



Unsplash Photo by Simon Berger

“Let come what comes, let go what goes. See what remains.”  
– Ramana Maharshi

“Hold on to what’s important. Let your worries go.  
No matter how you look at it, some things just don’t make sense.  
The way you choose to carry on is what matters.”  
– Anonymous

“In the process of letting go, you will lose many things from the past,  
but you will find yourself.”  
– Deepak Chopra

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.

**Access and Disability Awareness Sunday** is an annual celebration of the gifts persons with disabilities bring to the church, and the joys of being in accessible community. It is also a time to remember and repent of the harm done to disabled people in religious spaces, and to call upon the whole church to recommit itself to access as a justice issue. In the UCC, the second Sunday in October is designated as Access Sunday. Approximately 1 in 4 people in the United States live with some form of disability, and almost everyone else will develop one at some point in their life. As such, disability and accessibility are vitally important topics for us all, and for the church. This Access Sunday, let us honor and celebrate disability wisdom, creativity, and brilliance. Let us expand our notions of God and theology. And let us call one another into greater access for all.

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**ACCESS AND DISABILITIES AWARENESS SUNDAY**

**October 13, 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 Jesus, I Love Thee" arr. P. Rodriguz

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

Stewardship Campaign Moment The Sullivans

Stewardship Campaign Update Alix Felsing

Introit "Let Us Build a House" ALL ARE WELCOME

**Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat;**

**A banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.**

**Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;**

**As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:**

**All are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.**

\* Call to the Heart

Pam Shimberg

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

One: In the Image of God...

Many: **God makes us.**

One: With the sound of God's voice...

Many: **God calls us.**

One: With the touch of God's hand...

Many: **God forms us.**

One: From different nations and cultures...

Many: **God gathers us.**

One: Of all abilities and genders...

Many: **God creates us.**

One: Children of God...

Many: **God makes us. God blesses us. God loves us. Amen.**

\* Hymn

“Once a Sheep Was in a Pasture”

HYMN OF JOY

*Ludwig van Beethoven, adapt. Edward Hodges  
Lyrics, Carolyn Winfrey Gillette*

Once a sheep was in a pasture with the other ninety-nine.  
Their good shepherd loved those hundred,  
and he told them, “You are mine!”  
As the hundred grazed together, for some reason yet untold,  
One found she was separated from the shepherd, from the fold.

Shepherd, sometimes we face trouble, far from others, far from you.  
There are different ways we struggle,  
different things that we can do.  
There are times we're prone to wander;  
there are times we're pushed away.  
Shepherd, by your love you find us—then in joy you celebrate!

Like a shepherd, Lord, you know us and the songs our spirits sing.  
You accept us and you love us - and you know the gifts we bring.  
With our singing, with our voices, with our hearts, may we express:  
Shepherd, by your love you find us—  
we are yours, and we are blessed!

Shepherd, by your love you find us, then you send us out in turn  
To seek out all your beloved and to bring the wounded home.  
As we lead and help each other, as we advocate and pray,  
May we shepherd one another on your faithful, loving way.

Affirmation

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Yourselves: **I am** a beautiful reflection of God's diversity in this world.

Neighbor: **You are** a beautiful reflection of God's diversity in this world.

World: **We are** a beautiful reflection of God's diversity in this world.

Prayer for Transformation (*unison*)

Pam Shimberg

Loving God, too often, we forget that you formed us as your children - beautiful and complete. Unified through our diversity each with gifts to share, yet each in need of support. Loving God, forgive us. Let us see your face in each person that we see, hear your voice in all of creation and feel your touch in every embrace. Help us to see your face in our own and hear your voice in our song. Amen.

Words of Grace

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Be at peace and know that God loves you - not only in your strengths, but also, in your vulnerabilities. Whoever you are and however you've come, know that God's grace is for you, amid adversity is still spiritual growth, and that all your gifts are meant to be shared in abundance with the world. Amen.

Response to God's Grace

GOODNESS IS STRONGER (South Africa)

**Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;**

**Light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.**

**Victory is ours; victory is ours through God who loves us. (2x)**

Stories for All People

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Song of Preparation

"Bless the Lord"

TAIZE (France)

**Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.**

**Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.**

Responsive Prayers of the People

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

One: Let us pray for all God's people: For people who are blind or cannot see well, and for people who can see but do not see those in need...

