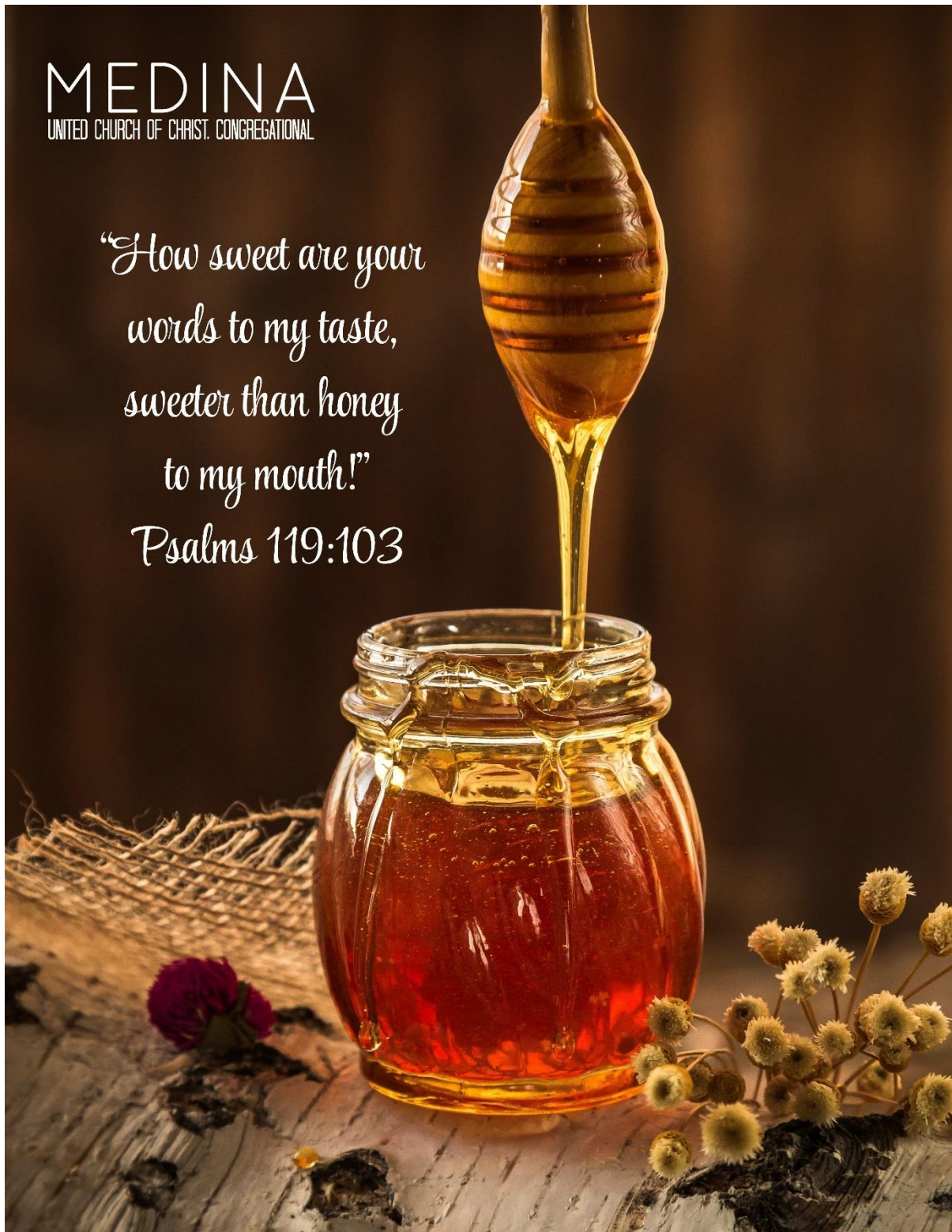


MEDINA

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST. CONGREGATIONAL

*“How sweet are your
words to my taste,
sweeter than honey
to my mouth!”*

Psalms 119:103





UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

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 3-3rd 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*

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE “Idylle” (from Suite de Trois Morceaux) Op. 116 – Benjamin Goddard

Jenny Cochran, flute, Cathy Fafrak, Piano

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN

“Jesus in the Morning”

Traditional words

Negro spiritual



- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Je - sus, | Je - sus, | Je - sus in the morn - ing |
| 2. Praise ___ Him, | Praise ___ Him, | Praise Him in the morn - ing |
| 3. Love ___ Him, | Love ___ Him, | Love Him in the morn - ing |
| 4. Serve ___ Him, | Serve ___ Him, | Serve Him in the morn - ing |
| 5. Je - sus, | Je - sus, | Je - sus in the morn - ing |



- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Je - sus in the noon - time; | Je - sus, |
| 2. Praise Him in the noon - time; | Praise _____ Him, |
| 3. Love Him in the noon - time; | Love _____ Him, |
| 4. Serve Him in the noon - time; | Serve _____ Him, |
| 5. Je - sus in the noon - time; | Je - sus, |



- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Je - sus, | Je - sus when the sun goes down! |
| 2. Praise _____ Him, | Praise Him when the sun goes down! |
| 3. Love _____ Him, | Love Him when the sun goes down! |
| 4. Serve _____ Him, | Serve Him when the sun goes down! |
| 5. Je - sus, | Je - sus when the sun goes down! |

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jesus is the bread of life, source of living water,
Fruit of the vine, sweeter than honey. (Psalms 19:10, 119:103)
 God provides manna in the desert and spiritual milk for infants. (1 Peter 2:2)
Let us glorify God as the salt of the Earth!

SPECIAL MUSIC "Table of Life" – Steve Angrisano Jenny Cochran, voice

SCRIPTURES Psalm 34:8 (O.T. pg. 481) Deb Waldron, Liturgist
 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (N. T. pg. 163)

MESSAGE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY OF GOD

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 "Handing Out Bread" Rev. Meghan Malone

COMMUNION HYMN

"Time Now to Gather"

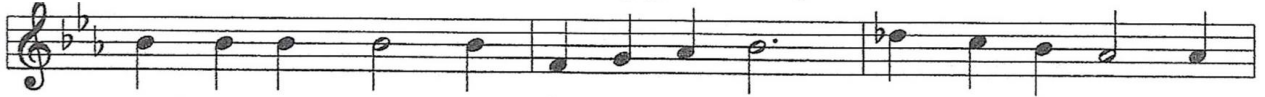
WELCOME SONG 5.4.5.4.D.

Mary Nelson Keithahn © 1998 Abingdon Press, admin. by The Copyright Co.

John D. Horman



1. Time now to gath - er, time now to feel
2. Time to re - mem - ber Christ who was sent.
3. All who are hun - gry, come, and be fed.



Christ's ho - ly pres - ence grac-ing this meal. Grain from the har - vest,
Time to say, "Thank you" for all he meant. Come to this ta - ble.
Serve one an - oth - er this cup and bread. All who are trou - bled,



fruit of the vine; sim - ple the sup - per, sa - cred the sign.
Come, with - out fear. God will for - give you, wel - come you here.
hurt - ing, or sad, come, and find heal - ing. Come, and be glad!

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. You do not need to be a member of the United Church of Christ to partake in the Holy Sacrament. All bread served is gluten free.

Invitation to the Table

The Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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!

Let us receive God's gifts with gladness, share our gifts with compassion, and celebrate God's abundance with boldness. We will rise in body or spirit and sing 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**

Generous God, bless these gifts that we share. Through our time, talent, and treasure, may you be glorified, and all your children fed. Amen.

Unison Em

1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,
 2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,
 3. We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,
 4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

Am Em

we are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,
 we will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,
 we will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

Am Em

and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
 and we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride:
 and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain C G C G Em Am

And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our love,

Em Am Bm Em

yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

***ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***BENEDICTION**

Go from this service and hand out what has been handed to you.

Pass the bread. Fill the cup. Salt the meal.

Live mindfully, savoring and seeing that the Lord is good.

God’s love is sweeter than honey. Pass the good news along!

***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 “Larghetto & Allegro (from Sonata No. 7, Op. 1, No.11) - G.F. Handel
Jenny Cochran, flute, Cathy Fafrak, Piano**

“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”

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PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - luke@uccmedina.org

Rev. Meghan Malone, Associate Pastor of Youth & Mission - meghan@uccmedina.org

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OFFICE STAFF

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - office@uccmedina.org

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Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education – stacie@uccmedina.org

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Cathy Fafrak, Organist & Office Assistant – cathy@uccmedina.org

Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – jen@uccmedina.org

Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 1, 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

September 1 thru September 8, 2024

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	10:30 am	Sanctuary Worship
Mon	LABOR DAY	
	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	
	Cook for Cups	
	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast
Tues	7:00 pm	Bible Study
Wed	10:30 am	Quilters
	6:00 pm	Gathering Band Rehearsal
	6:00 pm	Choir dinner & workshop
	7:00 pm	Community Engagement Team Meeting
Thurs		
Fri		
Sat	10:00 am	Children's Choir Workshop
Sun	RALLY DAY	
	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	9:45 am	Children's Choir rehearsal
	10:30 am	Sanctuary Worship

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

Scriptures: Psalm 34:8 & 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Sermon: "Handing out Bread"

Rev. Meghan Malone

Communion Table: The communion table flowers are given by Jen Cockrell in memory of Gordon Cockrell.

