HOLY COVENANT
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
-be the Church, everywhere



Unsplash Photo by Paul Robert

"There is a sacredness in tears. They are not the mark of weakness, but of power. They speak more eloquently than ten thousand tongues. They are the messengers of overwhelming grief, of deep contrition, and of unspeakable love."
— Washington Irving

"The lives of the saints are nothing but the Gospel put into practice."
— St. Francis de Sales

"We've all had saints in our lives, by which I mean not plaster saints, not moral exemplars, not people setting for us a kind of suffocating good example, but I mean saints in the sense of life givers. People through knowing whom we become more alive."
— Frederick Buechner

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
ALL-SAINTS SUNDAY

November 01, 2026, 10:55 am

Every voice matters: Hearing assistance devices are 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 "Holy, Holy, Holy with Holy is the Lord" arr. Tom Fetke
Patrick Washburn, piano

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 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 reading and worshiping and singing…
One: We remember, O God…
Many: The countless saints of history who have blazed a trail of courage through time,
One: We remember, O God…
Many: The tender touch of loved ones, the example of heroes, the healing words of comforters, the acts of fearless ones.
One: We remember, O God…
Many: The gentle strength of grandmothers, the loyalty of friends, the joy of children, the sacrifice of parents.
One: We remember, O God…

Many: The supreme love of Jesus, the blessing of his Spirit, the reminder of his words, the sharing of his suffering, the glory of his resurrection.

One: We remember in every time and place the saints of God…

Many: Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses let us now worship with God!

∗ Hymn 295 "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God" GRAND ISLES

I sing a song of the saints of God,
Faithful their whole lives through,
Who bravely labored, lived, and died
For the God they loved and knew.
And one was doctor, and one was a queen,
And another a shepherd in pastures green:
They were saints of God, if you know what I mean.
God, help me to be one, too.

They loved their God, and they lived that love.
It was loving that made them strong.
They did what was right, for Jesus' sake,
Lived justly their whole lives long.
And one was a prophet, and one was a priest,
And another was slain by a fierce wild beast:
There is no earthly reason, none in the least,
Why I shouldn't be one, too.

They lived not only in ages past,
There are hundreds of thousands still.
The world is filled with living saints
Who choose to do God's will.
You can meet them in school, on the road, or at sea,
In a church, in a train, in a shop, or at tea:
For the saints are folk like you and like me,
And I mean to be one, too.

Stories for All People Dawn Robinson

Prayer for the Election and for Calm Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

God of every nation and people,
we lift before you the election in the days ahead.
We pray for every voter, that each may cast a ballot freely and without fear.
We pray for election officials and poll workers, that they may do their work with integrity,
patience, and safety.
We pray for every candidate, that they may seek the common good and accept the will of
the people with grace.
We pray for those who hold power, that they may use it to protect and not to threaten.
Calm our anxious hearts.
Where there is fear, grant courage.
Where there is division, grant understanding.
Where there is anger, grant peace.
Help us to love our neighbors, including those with whom we disagree,
and to remember that our ultimate hope rests not in any ruler or party, but in you.
In your holy name we pray.
Amen.

Sacred Text Revelation 7:9-17 (CEB) Barbara Schneller

Our Scripture for today comes from Revelation 7:9-17 (CEB), where a great multitude no one could number stands before God and are told they will never know suffering or tears again…

After this I looked, and there was a great crowd that no one could number. They were from every nation, tribe, people, and language. They were standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They wore white robes and held palm branches in their hands. They cried out with a loud voice: “Victory belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

All the angels stood in a circle around the throne, and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell facedown before the throne and worshipped God, saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and always. Amen.” Then one of the elders said to me, “Who are these people wearing white robes, and where did they come from?”

I said to him, “Sir, you know.” Then he said to me, “These people have come out of great hardship. They have washed their robes and made them white in the Lamb’s blood. This is the reason they are before God’s throne. They worship him day and night in his temple, and the one seated on the throne will shelter them. They won’t hunger or thirst anymore. No sun or scorching heat will beat down on them, because the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them. He will lead them to the springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

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 “Every Tear” Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

A Time of Remembering Our Saints
In the center aisle are three tables, each with a lighting station and several votive candles. During this time, you are invited to come up and light one of the candles in memory of the saints and loved ones in your life. When finished please discard the matchstick head in the opposite vase with the wet marbles and return to your seat. We will dismiss rows, starting in the back, as guided by the ushers.

