

# Holy Covenant

## United Church of Christ

*transforming faith*  
HOLY COVENANT UCC



*We Are the Church*



## Silent Meditation

“Sometimes we think we have to do something grand and heroic to ‘count’ as serving our neighbors. Yet simple acts of service can have profound effects on others — as well as on ourselves. What did the Savior do? Through His supernal gifts of the Atonement and Resurrection . . . ‘none other has had so profound an influence (on) all who have lived and who will yet live upon the earth.’ But He also smiled at, talked with, walked with, listened to, made time for, encouraged, taught, fed, and forgave. He served family and friends, neighbors and strangers alike, and He invited acquaintances and loved ones to enjoy the rich blessings of His gospel. Those simple acts of service and love provide a template for our ministering today. As you have the privilege to represent the Savior in your ministering efforts, ask yourself, ‘How can I share the light of the gospel with this individual or family? What is the Spirit inspiring me to do?’ Ministering can be done in a great variety of individualized ways.”

—Jean B. Bingham

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
WORSHIP & ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY

November 15, 2020

Prelude "The Lord's My Shepherd" arr. S. Nielson

Welcome and Announcements Fred Robinson

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

Introit GATHER US IN

Gather us in and hold us forever;  
Gather us in and make us your own;  
Gather us in, all peoples together,  
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Worship Report *(Reference 2020 Annual Report for full report, pp.19-20)* Kathleen Smith

Endowment Report *(pp.27-29)* Cheri Lovell

\* Call to Worship Cheri Dennis

One: Our journey begins with the call from God;

Many: A call to love God, neighbors, enemies, the last and the least.

One: Our journey begins with the guiding lamp of God's Word.

Many: Our journey begins in blessing:

One: "If God reveals anything to you by any other instrument of His, be as ready to receive it as you were to receive any truth by my ministry, for I am verily persuaded the Lord hath more truth yet to break forth out of His Holy Word." *(The words of Pastor John Robinson as the Pilgrims set sail for the New World)*

Many: Our journey begins with the call from God;

One: A call to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with the Living One.

Many: Our journey begins in the midst of new dimensions;

One: As we listen to hear the voice of God who is still speaking!

All: Our journey begins and we are not alone!

**You are salt for the earth, O people: salt for the reign of God!  
Share the flavor of life, O people: life in the City of God!**

*Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;  
Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!*

**You are a seed of the Word, O people: bring forth the reign of God!  
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice grow in the City of God! (R)**

**We are a blessed and a pilgrim people: bound for the reign of God!  
Love our journey and love our homeland: love is the City of God! (R)**

Children’s Message

Cheri Dennis

Associate Pastor’s Report (p. 12)

Cheri Dennis

Buildings and Grounds Report (pp.22-25)

Holly Middleton

Prayers of the People

Fred Robinson

Missions & Justice Report (pp.16-17)

Lloyd & Gussie Spencer

Prayer for Illumination (*sung*)

LIVING GOD

**Spirit of the living God fall fresh on me,  
Spirit of the living God fall fresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me;  
Spirit of the living God fall fresh on me.**

Epistle Lesson

Philippians 3:4b-14

Fred Robinson

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I

want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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 & Pastor's Report (pp. 8-11) "Keep Pressing On" Fred Robinson

Hymn "Higher Ground" HIGHER GROUND

I'm pressing on the upward way, new heights I'm gaining every day—  
Still praying as I'm onward bound,  
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

*Lord, lift me up and let me stand by faith on heaven's table-land;  
A higher plane than I have found—Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.*

My heart has no desire to stay where doubts arise and fears dismay;  
Though some may dwell where these abound,  
My prayer, my aim is higher ground. (R)

I want to scale the utmost height and catch a gleam of glory bright;  
But still I'll pray till heaven I've found,  
"Lord, lead me on to higher ground." (R)

**\*\*\*FOLLOWING A SHORT BREAK, PLEASE JOIN US ON ZOOM FOR THE BUSINESS PART OF OUR MEETING. MEMBERS, YOUR VIRTUAL PRESENCE ARE NEEDED TO ESTABLISH A QUORUM, AND REMEMBER --- YOUR VOTE COUNTS! \*\*\***

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87671287211?pwd=SkN2TXQzYWQ2ajFZUDdhN2w5dFN0Zz09>

Those wishing to call in at Noon on November 15:  
Dial: 1- 929-205-6099 and enter  
Meeting ID: 876 7128 7211  
Passcode: 418491

## HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ANNUAL MEETING

Call to Order

Consistory President, Tom Magraw

Transition Team Report

Dawn Schmitz

Establishment of Quorum - Quorum requirement of 51

Approval of 2019 Minutes

President's Report (p. 7)

Tom Magraw

Nominations for Consistory Class of 2023 (p.13-14)

Jeff Edwards-Knight

Elder Nominees: Laura Hankins, Terrance Hayes

Deacon Nominees: Martha Bomely, Alix Felsing, Dawn Robinson

Budget & Finance Report (pp.31-34)

Debbie Davis

2020 Highlights, Stewardship, Capital Report, and 2021 Proposed Budget

Racial Justice & Equity Report (p. 10)

Holly Middleton

Thanks giving and giving thanks

Consistory Vice President, Jo Ann Jellison

Acknowledgement of Committees

Adjourn

\* Benediction

Fred Robinson

Postlude

arr. C. Webb

“I’m Goin’ a Sing When the Spirit Says Sing”

*(Songs in this service are used by permission. CCLI License #11439355; CSPL164710)*

No matter who you are  
or where you are on your journey,  
you are welcome here!

## 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](mailto:Fredrick@HolyCovenantUCC.org)

Tom Magraw, Consistory President  
[TomM@HolyCovenantUCC.org](mailto: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:**

Dominic Ciciollo, Lisa Cloninger, Brian Hankins,  
Henry Hankins, Laura Hankins, Kathleen Smith

*Please note new office hours in November and December:  
Tuesday through Friday, 8am-4pm*

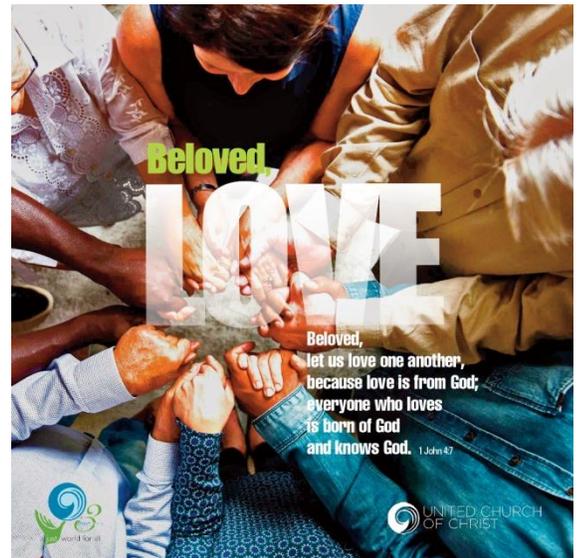
**STEWARDSHIP 2021**

**Beloved, let us love one another... (1 John 4:7)**

We are grateful for all who have already generously pledged towards our 2021 Stewardship campaign. 2021 Pledges received are currently 92% of our General Fund (church ministries and operating expenses) pledge goal and 74% of our Building (Capital Fund towards paying our mortgage) pledge goal.

As our Stewardship campaign comes to a close, please prayerfully consider supporting our church by raising your hand to serve and/or submitting your pledge through email or the church website at [holycovenantucc.org/make-your-pledge-online/](http://holycovenantucc.org/make-your-pledge-online/). With your help, our mission of sharing God's love will continue. Thank you to everyone for sharing your time, talents and treasure.

