A scenic view from a balcony at sunset over a lake with a house in the background. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the water and the surrounding landscape. The balcony has a wooden railing and a dark wooden structure on the left. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

MEANT TO

*live*

MEDINA  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST. CONGREGATIONAL

*\*Those who are able please stand*

## RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE "O Divine Redeemer" – Charles Gounod/arr. Robert W. Thygerson Cathy Fafrak, Piano

## WELCOME

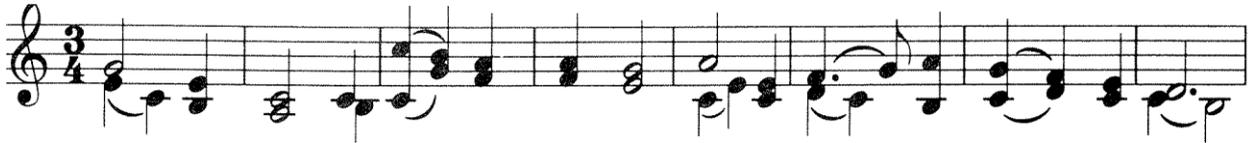
## PASSING OF THE PEACE

## \*OPENING HYMN "God Is Here! As We Your People Meet"

ABBOT'S LEIGH 8.7.8.7.D.

*Fred Pratt Green, 1978; alt.(c) 1979 Hope Publishing Company*

*Cyril V. Taylor, 1941; © 1942, renewal 1970 Hope Publishing Company*



1 God is here! As we your peo-ple meet to of - fer praise and prayer,  
2 Here are sym-bols to re - mind us of our life - long need of grace;  
3 Here our chil-dren find a wel-come in the Shep-herd's flock and fold;  
4 Sov - ereign God, of earth and heav-en, in an age of change and doubt



May we find in full - er mea-sure what it is in Christ we share.  
Here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit, here the cross has cen - tral place.  
Here as bread and wine are tak - en, Christ sus - tains us as of old.  
Keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel, help us work your pur - pose out.



Here, as in the world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts  
Here in hon - es - ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,  
Here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore  
Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com-ing of the Spir-it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
here, in new-ness and re - new-al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
what it means in dai - ly liv-ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
we, who can - not live with-out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** *Inspired by Switchfoot, Luke 12, and Hebrews 11*

We were meant to live for so much more.

**We've lost ourselves, but we feel we're going to be reminded!**

Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is Love with a Capital L's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

**We are heirs of a promise we cannot yet see. We walk toward it in faith.**

By faith, the ancestors trusted what was not yet visible.

**By faith, we seek a better country—a heavenly one.**

Let us live like we believe it.

**Let us worship the Living God!**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "Holy Ground" – arr. Lloyd Larson

Ann Nagy & Jerry Mason, vocal duet

**SCRIPTURE** Luke 12:32-34 (N.T. pg. 70)  
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 (N.T. pg. 211)

Pam Branscome, 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** "Meant to Live"

The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

**HYMN**

**"City of God"**

*Words & Music by Dan Schutte. ©1981 Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music. Published by OCP Publications.*

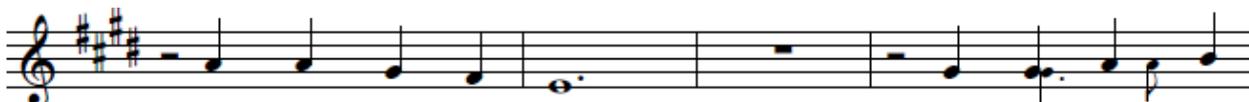
Verses 1, 2



1. A-wake from your slum-ber! A - rise from your  
2. We are sons of the morn-ing; we are daugh-ters of



sleep!  
day. A new day is dawn - ing  
The One who has loved us



for all those who weep. The peo - ple in  
has bright-ened our way. The Lord of all



dark - ness have seen a great light. The Lord of our  
kind - ness has called us to be a light for his



long - ing has con-quired the night.  
peo - ple to set their hearts free.

Refrain



Let us build the cit-y of God. May our tears be



turned in - to danc - ing! For the Lord, our light and our



love, has turned the night in - to day!

