

# GENERATIONS



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](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, Jesus Vibes Sunday School is available for ages 3-8<sup>th</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*

### RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE “Children’s Song Medley” – Mark Hayes

Cathy Fafarak, Piano

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

### \*OPENING HYMN

### “The Church of Christ in Every Age”

Fred Pratt Green, 1969; © 1971 Hope Publishing Co.

WAREHAM LM  
William Knapp, 1738



1. The church of Christ in ev - ery age, be - set by
2. A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
3. Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
4. For Christ a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
5. We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



1. change but Spir - it led, must claim and test its
2. of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
3. church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ’s
4. fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
5. be - dience to our Lord: to care for all, with -



1. her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
2. bread to eat, and nev - er live un - til they die.
3. sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
4. share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
5. out re - serve, and spread Christ's lib - er - at - ing word.

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Good morning, everyone! Whether you're from the days of *groovy* or *lit*, God calls us all together.

**Right on! We've gathered to feel the vibes of God's love and truth.**

Boomers, we know God is calling us to be *far out*, to keep the faith alive.

**Amen! Let's keep things *copacetic* and lean into the peace of Christ.**

Gen X, you know what's up. God is always here for us, even when life's a little *gnarly*.

**Radical! No need to *bounce*, we're staying grounded in God's grace.**

Millennials, whether you're feeling *on fleek* or *salty*, God's love is still *hashtag blessed*.

**Low-key, we're all about lifting up His name. Let's *adult* in our faith together.**

Gen Z, we know life can feel *extra*, but God's love is always *vibe check*.

**No cap! Christ brings main character energy.**

And Gen Alpha, you're already showing us how to be *fire* in faith! You're not too young to make a difference.

**Bet! We're ready to *level up* and follow Jesus!**

From every generation, we come together as one in Christ.

**Let's worship.**

**ANTHEM** "I Am the Church" – Richard Avery & Donald Marsh

Children's Choir

**SCRIPTURE** Mark 9:30-37 (N.T. pg. 42)

Alison Oswald, Liturgist

**MESSAGE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY OF GOD**

Stacie Yates

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** "Generations"

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

# HYMN

## "The Servant Song"

THE SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.

Richard Gillard, 1977, alt;

Richard Gillard, 1977, arr. A. Eugene Ellsworth, 1994

© 1977 Scripture in Song, admin. by Maranatha! Music c/o The Copyright Co.



1. Sis - ter, let me be your ser - vant, bro - ther,
2. We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, fel - low
3. I will weep when you are weep - ing, when you
4. When we sing to God in heav - en, we shall
5. Broth - er, let me be your ser - vant, sis - ter,



1. let me walk with you; pray that I may
2. trav - 'lers on the road. We are here to
3. laugh I'll laugh with you. I will share your
4. find such har - mo - ny, born of all we've
5. let me walk with you; pray that I may



1. have the grace to let you be my ser - vant too.
2. help each oth - er walk the mile and bear the load.
3. joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney thro'.
4. known to - geth - er of great love and ag - o - ny.
5. have the grace to let you be my ser - vant too.

### OFFERING INVITATION (From James 3:16-18)

*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!*

*(James 3: 16-18)*

"Wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there is disorder and everything that is evil. What of the wisdom from above? First, it is pure, and then peaceful, gentle, obedient, filled with mercy and good actions, fair, and genuine. Those who make peace sow the seeds of justice by their peaceful acts."

**Let us selflessly rise in body or spirit and sing praise to our God together.**

**\*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

Ancient of Days, we thank you for the gift of generations.

We thank You for the lessons passed down through the ages, That remind us to humble ourselves and serve one another. May we embrace each generation with kindness, Listening to the wisdom of our elders, Guiding the young with compassion and care, And living out the love that has been shown to us.

Help us to remember that in welcoming others, we are welcoming you, O God. And that in serving the least, we are following the path of Christ.

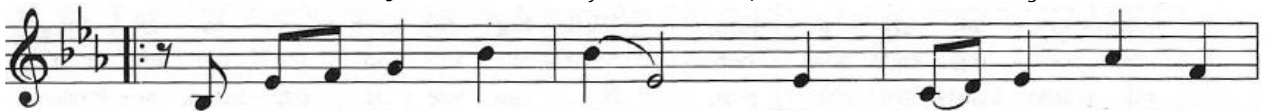
For the gift of community across time, For the blessings of family and friendship, And for the hope that each new generation carries forward, We give you thanks and praise.