You may email your pledge to the church office at [office@holycovenantucc.org](mailto:office@holycovenantucc.org), mail the pledge card to the church (see address below), or submit your pledge online through the church website at [holycovenantucc.org/make-your-pledge-online/](http://holycovenantucc.org/make-your-pledge-online/).





International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day is a time for those who have lost someone to suicide to come together for hope, healing and connection. This year's Charlotte/Southern Piedmont event will be held virtually on Saturday, November 21st from 9:30-11:00am. The event includes viewing of a short documentary, hearing from a panel of loss survivors and mental health experts and more. This event is FREE.

All participants must register ahead of time to receive the Zoom information.

Here's the registration link:

<https://isosld.afsp.org/charlotte-southern-piedmont/>

### **CONFIRM NOT CONFORM: A DISCUSSION GROUP FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

Calling all 6th through 10th graders!! Hear ye, hear ye, parents and grandparents! The next Confirmation class via Zoom will be Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 7 PM. They will continue every other week. Kids do not have to be regular attenders at Holy Covenant. We hope this will be a supportive discussion group. [Click here](#) for more information and a sharable invitation.

Contact Jo Ann Jellison at [joannjellison@yahoo.com](mailto:joannjellison@yahoo.com) or 804-937-1180.

### **MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS AT 12:15PM**

All are welcomed to join our weekly Bible Study through the [Book of Acts](#).

We will continue in chapter 10 as we look at the spread of the gospel to the Gentiles. This is a picture of God's radical inclusiveness. In what ways are we called to express God's love and spirit of inclusiveness to our neighbors today? Join us for the discussion.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81830620353?pwd=QUNmS0dMdEV5K1BRd2VmMWpFQlIiVQT09>

Lead by Pastor Fred Robinson, [Fredrick@holycovenantucc.org](mailto:Fredrick@holycovenantucc.org).



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

Come join us via Zoom at 9:45 on Sunday morning for our Sojourners Class. For the next four weeks we'll be taking a look at the book of Ezekiel from the Hebrew Scriptures. Ezekiel was a prophet of God like no other! This coming Sunday we'll explore chapters 33-48. In these chapters, Ezekiel turns his focus to hope - hope for the Hebrew exiles in Babylon, hope that they will return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. [Click here to join](#).

Or use 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](mailto:Education@holycovenantucc.org).



If you wish to add someone to the list, please send a note to  
[prayers@holycovenantucc.org](mailto:prayers@holycovenantucc.org).

### **Members**

Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Tom & Kathy Habel, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Sharon Landis, Karen Long, Von & Melissa McQueen-Simmons, Irene Mikkelson, Rick & Cheryl Milam, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Alice & Sally Phelan-Young, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Jerry & Marion Rhyne, Yvette Stewart-Ross, Mamie Stokes, Anita Taylor, Ed Vickery

### **Friends & Family Members**

Jennifer Funderburk Owens in the death of her husband, and the death of her father.  
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), Michael Morse (Beth & Ed Sharp), Thibault Ossenbühl (Melissa Noll), Nick Pernice (Dawn Simmons), Vernon & Andrea Powell (Robert Shepherd), Kevin & Tracy Reed (Dawn Simmons), Darrell & Jackie Reichert, Jeff (Diane Neese), Lauren Reisenberger (Ida Mangione), Renee & Aiden Rohn (Debbie Davis), John & Marisa Sizemore (Tina Ettesen), Gene Sullivan (Jason Sullivan), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Wanda Williams (John Rapp)

### **REACH THE PASTOR**

During this pandemic, Pastor Fred and Pastor Cheri are keeping office hours, though maybe not at the church. You can arrange a personal meeting through Zoom or a regular phone call. Have questions? Just want to chat, catch up? Discuss a personal matter. Call us! Pastor Fred Robinson, 770-344-8002 or Pastor Cheri Dennis 704-519-6016.

### **OUR MINISTRY TEAM**

**Rev. Fred Robinson, Interim Pastor**  
fredrick@holycovenantucc.org

**Rev. 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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Tuesday through Friday, 8am-4pm*

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