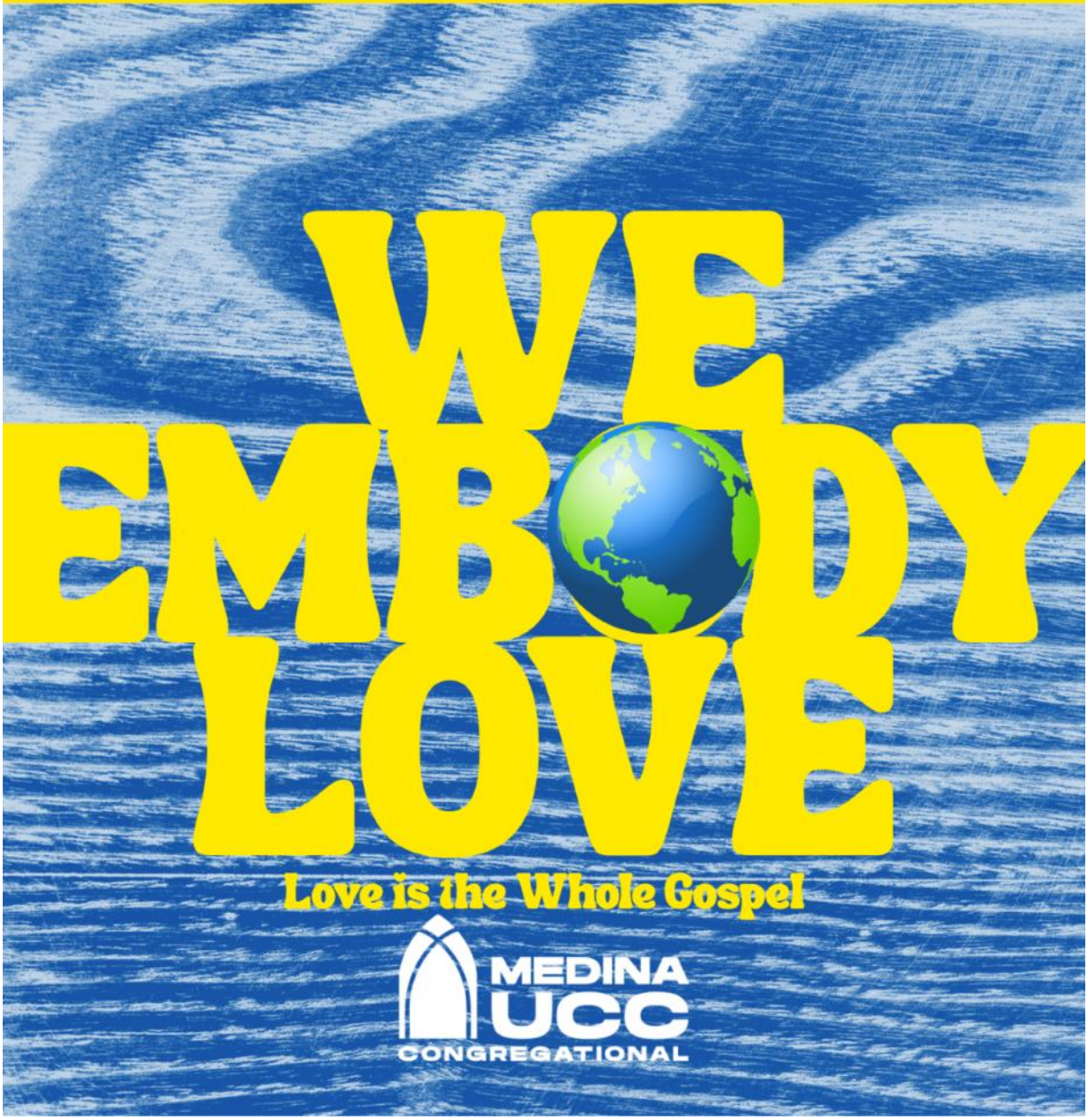
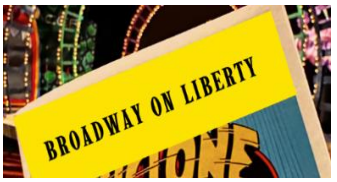
BROADWAY ON LIBERTY



