



Silent Meditation

"A protest against injustice and violence is incomparably more valuable if it comes entirely from people who have been prompted to it purely by sentiments of humanity and a love of justice."

— Albert Einstein

"I traveled to faith— learning to trust the righteousness of God in spite of trouble and injustice; learning to trust women of many colors regardless of sexism, racism, classism and homophobia in our society; learning to believe in the sanctuary power of family defined in many ways in addition to nuclear; discovering love in a variety of forms that heal, but also believing serious political action is absolutely necessary for justice to prevail in the world."

— Delores S. Williams

"Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred."

— Martin Luther King Jr.

**All our meals and all our living make us sacraments of you,
That by caring, helping, giving, we may be disciples true.
Alleluia! Alleluia! We may serve with faith anew.**

Children's Message

Cheri Dennis

Pastoral Prayer

Fred Robinson

Prayer for Illumination (sung)

THY WORD

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Hebrew Scripture Reading

Psalm 149

Cheri Dennis

Praise the Lord!

Sing to the Lord a new song,

his praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Let Israel be glad in its Maker;

let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.

Let them praise his name with dancing,

making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.

For the Lord takes pleasure in his people;

he adorns the humble with victory.

Let the faithful exult in glory;

let them sing for joy on their couches.

Let the high praises of God be in their throats

and two-edged swords in their hands,

to execute vengeance on the nations

and punishment on the peoples,

to bind their kings with fetters

and their nobles with chains of iron,

to execute on them the judgment decreed.

This is glory for all his faithful ones.

Praise the Lord!

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

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

Gospel Scripture

Romans 13:8-14

Fred Robinson

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

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

Sermon

"It's All about Love"

Fred Robinson

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Preparation for Communion: Remembering Times Together

"Seed, Scattered and Sown"

***Seed, scattered and sown; wheat, gathered and grown;
Bread, broken and shared as one, the living bread of God.***

***Vine, fruit of the land; wine, work of our hands;
One cup that is shared by all, the living cup, the living bread of God.***

Is not the bread we break a sharing in our Lord?
Is not the cup we bless the blood of Christ outpoured?

The seed which falls on rock will wither and will die.
The seed within good ground will flower and have life.

As wheat upon the hills was gathered and was grown,
So may the church of God be gathered into one.

Words of Invitation

Fred Robinson

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn

“We Are Your People”

WHITFIELD

**We are your people: God, by your grace,
You dare to make us Christ to our neighbors
Of every nation and race.**

**Called to portray you, help us to live
Closer than neighbors, open to strangers,
Able to clash and forgive.**

**Glad of tradition, help us to see
In all life’s changing where you are leading,
Where our best efforts should be.**

**Joined in community, breaking your bread,
May we discover gifts in each other,
Willing to lead and be led.**

**God, as we minister in different ways,
May all we’re doing show that you’re living,
Meeting your love with our praise.**

Benediction

Fred Robinson

Benediction Response

“Make Me a Servant”

K. Willard

**Make me a servant, humble and meek,
God, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today.**

Postlude

UNION SEMINARY

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

THIS IS GOD'S HOUSE WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

UPDATE TO THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

September 4, 2020

Dear Holy Covenant United Church of Christ community:

We very much look forward to being together in worship but, in good conscious, we can only take that step when we can do so safely. We miss worshiping and having fellowship together as a congregation. Quarantine has been hard on all of us. In the meantime, the COVID-19 Response Team has been thinking creatively about some outdoor gatherings such as a Vesper Service and a parking lot picnic. We will revisit these ideas when the Governor of North Carolina moves us to Phase 3 at which time more people will be allowed to gather. However, we have concluded that it is NOT yet time to return to in-person worship and will reassess that decision around Thanksgiving.

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. This means not being 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 this fall. 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, Bible Study and our periodic WISE meetings). We will provide an update before Thanksgiving regarding how we will celebrate Advent, what the New Year will look like, and 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/>

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

Lisa Cloninger, Bridget Green, Brian Hankins, Henry Hankins,
Laura Hankins, Kathleen Smith

PLEASE JOIN US SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2020 AT 3PM IN A VIRTUAL ORDINATION FOR CHERI U. DENNIS.

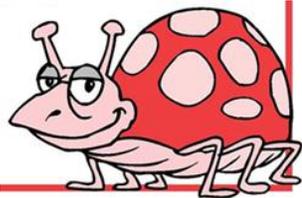
One portion of an ordination service is the "Laying on of Hands" calling on the Holy Spirit to fill to the person being ordained with the gifts needed for her ministry. Cheri invites all of you to participate in this. Click here for a [Holy Hands](#) template to print out. Decorate it however you wish. Email it to the church office (office@holycovenantucc.org) or mail it to the church. If you don't have a printer, trace your own hand to use.



