



HOLY COVENANT

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

-be the Church, everywhere



Unsplash photo by Jonathan Muriu

“Refusing to perform neurotypicality is a revolutionary act of disability justice. It's also a radical act of self-love.”

— Devon Price

“There is no greater disability in society, than the inability to see a person as more.”

— Robert M. Hensel

“People with developmental disabilities and mental illness are only handicapped by how much we underestimate them.”

— Donna Kirk

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
ACCESS SUNDAY ~ DISABILITIES AWARENESS SUNDAY

October 11, 2026, 10:55 am

EVERY VOICE MATTERS: HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES AVAILABLE
See the ushers for a wireless transmitter and your personal ear buds.

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

Prelude “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” arr. R. W. Thygerson

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

Chiming of the Hour

Introit “Let Us Build a House” ALL ARE WELCOME

**Let us build a house where prophets speak,
And words are strong and true,
Where all God’s children dare to seek to dream God’s reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God’s grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.**

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

One: Come, people of God, each of us bearing the beauty of difference.

Many: **We come as we are, unique and worthy of love.**

One: Some move with ease, others with support aid. Yet all move within
God’s grace.

Many: **Our differences are not barriers. Together, we are the body of
Christ.**

One: Some minds race with ideas, others rest in stillness. Each reflects
God’s creativity.

Many: Our neurodiversity reveals the vast imagination of God.
One: Some hearts carry pain, some deep joy, yet all beat with divine love.
Many: God is in every heartbeat, in every breath, in the depth of every being.
One: In Jesus, we see a love that crosses every border and difference.
Many: We are called to welcome and celebrate one another fully.
One: Come and rest in this space where all belong. Every mind, body, and soul is holy.
Many: Come let us worship the One who loves us as we are.

* Hymn 4

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”

HYMN TO JOY

Ludwig van Beethoven

Joyful, joyful, we adore you, God of glory, God of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the storms of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All your works with joy surround you, earth and heaven reflect your rays,
Stars and angels sign around you, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, teach us what our praise should be.

You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blessed,
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Loving Spirit, Father, Mother, all who love belong to you;
Teach us how to love each other, by that love our joy renew.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus which morning stars began;
Boundless love is reigning o’er us, reconciling race and clan.
Ever singing, move we forward, faithful in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us onward in the triumph song of life.

Monthly Affirmation

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

Ourselves: I am a unique and beloved reflection of God’s image.

Neighbor: You are unique and beloved reflection of God’s image.

World: Together, we are a unique and beloved reflection of God’s image.

Stories for All People

Laura Hankins

One: God created all living things. God created humans in God’s image, and God said that God’s creation was good!

Many: **So we, too, believe that people of all ages, shapes, and abilities are created in the image of God.**

One: God called leaders like Jacob who limped from a hip injury and Moses who had a speech disability to lead God’s people!

Many: **So we, too, welcome pastors and leaders with disabilities alongside pastors and leaders without disabilities.**

One: The Psalms celebrate that we are all fearfully and wonderfully made, and that God has loved us since before our birth!

Many: **So we, too, celebrate each child, with and without disabilities, as a unique and wonderfully made gift from God.**

One: Jesus welcomed children and said that His followers were to come to God like children!

Many: **So we, too, are to be open and childlike in our praise of God and love of neighbor.**

One: Jesus reached out to people with mental and physical disabilities and helped them be welcomed members of their communities!

Many: **So we, too, welcome all people into our congregations, worship, and fellowship.**

One: Paul taught that the Church needs people of all gifts and abilities in order to be the whole Body of Christ!

Many: **So we, too, look for the gifts that each of us brings to the church and our communities, and we help each person find ways to serve God.**

One: Paul preached and spread the gospel throughout much of the known world despite his poor vision and thorn in the flesh that kept him humble!

Many: **So we, too, are witnesses for God, offering our whole selves without excuses.**

One: Only God our Creator is perfect!

Many: **We are all human, called, not to be perfect, but only to do our best as loving followers of Jesus who help build God’s reign on earth and bring hope and justice for all. Amen.**

Prayer for Illumination (*sung*)

Take Me As I Am

**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

Kevin Decker

Our modern lesson for today comes from Amy Kenny, who is an author and speaker on disability justice. In her book "My Body is Not a Prayer Request" she writes...

My disabled body is beautiful in its distinctiveness. My body might be more crooked than yours, but it has earned its spiky edges. My leg might be blue from lack of circulation, but it sparkles like sapphires. My nerves are on fire, but it is fire that releases the sequoia cones that germinate the forest. My spasms are sharp as ice, but ice is what regulates the ocean's tide. My disabled body is made of the same stuff as stars.

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

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

Christian Scripture

Philippians 4:1-9 (NRSV)

Ed Vickery

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

Our Christian lesson for today comes from Philippians 4:1-9, where Paul promotes the gifts of two women and the ministry work they are doing together...

