** We then ask for blessed provision, but notice Jesus isn’t saying “my daily bread.” Rather, we pray for the community, asking for provision for all who are wanting.

**Forgive us our sins (or debts or trespasses).** Here comes the challenging part — forgiveness. We are told as we seek forgiveness, we must also forgive all those who have wronged us.

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.** Finally, Jesus reminds us this world is filled with many temptations waiting to ensnare us in turning away from the goodness of God.

Note here, that the original prayer ended with “deliver us from evil.” It is said that the early church added the ending we now have — “for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever” — as to end on a note of praise. Scholars say it first appeared in the “Didache,” a document from the late first or early second century. So, when you feel you do not know how or what to pray turn to the words of Jesus who gave us a framework that shapes our many prayers to come.

*Rather than close with a written prayer, I invite you to recite, line by line, The Lord’s Prayer, pausing after each sentence and lingering on the words.*