

During the course of Nancy's sabbatical, "Flat Nancy" (a one-dimensional cutout of Nancy in her clerical robe) has been to numerous places in the company of church members and friends. She has enjoyed her symbolic time away but today returns in the reality of three dimensions to resume her pastorate with us. It is with joy that we welcome her back on July 3rd.

The drawing on the cover is by Riley Long. We thank her for it. It depicts a flat church, and with it some challenging questions: Where will the church take us in the years ahead? What new challenges will it face? What personal gifts and skills will church members need to meet what lies ahead? Mystery after mystery!

Of one thing we can be sure: The future will always be different than the past. Yet we can learn from where we have been so as to better inform ourselves about where we will be.

Christians have been at this task for as long as the Church has been in existence. Let us trust that we have learned well. Off we go in the company of Flat Church!

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
LAITY SUNDAY

June 26, 2016

“We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.”

Gathering Music

Jared Fischer

Welcome and Announcements ✕

Robbie Furr

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

Jared Fischer

* Call to Worship

Phil Kaveler

One: Across the world, the followers of Jesus worship in churches noted for their incredible variety.

Many: **Music, architecture, theology, tradition - each and all reflect the differences born in the past. Each forges a future in which variety will continue to be a hallmark.**

One: Sameness can dull the senses and stifle creativity. Creation itself is characterized by diversity and differentness. As we look to the Church in the future, we can expect to see it maintain its unique differences.

Many: **Prognosticators of the future are notoriously wrong - but of one truth we can be sure: God will still use the church as an agent of change in the world.**

One: Holy Covenant will be part of that future. What changes there will be, what adaptations to changing times will be required, no one knows.

All: **Of one thing, however, we can be sure: God will still call us to be a church where all are extravagantly welcomed no matter where they are on their spiritual journeys.**

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

* Passing of the Peace

Phil Kaveler

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.

Presentation of Certificate of Recognition

Larry Bolick

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

* Hymn 383

“Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls”

AZMON

Come, let us join with faith-ful souls our song of faith to raise;
One fam-i-ly in heart are we, and one the God we praise.

Faith-ful are all who love the truth and per-fect truth pro-claim,
Who steadfast stand at God's right hand and glorify God's name.

And faith-ful are the gen-tle hearts to whom the power is given
Of ev-ery heart to make a home, of ev-ery home a heaven.

O God of hosts, our faith re-new, and grant us, in your grace,
To join the songs sung by the saints in ev-ery time and place.

Scripture and Personal Reflection

Faye Humphrey

The Church in Mission

Matthew 25:31-40

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit

me.’ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

* Hymn 539

“Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?”

SERVANT SONG

1. Won’t you let me be your ser-vant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser-vant, too.
2. We are pil-grims on a jour-ney, we are trav-elers on the road;
We are here to help each oth-er go the mile and bear the load.
3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shad-ow of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
4. I will weep when you are weep-ing; when you laugh, I’ll laugh with
you.
I will share your joy and sor-row till we’ve seen this jour-ney
through.
5. When we sing to God in heav-en we shall find such har-mo-ny,
Born of all we’ve known to-geth-er of Christ’s love and ag-o-ny.
6. Won’t you let me be your ser-vant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser-vant, too.

Scripture and Personal Reflection

Amy Coons, Olivia Carney

The Church as the Good Neighbor

Luke 10:29-37

But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’ “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”



1 They asked, "Who's my neigh - bor and whom should I love; for
 2 There once was a trav - el - er set on by thieves who
 3 A cer - tain Sa - mar - i - tan then came a - long to
 4 I know who's my neigh - bor and whom I should love, for



whom should I do a good deed?" Then Je - sus re - lat - ed a
 beat him and left him to die; A priest and a Le - vite each
 bind up his wounds and give aid; He took him to stay at an
 whom I should do a good deed; For Je - sus made clear in the



sto - ry and said, "It's an - y - one who has a
 saw him in pain; but they turned a - way and walked
 inn un - til well, and for all the ser - vice he
 sto - ry he told, it's an - y - one who has a



need, yes, an - y - one who has a need."
 by, yes, they turned a - way and walked by.
 paid, yes, for all the ser - vice he paid.
 need, yes, an - y - one who has a need.

Scripture and Personal Reflection

Kristin Andes

The Church Where Individual Gifts are Celebrated

Romans 12:2-9

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

Gift in Music

“One Voice”

by Ruth Moody

Lisa Cloninger, Judah L. Jones, Kathi Smith vocals; David A. Smith, guitar

Scripture and Personal Reflection

Robbie Furr

The Quality of Life in the Church

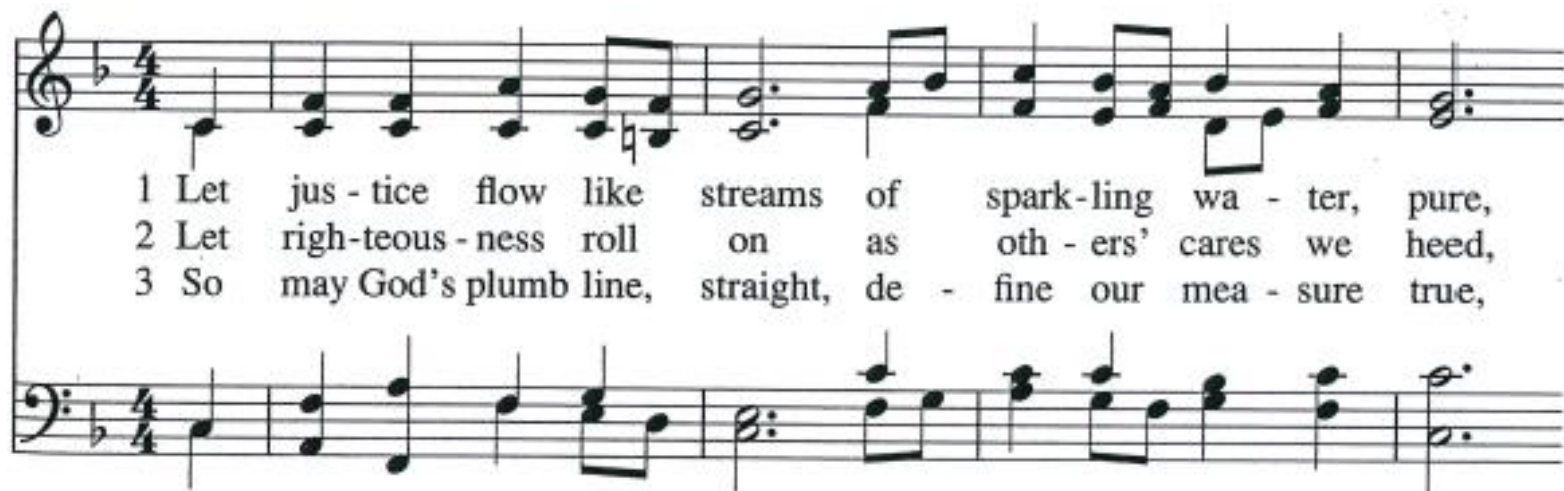
Colossians 3:12-17

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with

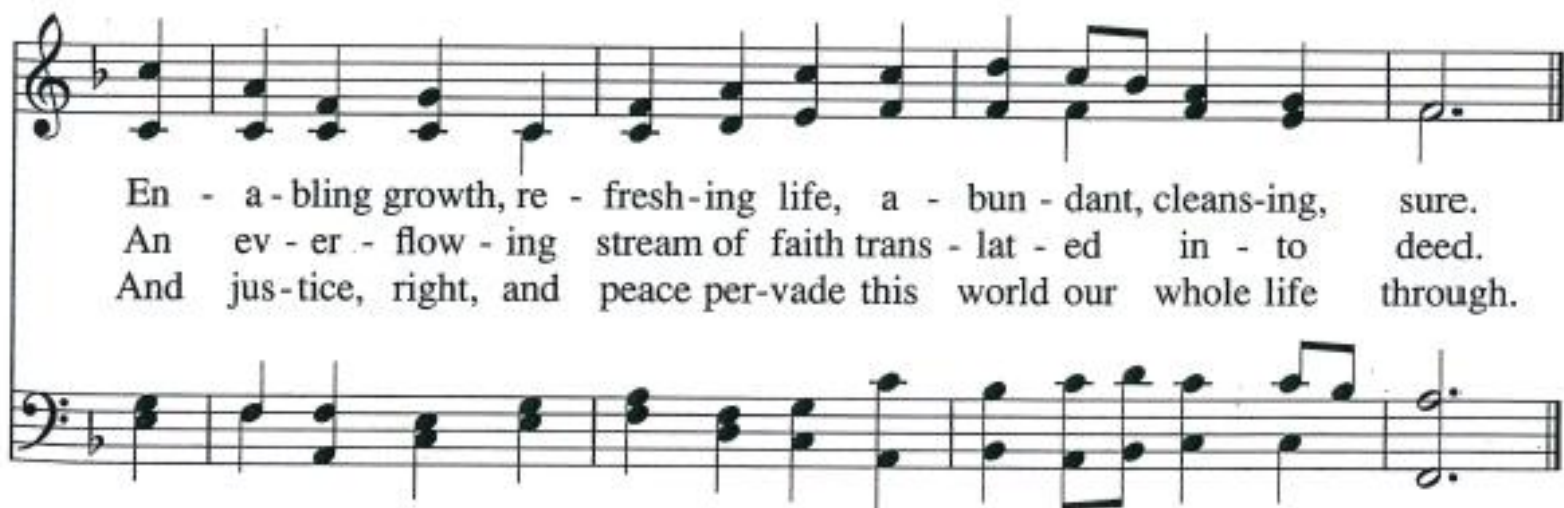
* Hymn 588

“Let Justice Flow like Streams”

ST. THOMAS



1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spark - ling wa - ter, pure,
2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,



En - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.
An ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.
And jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

* Benediction

Robbie Furr

Postlude

Jared Fischer

*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.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

Over the past three months, while our Pastor has been on sabbatical, the Holy Covenant United Church of Christ congregation has been under the pastoral care of some pretty impressive individuals. Rev. Steve Garvey, Rev. H. Linn Finger, and Rev. Jim and Faye Humphrey, have worked in concert to meet the needs of our congregation. We are truly thankful for your humble and gracious service. May these words from Numbers 6:24-26 convey our appreciation and blessing to you for your service!

"May the Lord bless you and keep you;

May the Lord's face shine upon you, and be gracious to you;

May the Lord lift up countenance upon you, and give you peace."

PASTOR NANCY RETURNS JULY 3, WITH GUEST SPEAKER

Pastor Nancy's first Sunday back from her three month Sabbatical is July 3. This is a particularly special Sunday in our Centennial Celebration because we will be honoring HCUCC's vote to become an "Open and Affirming" congregation on **July 9, 2000**. Rev. Pat Conover, former HCUCC Pastor will be our guest speaker on July 3. Plan to stay after worship on this special Sunday for a welcome back reception and refreshments.

WELCOME REV. LARRY BOLICK

It is our pleasure to welcome Rev. Larry Bolick, currently serving as the President of the Southern Region, Evangelical & Reformed Historical Society (ERHS) who is presenting Holy Covenant United Church of Christ with a Certificate of Recognition for its 100 years in ministry. Founded in 1863 as the Historical Society of the German Reformed Church, the ERHS

was formed in 1934 when the Reformed Church in the US merged with the Evangelical Synod of North America. Research can be done in person, by appointment, at Lancaster Seminary in Lancaster Pennsylvania. Rev. Bolick is a retired UCC Minister and the former Director of Spiritual Life at Abernathy Laurels in Newton, NC.

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 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: June: Yvette Ross

Greeters: Gail Bumgardner, Sue Rettberg

Media: Brian Hankins, Joe Craig

Ushers: Joe Craig, Peter Jawidzik, Sue Lamorey, Alice Phelan

Tabulators: Tina Dickens, Sally Duffy

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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), Urban Linn (Julie McLelland),
Pat & JoAnn Murphey (Laura Murphey),
Candy Propes (Sue Rettberg), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial)

Candid photographs and/or video recording share our work and witness and invite others into the fellowship of our congregation. Some pictures/video may be published in church print publications, on our website or on our official social media sites. If you do not wish to have your image published, please contact the church office by phone or email.

***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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