



## **TIME TO STAND**

**It's time to stand up.**

**That is challenge enough.**

**It's time to stand up right out in the middle,  
where I've been hiding,  
where I've been strategic,  
where I've managed my coming out,  
...one veil at a time.**

**It's time to ask you to look when you would rather look away,  
when you would rather explain me than see me,  
to look across the chasm of shame  
because our collusion is no longer graceful, tactful.**

**It's a time to be ok,  
whether you can give me that, or not;  
a time to risk your reactions,  
a time to have a suitcase packed in the back room,  
with a whisk broom for my dusty shoes.**

**I can stand up appearing garish,  
unfinished,  
but no longer invisible;  
with too many blind spots to keep covered,  
too many things I haven't thought of.**

**It's time to take back my power from my second grade teacher  
who said little boys should not spend so much time drawing pictures,  
because art matters,  
even for beginners.**

**~Pat Conover**

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

July 3, 2016

Gathering Music

Jared Fischer

Welcome ☩

Nancy Ellett Allison

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.)*

\* Call to Worship

Nancy Ellett Allison

One: Today we celebrate!

**Many: We celebrate the life and witness and welcome of the Living  
Christ in our midst.**

One: Today we celebrate!

**Many: We celebrate the making of a nation.**

One: Today we celebrate!

**Many: We celebrate the creation of our congregation in 1916.**

One: Today we celebrate!

**Many: We celebrate the returning of two pastors.**

One: Today we celebrate!

**Many: We celebrate the decision made 16 years ago to welcome  
persons of all sexual orientations and identities into our  
community of faith.**

One: Jesus calls us to remember his witness by celebrating the  
breaking of bread together.

**Many: Our nation invites us to celebrate our establishment as a  
country which protects the freedom of all persons to worship  
God - or not.**

One: Our witness in the world invites us to remember our heritage  
and to continue to grow in our service to others.

**Many: Our celebration of our pastors invites us to remember the  
unique gifts each person brings to a congregation.**

*\* Rise as able ☩ Sing Response ☩ Hymnals located below pews*

**One:** With gratitude, I celebrate returning to the thoughtful, generous congregation which has spectacularly shaped my life and ministry.

**Many:** In one collective voice we say “Welcome back!” We celebrate all that your sabbatical has meant to you and look forward to reengaging with you in ministry. In this Centennial Year, as we recall our past, we will listen carefully for ways that history has shaped our present. Together we shall discern how the skills and strengths of the present can fashion our future.

**All:** Gathered in faith and in purpose, we venture into a new future, listening carefully for the beckoning voice of God, celebrating our journey together.

**\* Passing of the Peace**

Nancy Ellett Allison

**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.

**\* Hymn**

“Gather Us In”

GATHER US IN

Here in this place, new light is streaming,  
Shadows of doubt are vanished away:  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings  
Brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,  
Gather us in, our spirits inflame.  
Call to us now and we shall awaken,  
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

Here we receive new life in the waters,  
Here we receive the bread of new birth:  
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink, the wine of compassion,  
Give us to eat the bread that is you:  
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion  
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not just in buildings, small and confining,  
Not in some heaven light-years away,  
Here in this place the new light is shining,  
Now is God present, and now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever,  
Gather us in and make us your own,  
Gather us in, all peoples together -  
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

“Praise our God”  
*by Patrick Conover*

PRAISE THE LORD

In all generations, in each time and place,  
The Christ lives among us with radiant face,  
and offers discernment though many our sighs,  
to unstop our ears and to open our eyes. (Refrain)

*Praise our God, Praise our God.  
Let the earth hear God's voice.  
Praise our God. Praise our God. Let the people rejoice.  
Sing praise through the Spirit. Sing praise everyone  
and give God the glory for all God has done.*

For each man and woman, for every race,  
redemption is offered and fullness of grace;  
but we must step forward and take up our call  
to serve through the Spirit, to love one and all.