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*

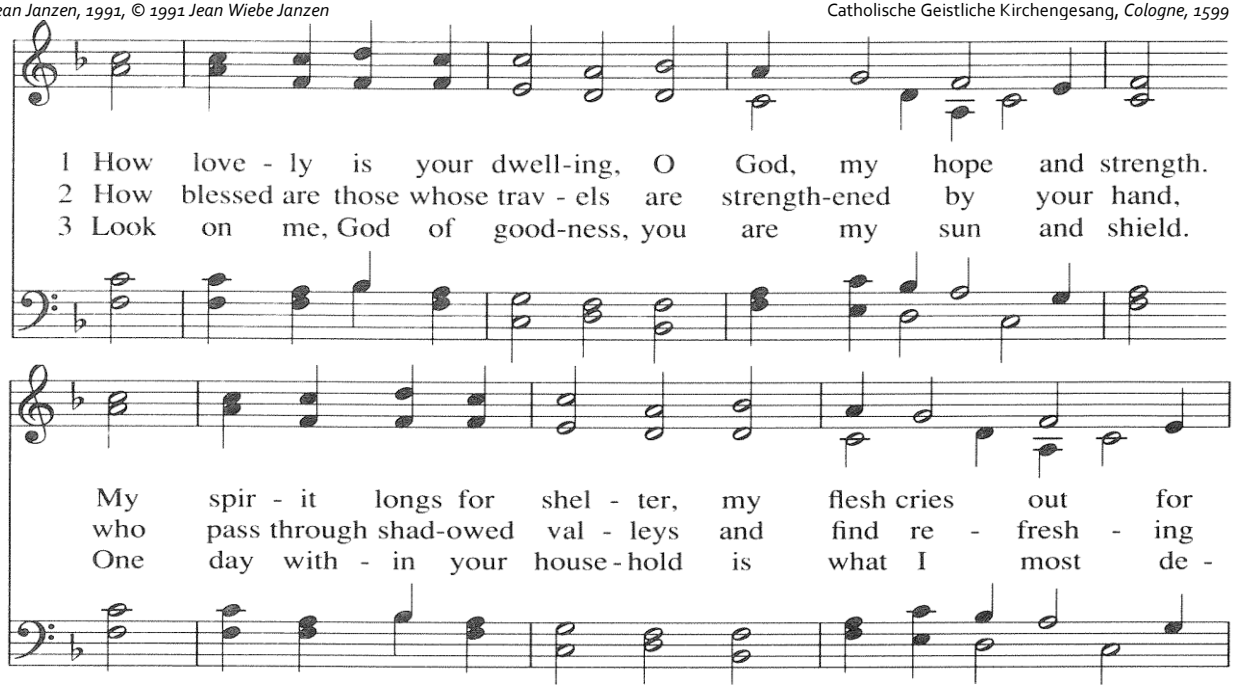
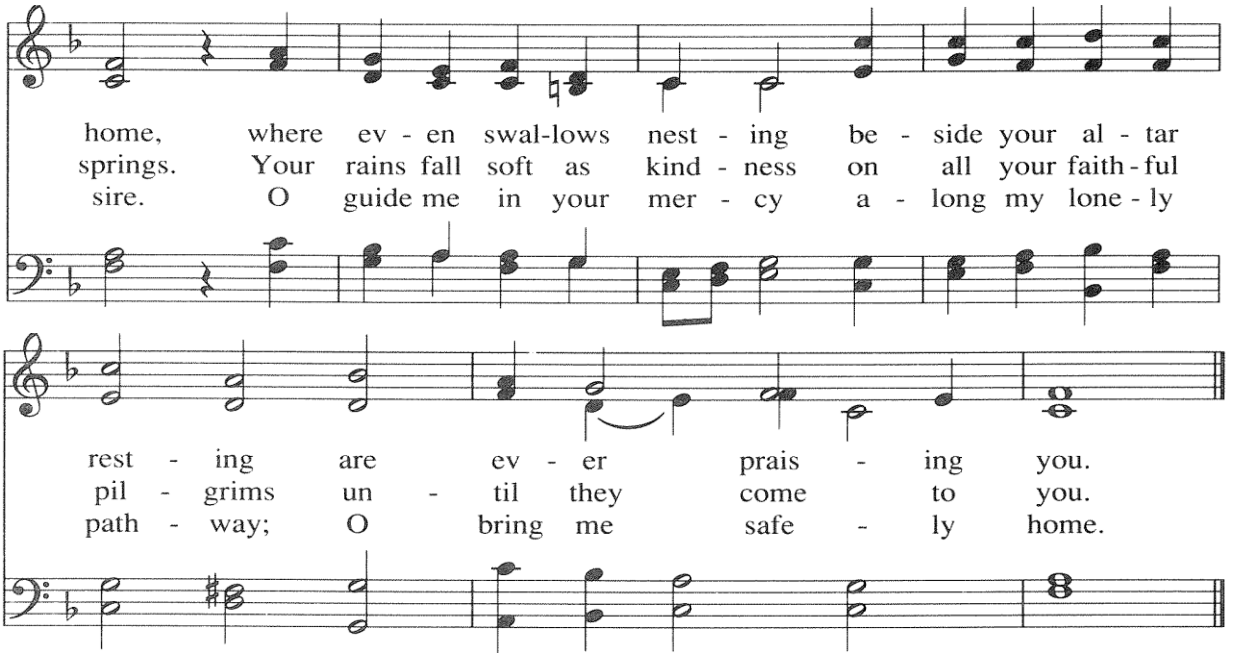
PRELUDE "The Gift of Love" – trad./Hal Hopson/setting, John Carter — Cathy Fafrak, Piano

