

HISTORIC PUBLIC SQUARE, MEDINA OH

Alive

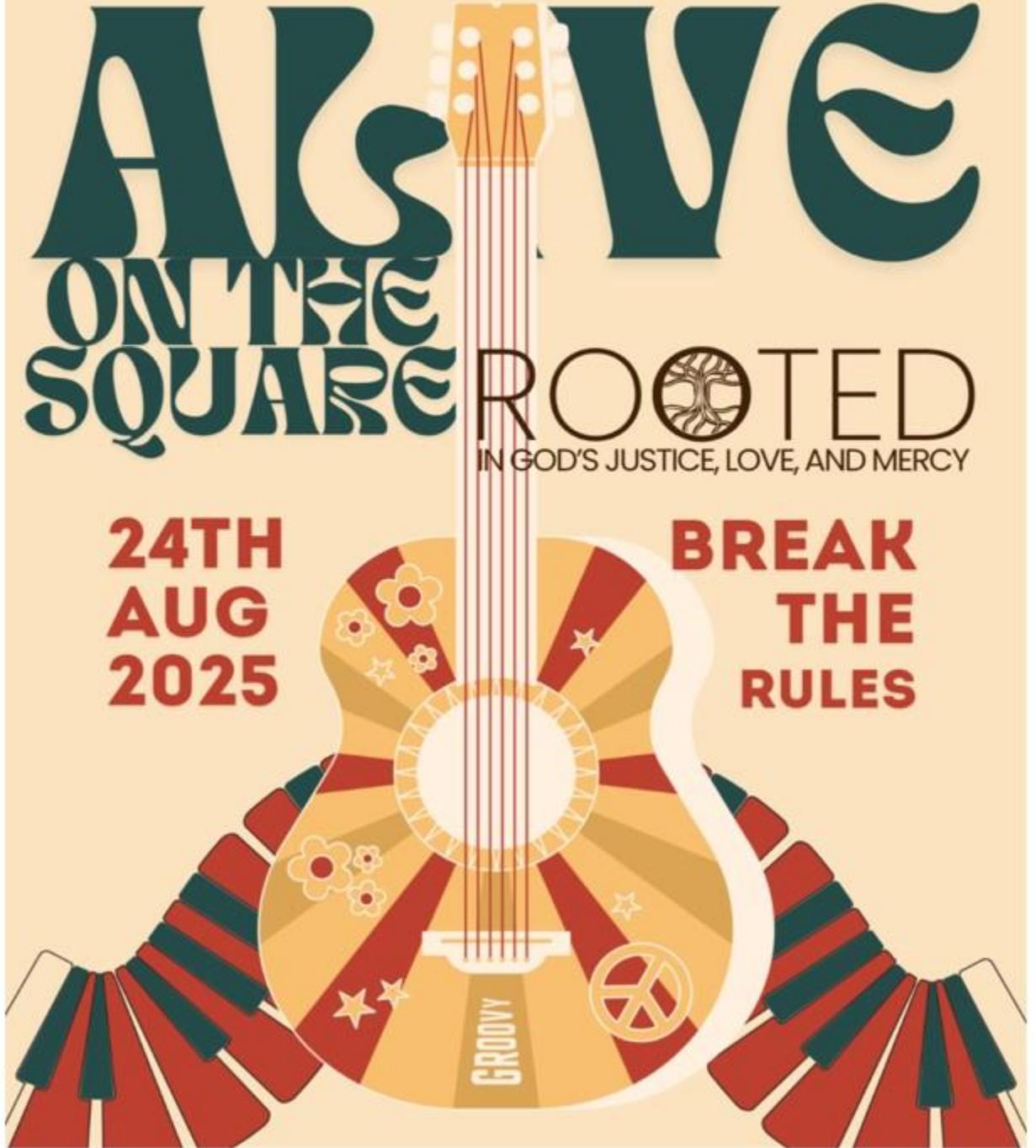
ON THE SQUARE

ROOTED

IN GOD'S JUSTICE, LOVE, AND MERCY

**24TH
AUG
2025**

**BREAK
THE
RULES**





Alive on the Square

Rooted: In God's Justice, Mercy, and Love

August 24 – September 26

This six-week series invites us to cultivate lives rooted in God's justice, mercy, and love. We are living in what the Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins calls "these whiplash times," and it's good to stay rooted and strong in our values. Drawing from Jesus' teachings in Luke and the prophetic and pastoral witness of the lectionary, we'll explore how faith takes root not just in belief—but in practice, ethics, relationships, and priorities. As summer ends and routines reset, this is a time to remember what grounds us.

**Those who are able please stand*

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Gathering Band

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Today as we worship, alive on our town square,

we recall the words of an early theologian Irenaeus;

The glory of God is humanity *fully alive*.

Through our worship, may we glimpse our potential.

Hear something that gives us goose bumps.

Remember our purpose.

Remember the love we've given and received from others.

We come to be inspired and challenged.

To be awakened and comforted.

To find hope.

To proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ!

To these ends, let us worship today!

*SONG

"Visioning Prayer"

Words and music by Sharon Alberson. Written for Medina UCC © 2013. All rights reserved, Used by permission



God, help us___ to be wel-com-ing.



God, help us___ to be lov-ing

God, help us___ to see that

15 ser-ving you can lead us to a place full of grace with no li-mits where we can be free...

20 to o - pen our hands, wel-com-ing to o - pen our hearts,

27 lov-ing to be more than church on Sun-day, to live in the light from a - bove; to

33 cel - a - brate in ser - vice and love.

A ROOTED PRAYER OF THREE VOICES

Voice 1: God of Justice, keep us silent when the only words we have to utter are ones of judgement, exclusion or prejudice. Teach us to face the wounds in our own hearts (*Silence*)

God of Justice...

Give us power of speech to resist oppression and hate, not only on our own behalf but for our city and nation. Help us speak on behalf of those who are not heard. Make us peacemakers and restorers of the streets. May your justice reign.

Voice 2: God of Mercy, keep us silent so that we may listen respectfully to another person's pain without trying to fade or fix it, for you are present within each one of us (*Silence*)

God of Mercy...

Give us courage to share our gifts of speech to comfort, uphold, and strengthen. Let us be a glimpse of your love to those in need. Where there is judgment, may we bring mercy.

Voice 3: God of Love, in the silence of our hearts give us words of welcome, acceptance and renewal so that when we speak our words come from you (*Silence*)

God of Love...

Give us voices of praise to celebrate each other and our neighbors. Every single neighbor. Help us lift up the glories of Your creation believing that all live within your blessing. Amen!

ANTHEM "My Roots Go Down" – Melita & Issac © 2014

Chancel Choir & Children's Choir

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Stacie Yates

SCRIPTURES Luke 13:10-17 and Isaiah 58:9-14

SERMON "Break the Rules – part 1"

The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

VISUAL SCAVENGER HUNT

SERMON "Break the Rules – part 2"

Rev. Meghan Malone

SONG "You Are Salt for the Earth"

Paraphrase of Matt 5:13-15 by Marty Haugen. 1986, alt.

BRING FORTH Irr. w/ refrain
Marty Haugen © 1986 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.



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!

A RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR OUR CITY

Gracious Mystery, you created us all and everything that surrounds us
These trees and the birds and squirrels in them.

While you didn't create these cars and distracting semi-trucks...

You did create each soul who drives them. Bless them in their travels.

These buildings were built by our ancestors whose names are at the top and whose lives are within the walls

Bless our city and town. Bless the civil servants. May justice pour from the courthouse. May our library teach, resource, and have something to offend us. May our public schools be adequately funded and supported in their role of supporting good civics. May the businesses thrive and be fair, blessing their workers. May our police, firefighters, and first responders be blessed and bring blessings to our town.

You made each of us and we are so thankful to gather here in the Square to bless you, our town, and one another.

Bring healing where we need it,
forgiveness and restoration in the withered places of our lives,
and unbridled joy at the gift of being alive.

Hear us now as we silently send our joys and concerns to you.

Silence is kept.

Hear your children as we pray,
Our Father...

*SONG

"A New Hallelujah"

Gathering Band

Deborah D. Smith, Michael W. Smith, Paul Baloche | © 2008 Smittyfly Music; Integrity's Hosanna! Music; Leadworship Songs; This Is Your Time Music (Admin. by Music Services o/b/o The Loving Company); Curb Word Music

Can you hear, there's a new song
Breaking out from the children of freedom
Every race and every nation
Sing it out sing a new Hallelujah

Let us sing love to the nations
Bringing hope of the grace that has freed us
Make Him known and make Him famous
Sing it out sing to the new hallelujah

Arise
let the church Arise
Let love reach to the other side
Alive come alive
Let the song Arise

Everyone sings a new song
reaching out with the new Hallelujah
Every son and every daughter
everyone sing a new Hallelujah

Chorus

Bridge
Whoa whoa yeah (2x)
Let the song arise(2x)
Yeah, yeah (2x)

Chorus

Everyone sing a new Hallelujah (4x)

***ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***BENEDICTION**

***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.

Please Join Us!!!

Medina Creative Housing will serve a picnic lunch after the service. A donation of \$10 a plate is appreciated. If you don't have cash, you can scan the QR code below

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!

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UCC Medina
@uccmedina



venmo

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Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian

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

Hey Church!

Happy ALIVE ON THE SQUARE! The worship team has really been cooking up some excellent offerings. I'm excited for what is ahead of us. I want to give you a preview of the worship series taking us all the way from here to Christmas.



Rooted: In God's Justice, Mercy, and Love

August 24 – September 26

This six-week series invites us to cultivate lives rooted in God's justice, mercy, and love. We are living in what the Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins calls "these whiplash times," and it's good to stay rooted and strong in our values. Drawing from Jesus' teachings in Luke and the prophetic and pastoral witness of the lectionary, we'll explore how faith takes root not just in belief—but in practice, ethics, relationships, and priorities. As summer ends and routines reset, this is a time to remember what grounds us.

Faithful and True: Revelation as Resistance

October 5 – October 26, 2025

This four-week series will explore the Book of Revelation through the lens of Dr. Greg Carey's *Faithful and True*, helping us reclaim this challenging text not as a code to be cracked, but as a message of hope and resistance for communities of faith. Far from predicting the end of the world, Revelation invites readers to remain faithful in the midst of empire, injustice, and fear.

Through careful engagement with its vivid imagery and bold theology, we will discover that Revelation speaks powerfully to our time—calling us to courage, perseverance, and trust in the God who makes all things new.

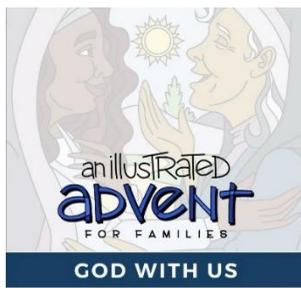


Rooted: Part 2

November 2 – November 23

This November, we explore what it means to be rooted in the legacy of those who came before us, and reaching toward the future God is calling us to build. Through the image of a tree—roots, trunk, branches, and seeds—we'll reflect on gratitude, justice, love, and hope. Each week invites us to consider how our faith and generosity help shape a church that lasts, nourishes, and grows.

This campaign explores how we are rooted in the faith and generosity of those who came before us (saints, ancestors, mentors), and how we are reaching toward a just, merciful, and sustainable future. Stewardship is framed as a spiritual practice of gratitude, legacy, hope, and participation. Each week invites reflection on what we've received, how we live now, and what we're building for others.



God With Us: An Illustrated Advent for Families

November 30 – December 24, 2025

God With Us is an opportunity for families to take time each week during Advent to focus on faith. The stories of Advent are stories for hard times. Jesus was born amid upheaval, change, and among people who seemed powerless. But when the world feels hopeless, Advent reminds us:

- In chaos, God is with us.
- In suffering, God is with us.
- In uncertainty, God is with us.
- In whatever our family endures, God is with us.

This Advent resource invites your family to explore how Emmanuel, God-with-us, brings hope, peace, joy, and love to your home and community, especially during hard times. Each week you will explore how the good news of God-with-us changes our perspective and gives us courage for each day. We rejoice in Jesus' birth because God is with us!

Friends, from late summer to Christmas, we will journey together rooted in God's love, strengthened by hope, and called to live with courage and generosity. Each series builds on the other: grounding us in what matters, reminding us of God's faithfulness, and preparing us to welcome Emmanuel once again.

I hope you'll join us every step of the way, because the story we tell together is not just ancient—it's alive in us, here and now.

