



August 25th, 2024
Medina UCC

**Believe assiduously.
Have faith in love.**

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

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

**Those who are able please stand*

*"I want to convert you, to convince you, to proselytize you.
I want you to believe with me in our shared capacity
to make a better life and a better world, together.
I hope you'll believe assiduously in love, in the fiercest love of all."*

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

WELCOME & PASSING OF THE PEACE

*SONG

Eleanor Farjeon, 1931

© 1957 Eleanor Farjeon, used by permission of Harold Ober Associates

“Morning Has Broken”

BUNESSAN 5-5-5-4-D.

Gaelic melody; arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985;

© 1987 CRC Publications

**Morning has broken like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them springing fresh from the
Word!**

**Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall on the first grass.**

**Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where God's feet
pass.**

**Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome to the garden of God's green earth, where there is grace aplenty,
abundant joy, and peace for those who seek it.

Love is blooming everywhere!

It may be easy to overlook, like a clover in the grass, or pansies on the curb,
but everywhere you look, there is love, adding its beauty to the world.

Love connects everything!

God the nurturing ground of our being is Love.

Love is powerful, redemptive, playful, and worthy of praise.

Love multiplies when we share it with each other!

Beloveds of God, let us worship in the sanctuary of the sunshine today,
With hearts reconnecting and remembering to be at one with Love.

May the love in our praise radiate throughout our town today!

***SONG**

"You Are Welcome Here"

Words and music by Gerard DeMan, © 2007. All rights reserved, Used by permission

**You are welcome here,
no matter who you are,
No matter where you are, on life's journey.
You are welcome here, no matter who you
are,
Come and join with us, we're united in the
church of Christ.**

Come now all people, join in the song,
Come be a part of the family of God.
We are God's people and you belong,
Share in the joy of Christ. **Chorus**

We pray for justice; we pray for peace;
We hear the word of the Savior of all.
We find God's mercy; we find release,
Sharing the joy of Christ. **Chorus**

Lifting each other; doing what's right;
Standing together, whatever may come;
Praising our Savior, shining our light,
Sharing the joy of Christ. **Chorus**

OPENING PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

1 John 4:7-12

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

SERMON

"Grow by Believing in Love"

Rev. Meghan Malone

***SONG**

"We Are Called"

Words and music by David Haas © 1988 GIA Publications

WE ARE CALLED Irr. With refrain

Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God!

**We are called to act with justice, We are called to love tenderly,
We are called to serve one another, To walk humbly with God!**

Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless so all hatred and blindness will be no more! **Chorus**

Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love! **Chorus**

***CLOSING PRAYER**

***SONG**

“This Little Light of Mine”

THIS JOY Irr.
Arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1993

African-American spiritual

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

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Medina Creative Housing will serve a picnic lunch after the service. A donation of \$10 a plate is appreciated. If you don’t have cash, we’ll cover you!

You can also give through our Realm app or text-to-give by texting 73256 and following the prompts. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”

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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
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9 am – 3 pm MONDAY THRU THURSDAY; FRIDAY 9 am – 12 pm

BEING 101: YOU EXIST, NOW WHAT?

Fall Educational Series, Mondays at 2 and 7 pm

- Sept 9th: About the Weave Community
- Sept 16th: Parts Theory with Melanie Schwieterman from Bloom Counseling
- Sept 23rd: Intergenerational Ministry and Think Orange
- Sept 30th: Social Media and Children
- Oct 7th: Prepare Enrich
- Oct 14th: Theodicy with Meghan and Luke (a live Rev’d Up Podcast)
- Oct 21st: Rule of Life with Deacon Paul Kipfstuhl from Catholic Charities and St. Francis Xavier Church
- Oct 28th: The Ignatian Examen with Kimberly Gallagher

FINANCIAL UPDATE...

Through July 31, 2024, we have received \$264,444 in pledges, contributions or other receipts. We have spent \$281,402 for our regular church operations. We are doing better than our annual budget, which is a projected deficit. Giving of all types is about \$8,000 more than the budget through so far this year. August is something of a drain on our cash flow, as we pay \$12,000 for our annual insurance policies and in 2024 we will have three bi-weekly payrolls fall in the month. As always, many thanks to all who have been faithful in their giving to our church during the summer.

