

Photo source: Color Nation

“Jesus prepared a meal for the multitudes to remind us that we feed people not because we believe they deserve it, but because they’re hungry.”

- John Pavlovitz

“There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread.”

- Mahatma Gandhi

“If you can’t feed a hundred people, then just feed one.”

- Saint Mother Teresa

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
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

July 28, 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 "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart" arr. A. M. David

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 "In This Very Room" Carol & Ron Harris

In this very room, there's quite enough love for all of us;

And in this very room, there's quite enough joy for all of us.

And there's quite enough hope, and quite enough power,

To chase away any gloom

For Jesus, Lord Jesus is in this very room.

* Call to the Heart Mel Andersen

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

One: Why have you come to this place?

Many: **We have come to find Jesus.**

One: Why have you come today?

Many: **We are tired in body and spirit.**

One: Jesus bids you sit and be at ease.

Many: **We are hungry with nothing to eat.**

One: Come and eat your fill.

Many: **But there are only five barley loaves and two fish.**

One: There is plenty for all.

Many: **Will we find wholeness here?**

One: Here, Jesus gathers the fragments of our lives, so that nothing is wasted. So that nothing is lost. So that we live healthy and whole.

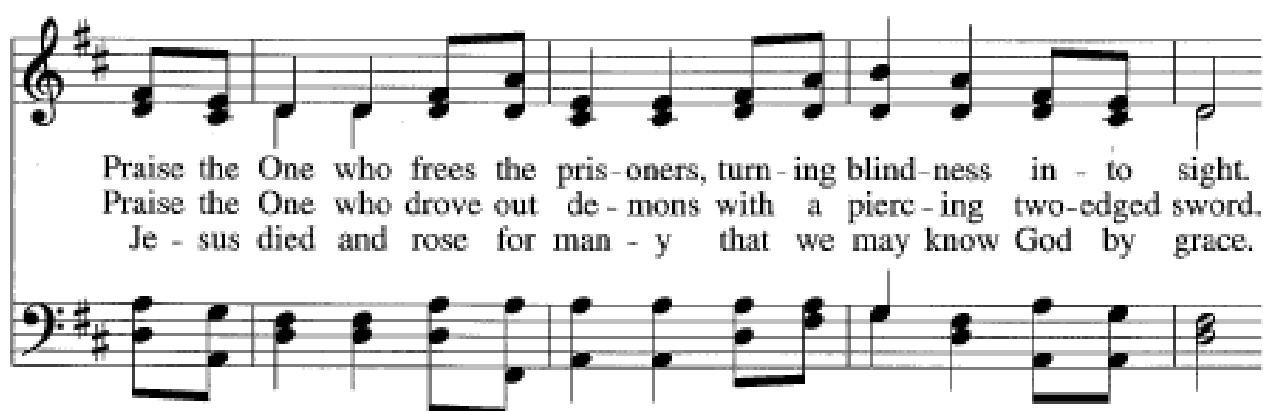
Come and now let us worship...

Many: **Witnessing with even a little what Jesus can do.**

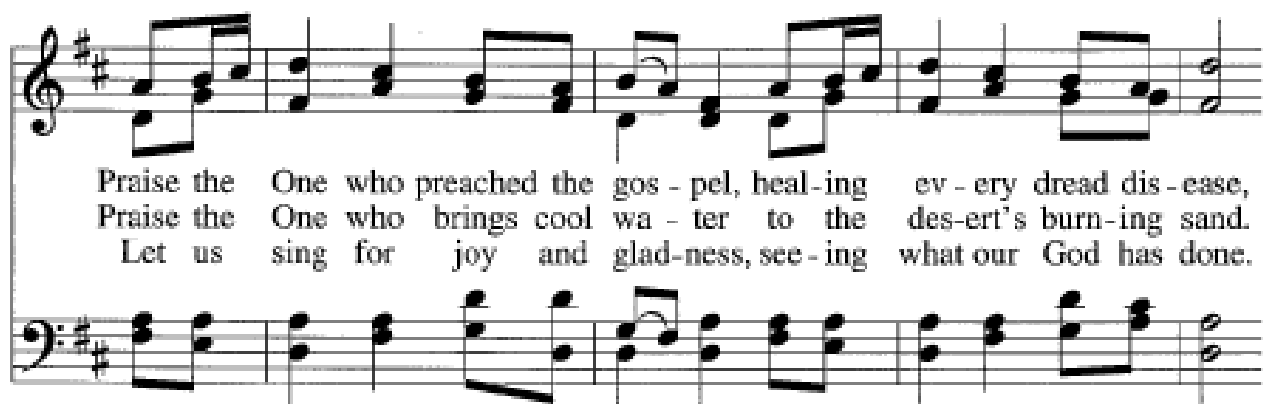
Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness 93