See you in worship. Let's walk this road together.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Luke

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 24, 2025

**“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS.
MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY!”**

Live streaming of the Sanctuary service is available at www.uccmedina.org/live

August 24 thru August 31, 2025

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun 10:30 am **ALIVE ON THE SQUARE**

Mon

Tues

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 Teen Church
10:30 am Summer Jesus Vibes

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Hello Church! Mrs. V here wanting everyone to know that Children's Choir will start practicing at 10:00 in the Chapel on Sunday, September 7th. All children grade Pre-K through 8th grade are welcome! For more information, feel free to email me at jen@uccmedina.org. I look forward to all the fun and music making!

VIBES VIDEO CREW

Vibes Video Crew is for youth 2nd grade and up who are interested in making videos based on scriptures to be shown during church. We will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays before youth group from 3:30-4:30. We will be writing the scripts, making props/sets, making videos and editing them to be shown during the church service. Our first meeting will be on Sunday, September 7th. We will meet in rooms 9/10 at 3:30. A schedule will be available at our first meeting! Come join the fun!

Worship Highlights: 10:30 am– ONE SERVICE

Scripture: Luke 13:10-17 & Isaiah 58:9-14
Sermon: Break the Rules - Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The flowers on the communion table are given by Nancy Masi in memory of Anne Reed.

ALIVE ON THE SQUARE TODAY!

Sunday, August 24th 10:30 a.m.

On the Square at the Gazebo

Worship & Photo Scavenger Hunt

Picnic on the square to follow

Lunch will be catered by Medina Creative Housing

Donations towards the cost of the meal are appreciated, and the suggested amount is \$10 per plate.

We hope you will join us for this unique outdoor worship experience and fellowship! Bring a friend and a lawn chair!

TEEN CHURCH

On Sunday, August 31st, 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. This year we will meet on the 2nd & 4th Sundays, with a few exceptions. Watch the church calendar for details.

JESUS VIBES

Jesus Vibes will start up again on Sunday, September 7th. It will be a year full of changes that we are very excited about. Looking forward to a year of fun, learning, growing and fellowship!

YOUTH GROUP KICK-OFF

Youth group begins again on Sunday, September 7th! We'll be meeting at Brunswick Skate Station for roller skating from 5:00-7:00pm. Admission and skates will be paid for by the church, and we'll have pizza for a snack as well. Parents are welcome to hang out, but do not have to stay.

AUGUST MONTHLY DONATION

This month, the Mission Team is collecting items for the Next Step-Up Emergency Housing Shelter. These are the most-requested items that they collect to prepare baskets for their Guests as they transition into new homes!

Laundry baskets	Laundry detergent
Disinfectant wipes	Multipurpose cleaner
Broom and dustpan	Garbage bags
Drying rack	Dish soap
Hand soap	Dish sponges

Please place your donations in the marked bins across from the elevator by the Mission table. Thank you!

SIGN-UPS POSTED

Check out the bulletin board in the East Room hallway to sign up to be a liturgist during the 10:30 Sanctuary service or to host a Coffee Hour. The new sign-up sheets are for September through November.

HABITAT DONATIONS

Are you purchasing a new couch, love seat, washer & dryer or bedroom set? Consider donating your gently used items to the ReStore. Habitat for Humanity offers a FREE donation pick-up service. Sales from the ReStore help build safe, decent, and affordable homes with families here in Medina County. Call to schedule your pick-up today – 330-722-4494.

Habitat for Humanity will also be accepting applications for their homeownership program from September 8th–September 26th. More information on how to apply will be added to their website (medinacountyhabitat.org) in September.

THANK YOU!

A special THANK YOU to all the members who volunteered for summer special music.

A wonderful variety of musicians shared their talents! We heard everything from solos, duets, and ensembles to bells, violins, piano and guitars. Thank you for giving your time and talent to enhance our summer worship!

Sincerely, Tracy Gabrielsen

NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK!

"Irpin's Big Adventure" by Brad Rice is a story about a family of mice escaping a war-torn region, relying on faith that there are good people to help. Books are on sale in the East Room. Scan the QR code to pay \$20 on your phone and take your copy. You can also pick up your copy in the church office.



ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR JESUS VIBES & YOUTH GROUP

Time to fill out youth registration forms! Please use the QR code to complete the youth registration form for each of your children (ages preschool - 12th grade) by September 7th, 2025. If you have never set up your Realm login for yourself, please contact the church office for an invite, then proceed with youth registration once you're initial profile is set up in Realm. Completing the youth registration form will allow us to best serve all of our youth at church programming and events throughout the year. Youth registration is also required for the new Sunday morning check-in process that will be implemented this year. Please contact Stacie Yates



(stacie@uccmedina.org) or Meghan Malone (meghan@uccmedina.org) with any questions. Here is a direct link as well: <https://onrealm.org/uccmedina/PublicRegistration/Event>



BOOK STUDY



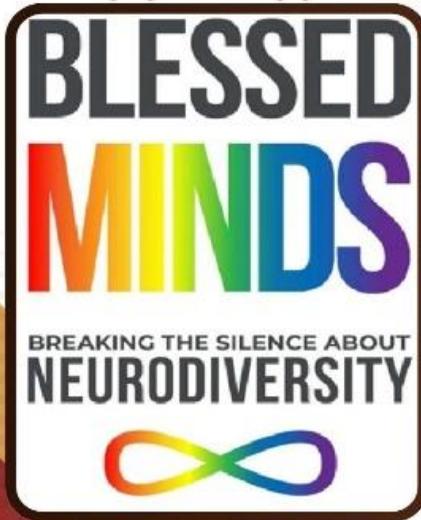
Tuesday
SEPT 23, 2025



From
7 to 8 p.m.

MEDINA UCC

The Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund visited us in the Spring. We will be reviewing her book Blessed Minds! Pick up your copy in the office for \$15.



330-725-4559



www.uccmedina.org



office@uccmedina.org



SERMON

Prep Study

Join us each week as we gather around the Scripture for the upcoming Sunday's worship.

We'll read together, ask questions, share insights, and wrestle with how this ancient story speaks into our world today. This isn't about having all the answers — it's about curiosity, conversation, and community.



MONDAYS
Weekly starting
September 15



TIME
2 p.m.

NEW LIBRARY

August 24, 2025
11th Sunday after Pentecost

Luke 13:10-17

HEALING REIGN

The healing of the woman who had been bent over for 18 years is unique, appearing only in the Gospel of Luke. What isn't unique is once again Jesus is breaking the guarded Sabbath rule of not healing on the day of rest and, by doing so, ruffles the feathers of the religious elite.

He doesn't care, though. What matters is someone has been suffering for far too long, and that someone was a woman painstakingly shuffling into the synagogue, wishing only to worship without anyone staring at her.

Luckily, those around her were more than happy to look the other way. Our reactions to the disabilities of others are strange, aren't they? We either gawk at them not realizing how uncomfortable our unintentional rudeness is making them, or we try our best to pretend they are not there.

This day, though, the woman's hopes of blending into the crowd are dashed. Jesus saw her. As did everyone else. But the Greek word used for "saw" goes beyond superficial seeing. The Greek word used means that Jesus saw the extent of her suffering that reached deep into her soul. He saw the years of whispers of those wondering what she did to deserve her infliction. He saw the years of social isolation. He saw the loneliness, the hurt and feeling of rejection, of being "different."

Jesus saw her and with the words, "Woman, you are set free," she was stood tall once again.

Many times, we are like that woman, shuffling through life, bent by the weight of our worries and burdens. Many times, we pray just to get through the day without anyone noticing spiritual, emotional or physical pain we are in.

But Jesus sees us. He *really* sees us. He knows all that we are dealing with, and he will dare to break rules and boundaries to reach us with his healing grace. He will stand up for us, just like he did for that woman when he turned to the synagogue leader, chastising him for allowing a religious rule to keep a child of God from receiving true Sabbath rest — rest from the pain she was experiencing.

So, for all who are bent by the worries and burdens, by emotional or physical afflictions, Jesus sees you. Go to him and listen as he speaks your name. Yes, in Christ, we are set free. In Christ, we can all once again stand tall.

God, thank you for the reminder today that Jesus sees us and knows all that is weighing us down in this world. May this day we experience freedom from our ailments and worries. 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*.)



Visual Scavenger Hunt



List where you see the following photos