



love of children ~ creation ~ neighbor

Silent Meditation

Three great loves is an invitation to act as one and to deeper pulling together in love for justice and with purpose.

~Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer,
President & Gen. Minister of the UCC

...And now more than ever, our children need a Moral Start which begins with seeing the adults in their homes, communities and places of worship living out the values of our great religious traditions including love, justice, respect, and welcome — most especially for those who are young, impoverished and marginalized.

~ A Letter from Marian Wright Edelman,
President Children's Defense Fund

We ought every day to renew our purpose in God, to stir our hearts to fervor and devotion, as though it were the first day of our conversation. And we ought daily to pray and say: Help me, my Lord Jesus, that I may persevere in good purpose and in your Holy service unto my death, and that I may now today perfectly begin, for I have done nothing in time past.

~From *The Imitation of Christ* by Thomas á Kempis

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN PENTECOST
3 Great Loves: Love of Children**

September 10, 2017

10:55 AM

Gathering Music

David A. Smith

Welcome and Announcements ✕

Nancy Ellett Allison

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you!**

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

Opening Voluntary

“Love Round”

David A. Smith

Love, love, love, love; the gospel in one word is love.

Love your neighbour as yourself; love, love, love.

* Call to Worship

Cheryl Milam

(from 2017 Children’s Sabbath Service of the Children’s Defense Fund)

One: We gather with love,

Many: **in the name of God who loves each and every child.**

One: We gather with hope,

Many: **as the body of Christ who is the hope of the world.**

One: We gather with justice,

Many: **called by the Spirit whom Jesus called the Advocate.**

All: **Come, let us worship on this Sabbath day with love, hope and
justice. Amen.**

* Passing of the Peace

Cheryl Milam

One: We are renewed by the love of God and the love of our sisters
and brothers in Christ. So 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*

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.

Blessing of the Backpacks

A Litany for Students, Teachers, and Parents
by Cheri Dennis

One: As summer draws to an end and school begins again, as students prepare for the new school year and backpacks are filled with supplies,

Many: **We remember the boy Jesus who stayed behind in the temple to learn.**

One: As summer draws to an end and school begins again, as principals and administrators plan and teachers write lesson plans and decorate their classrooms,

Many: **We remember the man Jesus who taught his disciples and his followers.**

One: As summer draws to an end and school begins again, as parents and grandparents, friends and guardians alike wonder what joys and problems this year will bring,

Many: **We remember the risen Christ who told his disciples, “I will be with you always.”**

All: Creator God, God of all knowledge and wisdom, we ask your blessing on these backpacks and the children who will carry them. We ask your blessing on these lesson plans and the teachers who prepared them. We ask your blessing on parents, grandparents, guardians and friends of all students and teachers. May there always be enough supplies and resources, time and energy, patience and love for every child everywhere. Amen

Gift in Song

Yasmin Senturias, Micah Baldonado

Prayers of the People

Cheri Dennis

One: We pray and stand for children blessed by parents who care

Many: and for children without a parent or anyone who cares at all.

One: We pray and stand for children filled with joy

Many: and for children whose days and nights are joyless.

One: We pray and stand for children with hope

Many: and for children whose spirits have been dimmed and dashed.

One: We pray and stand for children high on play and study and laughter

Many: and for children high on pot, heroin, cocaine, and prescription opioids.

One: We pray and stand for children for whom we pray every day

Many: and for children who have no one to pray them along life's way.

One: We pray and stand for children poised by circumstance to soar and conquer life's challenges

Many: and for children bogged down by the pain of survival.

One: We pray and stand for children who love to read and

Many: for children who can't read at all,

One: for children who learn with excitement

Many: and for children told by adults that they cannot achieve.

One: We pray and stand for children who expect and are helped to succeed

Many: and for children whom no one believes in or helps to succeed.

One: We pray that we will be a help and not a hindrance to children we call our own

All: and to all the children You created who are part of our family too. Amen.

We cannot own the sunlit sky,
The moon, the wildflowers growing,
For we are part of all that is
Within life’s river flowing.
With open hands receive and share
The gifts of God’s creation,
That all may have abundant life
In every earthly nation.

When bodies shiver in the night
And, weary, wait for morning,
When children have no bread but tears,
And war horns sounds their warning,
God calls humanity to wake,
To join in common labor,
That all my have abundant life
In oneness with their neighbor.

God calls humanity to join
As partners in creating
A future free from want or fear,
Life’s goodness celebrating.
That new world beckons from afar,
Invites our shared endeavor,
That all may have abundant life
And peace endure forever.

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. Members, please indicate any changes in your contact information. We invite our visitors and members to linger following worship and join us in light refreshments and conversation.

WELCOME MINISTRY INTERN CHERI DENNIS

Cheri Dennis, a long time Charlotte resident, graduated from U of Illinois and UNCC. Cheri has worked as a medical secretary, a management accountant and recently retired after 30 years with a local clothing store. Her energy is now devoted to following her call to the ministry studying at Union Presbyterian Seminary working towards a Master of Divinity. Cheri and her husband Keith recently celebrated their 45th anniversary, and have two children and four grandchildren.

ORDINATION FOR R. TERRY PARRISH JR., SEPTEMBER 10, 3 PM

All are invited in witness of this joyous event at Holy Covenant UCC. Reception following. Terry has received his Call from Hebron United Church of Christ near Winston-Salem, NC. Congratulations Terry!

YOU ARE WELCOME TO THE BOOK CLUB!

Join us at 10:30 am at SouthPark Christian Church, 6650 Park South Road, Charlotte. Our books for the next months are: September 11 - *A Stillness at Appomattox* by Bruce Catton; October 9 - *The Leavers* by Lisa Ko; November 13 - *A Full Life* by Jimmy Carter

ALL CHURCH WORK DAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 9 AM to Noon

Indoor/outdoor workday for all ages. Look for the list of chores we will be attacking in the Gathering Room or the Sojourners Room. Tools and supplies and snacks will be provided -- just bring elbow grease. In order to facilitate reminders or cancellation notices, please sign up (non-binding!) with Jo Ann Jellison at joannjellison@yahoo.com or 804-937-1180 or in person at church on this Sunday.

NEW MEMBER/INQUIRER CLASSES

If you would like to get more involved, learn more about our congregation and the United Church of Christ, and join our church, we encourage you to attend our Inquirer's Classes:

September 17, 9:30 AM: Who We Are & What We Believe

September 24, Post Worship Luncheon hosted by Elders and Deacons Organization & Opportunities for Involvement

October 1, 9:30 AM: History of UCC & Holy Covenant

We will welcome new members on October 8. Childcare is available for all age children during this time and we invite you to join us! Please contact Debbie Davis, debbiekdavisnc@gmail.com, if you are interested in attending or have any questions.

12x12 SERVE. STAND UP. SHARE.

Take action with Missions & Justice! We need to be heard; we need to act! M&J wants to know how the people of Holy Covenant are responding to the many issues facing our people and our society today. Write your mission, drop it in the basket in the Gathering Room and M&J will track them as the year goes along.

- Volunteer at your local school: CMS- www.cms.k12.nc.us or Cabarrus- www.cabarrus.k12.nc.us Under "Quick Links" or "Useful Links" find "Volunteer" a webpage that may offer examples of volunteer activities, a phone number and email address for the person who can answer their questions, and get you started.
- Support Holy Covenant's benevolence fund, that helps members in need of assistance during times of crisis. Notate your check "Sunshine Fund".
- Volunteer at the Upper Room Ministry at Urban Ministry Center. Contact **Phil Kaveler**, coordinator for ways you can help.

CROP HUNGER WALK, OCTOBER 14

All walkers are invited to join the **largest hunger walk** in the USA. The walk on Saturday, October 14 at 9:00 a.m. is 3.6 miles which is how far many people have to walk to get food and clean water for their family. 25% of all donations will stay in Mecklenburg Co. and be divided between 3 agencies. CWS is providing assistance to Texas residents affected by Harvey. All interested in walking with the church group, please contact

Tina Dickens at church or email taichitina@gmail.com. For more information visit **Church World Service**.

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

Elder for September:

Jeff Hughes, jeffhugh@msn.com or 704-577-3068

Deacons for September: Joe Behr-Stenzel

Recyclers: Diane Rogers

Greeters: Susan Pascucci, Barbara Schneller

Ushers: Joy Decker, Kevin Edwards Knight, Barry Holcomb

Media: Brian Hankins, Keith Dennis, Olivia Carney

Tabulators: Sally McLester, Kathleen Smith

Refreshments: Hospitality

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

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Joe & Julie McLelland, in the death of Julie's father, Urban Lynn.
David Cable and family, in the death of David's husband, Keith Whitlock.
Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Donna Collins, Ginny & Bob Fisher, Helen Lambert, Irene Mikkelson, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Yami Senturias, Ed & Beth Sharp, Tommy Tomlinson & Alix Felsing, Caroline Utz

Friends & Family Members

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Charles Edenfield (Donna Collins), Bill Funderburk, Kathy Gibson (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Peace Hale (Ben Hale), Alice Huskins (Jared Fischer), Ashley Jones (Annette Shoop), Nancy Knapp (Suzanne Hopkins), Chuck McAllister (Donna Collins), David McLelland (Joe McLelland), Aldo Sanchez (Alice Phelan), Jessie & Craig Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Becky Neese Smith (Diane Neese), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Doris Storie (Garrett Barlow), Virginia Tomlinson (Tommy Tomlinson & Alix Felsing), Cindy Wagner (Donna Collins), Wayne & Libby Walters (Barry Holcomb), Gary & Wanda Gilbert West (John Rapp), Elizabeth Wilson (Donna Collins)

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

Ms. Cheri Dennis, Ministry Intern

Mr. Jared Fischer, Director of Music

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

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