



JUST 
PEACE

SUNDAY

9.20.2020



Silent Meditation

“At the end of the day, God calls us all to a future where the first are last and the last are first. Such a future does not reflect a reversal of privilege and penalty.

Rather, it is a time when there is no first or last because everyone is treated and respected as the equal child of God that they are.”

– Kelly Brown Douglas

“There can be no beloved community without a beloved economy.”

– Virgil A. Wood

“I want a change, and a radical change.

I want a change from an acquisitive society to a functional society, from a society of go-getters to a society of go-givers.”

– Peter Maurin

“I believe Christianity is a worldview that undergirds progressive thought and action.

I believe the church doesn’t so much have a social ethic as **IT IS** a social ethic.”

– William Sloane Coffin

Ah, you who drag iniquity along with cords of falsehood,
who drag sin along as with cart-ropes,
who say, 'Let him make haste,
let him speed his work
that we may see it;
let the plan of the Holy One of Israel hasten to fulfilment,
that we may know it!'
Ah, you who call evil good
and good evil,
who put darkness for light
and light for darkness,
who put bitter for sweet
and sweet for bitter!
Ah, you who are wise in your own eyes,
and shrewd in your own sight!
Ah, you who are heroes in drinking wine
and valiant at mixing drink,
who acquit the guilty for a bribe,
and deprive the innocent of their rights!
Therefore, as the tongue of fire devours the stubble,
and as dry grass sinks down in the flame,
so their root will become rotten,
and their blossom go up like dust;
for they have rejected the instruction of the Lord of hosts,
and have despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

One: May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Many: Thanks be to God. Open our ears, our hearts, our minds.

Special Music

Felicia Robinson, Jazmine Carter
"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 20:1-16

Fred Robinson

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

One: May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Many: Thanks be to God. Open our ears, our hearts, our minds.

Sermon

"Vision of a Beloved Economy"

Fred Robinson

Hymn 437

“We Shall Not Give Up the Fight”

ONLY STARTED

**We shall not give up the fight, we have only started,
We have only started, we have only started. [2x]**

**Together we'll have victory, hand holding hand,
Hand holding hand, hand holding hand. [2x]**

**We shall not give up the fight, we have only started,
We have only started, we have only started. [2x]**

Benediction

Fred Robinson

Benediction Response “Make Me a Servant”

K. Willard

**Make me a servant, humble and meek,
God, let me lift up those who are weak.**

And may the prayer of my heart always be:

Make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today.

Postlude

“O Love, How Deep”
(DEO GRACIAS)

arr. M. Dorian

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

THIS IS GOD'S HOUSE WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

UPDATE TO THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

September 4, 2020

Dear Holy Covenant United Church of Christ community:

We very much look forward to being together in worship but, in good conscious, we can only take that step when we can do so safely. We miss worshiping and having fellowship together as a congregation. Quarantine has been hard on all of us. In the meantime, the COVID-19 Response Team has been thinking creatively about some outdoor gatherings such as a Vesper Service and a parking lot picnic. We will revisit these ideas when the Governor of North Carolina moves us to Phase 3 at which time more people will be allowed to gather. However, we have concluded that it is NOT yet time to return to in-person worship and will reassess that decision around Thanksgiving.

Our decision is based on the following reasons:

- Social distancing of at least 6 feet is recommended. This means the sanctuary will hold many fewer attendees than pre-COVID-19.
- Singing can project an airborne spray of tiny droplets that travel farther than 6 feet and hang in the air longer than the droplets resulting from talking in a normal voice. This means not being able to sing as a congregation or assemble a choir although we will certainly provide music.
- Wearing masks will be necessary, even after the Governor's order expires, because we have many in our community who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19; given underlying medical conditions and age.
- Entering and leaving the building will have to be monitored in order to help keep social distancing during the process.
- Children are not apt to be true to social distancing.
- There can be no hugging, even in the parking lot, except by family members living together.
- If we reconvene while only 25 people are allowed in the building, and we have two pastors, a musician, and a sound system operator, that limits attendees to 21. No one wants to be the one standing at the door telling the 22nd person who arrived that they cannot come in.

It is our responsibility as a church to ensure health and safety. While we are committed to getting back to in-person worship as soon as reasonably possible, as you can see, that time is not now based on the limitations listed above.