## 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 tells us: "Sell your possessions and give alms.  
Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out."  
Not because God wants your fear—but because God delights in our freedom.  
**We are not made for rusting treasures or fading glory.**  
**We are meant to live for more—**  
**To give generously, to act boldly,**  
**To store up a love that no thief can steal and no moth can destroy.**  
**Let us give not out of guilt, but out of holy longing.**

*\*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,  
You are the Author of a better story,  
The Giver of a kingdom that cannot be shaken.  
We thank you for the saints who walked by faith—  
Who sought a homeland beyond what they could see.  
We thank you for the restless stirring in our hearts—  
A holy hunger that tells us we were meant to live for more than fear,  
more than scarcity, more than ourselves.  
Bless these gifts we bring.  
May they be seeds of the world you are building—  
A world where love is the treasure, and faith lights the way.  
In Christ, who lived fully, gave freely, and leads us still. Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN**

**"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"**

*Latin, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> c. Trans. John M. Neale, 1851; alt.  
St. 3 adapt. Thomas H. Troeger, 1992*

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.  
*Henry T. Smart, 1867*



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and cor - ner - stone,  
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O God of Hosts, to - day!  
 3 Here re - new your ser - vants' vis - ion, that by faith they may at - tain



chos - en of our God and pre - cious, bind - ing all the Church in one;  
 With your con - stant, lov - ing kind - ness hear your peo - ple as they pray.  
 peace and hope, re - newed com - pas - sion, strength to com - fort those in pain,



Ho - ly Zi - on's help for - ev - er, and our con - fi - dence a - lone.  
 Give your full - est ben - e - dic - tion: grace to fol - low Christ the Way.  
 Tears and grief trans - formed to glad - ness in your ev - er - last - ing reign.

**\*ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Go now in faith,  
**Not clinging to what fades,**  
 But longing for the better country God has promised.  
**May our lives be proof of what cannot be seen.**  
 Live with courage, give with joy, walk with purpose—  
 Because you were meant to live for so much more.  
**And the God who calls us is faithful.**  
 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 "Allegro Energico, Op. 28, No. 8" – Christian Cappelen/arr. Mark L. Williams**

Cathy Fafrak, Organ

### **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)

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Pete Metzloff, Finance Director - [pete@uccmedina.org](mailto:pete@uccmedina.org)

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Tracy Gabrielsen, Director of Music – [tracy@uccmedina.org](mailto:tracy@uccmedina.org)

Cathy Fafrak, Organist & Office Assistant – [cathy@uccmedina.org](mailto:cathy@uccmedina.org)

Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool and Children's Choir – [jen@uccmedina.org](mailto:jen@uccmedina.org)

Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian

# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## AUGUST 10, 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)

### August 10 thru August 17, 2025 WEEK AT A GLANCE

<b>Sun</b>	<b>COLLEGE SEND-OFF</b>
	8:15 am Chapel Worship
	9:00 am Gathering Worship
	10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
	10:30 am Summer Jesus Vibes
<b>Mon</b>	6:00 pm Stewardship/Finance Team
<b>Tues</b>	7:00 pm Property & Grounds Team
	7:00 pm Worship Team
<b>Wed</b>	10:30 am Quilters
	6:30 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal
	7:00 pm DELTS
<b>Thurs</b>	6:30 pm Bible Study
<b>Fri</b>	
<b>Sat</b>	
<b>Sun</b>	8:15 am Chapel Worship
	9:00 am Gathering Worship
	10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
	10:30 am Summer Jesus Vibes
	11:30 am Confirmand & Parent Meeting
	4:30 pm BABY SHOWER FOR PASTOR MEGHAN & LOGAN

### ATTENTION SINGERS!

Be on the lookout for an email from Tracy Gabrielsen about the choir kickoff gathering to be held on Thursday, August 21st. Interested in joining the choir? We would love to have you sing with us!

Email Tracy - [Tracy@uccmedina.org](mailto:Tracy@uccmedina.org)  
for the details

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

Scripture: Luke 12:32–34 & Hebrews 11:1–3, 8–16

Sermon: “Meant to Live”

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

**Communion Table:** The flowers on the communion table are given by Mary Gresco in memory of her parents, Nelson & Mary Chester.

### 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.

### ALIVE ON THE SQUARE

**Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup> 10:30 a.m.**

On the Square at the Gazebo

**Worship & Photo Scavenger Hunt**

**Picnic on the square to follow**

Lunch will once again be catered by Medina Creative Housing

Donations towards the cost of the meal are appreciated, and the suggested amount is \$10 per plate. We hope you will join us for this unique outdoor worship experience and fellowship!

Bring a friend and a lawn chair



## PLEASE JOIN US!

Sunday August 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 in Fellowship Hall. Snacks and refreshments to be served.

Instead of a card, please consider bringing a children's book with a special message written by you inside to help build the baby's first library.

### Help Stock the Stash!!

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



### Registry Link:

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

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Pam Branscome and Harry Buch on the birth of their new great-grandchild! Ole David Christensen was born in Norway.

## ST. PAUL'S OKTOBERFEST

September 27<sup>th</sup>

Our neighbors at St. Paul's Episcopal Church are looking for a little help! **They need volunteers to help** with their Annual Oktoberfest. Volunteer opportunities include item sales, admissions, pouring beer and selling wine, ticket sales for basket raffles, and help with security duty as well. For those willing to help, contact Tim Scheel 330- 283-4725

## SIGN-UPS POSTED

Check out the bulletin board in the East Room hallway to sign up to be a liturgist during the 10:30 Sanctuary service or to host a Coffee Hour. The new sign-up sheets are for September through November.

## 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.

## AUGUST MONTHLY DONATION

This month, the Mission Team is collecting items for the Next Step Up Emergency Housing Shelter. These are the most-requested items that they collect to prepare baskets for their Guests as they transition into new homes!

Laundry baskets	Laundry detergent
Disinfectant wipes	Multipurpose cleaner
Broom and dustpan	Garbage bags
Drying rack	Dish soap
Hand soap	Dish sponges

Please place your donations in the marked bins across from the elevator by the Mission table. Thank you!

## **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

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Through July 31, 2025, we received \$450,606 in pledges, contributions or other receipts. (This includes \$176,806 in ERTC special covid-era tax credits.) We spent \$292,762 on our regular church operations. Utility costs so far this year are 24% higher than our budget due to the cold winter. Other expenses are consistent with the budget, as modified somewhat regarding utilization of some of the ERTC money. The excess of revenue over expenses of \$157,844 is and will remain very high for the rest of the year due to the ERTC unusual item. This will add to Operating Fund reserves for future budget years.

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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**

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

### Living Into the Promise

There was a woman in my rural congregation who every year would win a handful of blue ribbons for the flower arrangements entered at the county fair. I was told that every flower used came from her garden, which everyone described as “magical.” I had to see this for myself.

One day I stopped by and there she was watering lush pink peonies. I was in awe by the beauty all around and admitted to her that nothing ever grew for me. I even confessed my lack of faith, doubting that a seed would grow each time I covered it with dirt.

She looked at me with shocked eyes, scolding me that my lack of faith was the very thing preventing me from a beautiful garden. “Remember, pastor, faith is in things hoped for and in things unseen,” she said, citing scripture from Hebrews.

As she filled her rusty watering can from the just as rusty hand pump, she shared with me her secret to gardening. “I put every seed, sapling and bulb into the ground, trusting that the beauty I cannot see will burst forth,” she said.

Could it be that faith was all I needed to turn my pitiful flowerbeds into a scene worthy of Monet to paint.

When this master gardener quoted Hebrews to me, I was reminded of all God’s children who “by faith” stepped forward to do things that seemed impossible. By faith, Noah built an ark. By faith, Abraham left his home for a new one. By faith, Sarah, his wife, bore a son even though her childbearing days were far behind her. By faith is how they lived, trusting God with a beautiful future even when that future could not be seen.

Today, that magical garden is gone, as are all the artistic flower arrangements that came from it. The hands of the one who planted each seed “by faith” is now tending to heavenly gardens. As for me, I am trying my best to have faith in the seeds I now plant.

For without faith, where would all the great gardens be? Without faith, where would all the great testimonies of ordinary people doing extraordinary things be?

And who knows. Maybe someday the roll call of faith will read, “By faith, a pastor finally grew a beautiful flower.”

*God of beauty and grace, help us live more “by faith” this day, holding on always to hope and trusting in all things unseen. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.*