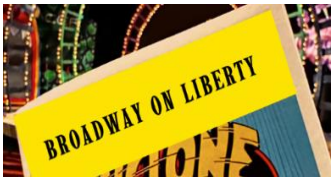
BROADWAY ON LIBERTY

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 "How Can I Keep from Singing?" – arr. Barbara Boertje Cathy Fafrak, Piano

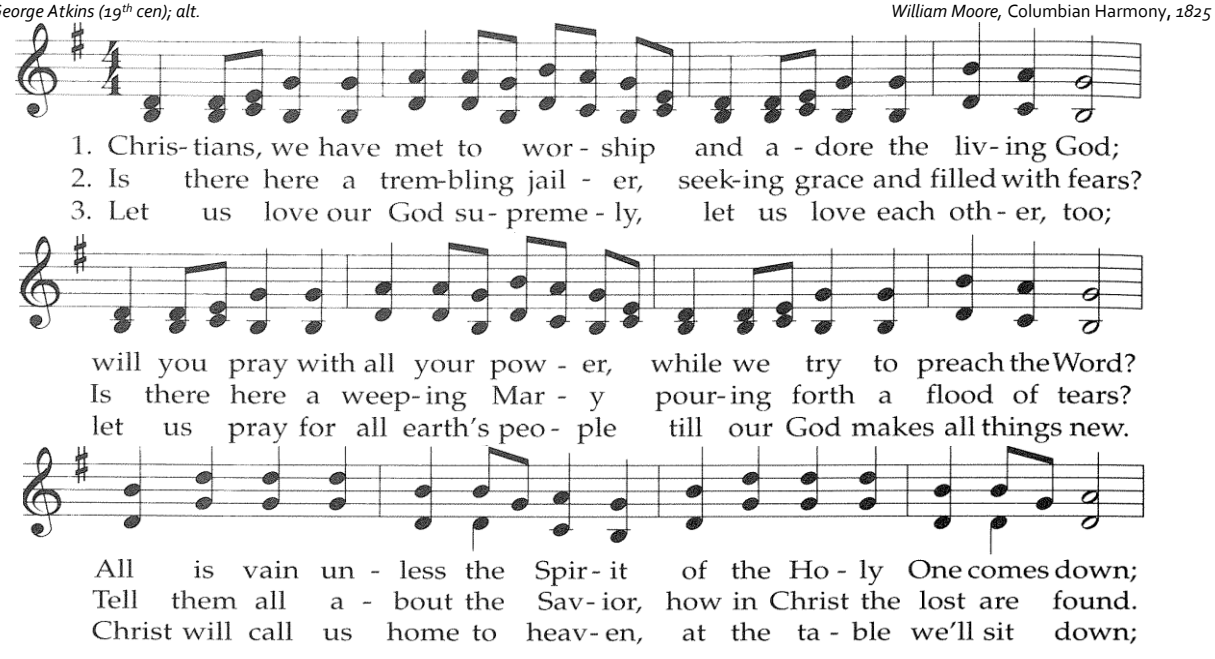
WELCOME

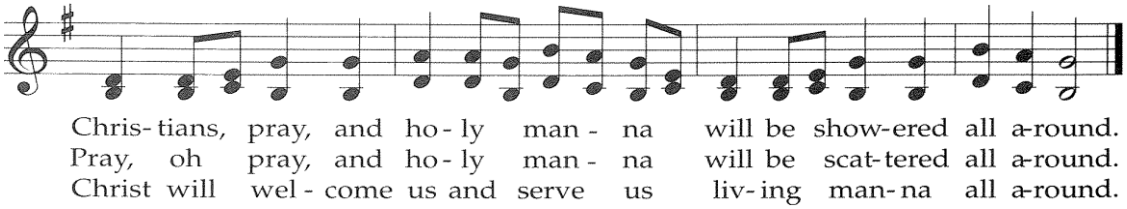
***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We gather in the room where prayer happens,
Trusting that God is already here.
We are not helpless in the face of the future,
For Christ calls us to rise up in faith, hope, and love.
We may not control who lives, who dies, or who tells our story,
But we can choose what story our lives will tell.
So let us write mercy into the margins,
Let us build a legacy of justice, humility, and grace.
History has its eyes on us,
And so does the God who calls us beloved. Let us worship!

***OPENING HYMN** **"Christians, We Have Met to Worship"** HOLY MANNA 8.7.8.7.D.

Attr. George Atkins (19th cen); alt. *William Moore,* Columbian Harmony, *1825*





***DAILY PRAYER**

Holy One, we give thanks that your Spirit is already at work in us and through us. You have called us to more than memory, more than applause, more than church on Sunday. Make us people who carry your mercy into Monday, your courage into every room, and your love into every story we help write. Teach us not to wait for a better world as if someone else will build it. By your grace, we'll no longer wait for it. We will rise up with faith, serve with humility, and live today in a way that tells your story. In the name of Jesus, our hope and our way. Amen.

SCRIPTURE John 14:8-14 *(N.T. pg. 102)* & Hebrews 10:32-39 *(N.T. pg. 211)* Kimberly Gallagher, Liturgist

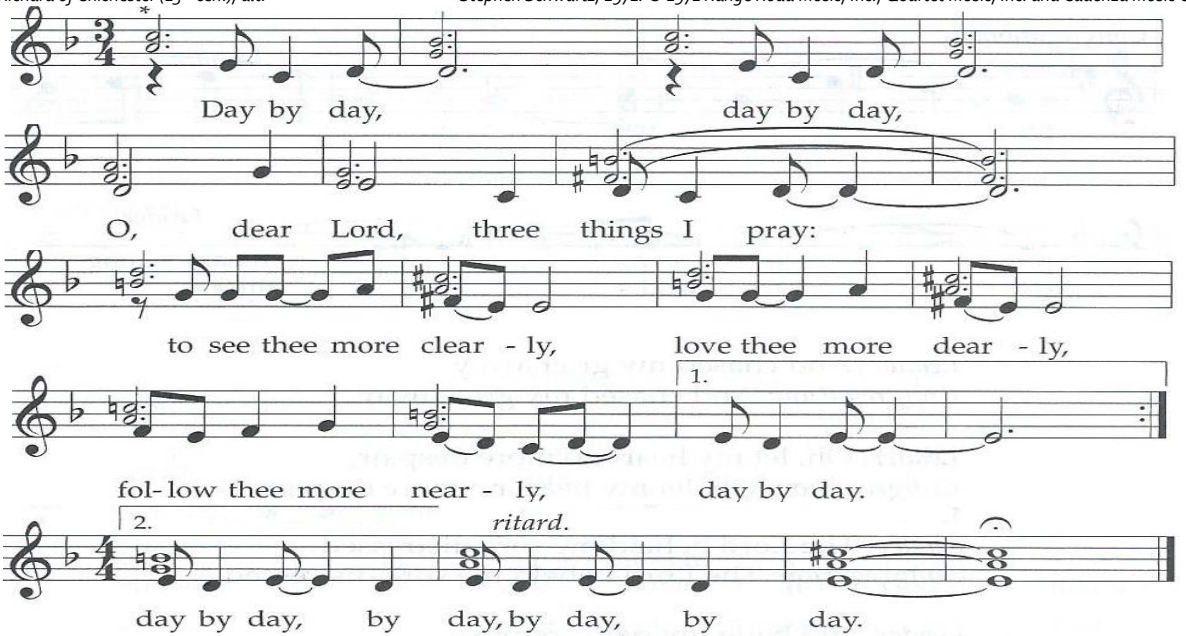
MESSAGE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY OF GOD & SENIOR SEND OFF Pastor Meghan

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.

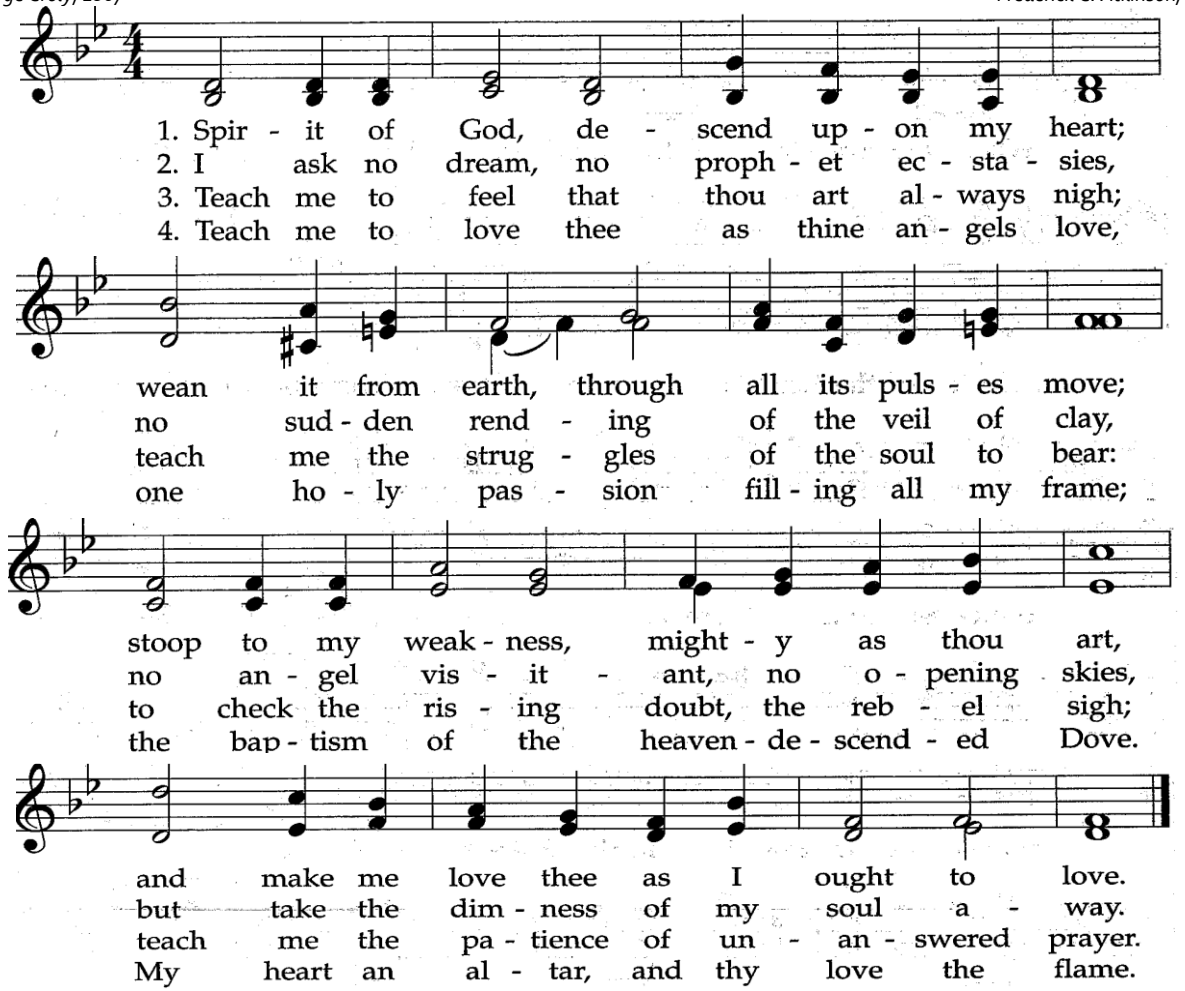
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

PRAYER RESPONSE **"Day By Day"** GODSPELL Irr.

Attr. Richard of Chichester (13th cen.), alt. *Stephen Schwartz, 1971. © 1971 Range Road Music, Inc., Quartet Music, Inc. and Cadenza Music Corp.*

SERMON "We Shape the Future" The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

REFLECTION HYMN **"Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"** MORECAMBE 10.10.10.10.

George Croly, 1867 *Frederick C. Atkinson, 1870*



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

We are lucky to be alive, Holy One.
Thank you for that gift.
And while we know we have no control
Over who lives, who dies, who tells our story.
May you, who knows us and loves us completely,
Put these gifts of our time, talent, and treasure to work!

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

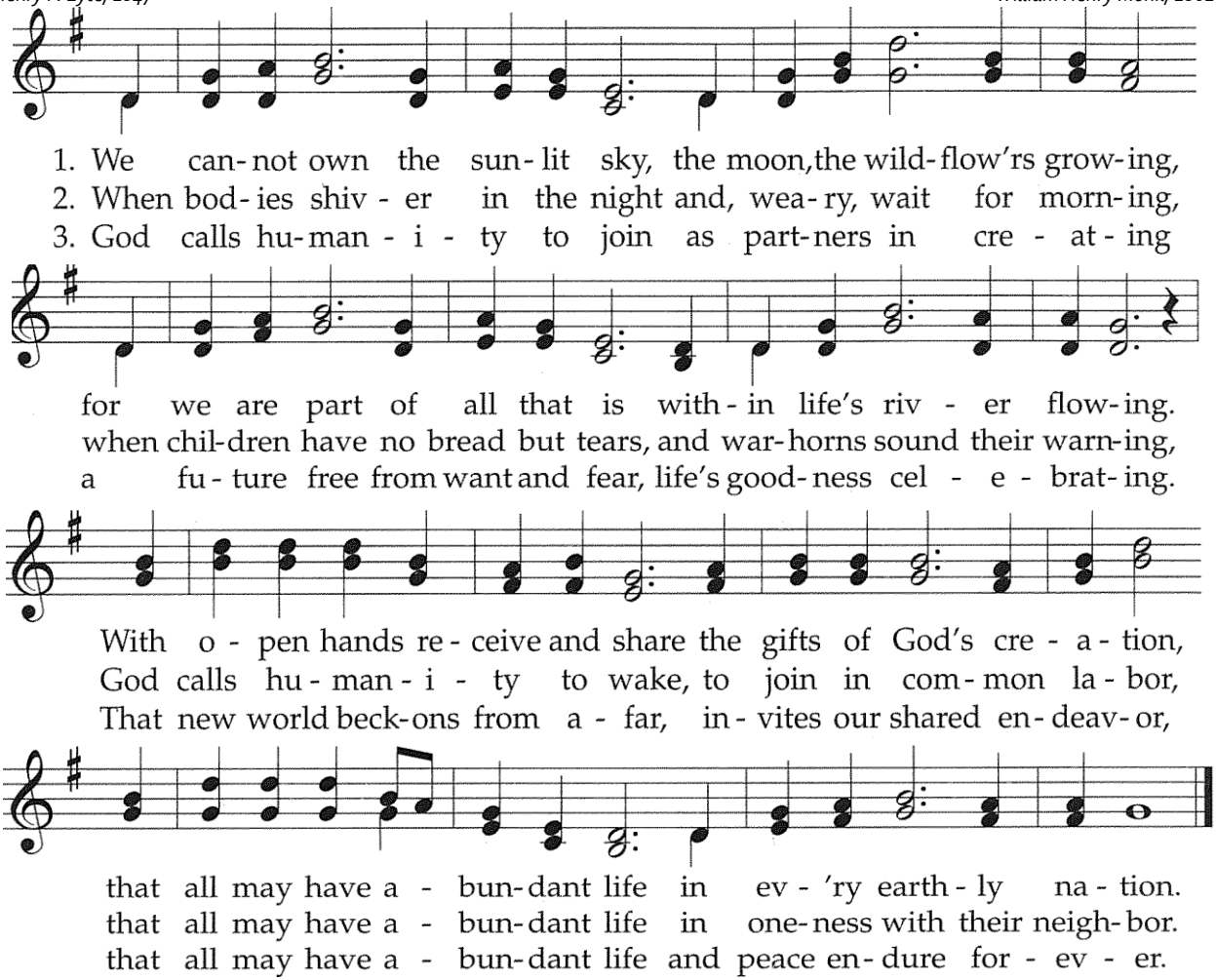
Praise God, the Source of life and birth; Praise God, the Word, who came to earth;
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame; All glory, honor to God's Name! Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

We dedicate these gifts to you, our God, our Christ, our Spirit.
In whom we move, dwell, and have our being.
We give you thanks for the opportunity to shape the future for others.
For lasting legacies built in the image of your Kingdom.
Thanks be to you. In the name of Jesus, we pray.
Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** **"We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky"** EVENTIDE 10.10.10.10.

Henry F. Lyte, 1847 *William Henry Monk, 1861*



***ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***BENEDICTION**

History is happening.
In this city, and in our own dwellings.
Thank you, neighbor, for blessing us with your presence.
Thank you God, for another day.
May you leave here in blessing!
And we'll be back for more!
May the grace and peace of our lord and savior be with you. Amen!

SPECIAL MUSIC Tracy Gabrielsen, Jen Vilimonovic, Sam Lindon, Cathy Fafrak

***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** "Postlude on HOLY MANNA" – Wilbur Held 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

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

CONGRATULATE OUR 2026 GRADUATES!

Maggie Bixler

Parents: Whitney & Andy Bixler
Maggie graduated from Medina High School and will be attending the University of Akron to study nursing.

Hailey Hofmann

Parents: Heather & Bradley Hofmann
Hailey graduated from Medina High School and will be attending the University of Akron to study biology.

Jimmy Cervenak

Parents: Val & Rob Cervenak
Jimmy graduated from Buckeye High School and is working at Discount Drug Mart warehouse. Someday he would like to work for Wheeling and Lake Railroad.

Owen Stepsis

Parents: Stephanie & Toby Stepsis
Owen graduated from Medina High School and will be attending Ohio Wesleyan University where he will major in exercise science with a minor in Spanish and participate in track and field.

Elizabeth Warfel

Elizabeth graduated from Medina High School and will be attending Loyola University-Chicago where she will major in political science.

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER
AUGUST 9, 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 9 thru August 16, 2026
WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun	**SENIOR SEND-OFF**	
	8:15 am	Chapel Worship
	9:00 am	Gathering Worship
	10:30 am	Sanctuary Worship
	10:30 am	Summer Vibes
	11:30 am	Jesus Vibes Volunteer Training
	11:30 am	Confirmation Parent meeting
Mon	6:00 pm	Spirit Moves Yoga
	7:00 am	Stewardship/Finance
Tues	7:00 pm	Property & Grounds Team
	7:00 pm	Worship Team
Wed	10:30 am	Quilters
	7:00 pm	Gathering Band
	7:00 pm	DELTS
Thurs	12:00 pm	70-80 Pastors Lunch
	6:30 pm	Bible Study
Fri		
Sat		
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

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Interested in volunteering with our youth on Sunday mornings? Whether you're brand new or have been serving for years, we invite you to our upcoming volunteer training on **Sunday, August 9, right after the 10:30 AM service in the church library.** Come learn more, connect with others, and see how you can make a difference. All are welcome! If you're interested but unable to attend the training, we'd be happy to connect with you another time to share our plans and answer any questions.

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

Scripture: John 14: 8-14 & Hebrews 10:32-39
Sermon: "We Shape the Future"
Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

Communion Table: The flowers on the communion table are given by Deb Waldron in memory of her mom, Betty Zarney.

SENIOR SEND-OFF TODAY

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!

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION MEEETING

If you have an 8th grader (or teen who is new to our church) that would like to join this year's confirmation class, please join us on Sunday, August 9th after the 10:30am service in the youth room, aka room 8 downstairs!

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

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

HELP US BUILD A HOUSE…
We have one day left!

The house we're sponsoring is underway and we have one last work date.

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.

Sign up at https://tinyurl.com/HabitatMUCC

PLEASE HELP!

Sunday, August 23rd

Looking for volunteers to help!

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.

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!

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 Gabrielsen at tracy@uccmedina.org.

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!

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

August 9, 2026
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

When All Seems Lost

Joseph was a dreamer. He was also the child his father loved the most, which didn't sit well with his brothers. So much so, they plotted to kill their younger sibling. But not wanting Joseph's blood on their hands, they threw him in a pit instead. When the pit didn't ease their guilty conscience, they then sold the boy for 20 pieces of silver to a group of Ishmaelites on their way to Egypt.

Yes, Joseph was a dreamer. And yes, he was the family's golden child. But I believe what really spurred the brothers' hatred was that Joseph **dared** to dream.

"Here comes the dreamer," his brothers would say with a biting sarcasm when Joseph approached. Here comes the one with lofty ideas, with bold plans, with a vision that quite honestly isn't enviable but downright frightening because it holds a mirror to our inability to embrace a new way of living.

And that's the thing about dreams. They have the power to unsettle others. A reason why many life coaches advise against sharing too freely our most treasured dreams with everyone, because not everyone will understand and be supportive. Many a dream has been squashed by a naysayer who thought they were listing all the cons out of love and concern for the dreamer.

What a shame it is that in our lives we give too much power to the opinions of others, especially when it comes to our dreams, for those dreams just might be from God who, in the Bible, communicated often in our nocturnal slumbering.

And when a dream is a God dream, they are never then the sole property of the dreamer. They are for the making of a better world, which comes at the price of the old world having to come to an end or at least make some big changes. Thus, why people often seek to kill dreams.

Yes, here comes the dreamer. No, I am not referring to Joseph, but to you, for we all have dreams. Some so big they might seem impossible, but they are not. Some within reach, ready to be grabbed hold of. And all with the ability to change life as we know it.

As Harriet Tubman once said, "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience and the passion to reach for the stars and to change the world."

If all seems lost right now for you, my dear dreamer, it is not. Keep reaching. Keep believing. God is with you.

Inspiring God, may today we find ourselves daring to dream once again. May we find the strength to take those forgotten dreams off the dusty shelves of our hearts. May we believe beyond belief, that with You, all things are indeed possible. 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*.)