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Holy One, each of us arrives differently today.
Some arrive hunky-dory, everything is just fine.
And some worlds have been broken apart.
Like a tragedy from the clear blue sky.
And some are somewhere in between.
Let this worship be a way for us to open our hearts,
To you, our God, Our Christ, Our Spirit.
And also to our neighbors both near and far. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** **"How Lovely Is Your Dwelling"** ES IST EIN' ROS' alt to 7.6.7.6.7.7.6.

Jean Janzen, 1991, © 1991 Jean Wiebe Janzen — Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesang, *Cologne, 1599*

***DAILY PRAYER**

Jesus, our Christ, help us reach across all that divides us. May we look to Paul's words in Philippians 4:6; "Be anxious for nothing, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."
We are here, oh Lord. Hear our prayer. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Leviticus 19:30-37 *(O.T. pg.103)* & Matthew 25:34-46 *(N.T. pg. 27)* John Kavouras, Liturgist

SPECIAL MUSIC "Prayer of St. Francis" *used in Come From Away* Chancel Choir
St. Francis of Assisi & Sebastian Temple/ arr. Tom Fettke

MESSAGE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY OF GOD Pastor Meghan

The Lord's Prayer

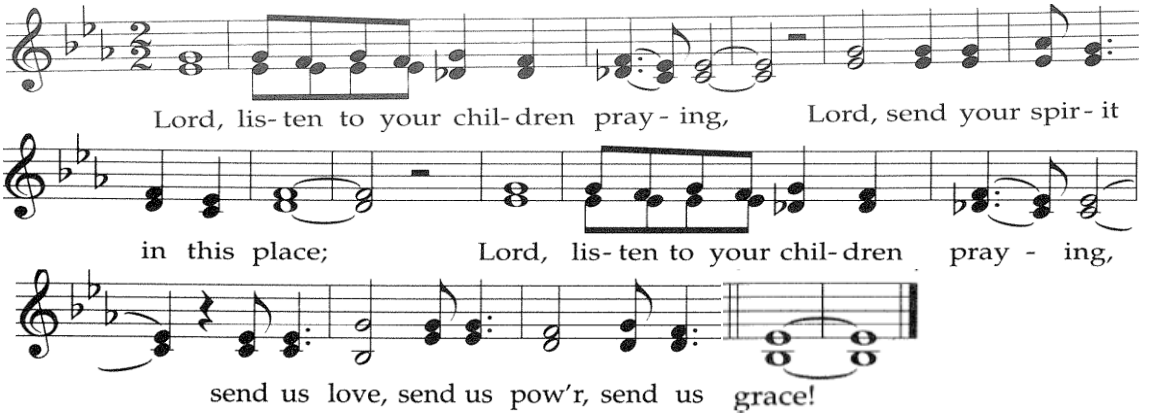
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

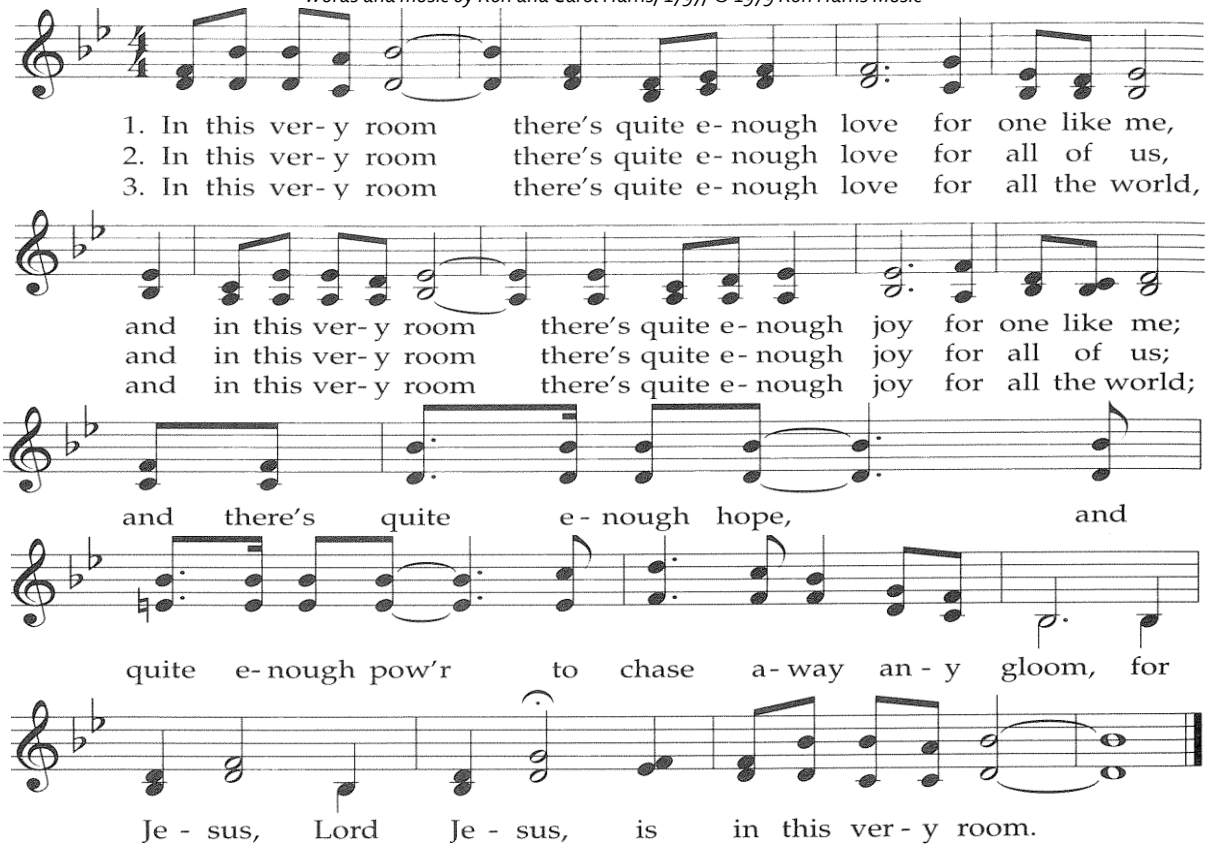
Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

PRAYER RESPONSE **"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"** CHILDREN PRAYING Irr.

