



# Annual Meeting 2021

*Holy Covenant*

*United Church of Christ*

*3501 West W.T. Harris Blvd, Charlotte NC 28269*

*They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season.*

*Psalm 1: 3a*



Rooted in *Love*

HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
WORSHIP & ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY

November 14, 2021

Silent Meditation

"The Christian church doesn't have a social ethic as much as it is a social ethic, called to respond to biblical mandates like truth-telling, confronting injustice and pursuing peace."

~William Sloane Coffin, Jr.

Prelude

Jon Weddell

Welcome and Announcements

Cheri Dennis

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

Introit

"Blessed Be the Tie That Binds"

**Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;**

**The sharing of a common life is like to that above.**

Worship Report

Kathleen Smith

\* Call to Worship

Lisa Cloninger

One: Come into this time of worship by the new and living way in Christ Jesus.

Many: We come with true hearts in full assurance of our faith.

One: Come with joyful expectation.

Many: We gather in full confidence of the gospel's promise.

One: Let us praise God together and open ourselves to the power of the Holy Spirit.

Many: That we may encourage and support each other to love our neighbors as ourselves and to be God's instruments of grace.

All: Let us worship God.

*\* Please take a comfortable posture that supports your worshiping, reading, and singing.*

Here in this place, the new light is streaming,  
shadows of doubt are vanished away:  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings  
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,  
gather us in, our spirits inflame.  
Call to us now and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

### Prayer of Confession

One: Despite our best efforts, O God, we have not always lived as we should. Our own short-sightedness and impatience have led us to make choices based upon our immediate needs over your desires.

**Many: Forgive us for our selfish ways.**

One: Many of the challenges we have faced have evoked fear in us. We have let these fears at times overwhelm our faith and trust in you.

**Many: Forgive us for our lack of faith in you.**

One: We don't always recognize or acknowledge that our reticence to embrace the stranger comes from our own prejudices, O God. When we do not embrace the stranger, we lose the blessings and richness of your beloved community.

**Many: Forgive us for our biases.**

One: We see injustices all around: in the papers, on television, on the web, or walking through our community. Yet we often cannot bring ourselves to speak out or take action against them.

**Many: Forgive us for our silence.**

One: We know you created this world with enough for everyone. Yet, in this land of plenty, people know deprivation.

**Many: Forgive us that we have not done enough to sustain and support the sacredness of the common good. Amen.**

### Words of Assurance

A cord of love binds us to God. God will not allow us to enter Sheol or to see the Pit. We are forgiven and saved by God's love for us. Thanks be to God.

Hymn

“Gather Us In”

GATHER US IN

**We are the young - our lives are a mystery,  
we are the old who yearn for your face.  
We have been sung throughout all of history,  
called to be light to the whole human-race.**

**Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,  
gather us in, the proud and the strong:  
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,  
give us the courage to enter the song.**

Pastoral Prayer

Cheri Dennis

Lord's Prayer (*in unison*)

**Our God, in whom is heaven, blessed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Hymn

“Gather Us In”

GATHER US IN

**Here we receive new life in the waters,  
here we receive the bread of new birth:  
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt for the earth.**

**Give us to drink, the wine of compassion,  
give us to eat the bread that is you:  
nourish us well and teach us to fashion  
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

Hebrew Scripture

Daniel 12:1-3

Lisa Cloninger

At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

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

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

Hymn

“Gather Us In”

GATHER US IN

**Not just in buildings, small and confining,  
not in some heaven light-years away,  
here in this place the new light is shining,  
now is God present, and now is the day.**

**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.**

\* Gospel Reading

Mark 13: 1-8

Cheri Dennis

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!’ Then Jesus asked him, ‘Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.’

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ‘Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?’ Then Jesus began to say to them, ‘Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, “I am he!” and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

**One:** For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us, for the word of God within us.

**Many:** Alleluia! Thanks be to God.

Sermon & Pastor's Report "Context is Everything"

Cheri Dennis

Racial Justice and Equity Team Report

Holly Middleton

WISE Team Report

Laura Hankins

Missions & Justice Team Report

Lloyd Spencer

\* Hymn 181

"You Are Salt for the Earth, O People"

BRING FORTH

**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)**

\*\*\*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! \*\*\*

***Join Zoom Meeting at 12PM:***

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83619680553>**

**Meeting ID: 836 1968 0553**

**One tap mobile**

**+13017158592,,83619680553#**

**Link to the Proposed Budget Summary and Budget Detail:**

**<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1KXfc6aqFMQ7TIRFEpCFS TIIt03WnmmUgB/edit?usp=sharing&oid=102328789745650842877&rtpof=true&sd=true>**

## HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ANNUAL MEETING

Call to Order	Consistory President, JoAnn Jellison
Establishment of Quorum - Quorum requirement of 51	
Approval of 2020 Minutes	
President's Report	Jo Ann Jellison
Pastor Search Team Report	Cheryl Milam
Buildings and Grounds Report	Holly Middleton
Endowment Report	Alix Felsing
Nominations for Consistory Class of 2024	Tom Magraw
Elder Nominees: Kristin Andes, Jeff Edwards-Knight	
Deacon Nominees: Dominic Ciciollo, Dawn Schmitz, Gregg Walker	
Budget & Finance Report	Debbie Davis
2021 Highlights, Stewardship, Capital Report, and 2022 Proposed Budget	
Acknowledgement of Teams	
Adjournment	
* Benediction	Cheri Dennis
Postlude	Jon Weddell

*(Songs in this service are used by permission.  
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Our Faith is over 2000 Years Old. Our thinking is not,

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

### THIS IS GOD'S HOUSE WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

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, Meg Houlihan, Kathleen Smith

### **Stewardship Update**

Many thanks to our October Stewardship speakers who shared why Holy Covenant is important to them in sharing their time, talents and resources to serve others and we are very grateful for all who have pledged towards our 2022 ministries. To date, we have received 54 family General Fund pledges and 36 family Building Fund pledges and we welcome others to join us in pledging to support our 2022 ministries in our community and beyond.

Thank you Holy Covenant for your generosity in meeting our Stewardship goals in planning for 2022 ministries – we are blessed and will be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us for the coming year.

### **Conversations about our congregation's anti-racism journey**

In October, the Racial Justice and Equity team led two highly rated introductory discussions on Black fatigue, which refers to the daily stressors and experience of systemic racism. We want to thank the volunteers and participants who took part and announce another opportunity to participate, scheduled for **Wednesday, 11/17 at 7:00 p.m.**

Attendees will participate in small-group discussions facilitated by members of the Holy Covenant family. Discussions will emphasize listening skills and our goal is to provide a safe place for everyone to listen and be heard, no matter who or where you are on this journey.

Here is the Zoom link to join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88565959976?pwd=Wk9Ca2hMQmJneVNCb0VUZnptT09BUT09>

Contact Holly Middleton at [hsmiddleton@gmail.com](mailto:hsmiddleton@gmail.com) with any questions.

### **CROP Walk 2021 - Thank You Holy Covenant!**

Many thanks to the walkers and generous donors for supporting the effort to alleviate hunger. After all pledges are accounted for, Holy Covenant is sending **\$3,020** to Church World Service. 25% of this will be shared locally between Crisis Assistance Ministries, Loaves and Fishes/Friendship Trays and Second Harvest Food Bank. If you are interested in learning more about Church World Service and their work, go to [www.cwsglobal.org](http://www.cwsglobal.org).

## Mid-Week Bible Study Tuesdays at 12:15 PM

The next discussion will be Chapter 8 of the Book of Romans (please refer to [bible.oremus.org](http://bible.oremus.org)). Join us in the Sojourner's Classroom or on Zoom! [Click to Join Zoom Meeting](#) Meeting ID: 854 9777 9201

## Sojourners Class Sundays at 9:45 AM

The definition of *sojourn* is a *temporary stay*. Come join the Sojourners in our temporary stay in *Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence*, a new book by Diana Butler Bass. Come wonder with us about what Jesus could possibly need to be freed from. After all, didn't Jesus free us from sin and death? This book is available in hardcover, Kindle, & Audible from Amazon. Everyone is welcome to join us in the Conference Room or via Zoom at 9:45 Sunday mornings. Click [here](#) to join the class. Everyone is welcome to join us in the Conference Room or via Zoom at 9:45 Sunday mornings. Click [here](#) to join the class.

## Please Remember in Prayer

### Members

Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Tom & Kathy Habel, Jim Hong, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Jerry & Marion Rhyne, Cynthia Simpson, Mamie Stokes, Anita Taylor

### Friends & Family Members

Family & Friends in the death of Marian Dawson (John Rapp)  
Joyce & Roy, Amanda & Jeremy (Ed Vickery), Martha (Kathleen Wagner), Mary Jo (Kathleen Wagner), Kathy (Basco) Craton (Diane Neese), Nikki Echeverri (Melissa Noll), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Will Hong (Jim Hong), Pat Key (Patti Key), Alec Kirchhoefner (Melissa Noll), Geraldine Mobley (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Michael & Chris Mele-Wagner (Dominic Ciciollo), Robbie Middleton (Holly Middleton & Dawn Schmitz), Robert Plummer (Martha Bomely), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Tim & Shannon Ward (Laura Hankins), Tamber Watson (Jeff Edwards-Knight), Wanda Williams (John Rapp), Steve Zrebeic & Calvin (Jeff Edwards-Knight)

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

### OUR MINISTRY TEAM

**Rev. Cheri Dennis, Interim Pastor**

cherid@holycovenantucc.org, 704-519-6016

**Jon Weddell, M.Div, MSW, Minister of Music**

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**Dawn Simmons, BSBF, Executive Assistant**

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