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 25, 2024

**“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS.
MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY!”**

Live streaming of the Sanctuary service is available at www.uccmedina.org/live

August 18 thru August 25, 2024

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	10:30 am	ONE SERVICE ONLY ALIVE ON THE SQUARE WORSHIP
Mon	6:30 pm	Women’s Bible Study
Tues	7:00 pm	Bible Study
Wed	10:30 am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Quilters Gathering Band Rehearsal Stewardship/Finance Team
Thurs		
Fri		
Sat		
Sun	8:15 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Chapel Worship Gathering Worship Sanctuary Worship

**Pastor Luke
will return on September 3rd**

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 3rd-7th 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 and educational series, “Being 101: You Exist, Now What?”

Worship Highlights: 10:30 am

Scripture: 1 John 4:7-12

Sermon: “Grow by Believing in Love”
Rev. Meghan Malone

Communion Table: The communion table flowers are given by Chuck & Nancy Masi in memory of Anne Masi Reed.

ALIVE ON THE SQUARE IS TODAY!

Our annual church service on the square is today at 10:30 am 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!

JESUS VIBES & JR. VIBES

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

MEN’S BREAKFAST

Mark your calendars for the next Men’s Breakfast on Monday, September 2nd at Buehler’s River Styx at 8:00 am. **All men of the church are invited.** No reservations required. We hope to see you there!

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!

COFFEE HOUR IS BACK

Join us for our 1st coffee hour of the season on September 8th to celebrate Rally Day and welcome back Pastor Luke! Coffee hour follows the 10:30 worship service and is in Fellowship Hall. Please consider signing up to host a future coffee hour. Hosting is simple! Sign ups are in the East Room Hallway.

FALL SERMON SERIES: BEING 101

"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.

RIDE 4 RECOVERY

Saturday, September 21st

Join the 6th 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.

OPERATION HOMES UPDATE

September Volunteer Opportunities

Recent program changes have streamlined our church's role for this crucial initiative. We are looking for folks to provide and deliver dinners to our unhoused neighbors staying at a local hotel during the week of **September 2nd through the 8th**. Please sign up for your slot at: www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0449A8A92EAAF58-50684701-operation

Any questions? Please contact Patrick Acurio via the above link or at pha312@gmail.com or 330-391-1684. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated!

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 (scott.ockunzzi@gmail.com), Alyson Alber (alysonalber@gmail.com), Ellen Nolan (ellenknolan@gmail.com), or the church office (office@uccmedina.org) if interested in serving on the following:

Mission Team –Benevolence, Missions

Property & Grounds Team – Oversee building, facilities and grounds maintenance and repairs

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, 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.

JULY MISSIONS REPORT

In July, your donations and caring support provided the means for the mission committee to assist the Children's Center and to provide school supplies for students.

Thank you for your continued generosity. Together we can and plan to continue accomplishing much!

GUEST SPEAKER

Join us on Sunday, September 29th at 4 pm in Fellowship Hall to hear author, pastor and speaker Colby Martin talk about navigating the shift from conservative to progressive Christianity

Psalm 84

"At Home with God"

We don't know how the original would have sounded, but modern translations usually divide Psalm 84 into five verses, which makes it perfect for praying during the week from Monday through Friday. For the next five days of the week, pick a phrase or two from each verse to read in the lectio divina style.

Lectio divina is an ancient method of prayer which invites the pray-er into a deeper attitude of listening and responding to God through scripture. To pray lectio divina, set aside a time of 25-30 minutes. The five steps of lectio divina are preparation (a time of silence), reading (reading a single word or phrase slowly and carefully 2-3 times), meditation (asking the reading to open its meaning to you today), praying (responding to what you have heard) and contemplation (welcoming the Word deeply into your heart and soul). With Psalm 84, you may wish to pray with these or other phrases.

Monday: How lovely is your dwelling place... OR My heart and my flesh sing for joy...

Tuesday: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest at your altars...OR Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise...

Wednesday: Happy are those whose strength is in you... OR They go from strength to strength, the God of gods will be seen in Zion...

Thursday: Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer give ear, O God of Jacob!... OR O God; look on the face of your anointed...

Friday: No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly... OR Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you...

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - luke@uccmedina.org
Rev. Meghan Malone, Associate Pastor of Youth & Mission - meghan@uccmedina.org
Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor – karen@uccmedina.org

OFFICE STAFF

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - office@uccmedina.org
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Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – jen@uccmedina.org
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian