



HOLY COVENANT

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

-be the Church, everywhere



Photo by Jackson Simmer

“It’s the imperfections that make something beautiful,
that’s what makes it different and unique from everything else.”

— Bob Ross

“The wound is the place where the light enters you.”

— Rumi

“You are special just the way you are.”

— Fred Rogers

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
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 14, 2026, 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 "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" arr. M. Hayes

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

Chiming of the Hour

Gathering Music "Centering Prayer"
words and music by Judah L. Jones
Judah L. Jones, guitar & voice, Benjamin Rudolph, mandolin

* Call to the Heart Ed Vickery
Please take a comfortable posture that supports your worshiping, reading, and singing...

One: We come this morning as people who have doubted and questioned, who have failed and fallen short.

Many: **We come because Jesus called people just like us.**

One: We come as people who couldn't always be counted on, who said the wrong things and made the wrong choices.

Many: **We come because Jesus called people just like us.**

One: We come as the overlooked and the outcast, some who the world has written off or disregarded.

Many: **We come because Jesus called people just like us.**

One: We come carrying our imperfections, our blind spots, and the things we are still working through.

Many: **We come because Jesus called people just like us.**

One: So come, all you misfits and doubters, you failures and seekers, you imperfect and beloved children of God.

Many: **We come, because we have been called and are loved by God.**

* Hymn 417

“This Is a Day of New Beginnings”

BEGINNINGS

This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,
Time to believe what love is bringing laying to rest the pain that’s gone.

For by the life and death of Jesus, God’s mighty Spirit, now as then,
Can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again.

Then let us, with the Spirit’s daring, step from the past and leave behind
Our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.

Christ is alive and goes before us to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings our God is making all things new.

Monthly Affirmation

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Ourselves: I rest in the stillness of God and receive the gift of this present moment.

Neighbor: You rest in the stillness of God and receive the gift of this present moment.

World: We rest in the still of God and receive the gift of this present moment.

Honoring Juneteenth

Angela Allison

Stories for All People

Jim Dwiggin

Song of Preparation

“Rain Down”

by Jaime Cortez

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

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

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Prayer for Illumination (*sung*)

OPEN OUR EYES

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch you and say that we love you.

Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.

Modern Lesson

Cathy Whitley

Our modern lesson for today is an anonymous quote found and adapted by Pastor Chris for today's worship service. The quote says this...

“For years I thought God’s love had to be earned. Every mistake I made felt like another reason for God to reject me. I treated God’s grace like a fragile contract, one where I was just one failure or botched fiasco away from being void. But the truth is, God’s grace is a gift. It is not the earnings for some good deed I’ve done or for finally having gotten it right. No, it’s none of those things. Instead, it’s the unshakable and unwavering love of a God who chose me before I ever chose God.”

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

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

* Gospel Lesson

Matthew 9:35-10:8(CEB)

Ed Vickery

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

Our Gospel lesson for today comes from Matthew 9:35-10:8, where Jesus is teaching and healing, summons the twelve disciples, and gives them their mission...

Jesus traveled among all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, announcing the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness. Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were troubled and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The size of the harvest is bigger than you can imagine, but there are few workers. Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers for his harvest.”

He called his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to throw them out and to heal every disease and every sickness. Here are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, who is called Peter; and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee; and John his brother; Philip; and Bartholomew; Thomas; and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus; and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean; and Judas, who betrayed Jesus.

Jesus sent these twelve out and commanded them, “Don’t go among the Gentiles or into a Samaritan city. Go instead to the lost sheep, the people of Israel. As you go, make this announcement: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those with skin diseases, and throw out demons. You received without having to pay. Therefore, give without demanding payment.

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

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

“Why Someone Like Me?”

Invitation to Generosity

Ed Vickery

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

We heard this morning the way Jesus took a group of imperfect, unlikely people and entrusted them with his mission. He never asked them to be perfect, but to show up and share what they had. May the offerings we give today: our money, our time, our talents, be a declaration of how we are showing up too. So, as we give, may we trust that what is offered, however large or small, becomes part of the work of building God's kin-dom here on earth.

* Doxology 785

SCHUMANN

**We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.**

* Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

Ed Vickery

Please join me in a prayer of dedication for the gifts we have received...

God of life, we dedicate these gifts to the mission you have placed in our hands. May they go where we cannot, reach who we have not yet reached, and help build the world you are dreaming into being. We give knowing that the kin-dom is not built by perfect people but by those who are willing. So, take what we have offered and may it be more than enough. Amen.

Poem

“Beauty in the Brokenness”
read by Rev. Windy Allison
AllPoetry.com

by Syker

* Hymn

“By Gracious Powers”

FINLANDIA

By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered,
and confidently waiting, come what may,
We know that God is with us night and morning
and never fails to greet us each new day. (2x)

Yet is this heart by its old foe tormented,
still evil days bring burdens hard to bear;
O give our frightened souls the sure salvation
for which, O Lord, you taught us to prepare. (2x)

And when this cup you give is filled to brimming
with bitter suffering, hard to understand,
We take it thankfully and without trembling,
out of so good and so beloved a hand. (2x)

Yet when again in this same world you give us
the joy we had, the brightness of your sun,
We shall remember all the days we lived through,
and our whole life shall then be yours alone. (2x)

* Benediction

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

* Benediction Response

NEW DIMENSIONS

God of rainbow, fiery pillar,
Leading where the eagle's soar,
We your people, ours the journey
Now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.

