



## Coming Up on September

*White butterflies, with single  
black fingerpaint eyes on their wings  
dart and settle, eddy and mate  
over the green tangle of vines  
in Labor Day morning steam.*

*The year grinds into ripeness  
and rot, grapes darkening,  
pears yellowing, the first  
Virginia creeper twining crimson,  
the grasses, dry straw to burn.*

*The New Year rises, beckoning  
across the umbrellas on the sand.  
I begin to reconsider my life.  
What is the yield of my impatience?  
What is the fruit of my resolve?*

*I turn from my frantic white dance  
over the jungle of productivity  
and slowly a niggun slides,  
cold water down my throat.  
I rest on a leaf spotted red.*

*Now is the time to let the mind  
search backwards like the raven loosed  
to see what can feed us. Now,  
the time to cast the mind forward  
to chart an aerial map of the months.*

*The New Year is a great door  
that stands across the evening and Yom  
Kippur is the second door. Between them  
are song and silence, stone and clay pot  
to be filled from within myself.*

*I will find there both ripeness and rot,  
what I have done and undone,  
what I must let go with the waning days  
and what I must take in. With the last  
tomatoes, we harvest the fruit of our lives.*

*~From "Tikkum" Marge Piercy*

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

**August 28, 2016**

Gathering Music

Jared Fischer

Welcome and Announcements ✕

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.)*

Opening Voluntary “Love One Another, Abide in Love” arr. Judah L. Jones  
*Lisa Cloninger, Judah Jones, and Kathi Smith, vocals*

\* Invocation (*Unison*)

Sue Pascucci

God of each new morning, Holy Maker of the universe taping on the roof with seeds of hope loosed in the oaks high overhead, we gather to celebrate your presence in our daily lives. We give you thanks that in your love you teach us how to show hospitality to strangers. We give you thanks that in your compassion you help us learn to be content with what we have while sharing freely with others. We give you thanks you made the world so complex that we are never at a loss to discover new ways to serve others and steward creation. Receive now our prayers of praise as together we seek your face in worship. Amen.

\* Passing of the Peace

Sue Pascucci

**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.

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

Hymns

“In Feast or Fallow”

When the fields are dry, and the winter is long  
Blessed are the meek, the hungry, the poor.  
When my soul is downcast, and my voice has no song  
For mercy, for comfort, I wait on the Lord.

*Chorus:* In the harvest feast or the fallow ground  
My certain hope is in Jesus found.  
My lot, my cup, my portion sure  
Whatever comes, we shall endure;  
Whatever comes, we shall endure.

On a cross of wood, His blood was outpoured  
Christ rose from the ground, like a bird to the sky  
Bringing peace to our violence, and crushing death's door  
Our Maker incarnate, our God who provides. *Chorus*

When the earth beneath me crumbles and quakes  
Not a sparrow falls, nor a hair from my head  
Without Christ's hand to guide me, my shield and my strength  
In joy or in sorrow, in life or in death. *Chorus*

"Everlasting God"

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord  
Wait upon the Lord  
We will wait upon the Lord

Our God, You reign forever; Our hope, our Strong Deliverer

You are the everlasting God  
The everlasting God  
You do not faint  
You won't grow weary  
You're the defender of the weak  
You comfort those in need  
You lift us up on wings like eagles *Repeat all*

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

Hebrew Wisdom Literature Lamentations 3:17-24

Steven Burleson

I have been deprived of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is and thought, 'My lasting hope in Yahweh is lost.'

Bring to mind my misery and anguish; it is wormwood and gall!

My heart dwells on this continually and sinks within me.

This is what I shall keep in mind and so regain some hope:

Surely Yahweh's mercies are not over, God's deeds of faithful love not exhausted; every morning they are renewed; great is God's faithfulness!

'Yahweh is all I have,' I say to myself, 'and so I shall put my hope in God.'

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

\* Hymn 423

"Great is Your Faithfulness"

FAITHFULNESS

1. Great is your faith-ful-ness, O God, Creator,  
With you no shad-ow of turn-ing we see.  
You do not change, your com-pas-sions they fail not;  
All of your good-ness for-ev-er will be.

*Refrain:*

Great is your faith-ful-ness! Great is your faith-ful-ness!  
Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see;  
All I have need-ed your hand has pro-vid-ed,  
Great is your faith-ful-ness, God, un-to me!

2. Sum-mer and win-ter, and spring-time and har-vest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their cours-es a-bove,  
Join with all na-ture in man-i-fold wit-ness  
To your great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love. (*Refrain*)
3. Par-don for sin and a peace so en-dur-ing,  
your own dear pres-ence to cheer and to guide.  
Strength for to-day and bright hope for to-mor-row,  
bless-ings all mine with ten thou-sand be-side. (*Refrain*)



\* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

Postlude

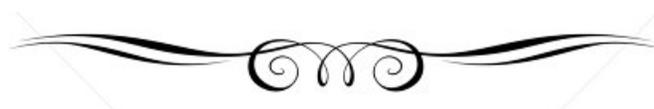
Jared Fischer



**CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION &  
PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL UCC  
SEPTEMBER 4, 2016**

Pilgrim Congregational UCC had its beginnings in the Huntingtowne Farms School building on September 4, 1966 under the leadership of Rev. Edwin Neff. Officially organized as a congregation on October 6, 1968, property was purchased at 6151 Sharon Road and used for worship beginning July 6, 1969. The sanctuary was constructed in 1990 and dedicated July 21, 1991. Rev. James E. Humphrey served as their pastor from 1982-1989 and then again as their interim pastor in later years. Rev. Linn Finger was their final pastor, serving from 2008-2011. We are grateful to call them our Pastors Emeriti and Faye Humphrey our “First Lady”!

In recognition of Pilgrim’s important role of merging with Holy Covenant in 2011, we are welcoming Rev. Ed Neff as our guest preacher September 4. New church start initiatives are in Ed’s blood. Following his 11 years with Pilgrim, he gathered a house church group in Mint Hill which met for several years. From there he accepted a call to Trotwood UCC in Ohio. Ed returned to the mountains of North Carolina upon retirement and was a founding member of High Country UCC in the Boone area where he continues to serve others and celebrate life.



## 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.

### A DAY AWAY: HONORING YOUR SPIRIT, YOUR STORY SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2016, 9:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Strengthen your spirit through contemplation, journaling, sharing, silence, and creativity. Nancy Allison will lead us in reflection and journaling, Dana Endlsey will lead us in the creation of "Story Bowls™" which will provide us with a tangible reminder of the blessings of the day. Sign up with Dawn by September 7 at [office@holycovenantucc.org](mailto:office@holycovenantucc.org).



The cost for lunch and supplies is \$15.

### MINISTRY TEAM FAIR, SEPTEMBER 11

On Sunday, September 11 immediately following worship, the Nominations team is hosting our 2nd annual Ministry team fair. This will be a time for each of us to learn more information about the work being done by our ministry teams in sharing the love of Christ and furthering our outreach in our community and beyond. *Where is God calling YOU to Serve at Holy Covenant?* Please mark your calendars and plan to be part of this fun event.

### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE NETWORK

The HCUCC Earth Care Ministry team members are planning to attend the UCC's new initiative "Creation Justice Churches" at United Church of Chapel Hill, September 23, 24, or 25<sup>th</sup>. Brooks Berndt, the national UCC's environmental justice minister, will be special guest presenter, leading opened discussions, including hopes and goals for the initiative. Anyone interested in attending please contact Phil Kaveler, [pwkaveler@yahoo.com](mailto:pwkaveler@yahoo.com) or 704-896-0565.

## GOODIES FOR GUATEMALA

Today, and the last Sundays of each month, there will be a table in the gathering room offering baked goods for donations to help our Guatemala Fund. Thank you for your support of this ministry!

## BACK TO SCHOOL MEANS TIME FOR BACKPACK MINISTRY

The Backpack Ministry supports hungry children at David Cox Elementary School and Morehead Academy, feeding students and younger siblings each weekend. Bring your food gifts of small sized protein, vegetables, soup, starches, fruit, breakfast items or a snack. *Don't have time to shop? Make a donation and a personal shopper will do the rest!*

## REUSE A SNEAKER - DONATE THOSE OLD STINKY THINGS!

The Earth Care team continues its Reuse a Sneaker drive. Your offering of any brand sneakers that have reached the end of their useful life, will be recycled into *Nike Grind*, a material used in creating athletic and playground surfaces, as well as select Nike products. As you prepare for the beginning of school and fall cleaning consider a new life for your old gym shoes. Drop off your old *tennies*, by September 11th, in the collection bin in the gathering room. (Regular shoes are not included in this project.)

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE ONE COOKIE AT A TIME

**Kairos**, a weekend transformational program at the Southern Correctional Institute in Troy, where inmates are loved on and taught about Christ is hosting an event on September 11, 2016. Part of this includes giving the ladies homemade cookies. The goal is to provide 50 dozen. Can you help? Please deliver your home baked cookies to the church freezer, **by Sunday, September 4th.** Please contact Joy Johnson at [joy.johnson1977@gmail.com](mailto:joy.johnson1977@gmail.com) or 704-701-7665 for detailed instructions. The prison has very strict requirements so make sure you get the specifics before baking!

## BOOK CLUB

All are welcome! Our September 19th book choice is William Kent Kruger's "Ordinary Grace". Barbara Schneller will lead the discussion beginning at 1:30 pm at the Sharon Campus. October's read is Bill O'Reilly's "Killing Reagan". Jim Humphrey will lead our discussion of this work on October 17th. The book club has extended their invitation to members of South Park Christian Church to join in the discussion.

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

Elder of the Month: Tina Ettesen  
Greeters: Marylou Iantosca, Shirley Moder  
Media: Brian Hankins, Joe Craig  
Ushers: Joe Craig, Peter Jawidzik, Sue Lamorey, Alice Phelan  
Tabulators: Sally Duffy, Tina Dickens

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**Members**

Jean Berg, Karen Griffin, Laura Hankins, Chuck Johnson, Helen Lambert, Irene Mikkelson, Deb & Yvette Ross, Ed Sharp, Sheryl Stogner

**Friends & Family Members**

Amarless and family (Ben Hale), Rose Bouchonville (John Maze), Bill Funderburk (Donna Collins), John Jacobsen (Holly Middleton), Ashley Jones (Annette Shoop), Aaron Johnson (Joy Johnson), Urban Linn (Julie McLelland) Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Milton & Jane Thompson (Kevin Decker), Charles Weaver (Susan Rettberg), the family of Charles Haag (Marylou Iantosca)

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

**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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