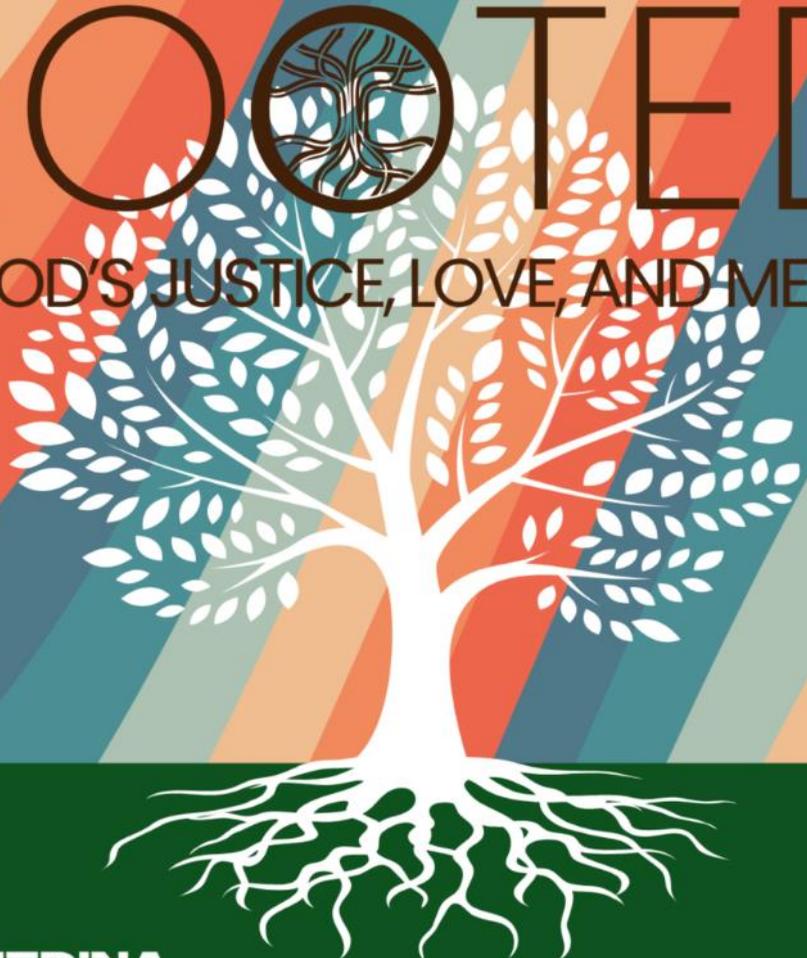


# LOST AND FOUND

# ROOTED

IN GOD'S JUSTICE, LOVE, AND MERCY





# 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 "God of Grace and God of Glory" - setting, Anne Krentz Organ Cathy Fafrak, Piano

## WELCOME

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

### \*OPENING HYMN

### "God of Grace and God of Glory"

CWM RHOMDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

John Hughes, c. 1907

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
2 From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the  
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
4 Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that  
5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;  
Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—  
your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,  
they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,  
we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo-rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.  
 in the quest for lib - er - ty, in the quest for lib - er - ty.  
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, beloved of God, for grace has sought you out.

**We come to give thanks to the One who does not give up on us.**

Christ welcomes the sinner and eats with them.

**We come to be fed with mercy and love.**

The Spirit lights a lamp and searches every shadow.

**We come to be found, forgiven, and restored.**

Let us worship the God of relentless grace and joy.

### ANTHEM

"Like a Tree" – Ellen Woods Bryce

Chancel Choir

### CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess we are lost in many ways. Lost in anxious thoughts, lost in bitterness and vengeance, lost when we pretend we are not in need of you. Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us.

### ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God runs to welcome back every prodigal.

**Thanks be to you, our Good Shepherd, who seeks us and finds us. Thank you for your grace and forgiveness that is ever present in our lives. Amen!**

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 "Lost and Found"

The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

HYMN

"Amazing Grace"

NEW BRITAIN CM.

John Newton, 1779; st. 4 anonymous

Virginia Harmony, 1831; harm. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

1. A - maz - ing grace! How sweet the sound that  
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
 4. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace hath brought me  
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved.  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

## 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

### Invitation to Generosity

We give because God has found us.

**We share because God has restored us.**

Let our time, our talent, and our treasure

**become instruments of grace—**

seeking the lost, lifting the broken,

**and guiding all toward home in Christ.**

**\*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**

Thank you, oh rule-breaking Christ. Thank you, teacher of humble hospitality.

Thank you for your commitment to us. Of finding. Restoring. Forgiving. May we go and do likewise. Amen.

### \*SENDING HYMN

Omer Westendorf, 1964

### "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

THE ASH GROVE 6.6.11.6.6.11.D.  
Welsh folk melody harm. Leland Sateren, 1972. Descant, The New Century Hymnal, 1993

*Unison*

1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con - fess - ing, the  
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

peo - ple of God from this dwell-ing take leave. The ser - vice is  
tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er

end - ed, O now be ex - tend - ed the fruits of our wor - ship in  
shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of



all who be - lieve. The seed of the teach - ing, re -  
each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with



cep - tive hearts reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for  
your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this



God and for all. God's grace did in - vite us, and love shall u -  
life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -



nite us to work for God's realm and to an - swer the call.  
giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.

**\*ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*BENEDICTION**

May you be rooted in grace,  
**May we trust that we are always being found and welcomed.**  
Go in Christ's name to bless the world.  
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 "Sent Forth By God's Blessing" – arr. Wilbur Held** Cathy Fafrak, Organ

\*\*\*\*\*  
*\*\*\*Please join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the service\*\*\**  
**Coffee Hour is hosted this week by Pete Metzloff**  
\*\*\*\*\*

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# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## SEPTEMBER 14, 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](http://www.uccmedina.org/live)

### September 14 thru September 21, 2025 WEEK AT A GLANCE

**Sun** 8:15 am Chapel Worship  
9:00 am Gathering Worship  
9:45 am Choir Warmup  
10:00 am Children's Choir  
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship  
10:30 am Jesus Vibes  
10:30 am Teen Church  
11:45 am Mission Team Meeting  
11:45 am Safety Team Meeting  
3:00 pm Confirmation Kick-off

**Mon** 1:00 pm Breadmakers  
2:00 pm Sermon Prep Bible Study

### **Tues**

**Wed** 10:30 am Quilters  
6:00 pm Bell Choir  
6:30 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal  
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

**Thurs** 6:30 pm Bible Study

### **Fri**

### **Sat**

### **Sun** NOISY COIN OFFERING

8:15 am Chapel Worship  
9:00 am Gathering Worship  
9:45 am Choir Warmup  
10:00 am Children's Choir  
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship  
10:30 am Jesus Vibes  
11:45 am Hospitality Team Meeting  
3:30 pm Vibes Video Crew  
4:30 pm Youth Group

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

Scripture: Luke 15:1-10 and Psalm 51

Sermon: "Lost and Found"

The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

**Communion Table:** The flowers on the communion table are given by Mark & Karen Woodling in memory of their loved ones.

## NOISY COIN OFFERING

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21<sup>st</sup>

Look under the couch cushions, in the washing machine and check pockets. We will be having a noisy coin offering on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. All the money collected will go to help support Innocent, the now young man who we adopted from Uganda. Let's make lots of noise on September 21<sup>st</sup>!

## VIBES VIDEO CREW

Vibes Video Crew is for youth 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and up who are interested in making videos based on scriptures to be shown during church. We will meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. We will meet in rooms 9/10 at 3:30. A schedule will be available at our first meeting! Come join the fun!

## COFFEE HOUR

Join us for coffee hour following the 10:30 worship service in Fellowship Hall. Please consider signing up to host a future coffee hour. Hosting is simple! If you have any questions, Liz Wolff will be your "go to" person for help in Sept., Oct. and Nov. Signups are in the East Room Hallway.

## ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR JESUS VIBES & YOUTH GROUP

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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) ASAP. Please contact Stacie Yates



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

## BLESSED MINDS: Book Study

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Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7-8 pm.  
The Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund visited us in the Spring. We will be reviewing her book Blessed Minds!

Copies can be found at your favorite bookseller or the eBook through the Medina library.

## NEW MEMBER CLASS

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If you've been thinking about joining our church family, we invite you to our **New Member Class on Monday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> – a day of celebration for all of us!

## SERMON PREP STUDY BEGINS TOMORROW

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Join us each week on Monday starting on September 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

## ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

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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 making 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.

## DONATION OF THE MONTH: SEPTEMBER

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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.

## FALL CLEANING!?

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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 27<sup>th</sup>**. 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/ email Carl Skorepa at 330-421-3189/ [carlskorepa@yahoo.com](mailto:carlskorepa@yahoo.com) with questions or for additional access times. To quote John Wesley: "Cleanliness is next to Godliness."

**MICAH – UPCOMING COMMUNITY MEETING**  
Discussion: Building workforce housing.  
**All are welcome!**

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**Workforce  
Housing  
Gathering**

**Sept 25, 2025**



**9:00 - 11:00 AM**

**Heartland Community Church**

3400 Weymouth Rd. Medina, OH 44256



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**MISSION SPOTLIGHT – FALL 2025**

Your generous support makes a difference! When you contribute to the Mission Fund you enable our church to help community partners like Cup's Cafe continue their important work. Thank you!

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**MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!**

Rehearsals for all our UCC Music groups have started for the year. If you are an adult or in high school and are interested in singing in the choir, contact [tracy@uccmedina.org](mailto:tracy@uccmedina.org). Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 7:15 pm. Mrs. V directs the Children's Choir and they practice Sundays at 10:00 in the Chapel. All children grade Pre-K through 8th grade are welcome! For more information, please contact her at [jen@uccmedina.org](mailto:jen@uccmedina.org)

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**WE NEED YOUR POP TABS!**

Just a reminder that we collect pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald Houses of Northeast Ohio. We will take any tab (pop, soup can, beverage, pet food, canned fruit and vegetables) in any color or size. There is a container in the Welcome Area in which to put your tabs. Thanks for collecting!

# TREKKING THROUGH AUTUMN 2025

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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 [katewilindon@gmail.com](mailto:katewilindon@gmail.com) to be added to the email reminder list.

**Second Hike: 9/14: Mugarage Park - 4985 Windfall Rd., Medina 1.1 Miles**

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

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Through August 31, 2025, we received \$478,531 in pledges, contributions or other receipts. (This includes \$176,806 in ERTC special covid-era tax credits.) We spent \$340,242 on our regular church operations. Utility costs so far this year are 23% higher than our budget due to the cold winter. Other expenses are consistent with the budget, as modified somewhat regarding utilization of some of the ERTC money. The excess of revenue over expenses of \$138,289 is and will remain very high for the rest of the year due to the ERTC unusual item. This will add to Operating Fund reserves for future budget years.

Pete Metzloff, Director of Finance [pete@uccmedina.org](mailto:pete@uccmedina.org) 330.241.1316

## MISSION OPPORTUNITY

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Join us for the annual **Step Up to Prevent Suicide Walk** on Sunday, September 21, at 1:00 p.m. As a proud WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) congregation, our church is sponsoring the walk this year as part of our commitment to reducing stigma and supporting mental health awareness. To join our church group, we will meet at 12:45 in front of the church entrance on the corner of Liberty and Broadway (be sure to stop by at the event registration table well beforehand to sign in and get your t-shirt first). To register, donate, or get more information, visit the event website. [www.alternativepaths.org](http://www.alternativepaths.org). We hope to see you there!



**STEP UP TO  
PREVENT SUICIDE**  
COMMUNITY WALK

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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](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9 am – 3 pm MONDAY THRU THURSDAY; FRIDAY 9 am – 12 pm**

1 Timothy 1:12-17

### Growing in God's Love

In all my years in ministry, I only once lived in a parsonage. The church-provided house was one of those Sears Roebuck mail-order homes that were popular from 1908 through the 1940s. The house had pocket doors, a sunroom, and a cozy living room with a large stone fireplace. It also had a kitchen doorway that was marked with lines and dates, documenting the growth of a former pastor's child. Judging by the years etched into the wood, it seemed no one had the heart to ever sand the frame and give it a much needed coat of fresh paint. The markings always intrigued me, making me pause each time I walked into the kitchen. I would gently touch the grooves and marvel at the miracle of growing up, not just physically, but spiritually as well.

I thought about how the growth lines on a doorframe are ultimately so finite. There comes the day when we reach our God-intended height. Our spiritual growth lines, though, are infinite. There is no stop point. God wants us to keep growing in knowledge of God's love. The Spirit wants us all to reach new and glorious heights.

The Apostle Paul, our ancient, prolific letter writer is once again penning a note of wisdom and grace. This time to his young disciple Timothy. Paul wants to impart his honed leadership skills to Timothy, but before he does, he reflects on his own spiritual growth. He shares with Timothy how no one is beyond the reach of God's forgiveness and, once received, that forgiveness leads to a spiritual growth spurt that Paul himself experienced. Once a persecutor of Jews, God's grace led Paul to become a towering proponent of Christ's love. Paul's letter to Timothy is one we all need to read this day because no matter how old we are, we need to remember that we should never stop growing spiritually. There is a divine doorframe with markings on it for each one of us, recording just how much we have matured in the knowledge of a great and redeeming God.

Wondering just how much you have grown? Here's a spiritual exercise for you. Think back to who you were 5 years ago. Now 10 years. How about 20 years ago? What did you believe? What were the prejudices you clung to? What were the awakenings your soul experienced? Now mind you, spiritual growth does not always mean a notch higher up on the heavenly doorframe year after year. There might be years of no growth. There might even be years of backsliding. And that's okay, because the wonderful truth is this: God always gives us another chance. There are limitless opportunities to keep growing in the Spirit.

*God of wisdom, may we never stop growing in the Spirit. May we continue to master the lessons you have for us — lessons on how to love one another, how to trust your guidance, and how to forgive and show grace to others. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*