CHEROKEE NATIONAL
HISTORY MUSEUM
OTHER &
WISE

*****_Those who are able please stand_

RINGING OF THE BELL

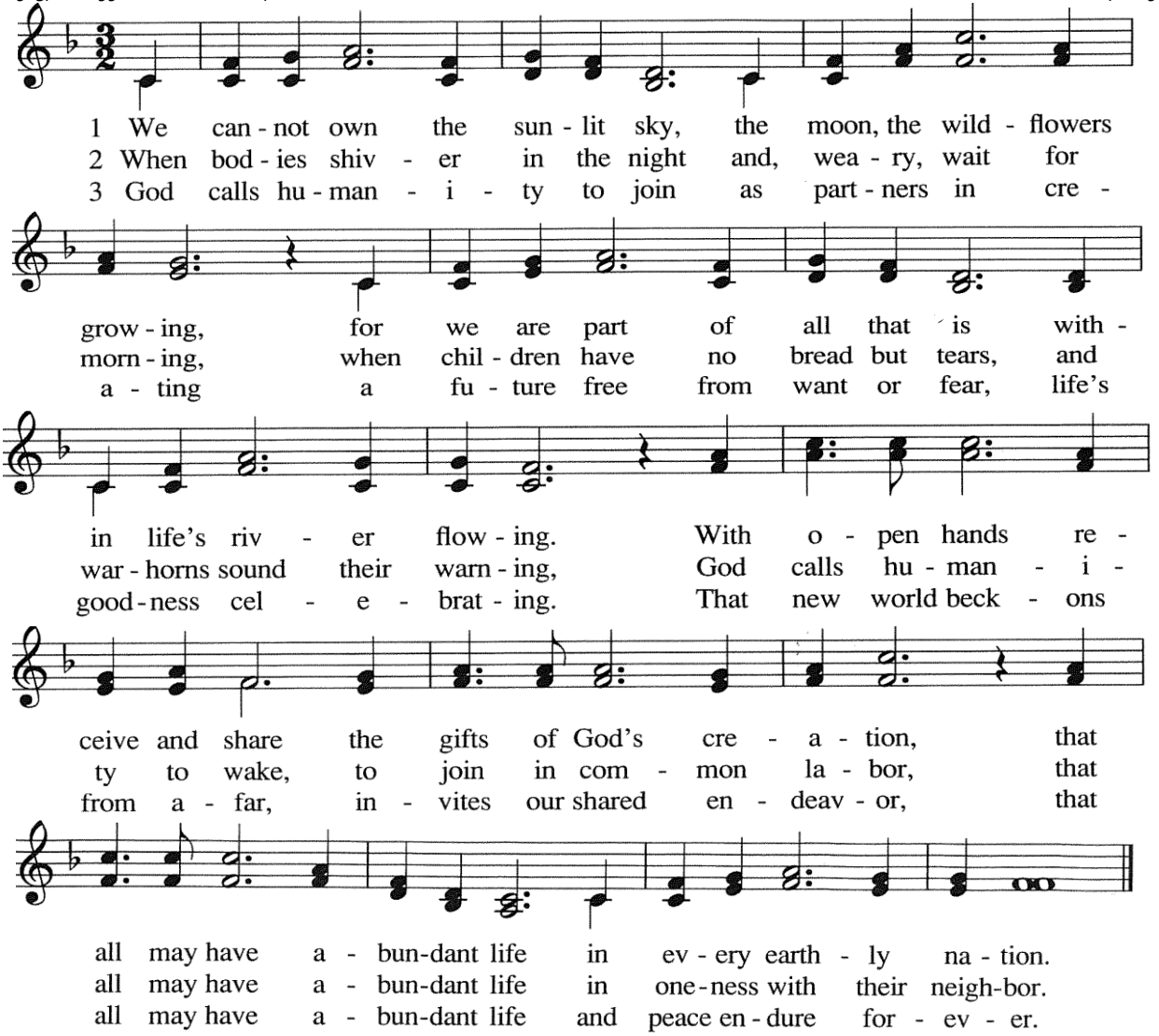
PRELUDE "Meditation on 'Chereponi'" – Richard Blake Cathy Fafrak, Piano

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***OPENING HYMN** **"We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky"** ENDLESS SONG 8.7.8.7.D.

Ruth Duck, 1984; rev. 1989
© 1983, rev. 1992 GIA Publications, Inc

Attrib. to Robert Lowry in Bright Jewels for the Sunday School
New York, 1869

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

God of ancient tales and new stories,
God of shimmering heat and rippling waters,
As we sing your praises and swim in the river of your love,
Let us be moved by your Spirit to work for the good of all.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Dance of the Butterflies" – Gustav Saenger — Jen Vilimonovic, violin

SCRIPTURE Galatians 6:1-10 (N.T. pg.180) — Deb Waldron, 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

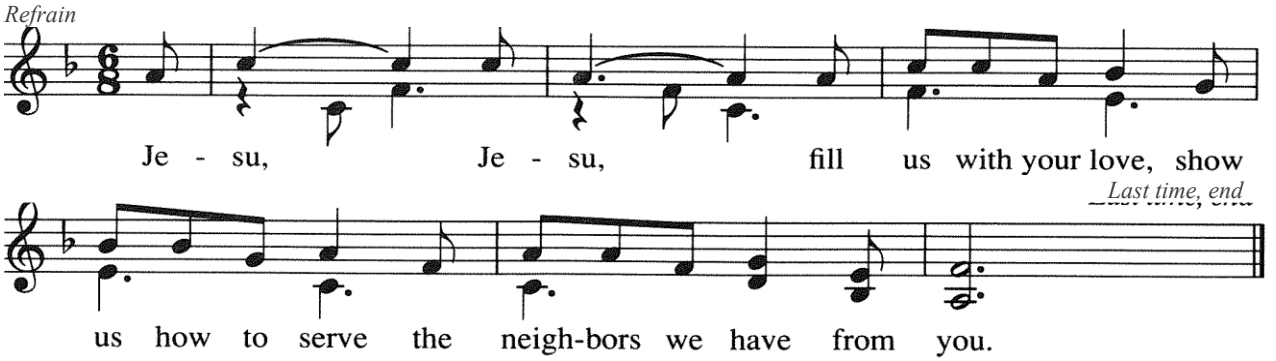
SERMON "Other+Wise" — Rev. Meghan Malone

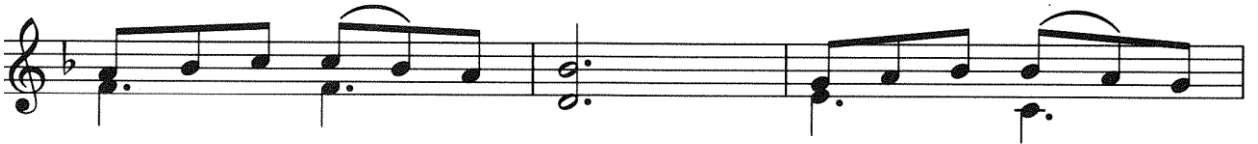
Perspectives Shared by Other+Wise Trip Participants

HYMN **"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love"**

Tom Colvin, 1969; rev. 1994, © 1969

CHEREPONI Irr. with refrain
Ghanaian folk song; adapt. Tom Colvin, 1969;
Arr. Jane Marshall, 1982. Arr. © 1982 Hope Publishing Company





1 Knelt at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their
2 Neigh-bors are rich and poor, var - ied in col - or and
3 These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should
4 Lov - ing puts us on our knees, show-ing our faith by our
5 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their

To Refrain

feet, Je - su, you act - ed as ser - vant to them.
race, neigh-bors are near and far a - way.
love; all these are neigh-bors to us and you.
deeds, serv - ing the neigh-bors we have from you.
feet, this is the way we should live with you.

