

theodicy

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 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” – arr. Larry Shackley

Cathy Fafrak, Piano

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

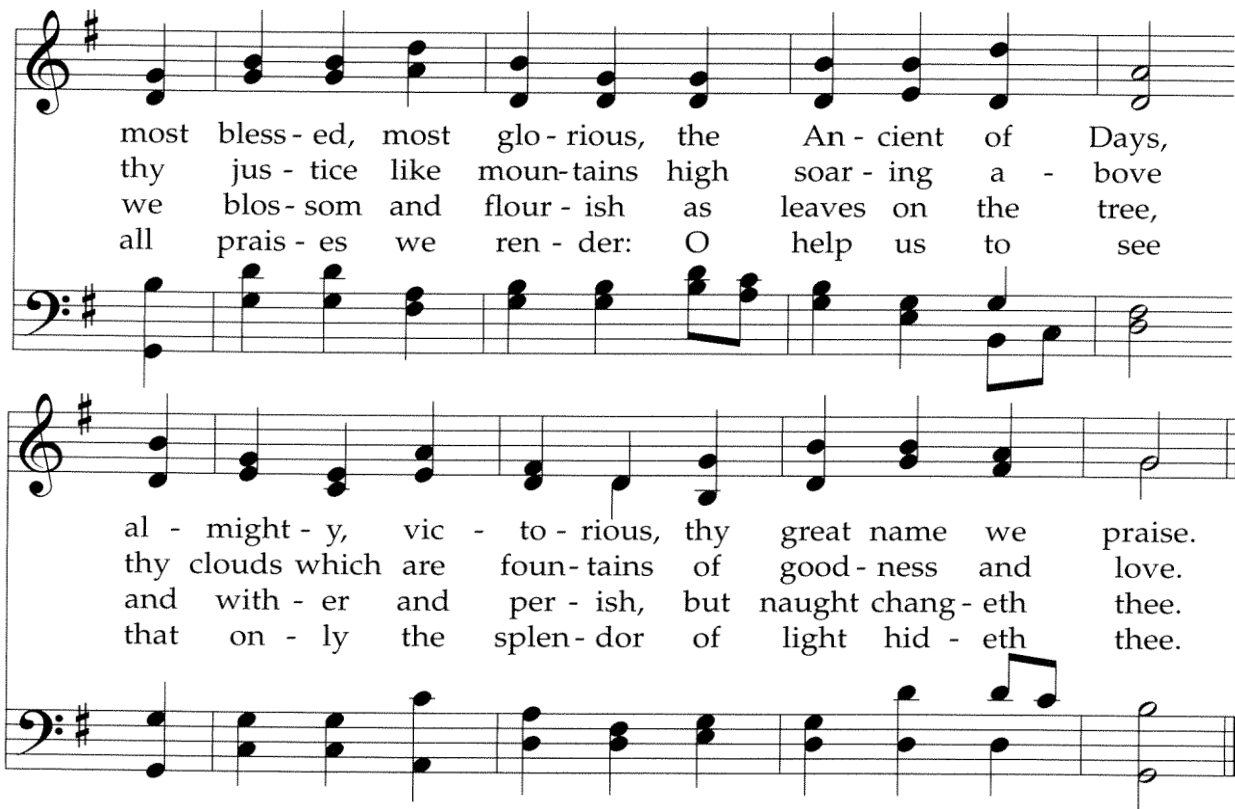
ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.

Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867, alt.

Welsh folk melody

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3. To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4. Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless-ed, most glo-rious, the An-cient of Days,
 thy jus-tice like moun-tains high soar-ing a-bove
 we blos-som and flour-ish as leaves on the tree,
 all prais-es we ren-der: O help us to see

al-might-y, vic-to-rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds which are foun-tains of good-ness and love.
 and with-er and per-ish, but naught chang-eth thee.
 that on-ly the splen-dor of light hid-eth thee.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let us gather together in the presence of God, seeking understanding and compassion in the face of suffering.

We come seeking your guidance, O God, as we navigate the complexities of life.

Let us open our hearts and minds to your still speaking voice, that we may find hope and healing.

We are ready to listen and to learn.