To God be the glory for making us free,  
luring us to become all we can be.  
The spirit-filled life is a perfect delight.  
We sing our thanksgiving for life in the light. (Refrain)

Children's Offering & Message Nancy Ellett Allison  
*(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  
Silent Prayer  
Pastoral Prayer

Scripture 1 Kings 21 Nancy Ellett Allison  
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.**

Sermon "From Elijah to Jesus" Pat Conover

Offertory Invitation Nancy Ellett Allison

Offertory Hymn 594 "How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies" MATERNA

\* Doxology OLD HUNDREDTH  
ϕ **Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below,  
Praise God above all heavenly hosts,  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*Offertory Dedication Nancy Ellett Allison

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Words of Institution Nancy Ellett Allison

Prayer of Consecration Pat Conover  
*Communion is received by intinction. Please take bread or a gluten free wafer and dip it into the cup to receive both elements.  
The Communion elements are bread and grape juice.*

Music during Communion      “Love Prevails”  
words and music by Judah L. Jones  
Judah and the Doo-Dahs

Donna Collins, Tina Dickens, Karen Long, Beth Christian Sharp

Our road is still hard; we still have some fear.  
But we know that God is still with us, and we are still here.  
Somebody is calling! That call is for me.  
The voice of the One who is Love says, "Arise, come and see!"

I see there are those shutting doors; there are those preaching hate.  
Still evil and ignorance seek to dictate our fate.  
Sometimes they use names; sometimes they use guns.  
Creating destruction and pain, when will it be done?

Just as God accepts us, we love and accept one another.  
Just as God invites us, we live in covenant together. Love prevails.

Our road is still hard; we still have some fear.  
But we know that God is still speaking, and we will still hear!  
Somebody is calling! That call is for you.  
The voice of the One who is Love says, "Arise, go and do."  
Keep opening doors; keep welcoming in.  
Compassion and justice will triumph. Oh, yes, love will win!  
Use names that affirm the value of each one.  
Continue to reach out to all with the arms of wide welcome!

Just as God accepts us, we love and accept one another.  
Just as God invites us, we live in covenant together. Love prevails.

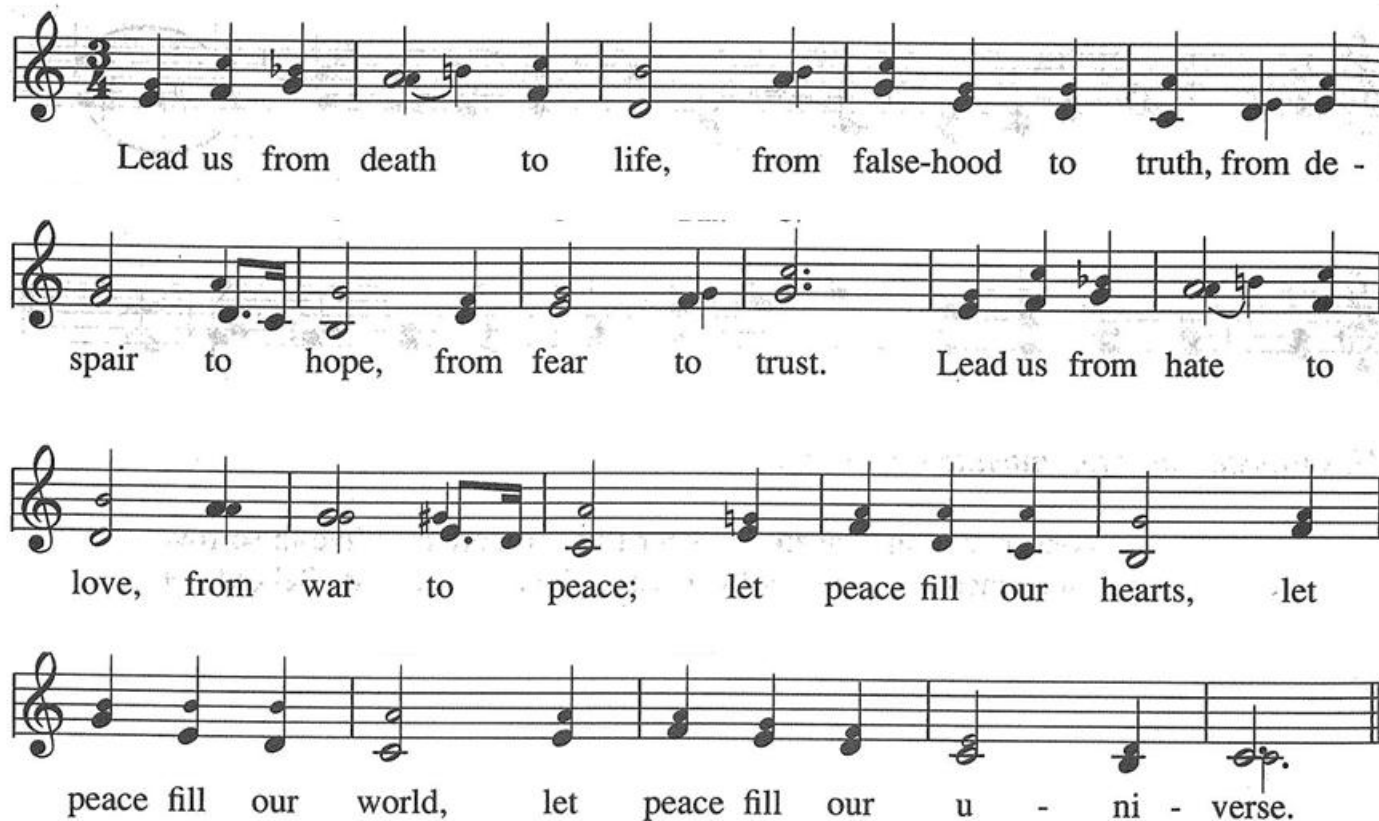
Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)

**We give thanks to you our God for our journey of faith;  
For sustaining, challenging, blessing and calling us through the years.  
For knowing you are with us in our waiting;  
You are with us in our living. Amen.**

\* Hymn 581

“Lead Us from Death to Life”

WORLD PEACE PRAYER



Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth, from de -  
spair 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 u - ni - verse.

\* Benediction

Pat Conover

Postlude

Jared Fischer

***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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## 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 following worship for a Welcome Back reception for Pastor Nancy with food and drink provided by our Hospitality team. We look forward to sharing time with Nancy to hear about her adventures during her sabbatical and hope you can join us.

### WELCOME TO FORMER PASTOR PAT CONOVER

Pat served at First United Church of Christ from 1981-1984. Following his ministry in Charlotte he served for 19 years with the UCC National Staff as a policy advocate in Washington, DC. In 2004 Pat published *Transgender Good News* which became a reference for discussions of the acceptance of transgender clergy in several denominations. Pat was also the first "out" transgender minister to have ministerial standing in the UCC or in any other Protestant denomination. Pat and his wife, Trish Nemore, are active leaders in the Seekers Church of Washington, DC.

### 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.

**The office will close on July 4 in observance of Independence Day.**



## **BOOK CLUB, JULY 11**

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

## **SOJOURNERS CLASS**

The Sojourners class continues its discussion of *Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help*. No preparation need. Join us, won't you?

## **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, [pwkaveler@yahoo.com](mailto:pwkaveler@yahoo.com), to let him know when you can volunteer. There will be a sign up sheet beginning July 10 in the Gathering Room.



## **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 Debbie Davis, [debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com](mailto:debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com), Judi Lord, [jklord17@gmail.com](mailto:jklord17@gmail.com) or Linda Carver, 2547A Stockbridge Drive, Charlotte NC 28210. This is a fundraiser to benefit our Guatemala mission work and is a wonderful way to recognize and honor both our heritage and our saints among us today. Please be a part of this wonderful church ministry and submit your recipes soon.



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

Elder of the Month: July: Michael Baldonado

Greeters: Lisa Sherman

Media: Brian Hankins, Joe Craig

Ushers: Kelly Gimlin, Jill Gregg, Barry Holcomb, Moses Taylor

Tabulators: Kelly Gimlin, Julie Klever

**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.*