Words and music by Ken Medema, 1973, ©1973 Hope Publishing Company

SERMON "We Embody Love" Rev. Meghan Malone

REFLECTION HYMN **"In This Very Room"** IN THIS VERY ROOM Irr.

Words and music by Ron and Carol Harris, 1797, © 1979 Ron Harris Music

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

Offertory Invitation

When the world breaks open, love does not wait for perfect plans.
Love opens kitchens, makes room on the floor, answers phones, pours coffee,
and finds a way to welcome strangers as neighbors. Today we offer our gifts so that this church can keep practicing love at scale:
feeding, sheltering, serving, listening, showing up.
For when we welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, visit the lonely, and care for the frightened,
we meet Christ already there.
Let us rise in body or spirit and sing our praise to God!

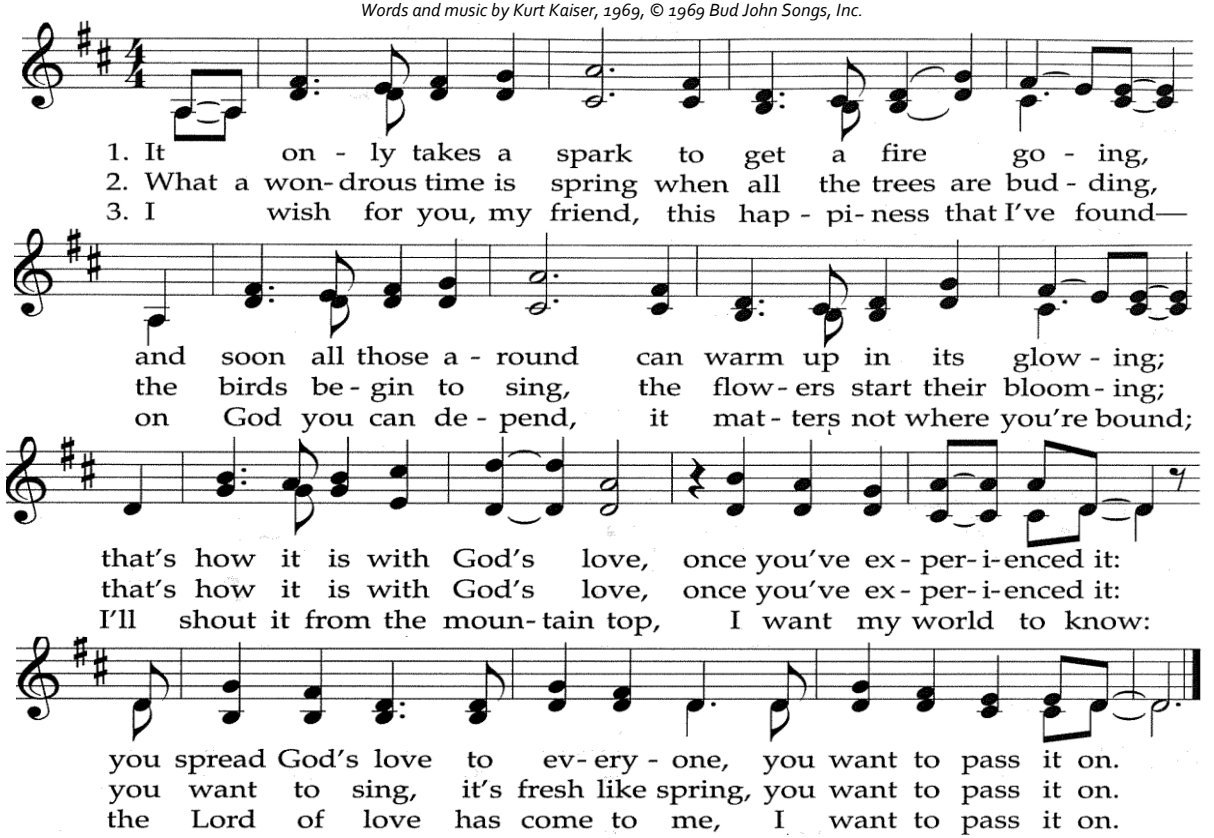
***Doxology** *(words, Ruth Duck, ©2005, GIA Publications)*