In the name of Jesus, Amen.

## \*CLOSING HYMN

### "The Love of God Comes Close"

*Words and music © 1988 The Iona Community. GIA Publications, Inc. exclusive North American agent.*



1. The love of God comes close      Where stands an o - pen  
2. The peace of God comes close      To those caught in the  
4. The grace of God comes close      To those whose grace is



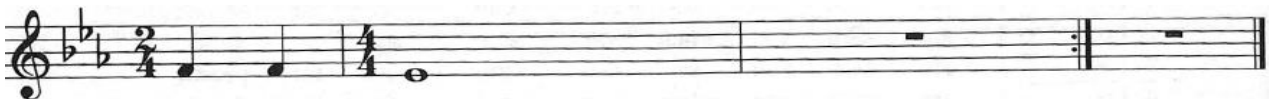
door  
storm,  
spent,  
To let the strang - er  
For - go - ing lives of  
When hearts are tired or



in,                      To min - gle rich and poor:  
ease                    To ease the lives for - lorn:  
sore                    And hope is bruised or bent:



The love of God is here to stay Em - brac - ing those who  
The peace of God is here to stay Em - brac - ing those who  
The grace of God is here to stay Em - brac - ing those who



walk his way.

**\*BENEDICTION** (based on Deuteronomy 6:6-8)

Go forth from here knowing that it's not good for us to be alone.

**Community is how we grow.**

May we learn the commandments and pass them on;

**We will teach our children, talk about them when we sit at home  
and when we walk along the road.**

When you lie down and when you get up.

**We shall bind ourselves to the way of Christ.**

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.**

**\*POSTLUDE** "Faith of Our Fathers" – arr. Christina Becket

Cathy Fafrak, Organ

**"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 Pete Metzloff*

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# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## SEPTEMBER 22, 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)

**September 22 thru September 29, 2024**

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

- 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
- Mon** 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  
6:30 pm Women’s Bible Study  
6:30 pm Conflict Workshop at  
Cornerstone Chapel  
7:00 pm Finance/Stewardship Meeting  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- Thurs** 7:00 pm Congregational Council Meeting

**Fri**  
**Sat**

- Sun** 8:15 am Chapel Worship  
9:00 am Gathering Worship  
9:00 am Bell Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 am Children’s Choir Rehearsal  
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship  
10:30 am Jesus Vibes  
10:30 am Teen Church  
2:00 pm Trekking Through Autumn  
@ Lake Medina  
*North Parking Lot: 3798 Granger Rd.*  
4:00 pm Guest Speaker: Colby Martin

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

Scripture: Mark 9:30-37

Sermon: “Generations” - Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

**Communion Table:** The communion table flowers are given by Alan Parkhurst in memory of his parents’ wedding anniversary.

### **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.

### **NEIGHBORS IN NEED SPECIAL OFFERING**

On the first Sunday in October, UCC congregations are called upon to collect a special mission offering to support a just and compassionate United States and beyond. One-third of the funds raised are used to support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds are used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as advancing a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

Please consider giving generously to this special offering. Checks should be made payable to our church with “Neighbors in Need” noted in the memo. Your donation may also be made online through Realm – see the line item for Neighbors in Need.

## TEEN CHURCH

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On the last Sunday of each month, teens in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and up can head to the youth room during the 10:30 service for quality time, snacks, and conversation that are just for them.

## SEPTEMBER MONTHLY DONATION

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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!

## TURNING CONFLICT INTO CONVERSATION

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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 25<sup>th</sup>: "Depolarizing Within" 6:3– 9pm at Cornerstone Chapel, Medina

Oct 30<sup>th</sup>: "Skills for Disagreeing Better" 6:30– 9pm at Cleveland Clinic Medina Hospital

Nov 21<sup>st</sup>: "Families and Politics" 6:30–9pm at Cleveland Clinic Medina Hospital

Jan 11<sup>th</sup>: "Skills for Social Media" 9am–12pm at Medina UCC, C

## BEING 101: YOU EXIST, NOW WHAT?

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**Fall Educational Series: Mondays at 2 and 7 pm**

Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>: Intergenerational Ministry and Think Orange