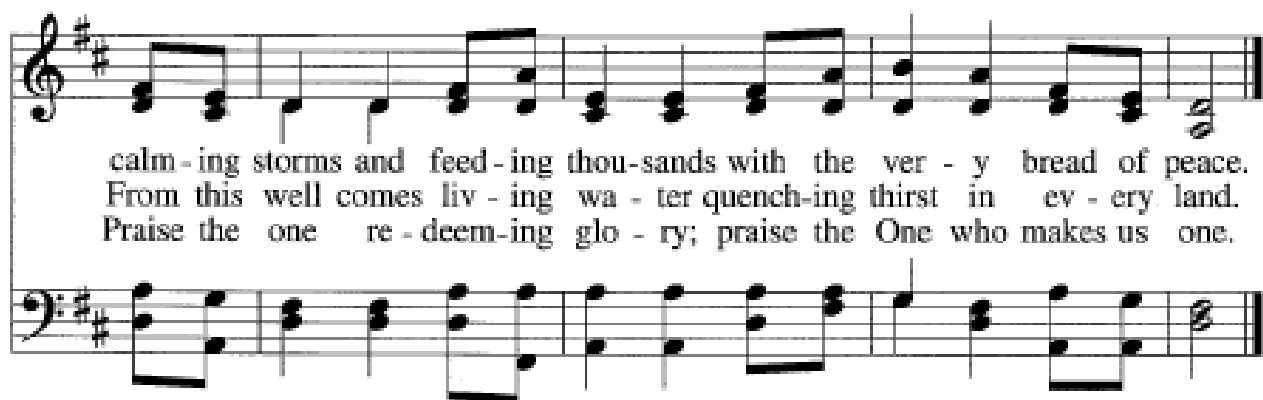
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light.
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word.
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place.



Praise the One who frees the pris - oners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
Praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - ery dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand.
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
From this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - ery land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

* Hymn

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

NETTLETON

Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light.
Praise the One who frees the prisoners, turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing every dread disease,
Calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.

Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word.
Praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert’s burning sand.
From this well comes living water quenching thirst in every land.

Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one.

Affirmation

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Yourself: With God as my source, I give freely and generously to others.

Neighbor: With God as your source, you give freely and generously to others.

World: With God as our source, we give freely and generously to others.

Prayer for Transformation and New Life (*responsive*)

Mel Andersen

One: Merciful God, we come believing in our emptiness;

Many: believing that we will never have enough, believing that what we have is unworthy.

One: We come fearful of sharing;

Many: fearful of losing our tenuous grip on security, fearful of touching and knowing the pain of others.

One: We come overwhelmed by the hunger;

Many: overwhelmed by the suffering of others near and far, overwhelmed by the endless tales of violence, greed, and death.

One: We come aching from the weight of responsibility;

Many: aching from the challenge of knowing our abundance, aching from the awareness that we have much to share.

One: We come clinging to our meager lunches;

Many: bless them, and us. Break them, and us. Share them, and us. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Loving God, on this day help us to remember as you once fed the hungry crowds through Jesus, we too can feed others. That just as you satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing, you are using us to meet people in need. In every moment we are given another chance to choose love, compassion, and mercy and know what we have to offer to others and this world is part of your goodness. So may we not hold tightly to our blessings but offer them to others. Amen.

