



PARTS

MEDINA
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL

YOU EXIST, NOW WHAT?!
BEING 101



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, Jesus Vibes Sunday School is available for ages 3-8th 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*

ABOUT THE BULLETIN COVER: "Spot the People" from the Avenue of the Giants from Pastor Luke's Sabbatical, summer 2024. Thanks again, church.

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE “Prayer from *Suite Gothique*” – L. Boëllmann; ed. & arr. Janet Linker

Cathy Fafrak, Organ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Woke Up This Morning” (vs. 1-4)

Congregational Praise Song

WITH MY MIND 12.12.12 with Hallelujahs

Arr. Evelyn Simpson-Cureton, b. 1953 © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

1. Woke up this morn - in' with my mind,
 2. Walk - in' and talk - in' with my mind, stayed on
 3. No con - dem - na - tion with my mind,
 mind, my mind was

Je - sus. Woke up this morn-in' with my mind,
Walk-in' and talk - in' with my mind, stayed on
No con-dem-na - tion with my mind,

Je - sus. Woke up this morn-in' with my mind,
Walk-in' and talk - in' with my mind, stayed on
No con-dem-na - tion with my mind,

Je - sus. Hal - le - lu, hal - le - lu, hal - le - lu - jah.

4. Can't hate your neighbor in your mind...

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, let us gather in the presence of God, who has given us the gift of speech.

May our words be full of grace, truth, and wisdom, reflecting the heart of God.

Though our tongues are small, they have great power—power to build up or to tear down.

We seek God's help to use our words to bring peace, healing, and hope to all we meet.

Let us draw near with humility, seeking God's guidance in all that we say and do.

Lord, guide our tongues, and transform our lives in this hour of worship and beyond. Amen.

ANTHEM "God Be In My Head" – Lloyd Larson

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE James 3:1-12 (N.T. pg. 216)

Nick North, Liturgist

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

"Parts"

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

HYMN

"Holy Wisdom"

SALVE REGINA COELITUM 8.4.8.4.7.7.6.6.

Patrick Michaels, 1989 © 1989, 1991 Hope Publishing Co.

Choralemelodien zum heiligen Gesange, 1808; arr, Hal H. Hopson, 1991



1. Who comes from God, as Word and Breath? Ho-ly Wis-dom. Who
 2. Who lifts her voice for all to hear? Joy-ful Wis-dom. Who
 3. Whom should we seek with all our heart? Lov-ing Wis-dom. Who,



holds the keys of life and death? Might-y Wis-dom. Craft-er
 shapes a thought and makes it clear? Truth-ful Wis-dom. Teach-er,
 once re-vealed, will not de-part? Faith-ful Wis-dom. Part-ner,



and Cre-a-tor too, El-dest, she makes all things new; Wis-dom guides what
 draw-ing out our best, mag-ni-fies what we in-vest, names our truth, di-
 Coun-se-lor, Com-fort-er, love has found none love-li-er, life is glad-ness



God will do, Wis-est One, Ra-diant One, wel-come, Ho-ly Wis-dom.
 rects our quest, Wis-est One, Ra-diant One, wel-come, Ho-ly Wis-dom.
 lived with her, Wis-est One, Ra-diant One, wel-come, Ho-ly Wis-dom.

OFFERING INVITATION

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!

As we prepare to give our offerings, let us reflect on the words of James: "From the same mouth come blessing and cursing." Our offerings, like our words, have the power to bless and to build up. Today, let us choose to give generously, using what God has given us to speak love, hope, and peace into the world.

May our gifts be a testimony to the good that can flow from hearts aligned with God's purposes. We shall rise in body and spirit and offer God 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

Gracious God, we thank you for the many ways you bless us—with resources, with community, and with the power of words. Accept our offerings as a reflection of our gratitude and our desire to serve you. Teach us to use every gift we have, including our speech, for your glory and for the building up of others. May our words and our actions always be rooted in your love and truth. Bless these gifts, that they may bring healing, hope, and life to a world in need. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Lead Me, Guide Me"

Doris M. Akers © 1953 Doris Akers.

Doris M. Akers; arr. Richard Smallwood

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Lead me, guide me, a - long the way,
For _____ if you lead me, I can - not stray.
Lord, _____ let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.

Fine

1. I am weak ___ and I need thy strength and power to ___
 2. Help me tread ___ in the paths of right - eous - ness, be my
 3. I am lost ___ if you take your hand from me, I am

1. help me o - ver my weak - est hour; Help me
 2. aid when sa - tan and sin op - press; I am
 3. blind with - out ___ thy light to see; Lord, just

1. through the dark - ness thy face to see,
 2. put - ting all ___ my trust in thee.
 3. al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

D.C.

1. Lead me, Oh Lord, ___ lead me. _____
 2. Lead me, Oh Lord, ___ lead me. _____
 3. Lead me, Oh Lord, ___ lead me. _____

***BENEDICTION** (passing reference to Whitman's *Song of Myself*)

Go forth, knowing as Walt Whitman did, that you are large and contain multitudes

We are in community and we are many parts of one body,

Each with a unique gift, purpose, and calling.

May the love of God knit us together in unity.

Both individually and corporately.

May the grace of Christ empower us to use our differences for his glory.

May the Spirit guide us to live as one, bringing wholeness, peace, and hope to the world.

We shall go in peace to love and serve, knowing that we are complete.

Go! For this service has ended.

And our service now begins. 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.

“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”

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****Please join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the service****

Coffee Hour is hosted this week by the Armbrust Family

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PASTORAL STAFF

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THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 15, 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 15 thru September 22, 2024

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir rehearsal
9:45 am Children's Choir rehearsal
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
10:30 am Jesus Vibes
11:45 am Hospitality Team Meeting-Library
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting-rm 9&10
11:45 am Safety Team Meeting-rm 8
2:00 pm Trekking Through Autumn
@ Plum Creek Park South
2500 Plum Creek Pkwy., Brunswick
4:30 pm Youth Group

Mon 1:00 pm Breadmakers
2:00 pm Being 101
7:00 pm Being 101

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
6:00 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thurs

Fri

Sat

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:30 am Children's Choir rehearsal
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
10:30 am Jesus Vibes
2:00 pm Trekking Through Autumn
@ Schleman Nature Preserve
6701 Wedgewood Rd., Medina
3:00 pm Confirmation

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!

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

Scriptures: James 3:1-12

Sermon: "Parts"
Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The communion table flowers are given by Kimberly Gallagher in memory of the September 6th birthday of her mother, Marianne Stricko.

COFFEE HOUR

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. If no one signs up to host, we will not have coffee hour. Signups are in the East Room Hallway.

JESUS VIBES & JR. VIBES

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

YOUTH GROUP KICK-OFF

This year's youth group kick-off will be today, Sunday, Sept. 15th at 4:30 pm. Youth Group is for all youth of our church from 3rd – 12th grade. We will meet at Alien Vacation Mini-Golf (260 S. Court St.). If time permits, we will walk to the square for ice cream and then to the church for pick-up at 6 pm (though this one may run a little late). If you haven't done so, or if your information has changed (address, health insurance, etc.), please fill out the Youth Group Registration and Release Form which is available right outside of the church office and bring it with you.

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.

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:

Circle of Caring – visits church members, sends greeting cards, delivers flowers, prayer shawls, and crafts from the Craftmakers group.

Quilters – spend each Wednesday morning with others who enjoy quilting.

BEING 101: YOU EXIST, NOW WHAT?

Fall Educational Series: Mondays at 2 and 7 pm

- 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

HAVE YOU BEEN IN OUR LIBRARY LATELY?