Sept 30<sup>th</sup> Social Media and Children

Oct 7<sup>th</sup>: Prepare Enrich

Oct 14<sup>th</sup>: Theodicy with Meghan and Luke (a live Rev'd Up Podcast)

Oct 21<sup>st</sup>: Rule of Life with Deacon Paul Kipfstuhl from Catholic Charities and St. Francis Xavier Church

Oct 28<sup>th</sup>: The Ignatian Examen with Kimberly Gallagher

## ENDOWMENT FUND GRANT APPLICATIONS

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Grant applications are available now to apply for funding for special projects and improvements beyond the 2025 Operating/Mission Budgets or individual Team Budgets. Each fall for the past few years the Endowment Committee has awarded funds for many worthwhile projects. Pick up an application soon in the rack near the church office, complete it and return to the Endowment Committee mailbox in the church office by November 30<sup>th</sup>. Any questions contact Kelly Charnley 330-421-3313 or Matt Yates 330-321-9679.

## FALL FAMILY BONFIRE

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**Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm**

Join us at Tom & Jenny Wolff's home (6951 Egypt Rd., Medina) for an afternoon of food, fellowship and fun! They'll be outdoor games, a bonfire with smores, and swimming if the weather is good. Hot dogs and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share and don't forget your camping chairs! Hope to see you there!

## OUR CHURCH LIBRARY

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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 for his sermons.

## PARKING ALERT

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The repaving project at the County Administration Building continues through mid-November. During this time, their parking lot will not be available for use during the day and will be greatly limited on weekends. Please be kind to those in our congregation who may need to park close and leave our parking lot for them.



## TREKKING THROUGH AUTUMN 2024 CONTINUES!

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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 [katewllindon@gmail.com](mailto:katewllindon@gmail.com) to be added to the email reminder list.

This week's hike:

9/22: Schleman Preserve, 1.2 miles, 6701 Wedgewood Rd, Medina

## NOTES FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

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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-6. Rehearsals will be on Sunday mornings before the 10:30 service (start times may vary on calendar).

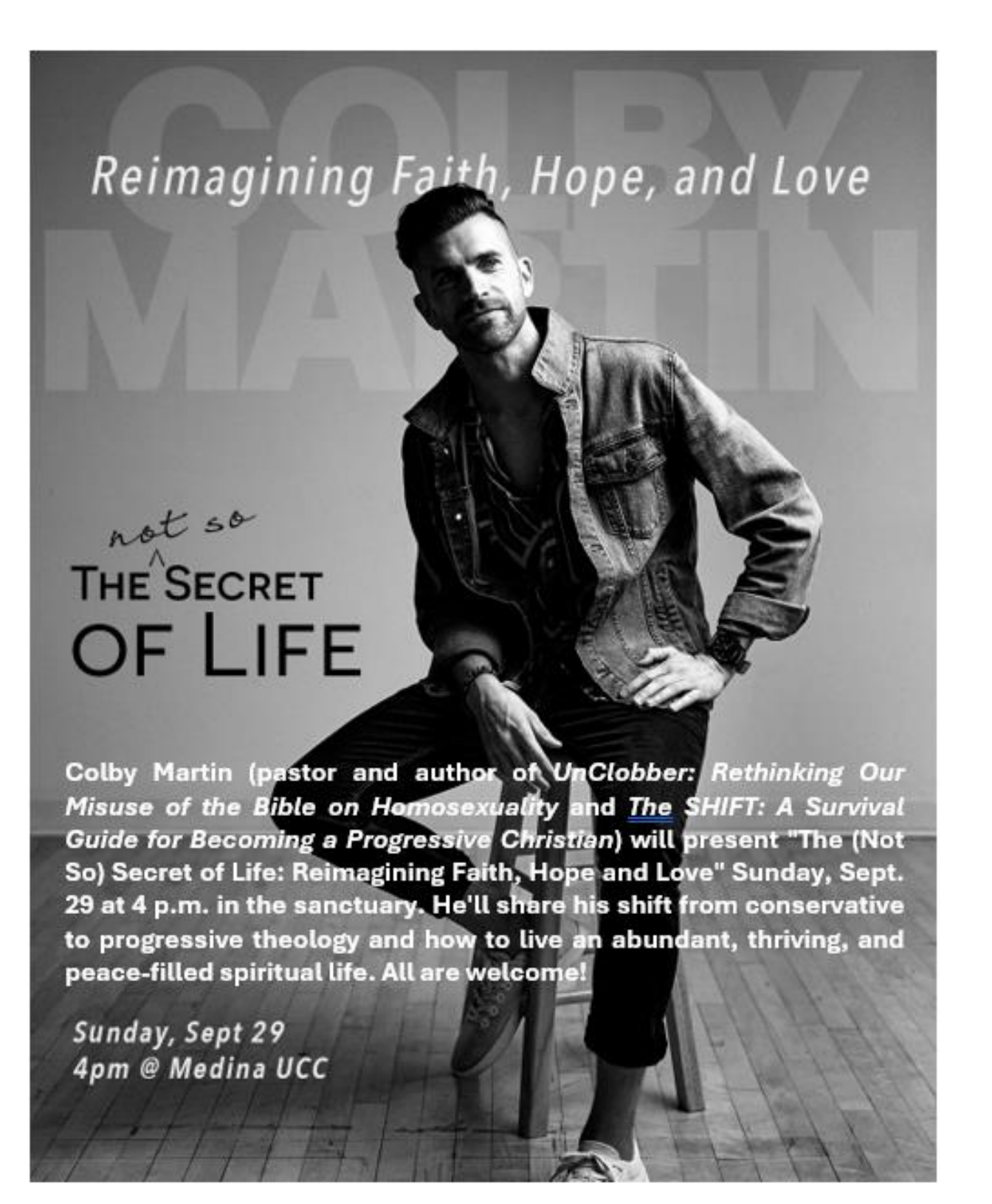
Jenny Cochran will continue to offer private voice and flute lessons during the year. If you are interested in taking lessons, please contact her at [jenny@uccmedina.org](mailto:jenny@uccmedina.org) for further information.

