

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

September 25th, 2022
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of the Word



The Rich Man and Lazarus

by Laura Jeanne Grimes, 2005

Laura Jeanne Grimes, artist.

<https://www.laurajeannegrimes.com/blog/the-rich-man-and-lazarus>



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

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*“If you want to feel rich, just count the things you have that money can’t buy.”
- A Proverb -*

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – *Betty Funk*

*Call to Worship

One: Come to this place and time of promise.

**Many: We are becoming the house of hope,
the field of sunflowers,
the vineyard of great caring.**

One: Come to a shared commitment
to abundance possible for all people.

**Many: We are an earthenware jar,
to keep safe the tomorrow of children.
Our security question is – the word of God,
and our password is love.**

*Gathering Prayer

**God, we give you thanks
that you make us redeemers,
not just receivers of redemption.
You bring us among friends and then ask
for each one of our signatures to change your world.
We hold the earthenware jar you call the church**

and fill it with all your promises. Amen.

***Hymn - NCH 31 - All Things Bright and Beautiful**

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Author: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.

Tune: ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with refrain

Adapter: Martin Shaw, 1915

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Refrain:

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
our dear God made them all.**

**1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
and made their tiny wings. [Refrain]**

**2 The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
The sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky. [Refrain]**

**3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them everyone. [Refrain]**

A READING OF THE WORD

In the midst of the siege of Jerusalem, while the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned by the king, he managed to secure a land deal despite his captivity. Jeremiah's cousin Hanamel sold a field to Jeremiah because the right of redemption passed to him, meaning, Hanamel went down the line of succession within the family and Jeremiah was next in line to either buy it or refuse it. Despite the war going on and being under guard, Jeremiah purchased the field because he knew God was using him as a sign of hope for the people, especially for the guard and the officials close by, that there would be those who survived, a remnant that returned. The deed was placed in an earthenware jar so that it could survive a long time when those who return would rebuild and plant again.

Hebrew Scripture: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

32 1 The word that came to Jeremiah from YHWH in the tenth year of Zedekiah ruler of Judah, which was also the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar:

2 At that time the army of the ruler of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned in the court of the guardhouse attached to the residence of the ruler of Jerusalem.3 Zedekiah the ruler imprisoned him after demanding, “How dare you prophesy the way you do? You say: ‘These are the words of YHWH: I will surrender this city into the hands of the ruler of Babylon, who will capture it.’” 6 The word of YHWH came to me and said, 7 “Hanamel, the son of your uncle Shallum, will come to you and say, ‘Buy my field in Anathoth. As next of kin you have the right of redemption to purchase it.’”

8 And just as YHWH foretold, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guardhouse and said, “Buy my field at Anathoth in Benjamin. You have the right of redemption to purchase it as next of kin. So why not purchase it?”

I knew that this was the word of YHWH. 9 So I bought the field in Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out the money—seventeen shekels of silver. 10 I signed the deed and sealed it, had it witnessed and then weighed out the money on a scale.

11 I took the copies of the deed of purchase—both sealed copy containing the terms and conditions and the unsealed copy—12 and gave them to Baruch ben-Neriah ben-Mahseiah in the presence of my cousin Hanamel and of the witnesses who had signed the deed and all the people of Judah who happened to be in the court of the guardhouse.

13 I gave Baruch these instructions in their presence: 14 “Thus says YHWH Omnipotent, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and the unsealed deed of purchase and put them in a clay jar so that they may be preserved for a very long time.”

15 For this is what YHWH Omnipotent, the God of Israel, says: “Houses, fields and vineyards will once again be purchased in this land.”

A Reding from the Psalms: Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 (Responsively)

This is is a song of praise to God who delivers the people from evil. The psalmist assures those who put their trust in God will have shelter and safety, and need not fear for their lives. In the latter verses, God declares through the psalmist that they will deliver those who love God and call out to God, for God is their salvation.

91 1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High and pass the night in
the shadow of Shaddai,

2 say: “God, my refuge and my mountain fortress, my God in whom I trust!”

3 For God says: “I will rescue you from the snare and shield you from poisoned
arrows.

**4 I will cover you with my pinions; under my wings you will take refuge; my faithfulness will
shield you.**

5 You have no need to fear the prowlers of the night or the arrow that flies by day,

6 The plague that lurks in the shadows or the scourge that stalks the noon.

14 "Because you love me, I will deliver you.

I will rescue you because you acknowledge my Name.

15 You will call upon me, and I will answer you; I will be with you in trouble.

I will deliver you and honor you.

16 I will satisfy you with a long life and show you, my salvation."

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

The Epistle readings continue the series on the pastoral letters of 1 and 2 Timothy with this text in 1 Timothy 6. The apostle Paul warns against those who desire wealth, because they will never be satisfied. Instead, Paul praises those who find contentment. "For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil" reminds us that if we love wealth, we do not love God, for Jesus warned us we cannot serve God and wealth (Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13). Instead, Paul urges the pursuit of righteousness (right-living with God), faith, love, gentleness, and so on. Take hold of eternal life. For those who are rich already they ought to be generous and share of their resources. They need to set their hope on God and not on their wealth and use their resources as a "good foundation" for the church in the future.

6 6 There is, of course, great benefit in religion, but only for those who are content with what they have. 7 We brought nothing into the world, nor have we the power to take anything out.

8 If we have food and clothing, we have all that we need. 9 Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and a trap. They are letting themselves be captured by foolish and harmful desires which draw us down to ruin and destruction.

10 The love of money is the root of all evil. Some people, in their passion for it, have strayed from the faith and have come to grief amid great pain. 11 But you are to flee from these things. As one dedicated to God, strive to be a person of integrity and piety, filled with faith and love, patience, and gentleness.

12 Run the great race of faith. Take firm hold of the everlasting life to which you were called when, in the presence of many witnesses, you made your good profession of faith. 13 Before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I charge you 14 to keep God's command without fault or reproach until our Savior Jesus Christ appears.

15 This appearance God will bring to pass at a chosen time. God alone is the Sovereign over all, the blessed and only ruler above all earthly rulers, 16 who alone possesses immortality, and who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no human being has ever seen or can see. To God be the honor and the everlasting kingdom! Amen.

17 Warn those who are blessed with this world's goods not to look down on other people. They are not to put their hope in wealth, for it is uncertain. Instead, they are to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with all that we need for our enjoyment. 18 Tell them they are to do good and be wealthy in good works. They are to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way, they'll create a treasure for the future, and guarantee the only life that is real.

Gospel Reading: Luke 16:19-31

Jesus told the story of the rich man and Lazarus in this text. Prior to this story, Jesus was teaching the disciples and encountered some Pharisees who were opposed to him. It is good to remember that just a few chapters ago, in 13:31, some Pharisees warned Jesus that Herod wanted to kill him. Not all the Pharisees were at odds with Jesus, and at different times Jesus had different encounters with this particular Jewish group. In this part of chapter 16, Jesus challenged the Pharisees and others on wealth ownership, and how wealth can lead us away from what God desires for us. In this story Jesus told, a man named Lazarus, who was poor and covered with sores on his body, used to sleep at the gates of a rich man's house—a person who lived in luxury without a care in the world. Lazarus longed to eat even the crumbs from the rich man's table, but instead, the rich man's dogs would come lick Lazarus' sores. When both men died, Lazarus was taken by the angels to Abraham, while the rich man suffered. The rich man called upon Abraham for mercy but also had the nerve to tell Abraham to send Lazarus to relieve his suffering! Abraham reminded the rich man that he had everything during his life while Lazarus had to suffer, so now it was time for Lazarus to be comforted. Besides that, it was impossible to cross the chasm separating them. The rich man begged Abraham to send Lazarus to his siblings to warn them, but Abraham said if they didn't believe the prophets, they weren't going to believe, even if someone rose from the dead—foreshadowing Jesus and the hardness of heart some people would have toward him.

16 19 “Once there was a rich man who dressed in purple and linen and feasted splendidly every day. 20 At the gate of this man's estate lay a beggar named Lazarus, who was covered with sores. 21 Lazarus longed to eat the scraps that fell from the rich man's table, and even the dogs came and licked Lazarus' sores. 22 One day poor Lazarus died and was carried by the angels to the arms of Abraham. The rich man likewise died and was buried.

23 In Hades, in torment, the rich man looked up and saw Abraham in the distance, and Lazarus resting in his company. 24 “Father Abraham,’ the rich man cried, ‘have pity on me! Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am tortured by these flames!’ 25 But Abraham said, ‘My child, remember that you were well off in your lifetime, while Lazarus was in misery. Now Lazarus has found consolation here, and you have found torment.

26 But that's not all. Between you and us there is a fixed chasm, so that those who might wish to come to you from here can't do so, nor can anyone cross from your side to us.’ 27 “The rich man said, ‘I beg you, then, to send Lazarus to my own house 28 where I have five siblings. Let Lazarus be a warning to them, so that they may not end in this place of torment.’ 29 But Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets. Let your siblings hear them.’ 30 ‘Please, I beg you,’ the rich man said, ‘if someone would only go to them from the dead, then they would repent.’ 31 ‘If they don't listen to Moses and the prophets,’ Abraham replied, ‘they won't be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead!’”

Choral Response – His Name is Wonderful

Music by Audrey Mieir, 1959

Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington and Bob Buckew

Accompanist: Betty Funk

Reflection— An Urgent Story – The Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Holy One, our world moves at a rapid pace of work, school, care of loved ones, paying bills, and all the other things that are important but can overwhelm us.

Help us to find the holy in the midst of it all: the brief moments of quiet, the time to read a chapter of a book, the sunshine breaking through the clouds, the task of watering plants.

Wherever we find a bit of Sabbath rest, O God, may we find it a holy moment. Whenever we find a bit of good, O God, nurture that goodness in us. May we seek the holy in our daily lives, for it escapes us in the world that pursues values away from you. May we find the holy moments already among us. Amen.

***Hymn of Response - NCH 543 - Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life**

vv. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

Author: Frank Mason North, 1903; alt.

Tune: GERMANY (GARDINER) L.M.

Source: William Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, 1815

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1 Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of clan and race,
Above the noise of selfish strife,
O Christ, we hear your voice of grace.

2 In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds fraught with fears,
From paths where hide the lures of greed,
we catch the vision of your tears.

4 The cup of water given for you
still holds the freshness of your grace;
Yet long these multitudes to view
the deep compassion of your face.

5 O Savior, from the mountainside,
Make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
Among these restless throngs abide,
O tread the city's streets again:

6 Till all shall learn compassion's might,
And follow where your feet have trod,
Till glorious from your realm of light
Shall come the city of our God.

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

We are invited to offer resources, time, abilities, compassion, in a tangible expression of our hope for the future for ourselves, this community of faith and many others near and far away. Be generous, my friends, with your trust in the future.

The Offertory – *Betty Funk*

*Presentation of Offerings – Doxology [*Old Hundredth*]

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

God, we have received hope; we give you time.
We have received hope; we give one another the church.
We have received hope; we offer these gifts that they
may become the change
or simply the promise of change
among those who need this clear image
that they are not abandoned.
Amen.

Choral Hymn: My Jesus, I Love Thee

*Words by William R. Featherston, 1862
Music by Adoniram J. Gordon, 1876*

*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 436 - God of Grace and God of Glory**

vv. 1, 2, 3, 5

God of Grace and God of Glory

Author: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

Words used by permission of Elinor Fosdick Downs

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

Composer: John Hughes, c. 1907

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**1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**2 From the evils that surround us
and assail the Savior's ways,
from the fears that long have bound us -
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

**3 Cure your children's waring madness;
bend our pride to your control.
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
make our broken spirits whole,
make our broken spirits whole.**

**5 Save us from weak resignation,
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: God sends us from this place with a word of hope.

Many: We will offer the shelter of grace to all in need.

One: Jesus sends us out with the word of life.

Many: We will seek to share community with those we will meet.

One: The Spirit sends us into a world which longs for justice.

Many: We will trust that God's freedom will be offered to all people. Amen.

***Postlude – Betty Funk**

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for September 25th, 2022 (Pentecost 25/Trinity 15 Proper 21 Ordinary 26 - C)*, written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted September 19th, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [Http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](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 and the Earthenware Jar: Service Prayers for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost were written by Maren C. Tirabassi is a UCC pastor, author of fiction and non-fiction, and also a hiker in autumn leaves and a lover of fireside moments in the company of dogs, reading poetry and novels and finding myself praying, United Church of Christ. Education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (3) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for September 25th, 2022*, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on September 16th, 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*
Beverly Wurm, *Administrative Assistant*



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 brought to church or 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

Our Church's 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 496 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of September 22nd, 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 (has been moved to: *Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility: 18627 Shurmer Road, Room 408, Strongsville, Oh 44136*)
 - 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 – 10am-2pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

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

Elaine Lukacs' Address:

Elaine Lukacs
Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility
18627 Shurmer Road, Room 408
Strongsville, Oh 44136

Pakistan's 'dire' flood crisis is subject of UCC emergency appeal

The United Church of Christ has issued an emergency appeal for relief-and-recovery gifts in response to what it called "massive flooding" across most of Pakistan.

Wider Church Ministries launched the **UCC Pakistan Response Fund** Sept. 16.

Torrential monsoons since June have dumped nearly five times as much rain as the country usually gets. So far, the resulting floods have:

- Killed more than 1,400 people
- Affected 30 million people and displaced 800,000
- Damaged or destroyed 1 million homes, as well as farms, livestock, roads, bridges, schools and more.

One-third of country still submerged

“The situation in Pakistan remains dire as more than a third of the country is still under water,” said the Rev. Josh Baird, who heads the UCC’s Global H.O.P.E. team. “The most pressing needs are for food, clean water and sanitation, and emergency housing.

“In areas where the water has not receded, people are forced to construct temporary shelter on whatever dry patch of land they can access — often on the edge of roads.”

“At its peak, 73 percent of Pakistan’s districts were impacted by flooding,” the appeal’s web page says. “... More than half of its districts have been declared ‘calamity hit’ by the government — a number that is expected to rise as the rain continues and floods flow through the Punjab and Sindh provinces.”

World’s churches respond together

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has called the crisis an “unprecedented natural disaster” caused by “the intensification of climate change.” “No country deserves this fate, but particularly not countries like Pakistan that have done almost nothing to contribute to global warming,” he said. He called on the international community for “massive financial support,” especially from “countries that have contributed more to climate change.”

Baird said the UCC is working with ecumenical partners to respond.

Community World Service Asia, a partner through the ACT Alliance, is meeting immediate needs “while laying the groundwork for long-term recovery,” he said. “Gifts to the Pakistan Appeal will support emergency relief and focus on providing long-term care through the gifting of items such as seed for fields and feed and vaccines for livestock.

“With more than 6.4 million people projected to require humanitarian assistance, we anticipate walking with affected communities for the restoration of homes and livelihoods for many years.”

People can donate electronically at this page: <https://www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/pakistan-emergency-appeal/>

by selecting “International Emergency” as the option and entering “Pakistan response” as the specific appeal.

Gifts by check can be made payable to United Church of Christ, with “Pakistan Response Fund” noted in the memo section, and mailed to P.O. Box 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194.

Statement from Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb in support of Puerto Rico 9.22.22

The people of Cleveland stand with the people of Puerto Rico, who are bearing the impact of Hurricane Fiona with incredible courage and strength. On the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Maria's vicious landfall, it remains unacceptable that so many Puerto Ricans still lack reliable access to water and electricity. As the scope of the need becomes clear in the coming days and weeks, Cleveland is here to support aid efforts—both for individuals in Puerto Rico prevailing against the hurricane and for those who find themselves relocating as a result of it. We're proud of our Puerto Rican community and Cleveland is ready with open arms to welcome those in need and to assist in any way we can.

Puerto Rico Relief:

LIFTING PUERTO RICO:
NEW ERA YOUNG LORDS EDITION

On behalf of New Era Young Lords and the situation among us, we are activating and impacting Puerto Rico with our Boots on The Ground Initiative. In Cleveland, we will be collecting donations and storing them in Lincoln-West High School. By October 8th a group of us will be taking those donations to Puerto Rico and support as much as we can to provide help and resources. **We will travel to San Lorenzo, Utuado, Guanica, and Salinas to help families clean up debris, cut trees down, rebuilt part of their homes that were affected by Fiona.** Please donate in the need of restoring and the Boots on The Ground Initiative by New Era Young Lords Ohio Chapter.

DONATION ITEMS NEEDED:
BATTERIES • FLASH LIGHTS • LANTERNS • BABY FORMULA • DIAPERS • CANDLES
MEN/WOMEN HYGIENE PRODUCTS • FIRST AID KITS • NON PERISHABLE FOODS • MEDICINE: TYLENOL, PAIN MEDS, ETC • WET WIPES • LATEX GLOVES TOWELS & WASH CLOTHES • BUG SPRAY

FOR PURCHASE ON ISLAND:
TOOLS • CHAIN SAWS • GARBAGE BAGS • TARPS • GENERATORS • GAS CANS

DROP OFF LOCATIONS, STARTING FRIDAY SEPT 23:
LINCOLN WEST HIGH SCHOOL
3202 W 30TH ST, CLEVELAND, OH 44109
BENNY'S SPORTS BAR
3463 FULTON RD, CLEVELAND, OH 44109

Scan QR Code to donate to our GOFUNDME!
Instructions on how to scan a QR CODE: Open camera and hover over the image until you see a link pop up. Click on the link that appears near the image!
Or manually type in link: <https://gofund.me/a3708ade>

We are also accepting donations to our CashApp
\$YOUNGLORDZPROJECT
Manuel Orlando Santiago
\$YoungLordzProject

Use QR code or manually type in link: <https://gofund.me/a3708ade>

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

September 25th, 2022
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of the Word



The Rich Man and Lazarus

by Laura Jeanne Grimes, 2005

Laura Jeanne Grimes, artist.

<https://www.laurajeannegrimes.com/blog/the-rich-man-and-lazarus>



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

September 25th, 2022
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of the Word

*“If you want to feel rich, just count the things you have that money can’t buy.”
- A Proverb -*

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – *Betty Funk*

*Call to Worship

One: Come to this place and time of promise.

**Many: We are becoming the house of hope,
the field of sunflowers,
the vineyard of great caring.**

One: Come to a shared commitment
to abundance possible for all people.

**Many: We are an earthenware jar,
to keep safe the tomorrow of children.
Our security question is – the word of God,
and our password is love.**

*Gathering Prayer

**God, we give you thanks
that you make us redeemers,
not just receivers of redemption.
You bring us among friends and then ask
for each one of our signatures to change your world.
We hold the earthenware jar you call the church**

and fill it with all your promises. Amen.

***Hymn - NCH 31 - All Things Bright and Beautiful**

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Author: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.

Tune: ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with refrain

Adapter: Martin Shaw, 1915

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Refrain:

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
our dear God made them all.**

**1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
and made their tiny wings. [Refrain]**

**2 The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
The sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky. [Refrain]**

**3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them everyone. [Refrain]**

A READING OF THE WORD

In the midst of the siege of Jerusalem, while the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned by the king, he managed to secure a land deal despite his captivity. Jeremiah's cousin Hanamel sold a field to Jeremiah because the right of redemption passed to him, meaning, Hanamel went down the line of succession within the family and Jeremiah was next in line to either buy it or refuse it. Despite the war going on and being under guard, Jeremiah purchased the field because he knew God was using him as a sign of hope for the people, especially for the guard and the officials close by, that there would be those who survived, a remnant that returned. The deed was placed in an earthenware jar so that it could survive a long time when those who return would rebuild and plant again.

Hebrew Scripture: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

32 1 The word that came to Jeremiah from YHWH in the tenth year of Zedekiah ruler of Judah, which was also the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar:

2 At that time the army of the ruler of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned in the court of the guardhouse attached to the residence of the ruler of Jerusalem.3 Zedekiah the ruler imprisoned him after demanding, “How dare you prophesy the way you do? You say: ‘These are the words of YHWH: I will surrender this city into the hands of the ruler of Babylon, who will capture it.’” 6 The word of YHWH came to me and said, 7 “Hanamel, the son of your uncle Shallum, will come to you and say, ‘Buy my field in Anathoth. As next of kin you have the right of redemption to purchase it.’”

8 And just as YHWH foretold, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guardhouse and said, “Buy my field at Anathoth in Benjamin. You have the right of redemption to purchase it as next of kin. So why not purchase it?”

I knew that this was the word of YHWH. 9 So I bought the field in Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out the money—seventeen shekels of silver. 10 I signed the deed and sealed it, had it witnessed and then weighed out the money on a scale.

11 I took the copies of the deed of purchase—both sealed copy containing the terms and conditions and the unsealed copy—12 and gave them to Baruch ben-Neriah ben-Mahseiah in the presence of my cousin Hanamel and of the witnesses who had signed the deed and all the people of Judah who happened to be in the court of the guardhouse.

13 I gave Baruch these instructions in their presence: 14 “Thus says YHWH Omnipotent, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and the unsealed deed of purchase and put them in a clay jar so that they may be preserved for a very long time.”

15 For this is what YHWH Omnipotent, the God of Israel, says: “Houses, fields and vineyards will once again be purchased in this land.”

A Reding from the Psalms: Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 (Responsively)

This is is a song of praise to God who delivers the people from evil. The psalmist assures those who put their trust in God will have shelter and safety, and need not fear for their lives. In the latter verses, God declares through the psalmist that they will deliver those who love God and call out to God, for God is their salvation.

91 1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High and pass the night in
the shadow of Shaddai,

2 say: “God, my refuge and my mountain fortress, my God in whom I trust!”

3 For God says: “I will rescue you from the snare and shield you from poisoned
arrows.

**4 I will cover you with my pinions; under my wings you will take refuge; my faithfulness will
shield you.**

5 You have no need to fear the prowlers of the night or the arrow that flies by day,

6 The plague that lurks in the shadows or the scourge that stalks the noon.

14 "Because you love me, I will deliver you.

I will rescue you because you acknowledge my Name.

15 You will call upon me, and I will answer you; I will be with you in trouble.

I will deliver you and honor you.

16 I will satisfy you with a long life and show you, my salvation."

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

The Epistle readings continue the series on the pastoral letters of 1 and 2 Timothy with this text in 1 Timothy 6. The apostle Paul warns against those who desire wealth, because they will never be satisfied. Instead, Paul praises those who find contentment. "For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil" reminds us that if we love wealth, we do not love God, for Jesus warned us we cannot serve God and wealth (Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13). Instead, Paul urges the pursuit of righteousness (right-living with God), faith, love, gentleness, and so on. Take hold of eternal life. For those who are rich already they ought to be generous and share of their resources. They need to set their hope on God and not on their wealth and use their resources as a "good foundation" for the church in the future.

6 6 There is, of course, great benefit in religion, but only for those who are content with what they have. 7 We brought nothing into the world, nor have we the power to take anything out.

