



ROOTED

STANDING IN JUSTICE



November
nine, twenty twenty-five



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 "Simple Gifts" – Shaker tune arr. by Douglas E. Wagner

Cathy Fafrak, Piano

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

"God Is Truly with Us"

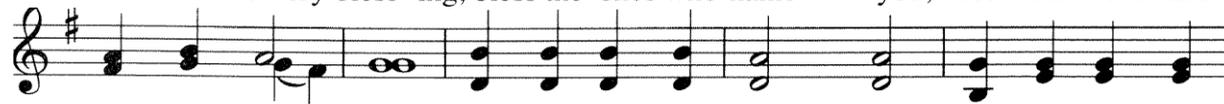
WUNDERBARER KÖNIG 6.6.8.6.6.8.3.3.6.6.

Gerhard Tersteegen, 1729; trans. Frederick W. Foster and others, alt.

Joachim Neander, 1680



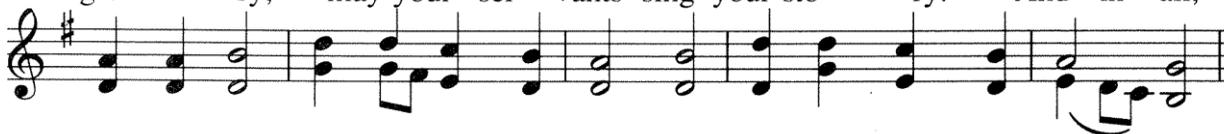
1 God is tru-ly with us; sing we and a - dore now: praise the One we
2 God is tru-ly with us; loud our praise re - sound - ing! Ech - oes of the
3 Source of ev-ery bless - ing, bless the ones who name you, let our words and



come be - fore now. Here with-in this tem - ple, here in sound and
saints sur-round - ing! "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," hear the hymn as -
deeds pro-claim you. Like the saints and an - gels prais-ing you in



si - lence, wor-ship God in deep-est rev - erence. You a - lone,
cend - ing, an - gels, saints, their voic - es blend - ing! Bow your ear
glo - ry, may your ser - vants sing your sto - ry. And in all,



God, we own, you, our God and Sav - ior; praise to you for - ev - er.
to us here; hear, O Christ, the prais - es that your Church now rais - es.
great and small, may we do most near - ly what you love most dear - ly.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

What does the Lord require of us?

To do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

We are rooted in a story of liberation and love.

We are called to live it—together.

For every hand that builds, every voice that speaks,

We give thanks.

For the vision of equity and dignity,

We give thanks.

For those who plant seeds of justice today,

We pledge to give, to grow, and to act. Root us in justice, God. Amen.

*CONFESSION

We admit to you, God of our life, that our celebration is often an empty ritual.

Through the Spirit you offer us life, but we cling to the ways of death.

Through the Spirit you offer us freedom, but we cling to our chains.

Through the Spirit you offer us power, but we shrink away in fear and doubt.

Forgive us, Holy One, that we refuse the gifts you offer.

Through your Son, the Risen Christ, may we overcome all that binds us,

To stand in your justice.

*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Friends, may you hear these words and believe them:

We are forgiven and empowered by Christ Jesus who loves us.

Let us move with courage into the world,

With Love, Logos, and Spirit.

We pray in the powerful name of Jesus,

Amen!

ANTHEM :“Let There Be Peace on Earth” – by Sy Miller & Jill Jackson

Children’s Choir

SCRIPTURE Micah 6:6-8 (O.T. pg. 816) and Luke 4:16-21 (N.T. pg. 57) Kimberly Gallagher, 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

HYMN

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing/O For a World”

Charles Wesley, 1740; alt./Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

AZMON C.M.
Carl G. Gläser, 1828



1 O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er’s praise,
 1 O for a world where ev - ery-one re - spects each oth - er’s ways,
 2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
 3 We wel-come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
 4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.
 5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God’s glo - rious reign of peace,



The glo - ries ev - er ech - o - ing the tri - umphs of God’s grace!
 Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
 Where truth is spo - ken, chil-dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
 That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
 Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
 Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

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

John Gorsek

Communal Art Project

What vision of God’s justice are we called to live now? How do our gifts strengthen the trunk of this tree? Write a mission or a dream of justice you have and place it in an offering plate at the end of the service.

***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 are called to live justly—not only individually, but as a church. Through Christ, we understand God’s vision for justice, mercy, and inclusion. Through our tithes and offerings, the work is enabled, and the Spirit can move. Thanks be to God! Amen!

***CLOSING HYMN**

"Take My Gifts"

TALavera Terrace 8.7.8.7.D.

Shirley Erena Murray, 1991 © 1992 Hope Publishing Company

Colin Gibson, 1991



1 Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
2 Take the fruit that I have gath - ered from the tree your Spir - it sowed,
3 Take what - ev - er I can of - fer— gifts that I have yet to find,



gave me light and food and shel - ter, gave me life and set me free,
har - vest of your own com - pas - sion, juice that makes the wine of God,
skills that I am slow to sharp - en, tal - ents of the hand and mind,



now be - cause your love has touched me, I have love to give a - way,
spiced with hu - mor, laced with laugh - ter— fla - vor of the Je - sus life,
things made beau - ti - ful for oth - ers in the place where I must be:



now the bread of love is ris - ing, loaves of love to mul - ti - ply!
tang of risk and new ad - ven - ture, taste and zest be - yond be - lief.
take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

***ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***BENEDICTION**

May the peace of God be yours,

God's justice is our peace!

May Christ be seen in your word and deed,

He is the light of hope in our eyes and the fire of inspiration on our lips.

May the Spirit guide you as we go our separate ways,

Yet connect us in each way that comes.

May the Great Ruler of all the high places keep you strong
and standing in justice for all the days to come.

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 "All Things Bright and Beautiful" – arr. by Anna Laura Page Cathy Fafrak, Organ**

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

Coffee Hour is hosted this week by Lori Price, Myra Fabian & Sari Allen.

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THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 9, 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

November 9 thru November 16, 2025

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	Blake Sign-up
	8:15 am Chapel Worship
	9:00 am Gathering Worship
	10:00 am Children's Choir
	10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
	10:30 am Jesus Vibes
	10:30 am Teen Church
	11:30 am Mission Team
	2:00 pm Park Clean-Up Project
	3:00 pm Confirmation Class
Mon	2:00 pm Sermon Prep Bible Study
Tues	VETERAN'S DAY
	7:00 pm Property & Grounds Team
	7:00 pm Worship Team
Wed	10:30 am Quilters
	6:00 pm Bell Choir
	6:00 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal
	7:00 pm DELTS
	7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal
Thurs	6:30 pm Bible Study
Fri	
Sat	
Sun	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
	11:30 am Christmas Pageant Practice
	11:45 am Hospitality Team
	3:00 pm Vibes Video Crew
	4:30 pm Youth Group

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

Scripture: Micah 6:6–8 and Luke 4:16–21

Sermon: “Standing in Justice”

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The flowers on the communion table are given by Pete & Alice Metzloff in memory of their daughter, Jeannette Pettit.

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. Rooted Part 1 was the wider UCC and ancestor denominations. Rooted Part 2 will solely be focused on the history of Medina UCC Congregational. 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.

ENDOWMENT FUND GRANT APPLICATIONS - LAST WEEK!

Grant applications are available now to apply for funding for special projects and improvements beyond the 2026 Operating/Mission Budgets or individual Team Budgets.

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 by November 16th. Any questions contact Kelly Charnley 330-421-3313 or Matt Yates 330-321-9679.

PARK CLEAN-UP SERVICE PROJECT TODAY

As a church, we've been looking for new opportunities to give back to our community—and helping to clean up one of the county parks that we love is one way to do that. So, as a capstone project to our Trekking Through Autumn hikes, we will clean up Hubbard Valley Park on Sunday, 11/9 at 2 PM. The rain date is 11/16, please sign up for that if you're also available then. The church will supply bags and latex-free gloves.

Sign up here:

<https://tinyurl.com/UCCParkCleanup> or call the church office. Please contact Patrick Acurio with any questions.

BAKE SALE

Calling all bakers! The Discipleship & Education team will once again be hosting a bake sale during the Candlelight Walk on Saturday, November 22nd from 4:30 - 7:00 pm. If you would like to donate a yummy baked good for the bake sale, please fill out a form (available from the ushers) or sign up: tinyurl.com/candlelightwalkbakesale2025 and let us know what you are bringing. All baked goods should be labeled and pre-wrapped for individual sale and dropped off at the church kitchen on Friday, November 21st between 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Past patrons have been very grateful for labeled, allergy safe treats. Funds collected from the bake sale will be used for Christian education and youth programming. Thank you so much for your support.

COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

The 2026 Flower Chart is now hanging in the East Room hallway. This is a wonderful way to honor or remember someone, or to celebrate a special occasion. Please fill in your name and **write "Church" or "Self"** to let us know if you would like the church to order the flowers for you or if you will be ordering them yourself. The cost of the flowers ordered through the church office is \$25 and is due 2 weeks prior to your date.

Also, please write what you would like printed in the Messenger and if you want to claim your flowers after the 10:30 service.

NOVEMBER DONATION

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.

HELP SERVE A MEAL!

Please help us out by serving a meal at the Next Step-Up Shelter on November 12th. Contact Maureen Walker if you would like to volunteer to donate supplies, cook or serve.

IT'S POINSETTIA TIME!

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 8th**. 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

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!

FREE PLAY CHURCH HANGOUT

Join us for a second 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 join a discussion led by prompts about current-day parenting. All are welcome on Friday, November 21 at the church (rooms 8/9/10 for the kids and room 7 for the adults) with open house hours between 4-6 pm.

Congratulations!!!

Logan & Rev. Meghan Malone welcomed their new little one into the world!
Estella Hope Malone was born on November 1, 2025 at 7:50 pm.
A Baby Rose has been placed on the communion table in Estella's honor.



FINANCE UPDATE

Pledges and other giving for October were \$33,948, which was more than the budget. Operating expenses were slightly less than budget.

For the year-to-date, pledges and other giving income of \$313,859 is about 9% more than the budget. Expenses, other than cold winter utilities, have been in line (modified somewhat as we have used some of the covid-era ERTC tax credits we received). The excess revenue over expenses is \$139,792 which is and will remain very high for 2025, and which will add to our reserves for future years. If you have any questions, please contact Pete Metzloff at pete@uccmedina.org or 330-241-1316.

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

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

Hold On to Faith

Have you ever fallen ill with FoMo? I haven't, but I do know friends who came down with a severe case of it and it wasn't pretty. FoMo stands for "Fear Of Missing Out." The term entered our vocabularies sometime around 2004 just as social media was taking off. As more people scrolled the Internet incessantly, watching videos of other people's exotic trips, perfect family picnics, and swanky restaurant reviews, the sense of missing out on life grew.

While the ancient church in Thessalonica didn't have Facebook or Instagram, the people were still coming down with FoMo. Well, more like FoMo's earlier strain that we will call FoMJC — Fear of Missing Jesus Christ.

False prophets were coming out of the woodwork spreading rumors that the much-anticipated return of Jesus had already happened. Because of this fake news, the Apostle Paul had to write a letter to the dear people in the Thessalonica church to ease their angst of being left out of something amazing. After assuring the congregation that the Lord had not yet come back, Paul advises them to stand firm in their faith and hold fast to the teachings of Christ that they were taught. He even chides them a little with his reprimand, "Don't you remember what I told you?"

I have a soft spot in my heart for the Thessalonians. I know how easy it is to believe fake news. One click bait headline is all it takes to get caught in a tangle web of misinformation. And anyone who has fallen down the soul-sucking black hole of social media knows that FoMo is highly contagious with those happy faces staring back at you, living the life you wish you had, infecting the sacredness of all God has indeed blessed you with.

Now more than ever, the faithful need to reread Paul's letter. We need to hold fast to our faith and remember all that we were taught about God's ways and God's truths.

There will always be false prophets. There will always be click bait headlines. There will always be that one friend who posts about a picture-perfect life. The world today will do its best to make you think you are missing out on something fun or important. But you aren't. For we who live in Christ are not missing anything at all. We who hold on to God's Word and choose to walk the Jesus way will get to see and experience the beauty and grace that are in this world.

Let the false prophets talk gibberish. Let social media influencers ramble on about their latest adventures. You my friend, have something better. You have your faith. Hold on to it. And remember, there is no FoMo with God by your side.

God, our days are in your loving hands. There is no fear of missing out on what life has to offer for you are leading us. You orchestrate our comings and goings. We praise you that every day is a blessed one, filled with your beautiful God moments. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.