

HUMBLE HOSPITALITY

ROOTED

IN GOD'S JUSTICE, LOVE, AND MERCY



August 31, 2025



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*

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE "Praise Him in the Morning" – trad. mel. arr. by Edward Broughton Cathy Fafrak, Piano

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

"Come Labor On"

ORA LABORA 4.10.10.10.4.

Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1859, rev. 1863; alt.

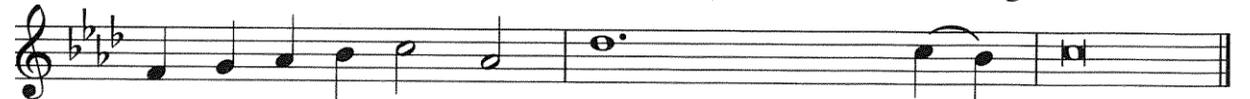
Thomas Tertius Noble, 1918



1 Come, la-bor on. Who dares stay i - dle on the har - vest plain
2 Come, la-bor on. Claim the high call - ing an - gels can - not share;
3 Come, la-bor on. A - way with gloom-y doubts and faith-less fear!
4 Come, la-bor on. No time for rest, till glows the west-ern sky,



while all a - round us waves the gold - en grain? And to each ser - vant
to young and old the gos - pel glad-ness bear. Re - deem the time; its
No one so weak but may do ser - vice here; Though fee - ble a - gents,
till the long shad-ows o'er the path-way lie, And a glad sound comes



does the Sav - ior say, "Go work to - day."
hours too swift-ly fly. The night draws nigh.
may we all ful - fill God's righ - - - teous will.
with the set-ting sun, "Well done, well done!"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We have come to remember our roots,

We shall root in hospitality.

Come, beloved of God,

for Christ has set the table where all are welcome.

Come, you who are honored and you who are overlooked,

for here the last are first and the lowly are lifted.

Come, strangers and friends,

for God's love makes us one family.

We come to worship the One

who calls us to humble hospitality

SPECIAL MUSIC Beer & Hymns Band: Jessika & Bennett Petersen, Jake Koehler, Amos Armbrust,
Jen Vilimonovic, Tracy Gabrielsen, and Luke Lindon

Please join in and sing along with the group on these selections

"I'll Fly Away" – by Albert E. Brumley

Some glad mornin' when this life is o'er, I'll fly away

To a home on God's celestial shore, I'll fly away

I'll fly away, oh glory, I'll fly away.

When I die, Hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away.

Just a few more weary days and then, I'll fly away.

To a home where joy shall never end, I'll fly away. **Chorus**

"Rooted in God's Love" – Music by Trinity Klein Lutheran; new words by Tracy Gabrielsen

We will plant our roots in Love, Feel his mercy from above

When the day is as dark as night, With him we will be alright

We will take the outcast's hand, Helping them to understand

All are welcome in this place, See the presence of God's Grace

Oh oh oh, We plant our roots, oh oh oh

We will welcome, love and serve, Showing all the world the love they deserve.

We will carry those down low, We will go to the ends of the earth to show

Everybody the truth, His love's for me and for you

Together there's nothing that we can't do

We're overflowing with thanks, We give him all of our praise

We live our lives ROOTED IN GOD'S LOVE!

SCRIPTURES

Luke 14:7-14 (N.T. pg.72)

Hebrews 13:1-8 (N.T. pg.213)

Alice Metzloff, Liturgist

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 "Humble Hospitality"

The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

HYMN "Guide My Feet"

GUIDE MY FEET 8.8.8.10.

African American traditional; alt.

African American trad., arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992



1	Guide	my	feet	while I	run this	race,	guide	my	feet
2	Hold	my	hand	while I	run this	race,	hold	my	hand
3	I'm	your	child	while I	run this	race,	I'm	your	child
4	Stand	by	me	while I	run this	race,	stand	by	me



while I	run this	race,	guide	my	feet	while I	run this	race,
while I	run this	race,	hold	my	hand	while I	run this	race,
while I	run this	race,	I'm	your	child	while I	run this	race,
while I	run this	race,	stand	by	me	while I	run this	race,



For I don't want to run this race in vain.

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

Jesus reminds us that true blessing comes not from what we gain, but from what we give.

When we open our tables to the poor, the stranger, and those who cannot repay, we reflect the generous heart of God.

Our offering today is one way to extend such hospitality—creating spaces of welcome, care, and grace.

Let us give joyfully, not for honor, but for love.

