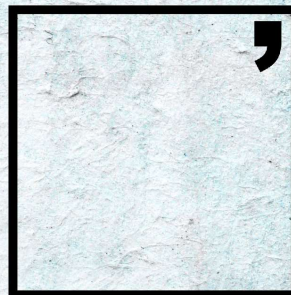


Alive on the Square 2020

Faithfulness

Medina Historic Square

August 23, 2020



MEDINA
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST. CONGREGATIONAL

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559
www.uccmedina.org Email: office@uccmedina.org

“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS”

**Those who are able please stand*

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We are the church!

People: **Not the building. Not the bylaws. Not the logo.**

Leader: We are the church,

People: **When two or three are gathered in Jesus name.**

Leader: We are the church,

People: **When at table, at prayer, and here and now.**

Leader: To my fellow faithful gathered in this place,

People: **May this worship be a blessing to us and to our God!**

*OPENING SONG

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”



1. Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
2. Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear

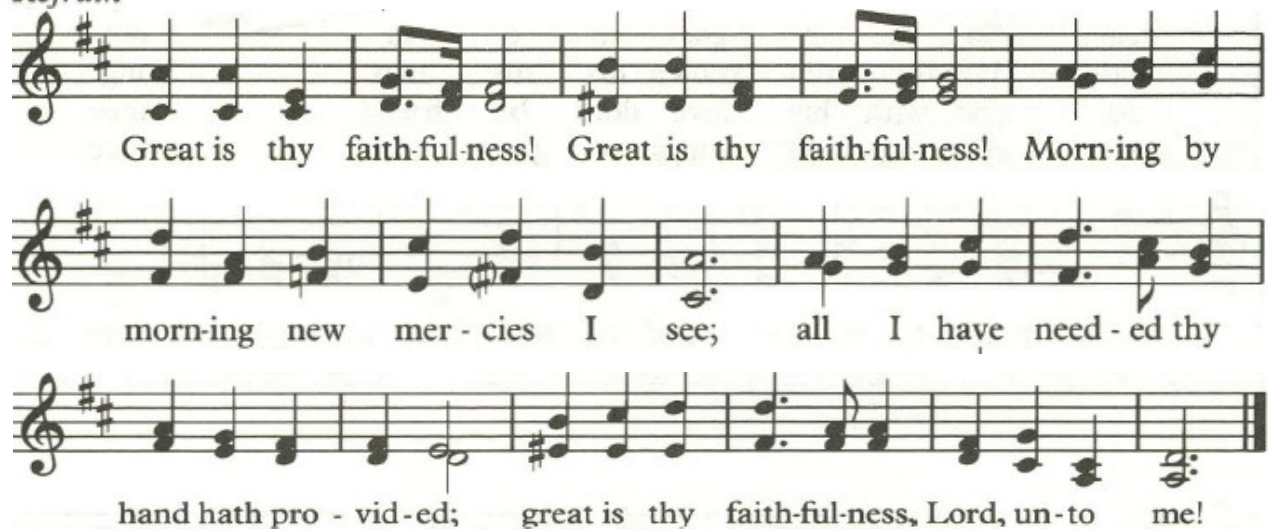


shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by
morn-ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy
hand hath pro - vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!

WORDS: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923 (Lam. 3:22-23)

MUSIC: William M. Runyan, 1923

© 1923, renewed 1951 Hope Publishing Co.

FAITHFULNESS

11 10.11 10 with Refrain

***PRAYER**

We have reduced faithfulness to a statement of belief, Holy One.

You demand more from us.

You want our faithfulness shown in our actions.

Our speech.

Our very lives.

Any fool can believe something.

It takes true faithfulness to attempt to live out what you call us to do.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, the meek, the merciful, the peacemakers. Help us be those things for others and for your beloved community.

Thank you for Jesus our teacher who taught us your values.

And your Spirit which guides us to fuller living.

One God! Forever and ever. Amen!

SCRIPTURE Ezra 3:10-13

SERMON "Faithfulness"

Rev. Luke Lindon

SPECIAL MUSIC "Before You Go" Ann Sissler, solo; Harry Buch, Keyboard; Pam Branscome, cello
Lyrics by LeeAnn Nagy; Music by LeeAnn Nagy & Roberta Whitely

(Text of this piece can be found at the end of the bulletin)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In this time of desperation
 When all we know is doubt and fear
 There is only one foundation
 We believe we believe
 In this broken generation
 When all is dark You help us see
 There is only one salvation
 We believe we believe

We believe in God the Father
We believe in Jesus Christ
We believe in the Holy Spirit
And He's given us new life
We believe in the crucifixion
We believe that He conquered death
We believe in the resurrection
And He's coming back again

So let our faith be more than anthems
 Greater than the songs we sing
 In our weakness and temptations
 We believe we believe

Bridge

Let the lost be found and the dead be raised
In the here and now let love invade
Let the church live loud our God will save
We believe we believe
And the gates of hell will not prevail
For the pow'r of God has torn the veil
Now we know Your love will never fail
We believe we believe

He's coming back again
 He's coming back again
 We believe we believe

***BENEDICTION** (A Franciscan Benediction)

Leader: May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships,
People: so that we may live deep within our hearts.
 Leader: May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,
People: so that we may work for justice, freedom and peace.
 Leader: May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, and starvation
People: so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.
 Leader: And may God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this world,
People: so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.
 Leader: Having been blessed in this worship,
People: we will be a blessing to a hurting world!
 Leader: Go! And be the blessing for this service has ended,
People: And our service now begins! 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.**



(There are baskets are on either side of the gazebo to accept your offerings as you depart)

“MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY”

+++++

“Before You Go”

Lyrics by LeeAnn Nagy, Music by LeeAnn Nagy and Roberta Whitely Copyright © 2007

Inspired by Hospice which advocates that a terminally ill patient say these 5 things to their loved-ones in order to have a peaceful passing... “I’ll miss you, I love you, I forgive you, please forgive me and Good-bye”

Time comes and time slips away
It’s begun and it’s hard to say
The words to hear are the words I hold so dear
You need to hear

In this dance, I’ve held on tight
I’ve prayed through days and I’ve prayed
through the nights
And now I know it’s time to let go

**I’m given a chance
Due to this circumstance
These are the words you should know
Before you go
I’ll miss you so much
I’ll always love you and I’ll miss your touch
These are the words you should know
Before you go
Before you go.**

For all the times that I’ve missed the mark
For all the times that I’ve broken your heart
Can you forgive me now before you go?

And if you thought that you have let me down
Let me say that those thoughts can’t be found
But I forgive you now if you need it so

Chorus

Time comes and time slips away
The time has come and it’s hard to say
The words to hear are the words too near
Good-bye for now
It’s good-bye for now

I know that I will see you again
The time or day, I just can’t say when
I know that we’ll meet at the throne
When I am finally home

Chorus

Time comes and time slips away

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Luke Lindon, Senior Pastor – email: luke@uccmedina.org

OFFICE STAFF

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - email: office@uccmedina.org
Kelly Charnley, Financial Manager - email: financial@uccmedina.org

PROGRAM STAFF

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education
Jim Kiser, Director of Music
Cathy Fafrak, Organist
Rebecca Rosen, Nursery Supervisor
Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance
Jack Manhoff, Custodian

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: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm MONDAY THRU FRIDAY

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

AUGUST 23, 2020

**“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS.
MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY!”**

Live streaming of the Sanctuary Service is available at uccmedina.org

August 23, 2020 thru August 30, 2020

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun 10:00 am ALIVE ON THE SQUARE
WORSHIP AT THE GAZEBO
11:00 am Youth Group Parent Meeting
2:00 pm Zoom Safety Team Meeting

Mon

Tues 10:00 am AED/CPR Testing

Wed

Thurs 7:00 pm Zoom Council Meeting

Fri

Sat

Sun **WELCOME BACK!**
8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
10:30 am Traditional Worship
2:00 pm **Zoom Safety Team Meeting**

Worship Highlights: 10:00 Alive on the Square

Scriptures: Ezra 3: 10-13

Sermon: “Faithfulness”

Rev. Luke Lindon

Flowers: The altar flowers are given by Becky Weber & family in loving memory of Dave.

ALIVE ON THE SQUARE WORSHIP

We will meet at the Gazebo on the square of Medina at 10:00 am. Bring your own chairs. We'll practice social distancing and wear masks. Bring your neighbor if you want to! Weather permitting and no COVID spikes permitting, we hope to see you there! (Although there will be no picnic following worship this year, you are welcome to bring a picnic lunch on your own and enjoy it on the square.)

There is no plan for rain, so pray for sunshine!

There will be NO Live Stream Worship on this Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

We hope to be able to record it and post to Facebook and our Archive on the church website later in the day.

CALL FOR SANITIZING CREW VOLUNTEERS

We need your help! As part of our reopening, volunteers are needed to sanitize the pews in the Sanctuary each Sunday, between the 8:15 and 10:30 service. Our goal is to have enough volunteers to have at least a couple crews so the same folks aren't sanitizing every Sunday. A training will take place after the Alive on the Square service on August 23. If you are interested, please contact Maureen Walker: rini72@zoominternet.net

PLEASE NOTE:

As we reconvene in person worship on August 30th, there will be **no Nursery Care or F.I.S.H. Sunday School** until further notice.

Reopening (Regathering) Reminder

Remember that it is our goal to regather for in-person worship in our building on Sunday, August 30. Contrary to the original Reopening Covenant, services on August 30 will be open to anyone who desires to attend. We believe we will be able to safely accommodate those that want to attend. Also remember that church will be different when we regather. Please refer to the COVID-19 Reopening Covenant for guidelines for returning to in-person worship. This document can be found in the center of the Home page on our website. Also, a short video illustrating many of the guidelines spelled out in the Reopening Covenant, will be posted on our website and our Facebook page. Be on the lookout for that in the days to come!

Finally, returning to in-person worship on August 30 is dependent on Medina County dropping to Level 2 – Orange, in the Ohio COVID-19 Alert System. Currently, Medina County is at Level 3 – Red. Based on the guidance for Level 3, the Reopening Team and church leadership have decided that we will not regather for in-person worship when Medina County is at Level 3. Please continue doing your part to help get us back together. Keep wearing those masks and keep your distance when in public. See you soon.

YOUTH GROUP FAMILIES

I hope that you all are doing well. We are approaching that time of year where we kick off our youth group season. Obviously, things are very different right now and so we wanted to reach out to you all and see how you feel about your child participating in youth group. We were thinking of trying to have some form of youth group and trying to keep it outdoors.

We will be having a meeting **Sunday August 23rd** immediately following our Alive on the Square service. We will meet back at the church by the pergola. We will discuss any concerns you may have as well as get some of your ideas on how we can make it safe and fun for our youth to gather. If you are attending the service, we hope you will join us. If you will not be there, please take a minute to send me an email letting me know your thoughts in regards to your youths participation.

Blessing to you all,
Nicole and Stacie

NEW SOUND EQUIPMENT

Folks attending the Sunday evening Vespers service have had the joy of utilizing the new audio system that was purchased from the funds allocated by the Endowment Committee. The unit includes a new sound board and speakers/accessories, plus cases for storage. This new equipment allows us to prepare for ALIVE ON THE SQUARE set for August 23. Thank you to all the generous donors to the Endowment Fund who made this “boost in sound” possible!

GOSPEL GALLEY MEDITATIONS (GGM) SETS SAIL IN SEPTEMBER

Do you like to write inspirational, thought-provoking, emotion-filled, Informational messages? If so, but do not have an outlet to share with others? Then...GGM is the place for you! GGM is looking for volunteers to write for upcoming months of the 2020-21 calendar year, having a 5th Sunday. The Sunday dates are: November 29, 2020, January 31, 2021, May 30, 2021 and October 31, 2021.

The phrase “The pen is mightier than the sword!” comes to mind. Interested? Please contact GGM Coordinator, Alice Metzloff via email at jamalsblugown@gmail.com. Details about writing for GGM, and a 2020-21 Writers Schedule Calendar is forthcoming.

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Be Transformed

Shiphrah and Puah, midwives to the people in Moses' time, speak:

Shiphrah: A midwife helps women deliver babies. We bring pure, beautiful life into this world so full of corruption and death. Whatever time of the day or night, when we get the call, we go.

Puah: I don't know how the Pharaoh found out about us, because we mostly move in circles with other women. But, sure enough, one day, his soldiers were at our door. They said, "You must come with us immediately."

Shiphrah: Naturally, we assumed we were going to be killed, but there was no time to say goodbye.

Puah: When we got to the palace, we were led out of the dust and sun, and into the moist cool inner room. And, there he was, the Pharaoh himself!

Shiphrah: He told us that we must no longer be bringers of life. Instead, he instructed us to kill the children before they even arrived. And he did not kill us. He let us go, to be his agents of death.

Puah: By the way he commanded it, we realized the Pharaoh didn't understand very much about how babies are born.

Shiphrah: So we nodded and agreed, knowing in our hearts that we would never do as he said.

Puah: Instead, we went on helping the women when the birth pangs came. And some mothers died, and some babies too, but most of them lived.

Shiphrah: Later, when he asked us about this, we said, Life is too vigorous to be put down so easily. Now our people are stronger than ever.

Puah: And because we followed the way of life, not the way of death, so are we.