



August 18th, 2024  
Medina UCC

**Find joy  
purposefully.  
It is the water of life.**

A Bold Path to Ferocious Courage  
and Rule-Breaking Kindness That  
Can Heal the World

**Fierce  
Love**

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

IT'S TIME  
TO GROW



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559 [www.uccmedina.org](http://www.uccmedina.org)

**\*\*\*Assisted Listening Devices Available – Please Ask Your Usher\*\*\***

LIVE STREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT [UCCMEDINA.ORG](http://UCCMEDINA.ORG)

- During the 10:30 service, Summer Sunday School is available for ages 3-3<sup>rd</sup> grade

## “WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS”

Please take a moment to sign the attendance pads, (located at the end of each pew) so that you know who is worshipping near you and you may greet them by name.

\*Those who are able please stand

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“On any given day, your joy might be quiet and peace-filled, tucked way down in your belly. Your joy might be extroverted and raucous, making you dance, sing, and shout. Do you with your joy, be you with your joy, feel it your own way. Every day, like brushing your teeth, focus on it, find it, be fueled by it. It’s inside you, waiting to resource you. To build your resistance and resilience... Joy powers kindness; joy begets joy.”

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

### RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” – JS Bach/ed. & arr. J. Linker Cathy Fafrak, Organist

### WELCOME

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

### \*GATHERING HYMN

### “I’ve Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy”

Words & Music by George W. Cooke

I’VE GOT THE JOY Irr



1. I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy,  
 2. I’ve got the peace that pass - eth un - der - stand - ing,  
 3. I’ve got the love of Je - sus, love of Je - sus,



Down in my heart, Down in my heart, Down in my heart;

I've got the joy,  
I've got the peace that joy,  
I've got the love of Je - sus, love of Je - sus,

Down in my heart, Down in my heart to stay.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Calling all children of the living God: the gospel is good news for all of us.

**Let us worship together, in every age and every stage.**

The good news is proclaimed in God's words, and also in crayons, silly songs, and snacks.

**Let us worship together, in a rainbow of styles and ways.**

All are welcome here, and in the arms of Jesus who said, "Let the children come!"

**Let us worship together, with our family of faith, united in hope and joy!**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "To God Be the Glory" – arr. Sandra Eithun

Bell Quartet

**SCRIPTURE** Hebrews 12:1-3 (N.T. pg. 212)

Brad Rice, Liturgist

**BACKPACK BLESSING**

God our teacher, who helps us to understand the world around us,  
we bring ourselves, all our feelings, and our school bags to you.

**God, fill these school bags with curiosity and peace!**

There are so many possibilities for what this school year might bring,  
what we might learn, who we might meet, and who we might become.

Open our minds and bless our hands in everything that we explore this year.

**God, fill these school bags with courage and wonder!**

Everywhere we go, God, be our friend who always goes with us.

Help us to be a friend to others in our classrooms, on the playground,  
and wherever else this year might take us!

**God, fill these school bags with confidence and kindness!**

Thank you, God for teachers, and for everyone who helps us learn and grow.

May we treat them all with respect and care as they bless us with what they know.

**God, fill these school bags with grace and love!**

God, keep us healthy and safe this year and settle our minds when we are overwhelmed.

Root us in your love, and in the love of our church family and friends.

Most of all God, let this year be full of happy surprises, and lots of fun!

**God, fill these school bags with faith and joy! AMEN**

## 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

"Grow By Finding Joy"

Rev. Meghan Malone

## GROWTH HYMN

### "I Come With Joy" (vs. 1, 4 & 5)

DOVE OF PEACE 8.6.8.6.6.

Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1982, 1994 © 1971

Southern harmony, 1835; arr. Austin Lovelace, 1977 © 1977 Hope Publishing Co.



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
4 And thus we meet, and bet - ter know the Pres - ence, ev - er  
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, in friend - ship we will



free, The life of Je - sus to re - call, in  
near, And join our hearts and sing with joy that  
stay, And go with joy to love the world and



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
Christ is ris - en here, that Christ is ris - en here.  
live the way we pray, and live the way we pray.

## 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. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!*

We give with joy, because so much has been given to us. With hope for the future God is growing right here and right now, we will rise in body or spirit to sing our praise.

*\*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.**

## \*Giving Thanks

Jesus, pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Teach us to find joy every day, to give us resilience and endurance to run this race. Show us how to guard ourselves from growing weary and burning out. Let every lesson of our lives help us find our way to love. Amen.