Enjoy our streaming services this fall. Even after we restart in-person worship we will continue to offer virtual activities such as live streaming worship and Zoom meetings (e.g. Sojourners' Class, Bible Study and our periodic WISE meetings). We will provide an update before Thanksgiving regarding how we will celebrate Advent, what the New Year will look like, and when we will have the opportunity to worship in person again.

Sincerely,

Fred Robinson, Interim Senior Pastor
Fredrick@HolyCovenantUCC.org

Tom Magraw, Consistory President
TomM@HolyCovenantUCC.org

Join us live Sundays in worship at 10:55am

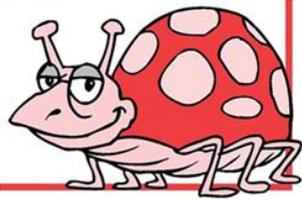
<http://holycovenantucc.org/virtual-hc/>

WE COULDN'T PROVIDE OUR WARM WELCOME WITHOUT THE HELP OF:

Lisa Clonger, Brian Hankins, Dorrie Hankins, Henry Hankins,
Laura Hankins, Kathleen Smith, Felicia Robinson

REACH THE PASTOR

During this pandemic, Pastor Fred still keeps office hours. Although setting up an appointment to meet me in the office is not a possibility at this time, you can still arrange a meeting with me through Zoom or a regular phone call. I invite you to reach out if you have questions, just want to chat, catch up or to discuss a personal matter. If you wish to meet via Zoom, contact the church at 704-599-9810 and a meeting will be arranged. Or if you wish to reach me by phone, call 770-344-8002. The same goes for Pastor Cheri. Her contact number is 704-519-6016 and a Zoom meeting can be arranged with her as well.



NEW DATES - VACCINE CLINIC AT HCUCC

DON'T LET THE FLU BUG YOU!

TODAY, Sunday, September 20 1:30-3:30 PM &

Monday, September 21 11 AM - 1 PM

Church member Aline Sullivan (BS, PharmD, R. Ph) will be offering a drive through clinic at Holy Covenant for Flu vaccines. Often covered by insurance

for free or little to no co-payments. Bring your insurance cards. Wear "shot friendly" clothing. Drive through, and wave to your friends! Contact the office for scheduling a Monday appointment. 704-599-9810

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

Holy Covenant will receive the NIN offering on **October 4, 2020** as part of our World Communion Sunday observance. Please check out our Designated Funds options of giving online, <https://holycovenantucc.org/give-2/>.

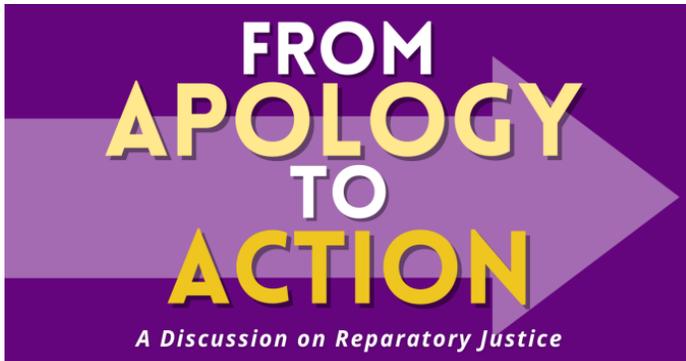


A Tiny House Aims to Provide Big Solutions for South Carolina LGBTQ Community

When LGBTQ individuals near the campus of Clemson University, in the areas of upstate South Carolina unexpectedly find themselves without a home or a place to feel safe, Peace Congregational United Church of Christ will be ready to meet them. Congregation members and the Clemson community are working side-by-side in the design and construction of a tiny house, a mobile residency for a person in the

LGBTQ community who is no longer welcome in at home. The \$20,000 project is in progress with the help of a \$10,000 Grasstop Grant from UCC Justice and Witness Ministries. The first occupant could be ready to find refuge there in January.

The pastor of Peace is Rev. Tricia Lytle, a former member of Holy Covenant and chaplain at Presbyterian Hospital (now Novant).