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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**



*Reimagining Faith, Hope, and Love*

*not so*  
THE SECRET  
OF LIFE

Colby Martin (pastor and author of *UnClobber: Rethinking Our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality* and *The SHIFT: A Survival Guide for Becoming a Progressive Christian*) will present "The (Not So) Secret of Life: Reimagining Faith, Hope and Love" Sunday, Sept. 29 at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary. He'll share his shift from conservative to progressive theology and how to live an abundant, thriving, and peace-filled spiritual life. All are welcome!

Sunday, Sept 29  
4pm @ Medina UCC

Mark 9:30-37

### **“First in Caring”**

It's so easy for us to pick on the disciples for bickering about who is the greatest, especially after Jesus told them for a second time that the Son of God will be handed over, tried and put to death.

Yes, but ... which one of us is the greatest?

We can pick on them or we can take a step back and see how many times in our desire for greatness — measured by the riches, power and prestige the world offers — we miss the life Jesus is calling us to.

When Jesus discovers that this is what his followers were arguing about behind his back, he calls a time out. He then picks up a child for a quick sermon illustration. See this little one? Greatness doesn't come from what you can achieve or gain. Greatness comes from what you do to help the helpless and the vulnerable. Jesus then adds, “anyone who want to be first, must be last.”

Our Savior's words go against everything we are taught in life, where first place is coveted and grabbing the prize is the goal.

In 1983, Harvard Divinity School appointed Henri J.M. Nouwen, a Dutch priest, theologian and author, to the position of Professor of Divinity. After only one academic year, Nouwen surprised his Ivy League colleagues by resigning from the prestigious position so that he could serve as chaplain for the L'Arche Daybreak community in Toronto — a place where disabled adults and their caregivers lived together.

But it was at L'Arche that Nouwen met a young man, Adam, who could neither speak nor move without assistance. Nouwen would later reflect that it was his time at L'Arche, and especially Adam, that gave his life purpose.

“The people I live with sometimes have a very hard time believing they are chosen,” wrote Nouwen. “They suffer, not so much from their mental handicap, but from the feeling of being not wanted, not desired.”

Nouwen stepped away from the world's greatness and by doing so illustrated the power of divine greatness.

“Who among us is the greatest?” It is the one who creates a more loving and welcoming place for the Adams of the world.

*Loving God, may today we discover, in serving others, that last place is a glorious position to be in, for it is there your kin-dom work is done. Amen.*