

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

August 21, 2022
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of the Word



Jesus and the Bent over Woman
2014 Acrylic on Canvas by Barbara Schwarz
www.diartsop.org



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

August 21st, 2022
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
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*"Then Jesus said to them, 'The Sabbath was made for people, not people for the Sabbath.
That is why the Chosen One is ruler even of the Sabbath.'"
Mark 2:27-28*

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

*please stand as you are able

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE – Betty Funk

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: Our God knows us intimately.

Many: God, you knew us before we knew us before we knew ourselves.

One: Our God is holy.

Many: Holy God, you consecrate us.

One: Our God will reassure.

Many: Holy God, you will give us words to speak.

***GATHERING PRAYER**

Mothering God,
we rejoice that you placed us
in the womb and called us forth.
You called us forth to build and to plant.
Give us the blueprint as we build
and bless our hands as we plant.

We rejoice in knowing
that our steps are guided by you,
and you are reliable.
We delight ourselves in your presence
and give thanks as you deliver us from fear

and let your love have its way in us.
Embolden us to speak your truth to power
and let the power of your truth
always be evident in us.
Amen.

*HYMN - NCH 21-- God Reigns o'er All the Earth vv. 1, 2, and 4

God Reigns o'er All the Earth

Author: Jane Parker Huber, 1981
© 1987 Jane Parker Huber from A SINGING FAITH.
Used by permission of Westminster/John Knox Press
Tune: TERRA BEATA S.M.D.
Traditional English melody
Adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915
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1 God reigns o'er all the earth!
Green hills and valleys low,
the farms and towns in golds and browns
God's grace and beauty show.
God reigns o'er all the earth!
Stone banks and spreading plains,
in rainbow hues, reds, yellows, blues –
of streams and country lanes.

2 God reigns o'er human life!
Through youth and aging years,
in death, in birth, in grief, in mirth,
in all our hopes and fears.
God reigns o'er human life!
Our inspiration still.
Through all our schemes, in all our dreams,
we see God's reigning will.

4 God reigns! Emmanuel!
God with us every day,
in all our past, and to the last,
our comfort and our stay.
God reigns! Emmanuel!
Let praise to Christ be sung!
God's presence here makes all things dear.
Let joyful bells be rung!

A READING OF THE WORD

*The Hebrew Scripture reading turns to Second Isaiah in these verses from chapter 58.
God speaks through the prophet to the people who have returned from exile, saying that if they put*

aside their evil and oppressive ways and instead provide for those in need, God will satisfy their needs. They will rebuild and be strong and be known as the ones who repair the brokenness and restore the way. If they turn back to God's ways, they will know the fullness of God's promises to their ancestors

FIRST READING Isaiah 58:9b-14

58 9 Cry, and YHWH will answer;
call, and God will say, 'I am here'—
provided you remove from your midst
all oppression, finger pointing, and malicious talk!

10 If you give yourself to those who are hungry and satisfy the needs of those who are afflicted,
then your light will rise in the darkness,
and your shadows will become like noon.

11 YHWH will always guide you,
giving relief in desert places.
God will give strength to your bones
and you will be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never run dry.

12 You will rebuild the ancient ruins,
and build upon age-old foundations.
You will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,
and Restorer of Ruined Neighborhoods.

13 If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath and
doing business on the holy day,
if you call the Sabbath delightful
and the day sacred to YHWH honorable,
if you honor it by not pursuing your own ways,
seeking your own pleasure,
or speaking your own words,

14 then will you find your happiness in YHWH,
and I will lead you triumphant
over the heights of the land.
I will feed you on the heritage
of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, your ancestors!"
The mouth of YHWH has spoken.

A READING FROM THE PSALMS: Psalm 103: 1-8 (*Responsively*)

This is a song of praise and blessing. The psalmist calls the people to worship God, who forgives, heals, redeems, and restores. God works justice for the oppressed and is full of mercy and

steadfast love. God's ways were made known to Moses and through all the prophets and will satisfy the faithful with goodness.

103 1 Bless God, my soul!

All that is in me, bless God's holy Name!

2 Bless God, my soul,

and remember all God's kindnesses!

3 The One who forgives all your sins
is the One who heals all your diseases;
4 The One who ransoms your life from the Pit
is the One who crowns you with love and
tenderness.