Special Music "Remember Me"
by Robert Lopez and Kristen Anderson-Lopez
Judah Jones, Benjamin Rudolph, guitar and vocals

Invitation to Generosity Pam Shimberg
Now is the time for our ministry of giving and sharing…
On this All Saints Sunday, as we give thanks for those who have guided us, nurtured us, and shown us God's love. We remember that we are part of their living legacy. Through their faithfulness, we learned what it means to follow Christ and serve our neighbors. Let us now prepare our gifts, offering ourselves and our resources to continue the holy work they began.

Offertory Patrick Washburn, piano

* Doxology OLD HUNDREDTH
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above all heavenly hosts,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

∗ Prayer of Dedication *(unison)* Pam Shimberg

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

Gracious God, we dedicate these gifts to your work, grateful for the saints whose example continues to inspire us. As they followed Christ with courage and love, help us to walk faithfully in their footsteps, bearing witness to your grace in our own time. Use these offerings and us to build your blessed kin-dom here on earth. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
THE MYSTIC SUPPER

At Holy Covenant UCC, all are welcome to Christ's Table. Elements are grape juice and bread, wafers, or gluten free options. As we prepare for Communion, those of you online are welcome to have some bread and juice and join us in Communion.

Invitation to the Table Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

One: Today, we gather in the spirit of All Saints Day, remembering those who have come before us: our ancestors in faith who shaped the world with their love, courage, and commitment to justice. We honor their legacy as we come to this table, united as one.

Many: We remember the saints who taught us to love one another, even in our differences. We celebrate their witness as we seek to embody their spirit today.

One: As we prepare our hearts for this sacred meal, let us acknowledge that we are not always of one mind. We hold different political perspectives and disagree on various issues, yet we are called to be in community with one another. Here, at this table, we are reminded that our unity is found in our shared commitment to love one another.

Many: We affirm that our differences enrich our community. We are called to listen, to learn, and to grow together, even when we struggle to understand one another.

One: In the breaking of bread and sharing of cup, we are reminded of Christ's radical love. A love that welcomed all, broke down barriers, and transformed lives. A love that invites us to lay aside our judgments and embrace one another as beloved children of God.

Many: We now come to this table with open hearts, both ready to receive and give grace. We are reminded of this saintly body of Christ: diverse and beautiful, made up of all our stories, triumphs, and struggles. Through the sharing of this meal, Christ and our Saints, we remember you.

Words of Institution
On the night he was betrayed, Jesus gathered for a last meal among friends. And at that table, as they ate, he took bread, gave thanks for it, blessed it and broke it, and said: *"This is my body, given for you. Whenever you eat it, remember me."*

[Let this broken bread be a sign
that even what is broken can still feed the world.]

In the same way, after supper, Jesus took the cup. And after giving thanks, he blessed it, poured it, and gave it to his disciples and said: *"This cup is the new covenant, poured out in love for all people. Whenever you drink it, remember me."*

[Let this overflowing cup be a sign
that love always finds a way.]

Distribution of Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving *(unison)*
Loving God, we give thanks for this sacred meal. Help us to reminded of the deep connection we have with you and one another. Help us to embody your love, to be agents of peace, and to honor the diversity within our communities. Empower us to live out the values of justice, inspired by the Saints who have come before us. May our lives reflect the light of Christ as we work together to build a better world for all. Amen.

∗ Hymn 299 “For All the Saints” SINE NOMINE
vv. 1, 4 & 5

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who to the world their steadfast faith confessed,
Your name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Ringed by this cloud of witnesses divine,
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet in your love our faithful lives entwine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
Then hearts are brave again, and faith grows strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

∗ Benediction Rev. Christopher Czarnecki

∗ Benediction Response HALLE, HALLE
Halle, halle, hallelujah! *(3x)* **Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

Postlude “It Is Well with My Soul” arr. Chris Rice
Patrick Washburn, piano

Songs in this service are used by permission.
CCLI License #11439355; CSPL164710

Today’s liturgy includes attributions from https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/10/responsive-call-to-worship-all-saints.html (adapted Call to Worship), Georgetown University Center on Faith and Justice 2026 All Saints Sunday Worship Resource (Prayer for the Election and for Calm), and liturgy written by Rev. Christopher Czarnecki at Holy Covenant UCC.

