



Silent Meditation

We don't live by bread alone, but we also don't live long without it. To eat is to acknowledge our dependence—both on food and on each other. It also reminds us of other kinds of emptiness that not even the blue-plate special can touch.

~Federick Buechner

An individual has not started living until they can rise above the narrow confines of individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity"

~Martin Luther King Jr.

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
TENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST
CELEBRATING OUR IDENTITY AS AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION**

July 29, 2018

Gathering Music

Ann Robinson

Welcome and Announcements

Barbara Thomas

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 Song

“You Are Good”

Lord, you are good and your mercy endureth forever! (2x)

People from every nation and tongue, from generation to generation,

We worship you, Alleluia. Alleuia.

We worship you for who you are! (2x)

And you are good!

* Call to Worship

Bob Saylor

One: Gathered in this sacred space, O Creator Spirit, in the multicolored company of Your Church on earth and in heaven,

Many: **We celebrate Your creation and invite Your presence into our midst.**

One: We know, Creator Spirit, that eternity cannot hold You, nor can our limited words describe the breadth of Your love and grace and faithfulness to us.

Many: **Yet in the space of our open hearts, may we celebrate that love, and the generosity it encourages.**

One: Gathered in this sacred space, we rejoice in the decision nineteen years ago to declare our congregation open to persons of all sexual orientations and identities.

All: **All are welcome in this place! We are part of the Church universal- faithful people of every color, gender, class, sexual orientation, age, and ability, gathered to love and serve God.**

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

* Passing of the Peace Bob Saylor
One: Let us now greet one another as a sign of peace, for the peace
of Christ is here to stay.
Many: **Thanks be to God!**

* Opening Praise Music “Every Praise” by Hezekiah Walker
Every Praise is to Our God. Every word of worship in one accord.
Every praise, Every praise is to our God. (repeat)

Sing Alleluia to our God. Glory alleluia to our God.
Every praise, Every praise is to our God. (repeat)

God our Savior. God our healer. God our deliverer.
Yes God is Yes God is!
Every Praise...

“Here I am to Worship” Michael Smith
Voices of Emmanuel

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

Pastoral Prayer Barbara Thomas

Epistle lesson Ephesians 3:14-21 Kevin Edwards-Knight

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in
heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his
glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with
power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through
faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have
the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length
and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge,
so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish
abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the
church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

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

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

Litany of Departure for Barbara Thomas

Jeff Edwards-Knight

One: Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, and new opportunities. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we share this time of farewell with our Minister of Church and Family Life, Barbara Thomas, who is leaving to serve as the Director of the Dove's Nest.

Barbara: I thank Holy Covenant United Church of Christ, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me this last year. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

ALL: We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to serve elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

Barbara: I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

One: Do you Holy Covenant offer your encouragement for Barbara's new ministry?

ALL: We do, with the help of God.

One: Do you, Barbara Thomas, release Holy Covenant from turning to you and depending on you?

Barbara: I do, with the help of God

One: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here and on the relationship with others who will come to serve?

Barbara: I do, with the help of God.

Expressing our Gratitude

Jeff Edwards-Knight

Gift in Song

"The Lord Strong and Mighty"

Dr. M. Douroux of the GMWA

Shaaston Lee, soloist, Voices of Emmanuel

* Benediction

Barbara Thomas

* Benediction Response “How Great is our God”

by Chris Tomlin

ϕ How great is our God, Sing with me, How great is our God,
All will see, How great, How great is our God.
King above all kings, Worthy to be Praised.
How Great, How great is our God

Postlude

Ann Robinson

No matter who you are
or where you are on your 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. 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.

CELEBRATING OUR OPEN & AFFIRMING IDENTITY

In 1999, just months before his retirement, Dr. Randall Mishoe, led the congregation through the discernment process of welcoming persons of all sexual orientations and identities into our congregation and leadership. It changed the trajectory of our congregation as we welcomed LGBTQ families and individuals as well as straight allies seeking an inclusive community. Congratulations HCUC for your courage nineteen years ago!

MUSICIANS TODAY

We are honored to welcome guest musicians and choir, Voices of Emmanuel, from New Emmanuel Congregational UCC, Rev. Barbara's home church. We are grateful for their leadership and sharing of music with us today. Special thanks to choir director Cecelia Lee and pianist Ann Robinson.

SPECIAL OFFERING CHRISTMAS IN JULY - TODAY!

\$1000 Challenge Gift! One of our members has offered to match every gift up to \$1000 for this offering. Let's go over \$2000!

Today we receive the UCC Christmas Fund offering to show appreciation for the many pastors who have helped carry our burdens and the students who are entering ministry. This is the one time we are asked to match our appreciation with our resources for those who serve the church. Please memo your offering **UCC Christmas Fund**.

SAYING GOODBYE TO BARBARA

Barbara Thomas, our Minister for Church and Family Life has accepted a fulltime position at Dove's Nest. We are grateful for her ministry among us

and we will have a reception for her following worship. Rather than collecting a "Love Offering" for her, Barbara has asked that we serve as a "sponsor" of Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk. Checks may be made out to Holy Covenant with "CROP Walk" in the donation line and this would be a tax deductible contribution.

GREENFAITH MEETING AUGUST 5

Rev. Amy Brooks, green-circle organizer, will be meeting with us following worship to share the GreenFaith initiative that is beginning in the Charlotte area. GreenFaith initiatives bring people together from different congregations and communities at the local level to address environmental concerns.

REFRESHMENTS FOR FELLOWSHIP

Thank you to all who provide snacks after worship, part of providing our extravagant welcome! To help keep us organized, we are now using an electronic signup for volunteers called **SignUpGenius**.

<https://tinyurl.com/hcuccsnacks>

YOGA4ALL AT HOLY COVENANT TAKES SUMMER BREAK

We will suspend yoga until after Labor Day and will announce the date to resume. Namaste

HCUCC BOOK CLUB

August 8 - The Sense of an Ending by *Julian Barnes* (and if you have the time - Our Souls at Night by *Kent Haruf*) discussion leader Sue Pascucci
September 12- Pachinko by *Min Jin Lee* discussion leader Barbara Schneller

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 10:30 at SouthPark Christian Church, 6650 Park South Drive, Charlotte. Please join us for thoughtful, lively discussions.

SOJOURNERS CLASS - NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sojourners have begun a three-month Bible study of Acts, led by our own Barb Schneller. On the last Sunday of each month, we'll continue the Bart Ehrman video series *How Jesus Became God*. All are welcome to attend at 9:45 in the Conference Room, and no preparation is necessary.

CHARLOTTE PRIDE'S ANNUAL INTERFAITH SERVICE, AUGUST 12

St. John's Baptist Church, 300 Hawthorne Lane, Charlotte, 4PM with a reception following.

CHARLOTTE PRIDE, AUGUST 18 & 19

HCUCC BOOTH DOWNTOWN SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Can you help with the HCUCC booth? Look for the signup sheet in the Gathering Room.

YES! IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME!

The stores are beginning to stock cute backpacks and lots of notebooks which means the start of school, **August 27 for CMS**, is close at hand. We will be providing "extras" for David Cox Elementary School again this year. Bring your notebooks, backpacks, markers, crayons, pencils and paper with you to church and help make the start of school even happier for kids who can go home excited about their new teacher and their new supplies.

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

Elder for July: Michael Baldonado,
michaelbaldonado@hotmail.com or 502-541-5957

Deacons for July: Sally Duffy, Cheryl Milam

Greeters: Aida Marcial, Donna Collins

Ushers: JP Griffin, Kevin Edwards Knight, Tom Magraw, Shakti Subramanian

Acolyte: Riley Long

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Debbie Davis, Terry Raley Dennis

Refreshments: Hospitality

Recyclers: Eileen Howe

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Caroline Utz and family in the death of her husband, Don
Susan Bennett Stiles, Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Kevin
Decker, Linn Finger, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Irene Mikkelson, Melissa
Noll, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Ed Sharp

Friends & Family Members

Family & Friends of Caroline Wallace (Jeff Edwards Knight)
Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Logan Bayes, Caryn Capps, Baby Girl Cregan
(Barb Schneller), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Bill Funderburk, Caroline
Herdle (Beth Sharp), George & Judy Jongeling (Darline Warren), Beth
Poyer Meyer, Joe Robinson (Bill & Kim Tyler), Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-
Dennis), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Beckye Neese Smith (Diane
Neese), Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Gary &
Wanda Gilbert West (John Rapp)

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Nancy Ellett Allison, Ph.D., Pastor

Rev. Barbara Thomas, Minister for Church & Family Life

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant

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