5 The One who fills your years with prosperity
also gives you an eagle's youthful energy.

6 How you love justice, O God!

You are always on the side of those who are oppressed.

7 You revealed your intentions to Moses,
your deeds to Israel.

8 You are tender and compassionate, God—
slow to anger, and always loving;

SECOND READING: Hebrews 12:18-29

The Epistle reading continues in Hebrews with these verses in chapter 12. In the case of their ancestors, only Moses could approach God's holy mountain of Sinai, but now, all believers can approach God upon the new Zion, the holy mountain city of God. Jesus has mediated a new covenant with his blood. The writer warns against rejecting Jesus the way the people rejected Moses, for Moses warned from earth, but Jesus warns from heaven. Though the earth and worldly nations are shaken, heaven cannot be, and those who are faithful receive the unshakable reign of God. God is a consuming, purifying fire, the One whom we serve in faithfulness, ready to be cleansed and made pure.

12 18 What you have come to is nothing known to the senses: not a blazing fire, or a gloom turning to total darkness, or a storm, 19 or trumpeting thunder, or the great voice speaking such that those hearing it begged that no more be said to them. 20 They couldn't bear to hear the command, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned." 21 Indeed, so fearful was the spectacle that even Moses said, "I am terrified and trembling."

22 What you have drawn near to is Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, where myriad angels have gathered for the festival with the whole church—23 in which everyone is a "firstborn" and a citizen of heaven. You have come to God, the supreme Judge, and have been placed with the spirits of the holy ones who have been made perfect. 24 You have come to Jesus—the mediator who brings a new Covenant—and to the sprinkled blood which pleads even more insistently than that of Abel.

25 Make sure that you never refuse to listen to the One who speaks. If the people who refused

to listen to the warning while on earth didn't escape, how much less will we escape if we refuse to listen to the voice of warning that comes from heaven? 26 God's voice shook the earth then, but now God promises, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." 27 That promise means that the things being shaken are created things, so that only those things that cannot be shaken will remain. 28 Therefore, since we have inherited an unshakeable dominion, let us thankfully worship God in a way that is acceptable—in reverence and in awe. 29 For our God is a consuming fire.

GOSPEL READING – Luke 13:10-17

Jesus heals a woman suffering from physical disability in this account in Luke 13. The woman was unable to stand up straight due to a spirit, but Jesus called her over and told her she was set free, and immediately she could stand. She began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue was upset that Jesus healed her on the Sabbath when she could have been healed at any other time. Jesus calls them hypocrites, for surely, they would water and feed their animals on the Sabbath, so why could he not set free this daughter of Abraham? While there are several stories of Jesus healing on the Sabbath and someone being upset by it, the people upset are in the minority. The issue is not that Jesus healed this woman or that it's the Sabbath, it's that this particular leader didn't see this woman as part of his community, a "daughter of Sarah and Abraham." Jesus showed her kindness and compassion. The demon removed perhaps is the demon of separation, the way we "other" people, especially those with disabilities.

13 10 One Sabbath, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues. 11 There was a woman there who for eighteen years had a sickness caused by a spirit. She was bent double, quite incapable of standing up straight.

12 When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are free of your infirmity." 13 He laid his hands on her, and immediately she stood up straight and began thanking God.

14 The head of the synagogue, indignant that Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the congregation, "There are six days for working. Come on those days to be healed, not on the Sabbath."

15 Jesus said in reply, "You hypocrites! Which of you doesn't let your ox or your donkey out of the stall on the Sabbath to water it? 16 This daughter of Sarah and Abraham has been in the bondage of Satan for eighteen years. Shouldn't she have been released from her shackles on the Sabbath?" 17 At these words, Jesus' opponents were humiliated; meanwhile, everyone else rejoiced at the marvels Jesus was accomplishing.

CHORAL RESPONSE – He is Lord

Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington and Bob Bucklew
Accompanist: Betty Funk

REFLECTION – Compassion that Surpasses - The Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

*PRAYER OF RESPONSE

Spirit of Peace, in a world of violence, war, and destruction, help us to make peace with ourselves. Help us to forgive our own brokenness. Remind us to speak tenderly to us, that we are worthy and beautifully made.

In awe you have formed us. Call upon us to speak in love to our bodies, our hearts that wander, our souls that tremble. Speak peace to us and help us to live into your peace. For then may we live as peacemakers and peacebuilders, justice-seekers, and love-bringers. Spirit of Peace, breathe peace into us, so we may live. Amen.

*HYMN - NCH 42-- O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Author: Charles Wesley, 1740; alt.

Tune: AZMON C.M.

Composer: Carl G. Gläser, 1828

Adapt. in L. Masons Modern Psalmody, 1839

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1 O for a thousand tongues to sing

my great Redeemers praise,

the glories ever echoing

the triumphs of God's grace!

2 My gracious Savior and my God,

assist me to proclaim,

to spread through all the earth abroad

the honors of your name.

3 Jesus! the name that calms our fears,

that bids our sorrows cease

is music in the sinner's ears,

is life, and health, and peace!

4 Glory to God, and love and praise

be ever, ever given

by all the saints in every age,

the church in earth and heaven.

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

The Divine source is the one from whom all blessings flow. We have an eternal invitation to bring our resources to God's house to use for the building of God's realm and as seed that there might be a continual harvest. These acts reflect the God who knows us and the God who calls us.

THE OFFERTORY – *Betty Funk*

***PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS – DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***BLESSING OF THE GIFTS**

Fount of Every Blessing, receive these gifts
in the joy in which we bring them.
May they bless your church universally,
our community and our world.
May none suffer lack and
may we always give from generous hearts.
May we always take joy in being blessed to give
and to share with you and each other.
Amen.

CHORAL HYMN- Count Your Blessings

*Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew
Accompanist: Betty Funk*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER – using “debts” and “debtors”

Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

GOING FORTH

*PARTING HYMN - NCH 76-- Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Author: Omer Westendorf, 1964; alt.

© 1964 by World Library Publications (A div. of J. S. Paluch Company, Inc)

Tune: THE ASH GROVE 6.6.6.11.6.6.11.D.

Welsh folk melody

Harm. Leland Sateren, 1972

Descant, The New Century Hymnal, 1993

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1 Sent forth by God's blessing,

our true faith confessing,

the people of God from this dwelling take leave.

The service is ended.

O now be extended

the fruits of our worship in all who believe.

The seed of Christ's teaching,

receptive souls reaching,

shall blossom in action for God and for all.

God's grace did invite us,

and love shall unite us

to work for God's realm and to answer the call.

2 With praise and thanksgiving

to God ever living,

the tasks of our everyday life we will face.

Our faith ever sharing,

in love ever caring,

embracing God's children of each tribe and race.

With your grace you feed us,

with your light now lead us,

unite us as one in this life that we share.

Then may all the living

with praise and thanksgiving

give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.

*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

One: Having been welcomed with grace,
let us go out this day.

Many: We will go to serve all of God's children,
deciding to meet them where they are.

One: Having listened to God's Word,
Let us go to share what we have learned.

**Many: We will go to stand with those who are uncertain about life,
to walk with those who have stumbled on their journey.**

One: Having been set free by the Spirit
let us go to be siblings with all,

**Many: We will go to release those bound by cruelty and injustice,
to bring healing to those crippled by fears. Amen.**

***POSTLUDE – Betty Funk**

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for August 21st, 2022 (Pentecost 11/Trinity 10/Proper 16 Ordinary 21 - C)*, written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted August 15th, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com>
- (2) The Gathering Prayer, Call to Worship, Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts are adapted from: To Build and to Plant: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday after Pentecost were written by Rev. Teña T. Nock-Hope, Associate Pastor of Digital Ministry, First United Church of Tampa, United Church of Christ. Copyright 2022 Faith INFO Ministry Team, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (3) The Prayer of Response is adapted from Worship Resources for August 21st, 2022—Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on August 11th, 2022, on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>.
- (4) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-736636. All rights reserved.

Ministers, *All of Us*
Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*
Betty Funk, *Pianist and Music Director*
Keith Konet, *Council President*



NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

God is Still Speaking...

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

Tithes and Offerings - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and mailed to:

Zion United Church of Christ
c/o Keith Konet
1039 Bridlewood Drive
Copley, OH 44321

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

Church's Website – Zion's previous website was created and maintained for many years by Michael Lukacs. Our thanks to Michael for his generosity and service over the years!