Join the Racial Justice and Equity Team for a Zoom discussion on restorative justice
October 1 from 7 pm - 8:30 pm
Meeting ID: 842 4110 2608
Passcode: 909816

We will discuss the difference between Reparations and Restorative Justice. The reparations movement calls for national redress while restorative justice focuses on instances in local communities where African Americans were harmed by policies and it seeks to make redress in those areas. Slavery, Jim Crow segregation, anti-Black practices like redlining, and other discriminatory public policies in criminal justice and education have robbed Black Americans of the opportunities to build wealth and the Restorative Justice movement in Charlotte gives us an opportunity to make a difference in the Queen city. As Sekinah Hamlin, Minister for Economic Justice for the United Church of Christ says, "In order to heal both old and new wounds, our nation must repent for its exploitation of human beings in deed as well as in word, and that means sincere financial investment."

[Shareable flier click here.](#)

Questions that will be answered include: What's the moral/theological case for reparative justice? As a church, how can we make a difference?

Moderator: Rev. Fred Robinson



DIAPER DISTRIBUTION MINISTRY

We have completed our September distribution with much success. Contributions from Presbyterian Women, and MAP exceeded \$2500, and with your help we are approaching \$3000. We are well on the way to our goal of supporting this ministry through December 2020. Donations, in any amount, can be designated by visiting holycovenantucc.org/give-2/ and choosing Diaper Distribution Ministry under the Designated Gifts Fund. Many thanks to all who have supported this ministry!



MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS AT 12:15PM

All are welcomed to join our weekly Bible Study through the [Book of Acts](#). This coming Wednesday at 12:15 pm we will pick up at Acts chapter 8. In the early chapters of Acts, we saw how persecution began against the Christians in Jerusalem and how it intensified until finally Stephen was killed.

Stephen's murder kicks off a series of attacks, led by Saul, that forces the Christian community to scatter. However, what was intended to crush the Christian movement instead became fuel for its growth. We'll explore how this text speaks to us today.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81830620353?pwd=QUNmS0dMdEV5K1BRd2VmMWpFQlIVQT09>

Lead by Pastor Fred Robinson, Fredrick@holycovenantucc.org.



SOJOURNERS CLASS - NOT YOUR TYPICAL BIBLE STUDY SUNDAYS AT 9:45AM

All are invited to join the Sojourners Class on Sunday mornings at 9:45 am via Zoom. We are currently discussing *Revolution of Values* by Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove. Questions, contact Cheri Dennis at cherid@holycovenantucc.org.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87673409762?pwd=VnVGZDNTOEtycnoycWJ6RTVkJF4UT09>

Meeting ID: 876 7340 9762

Passcode: 523903

RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN

If any Holy Covenant families or friends are interested in receiving supplemental materials and activities for children, please contact Laura Allison at Education@holycovenantucc.org.



OTHER WAYS TO GET AND/OR GIVE SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

- <https://www.wfae.org/post/charlotte-talks-digital-divide-existed-covid-19-now-its-crisis-level>
- Classroom Central has a number of remote volunteer opportunities. <https://classroomcentral.org/remote-volunteer-opportunities/>
- Spread the word with families to fill out the free and reduced application form found [here](#). Students who qualify will get five lunches and breakfasts FREE each week.

If you wish to add someone to the list, please send a note to
prayers@holycovenantucc.org.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Cindy Coble, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Tom & Kathy Habel, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Rick & Cheryl Milam, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Jerry & Marion Rhyne, Yvette Stewart-Ross, Mamie Stokes, Anita Taylor

Friends & Family Members

The family of Adam Palazzo (Dominic Ciciollo)

Gretchen & Chris Calder (Martha Bomely), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Will Hong (Jim Hong), George Jongeling (Darline Warren), Pat Judd (Will Judd), Bob Lyon (Melissa Noll), Robert Marcial (Aida Marcial), Thibault Ossenbühl (Melissa Noll), Roshani Parikh (Nishi Griffin), Vernon & Andrea Powell (Robert Shepherd), Darrell & Jackie Reichert, Jeff (Diane Neese), Lauren Reisenberger (Ida Mangione), Renee & Aiden Rohn (Debbie Davis), John & Marisa Sizemore (Tina Ettesen), Gene Sullivan (Jason Sullivan), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Wanda Williams (John Rapp)

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Fred Robinson, Interim Pastor
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Rev. Cheri Dennis, Interim Associate Pastor
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Mr. Jon Weddell, M. Div., Minister of Music
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