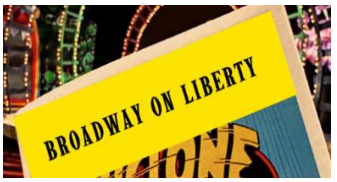
BROADWAY ON LIBERTY

WICKED

MEDINA UCC CONGREGATIONAL

BROADWAY ON LIBERTY



At the corner of Broadway and Liberty, we'll explore the stories that have captivated audiences for generations and discover how musicals can help us hear the gospel with fresh ears. These stories sing about love, belonging, truth, fear, hope, and what it means to be human. Because faith has always been musical.

The psalms were songs before they were scripture. Jesus taught through stories. And somewhere between a spotlight and a chorus line, Broadway keeps wrestling with the same questions people bring to church every Sunday: Who am I? Who belongs? Can people change? What story will we leave behind? In this worship series: scripture meets the stage, theology gets a soundtrack, and grace refuses to stay backstage.

**Those who are able please stand*

PRELUDE "When in Our Music God Is Glorified" – ENGELBERG, setting Anne Krentz Organ
Cathy Fafrak, Piano

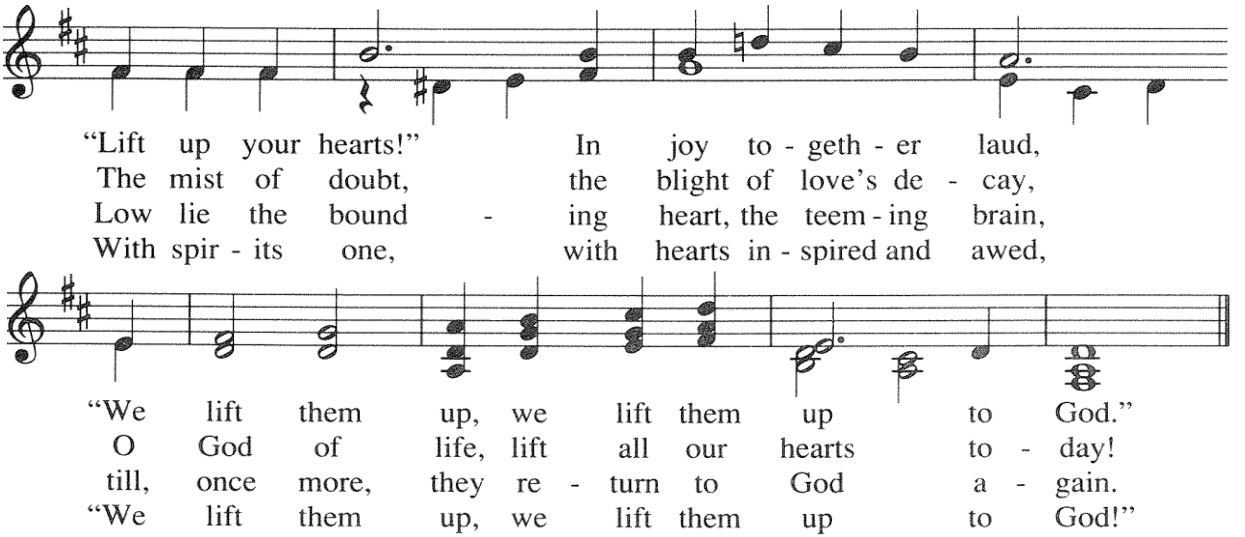
WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Do we really know what goodness is?
It's all in how we're viewed.
Do you think we recognize evil when we see it?
It's all in which label persists.
Skimming the surface won't give us the answers,
But few are willing to look too closely.
May this worship change something in us,
May it change us for good!

***OPENING HYMN** **"Lift Up Your Hearts"** WOODLANDS 10.10.10.10.

Henry M. Butler, 1881; alt. *Walter Greatorex, 1916*



***DAILY PRAYER**

Holy One, give us humility. Shield us from the temptation to degrade one another for attention, ambition, or simply because it's easier to go along with the crowd. Help us to see possibility within our differences, instead of danger. Let our dreams for this beloved community grow far and wide. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 5:20-23 *(O.T. pg. 597)* and Luke 5:29-39 *(N.T. pg. 59)* Dave Butler, Liturgist

MESSAGE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY OF GOD Stacie Yates

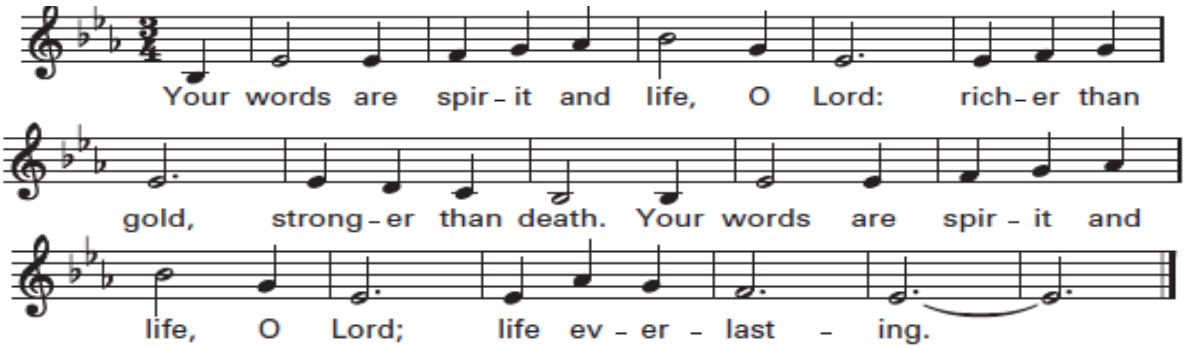
The Lord's Prayer

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

PRAYER RESPONSE **"Your Words Are Spirit and Life"**

Words & music by Bernadette Farrell, © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.



SERMON "Who Decides Who's Wicked?" Rev. Meghan Malone & Mission Trip Participants

REFLECTION HYMN **"You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore"** PESCADOR DE HOMBRES 8.10.10.w/ ref

Cesáreo Gabaraín, 1979; alt. Trans. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1989; alt. *Cesáreo Gabaraín, 1979; harm. Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1987*

© 1979, 1987, Cesáreo Gabaraín. Published by OCP Publications.

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

UCC Medina
@uccmedina

venmo

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!

Offertory Invitation

The body of Christ is diverse and all belong here. So, bring your talents, your gifts, and whatever makes you different. Together we're unlimited! Let us defy gravity in body or spirit and sing!

***Doxology** *(words, Ruth Duck, ©2005, GIA Publications)*

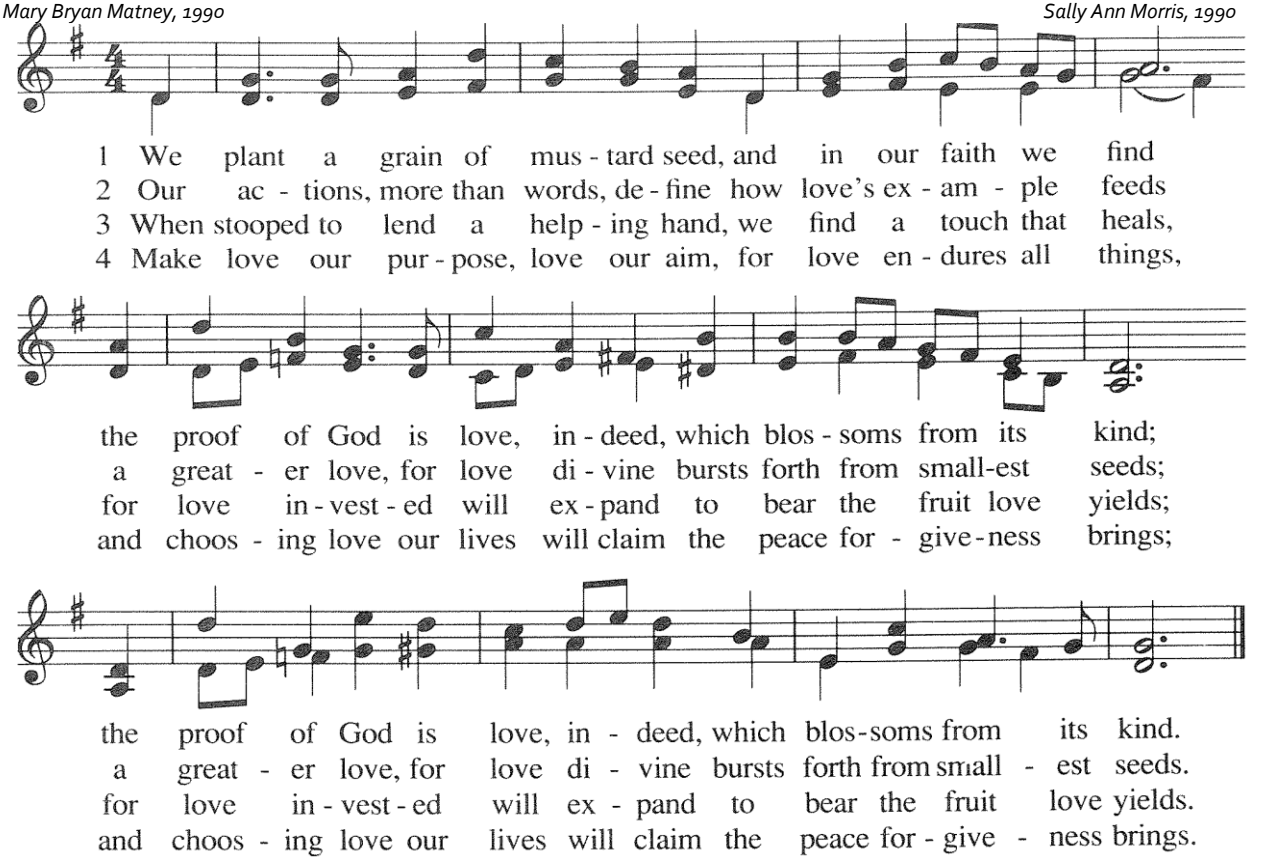
Praise God, the Source of life and birth; Praise God, the Word, who came to earth; Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame; All glory, honor to God's Name! Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

God who made us and called us good. Set us free from walls of division and soften our hearts towards each other. May the light of your truth shine through our gifts, as we keep re-telling your stories, until none are excluded. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** **"We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed"** NEW BEGINNINGS 8.6.8.6.8.6.

Mary Bryan Matney, 1990 *Sally Ann Morris, 1990*



***ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***BENEDICTION**

They say people come into our lives for a reason,
and they'll help us grow if we let them.
So, befriend the one who is labelled wicked.
Mourn for the good that's been lost because of hate.
We're through with playing by the rules.
We have been changed for good!
Go and share the good news!
Everyone deserves a chance to fly!

SPECIAL MUSIC Logan Yates, voice

***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** "from Chaconne in f minor" – J. Pachelbel/ed. C.H. Trevor Cathy Fafrak, organ

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****There is no coffee hour for the summer months. Watch for signups in August and join us again in the fall!*

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ONA Statement

"We, the congregation of Medina United Church of Christ, Congregational seek to be followers of Jesus Christ, taking as our own his example of extravagant welcome and love of all people. As an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ, we welcome into our fellowship persons of all races, ethnicities, nationalities, abilities or disabilities, genders, gender identities or expression, sexual orientations, age, socioeconomic status, marital status or family structure, religious background, physical health, mental health, or any other life circumstance. All are invited to participate in the full life, ministry, leadership, worship, fellowship, and rites and sacraments of the church. In the living of these values, we hope to more fully follow Christ's commandment to love our neighbor and to create a safe space where love abounds."

- *Approved by unanimous congregational vote May 19, 2024*

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER
JULY 26, 2026

"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

July 26 thru August 2, 2026
WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	10:30 am	Sanctuary Worship
	10:30 am	Summer Vibes
Mon	6:00 pm	Spirit Moves Yoga
Tues	**7:00 pm**	**Theater Night Live On Screen** ***Dear Evan Hansen***
Wed	10:30 am	Quilters
	7:00 pm	Gathering Band
Thurs	6:30 pm	Bible Study
Fri		
Sat		
Sun	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	10:30 am	Sanctuary Worship
	10:30 am	Summer Vibes

PARKING TODAY - JULY 26

The car show has been rescheduled for July 26th. There will be an "America 250: Transportation in America Car Show" in the parking lot next door at the Administration building.

Please be aware that there will be no parking in that lot between 8 am and 2 pm. You will need to use the parking garage, spots around the square or the lot behind the Courthouse. Our lot will be available, but the spots will be minimal, so try to save them for those who can't walk a long distance.

Worship Highlights: 8:15, 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Scripture: Isaiah 5:20-23 and Luke 5:29-39

Sermon: "Who Decides Who's Wicked?"

Rev. Meghan Malone & Mission Trip Participants

Communion Table: The flowers on the communion table today are given by Katherine Baker in memory of Deanna Baker.

THEATER NIGHT
Live on Screen!

As part of our Liberty on Broadway Sermon Series,
join us in Fellowship Hall for the showing of

"Dear Evan Hansen"
Tuesday, July 28th - 7:00 pm

CHANCEL CHOIR & BELL CHOIR NEWS!

The Chancel Choir and Bell Choir kickoff gathering is at my house at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 12th. Anyone interested in joining the choir or being added to the Bell Choir substitute list is welcome to attend! We will have some snacks and fellowship and then sing through some of the music for the start of the year.

New interested singers or sub ringers RSVP to tracy@uccmedina.org.

CHURCH DIRECTORY INFO

- This is your last chance to notify us if you do not want your contact information shared with other church members. **EVERYONE will be Opted In to the church directory**. Once this is done, you will receive an email with what information has been shared. Please keep in mind:
- **Access to this information is restricted:**
  - Only church members can view directory information.
  - Members must be logged into the REALM app. to view information.
  - **Information is not publicly available online.**
- **Please wait until after August to make your own changes to your settings to avoid accidental updates.**

Assistance will be available through the church office or you may contact Mike Sferro at michael.sferro@gmail.com .
Once this change is complete, we should be able to print a church directory for those who cannot use REALM. Stay tuned for details!

SENIOR SEND-OFF

August 9th 10:30 a.m.
Join us as we wish our outgoing seniors well and send them off on their next adventure with blessings from their church family!

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

August 16th all 3 services
Bring your backpacks to church for a special blessing and your backpack tag!

ALIVE ON THE SQUARE WORSHIP

August 23rd @ 10:30 a.m.
THERE WILL ONLY BE ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP THIS DAY
Join us on the Square of Medina for worship and a time of fellowship and family with a picnic.
Picnic will be catered by Medina Creative Housing

LAST WEEK FOR SCHOOL DONATIONS

Here is what is needed:
Please place your donations in the marked bins across from the elevator by the Mission Table Thank you!

Pencils	Folders
Crayons	Paperclips
Markers	Disinfecting Wipes
Glue Sticks	Tissues
Erasers	Hand Sanitizer

AUGUST MONTHLY DONATION

Join the Mission Team in supporting Cups Collective by donating needed supplies such as: *To go* containers, 55–60 gallon trash bags, disposable food boat trays (3lb), 6" dinner plates, 9" dinner plates, 12 oz paper bowls, creamers (single cups), sugar, to go disposable coffee cups, toilet paper, paper towels, multi-surface cleansing wipes
Thanks for your support! Please place your donations in the marked bins across from the elevator by the Mission table.

FALL FAITH FORMATION

SEPTEMBER: We'll hit the books and fall in love with the bible again each Tuesday at 7 p.m.

We'll *Separate Church from Hate* on 9/17 at 7 p.m.

OCTOBER: We'll discuss Brian Recker's book on 10/13 and 10/20 and then the author will visit us on Sunday, 10/25 for worship and a 3 p.m. lecture.

HIT THE BOOKS!

Come learn from the Bible for Normal People about the following:
9/8 - Multivocality
9/15 - Reading the Bible like Adults
9/22 - History of Interpretation
9/29 - Anti-Apologetics

HELP US BUILD A HOUSE…
with Habitat for Humanity!
We have added 2 more workdays!

The house we're sponsoring is underway and we have been given a couple more work dates. **They are:**

Thursday, July 30th
Thursday, August 6th
Saturday, August 15th

Volunteers ages 16 & 17 are welcome as long as they are with a parent or guardian. Each workday begins at 8:30am, lunch is at 11:30am, and the end time is 2:30pm. Lunch is not provided so groups are welcome to coordinate or just have everyone pack a lunch. Habitat for Humanity will provide all the tools that will be needed. They also have safety gear such as hard hats and glasses available, but if you have your own feel free to bring them. Please dress comfortably and with the mindset of getting dirty. Boots are ideal but tennis shoes are the second-best thing. Tasks are not announced until the week of. Sign up at https://tinyurl.com/HabitatMUCC

Give online at www.uccmedina.org/give

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

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - luke@uccmedina.org
Rev. Meghan Malone, Associate Pastor of Youth & Mission - meghan@uccmedina.org
Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor – karenb7777@aol.com

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Tracy Gabrielsen, Director of Music – tracy@uccmedina.org
Cathy Fafrak, Organist & Office Assistant – cathy@uccmedina.org
Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool and Children's Choir – jen@uccmedina.org
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian

July 26, 2026
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Weaving the Future

I have been on a quest to understand better the days of old by learning how to master 18th-century living skills long forgotten. My most recent adventure was a class on how to grow flax, spin it into thread, and then weave it into cloth.

It was there at the loom that my weaving became a prayerful act, and with each pass of the shuttle, I thought of the series of "The Kingdom of God is like" parables that Jesus shared so along ago.

The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed — the smallest of seeds that grows so great it becomes a haven where birds make their nests among the branches. The Kingdom of God is like yeast that rises into a pillowy loaf of warm bread.

The Kingdom of God is like …

I mused that if Jesus was at the loom with me, he would begin teaching how the Kingdom of God is like a weaver creating a tapestry with various colors of threads.

The effectiveness of Jesus' many teachings has always been that he was able to take what was right in front of him and make it a teachable God moment. It was a gift that made God's Kingdom more accessible to others. There was no secret handshake or password to gain entry. Rather, the Kingdom was — and is — all around in ways we are often blind to.

Take a look where you are right now. What is a Kingdom of God parable Jesus would speak of?

Chances are you are sitting in a pew, and you think there is no sign of the Kingdom. Look again.

Could it be that the Kingdom of God is like the threadbare cushion you might sitting on? Its patted down stuffing testifying to the generational stories of faith that need to be heard and the ones that still need to be told. Or perhaps the Kingdom of God is like a cracked vase that is holding the flowers on the chancel. Once shattered but not discarded. Rather, lovingly restored by hands who still saw its beauty and worth.

The Kingdom of God is like…

It's now your turn to see with eyes of faith and make a new parable for today.

Story-telling God, may our voice speak of the parables still needing to be told. May everything we see and savor, touch and taste, remind us of the goodness of Your kingdom that is here on Earth all around us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's *Sunday Bulletin*.)