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. You can also give through VENMO. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

UCC Medina
@uccmedina

venmo

Offering Invitation

We invite you to give and be a part of what is growing here: new life, new hope, and new visions for what could be. Join us in working for good and in having the audacity to believe that it makes a difference.

***Doxology** *(words, Ruth Duck, ©2005, GIA Publications)*

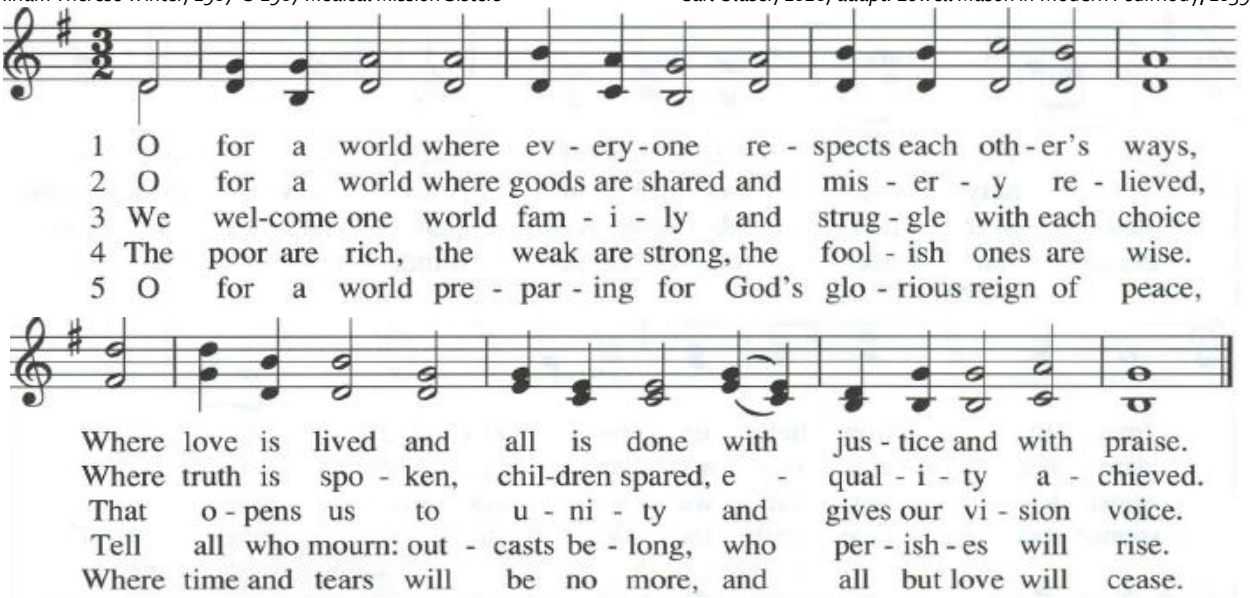
Praise God, the Source of life and birth; Praise God, the Word, who came to earth;
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame; All glory, honor to God's Name! Amen.

***Give Thanks**

God who loves humanity, receive our gifts and multiply them through your Spirit. Use them for the good of all, as we join you in the ongoing work of restoration and reconciliation. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN** **"O For a World"** AZMON C.M.

Miriam Therese Winter, 1987 © 1987 Medical Mission Sisters *Carl Gläser, 1828; adapt. Lowell Mason in* Modern Psalmody, *1839*



***ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***BENEDICTION**

Children of God, be gentle with each other as you gain new perspectives.
We must carry our burdens together as we try to fulfill the law of love.
We will reap what we have sown, and we will plant good seeds for the future.
Let us test our own actions to see if they bring good to all people,
And let us not become weary in doing good,
Because someday we will harvest the fruit!
May the Spirit move you to go and make peace!
She is calling us, and we will go! 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** "The Work of Creation" – Colin Curtis Cathy Fafrak, Organ

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Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER
JULY 6, 2025

"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

July 6 thru July 13, 2025
WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
10:30 am Summer Jesus Vibes

Mon **Cook for Cups**
8:00 am Men's Breakfast

Tues 7:00 pm Property & Grounds Team Meeting

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
6:30 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal

Thurs
6:30 pm Bible Study

Fri

Sat

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
10:30 am Summer Jesus Vibes

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Maker Space and Jesus Vibes are taking a break for the summer. Summer Sunday School will be available for children ages 3 through those entering the third grade in the fall. Older children will be in worship for the summer.