## \*SENDING HYMN

### "Like a Healing Stream"

Words & Music by Bruce Harding, 2003 © 2003. All rights reserved. Arr by John Carter, © 2009. All rights reserved.



1. Like a heal-ing stream\_ in a bar-ren
2. Like a gen-tle rain\_\_\_ on a thirs-ty
3. Like a ri-ver strong\_ with a rest-less
4. Like a migh-ty sea\_\_\_ reach-ing far hor-



des - ert,\_\_\_ Spir - it wat - er bring-ing life\_\_ to dus - ty  
gar - den,\_\_\_ Spir - it wat - er come to nour - ish ti - ny  
cur - rent,\_\_\_ Spir - it wat - er rush-ing on\_\_ to dis - tant  
- i - zons,\_\_\_ Spir - it wat - er with a love\_\_ both deep and



earth, God is trick-ling through our lives as in a dream un - fold - ing,  
seed, God is bub-bling through the soil\_ to coax a new cre - a - tion,  
shore, God is carv - ing out a chan-nel in a new di - rec - tion,  
wide, God is work-ing in our hearts to shape a new to - mor - row:



pro - mis-ing re - viv - al and re - birth\_\_\_ like a heal-ing stream.  
yearn-ing for an end\_ to want and need\_\_\_ like a gen-tle rain.\_\_\_  
call - ing for an end to hate and war\_\_\_ like a riv - er strong.  
God will al-ways chal-lenge and pro - vide!\_\_\_ Like a migh-ty



sea,\_\_\_ like a ri-ver strong,\_\_\_ like a gen-tle rain,\_\_\_ like a heal-ing stream.

**\*ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Children, families, and all who love them, go out into the beautiful world that God has made!

**Go and play! Go and learn! Go and love others!**

May you be filled with lovingkindness for yourself and everyone around you.

May the prayers of your faith community keep you safe, healthy, and full of joy.

**We will go, knowing God goes with us, and that we are ready to grow! 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      "Recessional for a Joyful Day" – Dale Wood**

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

**"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"**

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Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian

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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**

# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## AUGUST 18, 2024

**“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 18 thru August 25, 2024**

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Blessing of the Backpacks</b>
	8:15 am Chapel Worship
	9:00 am Gathering Worship
	10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
	11:30 am Hospitality Team Meeting
<b>Mon</b>	1:00 pm Breadmakers
<b>Tues</b>	7:00 pm Bible Study
<b>Wed</b>	10:30 am Quilters
	6:00 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal
	6:00 pm Discipleship & Education Team
<b>Thurs</b>	
<b>Fri</b>	
<b>Sat</b>	
<b>Sun</b>	<b>10:30 am ONE SERVICE ONLY</b>
	<b>ALIVE ON THE SQUARE WORSHIP</b>

**Pastor Luke  
will return on September 3<sup>rd</sup>**

## **RALLY DAY**

**Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**

On Rally Day, we officially celebrate the return of fall and kick off our school year programming. Jesus Vibes will kick off with a party for 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> graders during the 10:30 am service this week, and Confirmands will get together with their mentors for duck-pin bowling in the afternoon at Foundry Social at 4 pm. Pastor Luke will return from his 3-month sabbatical to lead our fall worship series, “Being 101: You Exist, Now What?” Join us this fall as we explore the art of being human together and discover the transformative power of living with purpose and love.

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

Scripture: Hebrews 12:1-3

Sermon: “Grow by Finding Joy”  
Rev. Meghan Malone

**Communion Table:** The communion table flowers are given by Arnold & Cheri Ingraham in honor of their anniversary.

## **ALIVE ON THE SQUARE IS NEXT SUNDAY!**

Our annual church service on the square will be on Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am around the gazebo on the square. Bring a friend and your own lawn chairs and come hungry! Lunch will be served by our neighbors from Medina Creative Housing. They’re bringing a variety of sandwiches and side salads to show off the food from their Grande Café, featuring ingredients grown in the Creative Living Produce greenhouse. 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!

## **BACKPACK BLESSINGS**

This Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, we will bless our backpacks, and any kind of bag that may be headed into a school building this year! Bring yours for a special Medina UCC tag and blessing.

## **JESUS VIBES & JR. VIBES**

Jesus Vibes officially begins on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> during the 10:30 service. We can’t wait for another great year!

