GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1401 WEST MAIN ST SPRINGFIELD, OH 45504 937-323-9078 EMAIL: graceumchurch@sbcglobal.net

## 2023



## September 2023 Newsletter

Number 140 in the United Methodist Hymnal is "*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*" written in 1923 by Thomas O. Chisholm, lyrics, and William M. Runyan, music, this great hymn of faith is based on Lamentations 3:22-23, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness."

There is a guarantee in life that change will happen. The Lamentations passage was written between 586 BCE and the end of the 6th century BCE. The people in that period were struggling with change just as we are struggling with change.

Change makes many people uncomfortable because change makes some people feel that life is out of their control. Life is often not within our control, whether we are in a changing situation or not. The best news that I have found is though I am not in control, ultimately God is in control. When I say God is in control, I am not suggesting that God controls every aspect of our personal lives. God gives every individual freewill and many things that happen are not God's actions, but the fallout of the choices people make.

Tragedies happen every day that God does not cause or condone. People fall and break their hip, school busses get hit head on and innocent children are injured or killed. People lose their jobs; inflation rises and people struggle to keep food on the table. This is a very brief listing of changing life experiences. Many of us have faced the cataclysmic affects of the sudden and unexpected death of a spouse. One's life can change totally in the blink of an eye.

When we, as Christians, are faced with dramatic change we can either blame God or cling to God with hope and faith. God doesn't promise Christians will be protected from illness, divorce, death, poverty, inflation, unemployment, or a toxic and divisive political climate. God promises to walk with us through the storms of life and to eventually embrace us when we get to heaven.

So, sing "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" with me. It is a song of hope. No matter the changes that come, we can face them because God is our strength and shield. Psalm 28:7-8, "The Lord is my strength and my shield, my heart trusts in him and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him. The Lord is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed ones."

May God bless us with courage to face our changing times. In Jesus' name: amen.\_

Pastor Vicki Downing

<u>September</u>
<b>Scriptures</b>

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**Prayers Needed**:

Millie Luttrell Phyllis & Larry Garber Jeanne & Shelley Powell Pattie Mumma

Shower of Blessings Recipient for July: Pattie Mumma 12 s Harrison St PO box 55 Donnelsville, OH 45319

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З 7 рм na	4 Labor Day- Office	5 11 AM Soap Making	6 6:30 West End Mt	7	8	9	
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## September Worship Participants

Position	Date	Name
Acolyte	September	Greg Hosier
<b>Communion Set-up</b>	Sept 3	Vicki Downing
<b>Communion Servers</b>	Sept 3	Betty Prosser & Donna Layne Barb McCoy & Donna Myer
Communion Clean-up	Sept 3	Betty Prosser
Greeter - Front Door	Sept 3 &10 Sept 17 & 24	Barb & Mike McCoy Ramona & Bob Keeton
Greeter - Sanctuary Door	Sept 3 & 10 Sept 17 & 24	Marilyn & Tom Martin Kim Stehle
Liturgist	Sept 3 Sept 10 Sept 17 Sept 24	Donna Layne Donna Layne Connie Mitchell Connie Mitchell
Ushers	Sept 3 Sept 10 Sept 17 Sept 24	Larry Campbell & Greg Hosier Larry Campbell & Greg Hosier Kim Stehle & Marilyn Martin Kim Stehle & Marilyn Martin

<u>Wacky Wordies</u> Each picture represents a familiar word or phrase. For example, 1a is "Once over lightly" and 1b is "Gossip column". If you get at least 30 email the answers to graceumchurch@sbcglobal.net before October 1st. One winner will be randomly selected for a small prize.

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