ANTHEM "Nothing Left to Say" – David Angerman & Joseph M. Martin

Children's Choir

SCRIPTURE Job 23:1-9, 16-17 (O.T. pg. 446)

Kimberly Gallagher, 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

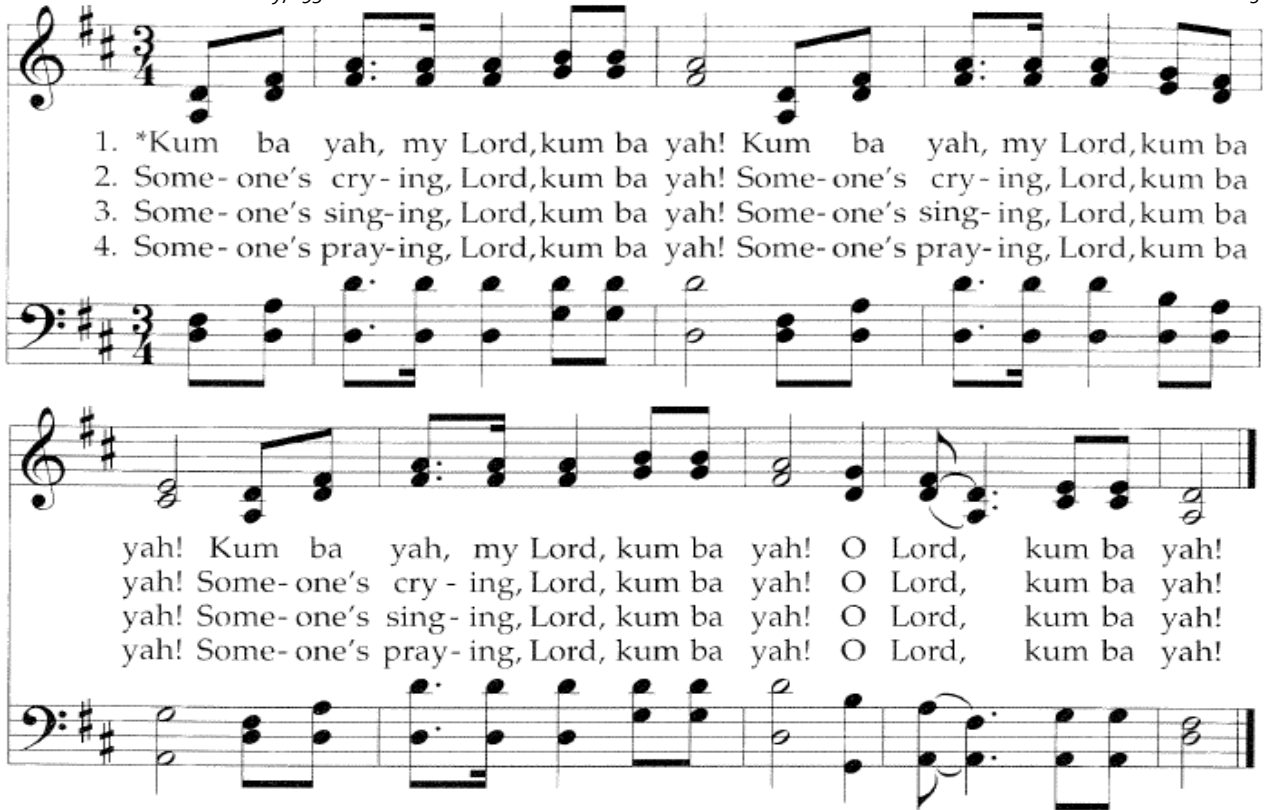
Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

HYMN

"Kum ba Yah"

WORDS and MUSIC: Marvin Frey, 1938

DESMOND 8.8.8.5.



1. *Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah! Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!