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 of open doors and crowded tables, receive these gifts as signs of our love for you and our neighbors. Multiply them into welcome for the stranger, food for the hungry, comfort for the frightened, and courage for those learning how to love beyond fear. Make us a church where hospitality is not a program but a way of life, where kindness becomes infrastructure, and where your gospel is practiced at scale. In the name of Jesus, who comes to us in every neighbor, we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** **"Pass It On"** PASS IT ON Irr.

Words and music by Kurt Kaiser, 1969, © 1969 Bud John Songs, Inc.

***ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***BENEDICTION**

Go now into a world where fear still lands without warning,
and be the people who open doors.
Go with hands ready to serve,
tables ready to stretch, and hearts ready to make room.
When strangers become neighbors,
when kindness becomes common,
when love is practiced not only in words but in systems, schedules, meals, rides, prayers, and presence,
the kingdom of God comes near.
So go in the grace of Christ,
the welcome of God,
and the courage of the Holy Spirit.
Love is the whole gospel. Let us embody it. 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** "Fanfare" – Michael Helman 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
AUGUST 16, 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

August 16 thru August 23, 2026
WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**	
	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	9:45 am	Choir Warm-up
	10:30 am	Sanctuary Worship
	10:30 am	Summer Vibes
Mon	1:00 pm	Breadmakers
	6:00 pm	Spirit Moves Yoga
	6:30 pm	Women's Bible Study
Tues		
Wed	10:30 am	Quilters
	7:00 pm	Gathering Band
Thurs	6:30 pm	Bible Study
Fri		
Sat		
Sun	**ALIVE ON THE SQUARE WORSHIP**	
	10:30 am	ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP
	11:30 am	PICNIC TO FOLLOW

ALIVE ON THE SQUARE

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

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

Scripture: Leviticus 19: 30-37 & Matthew 25: 34-46
Sermon: "Love is the Whole Gospel"
Rev. Meghan Malone

Communion Table: The flowers on the communion table are given by Dorie & Dick Christy in honor of their wedding anniversary.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

August 16th all 3 services

Bring your backpacks to church for a special blessing and your backpack tag!

PLEASE HELP!

Sunday, August 23rd

Looking for volunteers to help with Alive on the Square!

A) set up tables and chairs 9:30 to 10:15AM (Church to Square)
B) pack up tables and chairs 12:30 to 1:00PM (Square to Church)

If you can help, please text or email: Sari Allen 330-421-9336 or sariamick@gmail.com or sign up here: UCC: Alive On The Square Thank you.

MISSION OPPORTUNITY
Step up to Prevent Suicide Walk

Save the Date!

The walk will take place on Sunday, **September 27th** at Medina Public Square. Every year, it is incredibly meaningful to see our community come together to support suicide prevention awareness, honor loved ones and remind others that they are not alone. As a WISE congregation (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged regarding mental health and neurodivergence) we are a proud sponsor of the Walk. Use this link to sign up: STEP UP TO PREVENT SUICIDE COMMUNITY WALK — Alternative Paths

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, and multi-surface cleansing wipes. Please place your donations in the marked bins across from the elevator by the Mission table. Thanks for your support!

COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

We still have 2 openings to sponsor communion table flowers! The dates still available are **September 13th, and November 1st.** If you would like to sponsor one of these days, please sign up in the east room hallway.