As times and circumstances have changed in the life of the church and in technology and hosting platforms, it was deemed time for a new site. Tremont-based web designer, Jill Lackey and her staff at Grove created a new website for us in consultation with Pastor Scott Rosenstein and Bob Bucklew. Our thanks to Jill and her staff! **Our new website address is: zionchurchtremont.org. Check out our website and Facebook page for updates and news!**

Season after Pentecost - Ordinary Time

The longest season of the liturgical calendar is filled with Sundays called "Ordinary Time." **The season - called the Season after Pentecost or Ordinary Time - began with Trinity Sunday and ends with Reign of Christ Sunday (the Sunday before the start of Advent).** If you're like me, you might hear "ordinary time" as "boring time." But that's not the case! The word "ordinary" most likely means "numbered" here (think ordinal numbers), because the Sundays of Ordinary Time are numbered. **In this season we move from concentrating on the event of Christ in the world to focusing toward the impact of being in Christ in the world. A life in the unity of the Trinity is one of being shaped and sent daily in the image and in the purpose of Holy Love.** The liturgical color for this season is green. During the Season after Pentecost, we focus on the life of the Church as it grows in the midst of the world.

"When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall.

Think of it—always."

— Mahatma Gandhi

Please Remember in Prayer

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community,
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement

- Our 155th Anniversary as a community of faith of Zion Church on May 15th, 2022.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.
- The families of Ruth Whitfield, 86; Roberta Drury, 32; Aaron Salter, 55; Heyward Patterson, 67; Pearl Young, 77; Geraldine Talley, 62; Celestine Chaney, 65; Katherine Massey, 72; Margus Morrison, 52; and Andre Mackneil, 53 killed last week in a racist-inspired mass shooting at a supermarket in Buffalo, New York.
- The family and friends of John Cheng, 52, killed in a mass shooting at a church reception in Laguna Woods, California on May 15th.
- The families and friends of the 19 children (3rd & 4th graders) and two teachers murdered in the massacre at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas: Alexandria Aniyah Rubio, 10; Alithia Ramirez, 10; Amerie Jo Garza, 10; Annabell Guadalupe Rodriguez, 10; Eliahana Cruz Torres, 10; Eliana “Ellie” Garcia, 9; Eva Mireles, 44 (fourth grade teacher); Irma Garcia (fourth grade teacher); Jackie Cazares, 10; Jailah Nicole Silguero, 10; Jayce Luevanos, 10; Jose Flores, 10; Layla Salazar, 10; Makenna Lee Elrod, 10; Maite Rodriguez; Miranda Mathis, 11; Nevaeh Bravo; Rojelio Torres, 10; Tess Marie Mata; Uziyah Garcia, 10; and Xavier Lopez, 10.
- The families and friends of the those killed in the mass shooting at a medical center in Tulsa, Oklahoma on June 1st: two doctors, Preston Phillips, 59 and Stephanie Husen, 48; a receptionist, Amanda Glenn, 40; and a visitor/patient, William Love, 73.
- The families and friends of those killed in the shootings at a potluck dinner on June 16th at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church in Vestavia Hills, Alabama: 84-year-old Walter Rainey, 75-year-old Sarah Yeager and 84-year-old Jane Pounds.
- The family and friends of those killed at the mass shooting at the 4th of July Parade in Highland Park, Illinois: Irina and Kevin McCarthy; Eduardo Uvaldo, 69; Katherine Goldstein, 64; Nicolas Toledo-Zaragoza, 78; Jacquelyn Sundheim, 63; and Stephen Straus, 88.
- **May God be revealed in their stories and the tears of all who mourn. May their memory be a blessing and their life in God’s good care last forever.**
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.
- The people of Afghanistan, Venezuela, Syria, Yemen, Armenia and Azerbaijan, the Kurdish people and the Christians of northern Syria - for peace, nutrition, and justice.
- The people of Tonga affected by the eruption of an undersea volcano and tsunami flooding.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive, a total of 422 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of August 19th, 2022. In 2021 a total of 693 mass shooting incidents occurred across the US, in 2020 a total of 611, in 2019 a total of 417, with 337 incidents in 2018. While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in

violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit – and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States - We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.

- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the omicron variant surge: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
 - Patti Augustine and family
 - Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) in Alliance, Ohio
 - Betty Funk (*our Minister of Music*)
 - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob; friend of Elaine – health concerns*)
 - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara, and Michael Reed.
 - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet
 - Keith Konet
 - Marcia Leslie (*neighbor and friend – health concerns*)
 - Elaine Lukacs (*fell at home and injured her knee and leg, presently at O'Neill Healthcare, Room 107, 7250 Old Oak Blvd., Middleburg Heights, Ohio 44130 – 440-863-5624.*)
 - Linda and James Mortach (*Elaine Lukacs' sister & brother-in-law*) & Linda's daughter
 - Patricia Matheny (prayers also for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray)
 - Lee Matsos and family
 - Barbara Rossington (*move to a new senior housing community*)
 - Henry Senyak (*resident community leader – cancer*)
 - The family of Michael O'Brien particularly his wife, Debbie Webb (*following Michael's death last Fall. Our love and sympathy to Debbie and Michael's family*).
 - Beverly Wurm (*recuperating*)

Help for Ukraine

Gifts made to UCC **Ukraine Emergency Appeal** will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people.

Donate online with the link below:

<https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal>

Or designate a check for Ukraine Relief and mail to:

United Church of Christ,
P.O. Box 71957
Cleveland, OH 44194.

Gifts made to **Sharing America's Resources Abroad (S.A.R.A)** provide food, clothing, and sanitary items for refugees fleeing to Hungary.

Donate online with the link:

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=QC5P9F6Z9LT32

Or designate a check for **S.A.R.A. - Donations for Ukraine Emergency Fund** and mail to:

SARA
c/o Heartland Conference UCC
P.O. Box 1230
Worthington, OH 43085.

Please know that your gifts of any size make a difference in this critical time.

ZION'S ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, BEVERLY WURM

Beverly began a part-time position with us. She will be keeping some limited Office Hours at church/home. The days and hours are:

Monday – 9am – 1pm
Wednesday – 11am – 4pm
Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: zionchurchtremont@gmail.com or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile).



THE SPIRE CENTER

All learning opportunities are free & offered via zoom.
Good will gifts & offerings are accepted with gratitude.
Information & Registration: www.livingwaterone.org/spirecenter

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 • 9-11AM & 6-8PM ADAPTIVE LEADERSHIP

This presentation offers a fresh perspective on the kind of leadership that is proving to thrive in these post-pandemic times. The presenter will encourage, challenge and inspire you. Sign up for this course today and be prepared to lead in a whole new way. This learning opportunity is offered twice for the convenience of authorized ministers and lay people.

FACILITATOR: The Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon, Sr. Pastor, Medina UCC

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1 • 9:30-11AM CHURCH TREASURERS WORKSHOP

Church Treasurers serve a vital function in our congregations, and there is so much you have to know. Bring your questions to this workshop and get ready to take notes. We'll give you answers and offer best practices that will make your important and difficult job just a little easier.

FACILITATOR: Machelle Miller, Association Financial Administrator

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6 • 6:30-8PM EFFECTIVE EVALUATION OF CHURCH STAFF AND MINISTRY

Your church staff is by far your most important ministry resource. We want to help you help them flourish by using an effective assessment process. This learning opportunity will give you the tools you need to reduce anxiety and promote personal growth among your church staff. Sign up today. Your staff will thank you.

FACILITATOR: The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, Association General Minister

WEDNESDAYS, OCTOBER 12 & 19 • 6:30-8PM GOD'S ABUNDANCE AND ECONOMY

Here's an opportunity to draw inspiration and renewed commitment for faithful living and generosity in our personal lives, congregations, and society. Our presenter will lead an exploration of Old & New Testament teachings for creating a just economy that go far beyond the familiar call in Matthew 25. Jesus and biblical writers reveal God's vision for using God's abundance to enable all people and creation to thrive. We will explore both the personal practices and public policy options that embody a theology of abundance and enable a just economy.

FACILITATOR: Dr. Edith Rasell, author of *The Way of Abundance: Economic Justice in Scripture and Society*.

TUESDAYS, OCTOBER 18 & 25 • 6:30-8PM REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE IN SCRIPTURE AND THEOLOGY

From an expert on childhood in the biblical world comes a truly engaging conversation on how to address reproductive rights from a broader faith perspective. The learning opportunity will consider proof-texts within the social context where they emerged to help us understand how these scriptures apply to our own setting; and offers a theological basis for reproductive rights.

FACILITATOR: Dr. Laurel Taylor Koepf, Professor of Old Testament, Eden Theological Seminary.

The School of Possibility, Inspiration, Reimagining & Exploration