Stories for All People

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Hymn 321

“Break Now the Bread of Life”

BREAD OF LIFE

**Break now the bread of life, Savior, to me,
As you once broke the loaves beside the sea;
Beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord;
My spirit yearns for you, O Living Word.**

**Bless now the truth, dear Christ, to me, to me,
As you once blessed the bread by Galilee;
Then shall all bondage cease, all shackles fall,
And I shall find my peace, my all in all.**

Alternative Lord's Prayer

Eternal Spirit, life-giver, pain-bearer, love-maker
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Creator of us all,
Loving God in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe.
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world.
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings.
Your kin-dom of peace and freedom sustain our hope
and come on earth.
With the bread that we need for today, feed us.
For the hurts that we inflict on one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love
now and forever.
Amen.

Prayer for Illumination 283 (*sung*)

IVERSON

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me (2x)
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Modern Lesson

Deborah Winston

Our Modern Lesson for today comes Augustine, who was a bishop, theologian, philosopher, and saint of the early Christian Church. He is quoted as once having said...

“What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of [others]. That is what love looks like.”

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

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

Scripture Lesson

John 6:1-15 (CEB)

Mel Andersen

Our Scripture Lesson for today comes from the Gospel of John 6:1-15, where Jesus feeds the crowd that had gathered with five loaves and two fish...

After this Jesus went across the Galilee Sea (that is, the Tiberias Sea). A large crowd followed him, because they had seen the miraculous signs he had done among the sick. Jesus went up a mountain and sat there with his disciples. It was nearly time for Passover, the Jewish festival.

Jesus looked up and saw the large crowd coming toward him. He asked Philip, "Where will we buy food to feed these people?" Jesus said this to test him, for he already knew what he was going to do.

Philip replied, "More than a half year's salary worth of food wouldn't be enough for each person to have even a little bit."

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, "A youth here has five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that for a crowd like this?"

Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass there. They sat down, about five thousand of them. Then Jesus took the bread. When he had given thanks, he distributed it to those who were sitting there. He did the same with the fish, each getting as much as they wanted. When they had plenty to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather up the leftover pieces, so that nothing will be wasted." So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves that had been left over by those who had eaten.

When the people saw that he had done a miraculous sign, they said, "This is truly the prophet who is coming into the world." Jesus understood that they were about to come and force him to be their king, so he took refuge again, alone on a mountain.

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

Many: Open our ears, our hearts, our minds

The Good News

"It Was Just a Boy's Lunch"

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Invitation to Generosity

Mel Andersen

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

On a hill long ago, a crowd had gathered to see and hear Jesus. They were hungry and thirsty. A boy offered up his five loaves and three fish, giving all he had, even if it was just a little bit. And all were fed. In response, let us offer a portion of our abundance. Even if it may seem small, it just might be the provision that keeps a ministry going, the sustenance needed, or here at Holy Covenant, the beginning of some miracle.

During the month of July, Holy Covenant UCC also receives its Annual Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and Emergency Fund. This fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years. We will receive these offerings in the month of July. So far, we have raised a total of \$300.00 for this special offering. If you are moved to share a gift, please note "Christmas Fund" in the memo. Thank you for sharing your generosity with others.

* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

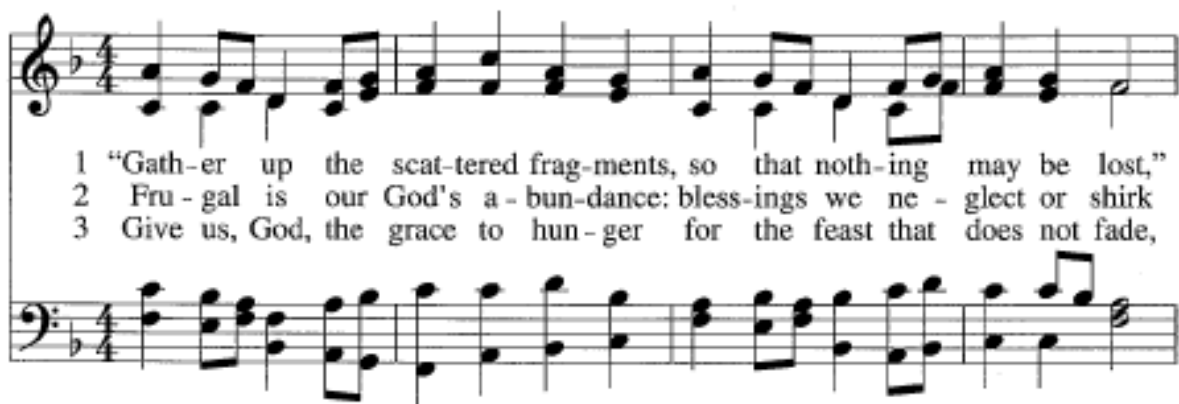
* Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

Mel Andersen

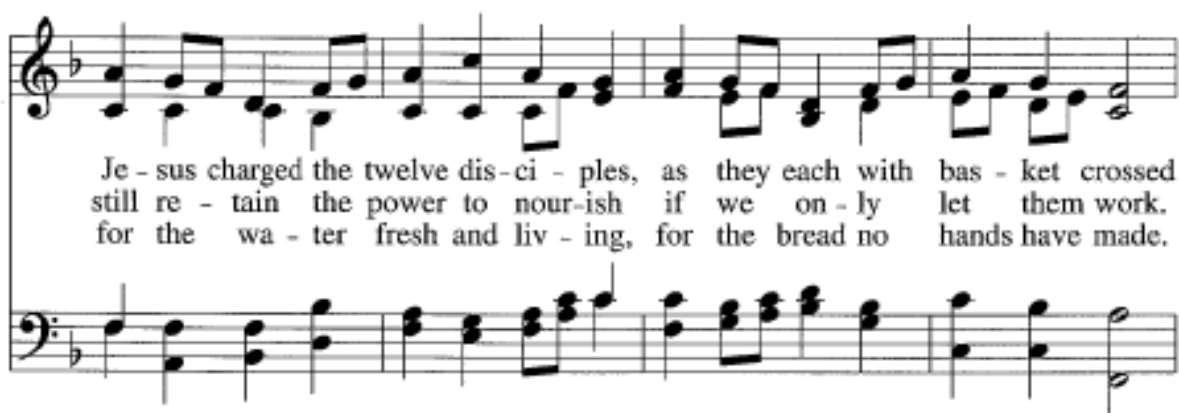
Please join me in our unison prayer of dedication...

God of abundant love, in you, nothing is lost. Gather our offerings, as Jesus gathered up the baskets of leftover food. Gather our efforts, as Jesus gathered the hopes of others. Gather our service, as Jesus gathered people to share a meal. Bless these offerings we have gathered, so that nothing may be lost or squandered. Amen.

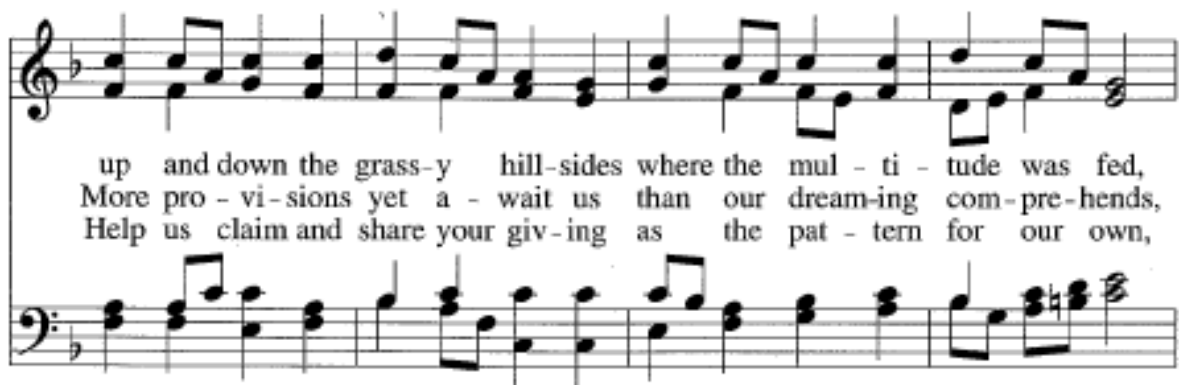
Gather up the Scattered Fragments



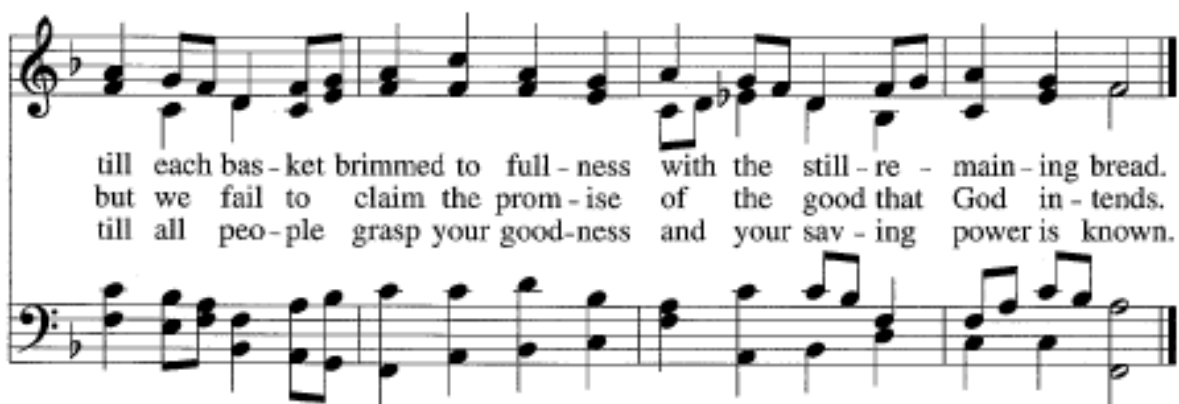
1 "Gath-er up the scat-tered frag-ments, so that noth-ing may be lost,"
2 Fru-gal is our God's a-bun-dance: bless-ings we ne-glect or shirk
3 Give us, God, the grace to hun-ger for the feast that does not fade,



Je-sus charged the twelve dis-ci-ples, as they each with bas-ket crossed
still re-tain the power to nour-ish if we on-ly let them work.
for the wa-ter fresh and liv-ing, for the bread no hands have made.



up and down the grass-y hill-sides where the mul-ti-tude was fed,
More pro-vi-sions yet a-wait us than our dream-ing com-pre-hends,
Help us claim and share your giv-ing as the pat-tern for our own,



till each bas-ket brimmed to full-ness with the still-re-main-ing bread.
but we fail to claim the prom-ise of the good that God in-tends.
till all peo-ple grasp your good-ness and your sav-ing power is known.

* Hymn

“Gather Up the Scattered Fragments”

CANONBURY

“Gather up the scattered fragments, so that nothing many be lost,”
Jesus charged the twelve disciples, as they each with basket crossed
Up and down the grassy hillsides where the multitude was fed,
Till each basket brimmed to fullness with the still remaining bread.

Frugal is our God’s abundance; blessings we neglect or shirk
Still retain the power to nourish if we only let them work.
More provisions yet await us than our dreaming comprehends,
But we fail to claim the promise of the good that God intends.

Give us, God, the grace to hunger for the feast that does not fade,
For the water fresh and living, for the bread no hands have made.
Help us claim and share your giving as the pattern for our own,
Till all people grasp your goodness and your saving power is known.

* Benediction

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

We Will Feast In The House Of Zion

Words and Music by
Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore

Note: You are welcome to substitute "You have" for "He has"

71 **CHORUS**

F Dm⁷ B^b F Dm C B^b

We will feast in the house of Zi - on. We will sing with our

4 Gm C F Dm⁷ B^b F Dm C B^b

hearts re-stored. He has done great things, we will say to - geth - er. We will feast and

Alt: (You have)

8 C F **VERSE** B^b

weep no more.

1. We will not be burned by the
2. In the dark of night, be - fore the
3. Ev - 'ry vow we've bro - ken and be -

12 Dm B^b C Dm

fire; He is the Lord, our God. We are not con -
dawn, my soul, be not a - fraid. For the prom - ised
-trayed, You are the faith - ful one. And - from the

15 B^b Dm

-sumed by the flood; up -
morn - ing, oh, how long? Oh,
gar - den to the grave, bind

17 B^b C Dm C/E

-held, pro - tect - ed, gath - ered up.
God of Ja - cob, be my strength.
us to - geth - er, bring sha - lom.

Postlude

“We Will Feast in the House of Zion”

<https://youtu.be/rGWycFYtqbo?si=zg3a6R6Quzg5QbJG>

*Words and Music by Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore
YouTube video used by permission.*

Refrain:

We will feast in the house of Zion.

We will sing with our hearts restored.

You have {He has} done great things, we will say together.

We will feast and weep no more.

We will not be burned by the fire; He is the Lord, our God.

We are not consumed by the flood; upheld, protected, gathered up.

In the dark of night, before the dawn, my soul, be not afraid.

For the promised morning, oh, how long? Oh God of Jacob, be my strength.

Ev'ry vow we've broken and betrayed, You are the faithful one.

And from the garden to the grave, bind us together, bring shalom.

Songs in this service are used by permission.

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The liturgy for today's service was written or adapted by Emmanuel

Presbyterian Church, The 2009 edition of The Abingdon Worship,

Kristen Hawker, 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 Greeters: Christine Andersen, Deborah Winston

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/>

“FEAST OF 5000” POTLUCK FOLLOWING WORSHIP TODAY!

Come! All are welcome! Special Offering to be taken to benefit those in the Gaza Strip - via World Central Kitchen.



HCUCC T-SHIRTS! ORDER YOURS TODAY!

Show your HCUCC Pride! Choose your color and size (adult and youth sizes). Suggested donation is \$25 each. Everyone who wants one will get a shirt. Last day for order: July 31! We'll have them distributed before we march in the Charlotte Pride Parade on August 18! <https://forms.gle/L9QzmXHy8xVRJQZE7>
Questions? Contact office@holycovenantucc.org.

CHARLOTTE PRIDE PARADE, AUGUST 18

Let's show our Holy Covenant UCC Pride and march with us in the parade!
Sign up in the gathering room!

RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY TEAM INVITES YOU

The Racial Justice and Equity Team is discussing a number of important issues, including the need for affordable housing. We are looking for people with expertise or interest in this area. Mel Anderson attended the city's Faith &

Housing Summit on May 30 and provided an excellent overview of projects at several Charlotte churches. Several RJE members also have information and experience with these issues, and members of Holy Covenant's congregation have occasionally expressed interest in exploring whether we could use some of our land to meet the needs of the unhoused, the workforce or seniors. While Holy Covenant is not in the position now to launch a project of major scope, we could use a few interested people to learn more about the many available resources and opportunities and how they might fit with our mission of being a welcoming church that cares for all. If you are interested in exploring the issue of affordable housing in any way, please let RJE know by contacting RJE co-chairs Melissa McQueen-Simmons, revmelmcsimm@gmail.com, or Alix Felsing, alixfelsing@gmail.com.

SUMMER ALL-CHURCH READ: "OUR TRESPASSES"

All are invited to join Holy Covenant's All-Church Read this summer, which will culminate in an author visit Sept. 8.

"Our Trespasses: White Churches and the Taking of American Neighborhoods" tells the story of Charlotte's Brooklyn neighborhood through the North family, displaced by urban renewal, and the white congregation of the First Baptist Charlotte that purchased their land from the city. This local history examines how race, geography, policy and religion haunt landscapes in Charlotte, as they do in cities across the country. Understanding this history is a vital step in Holy Covenant's journey to creating a more just and equitable community. **Author Greg Jarrell, an ordained minister, will preach at Holy Covenant during worship Sept. 8.** Following worship and a break for light refreshments, Jarrell will discuss what he learned about the values and biases that are woven into Charlotte's development patterns. See the church newsletter for more data.

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>

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Greeters and ushers are needed starting at 10:30am every Sunday. Liturgists and readers roles are also available. **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.

Download the app to make signing up even easier!

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

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members

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

Friends & Family Members

Prayers for the life and memory of Alma Gordon, Joy Decker's mother Beth, Michael & Julian Bliss (Robert Shepherd), Melissa Brown, Phillip Cherry (Anne Pigg), Craig Chrismon (Melissa Noll), Pam Culp & Pam McGill (Melissa Noll), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Charles Jernigan (Lee Brigman), Dave Johnson, Judah L. Jones & Bill Englebreth, Richard Lease (Barb Schneller), Klye Morre (Akeera Czarnecki), Joe Parks (Beth Sharp), Michelle Sharp (Beth & Ed Sharp), Eulene Shepherd (Robert Shepherd), Randy & Crystal Taylor (Bill & Kim Tyler), 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.

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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Jon Weddell, MDiv, MSW, Minister of Music

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