Postlude

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

arr. J. Vogt

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Parts of the liturgy were written by written by 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: Dave Shimberg, Shakti Subramanian
Greeters: Pam Shimberg,
Refreshments: Rena Monk, Roxie McMillon

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT



*Your generosity builds a more inclusive church!
Explore secure options available online
<https://holycovenantucc.org/giving/>*

At Holy Covenant, we celebrate the many ways you share your gifts: through pledged support, spontaneous generosity, and acts of love in our shared life. If you'd like to give today, you can scan the QR code to access our secure online giving options. Thank you for sustaining the ministries of love, welcome, and justice we are creating together.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

- Jun 14: Juneteenth, Sandwich Build following Worship
- Jun 14: Huntersville Pride 1:00-6:00pm
- Jun 18: Life Line Screening HCUCC 9:00am-5:00pm
- Jun 18-20: SOC Annual Gathering, Greensboro
- Jun 20: Girl Scout Troop Bridging Ceremony 1:00pm-5:00pm
- Jun 21: "Ask the UCC Pastors" special Worship time
- Jun 25: United Church of Christ's 69th Anniversary
- Jun 28: Open and Affirming Sunday

Join us today following worship for a Sandwich Build for our neighbors in need. We'll make 200 sandwiches. Fun, fellowship and no experience is necessary!

JUNETEENTH COMES TO CHARLOTTE THIS WEEK!

Lots of family-friendly events with an array of programming types are scheduled. See the calendar of growing opportunities to learn and celebrate here: juneteenthevents.us/charlotte.

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JUNETEENETH (CONT)

For more information and the schedule of events visit <https://share.google/miCzPt65tp6y4QRI7>.

To learn more about Juneteenth, check out the Juneteenth Reading List at the National Museum of African American History and Culture: <https://share.google/764WdBrNW9Or2wd3Q>

SOJOURNERS CLASS - ENGAGING ADULT EDUCATION

All are welcome and no preparation is required.

June 7-21 Discussion of *Tattoos on the Heart* led by Suzanne Lamorey

June 28 Discussion of justice and religion begins led by Anne Hayes

Join us Sunday mornings in the Conference Room or online via Zoom, 9:45am Meeting ID: 895 6175 8099 Passcode: 986788

HUNTERSVILLE PRIDE FESTIVAL, SUN. JUNE 14 | 1:00PM-6:00PM

Veterans Park, 201 Huntersville-Concord Road, Huntersville

We're hosting a booth at the Huntersville Pride Festival – and we'd love your help! Come represent our church, share some love, and invite folks into our community. It's going to be a joyful day.

Volunteers needed to greet people at our booth. Questions? Contact **Laura Hankins** or **Joy Decker** for more information. signupgenius.com/go/10C044CA4AE22A3F8C16-64351198-huntersville#/

CHARLOTTE PRIDE INTERFAITH CELEBRATION, Aug. 9 | 4:00pm

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 1900 The Plaza, Charlotte, NC

This service brings together the LGBTQIA+ community and different faith groups to reflect, celebrate, and build relations. Additionally, this celebration initiates Pride Week in Charlotte, culminating in the festival and parade the following weekend. There will be an after-service social and refreshments. See the Loop newsletter for more details.

HCUCC BANNED BOOK LIBRARY

This month, the HCUCC Banned Book Library will celebrate Pride Month by focusing on books centered on LGBTQ+ stories and authors. Stop by the library table to see the books in our collection by and about the LGBTQ+ community. If there is a specific book you think should be added to the library to celebrate Pride month, please let Kim Tyler know. Check out our regular news article updates in the Loop.

A SIMPLER WAY TO SERVE!

Starting June 12, all Sunday worship volunteer roles – refreshments, usher/greeter, reader, and more – are now in one convenient sign-up. No more hunting through separate lists! To sign up, visit our website

www.holycovenantucc.org and click **Volunteer | SignUPGenius**

Already signed up? You're all set – your existing commitments have been transferred automatically. We welcome everyone to share their gifts and serve alongside us!

Please Remember in Prayer

Members

Mel Andersen, Kathy Habel, Jim & Faye Humphrey, Diane Neese, Melissa Noll, Lee Parrish, Shakti Subramanian, Anita Taylor, Laurence Winston, Alice & Sally Phelan-Young

Friends & Family Members

Amanda (Linda Burby), Laura Allison, Farug Brown Bey (Jeffery Edwards-Knight), Annette Borrelli, Joan Bowling (Kristen Fuchs), Lester Brigman (Lee Parrish), Linda Burby, Kim Chamberlain (Kevin Decker), April Dawson, Erica Echiverri, Gloria Echiverri (Melissa Noll), Cherice Fequiere (Deborah Winston), Jason Field (Benjamin Rudolph), Mario Gaetani and family (Kristen Fuchs), Ann Garret (Holly Middleton & Dawn Schmitz), Samuel Head (Benjamin Rudolph), Jack Hillard (Barbara Schneller), Jeanne Hord (Diane Neese), Cindy Hedrick (Barb Schneller), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie Hildebrand), Charlie Holt (Autumn Holt), Judson Hulse (Kristen Fuchs), Renee Lewis (Martha Battles), Richard Lease (Barb Schneller), Matty McKinnon (Joy Decker), Geraldine Mobley (Jeffery Edwards-Knight), Tom, Beth and Ariel Rudolph (Benjamin Rudolph), Brenchia Thomas, Steve Thomas (Jeffery Edwards-Knight) Dave & Jennifer Ward (Jay & Cathy Whitley), Scott Whitley (Jay Whitley)

If you wish to add someone to the list, please send a note to prayers@holycovenantucc.org. We periodically adjust our prayer list. If you would like to have someone added back, please contact the office.

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

Mailing address: P.O. Box 481285, Charlotte NC 28269

3501 West W.T. Harris Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28269-8510

www.holycovenantucc.org 704-599-9810