

The New Church of Montgomery

Sunday Worship

Rev. Dr. Jim Lawrence

August 13, 2023



You're not doing this alone - Deuteronomy 31:8



In all of us there is a sense of what ought to be, which will not let us rest until we do give ourselves to its demands. It bids us rise above our lower nature and to seek the worth and meaning of life in our endless spiritual possibilities. It stirs our concern for all people and for a better world. Where does this yearning come from, if not from a God whose love dwells in the inmost recesses of our souls and is drawing us to himself, refreshing us in his image and likeness? We see this image and likeness in our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, risen and glorified, who has come again in the truth, power and glory of his holy Word as He promised He would.

from the 1982 Book of Worship



Where love
unites, faith
cannot divide.



Prelude

Courage to Change

- Yulianna Gor

Welcome & Call to Worship

Oh come let us worship and bow down, let us quiet ourselves before our maker.

Oh Lord you are my refuge, may we abide in your tabernacle forever.

Show us your mercy and lead us to your salvation.

Help us find you in our midst, hear you in our hearts, honor your presence in each of us.

Lighting of the Community Candles

We light the first candle to honor the good and truth to be found in all spiritual traditions.

We light the second candle to honor the Earth and all of life as the creation of the Divine, God of us all.

We light the third candle to honor and support the variety of our individual paths, which together make our one spiritual community.

We light the fourth candle to honor and provide an open and safe place for all who seek greater understanding and a life of deepening spirituality.

Hymn:

Be Strong and of Good Courage

- Wells of Salvation

Readings From Scripture

Joshua 7:13-23

"Go, consecrate the people. Tell them, 'Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow; for this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: There are devoted things among you, Israel. You cannot stand against your enemies until you remove them. In the morning, present yourselves tribe by tribe. The tribe the Lord chooses shall come forward clan by clan; the clan the Lord chooses shall come forward family by family; and the family the Lord chooses shall come forward man by man. Whoever is caught with the devoted things shall be destroyed by fire, along with all that belongs to him. He has violated the covenant of the Lord and has done an outrageous thing in Israel!'"

Early the next morning Joshua had Israel come forward by tribes, and Judah was chosen. The clans of Judah came forward, and the Zerahites were chosen. He had the clan of the Zerahites come forward by families, and Zimri was chosen. Joshua had his family come forward man by man, and Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was chosen. (cont.)



Moses and Joshua in the Tabernacle (c1899)
by James Tissot (1836-1902)
Gouache on board, Jewish Museum, New York

Readings From Scripture

Joshua 7:13-23 (cont.)

Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the Lord, the God of Israel, and honor him. Tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me." Achan replied, "It is true! I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel. This is what I have done: When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath."

So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent, and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver underneath. They took the things from the tent, brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites and spread them out before the Lord.



Achan and Joshua (c1899) by James Tissot (1836-1902)

Watercolor illustration, *The Old Testament: Three Hundred and Ninety-six Compositions Illustrating the Old Testament* (1904), pg. 281, Jewish Museum, New York



Luke 15:8-10

"Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

The Lost Piece of Silver (c1864)

Engraving by John Everett Millais (1829-1896)

Inspiration from our Teachings

Secrets of Heaven n.5135

'For I have indeed been taken away by theft' means that evil caused celestial things to become alienated. This is clear from the representation of 'Joseph,' who says this about himself, as the celestial within the natural and consequently the celestial things there; and from the meaning of 'being taken away by theft' as undergoing alienation caused by evil. For 'to commit theft' means to alienate, while 'theft' itself means the evil which causes alienation, as well as meaning evil which lays claim to the things existing there in the natural. 'Theft' means an alienation caused by evil that happens in the place which such evil takes possession of; for it expels everything good and true and fills up that place with evils and falsities. 'Theft' also means its laying claim to what belongs to others; for it takes to itself everything good and true in that place and makes such its own as well as attaching it to evils and falsities. In the spiritual sense Achan's deed portrays theft of good and true things from God's offerings, and by hiding these things in the ground under his tent signifies sacrilege and profanation because the first house of God in scripture was the tent of meeting.