The cost of the flowers ordered through the church office is **$25**.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!
LITURGIST AND COFFEE HOUR

Check out the bulletin board in the East Room hallway to sign up to be a liturgist during the 10:30 Sanctuary service or to host a Coffee Hour. The new sign-up sheets are for September thru November.

United Church of Christ
MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK™

Join Our Board!

Want to be a part of the work of the UCC Mental Health Network in a new way? Apply to join our Board of Directors! **Applications will be accepted through August 17, 2026.**
Join Our Board

SAVE THE DATE!

FINANCE UPDATE FOR JULY

Through July we received $223,793 in pledges, contributions, and other receipts. We have had expenses of $278,198, for a deficit of $54,405. Most expenses are consistent or less than the plan. Our actual deficit is roughly $20,000 more than the budget estimate for the first seven months of the year. Our operating reserve of $233,000 continues to be very substantial at 47% of the 2026 operating expenditures budget.

FAITH FORMATION

This fall, we're diving into some thought-provoking conversations about faith, Scripture, and theology.

September: The Bible for Normal People
Join Pastor Luke for a guided discussion on *The Bible for Normal People* videos at 7 p.m. in the Library:

- **Tuesday, September 8:** Multivocality
- **Tuesday, September 15:** Reading the Bible Like Adults
- **Tuesday, September 22:** History of Interpretation
- **Tuesday, September 29:** Anti-Apologetics

Special Event
On **Thursday, September 17 at 7:00 p.m.**, we'll gather for a discussion of John Fugelsang's bestselling book: *Separation of Church and Hate*.

October: Hellbent
We'll spend two Mondays at 7 p.m. in the library discussing Brian Recker's book *Hellbent*: *How the fear of hell holds Christians back from a spirituality of love.*

- **Tuesday, October 13**
- **Tuesday, October 20**

Then, on **Sunday, October 25**, Brian will join us for worship and return at **3:00 p.m.** for a special lecture.

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

OFFICE STAFF
Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - office@uccmedina.org
Pete Metzloff, Finance Director - pete@uccmedina.org

PROGRAM STAFF
Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education – stacie@uccmedina.org
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

August 16, 2026
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 45:1-15

Bold Moves

I recently heard a saying that if you hold tightly to grudges your hands are not free to catch the blessings.

Joseph, the dreamer in the Bible, had every right to hold a grudge. He was betrayed by his brothers and sold to a group of Ishmaelites who then brought him to Egypt.

The young boy could have allowed his circumstances to sour his spirit. But he didn't. Instead, Joseph grew up, rising to the position of prime minister to the Pharaoh. He was second-in-command of all of Egypt.

So, when a seven-year famine, in which Joseph had seen in one of his dreams, devasted his family's land of Caanan, he was now able to help his brothers who came seeking relief. At first, though, they didn't recognize Joseph as the brother they had sold. But as the story unfolds, the tears of realization and redemption flow freely among the broken siblings.

Joseph's story is not an easy one for us to embrace, especially when we prefer the heaviness of grudges to the lightness of forgiveness. But it is a story that reminds us that wrongs can be righted on the God path. In those times of feeling lost and wondering where in heaven's name is God, we must not let despair or even anger take hold.

I know this is easier said than done. Even as I write, I hesitate with each click of the keyboard because while my heart knows how gracious God is, my head is reciting a monologue of doubt. If my hands weren't typing, I am sure they would be found curled into a tight ball of frustration, hurt and anger.

It is not easy to believe that good can come out of something painful. But it can. Because God is our God of bold moves, and the boldest of moves was showing us that new life does emerge from the tomb.

Hope never dies. But holding on to that grudge is slowly doing its best to suffocate it. So put down this bulletin right now, unclench your hands, and catch that blessing.

Redemptive God, help us to let go of the grudges that we have been holding on to for far too long. May we realize they are serving no purpose in our lives. They are, in fact, robbing us of the life You want for us. With Your help, pry our clenched fists open now. We surrender all the hurt to you and wait patiently for the blessings. 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*.)