MULTI-VOCALITY

How diversity of biblical authors is a gift

FALL 2026

HIT THE BOOKS

Falling in Love with the Bible Again

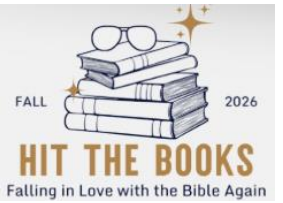
MEDINA UCC CONGREGATIONAL

August 30, 2026

HIT THE BOOKS: Falling in love with the Bible again

The Bible isn't a rulebook to master but a living library that invites us into wonder, wrestling, and transformation. When we release the need for certainty and control, we discover a text that is less about having the right answers and more about learning how to ask better questions, see more deeply, and live more faithfully.

Fall in love again with a book you assume you already know. Like rediscovering an old trail and realizing it was never a straight line to begin with, but a winding path full of switchbacks, shade, and sudden vistas. *August 30th – September 27th*



**Those who are able please stand*

PRELUDE "Little Prelude in C major" – JS Bach — Cathy Fafrak, Organ

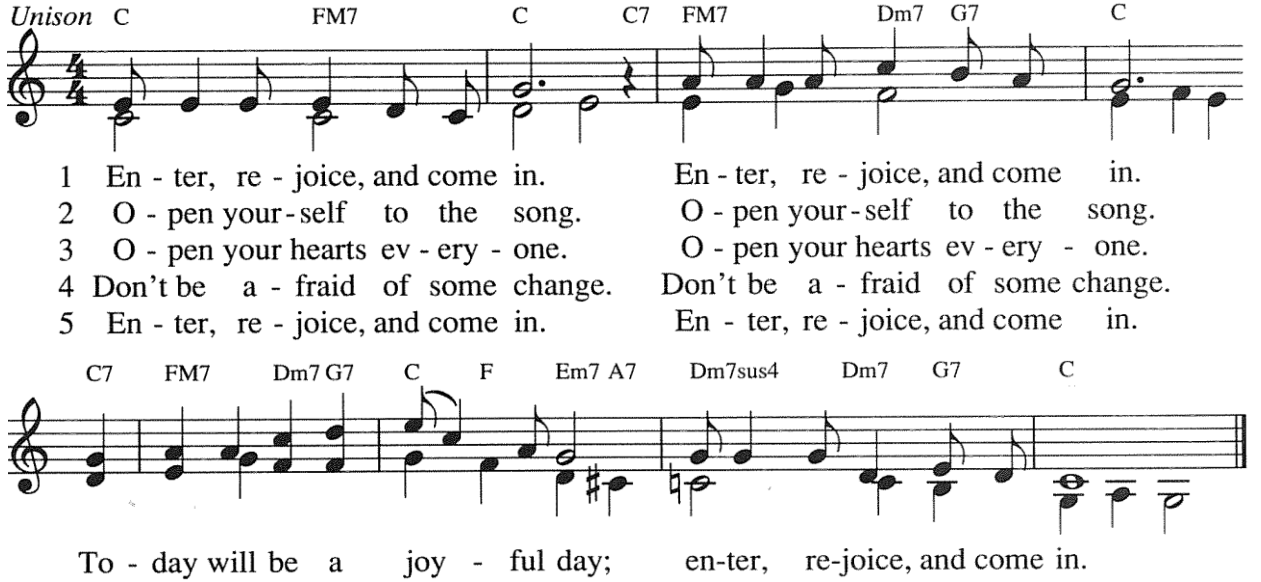
WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (From the New Century Hymnal-NCH #827)

Spirit of Love, Spirit of Truth
Guide us as we pray,
To think and wish and praise the best,
And mean the words we say.
Hushed is our quiet room,
Still is this place of prayer,
Silent, we bow our heads and feel
Your presence everywhere.