Message:

“Thou Shalt Not Ever Give Up”
Rev. Dr. Jim Lawrence



God will never give you more than you can handle. That’s a promise!

Reflection & Offertory: *Spring Rain*
- Hennie Bekker

Congregational Response

Hymn: *God, You Search Me*
- Bernadette Farrell

Pastoral Prayer

Prayers of the People and 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 and ever. Amen.

Closing Song: *Aaronic Benediction* - Joshua Anron and Misha Goetz

Benediction



The Aaronic Blessing used in the Closing Song is a scripture from Numbers 6:23-26



The logo of the New Church of Montgomery is a variation of our denomination’s logo, a circle intersecting four interlocking squares and supporting a cross.

The squares represent the world, and the peoples of the world. The skin tones depict the variety of the Lord’s children acknowledging the beauty, dignity, and usefulness of all people regardless of their race, ethnicity, or family of origin.

The circle, with no beginning and no end, represents the eternal presence of God, and by the rainbow, in the lives of all regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. The green ring within the circle stands for stewardship of the Earth, our first home where we strive to grow into the fullness of life for which we are all created.

The cross standing on the circle symbolizes the church universal, which we see in a Christian context. It stands for the love and understanding which are given to all who are open to receiving them, from which flow tolerance, mercy, forgiveness, caring, and the freedom to make decisions in our lives which let us pass these gifts along to others.

August 13, 2023 Announcements

Coffee & Conversation (CofCon) This NCoM social and support group meets **Friday evenings at 5:00-6:30pm** usually at a McDonald's for a bite, but could be Izzy's or Wendy's or LaRosa's (as it was this week) someplace else. Ask Pete, he might know.

Swedenborg Study Group has completed its study of *Mindful Communication Challenge*. Two possible next books for study are *Survey/Soul-Body Interaction*, by Emanuel Swedenborg which has just been released in the NCE edition, and *The Holy Center* by Rev. Dr. Dorothea Harvey, on the inner sense of the Old Testament instructions on the tabernacle and the sacrifices.

Next Board Meeting is **Thursday, August 17th at 4pm.**

Festival of Faiths begins on **Sunday, August 27th, 12-5pm.** This year, the festival begins with an in-person exhibition at the Cintas Center at Xavier University. Virtual programming will follow on Monday through Thursday. See bulletin back page for a schedule of events. We can do a group visit for Sunday afternoon to check out the exhibition displays and on-site events.

Something Beautiful benefit art show for Bethany House is scheduled for **Saturday, September 9th, 10am-4pm** to which we'll add some set-up and clean-up time at the start and end. We are signing up artists and collecting goodies for the raffle. Everyone who can do baked goods for sale, or can locate artsy folks / kids to exhibit, or can suggest possible sponsors for raffle stuff would be most welcome. An artist can have a whole table for \$35, and we can set aside a couple tables for third-of-a-table to kids for \$5. As usual we will have craft events. Artists will get to keep all the revenue from their sales (no commission), but all the proceeds from table space, baked goods, raffle tickets, and free-will donations go to Bethany House.

The Annual Homecoming Picnic has moved to **October 8th** to move it away from Gathering Leaves and Festival of Faiths. That should permit our ladies who are going to Gathering Leaves to be here for the picnic. Cheryl and Eileen are getting it organized.

More Future Dates For Your Calendar

September 29 Celebration of Life of Rev. Dick Tafel is planned at the Glendale New Church, before Ohio Association meetings begin. Rev. Betsy Coffman will officiate, and a catered meal will be provided.

September 30 – October 1 Ohio Association – This year is in Cincinnati, so we are the hosts! The planning committee is starting work already and you can all be expecting a call to sign up for some piece of helping to spread-out the organization work. Friday night is our gathering time, Saturday is the program "Rejoice in Regeneration!" plus a business meeting and the dinner on the Ohio River.

NEW CHURCH OF MONTGOMERY

WORSHIP & EVENT SCHEDULE

August

- 8/13 Rev. Dr. Jim Lawrence
- 8/24-27 **Gathering Leaves**
- 8/27 Pete Toot
- 8/27-31 **Festival of Faiths**

September

- 9/9 **Something Beautiful Art Show**
- 9/10 Rev. Dr. Sherrie Connelly
- 9/24 Rev. Dagmar Bollinger
- 9/29 **Celebration of Life of Rev. Dick Tafel**

October

- 10/1 **Ohio Association Sunday**
- 10/8 Rev. Ron Brugler + Picnic
- 10/22 Rev. Kevin Baxter
- 10/31 **Halloween**

November

- 11/12 Rev. Dr. Sherrie Connelly
- 11/19 Rev. Catherine Lauber + **Harvest Feast**
- 11/23 **U.S. Thanksgiving**

December

- 12/3 Rev. Chris Barber + **1st Sunday in Advent**
- 12/10 Gloria Toot + **Annual Meeting**
- 12/17 Rev. Colin Amato
- 12/25 **Christmas Day**
- 12/31 **New Years Eve**

Contact us

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postings & find past services
in the archives at

<https://www.Newchurchofmontgomery.org>

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6th Annual Cincinnati Festival of Faiths Schedule



2023 theme: **Compassion Through Action: Dwelling Together in Peace and Justice.**

Lots of exhibitors - 30 faith traditions; 13 world religions

Cultural foods + merchandise - Fun + games for all ages

Exhibition schedule – August 27, 2023 from noon-5pm – Cintas Center, Xavier University

Noon — Doors open

12:30-1:15pm — Opening Ceremony

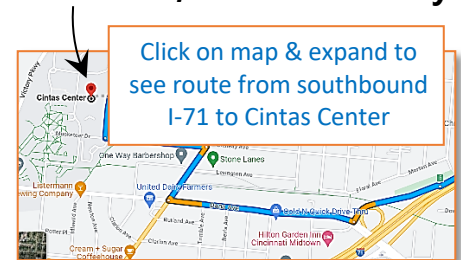
1:30-4pm — Entertainment begins

1:30-3:30pm — Free Langar Food in the parking lot

1:30-2:30pm — FCGG's Play Your Way to a Better World

2-3pm — Spiritual meditation

3:10-4pm — Compassionate conversation



Celebrations and Ceremonies - Monday, Aug. 28, & Wednesday, Aug. 30 at 6:30pm

An educational and delightful 2-part virtual program where we will get an opportunity to learn about some celebrations and ceremonies from eight different faith traditions.

Compassionate Conversations - Monday, Aug. 28 at noon in and in-person at the exhibition.

How does our religious identity help us to navigate the crossroads we encounter? Are there moments in our lives where our faith emboldened us to make a difficult choice? Join us as we encounter one another across religious lines and share personal stories of crossroads.

Spiritual Meditations – Tuesday, Aug. 29, 7-9pm and in-person at the Festival exhibition at 2pm.

Meditative devotion and prayer helps strengthen our spiritual connections, reduce fear and anxiety, and achieve inner peace in our hectic lives. Take a break and come join our meditative sessions!

FCGG Earth as a Common Ground, The Call for a Moral Voice - Tuesday, Aug. 29 at noon.

Sister C J Willie will introduce the United Nations Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) developed to teach faith communities worldwide to care for our common home. Slide presentation.

A Mighty Stream - 4-5pm Tuesday, Aug. 29, and Wednesday, Aug. 30.

The 1st program focuses on faith communities & social action; the 2nd will be on getting involved.

Festival of Faiths Peace Walk - Thursday, Aug. 31, 7-9pm - at Ault Park, 5090 Observatory Circle

Meet at the great lawn (below the pavilion by the flagpole) to walk the loop. Rain or shine, all ages welcome. Graeter's ice cream & water available for purchase; bring blankets, lawn chairs, and water.