



(Photo, Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Sharon Road, Charlotte NC)

In order for us to be able to love, we need to have faith, because faith is love in action and love in action is service. In order for us to be able to love, we have to see and touch. Faith in action through prayer, faith in action through service: each is the same thing, the same love, the same compassion. ~Mother Teresa

This life therefore is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness, not health, but healing, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it, the process is not yet finished, but it is going on, this is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified.

~Martin Luther

Be prepared at all times for the gifts of God and be ready always for new ones. For God is a thousand times more ready to give than we are to receive.

~Meister Eckhart



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION & PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL UCC

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. Sanctuary construction began in 1990 and the church 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 each Pastor Emeritus and Faye Humphrey our “First Lady”!

In recognition of Pilgrim’s important role of merging with Holy Covenant in 2011, we are welcoming Rev. Neff (pastor 1966-1977) as our guest preacher today. Ed is a graduate of Lancaster Seminary (M.Div.) and United Seminary in Dayton, OH (D.Min.) Ed has served congregations in Vermont, Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio and Minnesota, and in doing so, served churches in all four branches of our UCC heritage. 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 active UCC ministry with the Committee of Church and Ministry, and presently on the Western NC Association Board of Directors.



HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
CELEBRATING PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SEPTEMBER 4, 1966 - NOVEMBER 16, 2014

September 4, 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

Jared Fischer

* Call to Worship *Adapted from Psalm 1*

Faye Humphrey

One: Blessed are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

Many: **With reverence and awe, we approach our Gracious God who
has created us in love.**

One: Blessed are those whose delight is in the law of God, who meditate
on the holy council day and night.

Many: **We give thanks that God understands us, and encourages us to
grow in ways of holiness.**

One: They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their
fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.

Many: **Holy One, you invite us to sink our roots deep into your love
and to grow stronger each day in our faith in you.**

One: The wicked do not do so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Many: **We give thanks that God understands us, and that the fruits
we bear are consistent with whom God created us to become.**

One: For the Living God watches over the way of the righteous, but the
way of the wicked will vanish.

Many: **With joy and delight we gather in faithfulness to praise the
Living God!**

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

* Passing of the Peace

Faye Humphrey

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.

* Hymns 18

“Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer”

CWM RHONDDA

1. Guide me, O my great Re-deem-er,
pil-grim through this bar-ren land;
I am weak, but you are might-y;
hold me with your power-ful hand.
Bread of heav-en, bread of heav-en,
feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.

2. O-pen now the crys-tal foun-tain,
where the heal-ing wa-ters flow.
Let the fire and cloud-y pil-lar
lead me all my jour-ney through.
Strong de-liv-erer, strong de-liv-erer,
ev-er be my strength and shield,
ev-er be my strength and shield.

3. When I reach the Riv-er Jor-dan,
bid my anx-ious fears sub-side.
Death of death, and hell's de-struc-tion,
land me safe on heav-en's side.
Songs of prais-es, songs of prais-es
I will ev-er sing to you,
I will ev-er sing to you.

“’Tis So Sweet”

’Tis so sweet to trust you, Jesus, just to take you at your word
Just to rest upon your promise, just to know that you are good.

Refrain: Jesus, Jesus, how I trust you!
How I’ve proved you o’er and o’er,
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O, for grace to trust you more! (*And more, and more*)

O, how strong is your forgiveness, like a mighty river's flow!
Deep, I plunge, with full abandon, 'neath the healing, cleansing flood.

Refrain

Though the world may fall around me, precious Jesus, Savior, Friend,
This I know, that you are with me, will be with me to the end.

Refrain

Children’s Offering & Message

H. Linn Finger

*(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

James Humphrey

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer (*trespasses*)

* Hymn

“Be Thou My Vision”

SLANE

Be thou my vision, O God of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night;
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;
Guide me with thy hand when sight is obscured.
Father and Mother, Thy child shall I be,
Thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.

High God of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Gathering of Tithes and Offerings
Offering Invitation
Offertory

Nancy Ellett Allison

* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

☩ 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 Prayer

Nancy Ellett Allison

Gift of Music

“Let All Things Now Living”
Dorrie Hankins, Margaret Hankins, vocals

ASH GROVE

(From) Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow-soldier, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith towards the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for ever, no longer as a slave but as more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say... The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

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

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

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

* One: We welcome all who celebrate Christ's life and love to join us at this table of fellowship. As we join together in Holy Communion we invite all to confess our faith as Christians:

* UCC Statement of Faith (NCH 885)

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified
and risen Savior,

you have come to us

and shared our common lot,

conquering sin and death

and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages,
tongues, and races.

You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

Words of Institution

Nancy Ellett Allison

Prayer of Consecration

Ed Neff

*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.*

One: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

*(Please come forward as directed by the ushers
for the Sharing of the Elements.)*

Music during Communion "Come As You Are"

**Come out of sadness from wherever you've been
Come broken hearted, let rescue begin
Come find your mercy, oh sinner come kneel
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal**

***Refrain: So lay down your burdens, lay down your shame
All who are broken, lift up your face
Oh wanderer come home, you're not too far
So lay down your hurt, lay down your heart, come as you are.
(to Coda after 2nd time)***

**There's hope for the hopeless and all those who've strayed
Come sit at the table, come taste the grace
There's rest for the weary, rest that endures
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't cure *Refrain***

***Coda: Come as you are, come as you are
Fall in Love's arms, come as you are
There's joy for the morning, oh my soul be still
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal***

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Ed Neff

For the healing you have given us in the brokenness of bread and the pouring out of cup, we thank you. For the community that you have restored in us through the sharing of life, we thank you. For the courage and strength that you have promised us, we thank you. Send us forth from this place in love, letting justice be worked out with gentleness and power known in the presence of your Spirit. Amen.

* Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

* Hymn 132

“Joy to the World!”

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth its praises bring;
Let every heart prepare Christ room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Christ rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of God’s righteousness
And wonders of God’s love,
And wonders of God’s love
And wonders, wonders of God’s love

Postlude

Jared Fischer

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 SEPTEMBER 10, 9:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Strengthen your spirit through contemplation, journaling, sharing, silence, and creativity. Led by Nancy Allison and Dana Endsley this will be an opportunity to create a circle of trust and encourage one another to live lives of integrity through honoring our roots, journaling our truth and celebrating our stories while creating a beautiful "Story Bowl™". Sign up with Dawn at office@holycovenantucc.org.

The cost for lunch and supplies is \$15.

NEW AND EXCITING HAPPENINGS ON THE HC WEBSITE

Changes are in process, so visit often! Tickets for the Centennial Banquet on October 1st are available now online. The survey report is available, so you can learn more about our demographics. Sermons are now both live and recorded, along with the bulletins, so if you are traveling or under the weather, you can still be with us in spirit! HolyCovenantUCC.org

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 you to share information about the work being done by your ministry team 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.

**LAST WEEK FOR REUSE A SNEAKER -
DONATE THOSE OLD STINKY THINGS!**

Drop off your old *tennies*, by September 11.

EMBRACE: AN EVENING WITH REV. LEROY BARBER, SEPTEMBER 20, 7PM

At The Third Place, 1609 E. 5th Street, Charlotte. Admission is free, a suggested contribution of \$20 is encouraged. Coffee, snacks, and craft beer from NoDa Brewing will be available. Please join QC Family Tree in welcoming Rev. Leroy Barber, director of The Voices Project and an important leader within the Christian Community Development Association, to Charlotte on September 20. He is releasing a new book called *Embrace: God's Radical Shalom for a Divided World*, and will be joining us to talk about that book and about the work that we do together to eradicate poverty, to dismantle racism, and to build neighborhoods where everyone can flourish.

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: Jeff Hughes

Greeters: Bill Hildebrand, Connie Hildebrand

Media: Brian Hankins, Joe Craig

Ushers: Kelly Gimlin, Jill Gregg, Barbara Schneller, Moses Taylor

Tabulators: Kelly Gimlin, Julie Klever

Recyclers: Kristin Andes, Tom Magraw

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

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

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), Carrie McLelland (Joe McLelland), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Milton & Jane Thompson (Kevin Decker), Charles Weaver (Susan Rettberg)

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.

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

3501 West W.T. Harris Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28269-8510

www.holycovenantucc.org office@holycovenantucc.org 704-599-9810