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?"

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!

**Pastor Luke returns this week on
September 3rd**

SEPTEMBER MONTHLY DONATION

The Mission Team is collecting big bags of sugar, paper towels and toilet paper for Cups Café. Please place items in the donation box next to the mission table, across from the elevator!

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!

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! If you have any questions, Liz Wolff will be your “go to” person for help in Sept., Oct. and Nov. Sign ups are in the East Room Hallway.

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:

Stewardship/Finance Team – Financial management and coordinate stewardship strategies

Endowment – Educate congregation and control expenditures

Memorial Gifts – Discern special gift spending

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

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING WITH COLBY MARTIN!

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.

FALL SERMON SERIES

“Being 101: You Exist, Now What?” is a holistic guide for those seeking spiritual growth within the realities of everyday life. It’s an invitation to embrace the journey of existence with courage, vulnerability, and a profound awareness of the divine presence that accompanies us every step of the way. We’ll explore the image of doors. There are so many opportunities open to us, seemingly limitless. But certain doors are locked to us. There are doors we don’t want to walk through, and there are doors of celebration and loss that each one of us will one day walk through. Join us this fall as we explore the art of being human together and discover the transformative power of living with purpose and love.

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, the Admin. Building parking lot will not be available for use during the construction period and parking opportunities for employees and members of the public will be greatly 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.

TREKKING THROUGH AUTUMN 2024

Get out and explore your Medina County Parks with your church friends! Hike 8 trails this fall to receive an award from the Park District (backpack for first timers, pin for veterans). Hikes leave promptly at 2:00 PM on Sundays. All hikes under 2 miles. Award tracking sheets will be available at the first few hikes and in the church office. No RSVP required, come to any you can. Rain or shine except if storming. Email Kate Lindon at katewlindon@gmail.com to be added to the email reminder list.

- 9/8: Allardale Park, Lodge Entrance, 1.5 miles, 141 Remsen Rd, Medina
- 9/15: Plum Creek Park South, 1.5 miles, 2500 Plum Creek Pkwy, Brunswick
- 9/22: Schleman Preserve, 1.2 miles, 6701 Wedgewood Rd, Medina
- 9/29: Lake Medina, 1.4 miles, 3798 Granger Rd entrance, Medina
- 10/6: Granger Wetlands Sanctuary, 1.3 miles, 4023 Beachler Rd, Medina
- 10/13: Princess Ledges Preserve, 1.54 miles, 4361 Spruce Ave, Brunswick
- 10/20: Lake Medina, 1.4 miles, 3798 Granger Rd entrance, Medina
- 10/27: Alderfer-Chatfield Sanctuary, 1.5 miles, 6100 Ridge Rd, Wadsworth (no pets; turn in award sheet here)

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

James 1:17-27

“Green”

In her book “The Gift to Listen, The Courage to Hear” the Rev. Dr. Cari Jackson describes the impact soul listening has on our relationships with God and one another.

Soul listening is not to be confused with active listening, which is what we are taught early in life to succeed in the world. The goal of active listening is mutual understanding.

Soul listening’s goal, though, is to discover the riches buried deeply within our souls. It makes visible the divine within each of us. This kind of listening, writes Jackson, tells others that they are “important, loved and valued.”

Soul listening gets to the heart of what James was saying to the Christians scattered outside of Israel when he wrote “be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger.”

Even in an ancient society void of voicemails and texting, James observed how the torrential downpour of words could do more harm than good. For when we are quick to fill those pregnant pauses — which are vital in forming thoughtful, loving responses — we drown out the voice of the Holy One who is always among us.

How many misunderstandings, fights, break-ups and church splits might have been avoided if only we listened — soul listened — first?

James’ words come to us today not as a tip on how to better communicate with one another, but rather on how to better love one another.

Twentieth-century theologian, Paul Tillich, believed that listening and love were intertwined, writing that, “the first duty to love was to listen.”

Life doesn’t need to be hard or heated or hurtful. Listen with love to your friends and family. Listen with love to the stranger you meet. Listen with love to the one you might disagree with. Listen to the one who is crying or laughing. More importantly, listen to the one who is silent. Listen with your soul, not your ears.

Divine Listener, who never fails to hear my cries, help me this day to listen to others with the same love and understanding you show me. May this day I talk less, and soul listen more. Amen.