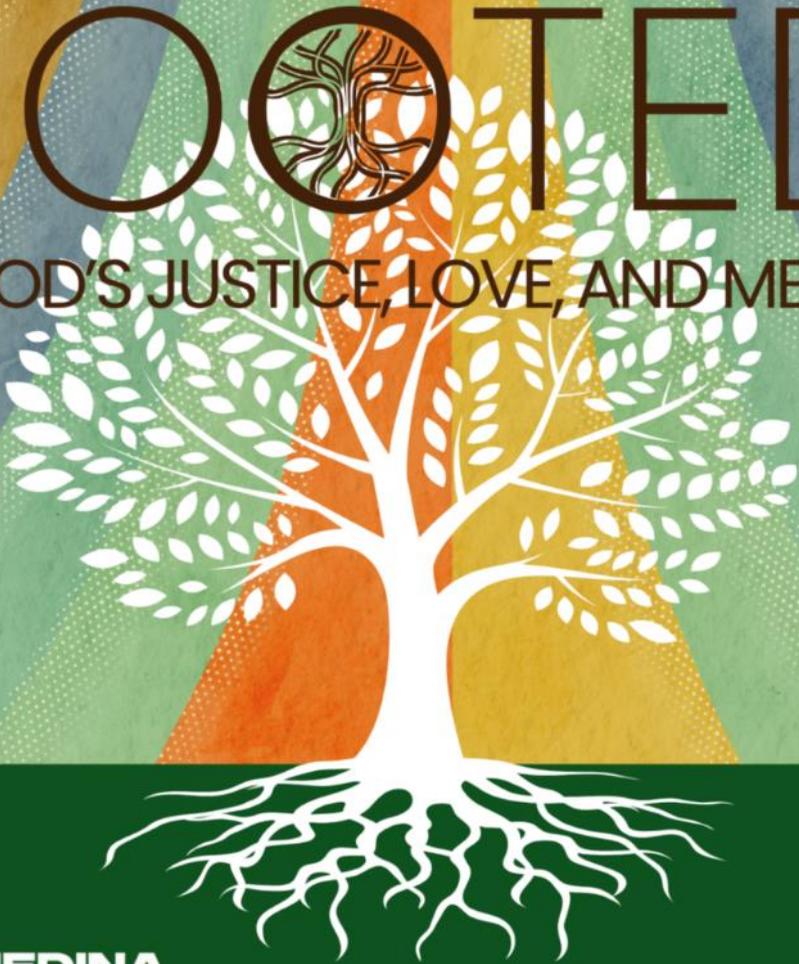


THE GREAT REVERSAL

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 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" -arr. John Carter

Cathy Fafrak, Organ

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING 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.

8 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.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Service of the Word 1, UCC Book of Worship Page 100*)

Morning has broken,
Let us give thanks for the gift of life
 and for the presence of the Holy One among us.
Let us worship God together!

ANTHEM "Give Me Jesus" – arr. Anna Laura Page

Alleluia Ringers

***CONFESSION** (*Service of the Word 1, UCC Book of Worship Page 101*)

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.
 Almighty and merciful God,
 You created and are creating still.
 In your presence our limits lie stark before us.
 We confess our unclean lips,
 our cold hearts,
 our turning away from neighbors,
 our broken promises and our unrepentant hours.
 Forgive us, O Holy One.
 We confess that we have squandered the gifts you have given.
 We have neglected the land.
 We have grasped for goods.
 We have used one another.
 We have loved power more than people.
 Forgive us, O Holy One.
 Cleanse us from the illusion of innocence.
 Come into our hearts and make us new again.
 We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

In Jesus Christ, God knows and receives us as we are. Listen, give thanks, and live.
Amen. Thanks be to God.

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 "The Great Reversal"

The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon
(with much help from the Sermon Prep Bible Study)

HYMN

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

John E. Bode, 1868; alt.

ANGEL'S STORY 7.6.7.6.D.
A.H. Mann, 1883



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
2 O let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still,
3 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my Sav - ior and my Friend:
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will!
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be, too;



I shall not fear life's strug - gles if you are by my side,
O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol!
And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
O speak, and make me lis - ten, O guar - dian of my soul!
O give me grace to fol - low my Sav - ior and my Friend!

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

Let everyone give as each is able, according to the blessings God has given each of us.

*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 be shrewd in our dealings and work for justice.
May we leave no one out.
And may our heart be rooted in you and you alone. Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" (vs. 1,2,3,5)

LOBE DEN HERREN 14.14.478

Joachim Neander, 1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, alt; st. 4 tr. Rupert E. Davies, 1983 Entreuerten Gesangbuch, 1665; desc. Craig Sellar Land, 1953



1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, who rules all cre -
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won - drous - ly
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy work and de -
4. Praise to the Lord, who doth nour - ish thy life and re -
5. Praise to the Lord! O let all of earth's peo - ples and



1. a - tion. O my soul, wor - ship the well-spring of health and sal -
2. reign - eth, who, as on wings of an ea - gle up - lift - ed, sus -
3. fend thee. Sure - ly God's good - ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at -
4. store thee, fit - ting thee well for the tasks that are ev - er be -
5. rac - es, all that hath life and breath, give thanks for man - i - fold



1. va - tion. All ye who hear, now to God's tem-ple draw
 2. tain - eth. Hast thou not seen? All that is need-ful hath
 3. tend thee. Pon-der a - new what the Al-might-y can
 4. fore thee. Then to thy need God as a moth-er doth
 5. grac - es. Let the A - men sound from God's peo-ple a -



1. near. Join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion.
 2. been grant - ed in what God or - dain - eth.
 3. do, who with great love doth be - friend thee.
 4. speed, spread - ing the wings of grace o'er thee.
 5. gain. Glad - ly for - ev - er sing prais - es.

***ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***BENEDICTION** (*Service of the Word 1, UCC Book of Worship Page 108*)

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;
be of good courage, rooted to what is good,
 Render no one evil for evil;
Strengthen the fainthearted;
 Support the weak;
Help the afflicted;
 Honor all people;
Love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
 The grace of Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
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 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" -Johann Walther/ed. Janet Linker Cathy Fafarak, Organ**

****Please join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the service***
Coffee Hour is hosted this week by Lorna Lindsley & Kathi & John Kavouras*

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THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 28, 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

September 28 thru October 5, 2025
WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun Blake Donations Sign-Ups

8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:45 am Choir Warmup
10:00 am Children’s Choir
10:30 am Teen Church
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
10:30 am Jesus Vibes
11:30 am Teen Council
3:00 pm Confirmation

Mon 2:00 pm Sermon Prep Bible Study

Tues

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

Thurs 6:30 pm Bible Study

Fri

Sat

**Sun WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
NEW MEMBERS JOIN**

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
11:30 am **Blake Donations Due**
3:30 pm Vibes Video Crew
4:30 pm Youth Group

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

Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:6-19 & Luke 16:19-31

Sermon: “The Great Reversal”

The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The flowers on the communion table are given by Pete & Alice Metzloff in memory of their loved ones.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED SPECIAL OFFERING

October 5, 2025

On the first Sunday in October, UCC congregations are called upon to collect a special mission offering to support a just and compassionate United States and beyond. One-third of the funds raised are used to support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds are used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as advancing a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Please consider giving generously to this special offering. Checks should be made payable to our church with “Neighbors in Need” noted in the memo.

COFFEE HOUR

Please consider signing up to host a future coffee hour. **We still have dates left in November.** Hosting is simple! If you have any questions, Liz Wolff will be your “go to” person for help in October and November. Signups are in the East Room Hallway. If no one signs up to host, there will be no coffee hour.

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. We will meet in rooms 9/10 at 3:30. Come join the fun!

SERMON PREP STUDY CONTINUES

Join us each week on Mondays 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.

DONATION OF THE MONTH

In September 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.

TREKKING THROUGH AUTUMN 2025

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 katewlindon@gmail.com to be added to the email reminder list.

Fourth Hike: 9/28: Chippewa Inlet North – 5803 Lafayette Rd., Medina 1.4 Miles

ENDOWMENT FUND GRANT APPLICATIONS

Grant applications are available now to apply for funding for special projects and improvements beyond the 2026 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 or request one be emailed to you. Complete it and return to the Endowment Committee mailbox in the church office or email to yatesmsla@zoominternet.net by November 16th. Any questions contact Kelly Charnley 330-421-3313 or Matt Yates 330-321-9679.

FEEDING BLAKE FAMILIES

The Feeding Blake Team is ready for congregational generosity in donating menu items to create a meal and snacks to 8 local families every other week this year. This ministry will impact 30 children this academic year for families most in need that attend Blake Elementary, a concentrated Title 1 school.

Donation sign-ups are posted on our announcement board in the hallway and menu items are due to the church by the **following Sunday**. Shelf-stable donations can be placed in our labeled cubbies in the mission area on the church's lower level. Refrigerated and frozen goods can be delivered to the kitchen.

Thank you for considering adding a few items to your shopping list to feed your food insecure neighbors!

Extra items (hygiene, household needs, food, and snacks) are ALWAYS welcome. We ask that you (or you and a friend) consider donating in multiples of 8 to benefit all our families.

Feeding Blake Families Team

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!

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

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

Surprising Investment

When my husband and I moved to our 18th-century Vermont home, complete with a charming old stone well, I couldn't resist doing what generations of farmers have done before me. I named our humble abode, "Old Stone Well Farm."

My husband, though, gently pointed out that two chickens and a small garden does not make a farm. Furthermore, he inquired, why would I even want the farming life? His question comes from seeing the struggles — and closures — of the farms in the area. He has driven a feed truck long enough to have heard the stories of families barely making ends meet. He is a local, rooted in reality. I, on the other hand, am an outsider who still romanticizes early morning milkings. Yes, our little village used to boast more cows than people, but I haven't given up on the dream of going beyond two chickens and adding some goats and perhaps an apple orchard.

The prophet Jeremiah bought a farm many years ago despite the warnings from all the naysayers. It wasn't really an opportune time to invest in land. There were great political conflicts between the Northern and Southern Kingdoms. And to top it all off, Jeremiah was in prison for warning people what was about to befall them. It is then, Jeremiah's cousin asks the prophet to buy his farm. And so, he does.

This land deal had nothing to do with buying low and selling high. It had everything to do with hope. Jeremiah proclaimed that he is doing it because God promises that the people will come home from exile and houses and fields and vineyards will be theirs once again. How many times have we let reality cloud the vision of hope that God still has for us? Where are the dreamers who can see the goodness of God in the most desperate of situations?

Three months before his execution by the Nazis, theologian and pastor, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, wrote to his fiancée Maria, "When Jeremiah said, in his people's hour of direst need, that 'houses and fields and [vineyards] shall again be bought in this land,' it was a token of confidence in the future. That requires faith, and may God grant us it daily."

Yes, may God grant us such faith each day of our lives. Faith to buy the farm and live into the hope of a better tomorrow.

Old Stone Well Farm has yet to become a real working farm, but that doesn't mean I have given up on the dream. If anything, I am only just beginning to envision the amazing things that can be.

God of beautiful tomorrows, help us to invest in your Kingdom. Where others see dead ends, let our eyes see the possibilities. Increase our faith and help us always to hold on to hope. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.