2. Some-one's cry-ing, Lord, kum ba yah! Some-one's cry-ing, Lord, kum ba yah!

3. Some-one's sing-ing, Lord, kum ba yah! Some-one's sing-ing, Lord, kum ba yah!

4. Some-one's pray-ing, Lord, kum ba yah! Some-one's pray-ing, Lord, kum ba yah!

yah! Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah! O Lord, kum ba yah!

yah! Some-one's cry-ing, Lord, kum ba yah! O Lord, kum ba yah!

yah! Some-one's sing-ing, Lord, kum ba yah! O Lord, kum ba yah!

yah! Some-one's pray-ing, Lord, kum ba yah! O Lord, kum ba yah!

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!

As a tangible expression of our commitment to compassion and justice, we might consider learning more and investing in our mission team. Our church works and supports organizations that work to address the root causes of suffering, such as poverty, inequality, and violence. We can also engage in acts of service and volunteerism to make a positive difference in our communities.

For all those living out their faith for the benefit of their neighbors, let us rise and sing out our praise for God.

**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 come before you with heavy hearts, acknowledging the pain and suffering in the world. We ask for your understanding and compassion as we grapple with the mystery of evil. Help us to find solace in your love and to offer comfort to those who are hurting. May we be instruments of your peace and healing in the world. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

"Over My Head"

African-American Traditional

Traditional, arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland & Verolga Nix, 1981



1 O-ver my head I hear mu-sic in the air.
2 O-ver my head I hear sing-ing in the air.
3 O-ver my head I see trou-ble in the air.
4 O-ver my head I see Je-sus in the air.



O-ver my head I hear mu-sic in the air.
O-ver my head I hear sing-ing in the air.
O-ver my head I see trou-ble in the air.
O-ver my head I see Je-sus in the air.



O-ver my head I hear mu-sic in the air,
O-ver my head I hear sing-ing in the air,
O-ver my head I see trou-ble in the air,
O-ver my head I see Je-sus in the air,



there must be a God some - where.

*ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION

May the peace of God that passes all understanding guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. As you go forth from this place, may you be filled with compassion and hope. May your journey be guided by the light of faith.

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 "O God Beyond All Praising" – arr. Anna Laura Page**

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 the Mission Team

Music in this bulletin reprinted/podcast/streamed with permission under:
ONE LICENSE, License #A-605137. All rights reserved and CCLI, License #1637380 & #213338

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 - pmetzloff@gmail.com

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

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

OCTOBER 13, 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

October 13 thru October 20, 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
11:30 am Safety Team
11:45 am Mission Team
2:00 pm Trekking Through Autumn
@ Princess Ledges – 4361 Spruce Ave., Brunswick

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
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thurs 5:00 pm Pet Blessing

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
11:45 am Hospitality Team Meeting
2:00 pm Trekking Through Autumn
@ Lake Medina – N. Parking lot: 3798 Granger Rd.
4:30 pm Youth Group

FALL CRAFTS READY

Please sign out a craft and call the recipient to make arrangements for a delivery. Thank you!

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

Scripture: Job 23:1-9, 16-17

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

Communion Table: The communion table flowers are given by Elaine Taylor in memory of loved ones.

OPERATION HOMES

Jordan Johnston, a board member with Operation Homes, will join us at all three worship services today, October 13th to announce the launch of an exciting new vision to help our unhoused families in Medina County! Please plan to join us to learn how you can be a part of this important initiative.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Through September 30, 2024, we have received \$341,567 in pledges, contributions or other receipts. We have spent \$371,331 for our regular church operations. So, we are doing better than our annual budget, which is a projected deficit of \$69,595 for the entire year (and for which we have adequate reserves). Giving of all types is about \$26,000 more than the budget through September, with spending being almost exactly equal to the budget. As always, many thanks to all who have been faithful in their giving to our church this year. If you have any questions, you can contact me via email at pmetzloff@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE FOR 50+!

Those who have been members of our church for 50 years or more, please save **Saturday, October 26th** from 11:30 am to 2 pm for a special celebration luncheon. Invitations were mailed out last week.

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!

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

November 3, 2024

On this Sunday we will remember those people who have passed away this past year. By having the time of remembrance during a worship service, we encourage family members and others to come and share this time together. During the worship service, the names of the members of Medina UCC who have passed away between Oct. 2023 & Oct. 2024 will be read. We would also like to read the names of family members and loved ones who have passed away during this past year. **If you have a loved one that you would like to remember, please call the Church Office no later than October 21st with the full name of the loved one, their relationship to you, and the date of their passing.**

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.

