

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

217 E. Libert

217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559 www.uccmedina.org

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

#### LIVE STREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT 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

"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

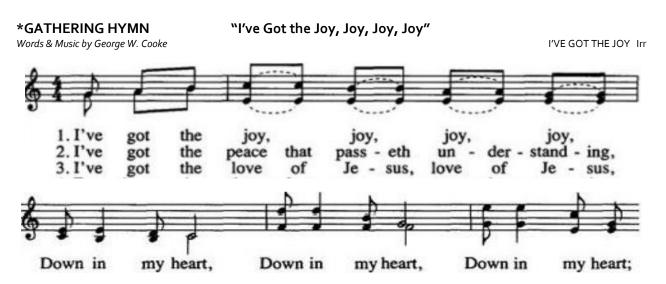
#### RINGING OF THE BELL

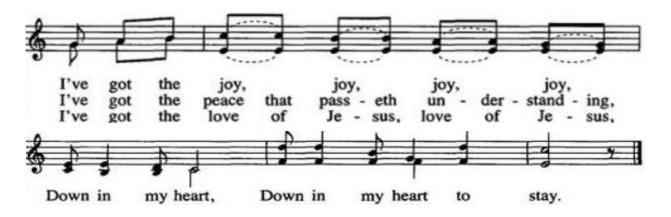
**PRELUDE** "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" – JS Bach/ed. & arr. J. Linker

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

#### **WELCOME**

#### PASSING OF THE PEACE





#### \*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. pq. 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.

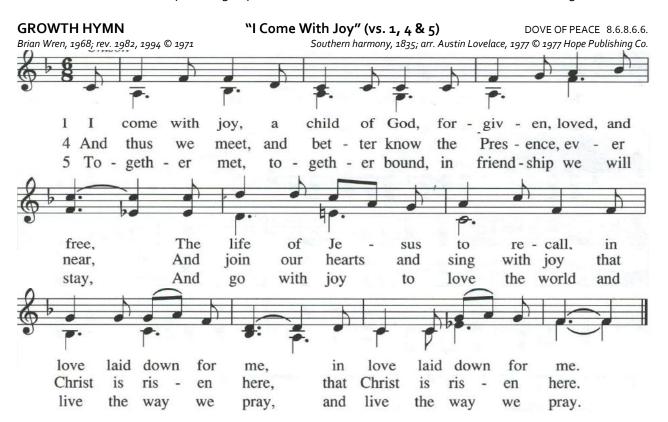
#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

SERMON

"Grow By Finding Joy"

Rev. Meghan Malone



#### 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.



#### \*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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#### PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - <a href="luke@uccmedina.org">luke@uccmedina.org</a>
Rev. Meghan Malone, Associate Pastor of Youth & Mission - <a href="mailto:meghan@uccmedina.org">meghan@uccmedina.org</a>
Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor - <a href="karen@uccmedina.org">karen@uccmedina.org</a>

#### **OFFICE STAFF**

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Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – <a href="mailto:jen@uccmedina.org">jen@uccmedina.org</a>
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian

## 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

## August 18 thru August 25, 2024 WEEK AT A GLANCE

<u>Sun</u>	Blessing of the Backpacks	
	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	10:30 am	Sanctuary Worship
	11:30 am	Hospitality Team Meeting
Mon	1:00 pm	Breadmakers

<u>Tues</u> 7:00 pm Bible Study

Wed 10:30 am Quilters

6:00 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal 6:00 pm Discipleship & Education Team

<u>Thurs</u> Fri

Sat

Sun

10:30 am ONE SERVICE ONLY ALIVE ON THE SQUARE WORSHIP

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

## **RALLY DAY**

## Sunday, September 8th

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

<u>Communion Table:</u> 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 18th, 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

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**

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

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**

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**

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**

## Saturday, September 21st

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!

## **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: <a href="https://open.spotify.com/Revdup">https://open.spotify.com/Revdup</a>

## **TIME & TALENT TREASURES**

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 (<a href="mailto:scott.ockunzzi@gmail.com">scott.ockunzzi@gmail.com</a>), Alyson Alber (<a href="mailto:alysonalber@gmail.com">alber@gmail.com</a>), Ellen Nolan (<a href="mailto:ellenknolan@gmail.com">ellenknolan@gmail.com</a>), or the church office (<a href="mailto:office@uccmedina.org">office@uccmedina.org</a>) 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**

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. 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 Your cooperation is greatly weekends. appreciated. Please be kind to those in our congregation who may need to park close and leave our parking lot for them. Thank you.

# August 18, 2024 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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/