***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**

Generous God, we thank you for the feast of life, for tables where we have found welcome,
and for the grace that has met us in surprising ways. Receive these gifts as signs of our
gratitude and use them to extend your hospitality to all people. May strangers find a
home, the hungry find bread, and the lonely find friendship through the ministries you
empower here. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

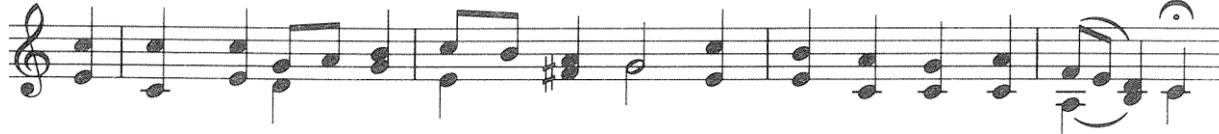
"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Martin Luther, 1529. Trans. Frederick H. Hedge, 1853;

adapt. Ruth Duck © 1981

EIN' FESTE BURG 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.6.7.

Martin Luther, 1529; 1981 Harm. The New Hymnal for American Youth, 1930; alt.



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er fail - ing,
2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be los - ing,
3 And though this world with dev - ils filled should threat - en to un - do us,
4 That word be - yond all earth - ly powers for - ev - er is a - bid - ing;



Our pres - ent help a - mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing.
But there is one who takes our side, the One of God's own choos - ing.
We will not fear for God has willed the truth to tri - umph through us.
The Spir - it and the gifts are ours, for Christ is with us sid - ing.



For still our an - cient foe does seek to work us woe with craft and pow - er
You ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus sets us free! With might - y power to
The powers of e - vil grim, we trem - ble not for them; their rage we can en -
Let goods and kin - dred go, this mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may



great, and armed with cru - el hate, on earth with - out an e - qual.
save, vic - to - rious o'er the grave, Christ will pre - vail tri - um - phant.
dure, for lo, their doom is sure: one lit - tle word shall fell them.
kill; God's truth shall tri - umph still; God's reign en - dures for - ev - er.

***ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***BENEDICTION**

Go now in peace,
to honor not yourselves, but one another.
Go in humility,
to welcome those the world forgets.
Go in love,
for Christ has made you guests at God’s eternal table.
And may the steadfast God,
the compassionate Christ,
and the abiding Spirit
go with you and remain with you,
now and always.
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 Beer & Hymns Band: “Let It Be” by The Beatles and “I Still Haven’t Found What I’m Looking For” by U2

****Please look up the lyrics and sing along!*

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THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 31, 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

August 31 thru September 7, 2025

WEEK AT A GLANCE

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
Mon	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED – LABOR DAY	
	8:00 am	Men’s Breakfast
Tues		
Wed	10:30 am	Quilters
	6:00 pm	Bell Choir
	6:30 pm	Gathering Band Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Community Engagement Team
	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thurs	HOBBY HORSE PRESCHOOL BEGINS	
	6:30 pm	Bible Study
Fri	4:00 pm	Free Play Hangout Roscoe Ewing Park
Sat		
Sun	RALLY DAY	
	BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS	
	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	10:30 am	Sanctuary Worship
	3:30 pm	Vibes Video Crew
	5:00 pm	Youth Group Kick-off Brunswick Skate Station

BACKPACK BLESSING

Sunday, Sept. 7th we will bless our backpacks, and any kind of bag that may be headed into a school building this year! Bring yours for a special Medina UCC tag and blessing.

TEEN CHURCH TODAY!

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.

Worship Highlights: 8:15, 9:00 & 10:30 am

Scripture: Luke 14:7-14 & Hebrews 13:1-8

Sermon: “Humble Hospitality” Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The flowers on the communion table are given by Kimberly Gallagher in memory of her mom’s birthday on September 6th.

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!

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!

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

MEN’S BREAKFAST

The men’s breakfast group will meet on Labor Day, September 1st @ 8 a.m. at Buehler’s River Styx. All men are welcome!

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.

DONATION OF THE MONTH: SEPTEMBER

This month we're asking for non-perishable food items for tiny pantries in Medina. The youth group will take a walk to distribute these donations at the beginning of October! Please choose items that are lightweight and not made with glass. Canned meats (with a pull tab to open), fruit cups or applesauce, granola bars, jars of peanut butter, and cooking oils are some great options that help fill people's pantries.

SERMON PREP STUDY

Join us each week on Monday starting on September 15th at 2pm in the new library, 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.

BLESSED MINDS – Book Study

Tuesday, Sept. 23rd from 7-8 pm.

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

FREE PLAY CHURCH HANGOUT

Join us for a casual, screen-free "Free "Play" hangout where kids of all ages are encouraged to play, explore and get to know each other independently. Parents/guardians/adults will stay and are encouraged to chat and relax with one another. All are welcome on Friday, Sept. 5th at Roscoe Ewing Park (501 Berkshire Dr. Medina) with open hours between 4-6 pm (come and go as needed).

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. 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/PublicRegistrations/Event>

JOIN THE STORY WE'RE WRITING TOGETHER!

If you've been thinking about joining our church family, we invite you to our **New Member Class on Monday, September 22nd at 7pm** in the new library. It's a relaxed time to learn more about who we are, who you are, ask questions, and get connected. Those who wish to join will be welcomed into membership during worship on Sunday, October 5th – a day of celebration for all of us!

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

The Endowment Committee would like to share that a generous bequest has been received from William and Janet Graham. William was past moderator as well as having held many other positions within the church. Janet, a professional educator, served on the Endowment Committee during the early founding years.

At this time we want to remember that this is God's money. We as the Endowment Committee are committed to make responsible decisions for the church and its mission on the square.

Thank you, Endowment Committee: Kelly Charnley, Matt Yates, Bonnie Shuman, Alan Parkhurst, Kent Daugherty and Jane Langol ex-officio.

CHECK OUT THE COFFEE HOUR SIGN UP SHEET IN THE EAST ROOM HALLWAY... CONSIDER HOSTING AN UPCOMING SUNDAY!

TREKKING THROUGH AUTUMN 2025

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 are 2 miles or less. 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. Look for Pastor Luke, Kate Lindon, and/or Stacie Yates. Email Kate at katewllindon@gmail.com to be added to the email reminder list. Watch future Pilgrim Messengers for updates on which park we will hike.

First Hike: 9/7: Hubbard Valley Park, 8600 Hubbard Valley Rd, Seville, 1.75 miles

FALL CLEANING!?

Following Luke's and Meghan's sermon "Break the Rules" instead of Spring cleaning, the Property and Grounds Team is "Fall" Cleaning the old garage on **Saturday, September 27th**. We will be purging and eliminating items that have accumulated in the grey garage over the years. Please stop by the office and ask Cindy and/or Cathy for a key to enter the garage to verify items that you want to keep. Labels will be provided to identify the items you need for your ministry at Medina UCC. Please call or email Carl Skorepa at 330-421-3189 / carlskorepa@yahoo.com with questions or for additional access times. To quote John Wesley: "Cleanliness is next to Godliness."

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

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Open Table

I have a friend who pastors a neighboring congregation who was hoping to use a generous gift left by a saint of the church to reconfigure the sanctuary seating. She wanted to remove the ancient wooden pews and buy moveable chairs, thus, opening space to set up banquet tables and invite the hungry in the community to an extravagant sit down dinner.

That didn't happen. The money went instead to repaving the church parking lot. She asked the committee who made this decision if that was the best way to show hospitality to others? The committee thought so. And perhaps it was.

But if we explore the ancient meaning of hospitality, perhaps removable chairs allowing room to feed the hungry was a better choice than a coat of asphalt.

The word "hospitality," in the original Greek, is *philoxenos*, which means, "to love the stranger." In Middle Eastern culture it was considered a sacred duty to take responsibility for the stranger — to give them food and shelter. So true hospitality is more than opening church doors or paving a parking lot but opening our hearts to seeing the needs of others.

Jesus didn't see hospitality on display when he went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee to eat. What he saw was guests clamoring for the good seats — the places of honor. And he called them out, telling them to be humble, adding, too, that around the table should be the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind. In the book, *The Ragamuffin Gospel*, Brennan Manning said that in the Near East, the shared table symbolizes the shared life. "Sadly," Manning writes, "the meaning of meal sharing is largely lost in the Christian community today."

What does hospitality look like in your life? Are the doors to your heart opened to the stranger who is hungry, cold and lonely?

My friend who failed in getting removable chairs in the sanctuary to create a banquet hall for the hungry in her community is now looking for another church to serve.

The one she served has a great parking lot, not a pothole to be found, but there are no longer cars parked there on a Sunday. The doors closed for good a few months ago.

God, we hear Jesus' words that the first will be last and the last will be first, yet still we put our desire for recognition, prestige and comfort ahead of Your children who are pushed aside and overlooked. Open the doors to our hearts, so that true hospitality is lived in our communities. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.