8 If we have food and clothing, we have all that we need. 9 Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and a trap. They are letting themselves be captured by foolish and harmful desires which draw us down to ruin and destruction.

10 The love of money is the root of all evil. Some people, in their passion for it, have strayed from the faith and have come to grief amid great pain. 11 But you are to flee from these things. As one dedicated to God, strive to be a person of integrity and piety, filled with faith and love, patience, and gentleness.

12 Run the great race of faith. Take firm hold of the everlasting life to which you were called when, in the presence of many witnesses, you made your good profession of faith. 13 Before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I charge you 14 to keep God's command without fault or reproach until our Savior Jesus Christ appears.

15 This appearance God will bring to pass at a chosen time. God alone is the Sovereign over all, the blessed and only ruler above all earthly rulers, 16 who alone possesses immortality, and who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no human being has ever seen or can see. To God be the honor and the everlasting kingdom! Amen.

17 Warn those who are blessed with this world's goods not to look down on other people. They are not to put their hope in wealth, for it is uncertain. Instead, they are to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with all that we need for our enjoyment. 18 Tell them they are to do good and be wealthy in good works. They are to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way, they'll create a treasure for the future, and guarantee the only life that is real.

Gospel Reading: Luke 16:19-31

Jesus told the story of the rich man and Lazarus in this text. Prior to this story, Jesus was teaching the disciples and encountered some Pharisees who were opposed to him. It is good to remember that just a few chapters ago, in 13:31, some Pharisees warned Jesus that Herod wanted to kill him. Not all the Pharisees were at odds with Jesus, and at different times Jesus had different encounters with this particular Jewish group. In this part of chapter 16, Jesus challenged the Pharisees and others on wealth ownership, and how wealth can lead us away from what God desires for us. In this story Jesus told, a man named Lazarus, who was poor and covered with sores on his body, used to sleep at the gates of a rich man's house—a person who lived in luxury without a care in the world. Lazarus longed to eat even the crumbs from the rich man's table, but instead, the rich man's dogs would come lick Lazarus' sores. When both men died, Lazarus was taken by the angels to Abraham, while the rich man suffered. The rich man called upon Abraham for mercy but also had the nerve to tell Abraham to send Lazarus to relieve his suffering! Abraham reminded the rich man that he had everything during his life while Lazarus had to suffer, so now it was time for Lazarus to be comforted. Besides that, it was impossible to cross the chasm separating them. The rich man begged Abraham to send Lazarus to his siblings to warn them, but Abraham said if they didn't believe the prophets, they weren't going to believe, even if someone rose from the dead—foreshadowing Jesus and the hardness of heart some people would have toward him.

16 19 “Once there was a rich man who dressed in purple and linen and feasted splendidly every day. 20 At the gate of this man's estate lay a beggar named Lazarus, who was covered with sores. 21 Lazarus longed to eat the scraps that fell from the rich man's table, and even the dogs came and licked Lazarus' sores. 22 One day poor Lazarus died and was carried by the angels to the arms of Abraham. The rich man likewise died and was buried.

23 In Hades, in torment, the rich man looked up and saw Abraham in the distance, and Lazarus resting in his company. 24 “Father Abraham,’ the rich man cried, ‘have pity on me! Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am tortured by these flames!’ 25 But Abraham said, ‘My child, remember that you were well off in your lifetime, while Lazarus was in misery. Now Lazarus has found consolation here, and you have found torment.

26 But that's not all. Between you and us there is a fixed chasm, so that those who might wish to come to you from here can't do so, nor can anyone cross from your side to us.’ 27 “The rich man said, ‘I beg you, then, to send Lazarus to my own house 28 where I have five siblings. Let Lazarus be a warning to them, so that they may not end in this place of torment.’ 29 But Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets. Let your siblings hear them.’ 30 ‘Please, I beg you,’ the rich man said, ‘if someone would only go to them from the dead, then they would repent.’ 31 ‘If they don't listen to Moses and the prophets,’ Abraham replied, ‘they won't be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead!’”

Choral Response – His Name is Wonderful

Music by Audrey Mieir, 1959

Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington and Bob Buckew

Accompanist: Betty Funk

Reflection— An Urgent Story – The Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Holy One, our world moves at a rapid pace of work, school, care of loved ones, paying bills, and all the other things that are important but can overwhelm us.

Help us to find the holy in the midst of it all: the brief moments of quiet, the time to read a chapter of a book, the sunshine breaking through the clouds, the task of watering plants.

Wherever we find a bit of Sabbath rest, O God, may we find it a holy moment. Whenever we find a bit of good, O God, nurture that goodness in us. May we seek the holy in our daily lives, for it escapes us in the world that pursues values away from you. May we find the holy moments already among us. Amen.

***Hymn of Response - NCH 543 - Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life**

vv. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

Author: Frank Mason North, 1903; alt.

Tune: GERMANY (GARDINER) L.M.

Source: William Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, 1815

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1 Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of clan and race,
Above the noise of selfish strife,
O Christ, we hear your voice of grace.

2 In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds fraught with fears,
From paths where hide the lures of greed,
we catch the vision of your tears.

4 The cup of water given for you
still holds the freshness of your grace;
Yet long these multitudes to view
the deep compassion of your face.

5 O Savior, from the mountainside,
Make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
Among these restless throngs abide,
O tread the city's streets again:

6 Till all shall learn compassion's might,
And follow where your feet have trod,
Till glorious from your realm of light
Shall come the city of our God.

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

We are invited to offer resources, time, abilities, compassion, in a tangible expression of our hope for the future for ourselves, this community of faith and many others near and far away. Be generous, my friends, with your trust in the future.

The Offertory – *Betty Funk*

*Presentation of Offerings – Doxology [*Old Hundredth*]

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

God, we have received hope; we give you time.
We have received hope; we give one another the church.
We have received hope; we offer these gifts that they
may become the change
or simply the promise of change
among those who need this clear image
that they are not abandoned.
Amen.

Choral Hymn: My Jesus, I Love Thee

Words by William R. Featherston, 1862
Music by Adoniram J. Gordon, 1876

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 436 - God of Grace and God of Glory**

vv. 1, 2, 3, 5

God of Grace and God of Glory

Author: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

Words used by permission of Elinor Fosdick Downs

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

Composer: John Hughes, c. 1907

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**1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**2 From the evils that surround us
and assail the Savior's ways,
from the fears that long have bound us -
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

**3 Cure your children's waring madness;
bend our pride to your control.
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
make our broken spirits whole,
make our broken spirits whole.**

**5 Save us from weak resignation,
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: God sends us from this place with a word of hope.

Many: We will offer the shelter of grace to all in need.

One: Jesus sends us out with the word of life.

Many: We will seek to share community with those we will meet.

One: The Spirit sends us into a world which longs for justice.

Many: We will trust that God's freedom will be offered to all people. Amen.

***Postlude – Betty Funk**

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for September 25th, 2022 (Pentecost 25/Trinity 15 Proper 21 Ordinary 26 - C)*, written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted September 19th, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [Http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](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 and the Earthenware Jar: Service Prayers for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost were written by Maren C. Tirabassi is a UCC pastor, author of fiction and non-fiction, and also a hiker in autumn leaves and a lover of fireside moments in the company of dogs, reading poetry and novels and finding myself praying, United Church of Christ. Education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (3) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for September 25th, 2022*, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on September 16th, 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*
Beverly Wurm, *Administrative Assistant*



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 brought to church or 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

Our Church's 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 496 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of September 22nd, 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 (has been moved to: *Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility: 18627 Shurmer Road, Room 408, Strongsville, Oh 44136*)
 - 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 – 10am-2pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

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

Elaine Lukacs' Address:

Elaine Lukacs
Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility
18627 Shurmer Road, Room 408
Strongsville, Oh 44136

Pakistan's 'dire' flood crisis is subject of UCC emergency appeal

The United Church of Christ has issued an emergency appeal for relief-and-recovery gifts in response to what it called "massive flooding" across most of Pakistan.

Wider Church Ministries launched the **UCC Pakistan Response Fund** Sept. 16.

Torrential monsoons since June have dumped nearly five times as much rain as the country usually gets. So far, the resulting floods have:

- Killed more than 1,400 people
- Affected 30 million people and displaced 800,000
- Damaged or destroyed 1 million homes, as well as farms, livestock, roads, bridges, schools and more.

One-third of country still submerged

“The situation in Pakistan remains dire as more than a third of the country is still under water,” said the Rev. Josh Baird, who heads the UCC’s Global H.O.P.E. team. “The most pressing needs are for food, clean water and sanitation, and emergency housing.

“In areas where the water has not receded, people are forced to construct temporary shelter on whatever dry patch of land they can access — often on the edge of roads.”

“At its peak, 73 percent of Pakistan’s districts were impacted by flooding,” the appeal’s web page says. “... More than half of its districts have been declared ‘calamity hit’ by the government — a number that is expected to rise as the rain continues and floods flow through the Punjab and Sindh provinces.”

World’s churches respond together

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has called the crisis an “unprecedented natural disaster” caused by “the intensification of climate change.” “No country deserves this fate, but particularly not countries like Pakistan that have done almost nothing to contribute to global warming,” he said. He called on the international community for “massive financial support,” especially from “countries that have contributed more to climate change.”

Baird said the UCC is working with ecumenical partners to respond.

Community World Service Asia, a partner through the ACT Alliance, is meeting immediate needs “while laying the groundwork for long-term recovery,” he said. “Gifts to the Pakistan Appeal will support emergency relief and focus on providing long-term care through the gifting of items such as seed for fields and feed and vaccines for livestock.

“With more than 6.4 million people projected to require humanitarian assistance, we anticipate walking with affected communities for the restoration of homes and livelihoods for many years.”

People can donate electronically at this page: <https://www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/pakistan-emergency-appeal/>

by selecting “International Emergency” as the option and entering “Pakistan response” as the specific appeal.

Gifts by check can be made payable to United Church of Christ, with “Pakistan Response Fund” noted in the memo section, and mailed to P.O. Box 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194.

Statement from Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb in support of Puerto Rico 9.22.22

The people of Cleveland stand with the people of Puerto Rico, who are bearing the impact of Hurricane Fiona with incredible courage and strength. On the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Maria's vicious landfall, it remains unacceptable that so many Puerto Ricans still lack reliable access to water and electricity. As the scope of the need becomes clear in the coming days and weeks, Cleveland is here to support aid efforts—both for individuals in Puerto Rico prevailing against the hurricane and for those who find themselves relocating as a result of it. We're proud of our Puerto Rican community and Cleveland is ready with open arms to welcome those in need and to assist in any way we can.

Puerto Rico Relief:

LIFTING PUERTO RICO:

On behalf of New Era Young Lords and the situation among us, we are activating and impacting Puerto Rico with our Boots on The Ground Initiative. In Cleveland, we will be collecting donations and storing them in Lincoln-West High School. By October 8th a group of us will be taking those donations to Puerto Rico and support as much as we can to provide help and resources. **We will travel to San Lorenzo, Utuado, Guanica, and Salinas to help families clean up debris, cut trees down, rebuilt part of their homes that were affected by Fiona.** Please donate in the need of restoring and the Boots on The Ground Initiative by New Era Young Lords Ohio Chapter.

DONATION ITEMS NEEDED:

- BATTERIES • FLASH LIGHTS • LANTERNS •
- BABY FORMULA • DIAPERS • CANDLES
- MEN/WOMEN HYGIENE PRODUCTS •
- FIRST AID KITS • NON PERISHABLE
- FOODS • MEDICINE: TYLENOL, PAIN
- MEDS, ETC • WET WIPES • LATEX GLOVES
- TOWELS & WASH CLOTHES • BUG SPRAY

FOR PURCHASE ON ISLAND:

- TOOLS • CHAIN SAWS • GARBAGE BAGS •
- TARPS • GENERATORS • GAS CANS

DROP OFF LOCATIONS, STARTING FRIDAY SEPT 23:

LINCOLN WEST HIGH SCHOOL
3202 W 30TH ST, CLEVELAND, OH 44109

BENNY'S SPORTS BAR
3463 FULTON RD, CLEVELAND, OH 44109

Scan QR Code to donate to our GOFUNDME!

Instructions on how to scan a QR CODE: Open camera and hover over the image until you see a link pop up. Click on the link that appears near the image!

Or manually type in link: <https://gofund.me/a3708ade>

We are also accepting donations to our CashApp

\$YOUNGLORDZPROJECT

Manuel Orlando Santiago
\$YoungLordzProject

Use QR code or manually type in link: <https://gofund.me/a3708ade>

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

September 25th, 2022
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of the Word



The Rich Man and Lazarus

by Laura Jeanne Grimes, 2005

Laura Jeanne Grimes, artist.

<https://www.laurajeannegrimes.com/blog/the-rich-man-and-lazarus>



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

September 25th, 2022
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of the Word

*“If you want to feel rich, just count the things you have that money can’t buy.”
- A Proverb -*

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – *Betty Funk*

*Call to Worship

One: Come to this place and time of promise.

**Many: We are becoming the house of hope,
the field of sunflowers,
the vineyard of great caring.**

One: Come to a shared commitment
to abundance possible for all people.

**Many: We are an earthenware jar,
to keep safe the tomorrow of children.
Our security question is – the word of God,
and our password is love.**

*Gathering Prayer

**God, we give you thanks
that you make us redeemers,
not just receivers of redemption.
You bring us among friends and then ask
for each one of our signatures to change your world.
We hold the earthenware jar you call the church**

and fill it with all your promises. Amen.

***Hymn - NCH 31 - All Things Bright and Beautiful**

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Author: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.

Tune: ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with refrain

Adapter: Martin Shaw, 1915

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Refrain:

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
our dear God made them all.**

**1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
and made their tiny wings. [Refrain]**

**2 The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
The sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky. [Refrain]**

**3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them everyone. [Refrain]**

A READING OF THE WORD

In the midst of the siege of Jerusalem, while the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned by the king, he managed to secure a land deal despite his captivity. Jeremiah's cousin Hanamel sold a field to Jeremiah because the right of redemption passed to him, meaning, Hanamel went down the line of succession within the family and Jeremiah was next in line to either buy it or refuse it. Despite the war going on and being under guard, Jeremiah purchased the field because he knew God was using him as a sign of hope for the people, especially for the guard and the officials close by, that there would be those who survived, a remnant that returned. The deed was placed in an earthenware jar so that it could survive a long time when those who return would rebuild and plant again.

Hebrew Scripture: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

32 1 The word that came to Jeremiah from YHWH in the tenth year of Zedekiah ruler of Judah, which was also the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar:

2 At that time the army of the ruler of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned in the court of the guardhouse attached to the residence of the ruler of Jerusalem.3 Zedekiah the ruler imprisoned him after demanding, “How dare you prophesy the way you do? You say: ‘These are the words of YHWH: I will surrender this city into the hands of the ruler of Babylon, who will capture it.’” 6 The word of YHWH came to me and said, 7 “Hanamel, the son of your uncle Shallum, will come to you and say, ‘Buy my field in Anathoth. As next of kin you have the right of redemption to purchase it.’”

8 And just as YHWH foretold, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guardhouse and said, “Buy my field at Anathoth in Benjamin. You have the right of redemption to purchase it as next of kin. So why not purchase it?”

I knew that this was the word of YHWH. 9 So I bought the field in Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out the money—seventeen shekels of silver. 10 I signed the deed and sealed it, had it witnessed and then weighed out the money on a scale.

11 I took the copies of the deed of purchase—both sealed copy containing the terms and conditions and the unsealed copy—12 and gave them to Baruch ben-Neriah ben-Mahseiah in the presence of my cousin Hanamel and of the witnesses who had signed the deed and all the people of Judah who happened to be in the court of the guardhouse.

13 I gave Baruch these instructions in their presence: 14 “Thus says YHWH Omnipotent, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and the unsealed deed of purchase and put them in a clay jar so that they may be preserved for a very long time.”

15 For this is what YHWH Omnipotent, the God of Israel, says: “Houses, fields and vineyards will once again be purchased in this land.”

A Reding from the Psalms: Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 (Responsively)

This is is a song of praise to God who delivers the people from evil. The psalmist assures those who put their trust in God will have shelter and safety, and need not fear for their lives. In the latter verses, God declares through the psalmist that they will deliver those who love God and call out to God, for God is their salvation.

91 1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High and pass the night in
the shadow of Shaddai,

2 say: “God, my refuge and my mountain fortress, my God in whom I trust!”

3 For God says: “I will rescue you from the snare and shield you from poisoned
arrows.

**4 I will cover you with my pinions; under my wings you will take refuge; my faithfulness will
shield you.**

5 You have no need to fear the prowlers of the night or the arrow that flies by day,

6 The plague that lurks in the shadows or the scourge that stalks the noon.

14 "Because you love me, I will deliver you.

I will rescue you because you acknowledge my Name.

15 You will call upon me, and I will answer you; I will be with you in trouble.

I will deliver you and honor you.

16 I will satisfy you with a long life and show you, my salvation."

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

The Epistle readings continue the series on the pastoral letters of 1 and 2 Timothy with this text in 1 Timothy 6. The apostle Paul warns against those who desire wealth, because they will never be satisfied. Instead, Paul praises those who find contentment. "For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil" reminds us that if we love wealth, we do not love God, for Jesus warned us we cannot serve God and wealth (Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13). Instead, Paul urges the pursuit of righteousness (right-living with God), faith, love, gentleness, and so on. Take hold of eternal life. For those who are rich already they ought to be generous and share of their resources. They need to set their hope on God and not on their wealth and use their resources as a "good foundation" for the church in the future.

6 6 There is, of course, great benefit in religion, but only for those who are content with what they have. 7 We brought nothing into the world, nor have we the power to take anything out.

8 If we have food and clothing, we have all that we need. 9 Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and a trap. They are letting themselves be captured by foolish and harmful desires which draw us down to ruin and destruction.

10 The love of money is the root of all evil. Some people, in their passion for it, have strayed from the faith and have come to grief amid great pain. 11 But you are to flee from these things. As one dedicated to God, strive to be a person of integrity and piety, filled with faith and love, patience, and gentleness.

12 Run the great race of faith. Take firm hold of the everlasting life to which you were called when, in the presence of many witnesses, you made your good profession of faith. 13 Before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I charge you 14 to keep God's command without fault or reproach until our Savior Jesus Christ appears.

15 This appearance God will bring to pass at a chosen time. God alone is the Sovereign over all, the blessed and only ruler above all earthly rulers, 16 who alone possesses immortality, and who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no human being has ever seen or can see. To God be the honor and the everlasting kingdom! Amen.

17 Warn those who are blessed with this world's goods not to look down on other people. They are not to put their hope in wealth, for it is uncertain. Instead, they are to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with all that we need for our enjoyment. 18 Tell them they are to do good and be wealthy in good works. They are to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way, they'll create a treasure for the future, and guarantee the only life that is real.

Gospel Reading: Luke 16:19-31

Jesus told the story of the rich man and Lazarus in this text. Prior to this story, Jesus was teaching the disciples and encountered some Pharisees who were opposed to him. It is good to remember that just a few chapters ago, in 13:31, some Pharisees warned Jesus that Herod wanted to kill him. Not all the Pharisees were at odds with Jesus, and at different times Jesus had different encounters with this particular Jewish group. In this part of chapter 16, Jesus challenged the Pharisees and others on wealth ownership, and how wealth can lead us away from what God desires for us. In this story Jesus told, a man named Lazarus, who was poor and covered with sores on his body, used to sleep at the gates of a rich man's house—a person who lived in luxury without a care in the world. Lazarus longed to eat even the crumbs from the rich man's table, but instead, the rich man's dogs would come lick Lazarus' sores. When both men died, Lazarus was taken by the angels to Abraham, while the rich man suffered. The rich man called upon Abraham for mercy but also had the nerve to tell Abraham to send Lazarus to relieve his suffering! Abraham reminded the rich man that he had everything during his life while Lazarus had to suffer, so now it was time for Lazarus to be comforted. Besides that, it was impossible to cross the chasm separating them. The rich man begged Abraham to send Lazarus to his siblings to warn them, but Abraham said if they didn't believe the prophets, they weren't going to believe, even if someone rose from the dead—foreshadowing Jesus and the hardness of heart some people would have toward him.

16 19 “Once there was a rich man who dressed in purple and linen and feasted splendidly every day. 20 At the gate of this man's estate lay a beggar named Lazarus, who was covered with sores. 21 Lazarus longed to eat the scraps that fell from the rich man's table, and even the dogs came and licked Lazarus' sores. 22 One day poor Lazarus died and was carried by the angels to the arms of Abraham. The rich man likewise died and was buried.

23 In Hades, in torment, the rich man looked up and saw Abraham in the distance, and Lazarus resting in his company. 24 “Father Abraham,’ the rich man cried, ‘have pity on me! Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am tortured by these flames!’ 25 But Abraham said, ‘My child, remember that you were well off in your lifetime, while Lazarus was in misery. Now Lazarus has found consolation here, and you have found torment.

26 But that's not all. Between you and us there is a fixed chasm, so that those who might wish to come to you from here can't do so, nor can anyone cross from your side to us.’ 27 “The rich man said, ‘I beg you, then, to send Lazarus to my own house 28 where I have five siblings. Let Lazarus be a warning to them, so that they may not end in this place of torment.’ 29 But Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets. Let your siblings hear them.’ 30 ‘Please, I beg you,’ the rich man said, ‘if someone would only go to them from the dead, then they would repent.’ 31 ‘If they don't listen to Moses and the prophets,’ Abraham replied, ‘they won't be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead!’”

Choral Response – His Name is Wonderful

Music by Audrey Mieir, 1959

Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington and Bob Buckew

Accompanist: Betty Funk

Reflection— An Urgent Story – The Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Holy One, our world moves at a rapid pace of work, school, care of loved ones, paying bills, and all the other things that are important but can overwhelm us.

Help us to find the holy in the midst of it all: the brief moments of quiet, the time to read a chapter of a book, the sunshine breaking through the clouds, the task of watering plants.

Wherever we find a bit of Sabbath rest, O God, may we find it a holy moment. Whenever we find a bit of good, O God, nurture that goodness in us. May we seek the holy in our daily lives, for it escapes us in the world that pursues values away from you. May we find the holy moments already among us. Amen.

***Hymn of Response - NCH 543 - Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life**

vv. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

Author: Frank Mason North, 1903; alt.

Tune: GERMANY (GARDINER) L.M.

Source: William Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, 1815

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1 Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of clan and race,
Above the noise of selfish strife,
O Christ, we hear your voice of grace.

2 In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds fraught with fears,
From paths where hide the lures of greed,
we catch the vision of your tears.

4 The cup of water given for you
still holds the freshness of your grace;
Yet long these multitudes to view
the deep compassion of your face.

5 O Savior, from the mountainside,
Make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
Among these restless throngs abide,
O tread the city's streets again:

6 Till all shall learn compassion's might,
And follow where your feet have trod,
Till glorious from your realm of light
Shall come the city of our God.

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

We are invited to offer resources, time, abilities, compassion, in a tangible expression of our hope for the future for ourselves, this community of faith and many others near and far away. Be generous, my friends, with your trust in the future.

The Offertory – *Betty Funk*

***Presentation of Offerings – Doxology [Old Hundredth]**

**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**

**God, we have received hope; we give you time.
We have received hope; we give one another the church.
We have received hope; we offer these gifts that they
may become the change
or simply the promise of change
among those who need this clear image
that they are not abandoned.
Amen.**

Choral Hymn: My Jesus, I Love Thee

*Words by William R. Featherston, 1862
Music by Adoniram J. Gordon, 1876*

*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 436 - God of Grace and God of Glory**

vv. 1, 2, 3, 5

God of Grace and God of Glory

Author: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

Words used by permission of Elinor Fosdick Downs

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

Composer: John Hughes, c. 1907

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**1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**2 From the evils that surround us
and assail the Savior's ways,
from the fears that long have bound us -
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

**3 Cure your children's waring madness;
bend our pride to your control.
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
make our broken spirits whole,
make our broken spirits whole.**

**5 Save us from weak resignation,
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: God sends us from this place with a word of hope.

Many: We will offer the shelter of grace to all in need.

One: Jesus sends us out with the word of life.

Many: We will seek to share community with those we will meet.

One: The Spirit sends us into a world which longs for justice.

Many: We will trust that God's freedom will be offered to all people. Amen.

***Postlude – Betty Funk**

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for September 25th, 2022 (Pentecost 25/Trinity 15 Proper 21 Ordinary 26 - C)*, written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted September 19th, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [Http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](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 and the Earthenware Jar: Service Prayers for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost were written by Maren C. Tirabassi is a UCC pastor, author of fiction and non-fiction, and also a hiker in autumn leaves and a lover of fireside moments in the company of dogs, reading poetry and novels and finding myself praying, United Church of Christ. Education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (3) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for September 25th, 2022*, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on September 16th, 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*
Beverly Wurm, *Administrative Assistant*



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 brought to church or 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

Our Church's 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 496 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of September 22nd, 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 (has been moved to: *Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility: 18627 Shurmer Road, Room 408, Strongsville, Oh 44136*)
 - 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 – 10am-2pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

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

Elaine Lukacs' Address:

Elaine Lukacs
Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility
18627 Shurmer Road, Room 408
Strongsville, Oh 44136

Pakistan's 'dire' flood crisis is subject of UCC emergency appeal

The United Church of Christ has issued an emergency appeal for relief-and-recovery gifts in response to what it called "massive flooding" across most of Pakistan.

Wider Church Ministries launched the **UCC Pakistan Response Fund** Sept. 16.

Torrential monsoons since June have dumped nearly five times as much rain as the country usually gets. So far, the resulting floods have:

- Killed more than 1,400 people
- Affected 30 million people and displaced 800,000
- Damaged or destroyed 1 million homes, as well as farms, livestock, roads, bridges, schools and more.

One-third of country still submerged

“The situation in Pakistan remains dire as more than a third of the country is still under water,” said the Rev. Josh Baird, who heads the UCC’s Global H.O.P.E. team. “The most pressing needs are for food, clean water and sanitation, and emergency housing.

“In areas where the water has not receded, people are forced to construct temporary shelter on whatever dry patch of land they can access — often on the edge of roads.”

“At its peak, 73 percent of Pakistan’s districts were impacted by flooding,” the appeal’s web page says. “... More than half of its districts have been declared ‘calamity hit’ by the government — a number that is expected to rise as the rain continues and floods flow through the Punjab and Sindh provinces.”

World’s churches respond together

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has called the crisis an “unprecedented natural disaster” caused by “the intensification of climate change.” “No country deserves this fate, but particularly not countries like Pakistan that have done almost nothing to contribute to global warming,” he said. He called on the international community for “massive financial support,” especially from “countries that have contributed more to climate change.”

Baird said the UCC is working with ecumenical partners to respond.

Community World Service Asia, a partner through the ACT Alliance, is meeting immediate needs “while laying the groundwork for long-term recovery,” he said. “Gifts to the Pakistan Appeal will support emergency relief and focus on providing long-term care through the gifting of items such as seed for fields and feed and vaccines for livestock.

“With more than 6.4 million people projected to require humanitarian assistance, we anticipate walking with affected communities for the restoration of homes and livelihoods for many years.”

People can donate electronically at this page: <https://www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/pakistan-emergency-appeal/>

by selecting “International Emergency” as the option and entering “Pakistan response” as the specific appeal.

Gifts by check can be made payable to United Church of Christ, with “Pakistan Response Fund” noted in the memo section, and mailed to P.O. Box 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194.

Statement from Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb in support of Puerto Rico 9.22.22

The people of Cleveland stand with the people of Puerto Rico, who are bearing the impact of Hurricane Fiona with incredible courage and strength. On the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Maria's vicious landfall, it remains unacceptable that so many Puerto Ricans still lack reliable access to water and electricity. As the scope of the need becomes clear in the coming days and weeks, Cleveland is here to support aid efforts—both for individuals in Puerto Rico prevailing against the hurricane and for those who find themselves relocating as a result of it. We're proud of our Puerto Rican community and Cleveland is ready with open arms to welcome those in need and to assist in any way we can.

Puerto Rico Relief:

LIFTING PUERTO RICO:

On behalf of New Era Young Lords and the situation among us, we are activating and impacting Puerto Rico with our Boots on The Ground Initiative. In Cleveland, we will be collecting donations and storing them in Lincoln-West High School. By October 8th a group of us will be taking those donations to Puerto Rico and support as much as we can to provide help and resources. **We will travel to San Lorenzo, Utuado, Guanica, and Salinas to help families clean up debris, cut trees down, rebuilt part of their homes that were affected by Fiona.** Please donate in the need of restoring and the Boots on The Ground Initiative by New Era Young Lords Ohio Chapter.

DONATION ITEMS NEEDED:

- BATTERIES • FLASH LIGHTS • LANTERNS •
- BABY FORMULA • DIAPERS • CANDLES
- MEN/WOMEN HYGIENE PRODUCTS •
- FIRST AID KITS • NON PERISHABLE
- FOODS • MEDICINE: TYLENOL, PAIN
- MEDS, ETC • WET WIPES • LATEX GLOVES
- TOWELS & WASH CLOTHES • BUG SPRAY

FOR PURCHASE ON ISLAND:

- TOOLS • CHAIN SAWS • GARBAGE BAGS •
- TARPS • GENERATORS • GAS CANS

DROP OFF LOCATIONS, STARTING FRIDAY SEPT 23:

LINCOLN WEST HIGH SCHOOL
3202 W 30TH ST, CLEVELAND, OH 44109

BENNY'S SPORTS BAR
3463 FULTON RD, CLEVELAND, OH 44109

Scan QR Code to donate to our GOFUNDME!

Instructions on how to scan a QR CODE: Open camera and hover over the image until you see a link pop up. Click on the link that appears near the image!

Or manually type in link: <https://gofund.me/a3708ade>

We are also accepting donations to our CashApp

\$YOUNGLORDZPROJECT

Manuel Orlando Santiago
\$YoungLordzProject

Use QR code or manually type in link: <https://gofund.me/a3708ade>

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

September 25th, 2022
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of the Word



The Rich Man and Lazarus

by Laura Jeanne Grimes, 2005

Laura Jeanne Grimes, artist.

<https://www.laurajeannegrimes.com/blog/the-rich-man-and-lazarus>



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

September 25th, 2022
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of the Word

*“If you want to feel rich, just count the things you have that money can’t buy.”
- A Proverb -*

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – *Betty Funk*

*Call to Worship

One: Come to this place and time of promise.

**Many: We are becoming the house of hope,
the field of sunflowers,
the vineyard of great caring.**

One: Come to a shared commitment
to abundance possible for all people.

**Many: We are an earthenware jar,
to keep safe the tomorrow of children.
Our security question is – the word of God,
and our password is love.**

*Gathering Prayer

**God, we give you thanks
that you make us redeemers,
not just receivers of redemption.
You bring us among friends and then ask
for each one of our signatures to change your world.
We hold the earthenware jar you call the church**

and fill it with all your promises. Amen.

***Hymn - NCH 31 - All Things Bright and Beautiful**

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Author: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.

Tune: ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with refrain

Adapter: Martin Shaw, 1915

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Refrain:

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
our dear God made them all.**

**1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
and made their tiny wings. [Refrain]**

**2 The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
The sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky. [Refrain]**

**3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them everyone. [Refrain]**

A READING OF THE WORD

In the midst of the siege of Jerusalem, while the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned by the king, he managed to secure a land deal despite his captivity. Jeremiah's cousin Hanamel sold a field to Jeremiah because the right of redemption passed to him, meaning, Hanamel went down the line of succession within the family and Jeremiah was next in line to either buy it or refuse it. Despite the war going on and being under guard, Jeremiah purchased the field because he knew God was using him as a sign of hope for the people, especially for the guard and the officials close by, that there would be those who survived, a remnant that returned. The deed was placed in an earthenware jar so that it could survive a long time when those who return would rebuild and plant again.

Hebrew Scripture: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

32 1 The word that came to Jeremiah from YHWH in the tenth year of Zedekiah ruler of Judah, which was also the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar:

2 At that time the army of the ruler of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned in the court of the guardhouse attached to the residence of the ruler of Jerusalem.3 Zedekiah the ruler imprisoned him after demanding, “How dare you prophesy the way you do? You say: ‘These are the words of YHWH: I will surrender this city into the hands of the ruler of Babylon, who will capture it.’” 6 The word of YHWH came to me and said, 7 “Hanamel, the son of your uncle Shallum, will come to you and say, ‘Buy my field in Anathoth. As next of kin you have the right of redemption to purchase it.’”

8 And just as YHWH foretold, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guardhouse and said, “Buy my field at Anathoth in Benjamin. You have the right of redemption to purchase it as next of kin. So why not purchase it?”

I knew that this was the word of YHWH. 9 So I bought the field in Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out the money—seventeen shekels of silver. 10 I signed the deed and sealed it, had it witnessed and then weighed out the money on a scale.

11 I took the copies of the deed of purchase—both sealed copy containing the terms and conditions and the unsealed copy—12 and gave them to Baruch ben-Neriah ben-Mahseiah in the presence of my cousin Hanamel and of the witnesses who had signed the deed and all the people of Judah who happened to be in the court of the guardhouse.

13 I gave Baruch these instructions in their presence: 14 “Thus says YHWH Omnipotent, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and the unsealed deed of purchase and put them in a clay jar so that they may be preserved for a very long time.”

15 For this is what YHWH Omnipotent, the God of Israel, says: “Houses, fields and vineyards will once again be purchased in this land.”

A Reding from the Psalms: Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 (Responsively)

This is is a song of praise to God who delivers the people from evil. The psalmist assures those who put their trust in God will have shelter and safety, and need not fear for their lives. In the latter verses, God declares through the psalmist that they will deliver those who love God and call out to God, for God is their salvation.

91 1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High and pass the night in
the shadow of Shaddai,

2 say: “God, my refuge and my mountain fortress, my God in whom I trust!”

3 For God says: “I will rescue you from the snare and shield you from poisoned
arrows.

**4 I will cover you with my pinions; under my wings you will take refuge; my faithfulness will
shield you.**

5 You have no need to fear the prowlers of the night or the arrow that flies by day,

6 The plague that lurks in the shadows or the scourge that stalks the noon.

14 "Because you love me, I will deliver you.

I will rescue you because you acknowledge my Name.

15 You will call upon me, and I will answer you; I will be with you in trouble.

I will deliver you and honor you.

16 I will satisfy you with a long life and show you, my salvation."

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

The Epistle readings continue the series on the pastoral letters of 1 and 2 Timothy with this text in 1 Timothy 6. The apostle Paul warns against those who desire wealth, because they will never be satisfied. Instead, Paul praises those who find contentment. "For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil" reminds us that if we love wealth, we do not love God, for Jesus warned us we cannot serve God and wealth (Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13). Instead, Paul urges the pursuit of righteousness (right-living with God), faith, love, gentleness, and so on. Take hold of eternal life. For those who are rich already they ought to be generous and share of their resources. They need to set their hope on God and not on their wealth and use their resources as a "good foundation" for the church in the future.

6 6 There is, of course, great benefit in religion, but only for those who are content with what they have. 7 We brought nothing into the world, nor have we the power to take anything out.

8 If we have food and clothing, we have all that we need. 9 Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and a trap. They are letting themselves be captured by foolish and harmful desires which draw us down to ruin and destruction.

10 The love of money is the root of all evil. Some people, in their passion for it, have strayed from the faith and have come to grief amid great pain. 11 But you are to flee from these things. As one dedicated to God, strive to be a person of integrity and piety, filled with faith and love, patience, and gentleness.

12 Run the great race of faith. Take firm hold of the everlasting life to which you were called when, in the presence of many witnesses, you made your good profession of faith. 13 Before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I charge you 14 to keep God's command without fault or reproach until our Savior Jesus Christ appears.

15 This appearance God will bring to pass at a chosen time. God alone is the Sovereign over all, the blessed and only ruler above all earthly rulers, 16 who alone possesses immortality, and who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no human being has ever seen or can see. To God be the honor and the everlasting kingdom! Amen.

17 Warn those who are blessed with this world's goods not to look down on other people. They are not to put their hope in wealth, for it is uncertain. Instead, they are to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with all that we need for our enjoyment. 18 Tell them they are to do good and be wealthy in good works. They are to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way, they'll create a treasure for the future, and guarantee the only life that is real.

Gospel Reading: Luke 16:19-31

Jesus told the story of the rich man and Lazarus in this text. Prior to this story, Jesus was teaching the disciples and encountered some Pharisees who were opposed to him. It is good to remember that just a few chapters ago, in 13:31, some Pharisees warned Jesus that Herod wanted to kill him. Not all the Pharisees were at odds with Jesus, and at different times Jesus had different encounters with this particular Jewish group. In this part of chapter 16, Jesus challenged the Pharisees and others on wealth ownership, and how wealth can lead us away from what God desires for us. In this story Jesus told, a man named Lazarus, who was poor and covered with sores on his body, used to sleep at the gates of a rich man's house—a person who lived in luxury without a care in the world. Lazarus longed to eat even the crumbs from the rich man's table, but instead, the rich man's dogs would come lick Lazarus' sores. When both men died, Lazarus was taken by the angels to Abraham, while the rich man suffered. The rich man called upon Abraham for mercy but also had the nerve to tell Abraham to send Lazarus to relieve his suffering! Abraham reminded the rich man that he had everything during his life while Lazarus had to suffer, so now it was time for Lazarus to be comforted. Besides that, it was impossible to cross the chasm separating them. The rich man begged Abraham to send Lazarus to his siblings to warn them, but Abraham said if they didn't believe the prophets, they weren't going to believe, even if someone rose from the dead—foreshadowing Jesus and the hardness of heart some people would have toward him.

16 19 “Once there was a rich man who dressed in purple and linen and feasted splendidly every day. 20 At the gate of this man's estate lay a beggar named Lazarus, who was covered with sores. 21 Lazarus longed to eat the scraps that fell from the rich man's table, and even the dogs came and licked Lazarus' sores. 22 One day poor Lazarus died and was carried by the angels to the arms of Abraham. The rich man likewise died and was buried.

23 In Hades, in torment, the rich man looked up and saw Abraham in the distance, and Lazarus resting in his company. 24 “Father Abraham,’ the rich man cried, ‘have pity on me! Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am tortured by these flames!’ 25 But Abraham said, ‘My child, remember that you were well off in your lifetime, while Lazarus was in misery. Now Lazarus has found consolation here, and you have found torment.

26 But that's not all. Between you and us there is a fixed chasm, so that those who might wish to come to you from here can't do so, nor can anyone cross from your side to us.’ 27 “The rich man said, ‘I beg you, then, to send Lazarus to my own house 28 where I have five siblings. Let Lazarus be a warning to them, so that they may not end in this place of torment.’ 29 But Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets. Let your siblings hear them.’ 30 ‘Please, I beg you,’ the rich man said, ‘if someone would only go to them from the dead, then they would repent.’ 31 ‘If they don't listen to Moses and the prophets,’ Abraham replied, ‘they won't be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead!’”

Choral Response – His Name is Wonderful

Music by Audrey Mieir, 1959

Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington and Bob Buckew

Accompanist: Betty Funk

Reflection— An Urgent Story – The Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Holy One, our world moves at a rapid pace of work, school, care of loved ones, paying bills, and all the other things that are important but can overwhelm us.

Help us to find the holy in the midst of it all: the brief moments of quiet, the time to read a chapter of a book, the sunshine breaking through the clouds, the task of watering plants.

Wherever we find a bit of Sabbath rest, O God, may we find it a holy moment. Whenever we find a bit of good, O God, nurture that goodness in us. May we seek the holy in our daily lives, for it escapes us in the world that pursues values away from you. May we find the holy moments already among us. Amen.

***Hymn of Response - NCH 543 - Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life**

vv. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

Author: Frank Mason North, 1903; alt.

Tune: GERMANY (GARDINER) L.M.

Source: William Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, 1815

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1 Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of clan and race,
Above the noise of selfish strife,
O Christ, we hear your voice of grace.

2 In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds fraught with fears,
From paths where hide the lures of greed,
we catch the vision of your tears.

4 The cup of water given for you
still holds the freshness of your grace;
Yet long these multitudes to view
the deep compassion of your face.

5 O Savior, from the mountainside,
Make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
Among these restless throngs abide,
O tread the city's streets again:

6 Till all shall learn compassion's might,
And follow where your feet have trod,
Till glorious from your realm of light
Shall come the city of our God.

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

We are invited to offer resources, time, abilities, compassion, in a tangible expression of our hope for the future for ourselves, this community of faith and many others near and far away. Be generous, my friends, with your trust in the future.

The Offertory – *Betty Funk*

***Presentation of Offerings – Doxology [*Old Hundredth*]**

**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**

**God, we have received hope; we give you time.
We have received hope; we give one another the church.
We have received hope; we offer these gifts that they
may become the change
or simply the promise of change
among those who need this clear image
that they are not abandoned.
Amen.**

Choral Hymn: My Jesus, I Love Thee

*Words by William R. Featherston, 1862
Music by Adoniram J. Gordon, 1876*

*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 436 - God of Grace and God of Glory**

vv. 1, 2, 3, 5

God of Grace and God of Glory

Author: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

Words used by permission of Elinor Fosdick Downs

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

Composer: John Hughes, c. 1907

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**1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**2 From the evils that surround us
and assail the Savior's ways,
from the fears that long have bound us -
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

**3 Cure your children's waring madness;
bend our pride to your control.
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
make our broken spirits whole,
make our broken spirits whole.**

**5 Save us from weak resignation,
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: God sends us from this place with a word of hope.

Many: We will offer the shelter of grace to all in need.

One: Jesus sends us out with the word of life.

Many: We will seek to share community with those we will meet.

One: The Spirit sends us into a world which longs for justice.

Many: We will trust that God's freedom will be offered to all people. Amen.

***Postlude – Betty Funk**

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for September 25th, 2022 (Pentecost 25/Trinity 15 Proper 21 Ordinary 26 - C)*, written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted September 19th, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [Http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](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 and the Earthenware Jar: Service Prayers for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost were written by Maren C. Tirabassi is a UCC pastor, author of fiction and non-fiction, and also a hiker in autumn leaves and a lover of fireside moments in the company of dogs, reading poetry and novels and finding myself praying, United Church of Christ. Education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (3) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for September 25th, 2022*, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on September 16th, 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*
Beverly Wurm, *Administrative Assistant*



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 brought to church or 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

Our Church's 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 496 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of September 22nd, 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 (has been moved to: *Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility: 18627 Shurmer Road, Room 408, Strongsville, Oh 44136*)
 - 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 – 10am-2pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

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

Elaine Lukacs' Address:

Elaine Lukacs
Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility
18627 Shurmer Road, Room 408
Strongsville, Oh 44136

Pakistan's 'dire' flood crisis is subject of UCC emergency appeal

The United Church of Christ has issued an emergency appeal for relief-and-recovery gifts in response to what it called "massive flooding" across most of Pakistan.

Wider Church Ministries launched the **UCC Pakistan Response Fund** Sept. 16.

Torrential monsoons since June have dumped nearly five times as much rain as the country usually gets. So far, the resulting floods have:

- Killed more than 1,400 people
- Affected 30 million people and displaced 800,000
- Damaged or destroyed 1 million homes, as well as farms, livestock, roads, bridges, schools and more.

One-third of country still submerged

“The situation in Pakistan remains dire as more than a third of the country is still under water,” said the Rev. Josh Baird, who heads the UCC’s Global H.O.P.E. team. “The most pressing needs are for food, clean water and sanitation, and emergency housing.

“In areas where the water has not receded, people are forced to construct temporary shelter on whatever dry patch of land they can access — often on the edge of roads.”

“At its peak, 73 percent of Pakistan’s districts were impacted by flooding,” the appeal’s web page says. “... More than half of its districts have been declared ‘calamity hit’ by the government — a number that is expected to rise as the rain continues and floods flow through the Punjab and Sindh provinces.”

World’s churches respond together

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has called the crisis an “unprecedented natural disaster” caused by “the intensification of climate change.” “No country deserves this fate, but particularly not countries like Pakistan that have done almost nothing to contribute to global warming,” he said. He called on the international community for “massive financial support,” especially from “countries that have contributed more to climate change.”

Baird said the UCC is working with ecumenical partners to respond.

Community World Service Asia, a partner through the ACT Alliance, is meeting immediate needs “while laying the groundwork for long-term recovery,” he said. “Gifts to the Pakistan Appeal will support emergency relief and focus on providing long-term care through the gifting of items such as seed for fields and feed and vaccines for livestock.

“With more than 6.4 million people projected to require humanitarian assistance, we anticipate walking with affected communities for the restoration of homes and livelihoods for many years.”

People can donate electronically at this page: <https://www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/pakistan-emergency-appeal/>

by selecting “International Emergency” as the option and entering “Pakistan response” as the specific appeal.

Gifts by check can be made payable to United Church of Christ, with “Pakistan Response Fund” noted in the memo section, and mailed to P.O. Box 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194.

Statement from Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb in support of Puerto Rico 9.22.22

The people of Cleveland stand with the people of Puerto Rico, who are bearing the impact of Hurricane Fiona with incredible courage and strength. On the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Maria's vicious landfall, it remains unacceptable that so many Puerto Ricans still lack reliable access to water and electricity. As the scope of the need becomes clear in the coming days and weeks, Cleveland is here to support aid efforts—both for individuals in Puerto Rico prevailing against the hurricane and for those who find themselves relocating as a result of it. We're proud of our Puerto Rican community and Cleveland is ready with open arms to welcome those in need and to assist in any way we can.

Puerto Rico Relief:



The poster features a central circular logo with the text "LIFTING PUERTO RICO" around the top and "NEW ERA YOUNG LORDS EDITION" around the bottom. The logo depicts a stylized figure holding a green plant. To the right, a dark blue banner contains the text "LIFTING PUERTO RICO:". Below this, a paragraph of text describes the initiative. A QR code is provided for donations, with instructions on how to scan it and a manual link: <https://gofund.me/a3708ade>. A green banner below the QR code says "We are also accepting donations to our CashApp" followed by "\$YOUNGLORDZPROJECT". At the bottom left, there are two sections: "DONATION ITEMS NEEDED:" listing various supplies, and "FOR PURCHASE ON ISLAND:" listing tools and equipment. At the bottom right, there is a section for "DROP OFF LOCATIONS, STARTING FRIDAY SEPT 23:" listing two locations in Cleveland, OH. A small circular logo with a star and a figure is also present near the CashApp information.

LIFTING PUERTO RICO:

On behalf of New Era Young Lords and the situation among us, we are activating and impacting Puerto Rico with our Boots on The Ground Initiative. In Cleveland, we will be collecting donations and storing them in Lincoln-West High School. By October 8th a group of us will be taking those donations to Puerto Rico and support as much as we can to provide help and resources. **We will travel to San Lorenzo, Utuado, Guanica, and Salinas to help families clean up debris, cut trees down, rebuilt part of their homes that were affected by Fiona.** Please donate in the need of restoring and the Boots on The Ground Initiative by New Era Young Lords Ohio Chapter.

DONATION ITEMS NEEDED:

BATTERIES • FLASH LIGHTS • LANTERNS • BABY FORMULA • DIAPERS • CANDLES • MEN/WOMEN HYGIENE PRODUCTS • FIRST AID KITS • NON PERISHABLE FOODS • MEDICINE: TYLENOL, PAIN MEDS, ETC • WET WIPES • LATEX GLOVES TOWELS & WASH CLOTHES • BUG SPRAY

FOR PURCHASE ON ISLAND:

TOOLS • CHAIN SAWS • GARBAGE BAGS • TARPS • GENERATORS • GAS CANS

DROP OFF LOCATIONS, STARTING FRIDAY SEPT 23:

LINCOLN WEST HIGH SCHOOL
3202 W 30TH ST, CLEVELAND, OH 44109

BENNY'S SPORTS BAR
3463 FULTON RD, CLEVELAND, OH 44109

Scan QR Code to donate to our GOFUNDME!

Instructions on how to scan a QR CODE: Open camera and hover over the image until you see a link pop up. Click on the link that appears near the image!

Or manually type in link: <https://gofund.me/a3708ade>

We are also accepting donations to our CashApp

\$YOUNGLORDZPROJECT

Manuel Orlando Santiago
\$YoungLordzProject

Use QR code or manually type in link: <https://gofund.me/a3708ade>

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

September 25th, 2022
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of the Word



The Rich Man and Lazarus

by Laura Jeanne Grimes, 2005

Laura Jeanne Grimes, artist.

<https://www.laurajeannegrimes.com/blog/the-rich-man-and-lazarus>



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

September 25th, 2022
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of the Word

*“If you want to feel rich, just count the things you have that money can’t buy.”
- A Proverb -*

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – *Betty Funk*

*Call to Worship

One: Come to this place and time of promise.

**Many: We are becoming the house of hope,
the field of sunflowers,
the vineyard of great caring.**

One: Come to a shared commitment
to abundance possible for all people.

**Many: We are an earthenware jar,
to keep safe the tomorrow of children.
Our security question is – the word of God,
and our password is love.**

*Gathering Prayer

**God, we give you thanks
that you make us redeemers,
not just receivers of redemption.
You bring us among friends and then ask
for each one of our signatures to change your world.
We hold the earthenware jar you call the church**

and fill it with all your promises. Amen.

***Hymn - NCH 31 - All Things Bright and Beautiful**

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Author: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.

Tune: ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with refrain

Adapter: Martin Shaw, 1915

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Refrain:

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
our dear God made them all.**

**1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
and made their tiny wings. [Refrain]**

**2 The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
The sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky. [Refrain]**

**3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them everyone. [Refrain]**

A READING OF THE WORD

In the midst of the siege of Jerusalem, while the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned by the king, he managed to secure a land deal despite his captivity. Jeremiah's cousin Hanamel sold a field to Jeremiah because the right of redemption passed to him, meaning, Hanamel went down the line of succession within the family and Jeremiah was next in line to either buy it or refuse it. Despite the war going on and being under guard, Jeremiah purchased the field because he knew God was using him as a sign of hope for the people, especially for the guard and the officials close by, that there would be those who survived, a remnant that returned. The deed was placed in an earthenware jar so that it could survive a long time when those who return would rebuild and plant again.

Hebrew Scripture: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

32 1 The word that came to Jeremiah from YHWH in the tenth year of Zedekiah ruler of Judah, which was also the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar:

2 At that time the army of the ruler of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned in the court of the guardhouse attached to the residence of the ruler of Jerusalem.3 Zedekiah the ruler imprisoned him after demanding, “How dare you prophesy the way you do? You say: ‘These are the words of YHWH: I will surrender this city into the hands of the ruler of Babylon, who will capture it.’” 6 The word of YHWH came to me and said, 7 “Hanamel, the son of your uncle Shallum, will come to you and say, ‘Buy my field in Anathoth. As next of kin you have the right of redemption to purchase it.’”

8 And just as YHWH foretold, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guardhouse and said, “Buy my field at Anathoth in Benjamin. You have the right of redemption to purchase it as next of kin. So why not purchase it?”

I knew that this was the word of YHWH. 9 So I bought the field in Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out the money—seventeen shekels of silver. 10 I signed the deed and sealed it, had it witnessed and then weighed out the money on a scale.

11 I took the copies of the deed of purchase—both sealed copy containing the terms and conditions and the unsealed copy—12 and gave them to Baruch ben-Neriah ben-Mahseiah in the presence of my cousin Hanamel and of the witnesses who had signed the deed and all the people of Judah who happened to be in the court of the guardhouse.

13 I gave Baruch these instructions in their presence: 14 “Thus says YHWH Omnipotent, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and the unsealed deed of purchase and put them in a clay jar so that they may be preserved for a very long time.”

15 For this is what YHWH Omnipotent, the God of Israel, says: “Houses, fields and vineyards will once again be purchased in this land.”

A Reding from the Psalms: Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 (Responsively)

This is a song of praise to God who delivers the people from evil. The psalmist assures those who put their trust in God will have shelter and safety, and need not fear for their lives. In the latter verses, God declares through the psalmist that they will deliver those who love God and call out to God, for God is their salvation.

91 1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High and pass the night in the shadow of Shaddai,

2 say: “God, my refuge and my mountain fortress, my God in whom I trust!”

3 For God says: “I will rescue you from the snare and shield you from poisoned arrows.

4 I will cover you with my pinions; under my wings you will take refuge; my faithfulness will shield you.

5 You have no need to fear the prowlers of the night or the arrow that flies by day,

6 The plague that lurks in the shadows or the scourge that stalks the noon.

14 "Because you love me, I will deliver you.

I will rescue you because you acknowledge my Name.

15 You will call upon me, and I will answer you; I will be with you in trouble.

I will deliver you and honor you.

16 I will satisfy you with a long life and show you, my salvation."

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

The Epistle readings continue the series on the pastoral letters of 1 and 2 Timothy with this text in 1 Timothy 6. The apostle Paul warns against those who desire wealth, because they will never be satisfied. Instead, Paul praises those who find contentment. "For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil" reminds us that if we love wealth, we do not love God, for Jesus warned us we cannot serve God and wealth (Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13). Instead, Paul urges the pursuit of righteousness (right-living with God), faith, love, gentleness, and so on. Take hold of eternal life. For those who are rich already they ought to be generous and share of their resources. They need to set their hope on God and not on their wealth and use their resources as a "good foundation" for the church in the future.

6 6 There is, of course, great benefit in religion, but only for those who are content with what they have. 7 We brought nothing into the world, nor have we the power to take anything out.

8 If we have food and clothing, we have all that we need. 9 Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and a trap. They are letting themselves be captured by foolish and harmful desires which draw us down to ruin and destruction.

10 The love of money is the root of all evil. Some people, in their passion for it, have strayed from the faith and have come to grief amid great pain. 11 But you are to flee from these things. As one dedicated to God, strive to be a person of integrity and piety, filled with faith and love, patience, and gentleness.

12 Run the great race of faith. Take firm hold of the everlasting life to which you were called when, in the presence of many witnesses, you made your good profession of faith. 13 Before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I charge you 14 to keep God's command without fault or reproach until our Savior Jesus Christ appears.

15 This appearance God will bring to pass at a chosen time. God alone is the Sovereign over all, the blessed and only ruler above all earthly rulers, 16 who alone possesses immortality, and who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no human being has ever seen or can see. To God be the honor and the everlasting kingdom! Amen.

17 Warn those who are blessed with this world's goods not to look down on other people. They are not to put their hope in wealth, for it is uncertain. Instead, they are to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with all that we need for our enjoyment. 18 Tell them they are to do good and be wealthy in good works. They are to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way, they'll create a treasure for the future, and guarantee the only life that is real.

Gospel Reading: Luke 16:19-31

Jesus told the story of the rich man and Lazarus in this text. Prior to this story, Jesus was teaching the disciples and encountered some Pharisees who were opposed to him. It is good to remember that just a few chapters ago, in 13:31, some Pharisees warned Jesus that Herod wanted to kill him. Not all the Pharisees were at odds with Jesus, and at different times Jesus had different encounters with this particular Jewish group. In this part of chapter 16, Jesus challenged the Pharisees and others on wealth ownership, and how wealth can lead us away from what God desires for us. In this story Jesus told, a man named Lazarus, who was poor and covered with sores on his body, used to sleep at the gates of a rich man's house—a person who lived in luxury without a care in the world. Lazarus longed to eat even the crumbs from the rich man's table, but instead, the rich man's dogs would come lick Lazarus' sores. When both men died, Lazarus was taken by the angels to Abraham, while the rich man suffered. The rich man called upon Abraham for mercy but also had the nerve to tell Abraham to send Lazarus to relieve his suffering! Abraham reminded the rich man that he had everything during his life while Lazarus had to suffer, so now it was time for Lazarus to be comforted. Besides that, it was impossible to cross the chasm separating them. The rich man begged Abraham to send Lazarus to his siblings to warn them, but Abraham said if they didn't believe the prophets, they weren't going to believe, even if someone rose from the dead—foreshadowing Jesus and the hardness of heart some people would have toward him.

16 19 “Once there was a rich man who dressed in purple and linen and feasted splendidly every day. 20 At the gate of this man's estate lay a beggar named Lazarus, who was covered with sores. 21 Lazarus longed to eat the scraps that fell from the rich man's table, and even the dogs came and licked Lazarus' sores. 22 One day poor Lazarus died and was carried by the angels to the arms of Abraham. The rich man likewise died and was buried.

23 In Hades, in torment, the rich man looked up and saw Abraham in the distance, and Lazarus resting in his company. 24 “Father Abraham,’ the rich man cried, ‘have pity on me! Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am tortured by these flames!’ 25 But Abraham said, ‘My child, remember that you were well off in your lifetime, while Lazarus was in misery. Now Lazarus has found consolation here, and you have found torment.

26 But that's not all. Between you and us there is a fixed chasm, so that those who might wish to come to you from here can't do so, nor can anyone cross from your side to us.’ 27 “The rich man said, ‘I beg you, then, to send Lazarus to my own house 28 where I have five siblings. Let Lazarus be a warning to them, so that they may not end in this place of torment.’ 29 But Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets. Let your siblings hear them.’ 30 ‘Please, I beg you,’ the rich man said, ‘if someone would only go to them from the dead, then they would repent.’ 31 ‘If they don't listen to Moses and the prophets,’ Abraham replied, ‘they won't be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead!’”

Choral Response – His Name is Wonderful

Music by Audrey Mieir, 1959

Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington and Bob Buckew

Accompanist: Betty Funk

Reflection— An Urgent Story – The Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Holy One, our world moves at a rapid pace of work, school, care of loved ones, paying bills, and all the other things that are important but can overwhelm us.

Help us to find the holy in the midst of it all: the brief moments of quiet, the time to read a chapter of a book, the sunshine breaking through the clouds, the task of watering plants.

Wherever we find a bit of Sabbath rest, O God, may we find it a holy moment. Whenever we find a bit of good, O God, nurture that goodness in us. May we seek the holy in our daily lives, for it escapes us in the world that pursues values away from you. May we find the holy moments already among us. Amen.

***Hymn of Response - NCH 543 - Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life**

vv. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

Author: Frank Mason North, 1903; alt.

Tune: GERMANY (GARDINER) L.M.

Source: William Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, 1815

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1 Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of clan and race,
Above the noise of selfish strife,
O Christ, we hear your voice of grace.

2 In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds fraught with fears,
From paths where hide the lures of greed,
we catch the vision of your tears.

4 The cup of water given for you
still holds the freshness of your grace;
Yet long these multitudes to view
the deep compassion of your face.

5 O Savior, from the mountainside,
Make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
Among these restless throngs abide,
O tread the city's streets again:

6 Till all shall learn compassion's might,
And follow where your feet have trod,
Till glorious from your realm of light
Shall come the city of our God.

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

We are invited to offer resources, time, abilities, compassion, in a tangible expression of our hope for the future for ourselves, this community of faith and many others near and far away. Be generous, my friends, with your trust in the future.

The Offertory – *Betty Funk*

***Presentation of Offerings – Doxology [Old Hundredth]**

**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**

**God, we have received hope; we give you time.
We have received hope; we give one another the church.
We have received hope; we offer these gifts that they
may become the change
or simply the promise of change
among those who need this clear image
that they are not abandoned.
Amen.**

Choral Hymn: My Jesus, I Love Thee

*Words by William R. Featherston, 1862
Music by Adoniram J. Gordon, 1876*

*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 436 - God of Grace and God of Glory**

vv. 1, 2, 3, 5

God of Grace and God of Glory

Author: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

Words used by permission of Elinor Fosdick Downs

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

Composer: John Hughes, c. 1907

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**1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**2 From the evils that surround us
and assail the Savior's ways,
from the fears that long have bound us -
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

**3 Cure your children's waring madness;
bend our pride to your control.
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
make our broken spirits whole,
make our broken spirits whole.**

**5 Save us from weak resignation,
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: God sends us from this place with a word of hope.

Many: We will offer the shelter of grace to all in need.

One: Jesus sends us out with the word of life.

Many: We will seek to share community with those we will meet.

One: The Spirit sends us into a world which longs for justice.

Many: We will trust that God's freedom will be offered to all people. Amen.

***Postlude – Betty Funk**

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for September 25th, 2022 (Pentecost 25/Trinity 15 Proper 21 Ordinary 26 - C)*, written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted September 19th, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [Http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](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 and the Earthenware Jar: Service Prayers for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost were written by Maren C. Tirabassi is a UCC pastor, author of fiction and non-fiction, and also a hiker in autumn leaves and a lover of fireside moments in the company of dogs, reading poetry and novels and finding myself praying, United Church of Christ. Education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (3) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for September 25th, 2022*, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on September 16th, 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*
Beverly Wurm, *Administrative Assistant*



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 brought to church or 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

Our Church's 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 496 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of September 22nd, 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 (has been moved to: *Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility: 18627 Shurmer Road, Room 408, Strongsville, Oh 44136*)
 - 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 – 10am-2pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

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

Elaine Lukacs' Address:

Elaine Lukacs
Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility
18627 Shurmer Road, Room 408
Strongsville, Oh 44136

Pakistan's 'dire' flood crisis is subject of UCC emergency appeal

The United Church of Christ has issued an emergency appeal for relief-and-recovery gifts in response to what it called "massive flooding" across most of Pakistan.

Wider Church Ministries launched the **UCC Pakistan Response Fund** Sept. 16.

Torrential monsoons since June have dumped nearly five times as much rain as the country usually gets. So far, the resulting floods have:

- Killed more than 1,400 people
- Affected 30 million people and displaced 800,000
- Damaged or destroyed 1 million homes, as well as farms, livestock, roads, bridges, schools and more.

One-third of country still submerged

“The situation in Pakistan remains dire as more than a third of the country is still under water,” said the Rev. Josh Baird, who heads the UCC’s Global H.O.P.E. team. “The most pressing needs are for food, clean water and sanitation, and emergency housing.

“In areas where the water has not receded, people are forced to construct temporary shelter on whatever dry patch of land they can access — often on the edge of roads.”

“At its peak, 73 percent of Pakistan’s districts were impacted by flooding,” the appeal’s web page says. “... More than half of its districts have been declared ‘calamity hit’ by the government — a number that is expected to rise as the rain continues and floods flow through the Punjab and Sindh provinces.”

World’s churches respond together

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has called the crisis an “unprecedented natural disaster” caused by “the intensification of climate change.” “No country deserves this fate, but particularly not countries like Pakistan that have done almost nothing to contribute to global warming,” he said. He called on the international community for “massive financial support,” especially from “countries that have contributed more to climate change.”

Baird said the UCC is working with ecumenical partners to respond.

Community World Service Asia, a partner through the ACT Alliance, is meeting immediate needs “while laying the groundwork for long-term recovery,” he said. “Gifts to the Pakistan Appeal will support emergency relief and focus on providing long-term care through the gifting of items such as seed for fields and feed and vaccines for livestock.

“With more than 6.4 million people projected to require humanitarian assistance, we anticipate walking with affected communities for the restoration of homes and livelihoods for many years.”

People can donate electronically at this page: <https://www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/pakistan-emergency-appeal/>

by selecting “International Emergency” as the option and entering “Pakistan response” as the specific appeal.

Gifts by check can be made payable to United Church of Christ, with “Pakistan Response Fund” noted in the memo section, and mailed to P.O. Box 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194.

Statement from Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb in support of Puerto Rico 9.22.22

The people of Cleveland stand with the people of Puerto Rico, who are bearing the impact of Hurricane Fiona with incredible courage and strength. On the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Maria's vicious landfall, it remains unacceptable that so many Puerto Ricans still lack reliable access to water and electricity. As the scope of the need becomes clear in the coming days and weeks, Cleveland is here to support aid efforts—both for individuals in Puerto Rico prevailing against the hurricane and for those who find themselves relocating as a result of it. We're proud of our Puerto Rican community and Cleveland is ready with open arms to welcome those in need and to assist in any way we can.

Puerto Rico Relief:

LIFTING PUERTO RICO:

On behalf of New Era Young Lords and the situation among us, we are activating and impacting Puerto Rico with our Boots on The Ground Initiative. In Cleveland, we will be collecting donations and storing them in Lincoln-West High School. By October 8th a group of us will be taking those donations to Puerto Rico and support as much as we can to provide help and resources. **We will travel to San Lorenzo, Utuado, Guanica, and Salinas to help families clean up debris, cut trees down, rebuilt part of their homes that were affected by Fiona.** Please donate in the need of restoring and the Boots on The Ground Initiative by New Era Young Lords Ohio Chapter.

DONATION ITEMS NEEDED:

BATTERIES • FLASH LIGHTS • LANTERNS • BABY FORMULA • DIAPERS • CANDLES • MEN/WOMEN HYGIENE PRODUCTS • FIRST AID KITS • NON PERISHABLE FOODS • MEDICINE: TYLENOL, PAIN MEDS, ETC • WET WIPES • LATEX GLOVES TOWELS & WASH CLOTHES • BUG SPRAY

FOR PURCHASE ON ISLAND:

TOOLS • CHAIN SAWS • GARBAGE BAGS • TARPS • GENERATORS • GAS CANS

DROP OFF LOCATIONS, STARTING FRIDAY SEPT 23:

LINCOLN WEST HIGH SCHOOL
3202 W 30TH ST, CLEVELAND, OH 44109

BENNY'S SPORTS BAR
3463 FULTON RD, CLEVELAND, OH 44109

We are also accepting donations to our CashApp
\$YOUNGLORDZPROJECT

Manuel Orlando Santiago
\$YoungLordzProject

<<<< Scan QR Code to donate to our GOFUNDME!

Instructions on how to scan a QR CODE: Open camera and hover over the image until you see a link pop up. Click on the link that appears near the image!

Or manually type in link: <https://gofund.me/a3708ade>

Use QR code or manually type in link: <https://gofund.me/a3708ade>

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

September 25th, 2022
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of the Word



The Rich Man and Lazarus

by Laura Jeanne Grimes, 2005

Laura Jeanne Grimes, artist.

<https://www.laurajeannegrimes.com/blog/the-rich-man-and-lazarus>



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

September 25th, 2022
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of the Word

*“If you want to feel rich, just count the things you have that money can’t buy.”
- A Proverb -*

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – *Betty Funk*

*Call to Worship

One: Come to this place and time of promise.

**Many: We are becoming the house of hope,
the field of sunflowers,
the vineyard of great caring.**

One: Come to a shared commitment
to abundance possible for all people.

**Many: We are an earthenware jar,
to keep safe the tomorrow of children.
Our security question is – the word of God,
and our password is love.**

*Gathering Prayer

**God, we give you thanks
that you make us redeemers,
not just receivers of redemption.
You bring us among friends and then ask
for each one of our signatures to change your world.
We hold the earthenware jar you call the church**

and fill it with all your promises. Amen.

***Hymn - NCH 31 - All Things Bright and Beautiful**

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Author: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.

Tune: ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with refrain

Adapter: Martin Shaw, 1915

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Refrain:

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
our dear God made them all.**

**1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
and made their tiny wings. [Refrain]**

**2 The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
The sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky. [Refrain]**

**3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them everyone. [Refrain]**

A READING OF THE WORD

In the midst of the siege of Jerusalem, while the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned by the king, he managed to secure a land deal despite his captivity. Jeremiah's cousin Hanamel sold a field to Jeremiah because the right of redemption passed to him, meaning, Hanamel went down the line of succession within the family and Jeremiah was next in line to either buy it or refuse it. Despite the war going on and being under guard, Jeremiah purchased the field because he knew God was using him as a sign of hope for the people, especially for the guard and the officials close by, that there would be those who survived, a remnant that returned. The deed was placed in an earthenware jar so that it could survive a long time when those who return would rebuild and plant again.

Hebrew Scripture: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

32 1 The word that came to Jeremiah from YHWH in the tenth year of Zedekiah ruler of Judah, which was also the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar:

2 At that time the army of the ruler of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned in the court of the guardhouse attached to the residence of the ruler of Jerusalem.3 Zedekiah the ruler imprisoned him after demanding, “How dare you prophesy the way you do? You say: ‘These are the words of YHWH: I will surrender this city into the hands of the ruler of Babylon, who will capture it.’” 6 The word of YHWH came to me and said, 7 “Hanamel, the son of your uncle Shallum, will come to you and say, ‘Buy my field in Anathoth. As next of kin you have the right of redemption to purchase it.’”

8 And just as YHWH foretold, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guardhouse and said, “Buy my field at Anathoth in Benjamin. You have the right of redemption to purchase it as next of kin. So why not purchase it?”

I knew that this was the word of YHWH. 9 So I bought the field in Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out the money—seventeen shekels of silver. 10 I signed the deed and sealed it, had it witnessed and then weighed out the money on a scale.

11 I took the copies of the deed of purchase—both sealed copy containing the terms and conditions and the unsealed copy—12 and gave them to Baruch ben-Neriah ben-Mahseiah in the presence of my cousin Hanamel and of the witnesses who had signed the deed and all the people of Judah who happened to be in the court of the guardhouse.

13 I gave Baruch these instructions in their presence: 14 “Thus says YHWH Omnipotent, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and the unsealed deed of purchase and put them in a clay jar so that they may be preserved for a very long time.”

15 For this is what YHWH Omnipotent, the God of Israel, says: “Houses, fields and vineyards will once again be purchased in this land.”

A Reding from the Psalms: Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 (Responsively)

This is is a song of praise to God who delivers the people from evil. The psalmist assures those who put their trust in God will have shelter and safety, and need not fear for their lives. In the latter verses, God declares through the psalmist that they will deliver those who love God and call out to God, for God is their salvation.

91 1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High and pass the night in
the shadow of Shaddai,

2 say: “God, my refuge and my mountain fortress, my God in whom I trust!”

3 For God says: “I will rescue you from the snare and shield you from poisoned
arrows.

**4 I will cover you with my pinions; under my wings you will take refuge; my faithfulness will
shield you.**

5 You have no need to fear the prowlers of the night or the arrow that flies by day,

6 The plague that lurks in the shadows or the scourge that stalks the noon.

14 "Because you love me, I will deliver you.

I will rescue you because you acknowledge my Name.

15 You will call upon me, and I will answer you; I will be with you in trouble.

I will deliver you and honor you.

16 I will satisfy you with a long life and show you, my salvation."

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

The Epistle readings continue the series on the pastoral letters of 1 and 2 Timothy with this text in 1 Timothy 6. The apostle Paul warns against those who desire wealth, because they will never be satisfied. Instead, Paul praises those who find contentment. "For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil" reminds us that if we love wealth, we do not love God, for Jesus warned us we cannot serve God and wealth (Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13). Instead, Paul urges the pursuit of righteousness (right-living with God), faith, love, gentleness, and so on. Take hold of eternal life. For those who are rich already they ought to be generous and share of their resources. They need to set their hope on God and not on their wealth and use their resources as a "good foundation" for the church in the future.

6 6 There is, of course, great benefit in religion, but only for those who are content with what they have. 7 We brought nothing into the world, nor have we the power to take anything out.

8 If we have food and clothing, we have all that we need. 9 Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and a trap. They are letting themselves be captured by foolish and harmful desires which draw us down to ruin and destruction.

10 The love of money is the root of all evil. Some people, in their passion for it, have strayed from the faith and have come to grief amid great pain. 11 But you are to flee from these things. As one dedicated to God, strive to be a person of integrity and piety, filled with faith and love, patience, and gentleness.

12 Run the great race of faith. Take firm hold of the everlasting life to which you were called when, in the presence of many witnesses, you made your good profession of faith. 13 Before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I charge you 14 to keep God's command without fault or reproach until our Savior Jesus Christ appears.

15 This appearance God will bring to pass at a chosen time. God alone is the Sovereign over all, the blessed and only ruler above all earthly rulers, 16 who alone possesses immortality, and who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no human being has ever seen or can see. To God be the honor and the everlasting kingdom! Amen.

17 Warn those who are blessed with this world's goods not to look down on other people. They are not to put their hope in wealth, for it is uncertain. Instead, they are to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with all that we need for our enjoyment. 18 Tell them they are to do good and be wealthy in good works. They are to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way, they'll create a treasure for the future, and guarantee the only life that is real.

Gospel Reading: Luke 16:19-31

Jesus told the story of the rich man and Lazarus in this text. Prior to this story, Jesus was teaching the disciples and encountered some Pharisees who were opposed to him. It is good to remember that just a few chapters ago, in 13:31, some Pharisees warned Jesus that Herod wanted to kill him. Not all the Pharisees were at odds with Jesus, and at different times Jesus had different encounters with this particular Jewish group. In this part of chapter 16, Jesus challenged the Pharisees and others on wealth ownership, and how wealth can lead us away from what God desires for us. In this story Jesus told, a man named Lazarus, who was poor and covered with sores on his body, used to sleep at the gates of a rich man's house—a person who lived in luxury without a care in the world. Lazarus longed to eat even the crumbs from the rich man's table, but instead, the rich man's dogs would come lick Lazarus' sores. When both men died, Lazarus was taken by the angels to Abraham, while the rich man suffered. The rich man called upon Abraham for mercy but also had the nerve to tell Abraham to send Lazarus to relieve his suffering! Abraham reminded the rich man that he had everything during his life while Lazarus had to suffer, so now it was time for Lazarus to be comforted. Besides that, it was impossible to cross the chasm separating them. The rich man begged Abraham to send Lazarus to his siblings to warn them, but Abraham said if they didn't believe the prophets, they weren't going to believe, even if someone rose from the dead—foreshadowing Jesus and the hardness of heart some people would have toward him.

16 19 “Once there was a rich man who dressed in purple and linen and feasted splendidly every day. 20 At the gate of this man's estate lay a beggar named Lazarus, who was covered with sores. 21 Lazarus longed to eat the scraps that fell from the rich man's table, and even the dogs came and licked Lazarus' sores. 22 One day poor Lazarus died and was carried by the angels to the arms of Abraham. The rich man likewise died and was buried.

23 In Hades, in torment, the rich man looked up and saw Abraham in the distance, and Lazarus resting in his company. 24 “Father Abraham,’ the rich man cried, ‘have pity on me! Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am tortured by these flames!’ 25 But Abraham said, ‘My child, remember that you were well off in your lifetime, while Lazarus was in misery. Now Lazarus has found consolation here, and you have found torment.

26 But that's not all. Between you and us there is a fixed chasm, so that those who might wish to come to you from here can't do so, nor can anyone cross from your side to us.’ 27 “The rich man said, ‘I beg you, then, to send Lazarus to my own house 28 where I have five siblings. Let Lazarus be a warning to them, so that they may not end in this place of torment.’ 29 But Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets. Let your siblings hear them.’ 30 ‘Please, I beg you,’ the rich man said, ‘if someone would only go to them from the dead, then they would repent.’ 31 ‘If they don't listen to Moses and the prophets,’ Abraham replied, ‘they won't be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead!’”

Choral Response – His Name is Wonderful

Music by Audrey Mieir, 1959

Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington and Bob Buckew

Accompanist: Betty Funk

Reflection— An Urgent Story – The Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Holy One, our world moves at a rapid pace of work, school, care of loved ones, paying bills, and all the other things that are important but can overwhelm us.

Help us to find the holy in the midst of it all: the brief moments of quiet, the time to read a chapter of a book, the sunshine breaking through the clouds, the task of watering plants.

Wherever we find a bit of Sabbath rest, O God, may we find it a holy moment. Whenever we find a bit of good, O God, nurture that goodness in us. May we seek the holy in our daily lives, for it escapes us in the world that pursues values away from you. May we find the holy moments already among us. Amen.

***Hymn of Response - NCH 543 - Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life**

vv. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

Author: Frank Mason North, 1903; alt.

Tune: GERMANY (GARDINER) L.M.

Source: William Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, 1815

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1 Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of clan and race,
Above the noise of selfish strife,
O Christ, we hear your voice of grace.

2 In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds fraught with fears,
From paths where hide the lures of greed,
we catch the vision of your tears.

4 The cup of water given for you
still holds the freshness of your grace;
Yet long these multitudes to view
the deep compassion of your face.

5 O Savior, from the mountainside,
Make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
Among these restless throngs abide,
O tread the city's streets again:

6 Till all shall learn compassion's might,
And follow where your feet have trod,
Till glorious from your realm of light
Shall come the city of our God.

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

We are invited to offer resources, time, abilities, compassion, in a tangible expression of our hope for the future for ourselves, this community of faith and many others near and far away. Be generous, my friends, with your trust in the future.

The Offertory – *Betty Funk*

*Presentation of Offerings – Doxology [*Old Hundredth*]

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

God, we have received hope; we give you time.
We have received hope; we give one another the church.
We have received hope; we offer these gifts that they
may become the change
or simply the promise of change
among those who need this clear image
that they are not abandoned.
Amen.

Choral Hymn: My Jesus, I Love Thee

Words by William R. Featherston, 1862
Music by Adoniram J. Gordon, 1876

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 436 - God of Grace and God of Glory**

vv. 1, 2, 3, 5

God of Grace and God of Glory

Author: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

Words used by permission of Elinor Fosdick Downs

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

Composer: John Hughes, c. 1907

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**1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**2 From the evils that surround us
and assail the Savior's ways,
from the fears that long have bound us -
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

**3 Cure your children's waring madness;
bend our pride to your control.
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
make our broken spirits whole,
make our broken spirits whole.**

**5 Save us from weak resignation,
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: God sends us from this place with a word of hope.

Many: We will offer the shelter of grace to all in need.

One: Jesus sends us out with the word of life.

Many: We will seek to share community with those we will meet.

One: The Spirit sends us into a world which longs for justice.

Many: We will trust that God's freedom will be offered to all people. Amen.

***Postlude – Betty Funk**

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for September 25th, 2022 (Pentecost 25/Trinity 15 Proper 21 Ordinary 26 - C)*, written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted September 19th, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [Http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](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 and the Earthenware Jar: Service Prayers for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost were written by Maren C. Tirabassi is a UCC pastor, author of fiction and non-fiction, and also a hiker in autumn leaves and a lover of fireside moments in the company of dogs, reading poetry and novels and finding myself praying, United Church of Christ. Education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (3) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for September 25th, 2022*, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on September 16th, 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*
Beverly Wurm, *Administrative Assistant*



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 brought to church or 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

Our Church's 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 496 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of September 22nd, 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 (has been moved to: *Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility: 18627 Shurmer Road, Room 408, Strongsville, Oh 44136*)
 - 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 – 10am-2pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

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

Elaine Lukacs' Address:

Elaine Lukacs
Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility
18627 Shurmer Road, Room 408
Strongsville, Oh 44136

Pakistan's 'dire' flood crisis is subject of UCC emergency appeal

The United Church of Christ has issued an emergency appeal for relief-and-recovery gifts in response to what it called "massive flooding" across most of Pakistan.

Wider Church Ministries launched the **UCC Pakistan Response Fund** Sept. 16.

Torrential monsoons since June have dumped nearly five times as much rain as the country usually gets. So far, the resulting floods have:

- Killed more than 1,400 people
- Affected 30 million people and displaced 800,000
- Damaged or destroyed 1 million homes, as well as farms, livestock, roads, bridges, schools and more.

One-third of country still submerged

“The situation in Pakistan remains dire as more than a third of the country is still under water,” said the Rev. Josh Baird, who heads the UCC’s Global H.O.P.E. team. “The most pressing needs are for food, clean water and sanitation, and emergency housing.

“In areas where the water has not receded, people are forced to construct temporary shelter on whatever dry patch of land they can access — often on the edge of roads.”

“At its peak, 73 percent of Pakistan’s districts were impacted by flooding,” the appeal’s web page says. “... More than half of its districts have been declared ‘calamity hit’ by the government — a number that is expected to rise as the rain continues and floods flow through the Punjab and Sindh provinces.”

World’s churches respond together

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has called the crisis an “unprecedented natural disaster” caused by “the intensification of climate change.” “No country deserves this fate, but particularly not countries like Pakistan that have done almost nothing to contribute to global warming,” he said. He called on the international community for “massive financial support,” especially from “countries that have contributed more to climate change.”

Baird said the UCC is working with ecumenical partners to respond.

Community World Service Asia, a partner through the ACT Alliance, is meeting immediate needs “while laying the groundwork for long-term recovery,” he said. “Gifts to the Pakistan Appeal will support emergency relief and focus on providing long-term care through the gifting of items such as seed for fields and feed and vaccines for livestock.

“With more than 6.4 million people projected to require humanitarian assistance, we anticipate walking with affected communities for the restoration of homes and livelihoods for many years.”

People can donate electronically at this page: <https://www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/pakistan-emergency-appeal/>

by selecting “International Emergency” as the option and entering “Pakistan response” as the specific appeal.

Gifts by check can be made payable to United Church of Christ, with “Pakistan Response Fund” noted in the memo section, and mailed to P.O. Box 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194.

Statement from Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb in support of Puerto Rico 9.22.22

The people of Cleveland stand with the people of Puerto Rico, who are bearing the impact of Hurricane Fiona with incredible courage and strength. On the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Maria's vicious landfall, it remains unacceptable that so many Puerto Ricans still lack reliable access to water and electricity. As the scope of the need becomes clear in the coming days and weeks, Cleveland is here to support aid efforts—both for individuals in Puerto Rico prevailing against the hurricane and for those who find themselves relocating as a result of it. We're proud of our Puerto Rican community and Cleveland is ready with open arms to welcome those in need and to assist in any way we can.

Puerto Rico Relief:

LIFTING PUERTO RICO:

On behalf of New Era Young Lords and the situation among us, we are activating and impacting Puerto Rico with our Boots on The Ground Initiative. In Cleveland, we will be collecting donations and storing them in Lincoln-West High School. By October 8th a group of us will be taking those donations to Puerto Rico and support as much as we can to provide help and resources. **We will travel to San Lorenzo, Utuado, Guanica, and Salinas to help families clean up debris, cut trees down, rebuilt part of their homes that were affected by Fiona.** Please donate in the need of restoring and the Boots on The Ground Initiative by New Era Young Lords Ohio Chapter.

DONATION ITEMS NEEDED:

BATTERIES • FLASH LIGHTS • LANTERNS • BABY FORMULA • DIAPERS • CANDLES • MEN/WOMEN HYGIENE PRODUCTS • FIRST AID KITS • NON PERISHABLE FOODS • MEDICINE: TYLENOL, PAIN MEDS, ETC • WET WIPES • LATEX GLOVES TOWELS & WASH CLOTHES • BUG SPRAY

FOR PURCHASE ON ISLAND:

TOOLS • CHAIN SAWS • GARBAGE BAGS • TARPS • GENERATORS • GAS CANS

DROP OFF LOCATIONS, STARTING FRIDAY SEPT 23:

LINCOLN WEST HIGH SCHOOL
3202 W 30TH ST, CLEVELAND, OH 44109

BENNY'S SPORTS BAR
3463 FULTON RD, CLEVELAND, OH 44109

Scan QR Code to donate to our GOFUNDME!

Instructions on how to scan a QR CODE: Open camera and hover over the image until you see a link pop up. Click on the link that appears near the image!

Or manually type in link: <https://gofund.me/a3708ade>

We are also accepting donations to our CashApp

\$YOUNGLORDZPROJECT

Manuel Orlando Santiago
\$YoungLordzProject

Use QR code or manually type in link: <https://gofund.me/a3708ade>

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

September 25th, 2022
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of the Word



The Rich Man and Lazarus

by Laura Jeanne Grimes, 2005

Laura Jeanne Grimes, artist.

<https://www.laurajeannegrimes.com/blog/the-rich-man-and-lazarus>



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

September 25th, 2022
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of the Word

*“If you want to feel rich, just count the things you have that money can’t buy.”
- A Proverb -*

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – *Betty Funk*

*Call to Worship

One: Come to this place and time of promise.

**Many: We are becoming the house of hope,
the field of sunflowers,
the vineyard of great caring.**

One: Come to a shared commitment
to abundance possible for all people.

**Many: We are an earthenware jar,
to keep safe the tomorrow of children.
Our security question is – the word of God,
and our password is love.**

*Gathering Prayer

**God, we give you thanks
that you make us redeemers,
not just receivers of redemption.
You bring us among friends and then ask
for each one of our signatures to change your world.
We hold the earthenware jar you call the church**

and fill it with all your promises. Amen.

***Hymn - NCH 31 - All Things Bright and Beautiful**

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Author: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.

Tune: ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with refrain

Adapter: Martin Shaw, 1915

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Refrain:

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
our dear God made them all.**

**1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
and made their tiny wings. [Refrain]**

**2 The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
The sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky. [Refrain]**

**3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them everyone. [Refrain]**

A READING OF THE WORD

In the midst of the siege of Jerusalem, while the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned by the king, he managed to secure a land deal despite his captivity. Jeremiah's cousin Hanamel sold a field to Jeremiah because the right of redemption passed to him, meaning, Hanamel went down the line of succession within the family and Jeremiah was next in line to either buy it or refuse it. Despite the war going on and being under guard, Jeremiah purchased the field because he knew God was using him as a sign of hope for the people, especially for the guard and the officials close by, that there would be those who survived, a remnant that returned. The deed was placed in an earthenware jar so that it could survive a long time when those who return would rebuild and plant again.

Hebrew Scripture: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

32 1 The word that came to Jeremiah from YHWH in the tenth year of Zedekiah ruler of Judah, which was also the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar:

2 At that time the army of the ruler of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned in the court of the guardhouse attached to the residence of the ruler of Jerusalem.3 Zedekiah the ruler imprisoned him after demanding, “How dare you prophesy the way you do? You say: ‘These are the words of YHWH: I will surrender this city into the hands of the ruler of Babylon, who will capture it.’” 6 The word of YHWH came to me and said, 7 “Hanamel, the son of your uncle Shallum, will come to you and say, ‘Buy my field in Anathoth. As next of kin you have the right of redemption to purchase it.’”

8 And just as YHWH foretold, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guardhouse and said, “Buy my field at Anathoth in Benjamin. You have the right of redemption to purchase it as next of kin. So why not purchase it?”

I knew that this was the word of YHWH. 9 So I bought the field in Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out the money—seventeen shekels of silver. 10 I signed the deed and sealed it, had it witnessed and then weighed out the money on a scale.

11 I took the copies of the deed of purchase—both sealed copy containing the terms and conditions and the unsealed copy—12 and gave them to Baruch ben-Neriah ben-Mahseiah in the presence of my cousin Hanamel and of the witnesses who had signed the deed and all the people of Judah who happened to be in the court of the guardhouse.

13 I gave Baruch these instructions in their presence: 14 “Thus says YHWH Omnipotent, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and the unsealed deed of purchase and put them in a clay jar so that they may be preserved for a very long time.”

15 For this is what YHWH Omnipotent, the God of Israel, says: “Houses, fields and vineyards will once again be purchased in this land.”

A Reding from the Psalms: Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 (Responsively)

This is is a song of praise to God who delivers the people from evil. The psalmist assures those who put their trust in God will have shelter and safety, and need not fear for their lives. In the latter verses, God declares through the psalmist that they will deliver those who love God and call out to God, for God is their salvation.

91 1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High and pass the night in
the shadow of Shaddai,

2 say: “God, my refuge and my mountain fortress, my God in whom I trust!”

3 For God says: “I will rescue you from the snare and shield you from poisoned
arrows.

**4 I will cover you with my pinions; under my wings you will take refuge; my faithfulness will
shield you.**

5 You have no need to fear the prowlers of the night or the arrow that flies by day,

6 The plague that lurks in the shadows or the scourge that stalks the noon.

14 "Because you love me, I will deliver you.

I will rescue you because you acknowledge my Name.

15 You will call upon me, and I will answer you; I will be with you in trouble.

I will deliver you and honor you.

16 I will satisfy you with a long life and show you, my salvation."

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

The Epistle readings continue the series on the pastoral letters of 1 and 2 Timothy with this text in 1 Timothy 6. The apostle Paul warns against those who desire wealth, because they will never be satisfied. Instead, Paul praises those who find contentment. "For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil" reminds us that if we love wealth, we do not love God, for Jesus warned us we cannot serve God and wealth (Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13). Instead, Paul urges the pursuit of righteousness (right-living with God), faith, love, gentleness, and so on. Take hold of eternal life. For those who are rich already they ought to be generous and share of their resources. They need to set their hope on God and not on their wealth and use their resources as a "good foundation" for the church in the future.

6 6 There is, of course, great benefit in religion, but only for those who are content with what they have. 7 We brought nothing into the world, nor have we the power to take anything out.

8 If we have food and clothing, we have all that we need. 9 Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and a trap. They are letting themselves be captured by foolish and harmful desires which draw us down to ruin and destruction.

10 The love of money is the root of all evil. Some people, in their passion for it, have strayed from the faith and have come to grief amid great pain. 11 But you are to flee from these things. As one dedicated to God, strive to be a person of integrity and piety, filled with faith and love, patience, and gentleness.

12 Run the great race of faith. Take firm hold of the everlasting life to which you were called when, in the presence of many witnesses, you made your good profession of faith. 13 Before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I charge you 14 to keep God's command without fault or reproach until our Savior Jesus Christ appears.

15 This appearance God will bring to pass at a chosen time. God alone is the Sovereign over all, the blessed and only ruler above all earthly rulers, 16 who alone possesses immortality, and who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no human being has ever seen or can see. To God be the honor and the everlasting kingdom! Amen.

17 Warn those who are blessed with this world's goods not to look down on other people. They are not to put their hope in wealth, for it is uncertain. Instead, they are to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with all that we need for our enjoyment. 18 Tell them they are to do good and be wealthy in good works. They are to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way, they'll create a treasure for the future, and guarantee the only life that is real.

Gospel Reading: Luke 16:19-31

Jesus told the story of the rich man and Lazarus in this text. Prior to this story, Jesus was teaching the disciples and encountered some Pharisees who were opposed to him. It is good to remember that just a few chapters ago, in 13:31, some Pharisees warned Jesus that Herod wanted to kill him. Not all the Pharisees were at odds with Jesus, and at different times Jesus had different encounters with this particular Jewish group. In this part of chapter 16, Jesus challenged the Pharisees and others on wealth ownership, and how wealth can lead us away from what God desires for us. In this story Jesus told, a man named Lazarus, who was poor and covered with sores on his body, used to sleep at the gates of a rich man's house—a person who lived in luxury without a care in the world. Lazarus longed to eat even the crumbs from the rich man's table, but instead, the rich man's dogs would come lick Lazarus' sores. When both men died, Lazarus was taken by the angels to Abraham, while the rich man suffered. The rich man called upon Abraham for mercy but also had the nerve to tell Abraham to send Lazarus to relieve his suffering! Abraham reminded the rich man that he had everything during his life while Lazarus had to suffer, so now it was time for Lazarus to be comforted. Besides that, it was impossible to cross the chasm separating them. The rich man begged Abraham to send Lazarus to his siblings to warn them, but Abraham said if they didn't believe the prophets, they weren't going to believe, even if someone rose from the dead—foreshadowing Jesus and the hardness of heart some people would have toward him.

16 19 “Once there was a rich man who dressed in purple and linen and feasted splendidly every day. 20 At the gate of this man's estate lay a beggar named Lazarus, who was covered with sores. 21 Lazarus longed to eat the scraps that fell from the rich man's table, and even the dogs came and licked Lazarus' sores. 22 One day poor Lazarus died and was carried by the angels to the arms of Abraham. The rich man likewise died and was buried.

23 In Hades, in torment, the rich man looked up and saw Abraham in the distance, and Lazarus resting in his company. 24 “Father Abraham,’ the rich man cried, ‘have pity on me! Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am tortured by these flames!’ 25 But Abraham said, ‘My child, remember that you were well off in your lifetime, while Lazarus was in misery. Now Lazarus has found consolation here, and you have found torment.

26 But that's not all. Between you and us there is a fixed chasm, so that those who might wish to come to you from here can't do so, nor can anyone cross from your side to us.’ 27 “The rich man said, ‘I beg you, then, to send Lazarus to my own house 28 where I have five siblings. Let Lazarus be a warning to them, so that they may not end in this place of torment.’ 29 But Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets. Let your siblings hear them.’ 30 ‘Please, I beg you,’ the rich man said, ‘if someone would only go to them from the dead, then they would repent.’ 31 ‘If they don't listen to Moses and the prophets,’ Abraham replied, ‘they won't be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead!’”

Choral Response – His Name is Wonderful

Music by Audrey Mieir, 1959

Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington and Bob Buckew

Accompanist: Betty Funk

Reflection— An Urgent Story – The Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Holy One, our world moves at a rapid pace of work, school, care of loved ones, paying bills, and all the other things that are important but can overwhelm us.

Help us to find the holy in the midst of it all: the brief moments of quiet, the time to read a chapter of a book, the sunshine breaking through the clouds, the task of watering plants.

Wherever we find a bit of Sabbath rest, O God, may we find it a holy moment. Whenever we find a bit of good, O God, nurture that goodness in us. May we seek the holy in our daily lives, for it escapes us in the world that pursues values away from you. May we find the holy moments already among us. Amen.

***Hymn of Response - NCH 543 - Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life**

vv. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

Author: Frank Mason North, 1903; alt.

Tune: GERMANY (GARDINER) L.M.

Source: William Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, 1815

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1 Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of clan and race,
Above the noise of selfish strife,
O Christ, we hear your voice of grace.

2 In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds fraught with fears,
From paths where hide the lures of greed,
we catch the vision of your tears.

4 The cup of water given for you
still holds the freshness of your grace;
Yet long these multitudes to view
the deep compassion of your face.

5 O Savior, from the mountainside,
Make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
Among these restless throngs abide,
O tread the city's streets again:

6 Till all shall learn compassion's might,
And follow where your feet have trod,
Till glorious from your realm of light
Shall come the city of our God.

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

We are invited to offer resources, time, abilities, compassion, in a tangible expression of our hope for the future for ourselves, this community of faith and many others near and far away. Be generous, my friends, with your trust in the future.

The Offertory – *Betty Funk*

*Presentation of Offerings – Doxology [*Old Hundredth*]

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

God, we have received hope; we give you time.
We have received hope; we give one another the church.
We have received hope; we offer these gifts that they
may become the change
or simply the promise of change
among those who need this clear image
that they are not abandoned.
Amen.

Choral Hymn: My Jesus, I Love Thee

Words by William R. Featherston, 1862
Music by Adoniram J. Gordon, 1876

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 436 - God of Grace and God of Glory**

vv. 1, 2, 3, 5

God of Grace and God of Glory

Author: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

Words used by permission of Elinor Fosdick Downs

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

Composer: John Hughes, c. 1907

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**1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**2 From the evils that surround us
and assail the Savior's ways,
from the fears that long have bound us -
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

**3 Cure your children's waring madness;
bend our pride to your control.
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
make our broken spirits whole,
make our broken spirits whole.**

**5 Save us from weak resignation,
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: God sends us from this place with a word of hope.

Many: We will offer the shelter of grace to all in need.

One: Jesus sends us out with the word of life.

Many: We will seek to share community with those we will meet.

One: The Spirit sends us into a world which longs for justice.

Many: We will trust that God's freedom will be offered to all people. Amen.

***Postlude – Betty Funk**

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for September 25th, 2022 (Pentecost 25/Trinity 15 Proper 21 Ordinary 26 - C)*, written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted September 19th, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [Http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](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 and Earthenware Jar: Service Prayers for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost were written by Maren C. Tirabassi is a UCC pastor, author of fiction and non-fiction, and also a hiker in autumn leaves and a lover of fireside moments in the company of dogs, reading poetry and novels and finding myself praying, United Church of Christ. Education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (3) The Prayer of Response is adapted from Worship Resources for September 25th, 2022, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on September 16th, 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*
Beverly Wurm, *Administrative Assistant*



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 brought to church or 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

Our Church's 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 496 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of September 22nd, 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 (has been moved to: *Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility: 18627 Shurmer Road, Room 408, Strongsville, Oh 44136*)
 - 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 – 10am-2pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

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

Elaine Lukacs' Address:

Elaine Lukacs
Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility
18627 Shurmer Road, Room 408
Strongsville, Oh 44136

Pakistan's 'dire' flood crisis is subject of UCC emergency appeal

The United Church of Christ has issued an emergency appeal for relief-and-recovery gifts in response to what it called "massive flooding" across most of Pakistan.

Wider Church Ministries launched the **UCC Pakistan Response Fund** Sept. 16.

Torrential monsoons since June have dumped nearly five times as much rain as the country usually gets. So far, the resulting floods have:

- Killed more than 1,400 people
- Affected 30 million people and displaced 800,000
- Damaged or destroyed 1 million homes, as well as farms, livestock, roads, bridges, schools and more.

One-third of country still submerged

“The situation in Pakistan remains dire as more than a third of the country is still under water,” said the Rev. Josh Baird, who heads the UCC’s Global H.O.P.E. team. “The most pressing needs are for food, clean water and sanitation, and emergency housing.

“In areas where the water has not receded, people are forced to construct temporary shelter on whatever dry patch of land they can access — often on the edge of roads.”

“At its peak, 73 percent of Pakistan’s districts were impacted by flooding,” the appeal’s web page says. “... More than half of its districts have been declared ‘calamity hit’ by the government — a number that is expected to rise as the rain continues and floods flow through the Punjab and Sindh provinces.”

World’s churches respond together

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has called the crisis an “unprecedented natural disaster” caused by “the intensification of climate change.” “No country deserves this fate, but particularly not countries like Pakistan that have done almost nothing to contribute to global warming,” he said. He called on the international community for “massive financial support,” especially from “countries that have contributed more to climate change.”

Baird said the UCC is working with ecumenical partners to respond.

Community World Service Asia, a partner through the ACT Alliance, is meeting immediate needs “while laying the groundwork for long-term recovery,” he said. “Gifts to the Pakistan Appeal will support emergency relief and focus on providing long-term care through the gifting of items such as seed for fields and feed and vaccines for livestock.

“With more than 6.4 million people projected to require humanitarian assistance, we anticipate walking with affected communities for the restoration of homes and livelihoods for many years.”

People can donate electronically at this page: <https://www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/pakistan-emergency-appeal/>

by selecting “International Emergency” as the option and entering “Pakistan response” as the specific appeal.

Gifts by check can be made payable to United Church of Christ, with “Pakistan Response Fund” noted in the memo section, and mailed to P.O. Box 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194.

Statement from Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb in support of Puerto Rico 9.22.22

The people of Cleveland stand with the people of Puerto Rico, who are bearing the impact of Hurricane Fiona with incredible courage and strength. On the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Maria's vicious landfall, it remains unacceptable that so many Puerto Ricans still lack reliable access to water and electricity. As the scope of the need becomes clear in the coming days and weeks, Cleveland is here to support aid efforts—both for individuals in Puerto Rico prevailing against the hurricane and for those who find themselves relocating as a result of it. We're proud of our Puerto Rican community and Cleveland is ready with open arms to welcome those in need and to assist in any way we can.

Puerto Rico Relief:



The poster features a central circular logo with the text "LIFTING PUERTO RICO" around the top and "NEW ERA YOUNG LORDS EDITION" around the bottom. The logo depicts a stylized figure holding a green plant. To the right, a dark blue banner contains the text "LIFTING PUERTO RICO:" in white. Below this, a paragraph of text describes the initiative. A QR code is positioned in the middle right, with instructions on how to scan it and a link to a GoFundMe page. At the bottom right, a green banner says "We are also accepting donations to our CashApp" followed by a green button with the text "\$YOUNGLORDZPROJECT". Below this, a black box contains a small circular logo and the name "Manuel Orlando Santiago" with the CashApp handle "\$YoungLordzProject" and a green arrow pointing to the right.

LIFTING PUERTO RICO:

On behalf of New Era Young Lords and the situation among us, we are activating and impacting Puerto Rico with our Boots on The Ground Initiative. In Cleveland, we will be collecting donations and storing them in Lincoln-West High School. By October 8th a group of us will be taking those donations to Puerto Rico and support as much as we can to provide help and resources. **We will travel to San Lorenzo, Utuado, Guanica, and Salinas to help families clean up debris, cut trees down, rebuilt part of their homes that were affected by Fiona.** Please donate in the need of restoring and the Boots on The Ground Initiative by New Era Young Lords Ohio Chapter.

DONATION ITEMS NEEDED:

BATTERIES • FLASH LIGHTS • LANTERNS • BABY FORMULA • DIAPERS • CANDLES • MEN/WOMEN HYGIENE PRODUCTS • FIRST AID KITS • NON PERISHABLE FOODS • MEDICINE: TYLENOL, PAIN MEDS, ETC • WET WIPES • LATEX GLOVES TOWELS & WASH CLOTHES • BUG SPRAY

FOR PURCHASE ON ISLAND:

TOOLS • CHAIN SAWS • GARBAGE BAGS • TARPS • GENERATORS • GAS CANS

DROP OFF LOCATIONS, STARTING FRIDAY SEPT 23:

LINCOLN WEST HIGH SCHOOL
3202 W 30TH ST, CLEVELAND, OH 44109

BENNY'S SPORTS BAR
3463 FULTON RD, CLEVELAND, OH 44109

Scan QR Code to donate to our GOFUNDME!

Instructions on how to scan a QR CODE: Open camera and hover over the image until you see a link pop up. Click on the link that appears near the image!

Or manually type in link: <https://gofund.me/a3708ade>

We are also accepting donations to our CashApp

\$YOUNGLORDZPROJECT

Manuel Orlando Santiago
\$YoungLordzProject

Use QR code or manually type in link: <https://gofund.me/a3708ade>

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

September 25th, 2022
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of the Word



The Rich Man and Lazarus

by Laura Jeanne Grimes, 2005

Laura Jeanne Grimes, artist.

<https://www.laurajeannegrimes.com/blog/the-rich-man-and-lazarus>



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

September 25th, 2022
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of the Word

*“If you want to feel rich, just count the things you have that money can’t buy.”
- A Proverb -*

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – *Betty Funk*

*Call to Worship

One: Come to this place and time of promise.

**Many: We are becoming the house of hope,
the field of sunflowers,
the vineyard of great caring.**

One: Come to a shared commitment
to abundance possible for all people.

**Many: We are an earthenware jar,
to keep safe the tomorrow of children.
Our security question is – the word of God,
and our password is love.**

*Gathering Prayer

**God, we give you thanks
that you make us redeemers,
not just receivers of redemption.
You bring us among friends and then ask
for each one of our signatures to change your world.
We hold the earthenware jar you call the church**

and fill it with all your promises. Amen.

***Hymn - NCH 31 - All Things Bright and Beautiful**

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Author: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.

Tune: ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with refrain

Adapter: Martin Shaw, 1915

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Refrain:

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
our dear God made them all.**

**1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
and made their tiny wings. [Refrain]**

**2 The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
The sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky. [Refrain]**

**3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them everyone. [Refrain]**

A READING OF THE WORD

In the midst of the siege of Jerusalem, while the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned by the king, he managed to secure a land deal despite his captivity. Jeremiah's cousin Hanamel sold a field to Jeremiah because the right of redemption passed to him, meaning, Hanamel went down the line of succession within the family and Jeremiah was next in line to either buy it or refuse it. Despite the war going on and being under guard, Jeremiah purchased the field because he knew God was using him as a sign of hope for the people, especially for the guard and the officials close by, that there would be those who survived, a remnant that returned. The deed was placed in an earthenware jar so that it could survive a long time when those who return would rebuild and plant again.

Hebrew Scripture: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

32 1 The word that came to Jeremiah from YHWH in the tenth year of Zedekiah ruler of Judah, which was also the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar:

2 At that time the army of the ruler of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned in the court of the guardhouse attached to the residence of the ruler of Jerusalem.3 Zedekiah the ruler imprisoned him after demanding, “How dare you prophesy the way you do? You say: ‘These are the words of YHWH: I will surrender this city into the hands of the ruler of Babylon, who will capture it.’” 6 The word of YHWH came to me and said, 7 “Hanamel, the son of your uncle Shallum, will come to you and say, ‘Buy my field in Anathoth. As next of kin you have the right of redemption to purchase it.’”

8 And just as YHWH foretold, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guardhouse and said, “Buy my field at Anathoth in Benjamin. You have the right of redemption to purchase it as next of kin. So why not purchase it?”

I knew that this was the word of YHWH. 9 So I bought the field in Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out the money—seventeen shekels of silver. 10 I signed the deed and sealed it, had it witnessed and then weighed out the money on a scale.

11 I took the copies of the deed of purchase—both sealed copy containing the terms and conditions and the unsealed copy—12 and gave them to Baruch ben-Neriah ben-Mahseiah in the presence of my cousin Hanamel and of the witnesses who had signed the deed and all the people of Judah who happened to be in the court of the guardhouse.

13 I gave Baruch these instructions in their presence: 14 “Thus says YHWH Omnipotent, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and the unsealed deed of purchase and put them in a clay jar so that they may be preserved for a very long time.”

15 For this is what YHWH Omnipotent, the God of Israel, says: “Houses, fields and vineyards will once again be purchased in this land.”

A Reding from the Psalms: Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 (Responsively)

This is is a song of praise to God who delivers the people from evil. The psalmist assures those who put their trust in God will have shelter and safety, and need not fear for their lives. In the latter verses, God declares through the psalmist that they will deliver those who love God and call out to God, for God is their salvation.

91 1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High and pass the night in
the shadow of Shaddai,

2 say: “God, my refuge and my mountain fortress, my God in whom I trust!”

3 For God says: “I will rescue you from the snare and shield you from poisoned
arrows.

**4 I will cover you with my pinions; under my wings you will take refuge; my faithfulness will
shield you.**

5 You have no need to fear the prowlers of the night or the arrow that flies by day,

6 The plague that lurks in the shadows or the scourge that stalks the noon.

14 "Because you love me, I will deliver you.

I will rescue you because you acknowledge my Name.

15 You will call upon me, and I will answer you; I will be with you in trouble.

I will deliver you and honor you.

16 I will satisfy you with a long life and show you, my salvation."

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

The Epistle readings continue the series on the pastoral letters of 1 and 2 Timothy with this text in 1 Timothy 6. The apostle Paul warns against those who desire wealth, because they will never be satisfied. Instead, Paul praises those who find contentment. "For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil" reminds us that if we love wealth, we do not love God, for Jesus warned us we cannot serve God and wealth (Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13). Instead, Paul urges the pursuit of righteousness (right-living with God), faith, love, gentleness, and so on. Take hold of eternal life. For those who are rich already they ought to be generous and share of their resources. They need to set their hope on God and not on their wealth and use their resources as a "good foundation" for the church in the future.

6 6 There is, of course, great benefit in religion, but only for those who are content with what they have. 7 We brought nothing into the world, nor have we the power to take anything out.

8 If we have food and clothing, we have all that we need. 9 Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and a trap. They are letting themselves be captured by foolish and harmful desires which draw us down to ruin and destruction.

10 The love of money is the root of all evil. Some people, in their passion for it, have strayed from the faith and have come to grief amid great pain. 11 But you are to flee from these things. As one dedicated to God, strive to be a person of integrity and piety, filled with faith and love, patience, and gentleness.

12 Run the great race of faith. Take firm hold of the everlasting life to which you were called when, in the presence of many witnesses, you made your good profession of faith. 13 Before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I charge you 14 to keep God's command without fault or reproach until our Savior Jesus Christ appears.

15 This appearance God will bring to pass at a chosen time. God alone is the Sovereign over all, the blessed and only ruler above all earthly rulers, 16 who alone possesses immortality, and who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no human being has ever seen or can see. To God be the honor and the everlasting kingdom! Amen.

17 Warn those who are blessed with this world's goods not to look down on other people. They are not to put their hope in wealth, for it is uncertain. Instead, they are to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with all that we need for our enjoyment. 18 Tell them they are to do good and be wealthy in good works. They are to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way, they'll create a treasure for the future, and guarantee the only life that is real.

Gospel Reading: Luke 16:19-31

Jesus told the story of the rich man and Lazarus in this text. Prior to this story, Jesus was teaching the disciples and encountered some Pharisees who were opposed to him. It is good to remember that just a few chapters ago, in 13:31, some Pharisees warned Jesus that Herod wanted to kill him. Not all the Pharisees were at odds with Jesus, and at different times Jesus had different encounters with this particular Jewish group. In this part of chapter 16, Jesus challenged the Pharisees and others on wealth ownership, and how wealth can lead us away from what God desires for us. In this story Jesus told, a man named Lazarus, who was poor and covered with sores on his body, used to sleep at the gates of a rich man's house—a person who lived in luxury without a care in the world. Lazarus longed to eat even the crumbs from the rich man's table, but instead, the rich man's dogs would come lick Lazarus' sores. When both men died, Lazarus was taken by the angels to Abraham, while the rich man suffered. The rich man called upon Abraham for mercy but also had the nerve to tell Abraham to send Lazarus to relieve his suffering! Abraham reminded the rich man that he had everything during his life while Lazarus had to suffer, so now it was time for Lazarus to be comforted. Besides that, it was impossible to cross the chasm separating them. The rich man begged Abraham to send Lazarus to his siblings to warn them, but Abraham said if they didn't believe the prophets, they weren't going to believe, even if someone rose from the dead—foreshadowing Jesus and the hardness of heart some people would have toward him.

16 19 “Once there was a rich man who dressed in purple and linen and feasted splendidly every day. 20 At the gate of this man's estate lay a beggar named Lazarus, who was covered with sores. 21 Lazarus longed to eat the scraps that fell from the rich man's table, and even the dogs came and licked Lazarus' sores. 22 One day poor Lazarus died and was carried by the angels to the arms of Abraham. The rich man likewise died and was buried.

23 In Hades, in torment, the rich man looked up and saw Abraham in the distance, and Lazarus resting in his company. 24 “Father Abraham,’ the rich man cried, ‘have pity on me! Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am tortured by these flames!’ 25 But Abraham said, ‘My child, remember that you were well off in your lifetime, while Lazarus was in misery. Now Lazarus has found consolation here, and you have found torment.

26 But that's not all. Between you and us there is a fixed chasm, so that those who might wish to come to you from here can't do so, nor can anyone cross from your side to us.’ 27 “The rich man said, ‘I beg you, then, to send Lazarus to my own house 28 where I have five siblings. Let Lazarus be a warning to them, so that they may not end in this place of torment.’ 29 But Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets. Let your siblings hear them.’ 30 ‘Please, I beg you,’ the rich man said, ‘if someone would only go to them from the dead, then they would repent.’ 31 ‘If they don't listen to Moses and the prophets,’ Abraham replied, ‘they won't be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead!’”

Choral Response – His Name is Wonderful

Music by Audrey Mieir, 1959

Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington and Bob Buckew

Accompanist: Betty Funk

Reflection— An Urgent Story – The Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Holy One, our world moves at a rapid pace of work, school, care of loved ones, paying bills, and all the other things that are important but can overwhelm us.

Help us to find the holy in the midst of it all: the brief moments of quiet, the time to read a chapter of a book, the sunshine breaking through the clouds, the task of watering plants.

Wherever we find a bit of Sabbath rest, O God, may we find it a holy moment. Whenever we find a bit of good, O God, nurture that goodness in us. May we seek the holy in our daily lives, for it escapes us in the world that pursues values away from you. May we find the holy moments already among us. Amen.

***Hymn of Response - NCH 543 - Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life**

vv. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

Author: Frank Mason North, 1903; alt.

Tune: GERMANY (GARDINER) L.M.

Source: William Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, 1815

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1 Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of clan and race,
Above the noise of selfish strife,
O Christ, we hear your voice of grace.

2 In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds fraught with fears,
From paths where hide the lures of greed,
we catch the vision of your tears.

4 The cup of water given for you
still holds the freshness of your grace;
Yet long these multitudes to view
the deep compassion of your face.

5 O Savior, from the mountainside,
Make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
Among these restless throngs abide,
O tread the city's streets again:

6 Till all shall learn compassion's might,
And follow where your feet have trod,
Till glorious from your realm of light
Shall come the city of our God.

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

We are invited to offer resources, time, abilities, compassion, in a tangible expression of our hope for the future for ourselves, this community of faith and many others near and far away. Be generous, my friends, with your trust in the future.

The Offertory – *Betty Funk*

*Presentation of Offerings – Doxology [*Old Hundredth*]

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

God, we have received hope; we give you time.
We have received hope; we give one another the church.
We have received hope; we offer these gifts that they
may become the change
or simply the promise of change
among those who need this clear image
that they are not abandoned.
Amen.

Choral Hymn: My Jesus, I Love Thee

Words by William R. Featherston, 1862
Music by Adoniram J. Gordon, 1876

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 436 - God of Grace and God of Glory**

vv. 1, 2, 3, 5

God of Grace and God of Glory

Author: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

Words used by permission of Elinor Fosdick Downs

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

Composer: John Hughes, c. 1907

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**1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**2 From the evils that surround us
and assail the Savior's ways,
from the fears that long have bound us -
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

**3 Cure your children's waring madness;
bend our pride to your control.
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
make our broken spirits whole,
make our broken spirits whole.**

**5 Save us from weak resignation,
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: God sends us from this place with a word of hope.

Many: We will offer the shelter of grace to all in need.

One: Jesus sends us out with the word of life.

Many: We will seek to share community with those we will meet.

One: The Spirit sends us into a world which longs for justice.

Many: We will trust that God's freedom will be offered to all people. Amen.

***Postlude – Betty Funk**

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for September 25th, 2022 (Pentecost 25/Trinity 15 Proper 21 Ordinary 26 - C)*, written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted September 19th, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [Http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](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 and the Earthenware Jar: Service Prayers for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost were written by Maren C. Tirabassi is a UCC pastor, author of fiction and non-fiction, and also a hiker in autumn leaves and a lover of fireside moments in the company of dogs, reading poetry and novels and finding myself praying, United Church of Christ. Education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (3) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for September 25th, 2022*, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on September 16th, 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*
Beverly Wurm, *Administrative Assistant*



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 brought to church or 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

Our Church's 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 496 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of September 22nd, 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 (has been moved to: *Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility: 18627 Shurmer Road, Room 408, Strongsville, Oh 44136*)
 - 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 – 10am-2pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

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

Elaine Lukacs' Address:

Elaine Lukacs
Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility
18627 Shurmer Road, Room 408
Strongsville, Oh 44136

Pakistan's 'dire' flood crisis is subject of UCC emergency appeal

The United Church of Christ has issued an emergency appeal for relief-and-recovery gifts in response to what it called "massive flooding" across most of Pakistan.

Wider Church Ministries launched the **UCC Pakistan Response Fund** Sept. 16.

Torrential monsoons since June have dumped nearly five times as much rain as the country usually gets. So far, the resulting floods have:

- Killed more than 1,400 people
- Affected 30 million people and displaced 800,000
- Damaged or destroyed 1 million homes, as well as farms, livestock, roads, bridges, schools and more.

One-third of country still submerged

“The situation in Pakistan remains dire as more than a third of the country is still under water,” said the Rev. Josh Baird, who heads the UCC’s Global H.O.P.E. team. “The most pressing needs are for food, clean water and sanitation, and emergency housing.

“In areas where the water has not receded, people are forced to construct temporary shelter on whatever dry patch of land they can access — often on the edge of roads.”

“At its peak, 73 percent of Pakistan’s districts were impacted by flooding,” the appeal’s web page says. “... More than half of its districts have been declared ‘calamity hit’ by the government — a number that is expected to rise as the rain continues and floods flow through the Punjab and Sindh provinces.”

World’s churches respond together

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has called the crisis an “unprecedented natural disaster” caused by “the intensification of climate change.” “No country deserves this fate, but particularly not countries like Pakistan that have done almost nothing to contribute to global warming,” he said. He called on the international community for “massive financial support,” especially from “countries that have contributed more to climate change.”

Baird said the UCC is working with ecumenical partners to respond.

Community World Service Asia, a partner through the ACT Alliance, is meeting immediate needs “while laying the groundwork for long-term recovery,” he said. “Gifts to the Pakistan Appeal will support emergency relief and focus on providing long-term care through the gifting of items such as seed for fields and feed and vaccines for livestock.

“With more than 6.4 million people projected to require humanitarian assistance, we anticipate walking with affected communities for the restoration of homes and livelihoods for many years.”

People can donate electronically at this page: <https://www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/pakistan-emergency-appeal/>

by selecting “International Emergency” as the option and entering “Pakistan response” as the specific appeal.

Gifts by check can be made payable to United Church of Christ, with “Pakistan Response Fund” noted in the memo section, and mailed to P.O. Box 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194.

Statement from Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb in support of Puerto Rico 9.22.22

The people of Cleveland stand with the people of Puerto Rico, who are bearing the impact of Hurricane Fiona with incredible courage and strength. On the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Maria's vicious landfall, it remains unacceptable that so many Puerto Ricans still lack reliable access to water and electricity. As the scope of the need becomes clear in the coming days and weeks, Cleveland is here to support aid efforts—both for individuals in Puerto Rico prevailing against the hurricane and for those who find themselves relocating as a result of it. We're proud of our Puerto Rican community and Cleveland is ready with open arms to welcome those in need and to assist in any way we can.

Puerto Rico Relief:

LIFTING PUERTO RICO:

On behalf of New Era Young Lords and the situation among us, we are activating and impacting Puerto Rico with our Boots on The Ground Initiative. In Cleveland, we will be collecting donations and storing them in Lincoln-West High School. By October 8th a group of us will be taking those donations to Puerto Rico and support as much as we can to provide help and resources. **We will travel to San Lorenzo, Utuado, Guanica, and Salinas to help families clean up debris, cut trees down, rebuilt part of their homes that were affected by Fiona.** Please donate in the need of restoring and the Boots on The Ground Initiative by New Era Young Lords Ohio Chapter.

DONATION ITEMS NEEDED:

- BATTERIES • FLASH LIGHTS • LANTERNS •
- BABY FORMULA • DIAPERS • CANDLES
- MEN/WOMEN HYGIENE PRODUCTS •
- FIRST AID KITS • NON PERISHABLE
- FOODS • MEDICINE: TYLENOL, PAIN
- MEDS, ETC • WET WIPES • LATEX GLOVES
- TOWELS & WASH CLOTHES • BUG SPRAY

FOR PURCHASE ON ISLAND:

- TOOLS • CHAIN SAWS • GARBAGE BAGS •
- TARPS • GENERATORS • GAS CANS

DROP OFF LOCATIONS, STARTING FRIDAY SEPT 23:

LINCOLN WEST HIGH SCHOOL
3202 W 30TH ST, CLEVELAND, OH 44109

BENNY'S SPORTS BAR
3463 FULTON RD, CLEVELAND, OH 44109

Scan QR Code to donate to our GOFUNDME!

Instructions on how to scan a QR CODE: Open camera and hover over the image until you see a link pop up. Click on the link that appears near the image!

Or manually type in link:
<https://gofund.me/a3708ade>

We are also accepting donations to our CashApp

\$YOUNGLORDZPROJECT

Manuel Orlando Santiago
\$YoungLordzProject

Use QR code or manually type in link: <https://gofund.me/a3708ade>

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

September 25th, 2022
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of the Word



The Rich Man and Lazarus

by Laura Jeanne Grimes, 2005

Laura Jeanne Grimes, artist.

<https://www.laurajeannegrimes.com/blog/the-rich-man-and-lazarus>



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

September 25th, 2022
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of the Word

*“If you want to feel rich, just count the things you have that money can’t buy.”
- A Proverb -*

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – *Betty Funk*

*Call to Worship

One: Come to this place and time of promise.

**Many: We are becoming the house of hope,
the field of sunflowers,
the vineyard of great caring.**

One: Come to a shared commitment
to abundance possible for all people.

**Many: We are an earthenware jar,
to keep safe the tomorrow of children.
Our security question is – the word of God,
and our password is love.**

*Gathering Prayer

**God, we give you thanks
that you make us redeemers,
not just receivers of redemption.
You bring us among friends and then ask
for each one of our signatures to change your world.
We hold the earthenware jar you call the church**

and fill it with all your promises. Amen.

***Hymn - NCH 31 - All Things Bright and Beautiful**

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Author: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.

Tune: ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with refrain

Adapter: Martin Shaw, 1915

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Refrain:

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
our dear God made them all.**

**1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
and made their tiny wings. [Refrain]**

**2 The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
The sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky. [Refrain]**

**3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them everyone. [Refrain]**

A READING OF THE WORD

In the midst of the siege of Jerusalem, while the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned by the king, he managed to secure a land deal despite his captivity. Jeremiah's cousin Hanamel sold a field to Jeremiah because the right of redemption passed to him, meaning, Hanamel went down the line of succession within the family and Jeremiah was next in line to either buy it or refuse it. Despite the war going on and being under guard, Jeremiah purchased the field because he knew God was using him as a sign of hope for the people, especially for the guard and the officials close by, that there would be those who survived, a remnant that returned. The deed was placed in an earthenware jar so that it could survive a long time when those who return would rebuild and plant again.

Hebrew Scripture: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

32 1 The word that came to Jeremiah from YHWH in the tenth year of Zedekiah ruler of Judah, which was also the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar:

2 At that time the army of the ruler of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned in the court of the guardhouse attached to the residence of the ruler of Jerusalem.3 Zedekiah the ruler imprisoned him after demanding, “How dare you prophesy the way you do? You say: ‘These are the words of YHWH: I will surrender this city into the hands of the ruler of Babylon, who will capture it.’” 6 The word of YHWH came to me and said, 7 “Hanamel, the son of your uncle Shallum, will come to you and say, ‘Buy my field in Anathoth. As next of kin you have the right of redemption to purchase it.’”

8 And just as YHWH foretold, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guardhouse and said, “Buy my field at Anathoth in Benjamin. You have the right of redemption to purchase it as next of kin. So why not purchase it?”

I knew that this was the word of YHWH. 9 So I bought the field in Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out the money—seventeen shekels of silver. 10 I signed the deed and sealed it, had it witnessed and then weighed out the money on a scale.

11 I took the copies of the deed of purchase—both sealed copy containing the terms and conditions and the unsealed copy—12 and gave them to Baruch ben-Neriah ben-Mahseiah in the presence of my cousin Hanamel and of the witnesses who had signed the deed and all the people of Judah who happened to be in the court of the guardhouse.

13 I gave Baruch these instructions in their presence: 14 “Thus says YHWH Omnipotent, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and the unsealed deed of purchase and put them in a clay jar so that they may be preserved for a very long time.”

15 For this is what YHWH Omnipotent, the God of Israel, says: “Houses, fields and vineyards will once again be purchased in this land.”

A Reding from the Psalms: Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 (Responsively)

This is is a song of praise to God who delivers the people from evil. The psalmist assures those who put their trust in God will have shelter and safety, and need not fear for their lives. In the latter verses, God declares through the psalmist that they will deliver those who love God and call out to God, for God is their salvation.

91 1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High and pass the night in
the shadow of Shaddai,

2 say: “God, my refuge and my mountain fortress, my God in whom I trust!”

3 For God says: “I will rescue you from the snare and shield you from poisoned
arrows.

**4 I will cover you with my pinions; under my wings you will take refuge; my faithfulness will
shield you.**

5 You have no need to fear the prowlers of the night or the arrow that flies by day,

6 The plague that lurks in the shadows or the scourge that stalks the noon.

14 "Because you love me, I will deliver you.

I will rescue you because you acknowledge my Name.

15 You will call upon me, and I will answer you; I will be with you in trouble.

I will deliver you and honor you.

16 I will satisfy you with a long life and show you, my salvation."

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

The Epistle readings continue the series on the pastoral letters of 1 and 2 Timothy with this text in 1 Timothy 6. The apostle Paul warns against those who desire wealth, because they will never be satisfied. Instead, Paul praises those who find contentment. "For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil" reminds us that if we love wealth, we do not love God, for Jesus warned us we cannot serve God and wealth (Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13). Instead, Paul urges the pursuit of righteousness (right-living with God), faith, love, gentleness, and so on. Take hold of eternal life. For those who are rich already they ought to be generous and share of their resources. They need to set their hope on God and not on their wealth and use their resources as a "good foundation" for the church in the future.

6 6 There is, of course, great benefit in religion, but only for those who are content with what they have. 7 We brought nothing into the world, nor have we the power to take anything out.

8 If we have food and clothing, we have all that we need. 9 Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and a trap. They are letting themselves be captured by foolish and harmful desires which draw us down to ruin and destruction.

10 The love of money is the root of all evil. Some people, in their passion for it, have strayed from the faith and have come to grief amid great pain. 11 But you are to flee from these things. As one dedicated to God, strive to be a person of integrity and piety, filled with faith and love, patience, and gentleness.

12 Run the great race of faith. Take firm hold of the everlasting life to which you were called when, in the presence of many witnesses, you made your good profession of faith. 13 Before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I charge you 14 to keep God's command without fault or reproach until our Savior Jesus Christ appears.

15 This appearance God will bring to pass at a chosen time. God alone is the Sovereign over all, the blessed and only ruler above all earthly rulers, 16 who alone possesses immortality, and who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no human being has ever seen or can see. To God be the honor and the everlasting kingdom! Amen.

17 Warn those who are blessed with this world's goods not to look down on other people. They are not to put their hope in wealth, for it is uncertain. Instead, they are to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with all that we need for our enjoyment. 18 Tell them they are to do good and be wealthy in good works. They are to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way, they'll create a treasure for the future, and guarantee the only life that is real.

Gospel Reading: Luke 16:19-31

Jesus told the story of the rich man and Lazarus in this text. Prior to this story, Jesus was teaching the disciples and encountered some Pharisees who were opposed to him. It is good to remember that just a few chapters ago, in 13:31, some Pharisees warned Jesus that Herod wanted to kill him. Not all the Pharisees were at odds with Jesus, and at different times Jesus had different encounters with this particular Jewish group. In this part of chapter 16, Jesus challenged the Pharisees and others on wealth ownership, and how wealth can lead us away from what God desires for us. In this story Jesus told, a man named Lazarus, who was poor and covered with sores on his body, used to sleep at the gates of a rich man's house—a person who lived in luxury without a care in the world. Lazarus longed to eat even the crumbs from the rich man's table, but instead, the rich man's dogs would come lick Lazarus' sores. When both men died, Lazarus was taken by the angels to Abraham, while the rich man suffered. The rich man called upon Abraham for mercy but also had the nerve to tell Abraham to send Lazarus to relieve his suffering! Abraham reminded the rich man that he had everything during his life while Lazarus had to suffer, so now it was time for Lazarus to be comforted. Besides that, it was impossible to cross the chasm separating them. The rich man begged Abraham to send Lazarus to his siblings to warn them, but Abraham said if they didn't believe the prophets, they weren't going to believe, even if someone rose from the dead—foreshadowing Jesus and the hardness of heart some people would have toward him.

16 19 “Once there was a rich man who dressed in purple and linen and feasted splendidly every day. 20 At the gate of this man's estate lay a beggar named Lazarus, who was covered with sores. 21 Lazarus longed to eat the scraps that fell from the rich man's table, and even the dogs came and licked Lazarus' sores. 22 One day poor Lazarus died and was carried by the angels to the arms of Abraham. The rich man likewise died and was buried.

23 In Hades, in torment, the rich man looked up and saw Abraham in the distance, and Lazarus resting in his company. 24 “Father Abraham,’ the rich man cried, ‘have pity on me! Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am tortured by these flames!’ 25 But Abraham said, ‘My child, remember that you were well off in your lifetime, while Lazarus was in misery. Now Lazarus has found consolation here, and you have found torment.

26 But that's not all. Between you and us there is a fixed chasm, so that those who might wish to come to you from here can't do so, nor can anyone cross from your side to us.’ 27 “The rich man said, ‘I beg you, then, to send Lazarus to my own house 28 where I have five siblings. Let Lazarus be a warning to them, so that they may not end in this place of torment.’ 29 But Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets. Let your siblings hear them.’ 30 ‘Please, I beg you,’ the rich man said, ‘if someone would only go to them from the dead, then they would repent.’ 31 ‘If they don't listen to Moses and the prophets,’ Abraham replied, ‘they won't be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead!’”

Choral Response – His Name is Wonderful

Music by Audrey Mieir, 1959

Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington and Bob Buckew

Accompanist: Betty Funk

Reflection— An Urgent Story – The Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Holy One, our world moves at a rapid pace of work, school, care of loved ones, paying bills, and all the other things that are important but can overwhelm us.

Help us to find the holy in the midst of it all: the brief moments of quiet, the time to read a chapter of a book, the sunshine breaking through the clouds, the task of watering plants.

Wherever we find a bit of Sabbath rest, O God, may we find it a holy moment. Whenever we find a bit of good, O God, nurture that goodness in us. May we seek the holy in our daily lives, for it escapes us in the world that pursues values away from you. May we find the holy moments already among us. Amen.

***Hymn of Response - NCH 543 - Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life**

vv. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

Author: Frank Mason North, 1903; alt.

Tune: GERMANY (GARDINER) L.M.

Source: William Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, 1815

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1 Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of clan and race,
Above the noise of selfish strife,
O Christ, we hear your voice of grace.

2 In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds fraught with fears,
From paths where hide the lures of greed,
we catch the vision of your tears.

4 The cup of water given for you
still holds the freshness of your grace;
Yet long these multitudes to view
the deep compassion of your face.

5 O Savior, from the mountainside,
Make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
Among these restless throngs abide,
O tread the city's streets again:

6 Till all shall learn compassion's might,
And follow where your feet have trod,
Till glorious from your realm of light
Shall come the city of our God.

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

We are invited to offer resources, time, abilities, compassion, in a tangible expression of our hope for the future for ourselves, this community of faith and many others near and far away. Be generous, my friends, with your trust in the future.

The Offertory – *Betty Funk*

*Presentation of Offerings – Doxology [*Old Hundredth*]

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

God, we have received hope; we give you time.
We have received hope; we give one another the church.
We have received hope; we offer these gifts that they
may become the change
or simply the promise of change
among those who need this clear image
that they are not abandoned.
Amen.

Choral Hymn: My Jesus, I Love Thee

Words by William R. Featherston, 1862
Music by Adoniram J. Gordon, 1876

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 436 - God of Grace and God of Glory**

vv. 1, 2, 3, 5

God of Grace and God of Glory

Author: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

Words used by permission of Elinor Fosdick Downs

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

Composer: John Hughes, c. 1907

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**1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**2 From the evils that surround us
and assail the Savior's ways,
from the fears that long have bound us -
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

**3 Cure your children's waring madness;
bend our pride to your control.
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
make our broken spirits whole,
make our broken spirits whole.**

**5 Save us from weak resignation,
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: God sends us from this place with a word of hope.

Many: We will offer the shelter of grace to all in need.

One: Jesus sends us out with the word of life.

Many: We will seek to share community with those we will meet.

One: The Spirit sends us into a world which longs for justice.

Many: We will trust that God's freedom will be offered to all people. Amen.

***Postlude – Betty Funk**

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for September 25th, 2022 (Pentecost 25/Trinity 15 Proper 21 Ordinary 26 - C)*, written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted September 19th, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [Http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](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 and the Earthenware Jar: Service Prayers for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost were written by Maren C. Tirabassi is a UCC pastor, author of fiction and non-fiction, and also a hiker in autumn leaves and a lover of fireside moments in the company of dogs, reading poetry and novels and finding myself praying, United Church of Christ. Education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (3) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for September 25th, 2022*, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on September 16th, 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*
Beverly Wurm, *Administrative Assistant*



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 brought to church or 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

Our Church's 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 496 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of September 22nd, 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 (has been moved to: *Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility: 18627 Shurmer Road, Room 408, Strongsville, Oh 44136*)
 - 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 – 10am-2pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

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

Elaine Lukacs' Address:

Elaine Lukacs
Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility
18627 Shurmer Road, Room 408
Strongsville, Oh 44136

Pakistan's 'dire' flood crisis is subject of UCC emergency appeal

The United Church of Christ has issued an emergency appeal for relief-and-recovery gifts in response to what it called "massive flooding" across most of Pakistan.

Wider Church Ministries launched the **UCC Pakistan Response Fund** Sept. 16.

Torrential monsoons since June have dumped nearly five times as much rain as the country usually gets. So far, the resulting floods have:

- Killed more than 1,400 people
- Affected 30 million people and displaced 800,000
- Damaged or destroyed 1 million homes, as well as farms, livestock, roads, bridges, schools and more.

One-third of country still submerged

“The situation in Pakistan remains dire as more than a third of the country is still under water,” said the Rev. Josh Baird, who heads the UCC’s Global H.O.P.E. team. “The most pressing needs are for food, clean water and sanitation, and emergency housing.

“In areas where the water has not receded, people are forced to construct temporary shelter on whatever dry patch of land they can access — often on the edge of roads.”

“At its peak, 73 percent of Pakistan’s districts were impacted by flooding,” the appeal’s web page says. “... More than half of its districts have been declared ‘calamity hit’ by the government — a number that is expected to rise as the rain continues and floods flow through the Punjab and Sindh provinces.”

World’s churches respond together

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has called the crisis an “unprecedented natural disaster” caused by “the intensification of climate change.” “No country deserves this fate, but particularly not countries like Pakistan that have done almost nothing to contribute to global warming,” he said. He called on the international community for “massive financial support,” especially from “countries that have contributed more to climate change.”

Baird said the UCC is working with ecumenical partners to respond.

Community World Service Asia, a partner through the ACT Alliance, is meeting immediate needs “while laying the groundwork for long-term recovery,” he said. “Gifts to the Pakistan Appeal will support emergency relief and focus on providing long-term care through the gifting of items such as seed for fields and feed and vaccines for livestock.

“With more than 6.4 million people projected to require humanitarian assistance, we anticipate walking with affected communities for the restoration of homes and livelihoods for many years.”

People can donate electronically at this page: <https://www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/pakistan-emergency-appeal/>

by selecting “International Emergency” as the option and entering “Pakistan response” as the specific appeal.

Gifts by check can be made payable to United Church of Christ, with “Pakistan Response Fund” noted in the memo section, and mailed to P.O. Box 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194.

Statement from Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb in support of Puerto Rico 9.22.22

The people of Cleveland stand with the people of Puerto Rico, who are bearing the impact of Hurricane Fiona with incredible courage and strength. On the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Maria's vicious landfall, it remains unacceptable that so many Puerto Ricans still lack reliable access to water and electricity. As the scope of the need becomes clear in the coming days and weeks, Cleveland is here to support aid efforts—both for individuals in Puerto Rico prevailing against the hurricane and for those who find themselves relocating as a result of it. We're proud of our Puerto Rican community and Cleveland is ready with open arms to welcome those in need and to assist in any way we can.

Puerto Rico Relief:

LIFTING PUERTO RICO:

On behalf of New Era Young Lords and the situation among us, we are activating and impacting Puerto Rico with our Boots on The Ground Initiative. In Cleveland, we will be collecting donations and storing them in Lincoln-West High School. By October 8th a group of us will be taking those donations to Puerto Rico and support as much as we can to provide help and resources. **We will travel to San Lorenzo, Utuado, Guanica, and Salinas to help families clean up debris, cut trees down, rebuilt part of their homes that were affected by Fiona.** Please donate in the need of restoring and the Boots on The Ground Initiative by New Era Young Lords Ohio Chapter.

DONATION ITEMS NEEDED:

- BATTERIES • FLASH LIGHTS • LANTERNS •
- BABY FORMULA • DIAPERS • CANDLES
- MEN/WOMEN HYGIENE PRODUCTS •
- FIRST AID KITS • NON PERISHABLE
- FOODS • MEDICINE: TYLENOL, PAIN
- MEDS, ETC • WET WIPES • LATEX GLOVES
- TOWELS & WASH CLOTHES • BUG SPRAY

FOR PURCHASE ON ISLAND:

- TOOLS • CHAIN SAWS • GARBAGE BAGS •
- TARPS • GENERATORS • GAS CANS

DROP OFF LOCATIONS, STARTING FRIDAY SEPT 23:

LINCOLN WEST HIGH SCHOOL
3202 W 30TH ST, CLEVELAND, OH 44109

BENNY'S SPORTS BAR
3463 FULTON RD, CLEVELAND, OH 44109

Scan QR Code to donate to our GOFUNDME!

Instructions on how to scan a QR CODE: Open camera and hover over the image until you see a link pop up. Click on the link that appears near the image!

Or manually type in link: <https://gofund.me/a3708ade>

We are also accepting donations to our CashApp

\$YOUNGLORDZPROJECT

Manuel Orlando Santiago
\$YoungLordzProject

Use QR code or manually type in link: <https://gofund.me/a3708ade>

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

September 25th, 2022
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of the Word



The Rich Man and Lazarus

by Laura Jeanne Grimes, 2005

Laura Jeanne Grimes, artist.

<https://www.laurajeannegrimes.com/blog/the-rich-man-and-lazarus>



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

September 25th, 2022
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of the Word

*“If you want to feel rich, just count the things you have that money can’t buy.”
- A Proverb -*

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – *Betty Funk*

*Call to Worship

One: Come to this place and time of promise.

**Many: We are becoming the house of hope,
the field of sunflowers,
the vineyard of great caring.**

One: Come to a shared commitment
to abundance possible for all people.

**Many: We are an earthenware jar,
to keep safe the tomorrow of children.
Our security question is – the word of God,
and our password is love.**

*Gathering Prayer

**God, we give you thanks
that you make us redeemers,
not just receivers of redemption.
You bring us among friends and then ask
for each one of our signatures to change your world.
We hold the earthenware jar you call the church**

and fill it with all your promises. Amen.

***Hymn - NCH 31 - All Things Bright and Beautiful**

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Author: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.

Tune: ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with refrain

Adapter: Martin Shaw, 1915

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Refrain:

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
our dear God made them all.**

**1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
and made their tiny wings. [Refrain]**

**2 The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
The sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky. [Refrain]**

**3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them everyone. [Refrain]**

A READING OF THE WORD

In the midst of the siege of Jerusalem, while the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned by the king, he managed to secure a land deal despite his captivity. Jeremiah's cousin Hanamel sold a field to Jeremiah because the right of redemption passed to him, meaning, Hanamel went down the line of succession within the family and Jeremiah was next in line to either buy it or refuse it. Despite the war going on and being under guard, Jeremiah purchased the field because he knew God was using him as a sign of hope for the people, especially for the guard and the officials close by, that there would be those who survived, a remnant that returned. The deed was placed in an earthenware jar so that it could survive a long time when those who return would rebuild and plant again.

Hebrew Scripture: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

32 1 The word that came to Jeremiah from YHWH in the tenth year of Zedekiah ruler of Judah, which was also the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar:

2 At that time the army of the ruler of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned in the court of the guardhouse attached to the residence of the ruler of Jerusalem.3 Zedekiah the ruler imprisoned him after demanding, “How dare you prophesy the way you do? You say: ‘These are the words of YHWH: I will surrender this city into the hands of the ruler of Babylon, who will capture it.’” 6 The word of YHWH came to me and said, 7 “Hanamel, the son of your uncle Shallum, will come to you and say, ‘Buy my field in Anathoth. As next of kin you have the right of redemption to purchase it.’”

8 And just as YHWH foretold, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guardhouse and said, “Buy my field at Anathoth in Benjamin. You have the right of redemption to purchase it as next of kin. So why not purchase it?”

I knew that this was the word of YHWH. 9 So I bought the field in Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out the money—seventeen shekels of silver. 10 I signed the deed and sealed it, had it witnessed and then weighed out the money on a scale.

11 I took the copies of the deed of purchase—both sealed copy containing the terms and conditions and the unsealed copy—12 and gave them to Baruch ben-Neriah ben-Mahseiah in the presence of my cousin Hanamel and of the witnesses who had signed the deed and all the people of Judah who happened to be in the court of the guardhouse.

13 I gave Baruch these instructions in their presence: 14 “Thus says YHWH Omnipotent, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and the unsealed deed of purchase and put them in a clay jar so that they may be preserved for a very long time.”

15 For this is what YHWH Omnipotent, the God of Israel, says: “Houses, fields and vineyards will once again be purchased in this land.”

A Reding from the Psalms: Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 (Responsively)

This is is a song of praise to God who delivers the people from evil. The psalmist assures those who put their trust in God will have shelter and safety, and need not fear for their lives. In the latter verses, God declares through the psalmist that they will deliver those who love God and call out to God, for God is their salvation.

91 1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High and pass the night in
the shadow of Shaddai,

2 say: “God, my refuge and my mountain fortress, my God in whom I trust!”

3 For God says: “I will rescue you from the snare and shield you from poisoned
arrows.

**4 I will cover you with my pinions; under my wings you will take refuge; my faithfulness will
shield you.**

5 You have no need to fear the prowlers of the night or the arrow that flies by day,

6 The plague that lurks in the shadows or the scourge that stalks the noon.

14 "Because you love me, I will deliver you.

I will rescue you because you acknowledge my Name.

15 You will call upon me, and I will answer you; I will be with you in trouble.

I will deliver you and honor you.

16 I will satisfy you with a long life and show you, my salvation."

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

The Epistle readings continue the series on the pastoral letters of 1 and 2 Timothy with this text in 1 Timothy 6. The apostle Paul warns against those who desire wealth, because they will never be satisfied. Instead, Paul praises those who find contentment. "For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil" reminds us that if we love wealth, we do not love God, for Jesus warned us we cannot serve God and wealth (Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13). Instead, Paul urges the pursuit of righteousness (right-living with God), faith, love, gentleness, and so on. Take hold of eternal life. For those who are rich already they ought to be generous and share of their resources. They need to set their hope on God and not on their wealth and use their resources as a "good foundation" for the church in the future.

6 6 There is, of course, great benefit in religion, but only for those who are content with what they have. 7 We brought nothing into the world, nor have we the power to take anything out.

8 If we have food and clothing, we have all that we need. 9 Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and a trap. They are letting themselves be captured by foolish and harmful desires which draw us down to ruin and destruction.

10 The love of money is the root of all evil. Some people, in their passion for it, have strayed from the faith and have come to grief amid great pain. 11 But you are to flee from these things. As one dedicated to God, strive to be a person of integrity and piety, filled with faith and love, patience, and gentleness.

12 Run the great race of faith. Take firm hold of the everlasting life to which you were called when, in the presence of many witnesses, you made your good profession of faith. 13 Before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I charge you 14 to keep God's command without fault or reproach until our Savior Jesus Christ appears.

15 This appearance God will bring to pass at a chosen time. God alone is the Sovereign over all, the blessed and only ruler above all earthly rulers, 16 who alone possesses immortality, and who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no human being has ever seen or can see. To God be the honor and the everlasting kingdom! Amen.

17 Warn those who are blessed with this world's goods not to look down on other people. They are not to put their hope in wealth, for it is uncertain. Instead, they are to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with all that we need for our enjoyment. 18 Tell them they are to do good and be wealthy in good works. They are to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way, they'll create a treasure for the future, and guarantee the only life that is real.

Gospel Reading: Luke 16:19-31

Jesus told the story of the rich man and Lazarus in this text. Prior to this story, Jesus was teaching the disciples and encountered some Pharisees who were opposed to him. It is good to remember that just a few chapters ago, in 13:31, some Pharisees warned Jesus that Herod wanted to kill him. Not all the Pharisees were at odds with Jesus, and at different times Jesus had different encounters with this particular Jewish group. In this part of chapter 16, Jesus challenged the Pharisees and others on wealth ownership, and how wealth can lead us away from what God desires for us. In this story Jesus told, a man named Lazarus, who was poor and covered with sores on his body, used to sleep at the gates of a rich man's house—a person who lived in luxury without a care in the world. Lazarus longed to eat even the crumbs from the rich man's table, but instead, the rich man's dogs would come lick Lazarus' sores. When both men died, Lazarus was taken by the angels to Abraham, while the rich man suffered. The rich man called upon Abraham for mercy but also had the nerve to tell Abraham to send Lazarus to relieve his suffering! Abraham reminded the rich man that he had everything during his life while Lazarus had to suffer, so now it was time for Lazarus to be comforted. Besides that, it was impossible to cross the chasm separating them. The rich man begged Abraham to send Lazarus to his siblings to warn them, but Abraham said if they didn't believe the prophets, they weren't going to believe, even if someone rose from the dead—foreshadowing Jesus and the hardness of heart some people would have toward him.

16 19 “Once there was a rich man who dressed in purple and linen and feasted splendidly every day. 20 At the gate of this man's estate lay a beggar named Lazarus, who was covered with sores. 21 Lazarus longed to eat the scraps that fell from the rich man's table, and even the dogs came and licked Lazarus' sores. 22 One day poor Lazarus died and was carried by the angels to the arms of Abraham. The rich man likewise died and was buried.

23 In Hades, in torment, the rich man looked up and saw Abraham in the distance, and Lazarus resting in his company. 24 “Father Abraham,’ the rich man cried, ‘have pity on me! Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am tortured by these flames!’ 25 But Abraham said, ‘My child, remember that you were well off in your lifetime, while Lazarus was in misery. Now Lazarus has found consolation here, and you have found torment.

26 But that's not all. Between you and us there is a fixed chasm, so that those who might wish to come to you from here can't do so, nor can anyone cross from your side to us.’ 27 “The rich man said, ‘I beg you, then, to send Lazarus to my own house 28 where I have five siblings. Let Lazarus be a warning to them, so that they may not end in this place of torment.’ 29 But Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets. Let your siblings hear them.’ 30 ‘Please, I beg you,’ the rich man said, ‘if someone would only go to them from the dead, then they would repent.’ 31 ‘If they don't listen to Moses and the prophets,’ Abraham replied, ‘they won't be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead!’”

Choral Response – His Name is Wonderful

Music by Audrey Mieir, 1959

Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington and Bob Buckew

Accompanist: Betty Funk

Reflection— An Urgent Story – The Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Holy One, our world moves at a rapid pace of work, school, care of loved ones, paying bills, and all the other things that are important but can overwhelm us.

Help us to find the holy in the midst of it all: the brief moments of quiet, the time to read a chapter of a book, the sunshine breaking through the clouds, the task of watering plants.

Wherever we find a bit of Sabbath rest, O God, may we find it a holy moment. Whenever we find a bit of good, O God, nurture that goodness in us. May we seek the holy in our daily lives, for it escapes us in the world that pursues values away from you. May we find the holy moments already among us. Amen.

***Hymn of Response - NCH 543 - Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life**

vv. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

Author: Frank Mason North, 1903; alt.

Tune: GERMANY (GARDINER) L.M.

Source: William Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, 1815

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1 Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of clan and race,
Above the noise of selfish strife,
O Christ, we hear your voice of grace.

2 In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds fraught with fears,
From paths where hide the lures of greed,
we catch the vision of your tears.

4 The cup of water given for you
still holds the freshness of your grace;
Yet long these multitudes to view
the deep compassion of your face.

5 O Savior, from the mountainside,
Make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
Among these restless throngs abide,
O tread the city's streets again:

6 Till all shall learn compassion's might,
And follow where your feet have trod,
Till glorious from your realm of light
Shall come the city of our God.

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

We are invited to offer resources, time, abilities, compassion, in a tangible expression of our hope for the future for ourselves, this community of faith and many others near and far away. Be generous, my friends, with your trust in the future.

The Offertory – *Betty Funk*

*Presentation of Offerings – Doxology [*Old Hundredth*]

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

God, we have received hope; we give you time.
We have received hope; we give one another the church.
We have received hope; we offer these gifts that they
may become the change
or simply the promise of change
among those who need this clear image
that they are not abandoned.
Amen.

Choral Hymn: My Jesus, I Love Thee

Words by William R. Featherston, 1862
Music by Adoniram J. Gordon, 1876

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 436 - God of Grace and God of Glory**

vv. 1, 2, 3, 5

God of Grace and God of Glory

Author: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

Words used by permission of Elinor Fosdick Downs

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

Composer: John Hughes, c. 1907

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**1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**2 From the evils that surround us
and assail the Savior's ways,
from the fears that long have bound us -
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

**3 Cure your children's waring madness;
bend our pride to your control.
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
make our broken spirits whole,
make our broken spirits whole.**

**5 Save us from weak resignation,
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: God sends us from this place with a word of hope.

Many: We will offer the shelter of grace to all in need.

One: Jesus sends us out with the word of life.

Many: We will seek to share community with those we will meet.

One: The Spirit sends us into a world which longs for justice.

Many: We will trust that God's freedom will be offered to all people. Amen.

***Postlude – Betty Funk**

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for September 25th, 2022 (Pentecost 25/Trinity 15 Proper 21 Ordinary 26 - C)*, written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted September 19th, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [Http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](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 and the Earthenware Jar: Service Prayers for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost were written by Maren C. Tirabassi is a UCC pastor, author of fiction and non-fiction, and also a hiker in autumn leaves and a lover of fireside moments in the company of dogs, reading poetry and novels and finding myself praying, United Church of Christ. Education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (3) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for September 25th, 2022*, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on September 16th, 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*
Beverly Wurm, *Administrative Assistant*



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 brought to church or 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

Our Church's 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 496 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of September 22nd, 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 (has been moved to: *Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility: 18627 Shurmer Road, Room 408, Strongsville, Oh 44136*)
 - 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 – 10am-2pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

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

Elaine Lukacs' Address:

Elaine Lukacs
Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility
18627 Shurmer Road, Room 408
Strongsville, Oh 44136

Pakistan's 'dire' flood crisis is subject of UCC emergency appeal

The United Church of Christ has issued an emergency appeal for relief-and-recovery gifts in response to what it called "massive flooding" across most of Pakistan.

Wider Church Ministries launched the **UCC Pakistan Response Fund** Sept. 16.

Torrential monsoons since June have dumped nearly five times as much rain as the country usually gets. So far, the resulting floods have:

- Killed more than 1,400 people
- Affected 30 million people and displaced 800,000
- Damaged or destroyed 1 million homes, as well as farms, livestock, roads, bridges, schools and more.

One-third of country still submerged

“The situation in Pakistan remains dire as more than a third of the country is still under water,” said the Rev. Josh Baird, who heads the UCC’s Global H.O.P.E. team. “The most pressing needs are for food, clean water and sanitation, and emergency housing.

“In areas where the water has not receded, people are forced to construct temporary shelter on whatever dry patch of land they can access — often on the edge of roads.”

“At its peak, 73 percent of Pakistan’s districts were impacted by flooding,” the appeal’s web page says. “... More than half of its districts have been declared ‘calamity hit’ by the government — a number that is expected to rise as the rain continues and floods flow through the Punjab and Sindh provinces.”

World’s churches respond together

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has called the crisis an “unprecedented natural disaster” caused by “the intensification of climate change.” “No country deserves this fate, but particularly not countries like Pakistan that have done almost nothing to contribute to global warming,” he said. He called on the international community for “massive financial support,” especially from “countries that have contributed more to climate change.”

Baird said the UCC is working with ecumenical partners to respond.

Community World Service Asia, a partner through the ACT Alliance, is meeting immediate needs “while laying the groundwork for long-term recovery,” he said. “Gifts to the Pakistan Appeal will support emergency relief and focus on providing long-term care through the gifting of items such as seed for fields and feed and vaccines for livestock.

“With more than 6.4 million people projected to require humanitarian assistance, we anticipate walking with affected communities for the restoration of homes and livelihoods for many years.”

People can donate electronically at this page: <https://www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/pakistan-emergency-appeal/>

by selecting “International Emergency” as the option and entering “Pakistan response” as the specific appeal.

Gifts by check can be made payable to United Church of Christ, with “Pakistan Response Fund” noted in the memo section, and mailed to P.O. Box 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194.

Statement from Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb in support of Puerto Rico 9.22.22

The people of Cleveland stand with the people of Puerto Rico, who are bearing the impact of Hurricane Fiona with incredible courage and strength. On the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Maria's vicious landfall, it remains unacceptable that so many Puerto Ricans still lack reliable access to water and electricity. As the scope of the need becomes clear in the coming days and weeks, Cleveland is here to support aid efforts—both for individuals in Puerto Rico prevailing against the hurricane and for those who find themselves relocating as a result of it. We're proud of our Puerto Rican community and Cleveland is ready with open arms to welcome those in need and to assist in any way we can.

Puerto Rico Relief:

LIFTING PUERTO RICO:

On behalf of New Era Young Lords and the situation among us, we are activating and impacting Puerto Rico with our Boots on The Ground Initiative. In Cleveland, we will be collecting donations and storing them in Lincoln-West High School. By October 8th a group of us will be taking those donations to Puerto Rico and support as much as we can to provide help and resources. **We will travel to San Lorenzo, Utuado, Guanica, and Salinas to help families clean up debris, cut trees down, rebuilt part of their homes that were affected by Fiona.** Please donate in the need of restoring and the Boots on The Ground Initiative by New Era Young Lords Ohio Chapter.

DONATION ITEMS NEEDED:

BATTERIES • FLASH LIGHTS • LANTERNS • BABY FORMULA • DIAPERS • CANDLES • MEN/WOMEN HYGIENE PRODUCTS • FIRST AID KITS • NON PERISHABLE FOODS • MEDICINE: TYLENOL, PAIN MEDS, ETC • WET WIPES • LATEX GLOVES TOWELS & WASH CLOTHES • BUG SPRAY

FOR PURCHASE ON ISLAND:

TOOLS • CHAIN SAWS • GARBAGE BAGS • TARPS • GENERATORS • GAS CANS

DROP OFF LOCATIONS, STARTING FRIDAY SEPT 23:

LINCOLN WEST HIGH SCHOOL
3202 W 30TH ST, CLEVELAND, OH 44109

BENNY'S SPORTS BAR
3463 FULTON RD, CLEVELAND, OH 44109

Manuel Orlando Santiago
\$YoungLordzProject

Use QR code or manually type in link: <https://gofund.me/a3708ade>

Use QR code or manually type in link: <https://gofund.me/a3708ade>

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

September 25th, 2022
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of the Word



The Rich Man and Lazarus

by Laura Jeanne Grimes, 2005

Laura Jeanne Grimes, artist.

<https://www.laurajeannegrimes.com/blog/the-rich-man-and-lazarus>



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

September 25th, 2022
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of the Word

*“If you want to feel rich, just count the things you have that money can’t buy.”
- A Proverb -*

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – *Betty Funk*

*Call to Worship

One: Come to this place and time of promise.

**Many: We are becoming the house of hope,
the field of sunflowers,
the vineyard of great caring.**

One: Come to a shared commitment
to abundance possible for all people.

**Many: We are an earthenware jar,
to keep safe the tomorrow of children.
Our security question is – the word of God,
and our password is love.**

*Gathering Prayer

**God, we give you thanks
that you make us redeemers,
not just receivers of redemption.
You bring us among friends and then ask
for each one of our signatures to change your world.
We hold the earthenware jar you call the church**

and fill it with all your promises. Amen.

***Hymn - NCH 31 - All Things Bright and Beautiful**

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Author: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.

Tune: ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with refrain

Adapter: Martin Shaw, 1915

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Refrain:

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
our dear God made them all.**

**1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
and made their tiny wings. [Refrain]**

**2 The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
The sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky. [Refrain]**

**3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them everyone. [Refrain]**

A READING OF THE WORD

In the midst of the siege of Jerusalem, while the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned by the king, he managed to secure a land deal despite his captivity. Jeremiah's cousin Hanamel sold a field to Jeremiah because the right of redemption passed to him, meaning, Hanamel went down the line of succession within the family and Jeremiah was next in line to either buy it or refuse it. Despite the war going on and being under guard, Jeremiah purchased the field because he knew God was using him as a sign of hope for the people, especially for the guard and the officials close by, that there would be those who survived, a remnant that returned. The deed was placed in an earthenware jar so that it could survive a long time when those who return would rebuild and plant again.

Hebrew Scripture: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

32 1 The word that came to Jeremiah from YHWH in the tenth year of Zedekiah ruler of Judah, which was also the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar:

2 At that time the army of the ruler of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned in the court of the guardhouse attached to the residence of the ruler of Jerusalem.3 Zedekiah the ruler imprisoned him after demanding, “How dare you prophesy the way you do? You say: ‘These are the words of YHWH: I will surrender this city into the hands of the ruler of Babylon, who will capture it.’” 6 The word of YHWH came to me and said, 7 “Hanamel, the son of your uncle Shallum, will come to you and say, ‘Buy my field in Anathoth. As next of kin you have the right of redemption to purchase it.’”

8 And just as YHWH foretold, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guardhouse and said, “Buy my field at Anathoth in Benjamin. You have the right of redemption to purchase it as next of kin. So why not purchase it?”

I knew that this was the word of YHWH. 9 So I bought the field in Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out the money—seventeen shekels of silver. 10 I signed the deed and sealed it, had it witnessed and then weighed out the money on a scale.

11 I took the copies of the deed of purchase—both sealed copy containing the terms and conditions and the unsealed copy—12 and gave them to Baruch ben-Neriah ben-Mahseiah in the presence of my cousin Hanamel and of the witnesses who had signed the deed and all the people of Judah who happened to be in the court of the guardhouse.

13 I gave Baruch these instructions in their presence: 14 “Thus says YHWH Omnipotent, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and the unsealed deed of purchase and put them in a clay jar so that they may be preserved for a very long time.”

15 For this is what YHWH Omnipotent, the God of Israel, says: “Houses, fields and vineyards will once again be purchased in this land.”

A Reding from the Psalms: Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 (Responsively)

This is is a song of praise to God who delivers the people from evil. The psalmist assures those who put their trust in God will have shelter and safety, and need not fear for their lives. In the latter verses, God declares through the psalmist that they will deliver those who love God and call out to God, for God is their salvation.

91 1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High and pass the night in
the shadow of Shaddai,

2 say: “God, my refuge and my mountain fortress, my God in whom I trust!”

3 For God says: “I will rescue you from the snare and shield you from poisoned
arrows.

**4 I will cover you with my pinions; under my wings you will take refuge; my faithfulness will
shield you.**

5 You have no need to fear the prowlers of the night or the arrow that flies by day,

6 The plague that lurks in the shadows or the scourge that stalks the noon.

14 "Because you love me, I will deliver you.

I will rescue you because you acknowledge my Name.

15 You will call upon me, and I will answer you; I will be with you in trouble.

I will deliver you and honor you.

16 I will satisfy you with a long life and show you, my salvation."

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

The Epistle readings continue the series on the pastoral letters of 1 and 2 Timothy with this text in 1 Timothy 6. The apostle Paul warns against those who desire wealth, because they will never be satisfied. