



“Do not model yourselves on the behavior of the world around you,  
but let your behavior change, modeled by your new mind.”

ROMANS 12:2

***Celebrating a Century of Transforming Faith  
First Reformed 1916 ~ Holy Covenant 2016***

**Holy Covenant United Church of Christ  
Rev. Nancy Ellett Allison, Ph.D., Pastor  
Mr. Jared Fischer, Music Director**

**Mr. Steven Burleson, Youth & Young Adult Pastor**

**Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant**

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HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JUNE 19, 2016

*“Let your love be genuine.  
Hate what is evil; hold fast to that which is good.”*

Gathering Music

David Gilliland

Welcome and Announcements ☩

Stephen F. Garvey

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

*(Please pass the information pads so that all worshippers  
might have the opportunity to sign them.)*

Opening Voluntary

David Gilliland

\* Call to Worship (*in unison*) The Prayer of St. Francis

Lisa Sherman

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,**

**Where there is hatred, let me sow love;**

**Where there is injury, pardon;**

**Where there is doubt, faith;**

**Where there is despair, hope;**

**Where there is darkness, light;**

**Where there is sadness, joy;**

**O Divine Master,**

**Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;**

**To be understood as to understand;**

**To be loved as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive;**

**It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;**

**And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen**

\* *All rise in body or spirit* ☩ *Sing Response* ☩ *Hymnals located below pews*

\* Passing of the Peace

Lisa Sherman

One: Let us now greet one another as a sign of God's peace, for the peace of Christ is here to stay.

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

*(For those that choose to, you may be seated throughout our hymns)*

\* Hymn 439

“A Mighty Fortress”

EIN' FESTE BURG

1. A might-y for-tress is our God, a bul-wark nev-er fail-ing,  
Our pres-ent help a-mid the flood of mortal ills pre-val-ing.  
For still our an-cient foe does seek to work us woe  
with craft and pow-er great, and armed with cru-el hate,  
on earth without an e-qual.
2. Did we in our own strength con-fide, our striv-ing would be los-ing,  
But there is one who takes our side, the One of God's own choos-ing.  
You ask who that may be? Christ Je-sus sets us free!  
With might-y power to save, vic-to-rious o'er the grave,  
Christ will pre-vail tri-um-phant.
3. And though this world with dev-ils filled should threat-en to un-do us,  
We will not fear for God has willed the truth to tri-umph through us.  
The powers of e-vil grim, we trem-ble not for them;  
Their rage we can en-dure, for lo, their doom is sure:  
One lit-tle word shall fell them.
4. That word be-yond all earth-ly powers for-ev-er is a-bid-ing;  
The Spir-it and the gifts are ours, for Christ is with us sid-ing.  
Let goods and kin-dred go, this mor-tal life al-so;  
the bod-y they may kill; God's truth shall tri-umph still;  
God's reign en-dures for-ev-er.

Children's Offering & Message

Stephen F. Garvey

*(Following the Children's Message, pre-schoolers may go to extended care and those in kindergarten through fifth grade to Children's Church.)*

Our Time of Prayer Together

Stephen F. Garvey

Reflection on the Candles *(in unison)*

Remembering Through Light

Every candle represents a son, daughter, lover, friend or neighbor. Each is a glowing reminder of a life filled with promise, one in which dreams were held and hopes flourished. Those we remember were persons who cast their unique glow on others. In these lights there was laughter, friendship, loyalty, love, dancing and music. The candles flicker in remembrance of young men and women we did not know but who were bound to us in our common humanity, strangers but also brothers and sisters. Their hopes, dreams, aspirations, joys and even disappointments were not so different than ours. Their gifts have been taken from us; life shall be the lesser as a consequence. Shadows fall across our spirits. We mutter, "No! Not again!" Souls weary of mindless violence share a common sadness. But we dare not, we must not, let the shadows lengthen. These were precious people; the lights that reflect their lives need to burn brightly in our resolve to be a community of faith that embraces and welcomes all.

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

\* Scripture

Genesis 4:1-8

Steven Burleson

Now the man knew his wife Eve, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, 'I have produced a man with the help of the Lord.' Next she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a tiller of the ground. In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel for his part brought of the firstlings of his flock, their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. The Lord said to Cain, 'Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted?

And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it.'

Cain said to his brother Abel, 'Let us go out to the field.' And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

Amos 5:14-15, 21-24

Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Luke 14:25-27

Now large crowds were travelling with him; and he turned and said to them, 'Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

**One:** For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us, for the word of God within us.

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

Gift of Music

the Hankins Family

Sermon

Stephen F. Garvey

"Four Letters That Change the World"

1. O for a world where ev-ery-one re-spects each oth-er's ways,  
Where love is lived and all is done with jus-tice and with praise.
2. O for a world where goods are shared and mis-er-y re-lieved,  
Where truth is spo-ken, chil-dren spared, e-qual-i-ty a-chieved.
3. We wel-come one world fam-i-ly and strug-gle with each choice  
That o-pens us to u-ni-ty and gives our vi-sion voice.
4. The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool-ish ones are wise.  
Tell all who mourn: out-casts be-long, who per-ish-es will rise.
5. O for a world pre-par-ing for God's glo-rious reign of peace,  
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Offertory Invitation

Steven Burleson

Offertory

David Gilliland

\* Offertory Dedication

Steven Burleson

\* Hymn 570

“We Shall Overcome”  
(vs. 1-3, 6)

WE SHALL OVERCOME

1. We shall o-ver-come, we shall o-ver-come,  
We shall o-ver-come some day;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,  
We shall o-ver-come some day.
2. We'll go hand in hand, we'll go hand in hand,  
we'll go hand in hand some day;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do be-lieve,  
we'll go hand in hand some day.
3. We are not a-fraid, we are not a-fraid,  
we are not a-fraid to-day;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do be-lieve,  
we are not a-fraid to-day.
6. We shall I live in peace. . . some day.