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, Dave Shimberg
Greeters:
Refreshments: Sandy Henney, Phyllis Johnson

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

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

Today we extend a warm welcome to Kevin McCoy, who is a Community Engagement Specialist for Church World Service (CWS), responding to human needs around the world through disaster recovery, hunger-relief programs, refugee assistance, and community development initiatives.

Join us in thanking Patrick Washburn for being our accompanist while Jon Weddell takes his vacation!

3rd Quarter Giving Statements Distributed
Thank you to all who have made financial contributions this year. On Tuesday, October 20, your quarterly statement was sent via email. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to the church office, or speak to our church Treasurer, Martha Bomely. We are grateful for every one of you, including those sharing of your time and talents. Together, we are a strong faith family!

Upcoming Dates to Remember
- Nov. 07: How to Stop the Sunrise Film Screening
- Nov. 08: CROP Hunger Walk at HCUCC
- Nov. 15: HCUCC Annual Meeting & Potluck
- Nov. 21: Meck County Creek ReLeaf 2026
- Nov. 22: Let's Decorate for Advent after Worship
- Nov. 30: Deadline to register for Charleston 2027

Special Movie Screening; Saturday, Nov. 7th | 7:00 PM at HCUCC
Holy Covenant UCC will host a special film screening of **How to Stop the Sunrise - A Short Film** at 7:00 PM. Doors open at 6:30 PM. See the Loop newsletter for details.

CROP Hunger Walk; Nov. 8th at Holy Covenant
Let's alleviate hunger both locally and worldwide! Church World Service is operating worldwide to share resources and educate the hungry and victims of natural disasters. Join the walk! Contact Tina Dickens at **taichitina@gmail.com** or 704-200-0089. **https://tinyurl.com/HC-Crop-Walk**

HCUCC Annual Meeting and All-Church Potluck: Sunday, Nov. 15
Like every year, our meeting will take place in two parts. The first part will take place in worship as various ministry teams of the church share their submitted reports about the work they've been engaged in over the last year. The second part will be our more formal business meeting immediately following worship at approximately 12:15 PM. More information to come next week.

Creek ReLeaf; Help reforest Meck County! Nov. 21| 9AM-Noon
Every fall, the Charlotte Public Tree Fund sponsors Creek ReLeaf, a major planting effort at a predetermined Mecklenburg County location in need of reforestation. This year's event will take place at the Long Creek Greenway on Trotter Road. For more information, see the Loop newsletter or speak with Tom Lannin. Registration is required to participate.

Charleston Trip in April 2027; Register by Nov. 30th!
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. Reserve your spot for April 5–7, 2027. **A group of 30 is required for the team to book this trip, and sign-ups and deposits will need to be submitted by November 30th.** See the table in the gathering room for more information.

Church Office Update: Remote Work Schedule on Mondays
Our Office Administrator, Dawn Simmons, is currently working from home on Mondays and will continue to assist the congregation as usual. All calls made to the church office will be automatically routed to Dawn so that inquiries can be handled. The church office is generally open Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. However, we strongly encourage anyone planning to visit the church office to call ahead or contact the church before coming to ensure that someone is available to assist you. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we continue to serve our church family and community.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

If you wish to add someone to the list, please send a note to **prayers@holycovenantucc.org.**

Members

Mel Andersen, Darline Warren Batton, Jeffery & Kevin Edwards-Knight, Kathy Habel, Faye Humphrey, Wiley & Marlowe Morris, Jean Raley-Dennis, Anita Taylor, Alice & Sally Phelan-Young

Friends & Family Members

The family of Gloria Echeverri (Melissa Noll)
Tina Buie and family in the recent death of her husband, Randy (Diane Neese)
Dale & Nancy Allison in the recent death of their daughter, Laura Allison
Farug Brown Bey (Jeffery Edwards-Knight), Joan Bowling (Kristen Fuchs), 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), Jeremy Hong (Jim Hong), Dean Horning (Melissa Noll), Judson Hulsey (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), Connie Stidham (Ed Vickery), Brenchia Thomas, Steve Thomas (Jeffery Edwards-Knight) Dave, Jennifer Ward (Jay & Cathy Whitley), Scott Whitley (Jay Whitley), Tara Washburn (Patrick Washburn)

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