Please connect with this joyous event via the church live streaming, HolyCovenantUCC.org/virtual-hc

REACH THE PASTOR

During this pandemic, Pastor Fred still keeps office hours. Although setting up an appointment to meet me in the office is not a possibility at this time, you can still arrange a meeting with me through Zoom or a regular phone call. I invite you to reach out if you have questions, just want to chat, catch up or to discuss a personal matter. If you wish to meet via Zoom, contact the church at 704-599-9810 and a meeting will be arranged. Or if you wish to reach me by phone, call 770-344-8002. The same goes for Pastor Cheri. Her contact number is 704-519-6016 and a Zoom meeting can be arranged with her as well.



SAVE THE DATE - VACCINE CLINIC AT HCUCC

Sunday October 25 & Tuesday October 27

Church member Aline Sullivan (BS, PharmD, R. Ph) will be offering a drive through clinic with various vaccinations as they are available, i.e. seasonal flu, tetanus, and shingles. Please watch for our signup as we get closer to the date for the specifics. Drive through, and wave to your friends!

DIAPER DISTRIBUTION MINISTRY

Our involvement in the Migrant Assistance Program has morphed from the Greyhound Bus Ministry of 2019 into the COVID Diaper Distribution Ministry of 2020. The coalition has been trying to deliver diapers to home-bound asylum-seeking families here in Charlotte. Our Missions and Justice team at Holy Covenant has accepted the challenge of delivering diapers every month for 30 families from September to the end of the year. Thank you to each of you who have contributed! Along with the



generosity of neighboring churches, we're over half way to supporting this mission into December. Donations, in any amount, can be designated by visiting <https://www.holycovenantucc.org/give-2/> and choosing Diaper Distribution Ministry under the Designated Gifts Fund.

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS AT 12:15PM

We are delighted we have resumed our weekly Bible Study through the [Book of Acts](#) this past Wednesday at 12:15 p.m.

This coming Wednesday at 12:15 p.m we will pick up at Acts 6:8-15 as we discuss the story and stoning of Stephen. What was the accusation against Stephen? Why were they so angry? How does this story speak to us today? Hope to see you there.

Pastor Fred

The new link for this class is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81830620353?pwd=QUNmS0dMdEV5K1BRd2VmMWpFQIIVQT09>

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



SOJOURNERS CLASS - NOT YOUR TYPICAL BIBLE STUDY SUNDAYS AT 9:45AM

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.



WAYS TO GET AND/OR GIVE SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

- <https://www.wfae.org/post/charlotte-talks-digital-divide-existed-covid-19-now-its-crisis-level>
- 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.



ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Your request for an absentee ballot must be **RECEIVED** by your county Board of Elections office no later than 5:00pm on (the Tuesday before the election), Tuesday, October 27th.

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.

To our Holy Covenant Family,

Dickie Lamm and Micheal Hall are excited to announce that a new chapter in their lives is about to unfold. Dickie has accepted a teaching position in Wiesbaden, Germany and they will be leaving around the end of September to begin this new and exciting experience. Although leaving Charlotte brings with it many bittersweet emotions, working and living in Europe has been a dream of theirs for many years. Through his work with the Department of Defense Education Activity, Dickie was offered this opportunity overseas and after MANY hours of conversation and prayers, Dickie and Micheal decided to take advantage of the opportunity to fulfill the longtime wish. Micheal will be taking an extended leave of absence from his position with American Airlines and will be traveling between Germany and Charlotte to maintain their home here. Dickie and Micheal send their grateful appreciation to the church family and community knowing that the support, friendship, and love that have been shared with them will provide cherished memories and long lasting friendships in the days and years to come.

Please keep Dickie and Micheal in prayer during this next chapter in their lives!

If you wish to add someone to the list, please send a note to
prayers@holycovenantucc.org.

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, 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
Gretchen & Chris Calder (Martha Bomely) in the death of their son, Evan
Robert Marcial (Aida Marcial), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Will Hong (Jim Hong), George Jongeling (Darline Warren), Pat Judd (Will Judd), Bob Lyon (Melissa Noll), Thibault Ossenbühl (Melissa Noll), Roshani Parikh (Nishi Griffin), Vernon & Andrea Powell (Robert Shepherd), Darrell & Jackie Reichert, Jeff (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
cherid@holycovenantucc.org

Mr. Jon Weddell, M. Div., Minister of Music
jon@holycovenantucc.org

Mrs. Dawn Simmons, Executive Assistant
office@holycovenantucc.org

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