\* Benediction (*in unison*)

Stephen F. Garvey

We are ready to leave this place where acceptance and love are freely shared and return to a world where the shadows of bigotry and hatred are still far too long. Each of us is called to be a beacon of light, persons whose words and actions point towards a realm where God's visions reign. Let us then go forth renewed and refreshed in spirit and, in our going, let us live as instruments of peace, sowing love where there is hate. Amen.

\* Benediction Response 581

WORLD PEACE PRAYER

- φ Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,  
From despair to hope, from fear to trust,  
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;  
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,  
Let peace fill our universe.



*No matter who you are  
or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

### WELCOME TO HOLY COVENANT

We welcome all who worship with us at Holy Covenant. Guests and members, we invite you to sign our friendship pads so that we may have a record of your worshipping with us and be in touch with you during the week. We are an Open and Affirming, progressive Christian church welcoming all. Please join us in the Gathering Room after worship for fellowship and refreshments.

### NANCY ON SABBATICAL, APRIL - JUNE,

Steve Garvey will serve as the Acting Pastor and our Pastors Emeriti, Linn Finger and Jim Humphrey will be providing pastoral care. Our excellent staff, Dawn Simmons, Jared Fischer and Steven Burleson will all remain in place!



## **2016 PRIDE FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS NEEDED**

Charlotte PRIDE, the third-largest LGBTQ Pride organization in the American Southeast, will hold its annual festival August 19, 20 & 21. We need all members of Holy Covenant to volunteer in helping Holy Covenant be present throughout the weekend. Please contact Phil Kaveler to let him know when you can volunteer.

## **SANDWICH MINISTRY**

Sharon Campus, Wednesday, June 22 at 9:30. Help us make sandwiches for Urban Ministry to provide food for our neighbors who are homeless. DONATIONS WELCOME! We create 100 healthy sandwiches for about \$70.00. Notate "Sandwich Ministry" in the memo of your check.

## **SOJOURNERS CLASS**

The Sojourners enjoyed a rich discussion and introduction to our new book *Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help* by Robert Lupton. Our class members have such a variety of life experiences and perspectives to bring to the table. Next week, June 19, we'll be discussing Chapters 2 & 3, "*The Problem with Good Intentions*" and "*The Anatomy of Giving*." Please join us at 9:45--all are welcome and no preparation needed!

## **BOOK CLUB, JULY 11 SHARON CAMPUS**

We will be meeting on Monday, July 11, at 1:30pm at the Sharon campus. Our new choice is *A man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman, an engaging and quick read! Barbara Schneller will be leading the discussion.

## **REPORT ON PLEDGED GIVING UPDATE FOR MAY**

Your budget team wants to thank everyone for consistently showing faithful generosity in supporting our ministries and work of the church through sharing your time, talents and finances. With five full months completed in our budget year (42%), we want to provide the following pledged giving update: May YTD General Fund pledged giving is \$69,646, or 40%, of the total year pledged, and the Building Fund pledged giving is \$23,089, or 43% of total year Building Fund pledges. Each financial gift is vital to the work of the church and we appreciate so much everyone's continued faithful giving while traveling during summer vacation months.



## **ALL CHURCH COOK BOOK**

In honor of our Centennial, your Hospitality Team will be coordinating a printed version of a cook book, compiled of the favorite recipes from Holy Covenant and Pilgrim Congregational UCC members! Please submit any tried and true favorite recipe, of any food category, by **July 15**. Send your recipe to Judi Lord, [jklord17@gmail.com](mailto:jklord17@gmail.com) or Linda Carver, 2547A Stockbridge Drive, Charlotte NC 28210. This is a fundraiser for benefit of outreach missions. Details are in progress and more, including date and cost, will be announced in the near future.



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

Elder of the Month: Yvette Ross  
Greeters: Donna Collins, Sue Pascucci  
Media: Brian Hankins, Joe Craig  
Ushers: Gail Bumgardner, Barry Holcomb, Joy Johnson  
Tabulators: Lori Cipot, Terry Raley-Dennis

## **PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER UPDATE**

### **Members**

Paul Bomely, Gail Bushman, Leanne Bushman,  
Ginny & Bob Fisher, Marianne Gannon, Karen Griffin,  
Chuck Johnson, Helen Lambert, Irene Mikkelson,  
Deb & Yvette Ross, Dave Stoimenoff & Jim Germann,  
Mamie Stokes, Jean Washburn

### **Friends & Family Members**

McKinzie (Sue Godfrey), Rose Bouchonville (John Maze),  
Charlotte Carbone, Matthew Christian, (Beth Sharp),  
Bill Funderburk (Donna Collins), Frances Helms (Lynn Helms),  
Mike Hinson (Kathi Smith), CD & Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer),  
John Jacobsen (Holly Middleton), Aaron Johnson (Joy Johnson),  
Barbara Lees (Donna Collins), Pat & JoAnn Murphey (Laura Murphey),  
Candy Propes (Sue Rettberg), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial)