



Photo by Dorota Dylka

“Let yourself rest.  
Allow yourself to be replenished and nourished.  
Connect with the quiet wisdom of your soul.  
Let the molecules of consciousness reassemble  
in the peaceful stillness.”  
– Anonymous

“We have to talk about liberating minds  
as well as liberating society.”  
– Angela Davis

**OUR MINISTRY TEAM**

**Rev. Christopher Czarnecki, MDiv, MBA, Senior Pastor**  
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Founded in 1916, we are an Open & Affirming (LGBTQ+), anti-racist, and justice seeking church that is part of the greater United Church of Christ.

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**June 2, 2024, 10:55 am**

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

Prelude "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" arr. B. Buda

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

Introit "There's a Spirit of Love in This Place" arr. M. A. Miller

**There's a spirit of love in this place. (2x)**

**You can't see it, but it's there, just as precious as the air.**

**There's a spirit of love in this place.**

**There's the presence of peace in this room. (2x)**

**In God's tenderness is found peace that passes human bounds.**

**There's the presence of peace in this room.**

**O, Alleluia, sing alleluia, we bless your holy name.**

**O, Alleluia, sing alleluia, there's a spirit of love in this place.**

\* Call to the Heart Laura Hankins

*Please take a comfortable posture that supports your worship and reading...*

One: We come together to observe the Sabbath and keep it holy.

Many: **Renew us by your Spirit.**

One: We come together to give praise to God in words and songs of joy!

Many: **Renew us by your Spirit.**

One: We come together, the young and old, queer, straight, and trans, the faithful and the doubtful.

Many: **Renew us by your Spirit.**

One: We come together to experience the abundance of God's grace and love for all.

Many: **Let us worship God and be renewed.**

\* Hymn 502

“Dear God, Embracing Humankind”

REST

Dear God, embracing humankind, forgive our foolish ways;  
Reclothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives your service find,  
In deeper reverence, praise.

O sabbath rest by Galilee! O calm of hills above!  
There Jesus met you prayerfully: the silence of eternity,  
Interpreted by love.

Drop your still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;  
Take from our souls the strain and stress,  
And let our ordered lives confess the beauty of your peace.

Affirmation

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Yourself: “I am revitalized by the life and love of God.”

Neighbor: “You are revitalized by the life and love of God.”

World: “We are revitalized by the life and love of God.”

Prayer of Transformation and New Life (*unison*)

Laura Hankins

God of life, we admit there are times when you call us to rest, but we are too busy working. Times when you call us to offer rest to others, but we are too busy demanding. Forgive us for our constant obsession with working and doing. Remind us, our value comes not from anything we produce, but our value comes from you. Help us to know your grace and teach us to grant our weary souls the rest we need. Amen.

Words of Grace

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

We’ve heard Jesus say, “Come to me, all you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” And while we don’t always heed his words, may we know we are always welcome. In Christ we will always be free to name our worries, to reveal our inner wounds, and be at peace just as we are. As we come, and when we come, ground us, and rejuvenate us in your love. So, we will go out into the world ready and filled again. Amen.

Stories for All People

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Song of Preparation

“Rain Down”

J. Cortes

Rain down, rain down, rain down your love on your people.

Rain down, rain down, rain down your love, God of life.

Alternative Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

by Sherri J. Weinberg

God, heart of the world: revealed through every aspect of creation, understood through our awareness. May we honor the holiness of creation and act accordingly so that your love is reflected in the way we live. May we always be thankful for the food we eat and the friends we have. May we forgive those who transgress against us and be forgiven for our own. In the freedom of love may we live as your heartbeat and not be compromised by hesitation. Through our freedom, may your justice be seen and heard and experienced forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination (*sung*)

OPEN MY EYES

Open our ears, that we may hear voices of truth you send so clear  
And while the wave notes fall on our ears, everything false will disappear  
Silently now we wait for you, ready, our God, your will to do.  
Open our hearts; illumine us, Spirit divine!

Modern Lesson

by Wayne Muller

Joy Decker

*Our modern lesson for today is from Wayne Muller, who is the author of "Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in Our Busy Lives." In his book he says...*

"If busyness can become a kind of violence, we do not have to stretch our perception very far to see that Sabbath time - effortless, nourishing rest - can invite a healing of this violence. When we consecrate a time to listen to the still, small voices, we remember the root of inner wisdom that makes work fruitful. We remember from where we are most deeply nourished and see more clearly the shape and texture of the people and things before us."

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

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

\* Gospel Lesson

Mark 2:23-3:6 (CEB)

Laura Hankins

*Our Gospel lesson for today comes from Mark 2:23-3:6, where Jesus and his disciples are accused of breaking the Sabbath...*

Jesus went through the wheat fields on the Sabbath. As the disciples made their way, they were picking the heads of wheat. The Pharisees said to Jesus, “Look! Why are they breaking the Sabbath law?”

He said to them, “Haven’t you ever read what David did when he was in need, when he and those with him were hungry? During the time when Abiathar was high priest, David went into God’s house and ate the bread of the presence, which only the priests were allowed to eat. He also gave bread to those who were with him.” Then he said, “The Sabbath was created for humans; humans weren’t created for the Sabbath. This is why the Human One is Lord even over the Sabbath.”

Jesus returned to the synagogue. A man with a withered hand was there. Wanting to bring charges against Jesus, they were watching Jesus closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath. He said to the man with the withered hand, “Step up where people can see you.” Then he said to them, “Is it legal on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?” But they said nothing. Looking around at them with anger, deeply grieved at their unyielding hearts, he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” So he did, and his hand was made healthy. At that, the Pharisees got together with the supporters of Herod to plan how to destroy Jesus.

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.**

The Good News

“The Sabbath Was Made for Them Too”

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Invitation to Generosity

Laura Hankins

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

We believe in a God who provides abundantly for our needs. A God who has fashioned us each with unique gifts that together make the body of Christ whole. In gratitude, let us now share a portion of what we have been given, for the work of this community and the benefit of our neighbors.





\* Benediction

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

\* Benediction Response

“Send Us Out”

J.M. Talbot

Send us out to proclaim the reign of your kin-dom,  
Send us out to proclaim and to heal,  
Send us out with your power and your authority  
To overcome and to heal the world.

Postlude

“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”

arr. M. Hayes

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*Parts of the liturgy for today's service were adapted by Ellen Williams Hensle, Rev. Sam Lundquist, and Rev. Christopher Czarnecki.*

*Candid photographs and/or video recording share our work and witness and invite others into the fellowship of our congregation. Some pictures/video may be published in church print publications, on our website or on our official social media sites. If you do not wish to have your image published, please contact the church office by phone or email.*

**WE PROVIDE OUR EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME WITH HELP FROM:**

D Evans, Brian Hankins, Laura Hankins

Ushers: Laurence Winston, Shakti Subramanian

Greeters: Deborah Winston

Refreshments: New Members Cohort

Communion: Jeffery Edwards-Knight, Jackie Freeze,

Phyllis Johnson, Cheryl Milam

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**Members**

Cynthia Simpson, Scott Simpson and family in the death of Cynthia's husband, Rev. Tommy Simpson

Linda Carver, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Tom & Kathy Habel, Jim Humphrey, Jeff Hughes, Kat Kerce, Sharon Landis, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Alice Phelan & Sally Young, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Jerry Rhyne, Ed & Beth Sharp, Anita Taylor

**Friends & Family Members**

Melissa Brown, Phillip Cherry (Anne Pigg), Craig Chrismon (Melissa Noll), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Charles Jernigan (Lee Brigman), Dave Johnson, Judah L. Jones & Bill Englebreth, Richard Lease (Barb Schneller), Joe Parks (Beth Sharp), Michelle Sharp (Beth & Ed Sharp), Joyce Ward (Ed Vickery), Janet Wakefield (Linda Burby) Nelly Webb and parents (Kristin Andes), John Zastrow (Barb Schneller)

If you wish to add someone to the list, please send a note to

**[prayers@holycovenantucc.org](mailto:prayers@holycovenantucc.org)**.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

**Stay connected!** There are many new events in our future! 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/>

We welcome all in our congregation to participate in worship leadership, ushering, greeting, and fellowship time. Sign up in the gathering room, or download the app to make signing up even easier!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/mobileapp>

### NEW MEMBER/INQUIRER CLASSES

Are you interested in becoming a member of Holy Covenant or interested in exploring what membership at Holy Covenant means? Our next set of new member classes will take place on **June 9th** and **June 23rd**, following worship at 12:30pm in the conference room. The following Sunday, June 30th, we will welcome our new members into the church. If you are interested, please reach out to Pastor Chris, [RevChris@holycovenantucc.org](mailto:RevChris@holycovenantucc.org), or contact the church office.

### CALL LETTER FOR 59<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GATHERING of the SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

June 20-22, 2024, all of the members of the Southern Conference - the Delegates, Pastors, Laity, Youth, and Institutions of the Southern Conference are welcome to participate in the virtual gathering. More information available at <https://www.soc-ucc.org/>

### SOJOURNERS CLASS, SUNDAYS AT 9:45AM

We gather Sundays at 9:45am in the Conference Room, or via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89561758099?pwd=d1gvUmh3K2hCNmdidm1QdjllNkF5QT09>

### CRAFTER'S CIRCLE MEETS MONDAYS AT 1:30PM

Bring a craft, learn a craft. Join us in the Gathering Room. All are welcome!