ARE YOU A PUZZLER?

"Bring a puzzle, Take a puzzle"

Tired of always buying puzzles? Then try our PUZZLE EXCHANGE in the new library. Puzzles are 300 pieces and up. If you bring in a few, take some others home to try. You can access the puzzles any time the church is open. Enjoy!

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

Scripture: Galatians 6:1-10

Sermon: "Other + Wise"
Rev. Meghan Malone and youth who went on the Mission trip to OK

Communion Table: The flowers on the communion table are given by John Walschon in memory of his mother, Bette Robertson.

SAVE THE DATE
ALIVE ON THE SQUARE WORSHIP
AUGUST 24TH @ 10:30 A.M.

Come one, come all, and bring a friend to "Alive on the Square" for worship **Sunday, August 24th at 10:30 am! Don't forget to bring your lawn chair!**

JULY MONTHLY DONATION

For the month of July, we will be collecting:

- Ziplock baggies (gallon & sandwich sizes)
- Disinfectant wipes
- Boxes of facial tissues
- Pencils

Please place your donations for the Mission Team in the marked bins across from the elevator by the Mission table.

PLEASE BE AWARE!!!

We no longer have permission to use the small lot to the back of the church (Birch Lot) for parking. We have been asked to use the administration lot or the parking deck in the future. Thank you.

PICNIC AT HOPE RECOVERY FARM

Join SPARK Medina at the HOPE Recovery Farm for a tour and picnic lunch. Since our last youth program had a rain relocation and we were unable to be at the farm, we would love to have the youth get a tour and place their signs and bird feeders into the children's garden themselves.

July 8th from 11 AM – 1 PM Hope Recovery Farm, 4092 Medina Rd. Medina

Drop off/pick up at the turn around in the driveway. If you are an older youth volunteering and need a place to park, please park at the Medina County Extension on the corner of Medina Rd. and Foote Rd. (there's a sidewalk connecting the two).

Don't forget:

- A packed lunch
- Wear farm friendly clothes & shoes/boots
- Bring full water bottles
- Wear sunscreen/hats to protect your face

ENJOY OUR PODCASTS!

Enjoy a preview, on Facebook, of Pastors Meghan and Luke recording Season 3 of their podcast, *REV'D UP! With Meghan and Luke.*
This season: Adult Confirmation! We'll be cracking open big questions—God, faith, doubt, the Bible, Jesus, justice, and what it all means for your real life. No easy answers, just honest conversation.
New episodes every week starting July 7, 2025 on Spotify!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Just a reminder: the next Men's Breakfast will be on Monday, July 7th at Buehler's River Styx at 8:00 am. All men of the church are invited. We hope to see you there!

OPERATION HOMES UPDATE

From Greg Ulm, President of the Operation Homes Board:

Last year, the Medina Metropolitan Housing Authority (MMHA) announced plans to build a permanent 28-bed emergency homeless shelter in Medina. This development prompted a necessary shift in the mission of Operation Homes. In response, we launched a capital campaign in the fall of 2024 with the goal of raising $500,000 to purchase property for transitional housing. Unfortunately, the campaign raised less than $50,000**—**far short of what was needed for a property purchase.
Because of this, we are once again adapting our approach to best serve those in need. Operation Homes will now focus on helping individuals and families transition into permanent housing by providing essential household items. These include:

- Cleaning supplies
- Dishware and cookware
- Small appliances
- Lamps and furniture
- Bedding and towels

We are still committed to answering God's call to serve those in need in our community and look forward to this new opportunity to share God's love. How can you help?

