

# TO THE ONE WHO CONQUERS



**MEDINA**  
**UCC**  
CONGREGATIONAL  
OCTOBER 12, 2025

  
**FAITHFUL**  
& TRUE



# Faithful & True *October 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.

*\*Those who are able please stand*

## RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE Blessed Assurance – arr. Charity Book Putnam

Cathy Fafrak, Piano

## WELCOME

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

## \*OPENING HYMN

### "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

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

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

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

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

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Our help is in the name of God,  
**Who made heaven and earth**  
And who in Jesus,  
**Was pleased to dwell,**  
And whose Holy Spirit,  
**Will stir within and among us.**  
Come, let us worship God.  
**Amen!**

### **\*CONFESSION**

**Holy One,**  
**We have too often caved to the pressures of living.**  
**We have divided our loyalty.**  
**We have put other gods before you.**  
**Our sins are too heavy to carry,**  
**Too real to hide,**  
**And too deep to undo.**  
**Forgive what our lips tremble to name.**  
**Set us free from a past we cannot change;**  
**Open us to a future which can be changed.**  
**With you, help us stand up for what's right**  
**even when it's hard to do.**

### **\*ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

*Silence is kept*

This is the message we have heard from Christ and proclaim to you:  
The First and the Last, the Living One,  
**was dead and is alive forevermore.**  
In him, our sins are forgiven,  
**our burdens are lifted, and our lives are made new.**  
Friends, believe the good news:  
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

### **ANTHEM**

"Oh, When the Saints Go Marchin In" - traditional

Children's Choir

### **SCRIPTURE**

Revelation 1:1-8 and 5:1-13 (N.T. pgs. 230 & 233)

Nick North, 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

"To the One Who Conquers"

The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

(with much help from the Sermon Prep Bible Study)

## HYMN

### "Blessed Assurance"

ASSURANCE 9.10.9.9. w/ refrain

Fanny J. Crosby, 1873

Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873



1. Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! O what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-
2. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my
3. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and



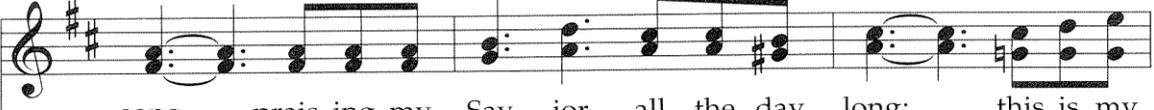
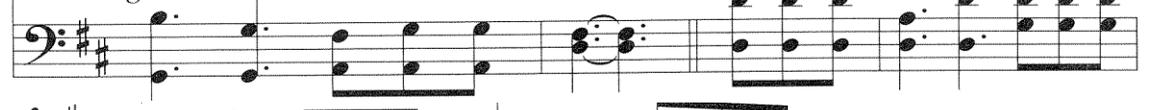
vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of God, born of his  
sight; an - gels de - scend - ing bring from a - bove ech - oes of  
blest, watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a - bove, filled with his



*Refrain*



Spir - it, washed in his love.  
mer - cy, whis - pers of love. This is my sto - ry, this is my  
good - ness, lost in his love.



song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long; this is my





**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**

Do not fear, we shall eat of the tree of life.  
**There is hidden manna and a new name for us.**  
 Let us rise in body or spirit and sing out our praise!

**\*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**

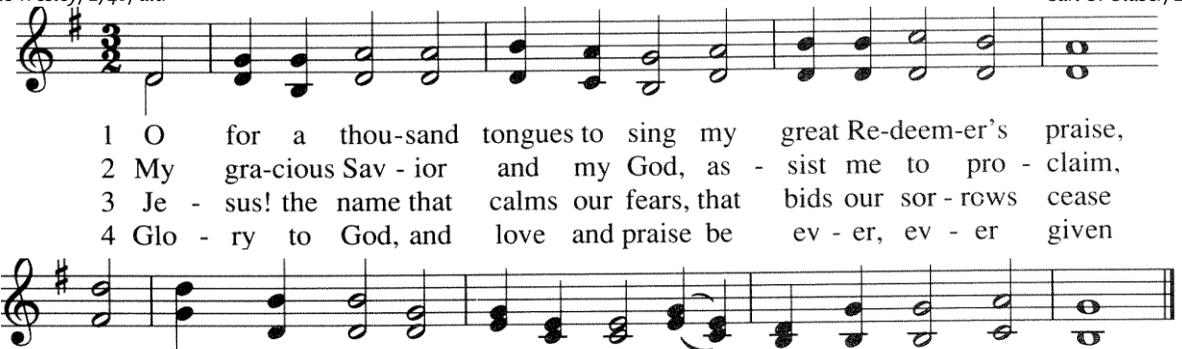
**We give you thanks for John's Revelation. Where someone is faithful, may we encourage.  
 When someone suffers, may we provide comfort. When someone is out of line, help us kindly correct. In the name of you, who provides us daily revelations, We give you thanks and praise.  
 Amen!**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

**"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"**

*Charle Wesley, 1740, alt.*

AZMON C.M.  
Carl G. Gläser, 1839



The glo - ries ev - er ech - o - ing the tri - umphs of God's grace!  
 To spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.  
 Is mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!  
 By all the saints in ev - ery age, the church in earth and heaven.

**\*ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*BENEDICTION** (Romans 8:31, 37-39)

What, then, shall we say in response to these things?

**If God is for us, who can be against us?**

in all these things we are more than conquerors

**through Jesus who loves us.**

For I am convinced that neither death nor life,

**nor angels nor demons,**

nor the present nor the future,

**nor any powers,**

either height nor depth,

**nor anything else in all creation,**

will be able to separate us from the love of God

**that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Go and be of service, for this service has ended,

**And our service now begins. 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**    Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing – setting by Paul Manz                      Cathy Fafrak, Organ

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*\*\*\*Please join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the service\*\*\**

***Coffee Hour is hosted this week by the Hospitality Team***

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here: <https://www.christianiconography.info/Edited%20in%202013/Italy/apocalypseAlberegno.whBabylonFullResPage.html>

### **PASTORAL STAFF**

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Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool and Children’s Choir – [jen@uccmedina.org](mailto:jen@uccmedina.org)

Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian

# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## OCTOBER 12, 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)

### October 12 thru October 19, 2025 WEEK AT A GLANCE

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Blake Donation Sign-ups</b> 8:15 am Chapel Worship 9:00 am Gathering Worship 9:45 am Choir Warmup <b>10:00 am 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Class</b> <b>Informational Meeting</b> 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 3:00 pm Confirmation Class
<b>Mon</b>	<b>COLUMBUS DAY</b> <b>2:00 pm Sermon Prep Bible Study</b> 6:00 pm Stewardship/Finance Team
<b>Tues</b>	7:00 pm Property & Grounds Team 7:00 pm Worship Team
<b>Wed</b>	10:30 am Quilters 6:00 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal 7:00 pm DELTS Meeting 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal
<b>Thurs</b>	6:30 pm Bible Study
<b>Fri</b>	
<b>Sat</b>	<b>11:30 am 50 Year Member Luncheon</b>
<b>Sun</b>	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 <b>Blake Donation Sign-ups</b> 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: Revelation 1:1-8 & Revelation 5:1-13

Sermon: Faithful and True:

“To the One Who Conquers”

The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

(With much help from the Sermon Prep Bible Study)

**Communion Table:** The flowers on the communion table are given by Brad Gould in honor of his parents, Doris & Henry Gould.

## MEGHAN'S MATERNITY LEAVE FAREWELL

Hey friends! Thank you again for the beautiful baby shower, and for all the gifts you brought for our new little girl! Just so you know, today, Oct. 12th will be my last Sunday at church, and I'll just be here for teen church. I will be in the office during the week until Thursday, Oct. 23rd, unless the baby decides to come sooner. Once she arrives, I'll be out on maternity leave until February 1st. Thank you for supporting us through this time-off to bond with our little one! I am so grateful that we get to raise our daughter with this wonderful community. Thank you especially to Luke, Stacie, the Nolans, the DELTs, and the Mission Team, who will be taking care of things while I'm away. Enjoy the holidays, and I'll see you again soon! - Pastor Meghan <3

## SAVE THE DATE!

**Fall Family Fun Night Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>**  
at the Wolff residence...  
6951 Egypt Rd.  
4:30 – 6pm

Bring your whole family for snacks and games!

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

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September was a break-even month. Through September 30, 2025, we received \$511,240 in pledges, contributions or other receipts. (This includes \$176,973 in ERTC special covid-era tax credits.) We spent \$373,453 on our regular church operations. Other than the cold winter utility costs, expenses are consistent with the budget, as modified somewhat regarding utilization of some of the ERTC money. The excess of revenue over expenses of \$137,787 is and will remain very high for the rest of the year due to the unusual ERTC item. This will add to Operating Fund reserves for future budget years. We will be sending out pledge statements through September to those for whom we have a email address on file in REALM. If you would like to have a paper copy, please let us know.

Pete Metzloff, Director of Finance

## PET BLESSING

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Bring your pet to be blessed on Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5-7 pm outside the church at the corner of Broadway and Liberty streets. Any pet that is safe to bring is welcome and will be individually blessed by our pastors. Free pet bandanas and treats while supplies last! The pet blessing will be part of Main Street Medina's Witches Night Out. Let's celebrate God's compassion and concern for all creatures!

## BUTTER BRAID FUNDRAISER

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It's time for Hobby Horse Preschool's annual Stoller Foods fundraiser! Scan the QR code located on the Sanctuary bulletin boards to order your butter braids, cake rolls, apple crisp, or maple covered dog bones

for the holiday season. If you're not tech savvy, you can write your order on the brochure. The funds raised will go into the preschool scholarship fund. This year, we are helping 7 families with their tuition. Your purchase will be very appreciated!

## AUTUMN LISTENING SESSIONS

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In preparation for our Capital Campaign, we will host several listening sessions to develop a "needs and wants" list... Join us when you can!  
Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup> - These sessions will be 11:30am in the Sanctuary  
October 15<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, or 27<sup>th</sup> - These sessions will be at 7pm in the Sanctuary

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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### YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup> @ 3 P.M.**

Renowned Biblical scholar and author Dr. Greg Carey will dive deep into apocalyptic literature in a **FREE, thought-provoking talk at 3:00 PM: "Unmasking Power: Revelation and the Forces of Domination."** He will also preach that morning at 8:15, 9, and 10:30 AM during worship. Dr. Carey, Professor of New Testament at Lancaster Theological Seminary/The Seminary at Moravian University, is a leading voice in biblical interpretation. He has authored or co-edited 10 books, including Using Our Outside Voice, Faithful and True, and Death, the End of History, and Beyond. His latest book, Reading Revelation: Theology, Ethics, and Resistance, debuted this summer!

You may have seen him on the BBC, PBS, Discovery Channel, or History Channel, or read his insights in Christian Century and other top publications.

## ENDOWMENT FUND GRANT APPLICATIONS

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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 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](mailto:yatesmsla@zoominternet.net) by November 16<sup>th</sup>. Any questions contact Kelly Charnley 330-421-3313 or Matt Yates 330-321-9679.

## DONATION OF THE MONTH

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Helping Hands Preschool is working to set up a pantry of personal care items for Medina's youngest bees, ages 3-5 years old. They're asking for donations of diapers, underwear, socks, wipes, soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, and toothpaste to help support Medina families with young children. Let's help stock this new pantry!

## TREKKING THROUGH AUTUMN 2025 – ONLY 2 LEFT!

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

**Sixth Hike: 10/12: Lake Medina – 3778 Granger Rd. Main trail, Medina - 2 Miles**

## COSTA RICA MISSION TRIP

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Hello! It is that time of the year again to start planning our 2026 Costa Rica Mission Trip. We will be building from February 28<sup>th</sup> to March 8<sup>th</sup> in Playa Hermosa. If you are interested in the upcoming mission trip, please email Vicki Miller at [tamvic1@aol.com](mailto:tamvic1@aol.com) for more information. We'd love to have you join us for this amazing experience.

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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**

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

### Planting Life

If you knew the world would end tomorrow, what would you do today?

When Martin Luther, the 16th-century German scholar and theologian, was asked this question, he replied, "I would plant an apple tree."

Now it's debatable whether Luther said this or not. He did adore nature, and he did give us the tradition of bringing an evergreen into our homes at Christmastime. But regardless of him planting an actual apple tree, what really matters is how we would answer such a question today.

What would we do to show hope in the future even when that future didn't seem very promising? Would we dare to plant a tree?

Jeremiah would. The prophet even invites those he is writing to who are now living in exile in Babylon to join him. Lay down roots even in a strange land.

The children of God, though, don't want any part of the Babylonian way of life. They want to return to Jerusalem. Their homesickness is spiraling into a deep, gloomy pit that is robbing them of the joy God still has for them.

Isn't it true for all of us that when life doesn't go our way, our disappointments often cloud our eyes from seeing the still-in-front-of-us God possibilities.

Jeremiah, though, isn't buying their pity party. He instructs them on how to carry on with hope and faith. Take wives. Have children. Multiply there in the land of your exile. Build homes. Plant gardens. Don't wait for when you return to Jerusalem. Live in the now and make beautiful plans for tomorrow — despite your current situation.

Lay down roots even in the very soil you wish your feet never stepped upon, for in that very soil a seed will still grow into something beautiful.

We are all being called to plant life this day — to bring forth hope amid despair, beauty amid ugliness, and calm amid chaos.

If you knew the world would end tomorrow, what would you do?

May today we take our shovels and begin planting Luther's fabled apple trees.

*God of promises, help us to accept where we are this day in our lives. Rather than focusing on what we don't have or what we long for, open our eyes to the beautiful gifts and the precious people who are right in front of us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*