YOUNG ADULT CARDS

Please stop by the East Room to sign Halloween cards for our church young adults who are away at college or venturing out on their own. Thanks in advance for spreading love their way! Please feel free to sign the other cards on the table as well. If you have a child in that age range who's currently in college, working, or otherwise setting out in life, please share their current address with the office at office@uccmedina.org or 330-725-4559.

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>

BEING 101: YOU EXIST, NOW WHAT?

Fall Educational Series: Mondays at 2 and 7 pm

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

OCTOBER DONATION

Every month the Mission Team collects 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).

COMMUNITY LEVY CHAT

Join Kids First Medina and Medina City Schools Superintendent Aaron Sable for an informative community chat at our church **Tuesday, October 15th at 6:00 pm** about the upcoming school levy. This is your chance to learn more, ask questions, and understand how this vote impacts our schools and community. Bring your questions and your neighbors!

NEW MEMBERS

Join us for our upcoming New Member class! We believe anyone is welcome to gather with us, but there is something special about making a deeper commitment to contribute to what God is doing in and through Medina UCC – and these classes are a great place for us to cast this vision, hear your story, and help you take the next step to commit to calling UCC your church home.

The next New Member class will be on Monday, November 4th at 7 pm in the new library. New members will join the church on Sunday, November 10th. If you wish to participate, you may contact the church office at 330-725-4559 or register here through [REALM](#).

BUTTER BRAID FUNDRAISER

Hobby Horse Preschool is hosting its annual Butter Braid Fundraiser!

<https://store.myfundraisingplace.com/9de42f76-5354-4e30-8028-0ab0af64ae66>

is the online order link. Enter Jen Vilimonovic as your seller and then select your items or write your order on the order form outside the ladies' restroom. Orders cannot be shipped. Pick-up will be Wednesday, November 13 from 10:30-3:30. Funds raised will go toward updating our classroom air conditioning units.

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

Mark 10:17-31

“What Must I Do?”

There’s a contemporary hymn — a fun one to sing with children — that goes, *“I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back.”*

Sadly, the young man in today’s lesson from the Gospel of Mark was never taught the song, as he turns back after hearing what it takes to follow Jesus.

So eager at first, he proudly tells Jesus how he has followed the commandments since he was a boy. That’s great, Jesus affirms, before saying the one word we dread to hear — *but*.

You can follow me, **but** you must sell all you have. We are told that the young man owned many possessions, too many to part with. He walks away from Jesus greatly grieved.

Jesus then turns to his disciples who have witnessed this encounter, saying to them, “It is easier for a camel to go through an eye of a needle than for someone rich to enter the Kingdom.”

“Who then can be saved?” they ask.

Excellent question, for we all come to Jesus with possessions we dearly hold onto. They don’t necessarily have to be riches in the way of a robust real estate portfolio or soaring stocks and bonds. “Costly” possessions can be anything that cost us from going deeper in our walk with Christ.

As early as the 9th century there was an interpretation of Jesus’ “eye of a needle” illustration that went beyond an actual sewing needle. It was said that the “Eye of the Needle” was a small gate in Jerusalem in which merchants traveling at night would enter through, as the main gate would have been closed.

If the merchant’s camel was carrying a heavy load, though, the animal would not have been able to get through the gate. To squeeze through the “Eye of the Needle,” the merchant would have to remove all the treasures that were piled high onto the beast of burden’s back.

Such a gate has never been verified by scholars, but the image of an actual camel carrying a heavy load, and a narrow gate helps us to better understand what Jesus was saying about what it takes to follow him.

We all go through life with baggage — things that we insist on holding on to that weigh us down and prevent us from the life Jesus has for us.

What is Jesus asking us to let go of so that we can follow him unencumbered and with great joy? Will we find ourselves singing this day, *“I have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back! No turning back!”*

God, whose riches are not of this world, help us take inventory of the very things that are keeping us from truly following Your Son, Jesus. Give us the strength to let go and trust the path Jesus invites us on. Amen.