- **Prayer support—**No endeavor succeeds without God's guidance. Your prayers are a powerful source of strength and direction for our mission.
- **Item donations—**New and gently used household items are always appreciated. We have storage space available to keep donated items until they are needed.
- **Financial support—**When specific items are not available in storage, we will use donated funds to purchase them responsibly.

We are deeply grateful for your support over the past 30 years. As we shift our ministry to meet new challenges, we ask for your continued partnership and generosity.

Please contact the church office for info on who to talk to regarding any questions.

PASTOR'S CORNER

It May Be Time Again...

It has been 10 years since our last capital campaign. Under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Neal Sadler, you faithfully funded a major building addition and air conditioning—an impressive achievement. I showed up in 2017 and the "new build" has always been the normal for my family and me. In 2019, we were able to close out that debt through the *Reverend in the Rafters* campaign and those iconic *Save the Bell* shirts, along with golf outings organized by Cheri and Arnold Ingraham and support from many others.

Now, it seems to be time again.

Our bricks and mortar are showing wear. The air conditioners are aging and may need replacement. And our sanctuary, the heart of our worship life, is looking a bit tired and could use refreshing.

This building is more than a structure—it's our mission base. It's where we gather each week. It's where we celebrate the sacraments, unite in weddings, and grieve at funerals. It houses the life of the church.

Property and Grounds are doing the hard work of figuring out what needs to be fixed and what it will cost. Once we establish our scope, we'll communicate what the needs are.

This is my first capital campaign. I'm a little nervous but also very excited.

Yours in Christ,
The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

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

July 6, 2025
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 5:1-14

Surprising Prophets

Do you know someone who is an overthinker, complicating life with their if's, and's or but's? Perhaps you know someone who can take the easiest tasks and turn them into trying ordeals. Do I even dare ask if you could be that person?

If so, you are not alone. Many people overthink, which ultimately leads to unnecessary worry. I'll admit that I'm one of those people who does both — overthinks and overcomplicates. I'm not sure why I do that? Maybe because it's hard to let ourselves truly believe that faith in God can move the mountains that we create out of life's mole hills. And maybe, just maybe, we can't allow ourselves to believe in a mountain-moving God because that belief requires us to give up the façade that we're in control.

Let me introduce you to Naaman, an overthinker standing in the need of more faith — and healing. The celebrated army commander of the King of Syria, whose name in Hebrew translates into "pleasant and beautiful," is anything but. He is suffering from a skin infliction, most likely leprosy, which carries with it the societal stigma of being unclean.

But when Naaman hears that Elisha, the prophet of Israel, can heal him, he seeks him out. The visit doesn't go well. Naaman becomes furious with the seemingly dismissive way the prophet speaks to him. How dare this lowly servant of God tell a prominent army commander to simply jump into the Jordan River and bathe. Not only does Naaman have more impressive rivers back home, but healing leprosy cannot be as easy as washing.

Naaman turns to leave in a huff, but his servants convince him to listen to the prophet's surprising remedy. One even makes the very convincing point that if the instructions were complicated, would Naaman be quick to follow through? Perhaps it's time for Naaman to check his ego and stop overthinking the mysterious ways that God works.

He gives in, washes himself as instructed by Elisha, and voila — his skin is healed.

More times than not, we are like Naaman, seeking healing and answers to life's questions but then not trusting the surprising ways God leads us to healing.

What if we decided to finally trust God this day? What if we stopped making things harder for ourselves by overthinking and overcomplicating life? Could wholeness and restoration be as simple as crying out to God, "I believe, now help my unbelief." We won't know until we try.

Healing God, we stand before today in need of Your gentle touch. Restore us to wholeness. Increase our faith and help us to stop overthinking and overcomplicating the life You have blessed us with. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)