## THANK YOU

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The donation drive of greeting cards for the Circle of Caring Greeting Card Outreach is now closed. Thank you all for your generosity, it is appreciated! – Alice Metzloff

## AUGUST MONTHLY DONATION

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The Mission Team is collecting laundry detergent for this month's donation. Please place items in the donation box next to the mission table, across from the elevator!

## LITURGIST SIGN-UP

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Check out the bulletin board in the East Room hallway to sign up to be a liturgist during the 10:30 Sanctuary service. The new sign-up sheets are up for October and November.

## COFFEE HOUR

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Please consider hosting coffee hour one Sunday. Signups for September through November 2024 are available in the East Room hallway. Never hosted before? No worries! You'll receive a letter and a call from a Hospitality Team member should you have any questions. Hosting is to be simple, so would you please consider hosting Coffee Hour one Sunday?

## SUMMER SERMON SERIES

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Sabbaticals aren't just for Pastors. How will you grow in fierce love this summer?

8/18 – Find Joy Purposefully. It Is The Water Of Life.

8/25 – **Alive on the Square** Believe Assiduously. Have Faith in Love.

## RIDE 4 RECOVERY

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**Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>**

Join the 6<sup>th</sup> annual ride! This 100-mile, scenic fall ride around Northeast Ohio benefits Hope Recovery Community. For more information, please see the flyer on the bulletin board by the kitchen.

## PODCAST - Rev'd Up!

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### New episodes every Wednesday

Join hosts Meghan and Luke as they take you on a transformative journey through the world of faith, spirituality, and social justice. Each episode, Meghan and Luke, both ordained ministers in the UCC, bring their depth of knowledge, experience, and contagious energy to deliver an enlightening show that will leave you charged. So, whether you're a Christian seeking inspiration, questioning traditional beliefs, or simply interested in exploring a more inclusive spirituality, this is your place for transformative conversations.

Podcast Link: <https://open.spotify.com/Revdup>

## TIME & TALENT TREASURES

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A large part of supporting the church includes the gifts of Time and Talent. This is an opportunity to reinforce our foundation as we anticipate the return of our fearless leader, Pastor Luke!

Contact one of our moderators for more options: Scott Ockunzzi ([scott.ockunzzi@gmail.com](mailto:scott.ockunzzi@gmail.com)), Alyson Alber ([alysonalber@gmail.com](mailto:alysonalber@gmail.com)), Ellen Nolan ([ellenknolan@gmail.com](mailto:ellenknolan@gmail.com)), or the church office ([office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)) if interested in serving on the following:

**Worship Team**—Worship & Fellowship

**Discipleship and Education Team** – Nurtures Christian education and faith development of youth and adults

## PARKING ALERT

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On September 3, 2024, Medina County will commence an extensive repaving project of the County Administration Building parking lot. This project is estimated to be completed by mid-November. During this time, parking opportunities for employees and members of the public will be greatly reduced. Accordingly, The Admin. Building parking lot will not be available for use during the construction period, specifically on weekdays and limited on weekends. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Please be kind to those in our congregation who may need to park close and leave our parking lot for them. Thank you.



1 Kings 2:10–12, 3:3–14

### “Wisdom Quest”

It's the time of year when many of us prepare members of our households - or ourselves - to return to school. If you are a life-long learner and would like to return to school, the United Church of Christ has many opportunities for you, including Pathways. Pathways, an online program in progressive theology, offers many points of entry and programs of different lengths and intensity depending on what the student would like to focus on.

“PATHWAYS offers you a program for progressive theological engagement that values the past without being limited by it, moving intentionally into the present while looking boldly towards the future. We provide a welcoming online space to bring your questions, doubts, and desire to deepen your understanding. Pathways welcome all people who yearn for a still-speaking God. Whether you are on the path to authorized ministry, want to hone your current skills, or just want to explore your faith more deeply, we have a program for you.

#### What Makes PATHWAYS Unique

Why does a Pathways education work so well for its students?

- Affordable, Accessible, and Flexible – We are able to include students from a diversity of regions, backgrounds, and economic means, with coursework that flexes around the rest of your day-to-day life.
- Learner-Centered Adult Education – Our pedagogical approach, including weekly readings and facilitated online discussion forums, allows you to focus on your own personal educational goals so that you can get out of each course whatever is most relevant to your own needs.
- Asynchronous Education – Rather than following a traditional semester and set class-times, with just a computer and internet-access, you can opt-in to weekly forums for our six-week regular courses, four-week Explorer courses, or 12-week UCC history and polity courses.”

To find out more and to register for Pathways, navigate to  
<https://www.secucc.org/ministries/pathways/>