***OPENING HYMN** **"Enter, Rejoice, and Come In"** ENTER, REJOICE 7.7.8.7.

Louise Ruspini; alt. *Louise Ruspini. Harm.* The New Century Hymnal, *1993*

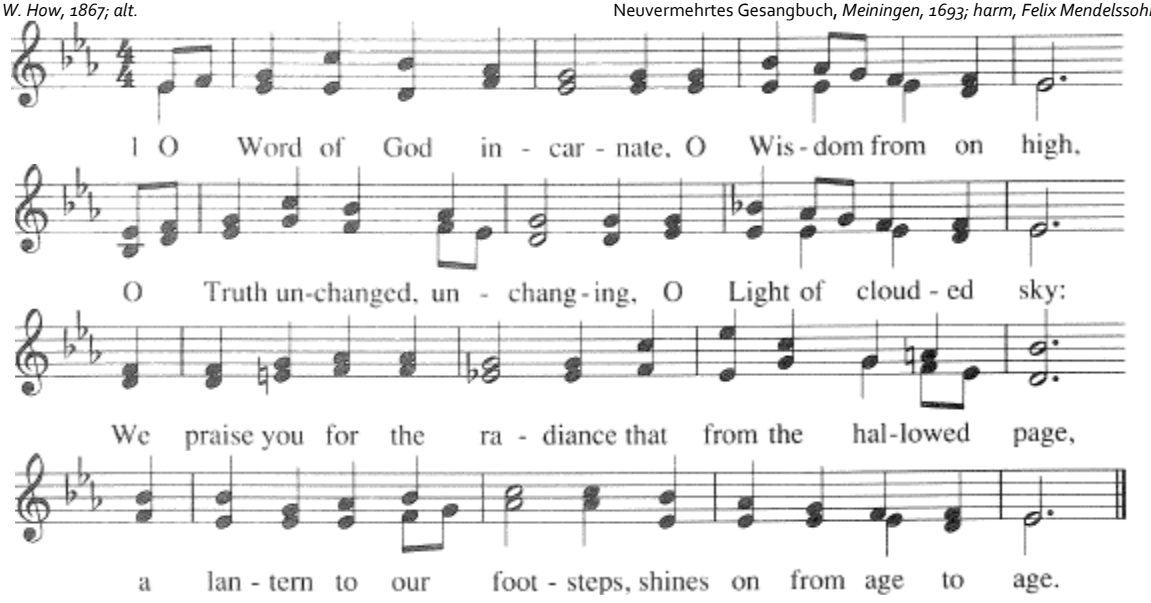


***DAILY PRAYER** (From the NCH #828)

Almighty and Everlasting God, our Sovereign, who has safely brought us to the beginning of this day; defend us in the same with your mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, nor run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, ordered by your governance, may be righteous in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

ANTHEM "How Firm a Foundation" Chancel Choir and Jerry Mason, solo
Traditional American melody with words from John Rippon's Selection of Hymns, 1787

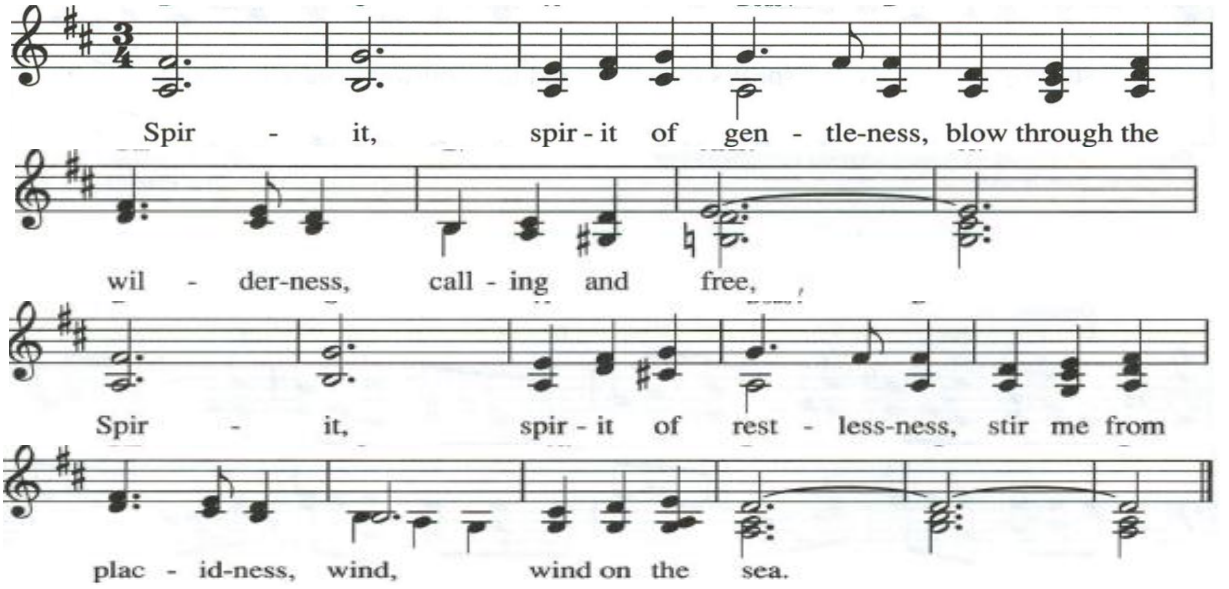
SCRIPTURE Exodus 1:8-2:10 *(O.T. pg. 47)* Liturgist
Psalm 124 *(O.T. pg. 540)*
Romans 12:1-8 *(N.T. pg. 151)*
Matthew 16:13-20 *(N.T. pg. 17)*

