

BEING
101



COMMUNAL TRUST

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 X

YOU EXIST!
NOW WHAT?!



MEDINA
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST. CONGREGATIONAL.



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*

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE “Prelude in B-flat major, BWV 560” – JS Bach

Cathy Fafarak, Organ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

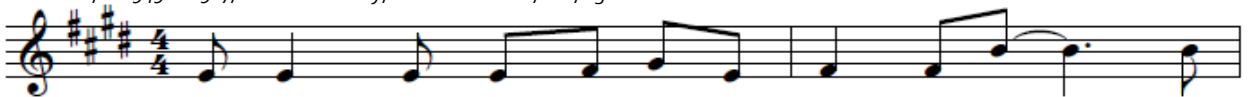
PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Shake Up the Morning”

SHAKE UP Irr.
John L. Bell

John L. Bell, b. 1949 © 1987, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent



1. Shake up	the morn - ing,	let the dawn un - dress,	Let
2. Shake up	the world and let the	King - dom come,	The
3. Shake up	the Church and let all	Chris - tians show	That
4. Shake up	the eve - ning, let the	shad - ows range	As



dew	re - glis - ten	na - ture's	love - li - ness;
dumb	be lis - tened	to, the	lost find home;
faith	is real,	that God is	good to know;
clouds	to cas - tles	in the	sun - set change;



Wak - en the song-bird and un - seal the throat That
 Make earth - ly pol - i - tics the stuff of prayer Till
 Fash - ion new sym - bols of the com - ing age When
 Kin - dle the moon and stars which through each night Re -



greet the day - break with a crys - tal note.
 want and war - ring are dis - pelled by care.
 hope and love will take the cen - ter stage.
 flect the glo - ry of to - mor - row's light.



Praise to the Lord, whose morn - ing we in - her - it;
 Praise to the Lord, whose world we in - her - it;
 Praise to the Lord, whose Gos - pel we in - her - it;
 Praise to the Lord, whose eve - ning we in - her - it;



Praise cre - a - tion's fuse, the Ho - ly Spir - it;
 Praise God's cat - a - lyst, the Ho - ly Spir - it;
 Praise God's bird of love, the Ho - ly Spir - it;
 Praise God's pres - ence in the Ho - ly Spir - it;



Praise to the Son who ris - es with the dawn,
 Praise to the Son whose choice it is to bless
 Praise to the Son whose will and words de - cree
 Praise to the Son whose bright-ness none can kill,



Leav - ing grave - clothes scarce - ly three days worn.
 Those who work for peace and live on less.
 All are one in his com - mu - ni - ty.
 Light - ing paths for those who seek his will.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather together, drawn from different places and experiences, but united in the love of God.

We come seeking to trust in God and in one another.

Jesus reminds us that whoever is not against us is for us, and that we are all called to build trust and unity within this beloved community.

We come to worship, to trust in God's grace, and to grow in love for each other.

Let us open our hearts, trusting that the Spirit will guide us toward deeper faith and connection.

Let us worship God together.

ANTHEM "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" – Showalter/Mallory

Alleluia Ringers

SCRIPTURE Mark 9:38-50 (N.T. pg. 42)

Ashley Bonsell, Liturgist

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 "Communal Trust"

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

HYMN "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.

IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7. D.
Dutch melody, arr. Julius Röntgen, 1906



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea - sures of our minds;



there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
and the heart of the E - ter-nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.



There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's heaven;
If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;



there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.

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!

In a world that often divides and discourages trust, we are invited to embody the radical trust that Jesus taught. The offering we give today is more than money—it is a sign of our trust in God's provision and our commitment to building a community where all can thrive.

Let us give generously, knowing that every gift, no matter its size, builds up the body of Christ and helps sustain a community of trust.

**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 give you thanks for these gifts and for the hearts that offer them.

You call us to trust, not only in you but in one another.

Strengthen the ties that bind within this community so that we may live out your radical hospitality and grace.

Bless these offerings, that they may be used to build trust and hope in this world.

Help us to be faithful stewards, building a community where no one is left behind and all are welcomed with love.

In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN*

"Bring Forth the Kingdom"

Paraphrase by Marty Haugen, 1986; alt. © 1986 by GIA Publications, Inc.

BRING FORTH Irr. With refrain
Marty Haugen, 1986



1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the reign of God!
 2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the Cit-y of God!
 3 You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: bring forth the reign of God!
 4 We are a blessed and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the reign of God!



Share the fla- vor of life, O peo- ple: life in the Cit-y of God!
 Shine so ho- ly and bright, O peo- ple: shine for the Cit-y of God!
 Seeds of mer- cy and seeds of jus- tice, grow in the Cit-y of God!
 Love our jour-ney and love our home-land: love is the Cit-y of God!



Bring forth the reign of mer- cy, bring forth the reign of peace;



Bring forth the reign of jus- tice, bring forth the Cit-y of God!

***BENEDICTION**

As we go from this place,
let us carry the spirit of communal trust with us.
 Jesus calls us to be salt for the earth—bringing flavor, healing, and preservation to our world.
May we trust in the power of the Spirit to guide us,
 Trust in the love of Christ to sustain us,
And trust in one another as we build God’s beloved community.
 Go in peace, trusting and loving, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
One God forevermore. 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 “Fugue in B-flat major, BWV 560” – JS Bach** Cathy Fafrak, Organ

“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”

 Please join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the service
Coffee Hour is hosted this week by Ken & Sue Dean

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 29, 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 29 thru October 6, 2024

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

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
7:00 pm Community Engagement Team
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thurs

Fri

Sat

Sun **World Communion Sunday**
8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:45 am Children’s Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
10:30 am Jesus Vibes
2:00 pm Trekking Through Autumn
@ Granger Wetlands - 4023 Beachler Rd., Medina
4:00 pm Fall Family Bonfire

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

Scripture: Mark 9:38-50

Sermon: “Communal Trust”
- Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The communion table flowers are given by Pete & Alice Metzloff in memory of loved ones.