If you've never visited our church library, you can find it right next to the parking lot entrance in our Welcome Area! You are welcome to borrow the books there any time you would like. Simply sign your name and write down the book you are borrowing, and that is all there is to it! Our newest addition is the book "Fierce Love," donated in honor of Pastor Meghan! This was the book she used for her summer sermon series, and it is now available for your reading pleasure and to use for your own personal exploration of growth. Check it out! You can also find many of the books that Pastor Luke references in his sermons.

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.

PARKING ALERT

On September 3, 2024, Medina County began 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.

TURNING CONFLICT INTO CONVERSATION

Join us for a transformative series in partnership with Braver Angels, designed to equip you with the tools to navigate our polarized world with empathy and understanding. Learn how to depolarize within, master the art of respectful disagreement, foster healthier family dynamics amidst political differences, and engage thoughtfully on social media. Registration is free but required. Space is limited. See fliers for more details

- Sept 25th: "Depolarizing Within" 6:3– 9pm at Cornerstone Chapel, Medina
- Oct 30th: "Skills for Disagreeing Better" 6:30– 9pm at Cleveland Clinic Medina Hospital
- Nov 21st: "Families and Politics" 6:30–9pm at Cleveland Clinic Medina Hospital
- Jan 11th: "Skills for Social Media" 9am–12pm at Medina UCC, C

TREKKING THROUGH AUTUMN 2024 CONTINUES!

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 katewinds@gmail.com to be added to the email reminder list.

This week's Hike:

9/15: Plum Creek Park South, 1.5 miles, 2500 Plum Creek Pkwy, Brunswick

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

We're off to another year. I hope some of you will think about joining us!

Chancel Choir: Adult singers and students in grades 9-12. Wednesday rehearsals from 7:30-8:30PM (Sometimes 9:00)

Alleluia Ringers: Adults and students in grades 9-12. Wednesday rehearsals from 6:00-7:15PM

Children's & Youth Choir: Children in grades K-7. Rehearsals will be on Sunday mornings before the 10:30 service (start times may vary on calendar).

Jenny Cochran will continue to offer private voice and flute lessons during the year. If you are interested in taking lessons, please contact her at jenny@uccmedina.org for further information.

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

September 15, 2024
17th Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 8:27-38

“Who do people say I am?”

Jesus is certainly brave in asking this question. Think about it. Would you really want to hear how someone perceived you? We all have an image we think we are putting out to the universe that is often perceived differently by others.

But Jesus, who is preparing his followers for his impending death — wants to see if the ragtag bunch is understanding the cost that comes with picking up the cross. Of course, Peter, the one who leaps before looking, jumps right in with the bold proclamation, “You are the Messiah.”

Good job, Peter. Even though you still don’t quite understand what you just said. That will come — in time.

Your turn now. Who do you say Jesus is?

Before you give the Sunday school answer you were taught years ago, stop. Really give it some thought. Who would you say Jesus is for you right now? Your answer might just reveal where you are on your faith journey.

A pastor once asked a group of second graders the “Who is Jesus?” question. Their answers were of course adorable.

Jesus is my teddy bear. Jesus is my cookie monster. Jesus is my best pal. Jesus is my boo-boo healer.

A few years later, the pastor asked that same group of children, now teens preparing for confirmation, the same question. Who do you say Jesus is?

This time, the answers were not so adorable. Rather, they were raw and revealing.

Jesus is my safe place. Jesus is my sponsor. Jesus is my secret keeper. Jesus is the parent I wished I had.

The reality is that there will be many different Jesus’ who walk alongside us, being for us the unwavering love and hope needed as we change, grow and move on to new stages in life either willingly or unwillingly. And that is the beauty of our Lord’s question. It reminds us that through it all, he is always exactly what we need.

Yes, Jesus is our Messiah. He is our Lord and Savior. He is also our Safe Place, our Secret Keeper, our Heartbreak Healer ...

Once again, it’s your turn now. Spend some time in prayer, pondering Jesus’ question that he asks of you: “Who do you say I am?”

Jesus, you are my _____, and I thank you for your unwavering love and care in each stage of my life. Amen.