



Silent Meditation

"Hang on to your hat. Hang on to your hope.
And wind the clock, for tomorrow is another day."
- E.B. White

"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible;
and suddenly you're doing the impossible."
- Francis of Assisi

"People say, what is the sense of our small effort? They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time. A pebble cast into a pond causes ripples that spread in all directions. Each one of our thoughts, words and deeds is like that. No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There is too much work to do."
- Dorothy Day

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

August 23, 2020, 10:55 AM

Gathering Music “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service” arr. Mark Sedio
(TUNE: BEACH SPRING)

Welcome and Announcements Fred Robinson
and Offertory Invitation

One: May the Spirit of the Living Christ be with you all!
Many: **And also with you.**

Introit “As We Gather” M. Fay/T. Coomes

**As we gather, may your Spirit work within us.
As we gather, may we glorify your name.
Knowing well that as our hearts begin to worship,
We’ll be blessed because we came, O Lord;
We’ll be blessed because we came.**

* Call to Worship Laura Hankins

One: Do you not know? Have you not heard?

All: **God is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth.**

One: God will not grow tired or weary.

All: **And God’s understanding no one can fathom.**

One: God gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

All: **Even youths grow tired and weary, and young people stumble and fall.**

One: But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

All: **They will soar on wings like eagles;**

One: They will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.

All: **So let us praise God together today.**

Hymn 565

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

Austrian Hymn

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Gifted by you, we turn to you offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for serving, that your will on earth be done:
All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the Church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

Pastoral Prayer

Fred Robinson

Children's Message

Cheri Dennis

Prayer for Illumination (*sung*)

SANCTUARY

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

Hebrew Scripture

Psalm 124

Laura Hankins

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side
—let Israel now say—
if it had not been the Lord who was on our side,
when our enemies attacked us,
then they would have swallowed us up alive,
when their anger was kindled against us;
then the flood would have swept us away,
the torrent would have gone over us;
then over us would have gone
the raging waters.
Blessed be the Lord,
who has not given us
as prey to their teeth.

We have escaped like a bird
from the snare of the fowlers;
the snare is broken,
and we have escaped.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

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

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

Song

“Have Mercy on Me”

G. Gustafson

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love.
According to your great compassion, blot out my transgressions.
Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love.
Wash away my iniquity; cleanse me from my sin. (2x)

Gospel Scripture **Mark 16: 1-4** **Fred Robinson**
When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?’ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.

One: May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church
Many: Thanks be to God. Open our ears, our hearts, our minds.

Gift in Song **“I am Thine, O Lord”** **Felicia Robinson**

Sermon **“Don’t Let the Stone Stop You”** **Fred Robinson**

Hymn 423 **“Great Is Your Faithfulness”** **FAITHFULNESS**
Great is your faithfulness, O God Creator
With you no shadow of turning we see.
You do not change, your compassions they fail not;
All of your goodness forever will be.

Refrain:

Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed your hand has provided,
Great is your faithfulness, God unto me.

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To your great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (Refrain)

Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring,
Your own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside. (Refrain)

Benediction

Fred Robinson

Benediction Response “Come! Live in the Light!”

WE ARE CALLED

We are called to act with justice;

We are called to love tenderly;

We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Postlude

“Make Me a Servant”

Kelly Willard

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

THIS IS GOD'S HOUSE WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

TRANSITION TEAM NEEDS YOUR PARTICIPATION TODAY! 1PM

Join this Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81231487463?pwd=d0ZpcVZsWkdWeWI4WWVsM2VVaXFUUT09>

YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED! During the meeting, we will be working together to develop a self-image of Holy Covenant that is based on something other than current reality. This time will be for us to begin redefining Holy Covenant's sense of purpose and direction by determining what distinguishes Holy Covenant from other churches and organizations in the Charlotte, NC area.

Core values are those values which Holy Covenant will never compromise and is willing to pay a price to uphold. Many of you provided some core values when you completed the Mission and Vision questionnaire. You can review the responses using the following link:

[Your Core Values](#)

The Mission Statement grows out of the core values. It is the broad overarching purpose for the church's existence. It establishes why the work is done and is always just beyond our grasp. You can review the responses using the following link:

[Your Purpose \(Mission\)](#)

The Vision Statement is what Holy Covenant will look like in one to three years. It defines the key results to be achieved and describes the kind of behaviors Holy Covenant must display to be successful. You can review the responses using the following link:

[Your Vision](#)



A Ministry Plan describes the path by which Holy Covenant intends to reach its vision. It determines how things will be accomplished and includes resource priorities, organization structure and what issues get daily organizational attention.

Thank you for your participation! We look forward to seeing you virtually on Sunday.

Join this Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81231487463?pwd=d0ZpcVZsWkdWeWI4WWVsM2VVaXFUUT09>

Meeting ID: 812 3148 7463

Passcode: 282600

Your Transition Team

UPDATE TO THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

July 7, 2020

Dear Holy Covenant United Church of Christ community:

To say that this time of quarantine has been hard on all of us is an understatement. As a Church, we miss worshiping and having fellowship together. We want to get back to church! Our thought is we will get back to in-person worship once it is healthy and safe for you, our members. Even before stay at home directives were issued Holy Covenant called together a Pandemic Response Team. Our Consistory and the Pandemic Response Team have concluded that it is NOT yet time to return to in-person worship.

Our decision is based on the following reasons:

- Social distancing of at least 6 feet is recommended. This means the sanctuary will hold many fewer attendees than pre-COVID-19.
- Singing can project an airborne spray of tiny droplets that: travel farther than 6 feet and hang in the air longer than the droplets resulting from talking in a normal voice. So we would not be able to sing as a congregation or assemble a choir although we will certainly provide music.
- Wearing masks will be necessary, even after the Governor's order expires, because we have many in our community who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19, given underlying medical conditions and age.
- Entering and leaving the building will have to be monitored in order to help keep social distancing during the process.
- Children are not apt to be true to social distancing. There can be no hugging, even in the parking lot, except by family members living together.
- If we reconvene while only 25 people are allowed in the building, and we have two pastors, a musician, and a sound system operator, that limits attendees to 21. No one wants to be the one standing at the door telling the 22nd person who arrived that they cannot come in.

It is our responsibility as a church to ensure health and safety. While we are committed to getting back to in-person worship as soon as reasonably possible, as you can see, that time is not now based on the limitations listed above.

Enjoy our streaming services through the summer. Even after we restart in-person worship we will continue to offer virtual activities such as live streaming worship and Zoom meetings (e.g. Sojourners' Class). We will provide an update around Labor Day regarding when we will have the opportunity to worship in person again.

Sincerely,

Fred Robinson, Interim Senior Pastor
Fredrick@HolyCovenantUCC.org

Tom Magraw, Consistory President
TomM@HolyCovenantUCC.org

Join us live Sundays in worship at 10:55am

<http://holycovenantucc.org/virtual-hc/>

Out of an abundance of caution for everyone's safety and wellbeing, today's live stream is composed of pre-recorded service elements.

Thanks to Brian Hankins for editing and compiling the elements into a cohesive worship experience.

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

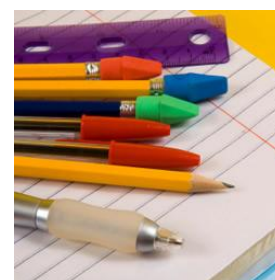
Lisa Cloninger, Brian Hankins, Dorrie Hankins, Henry Hankins,
Laura Hankins, Felecia Robinson, Kathleen Smith

MICHAEL G. BROOKS SCHOLARSHIP CHANGE IN CRITERIA - DUE TODAY

Due to exceptional circumstances this year, the criterion for the Brooks Scholarship has changed. This year, the scholarship is open to both undergraduate and graduate students. Please contact the office for an application at office@holycovenantucc.org. The application deadline is TODAY Aug. 23, 2020.

BACK TO SCHOOL TIME!

For any students in Mecklenburg County, Monday, August 17 was the first day of school. CMS and many charter schools are offering online learning. Some other districts are offering a mixture of online and in person classes. This creates many challenges, especially for students with special needs, one-income families, and those who are housing insecure. Online education also places an additional burden on employed parents. While working remotely, parents are expected to also be available to supervise remote learning, without missing a beat at work. For many families the work-life boundary has been obliterated. Essential workers still require safe, affordable child care.



A number of community partners are working to summarize and address community needs. How can Holy Covenant help? Several groups are recruiting online volunteer math and reading tutors. Another option is to support teacher or school supply lists. QEdConnect has created a very thorough website with a list of volunteer opportunities, as well as options for parents and learning pods to network. <https://www.qcedconnect.com>

I encourage you to prayerfully consider how you might help even one student or family during this time.

Laura Hankins

BACK TO SCHOOL

LINK YOUR HARRIS TEETER VIC CARD NOW!

When you shop Harris Teeter brands, a percentage of your purchase is donated to the school that your VIC card is linked to. There are NO LIMITS to how much a school can earn. Help the HT "Together in Education" program. Get connected today! VIC cards must be linked each year.



OTHER WAYS TO GET AND/OR GIVE SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

- Classroom Central has a number of remote volunteer opportunities. <https://classroomcentral.org/remote-volunteer-opportunities/>
- Spread the word with families to fill out the free and reduced application form found [here](#). Students who qualify will get five lunches and breakfasts FREE each week.
- Contribute to the fund to provide meals through the CMS Foundation. <https://cms-foundation.org/donate>
- Spread the word that children new to CMS need to be enrolled as soon as possible. Families are urged NOT to wait until school starts next week to enrol.
- CMS is providing iPads (for the youngest students) or Chromebooks for all students and will also provide a free hotspot if needed. Share the word that if families need a hotspot, they should inform their school. If they still have a hotspot from the Spring, it should still work for now but may need to be "reloaded" at some point in the semester.
- You can also designate a gift to the CMS Foundation to support hotspots. <https://cms-foundation.org/donate>
- Become a volunteer reading tutor through Read Charlotte. <https://www.readcharlotte.org/HELPS/>
- If you can do insulation or drywall QC Family Tree could use help getting space ready for the Tiny School they are hosting. Email Mady McColm at madymccolm@gmail.com.
- Refugee Support Services is collecting used laptops to be reconfigured by E2D and given back to our Fruitful Friend Mentors to teach the adults in families about Digital Literacy. Laptops can be dropped off in the back parking lot of the Galilee Center (3601 Central Ave.) on Wednesday morning from 8:30am-9:30am.
- Lift up teachers, staff, administrators, students, families in prayer.

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM

Due to a change in Pastor Fred's schedule, Bible Study will now resume Wednesday, September 2. The new link for this class is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81830620353?pwd=QUNmS0dMdEV5K1BRd2VmMWpFQlIIVQT09>

Lead by Pastor Fred Robinson, Fredrick@holycovenantucc.org.

SOJOURNERS CLASS -NOT YOUR TYPICAL BIBLE STUDY

All are invited to join the Sojourners Class on Sunday mornings at 9:45 am via Zoom. We are currently discussing *Revolution of Values* by Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove. Questions, contact Cheri Dennis at cherid@holycovenantucc.org.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87673409762?pwd=VnVGZDNTOEtycnoycWJ6RTVktjF4UT09>

Meeting ID: 876 7340 9762

Passcode: 523903

RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN

If any Holy Covenant families or friends are interested in receiving supplemental materials and activities for children, please contact Laura Allison at Education@holycovenantucc.org.



WISE Presents "COUPLES IN QUARANTINE" AUGUST 27

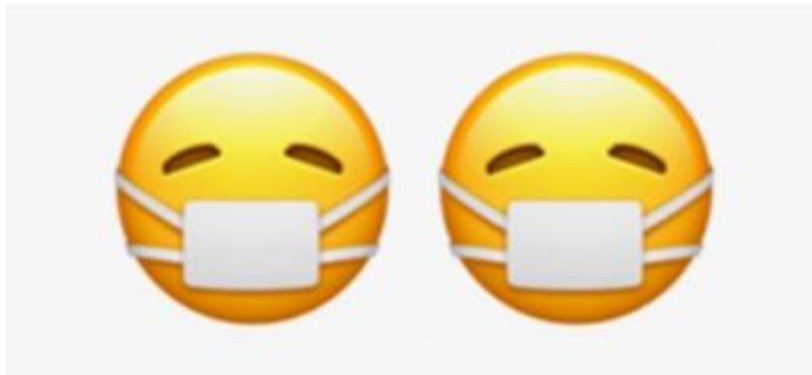
Please join us for our next WISE presentation on Thursday, August 27, 2020 from 7-8 p.m. Mike Yonkovic, Ph.D. will speak on "Couples in Quarantine: Quick Comments on this Unique Quandary." How is it going? Let's talk about what happens when lovmates spend ALL their time together. Sign up in advance appreciated by not required - Tom Magraw, tmagraw@aol.com.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88514044498?pwd=SXVCVW9lSms0aWpCUDRuWm9rR09VZz09>

Meeting ID: 885 1404 4498

Passcode: 041013



LOOKING FOR A GOOD BOOK?

On July 19, we received a powerful sermon on "The Audacity to Hope." Check it out on the church website if you missed it. If you'd like to read more about hope, here are some thought-provoking books:

The Impossible Will Take a Little While: A Citizen's Guide to Hope in a Time of Fear by Paul Rogat Loeb

Hope in the Dark: Untold Histories, Wild Possibilities by Rebecca Solnit

Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in Without Going Crazy by Joanna Macy



ABSENTEE BALLOTS

The nonpartisan [League of Women Voters](#) is encouraging everyone to request a mail-in Absentee ballot now for the November election. Any registered voter may request and receive a mail-in absentee ballot - no excuse is needed.

Mail, deliver or email or fax your request today - here's the [form](#) and a list of the mailing addresses for county offices.

In Mecklenburg County: Send the completed Absentee Ballot Request form to Mecklenburg Board of Elections at PO Box 31788 Charlotte, NC 28231 -1788, or email it to absentee@mecklenburgcountync.gov or fax your request to 704-319-9722.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Cindy Coble, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Tom & Kathy Habel, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Rick & Cheryl Milam, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Terry Raley-Dennis, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Pastor Fred Robinson and family, Daniel, Kyra and Jordan, Jerry & Marion Rhyne, Yvette Stewart-Ross, Mamie Stokes, Anita Taylor

Friends & Family Members

Tom & Dianne Bayes in the death of Dianne's father, William Lorenz
David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Will Hong (Jim Hong), George Jongeling (Darline Warren), Bob Lyon (Melissa Noll), Robert Marcial (Aida Marcial), Thibault Ossenbühl (Melissa Noll), Mike Reynard & Linda Matkins (Robert Shepherd), Roshani Parikh (Nishi Griffin), Eileen Perry & family (Ed & Beth Sharp), Darrell & Jackie Reichert (Diane Neese), Renee & Aiden Rohn (Debbie Davis), Gene Sullivan (Jason Sullivan), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Wanda Williams (John Rapp)

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Fred Robinson, Interim Pastor

fredrick@holycovenantucc.org

Mrs. Cheri Dennis, Interim Associate Pastor

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Mr. Jon Weddell, M. Div., Minister of Music

jon@holycovenantucc.org

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