**Many: Lord, in your mercy make us see you and each other.**

One: For people who move slowly or cannot move well, and for people who are fast but unwilling to slow their pace...

**Many: Lord, in your mercy help us move in step with you.**

One: For people who are deaf or cannot hear well, and for people who can hear but block out cries of pain...

**Many: Lord, in your mercy make us hear you and each other.**

One: For people who learn or think differently, and for people who learn quickly but have no patience for others...

**Many: Lord, in your mercy help us search and learn from you.**

...

- One: For people who are sad and don't cheer up, and for people who are happy and neglect the pain they see...
- Many: Lord, in your mercy make us know you and each other.**
- One: For people who are sick and don't get better, and for people who are well but take this blessing for granted...
- Many: Lord, in your mercy help us serve you while we can.**
- One: For people who are kind and serve the needy, and for people who turn away in the face of need...
- Many: Lord, in your mercy make us know we need each other.**
- One: For people who feel trapped by their impairments, and for people who add to their despair...
- Many: Lord, in your mercy help us set each other free.**
- One: For people who feel worthless and unloved, and for people who feel so proud they won't share your love...
- Many: Lord, in your mercy make us know your love together.**
- One: For all your people and all your creation, both close to us and ever so distant...
- Many: Lord, in your mercy teach us love and give us peace. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

**Our Parent, who is among us, blessed be your Creation. May your reign be a reality here on earth. May we become more interested in building your kin-dom here and now than in waiting for it to come down from above. Let us share our bread with those who hunger. Let us learn to forgive as well as to receive forgiveness. Help us through the time of temptation, delivering us from all evil. For ours are the eternal blessings that you pour upon the earth. Amen.**

Prayer for Illumination (*sung*)

TAKE ME AS I AM (Iona)

**Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;  
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

Modern Lesson

Suzanne Lamorey

*Our Modern Lesson for today comes from Cole Arthur Riley, who is a writer and author centering Black emotions, histories, and bodies. In her debut novel "This Here Flesh" she says...*

I've accepted that the whole of my life will be a pilgrimage toward the sound of the genuine in me. This may sound troubling to those who've been conditioned to believe that our journey is to God and God alone, but I say the two paths are one. My journey to the truth of God cannot be parsed from my journey to the truth of who I am. A fidelity to the true self is a fidelity to truth. I won't apologize

for this... And as a Black woman, I am disinterested in any call to spirituality that divorces my mind from my body, voice, or people.

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

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

\*Gospel Lesson

Mark 10:17-31 (NRSV)

Pam Shimberg

*Our Scripture Lesson for today comes from Mark 10:17-31, where the rich young ruler comes to Jesus asking what he must do to inherit eternal life...*

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. You shall not defraud. Honor your father and mother.’” He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the sake of the good news who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

**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.

Invitation to Generosity

Pam Shimberg

Disabled God, we are grateful to join with you in the kin-dom work of justice and of uniting your world in grace, mercy, and love. Help us to offer our gifts in service to others and to see our needs as opportunities to allow others to share theirs. Continue to bless us with abundance and fill us with the compassion needed to share our overflowing cup with all whom we meet. Let us now share our gifts with God...

\* Doxology

BARUCH HASHEM ADONAI (Israel)

**Baruch hashem Adonai. Baruch hashem Adonai.**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord. Baruch hashem Adonai.**

\* Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

Pam Shimberg

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

**Disabled God of mercy and love, of grace and belonging, we ask that you bless our gifts of time, talent, treasure received. Please make them seeds, so that our love might be multiplied and of service to a world in need. Amen.**

\* Hymn 177

“God of Change and Glory”

KATHERINE

**Many gifts, one Spirit, one love known in many ways.**

**In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise**

**One Giver, one Word, one Spirit, one God**

**Known in many ways, hallowing our days.**

**For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!**

\* Benediction

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

\* Benediction Response

HALLE, HALLE (Caribbean)

**Halle, halle, hallelujah! (3x) Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

Postlude

“Hold to God’s Unchanging Hand”

F. L. Eiland

*Songs in this service are used by permission.*

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*The liturgy for today’s service was written or adapted by the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries, Presbyterian (USA) for Disability Concerns Network, Reformed Church in America, 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.*