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

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
“We Must Do More Than Welcome”

Invitation to Generosity

Ed Vickery

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

In the Kin-dom of God, every person is needed, everyone has a gift to share, and every person is part of building God’s dream of heaven here on earth. Our offerings are part of that dream, and through our shared generosity, we proclaim that love is more than an idea; it is a way of living together. As we bring our gifts today, let us do so with gratitude for the diversity of God's people and hope for the world God is still creating. Let us now share our gifts with God.

* Doxology

BARUCH HASHEM ADONAI

Baruch hashem Adonai. Baruch hashem Adonai.

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

* Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

Ed Vickery

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

God of many gifts, we dedicate these offerings to the building of your Kin-dom, where barriers are lowered and every person is needed. Transform these offerings into ministries of access, welcome, and justice. Remind us that true generosity is not measured by what we give, but by the spaces we create for others to thrive. Send us into the world as partners in your work of inclusion and liberation. Amen.

*God of change and glory, God of time and space,
When we fear the future, give to us your grace.
In the midst of changing ways give us still the grace to praise.*

**Refrain: 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!**

**God of many colors, God of many signs,
You have made us different, blessing many kinds.
As the old ways disappear, let your love cast out our fear. (R)**

**Freshness of the morning, newness of each night,
You are still creating endless love and light.
This we see, as shadows part, many gifts from one great heart. (R)**

* Benediction

Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

* Benediction Response

HALLE, HALLE

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

Postlude

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

arr. J. Vogt

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*The liturgy for today's service was written by The Disability Ministries
Committee of the United Methodist Church (Litany by Deaconess Lynn Swedberg)
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: Shakti Subramanian, Laurence Winston
Greeters: Deborah Winston, Roxie McMillon
Refreshments: Diane Neese

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.

A SIMPLER WAY TO SERVE!

All Sunday worship volunteer roles — refreshments, usher/greeter, reader, and more — are now in one convenient sign-up. No more hunting through separate lists! Join our ministries: <https://tinyurl.com/HCUCCSundays>

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

- Oct. 11: Youth Food & Fellowship; New Member/Inquirer Class II
- Oct. 18: Mortgage Payoff Service & Celebration
- Oct. 25: Welcome Sunday Installation of New Members

THANK YOU FOR PLEDGING DURING THE STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN!

Our Stewardship Campaign this year raised \$251,515 for the General Fund as of 10 a.m. Friday. That's 85% of our ambitious goal of raising \$296,000 to fund all of our priorities for 2027. We are grateful to all of those who pledged early, and those who increased their pledges even though we paid off the mortgage in September. We have big dreams for 2027, and it's not too late to join our "Journeys: Rooted in Faith, Growing in Hope" campaign. Budgeting is under way, and gifts are always welcome. If you haven't pledged yet, scan this QR code or go to <https://holycovenantucc.org/giving/>.



MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE & JOIN THE CHOIR

Advent is coming—let's fill our sanctuary with hope, peace, joy, and love.
No audition • All voice parts are welcome. Rehearsals after worship.

A JOURNEY OF HISTORY, REFLECTION, AND RENEWAL

The Racial Justice & Equity team is planning a meaningful, community-building three-day journey to Charleston to explore history, hear stories, reflect together, and renew our commitment to justice and equity. Check your calendars for April 5-7, 2027. Why are we sharing this with you now? Well, a group of 30 is required for the team to book this trip, and sign-ups and deposits will need to be submitted by mid-November. So, we want to get the word out sooner than later! Please watch for more info in the coming weeks. If you have any questions in the meanwhile, please speak with Ann Hooper or any member of the RJ&E team.

Please Remember in Prayer Members

Mel Andersen, Jeffery & Kevin Edwards-Knight, Kathy Habel, Faye Humphrey,
Anita Taylor, Alice & Sally Phelan-Young

Friends & Family Members

Dale & Nancy Allison in the recent death of their daughter, Laura Allison
Farug Brown Bey (Jeffery Edwards-Knight), Joan Bowling (Kristen Fuchs), Randy
& Tina Buie (Diane Neese), Kim Chamberlain (Kevin Decker), Cecelia Ciciollo
(Dom Ciciollo), April Dawson, Mario Gaetani and family (Kristen Fuchs), Ann
Garret (Holly Middleton & Dawn Schmitz), Ivory Garvin and family (Von McQueen-
Simmons), Samuel Head (Benjamin Rudolph), Henry Hildebrand (Bill & Connie
Hildebrand), Charlie Holt (Autumn Holt), Jeremy Hong (Jim Hong), Dean Horning
(Melissa Noll), Judson Hulsey (Kristen Fuchs), Lon Kominski (Dawn Simmons),
Renee Lewis (Martha Battles), Richard Lease (Barb Schneller), Matty McKinnon
(Joy Decker), Geraldine Mobley (Jeffery Edwards-Knight), Connie Stidham (Ed
Vickery), Tom, Beth and Ariel Rudolph (Benjamin Rudolph), Brenchia Thomas,
Steve Thomas (Jeffery Edwards-Knight) Dave, Jennifer Ward (Jay & Cathy
Whitley), Scott Whitley (Jay Whitley), Tara Washburn (Patrick Washburn)

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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Jon Weddell, MDiv, MSW, Minister of Music

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