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE **"O Word of God Incarnate"** MUNICH 7.6.7.6.D.
William W. How, 1867; alt. Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch, *Meiningen, 1693; harm, Felix Mendelssohn, 1847*

MESSAGE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY OF GOD Stacie Yates

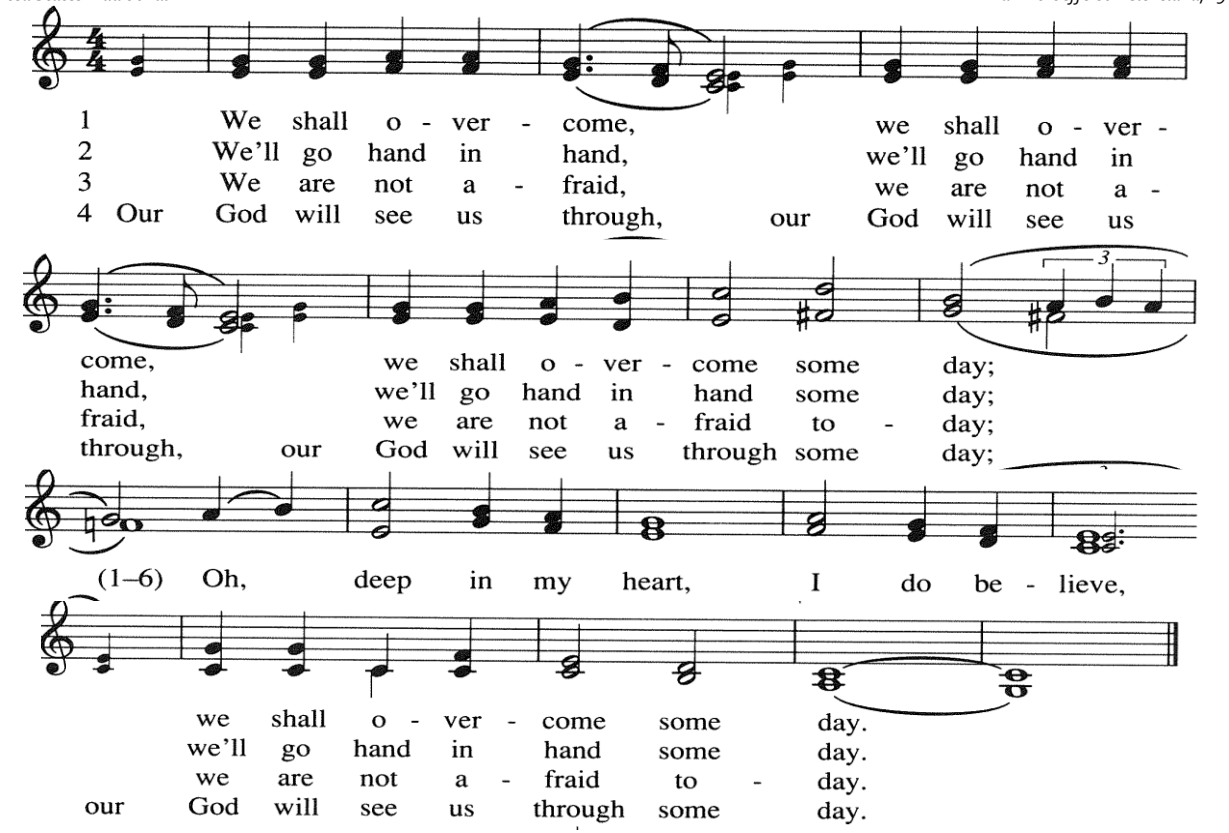
The Lord's Prayer

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 **"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"** SPIRIT Irr.
James K. Manley, 1978;alt. *James K. Manley, 1978. Arr.* The New Century Hymnal, *1993*

SERMON "Multi-Vocality: How diversity of biblical authors is a gift" The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

REFLECTION HYMN **"We Shall Overcome"** WE SHALL OVERCOME Irr.

United States Traditional *Harm. J. Jefferson Cleveland, 1981*

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, or give through VENMO. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

Offertory Invitation (NCH #843, the UCC of South Africa)

Let us present with joy our offerings of commitment and support for the work of Christ's church.
Let us prepare Christ's table with the offerings of our life and labor.

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

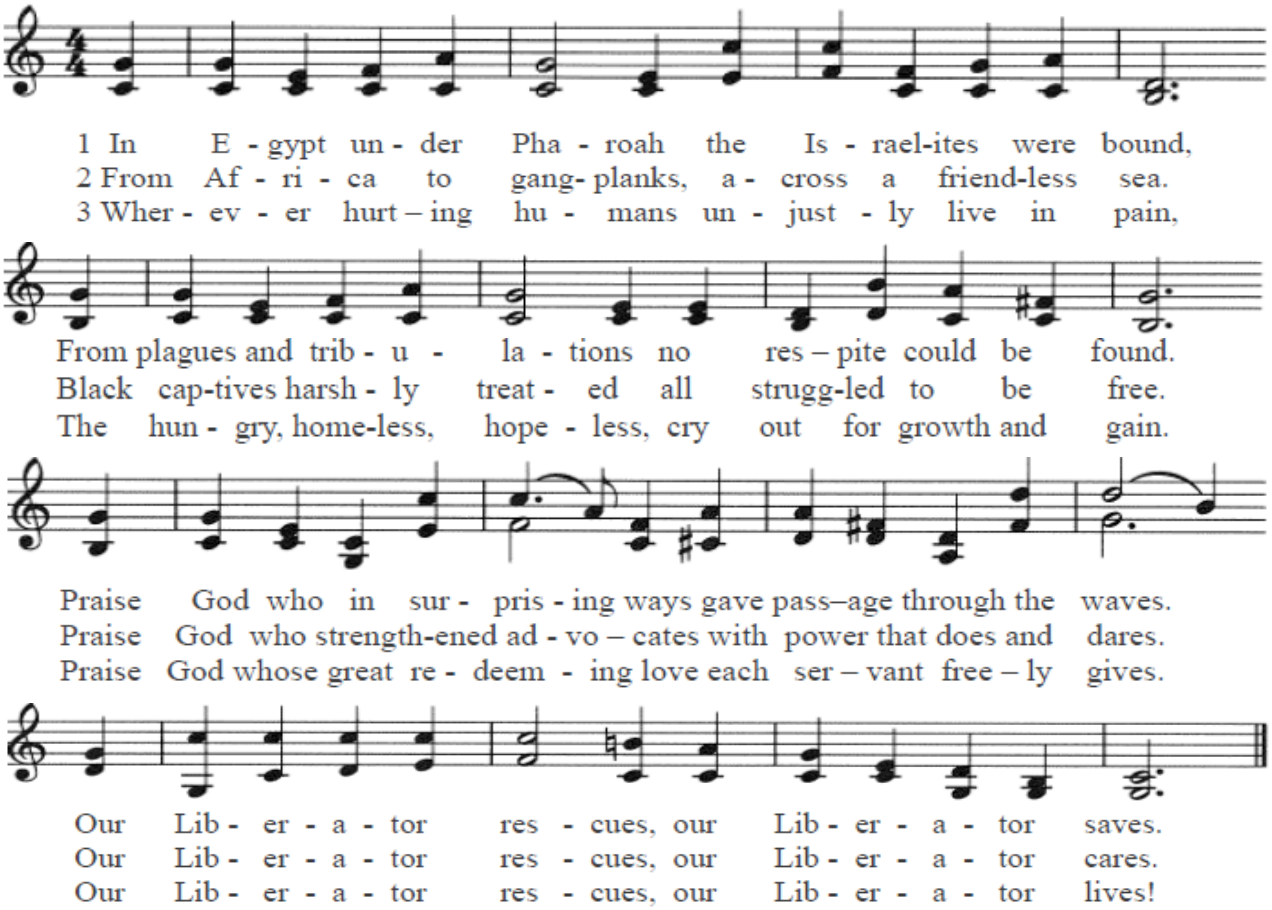
Praise God, the Source of life and birth; Praise God, the Word, who came to earth;
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame; All glory, honor to God's Name! Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

All good gifts around us come from you, O God. You have given us life, and new life in Christ. As you have given us gifts, so we offer our gifts that we may be gifts to one another, even as Jesus so taught and lived. Amen.

***SENDING SONG** **"In Egypt Under Pharaoh"** LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6.D.

Dosia Carlson, 1989 *Henry T. Smart, 1836*



***ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***BENEDICTION** (NCH #874, adapted)

May you love God so much,
That we love nothing else too much.
May you fear God enough,
That we need fear nothing else at all.
Go in the blessing, peace, and presence of Christ.
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** "Carillon Toccata" – Douglas E. Wagner Cathy Fafrak, organ

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****Coffee Hour will begin on September 13th.*
If you'd like to host, sign-ups to host are posted in the East Room hallway.

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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 30, 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 30 thru September 6, 2026
WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	9:45 am	Choir Warm up
	10:00 am	Children's Choir
	10:30 am	Sanctuary Worship
	10:30 am	Teen church
Mon	6:00 pm	Spirit Moves Yoga
	6:30 pm	Women's Bible Study
Tues		
Wed	10:30 am	Quilters
	5:00 pm	Bell Choir
	7:00 pm	Gathering Band
	7:00 pm	Community Engagement Team
	7:15 pm	Choir rehearsal
Thurs	3:00 pm	Youth-Coffee & Chat with Pastor Meghan
	6:30 pm	Bible Study
Fri		
Sat		
Sun	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	10:00 am	Children's Choir rehearsal
	10:30 am	Sanctuary Worship

PLEASE NOTE:
THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH
IN OBSERVANCE OF
LABOR DAY

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The men's breakfast group will meet on Labor Day, September 7th @ 8 a.m. at Buehler's River Styx. All men are welcome!

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

Scripture: Exodus 1:8–2:10, Psalm 124, Romans 12:1–8, Matthew 16:13–20
Sermon: "Multi-Vocality: How diversity of biblical authors is a gift"

Communion Table: The flowers on the communion table are given by Sheila Péo in memory of her husband, Ed Péo.

SIDEWALK PROJECT - UPDATE

The City of Medina will be creating a "multi-use" sidewalk along the Broadway side of our church. The new sidewalk will be twice as wide as the existing sidewalk. The city received a grant for this expansion which they anticipate construction to start at the beginning of September.

***Just a quick update on the Uptown Loop Multi-Purpose Path project. **The contractor will be moving in to begin work Friday, August 28th.** Again, the contractor will begin work on N. Broadway Street between E. Friendship Street and E. Liberty Street. All driveway access points will remain open tomorrow; however, the parallel parking spaces along the east side of N. Broadway Street within this block will not be accessible as these will be used for material and equipment storage. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to Rex Rickly or Carl Skorepa.

THANK YOU!!!

