



Picture by Priscilla Du Preez (Unsplash)

**“Alone we can do so little.
Together we can do so much.”**

– Helen Keller

**“Small things start us in
new ways of thinking.”**

– V.S. Naipaul

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki, MDiv, MBA, Senior Pastor

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Jon Weddell, MDiv, MSW, Minister of Music

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**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
THANKSGIVING SUNDAY & 2023 ANNUAL MEETING**

November 19, 2023, 10:55 am

** Your whole self is welcomed here. Please feel free to take care of your body during worship in ways that work for you.*

Prelude "A Medley of Thanks" arr. K. Keil

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

One: May the grace of our God, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the peace of Christ be with you!

Many: **And also with you.**

Introit "Let All Things Now Living" arr. A. L. Page
Handbell Choir

Worship Team Report Ed Vickery

* Call to the Heart Ed Vickery

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

One: God's community does not exist alone but in union with people and the environment that surrounds it.

Many: **We are bound and united together.**

One: Our awareness can become cloudy, and we do not always recognize the spiritual gifts dwelling within us.

Many: **Move the power of Christ to rise within.**

One: Every so often we pause from our busy lives to gather among kindred hearts and sacred souls.

Many: **The collective wisdom of those gathered guides us.**

One: Meaningful prayers are said, joyful singing is heard, and the word of God fills us again.

Many: **Let our meeting, and the worship through which it occurs, be a divine encounter. A holy encounter. Amen.**

* Hymn 422 “Come, O Thankful People, Come” ST. GEORGE’S WINDSOR
Come, O thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;
All is safely gathered in as the winter storms begin;
God our Maker does provide for our wants to be supplied;
Come to God’s own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

All the blessings of the field, all the stores the gardens yield,
All the fruits in full supply, ripened `neath the summer sky,
All that spring with bounteous hand scatters o’er the smiling land,
All that liberal autumn pours from its rich o’erflowing stores.

These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all blessings flow;
And for these our songs we raise, grateful vows and solemn praise,
Come, then, thankful people come, raise the song of harvest home;
Come to God’s own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

Christian Education

Jo Ann Jellison

Prayer of Transformation & New Life (*unison*)

Jo Ann Jellison

Please join me in a unison prayer of transformation...

Loving God, we confess that life can be hard. We don’t always make the best choices. We are overwhelmed with the enormity of the world’s problems. Through life’s hardships help us to seek wisdom and clarity, compassion and presence. Bless us with the perseverance to be peacemakers, hope sharers, and love spreaders in the world, for both our neighbors and your glory. Amen.

Words of Grace

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Friends, God is merciful and journeys with us as we navigate life’s uncertain terrain. God is at work in us and through us so that we might flourish and have abundant lives in community with one another. Receive the grace God grants each of us to begin anew when our journey stalls or we are diverted from the path of the kin-dom. Life can be hard, but with the grace of God, it’s made just a bit easier. Amen.

Racial Justice & Equity Team Report

Holly Middleton

Hebrew Lesson Isaiah 43:18-21 (NRSV)

Holly Middleton

Our Hebrew lesson for today comes from the Book of Isaiah 43:18-21, where God reminds Israel they will be redeemed and liberated...

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

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

Many: Open our ears, our hearts, our minds.

Christian Lesson 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (NRSV) Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Our Christian lesson for today comes from 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, where Paul writes about how those who have been reconciled to God have become a new people...

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. We are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

Pastor's Report

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

* Hymn 28

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

DIX

For the beauty of the earth,
For the splendor of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies,
God of all, to you we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light,
God of all, to you we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild,
God of all, to you we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the good that love inspires,
For a world where none exclude,
For a faith that never tires,
And for every heart renewed,
God of all, to you we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

Mission & Justice Team Report

Suzanne Lamorey

Endowment Report

Alix Felsing

Invitation to Generosity

Alix Felsing

Now is the time for our ministry of giving and sharing...

God trusts us with the resources necessary for all of us to be well and to have our needs met. The Holy One honors us by inviting us to participate in God’s reign through the generous sharing of our gifts. Let us offer our time, talent, and treasure to the kin-dom of God.

Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

Alix Felsing

Please join me in a unison prayer of dedication for all we will receive...

Generous God, we bring the gifts of ourselves and our abundance. Magnify and multiply these offerings to meet the needs before us. Continue to cultivate the spirit of generosity among us and make us good stewards as we allocate the use of these gifts in your name. Amen.

* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God, all creatures here below!

Praise God, above, you heavenly host,

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen.

*****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 12:15PM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85123020899?pwd=Y2QyMWRmUkZyN0dLTTZGLzVVZ0VqZz09>

Meeting ID: 851 2302 0899

Passcode 545888

One tap mobile +13052241968,,85123020899#,,,,*545888# US

The Proposed Budget Summary and Budget Detail:



***All Church Potluck today following the meeting!
Plan to join us!***

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2023 ANNUAL MEETING**

Call to Order	Consistory President, Jeffery Edwards Knight
Establishment of Quorum - Quorum requirement of 49	
Approval of 2022 Minutes	
President's Report	Jeffery Edwards Knight
Buildings and Grounds Report	Terrence Hayes
Nominations for Consistory Class of 2026	Tom Magraw
Elder Nominees: Joy Decker, Brian Hankins	
Deacon Nominees: Mel Andersen, Cheryl Milam, Shakti Subramanian	
Budget & Finance Report	Martha Bomely & Debbie Davis
2023 Highlights, Stewardship, Capital Report and 2024 Proposed Budget	
Acknowledgement of Teams	Alix Felsing
Adjournment	
* Benediction	Rev. Christopher Czarnecki
* Benediction Response	HALLE, HALLE
Halle, halle, hallelujah! (3x) Hallelujah! Hallelujah!	
Postlude	"Harvest Medley" arr. T. Osman

*Songs in this service are used by permission.
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Parts of the liturgy for today's service were written by Rev. Christopher Czarnecki and adapted from the United church of Christ's Worship Ways.

WE PROVIDE OUR EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME WITH HELP FROM:

D Evans, Brian Hankins, Jo Ann Jellison, Von McQueen-Simmons, Barbara Schneller, Shakti Subramanian

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

Stay connected! Check out all the current happenings in the weekly newsletter via Constant Contact. Not seeing it in your inbox? Sign-up here: <https://holycovenantucc.org/newsletters/>

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP

Do you like talking to interesting people and being helpful? **Greeters and ushers** are needed starting at 10:30 every Sunday. Please sign up in the Gathering Room or at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44ACAD23A2FE3-ushers>.



We welcome all in our congregation to participate in worship leadership.

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DRIVE DURING NOVEMBER

During the month of November, we will be holding a food drive for non-perishable food items. While we have regularly supported food drives for David Cox's Backpack Program and UNC Charlotte's Student Food Pantry, we were recently notified that many of the food programs in our area are having trouble keeping up with the demand. We will hold a general food drive throughout November. At the end of the month, we will divide up all we have collected at Holy Covenant and donate the food items to David Cox Elementary, UNC Charlotte Student Pantry and Loaves & Fishes. Bring in your donated food items and place them on the table in the sanctuary for the food drive.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING MEAL, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Thanksgiving Day at 5:00pm we will be having a community Thanksgiving meal at the church in the gathering room. Turkey, desert, and drinks will be provided and those attending are welcome to bring a side dish to share with others. This meal is open to anyone, especially those who are without family or don't feel like making a big meal for just the few folks in their family. A sign-up sheet is available in the gathering room on the buffet. For questions, please contact the church office at 704-599-9810.

HOLIDAY LOVE OFFERING FOR OUR STAFF

During this joyful time of year, we ask you to consider contributing to a holiday love offering to be divided among our dedicated staff members who work hard to make Holy Covenant a place of welcome, warmth, & spiritual renewal. No gift is too small and all are appreciated. If you choose to give, electronic offerings can be made to Martha Bomely:

Zelle: Martha.bomely@gmail.com, 7048040640; PayPal: Martha.bomely@gmail.com

Venmo: @mbbomely

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

Linda Carver, Gary & Linda Clark, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Tom & Kathy Habel, Jim Humphrey, Carl & Phyllis Johnson, Sharon Landis, Melissa Noll, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Jerry Rhyne, Ed & Beth Sharp, Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Shakti Subramanian, Anita Taylor

Friends & Family Members

Bishop Tonyia Rawls in the death of her wife, Gwendolyn Iris Woodard Rawls Karen & Billy (Kim Tyler), Melissa Brown, Craig Chrismon (Melissa Noll), Jim & Janet Chittick (Stephanie Herrin), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Darin Jellison (Jo Ann Jellison), Matty & Simone McKinnon (Joy Decker), Roxanne & Moose Meyer (Dana Endsley & Mike Yonkovig), Sue Parrish (Terry Raley-Dennis), Marie Raley (Jean Raley-Dennis), Susan Rayfield (Martha Bomely), Suzie & John Robinson (Dana Endsley & Mike Yonkovig), Barbara Rutelonis (Eric Miner), Michelle Sharp (Beth & Ed Sharp), Dave & Pam Shimberg, Christopher Sizemore (Tina Ettesen), Eulene Shepherd (Robert Shepherd), Joyce Ward (Ed Vickery), Janet Wakefield (Linda Burby), John Zastrow (Barb Schneller)

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

MECKMIN'S 48TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY-WIDE INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE


Tuesday, November 21, 2023, 6:45 pm

hosted by Trinity Presbyterian Church

3115 Providence Rd, Charlotte, NC 28211

Pastor Chris will be participating in the opening processional.

*season of advent
at holy covenant ucc*



12/3 - HOPE

Guest Preacher Rev Barbara Thomas;
Workshop following worship
"With Grace and a Smile:
Impactful Conversations"

12/10 - PEACE

Cookie Exchange 1pm;
Room In The Inn (RITI)

12/17 - JOY

Music Sunday, Consistory

12/24 - LOVE

11am service
Chili Supper 5:30pm
Candlelight Worship 7pm service