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TED

REACHING TOWARD TOMORROW

NOV

23

2025



**MEDINA**  
**UCC**  
CONGREGATIONAL





## ROOTED 2

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 here on the Square. 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.

*\*Those who are able please stand*

### RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE "For the Beauty of the Earth" – C. Kocher/arr. Victor Labenske Cathy Fafrak, Piano

### WELCOME

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

#### \*OPENING HYMN

#### "We Gather Together"

KREMSER Irr.

Nederlandische Gedenckclanck, 1626; tr. Theodore Baker, 1894;  
adapt. Ruth Duck, 1981; © 1981 Ruth Duck

Dutch melody (16<sup>th</sup> c); arr. Edward Kremser, 1877



1. We gath - er to - geth - er to ask for God's bless - ing,  
2. Be - side us to guide us, O God, we per - ceive you  
3. May all sing your prais - es, Re - deem - er tri - um - phant,



to turn to a wis - dom sur - pass - ing our own;  
or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing the pow - er of life.  
de - fend us, be - friend us, what - ev - er may be.



the pow'rs that op - press us now cease to dis - tress us.  
Yes, yours be the glo - ry; let all tell the sto - ry.  
May your con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion.



O God, be pres - ent with us, and make your will known.  
Our God, be ev - er with us, in glad - ness and strife.  
Your name be praised for - ev - er, O God, make us free!

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

The earth yields its harvest; God blesses us.

**We return with gratitude, and plant with hope.**

This is the day of generosity, of joyful giving.

**Let us plant the seeds of tomorrow, today.**

### \*PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Let us pray;

**God of every tomorrow,**

**You call us to plant what we may never harvest.**

**Still, we trust. Still, we give. Still, we believe.**

**Take our gifts and multiply them**

**for the sake of justice, joy, and generations yet to come. Amen.**

**ANTHEM** "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" – Janet Linker & Jane McFadden

Alleluia Ringers

**SCRIPTURE** Jeremiah 29:4-7 (O.T. pg. 687)  
2 Corinthians 9:6-12 (N.T. pg. 173)

Alice Metzloff, 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** "Reaching Toward Tomorrow"

The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

*(with much help from the Sermon Prep Bible Study)*

### HYMN

#### "We Are Not Our Own"

YARNTON 8.9.8.5.

Brian Wren, 1987, © 1998 Hope Publishing, Co.

Brian Wren, 1987; arr. Fred Graham, 1987



1 We are not our own. Earth forms us, hu-man leaves on na-ture's grow-ing  
 2 We are not a-lone. Earth names us: past and pres-ent, peo-ples near and  
 3 Through a hu-man life God finds us; dy-ing, liv-ing, love is ful-ly  
 4 There-fore let us make thanks-giv-ing, and with jus-tice, will-ing and a-



vine, Fruit of man-y gen-er-a-tions, seeds of life di-vine.  
 far, fam-i-ly and friends and strang-ers show us who we are.  
 known, and in bread and wine re-minds us: we are not our own.  
 ware, give to earth, and all things liv-ing, lit-ur-gies of care.

## 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

**Stewardship Moment**                      Todd Bauer

**Unveiling of the Communal Art Project and bringing forth our pledges for 2026**

**\*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** (Prayer from 10/12/25's Devotional by Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson)

**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.**

## \*CLOSING HYMN

### "For the Beauty of the Earth"

St. 1-3, Follitt S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.

St. 4 Miriam Therese Winter, 1993, © 1993 Medical Mission Sisters

DIX 7-7-7. w/ refrain

Conrad Kocher, 1838, adapt. William H. Monk, 1861



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the splen - dor of the skies,  
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
3 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
4 For the good that love in - spires, for a world where none ex - clude,



For the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,  
For a faith that nev - er tires, and for ev - ery heart re - newed,



God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

### \*ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*BENEDICTION

Go now, beloved of God,  
**planted in this place and this time for a purpose greater than yourself.**  
For the purpose of an apple is not to be eaten—  
**it is another apple tree.**  
So may your faith bear fruit that carries seeds—  
**of kindness, of justice, and of peace—**  
that take root in the soil of your neighborhood.  
**Seek the welfare of the city where God has sent you,**  
sow generously and freely,  
**and trust that the One who supplies seed to the sower and bread for the hungry**  
will enrich you in every way, so that through you,  
**thanksgiving may overflow to God.**  
Go in peace to plant, to nurture, and to grow 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.

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

***Coffee Hour is hosted this week by the Finance & Stewardship Team***

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# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## NOVEMBER 23, 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)

**November 23 thru November 30, 2025**

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

#### **Sun STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY**

##### **Blake donations sign-up**

- 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
- 11:30 am Christmas Pageant Practice
- 3:00 pm Confirmation Class

- Mon** 2:00 pm Sermon Prep Bible Study  
6:30 pm Women’s Bible Study

#### **Tues**

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

#### **Thurs HAPPY THANKSGIVING CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

#### **Fri CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

#### **Sat** **Sun FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

##### **Blake donations due**

- 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

## **STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS TODAY!**

Please remember to turn in your pledge card if you haven’t done so already. Thank you to everyone who has made their pledge!

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

Scripture: Jeremiah 29:4-7 & 2 Corinthians 9:6–12

Sermon: “Reaching Toward Tomorrow”

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

**Communion Table:** The flowers on the communion table are given by Karen & Ken Zuehlke in honor of their wedding anniversary.

## **THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY FOR THANKSGIVING**

### **ROOTED PART 2:**

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 here on the Square. 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.

## **DON’T FORGET TO ORDER YOUR POINSETTIA**

It’s time to order your beautiful poinsettia again! Donate a poinsettia to decorate the church for Christmas services and claim it after the 9 pm Christmas Eve worship service. The cost is \$10.00. **The deadline for ordering is December 8<sup>th</sup>.** Pick up an order slip from one of the ushers, call the church office or go to REALM under “Upcoming Events” and order, or use this link to order. [POINSETTIAS](#)

## SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

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Please check out the many sign-up sheets in the East Room hallway. There are several ways you can be involved and help on a Sunday morning!

**We also need Advent Readers and Candlelighters.**

## MEMORIAL GIFTS NEWS...

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The Rooted sermons have "taken seed" so to speak. Watch for upcoming news from a Memorial Gifts and Property and Grounds collaboration about a tree to be "planted" in the Welcome Area with an opportunity for you to honor loved ones.

## JACKIE'S JARS

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The Mission Team is putting out Jackie's Jars during this season of giving. Collect all your loose change and give it to a place it is needed. In honor of our own saint, Jackie, these donations will be given to the Medina County Office for Older Adults which offers Monday, Wednesday, and Friday lunches for county residents. Jars due back on December 21<sup>st</sup>.

## NOVEMBER DONATION

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**During the month of November**, we have two collections. We are collecting your extra Halloween candy. Our youth will make goodie bags to be distributed to local groups in our community. Cups Cafe and Hope Recovery Community really enjoyed them last year!

**Also, for November** we will be accepting donations for personal hygiene bags for Spark to be assembled by youth group and church members. We are looking for full size versions of: deodorant, shampoo, shampoo for black hair care, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrush, bar soap, body wash, boxes of Kleenex, combs (in packaging) and ChapStick.

## COFFEE HOUR

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Please consider signing up to host a coffee hour. **Most of January and February are available!** If you have any questions, Liz Wolff will be your "go to" person for help. **If no one signs up to host, we will not have coffee hour.** Signups are in the East Room Hallway.

## FREE TABLES

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As part of the purging of the garage we are giving away 10 used folding tables. The tables are 30" wide and 8' long. The tables will be moved outside of the garage on Sunday November 30<sup>th</sup> prior to the services and then offered free to the community. They are available on a first come first serve basis. Contact Carl Skorepa at (330) 421 3189 or [carlskorepa@yahoo.com](mailto:carlskorepa@yahoo.com) with questions.

## CHILDREN NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE MUSIC

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Does your child take music lessons? Student musicians wanted for the Christmas Eve family service at 6:00 PM. We have a limited number of slots for children to participate in the service. If your child is interested in playing a short piano/violin/or other instrument solo/duet, or singing a solo please contact Stacie [stacie@uccmedina.org](mailto:stacie@uccmedina.org) or Tracy Gabrielsen [tracy@uccmedina.org](mailto:tracy@uccmedina.org).

## An Illustrated Advent for Families: God With Us

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**God With Us** is an opportunity for families to take time each week during the Advent season to be intentional and focus on their faith. The stories of Advent are stories for hard times. Jesus was born amid upheaval and historical change and among people who seemed powerless. But when the world feels hopeless, Advent reminds us God is with 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 the ways in which Emmanuel, God-with-us, brings hope, peace, joy, and love to your home and community, especially during hard times. Each week we 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!

## **CHRISTMAS WEEK SCHEDULE**

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**Christmas Eve** Worship Services will be:

6:00 pm – Family Candlelight Service

9:00 pm – Candlelight Service

Church office will be closed on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> and re-open at 9 am on Monday, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>

**One service of worship at 10:30 a.m. on Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>**

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW & SAVE THE DATE!**

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The Chili Cook-Off is back once again! Mark your calendars and plan to join us! Details coming soon...

**JANUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>:**

**ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP at 10:30 a.m.**

**ANNUAL MEETING at 11:30 a.m.**

**CHILI COOK-OFF TO FOLLOW MEETING at 12:00 p.m.**

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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**

Colossians 1:11-20

### Together in Christ

Today is the Reign of Christ Sunday, also known as Christ the King Sunday. For the faithful, it is the Church's New Year's celebration as the liturgical calendar year comes to close. A new cycle of Scripture passages then begins with the first Sunday of Advent.

On this day, we remember how Jesus the Christ came as promised to usher in a kingdom of love and grace. And even though those with earthly power tried to silence him with death on the cross, Jesus triumphed. As Handel's "Hallelujah" chorus from his beloved "Messiah," in which he composed in 1741 proclaims, "And he shall reign forever and ever." This is indeed a celebratory Sunday for Jesus Christ does reign forever and ever.

I have friend, though, who takes a different approach to this Sunday, preferring to delete "King" and use the word "kin" instead. When I asked why she changes it to "Christ the Kin Sunday" she replied that it better captures who Jesus is for us today. A king, she explained, insists on his people to fall in line and follow royal edicts. "In a kingdom there really is no freedom for those who are not in the inner circle of privilege. There is always someone being crushed under the power," she said. "Is 'king' really the best way to describe our Lord?"

I never really thought of the baggage the word "king" might have, and perhaps Christ is not my king. Disclaimer: Jesus is indeed my Lord, and that is a profession of faith I will fall on my knees proclaiming every day that I have breath. But king?

Now "kin," which means members of a family, that is a more thought provoking description of Jesus. For aren't we all part of the family of Christ? Aren't we all siblings through his blood that was shed for us on the cross? And as our kin, Jesus doesn't issue royal edicts to further earthly powers, rather he issues Godly edicts to further humankind: Edicts to love one another as he has loved us.

As we sing of Christ's reign ruling forever and ever, let us also lift a note of praise for Christ Our Kin, our brother who reminds us that no matter what our ancestry searches discover, we all belong to the family of God.

*Dear God, as we celebrate the everlasting reign of Christ, may we remember how his power is not in ruling his children, but in loving them. May our power be found in love as well. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*