JOIN US AT 4 PM TODAY!

Join us today at 4 pm in the Sanctuary to hear author, pastor and speaker Colby Martin talk about navigating the shift from conservative to progressive Christianity. You won’t want to miss this!

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

Today, Sept 29th, teens in 8th 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.

COFFEE HOUR

Please consider signing up to host a coffee hour. **There are still open spots for Oct 6th and 20th and Nov 10th.** If you have any questions, Liz Wolff will be your “go to” person for help in Oct. and Nov. If no one signs up to host, we will not have coffee hour. Signups are in the East Room Hallway.

FALL FAMILY BONFIRE

Sunday, October 6th 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!

SEPTEMBER MISSION TEAM REPORT

The Mission Team is very happy to report many opportunities that our church, thanks to your generous sharing of time, talent, and offerings, has been able to impact in the month of September:

Friends in Need, Feeding Medina County, Operation Homes, Cups Café, United Church Homes

Additionally, we added *Shop With a Cop* to our August donations. Notes of appreciation from the various organizations are posted on the bulletin board near the office. Thank you for your kind, caring, and authentic outreach that helps so many in so many ways.

PET BLESSING

Bring your pet to be blessed on Thursday, October 17th from 5-7 pm outside the church at the corner of Broadway and Liberty streets. Any pet that is safe to bring is welcome and will be individually blessed by our pastors. Free pet blessing cards while supplies last! The pet blessing will be part of Main Street Medina's Witches Night Out. Let's celebrate God's compassion and concern for all creatures!

ENDOWMENT FUND GRANT APPLICATIONS

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 30th. Any questions contact Kelly Charnley 330-421-3313 or Matt Yates 330-321-9679.

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

- 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

BEING 101: YOU EXIST, NOW WHAT?

- Fall Educational Series: Mondays at 2 and 7 pm**
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 Kipstuhl from Catholic Charities and St. Francis Xavier Church
Oct 28th: The Ignatian Examen with Kimberly Gallagher

YOUTH GROUP FEE PAYABLE ON REALM

If you have a child who is in youth group (3rd-12th grade), you can now pay your yearly \$20 Youth Group fee through the Realm website! Go to the events tab and look for Youth Group 2024-2025. When you “register” for the event you will be able to pay the fees for each child through Realm. No one is excluded from Youth Group because of inability to pay, but the fee helps us pay for snacks, supplies, and fun outings! You may also use this link: <https://tinyurl.com/3wa7nnsu>

UPCOMING MISSION OPPORTUNITIES!

Your Mission Team has been hard at work planning small ways in which you can make a BIG impact. Every month we collect items to benefit a local organization. **During the month of October**, we will be collecting needed items for Hope and Healing Survivor Resource Center (sometimes known as Medina’s Domestic Violence Shelter). They’re in need of twin and full-sized blankets and sheet sets and NEW underwear and sports bras (all sizes).

Looking ahead to November, we have two collections we will be running. We would like to collect your extra Halloween candy. Our youth will make goodie bags from these and attach notes with uplifting phrases and affirmations. They will then be distributed to local groups in our community. Cups Cafe and Hope Recovery Community really enjoyed them last year!

Also, for November we will be accepting donations of new and gently used games and activities for Claggett Middle School. They need these for the kids’ lunch periods.

Look for the donation bins across from the elevator near the bottom of the stairs.
As always, your continued support and generosity is greatly appreciated.

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

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
Pete Metzloff, Church Treasurer - pete@uccmedina.org

PROGRAM STAFF

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education – stacie@uccmedina.org
Jennifer Cochran, Director of Music - jenny@uccmedina.org
Cathy Fafrak, Organist & Office Assistant – cathy@uccmedina.org
Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – jen@uccmedina.org
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian



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

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

“Courage for Community”

An ad sponsored by the Foundation to Combat Antisemitism, which ran during last winter’s Super Bowl, reminded viewers that silence isn’t golden when others are being persecuted.

It featured Clarence B. Jones, a civil rights activist and draft speechwriter for Martin Luther King Jr., who, as images of hate flashed on the screen, spoke these words, “All hate thrives on one thing: silence.”

A Jewish woman named Esther, who would become Queen of Persia, knew all about speaking up for the good of a community. Her story, recorded in the Book of Esther, tells of the Jewish people living in exile in Persia after the destruction of the First Temple. Under the reign of King Achashverosh, a royal advisor named Haman concocted a plot to wipe out the Persian Jewish community. Esther, along with her guardian, Mordechai, were able to foil Haman’s plot and save the Jewish community.

At the climax of this story, when the Jewish community of Persia is facing imminent destruction, Mordechai calls on Esther to speak up on behalf of the Jewish people. Esther hesitates at first for she fears her own safety, being a Jew herself in the inner court. Mordechai reminds her that she is forever tied to the Jewish people and that her voice needs to be heard.

In the end, Esther speaks up and her people are saved. To this day, Esther is remembered and celebrated as a hero and an advocate on the Jewish celebration known as Purim.

The need to speak is great, yet still so very scary for many of us as we fear our own safety and security. Throughout history, though, God calls for voices like Esther’s, like Clarence B. Jones’ — like yours — to speak for those whose voices are not being heard.

Ask God for the courage to do so and trust the words to come.

Loving God, give us the courage of Esther to speak up when we see communities hurting. May our words not be confrontational or hateful. Rather, may they be filled with love and point to your glory. Amen.