On behalf of the Hospitality Team, thank you to all that helped set up and pack up for Alive on the Square. Thank you also for sharing in the luncheon and for your generous donations. Medina UCC is an ACTIVE COMMUNITY CHURCH!

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

Last 2 days! Help us support 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.

UPCOMING DONATION OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER

Please consider donating to help families with small children in Medina! The preschool is asking for boys and girls underwear (size 4T to 7/8), small bottles of laundry soap, bars of soap, toilet paper, and shampoo.

Place your donations in the bin across from the elevator, at the bottom of the stairs. Thank you for your generosity!

FAITH FORMATION: SEPTEMBER

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*.

NEW YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

MUCC Youth Group

Open to all students in 3rd to 12th grade, an inclusive space to hang out, serve others, and have fun.

1st & 3rd Sundays from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Teen Church

A time for high school students to gather, refill our hearts for the week, and discuss the themes and scriptures from Sunday morning worship.

2nd & 4th Sundays @ 10:30 a.m.

Just Wondering

A new discussion group for high school students to talk about God, the universe, and everything.

Wednesday nights at 6:00 p.m.

Coffee and Chat

At Cool Beans with Pastor Meghan. You bring the topic, I'll buy the coffee!

1st & 3rd Thursdays at 3:00 p.m.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

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.

EMERGENCY CLEAN UP BUCKETS

The Heartland Conference of the UCC is requesting more Emergency Cleanup Buckets in response to severe flooding across the I-70 Beltway in Ohio. The buckets are distributed by Church World Services in places that are affected by natural disasters. I think we can make 20 buckets for the cause! Please sign up to donate supplies, and bring your donations to Fellowship Hall on Sunday, September 20th, then come to Fellowship Hall after church to assemble a bucket!
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFA628ABFB6-65402817-emergency#/

FAITH FORMATION FOR OCTOBER

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

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
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Jack Sharpe, Maintenance & Custodian

August 30, 2026
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 12:9-21

Spirit-Led Living

I've been told all my life to stop wearing my heart on my sleeve — a saying popularized in William Shakespeare's *Othello,* where the villain asks, "Shall I wear my heart upon my sleeve for daws to peck at?" (By the way, a "daw" is a bird in the crow family.)

Shakespeare, though, can't take full credit for the saying. Its origin can be traced to medieval jousts when dashing knights would literally wear the affection of fair maidens in the way of ribbons and other trinkets tied to their armor sleeve.

Today, wearing one's heart is far from romantic. It's viewed as a negative trait of a sensitive soul that's weak. Yet saints like Catherine of Sienna and Thérèse of Lisieux saw sensitive souls as grace-filled gifts to the world.

So, for all you sensitive souls reading this, know that you are strong beyond measure and that the world needs such love and care on display. For that heart on your sleeve is beating with the heart of God, showing others what it truly means to live a spirit-led life.

Spirit-led living is something of a struggle these days as it is marked by authenticity and vulnerability. It also means doing that hardest thing we can ever do — love in all circumstances, especially when you are in the presence of your enemies.

Paul, the very apostle who told us to "rejoice in the Lord always," while imprisoned in Rome, was also the one who urged us to let love be genuine. If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink.

While I've always appreciated Paul's advice, very seldom have I followed it. It's more satisfying (albeit a short-lived satisfaction) to stoop down to the enemies' level. But overcoming evil with evil, is not a marker of a spirit-led life. Rather, vulnerable love is, and such love is disarming in today's world.

There is no preventive to take to ensure we never get hurt, betrayed or rejected in life. I wish there was. But allowing true feelings to be expressed and not buried, allowing tears to fall with those who are hurt, makes for an environment where God can come and transform the gunk into something beautiful. And when our sensitive souls are on display, what we are showing is that we know our worthiness comes from God alone.

I don't know about you, but my heart will always be on my sleeve for all to see. Where is your heart?

Loving God, in a world of raging hate and distrust, may our lives reflect Your goodness and grace. Help us to stop trying to protect our hearts from hurts, but to share them openly. May this day the heart on our sleeves that the world sees be not our own, but Yours. 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*.)