## 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/>*

*Due to COVID cases within our congregation and community, those attending worship are welcomed to wear a mask should you feel more comfortable while worshipping with us.*

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

D Evans, Brian Hankins, Laura Hankins, Jo Ann Jellison, Keith Dennis  
Ushers: Shakti Subramanian      Greeters:

### **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>.



**CHECK OUT OUR ONLINE CALENDAR AT <https://holycovenantucc.org/events/>**  
10/13 Sandwich build following worship. All are welcomed!  
10/26 Game Night 6:30-8:30pm

### **ATTENTION CRAFTERS**

On Nov. 3, Kim Tyler will offer glasswork again this year to raise funds for a charity (group not finalized yet; more information to come). If you would be interested in joining her in this endeavor with your handmade artwork/baked treats, please reach out to her at [yhr762@yahoo.com](mailto:yhr762@yahoo.com)



## STEWARDSHIP 2025

Each October, Holy Covenant develops a spending plan for the coming year that supports our many ministries. You can help the Budget and Finance Team in this work by letting us know what financial resources you intend to contribute to the church in 2025.

Our annual stewardship campaign's goal began Sept. 29 and runs through Oct. 20 this year. **Our goal is to raise \$140,000 for the General Fund (operating fund) and \$40,000 for the Building Fund (capital fund).** We will update the congregation each week on our progress. As of Friday, Oct. 11, pledges totaled \$65,450 for the General Fund and \$18,000 for the Building Fund.

May God's spirit move within each of our lives as we discern how we can offer gifts of time, talent and treasure to strengthen Holy Covenant and God's ministry to our members, our community, and beyond.

Share your financial commitment with us by making your pledge through one of the following options as soon as possible:

1. Online through the church's website

<https://holycovenantucc.org/make-your-pledge-online>,

2. Email your pledge to the church office at [office@holycovenantucc.org](mailto:office@holycovenantucc.org) or

3. Mail the pledge card to: **Holy Covenant UCC, P.O. Box 481285, Charlotte NC 28269**

*Because of you, our church changes lives.*

**C.R.O.P. HUNGER WALK RAISED over \$1,500!** We are grateful to all who participated and contributed to this important ministry. If you prefer to give online, please use this link:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/team/holy-covenant-ucc-4>

*The church office will be closed  
Monday, October 14, 2024  
in observance of Indigenous Peoples' Day*

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**OUR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS  
AFFECTED BY HURRICANES HELENE & MILTON**

**Members**

Linda Carver, Liz Colton, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Jeff Edwards-Knight, Laura Hankins, Jim & Faye Humphrey, Sharon Landis, Melissa & Von McQueen-Simmons, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Ed & Beth Sharp, Anita Taylor, Ed Vickery & Eric Miner, Darline Warren, Cathy & Jay Whitley

**Friends & Family Members**

Kathy (Basco) Craton in the recent death of her husband, Steve Craton (Diane Neese)  
Rene Rogers and family in the loss of her mother, Diana Marcello (Sally Young)  
Beth, Michael & Julian Bliss (Robert Shepherd), Melissa Brown, Tinnie & Craig  
Chrismon (Melissa Noll), Ryan Condon (Tina Dickens), Ron Hatley (Diane Neese),  
Jeanne Hord (Diane Neese), Pam Culp & Pam McGill (Melissa Noll), Cindy Hedrick  
(Barb Schneller), Ruth Hirsch (Martha Bomely), Pat Keegan, George Miner (Eric  
Miner), Francesca Czarnecki (Christopher Czarnecki), Henry Hildebrand (Bill &  
Connie Hildebrand), Charles Jernigan (Lee Brigman), Dave Johnson, Richard Lease  
(Barb Schneller), Joe Parks (Beth Sharp), Larry & Karen Roark (Ed Vickery), Mike  
Santino (Melissa Noll), Michelle Sharp (Beth & Ed Sharp), Henry & Ramona Spencer  
(Sara Green), 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](mailto:prayers@holycovenantucc.org)**.

**OUR MINISTRY TEAM**

**Rev. Christopher Czarnecki, MDiv, MBA, Senior Pastor**

**RevChris@holycovenantucc.org, 314-402-8167**

**Jon Weddell, MDiv, MSW, Minister of Music**

**Dawn Simmons, BSBF, Executive Assistant**

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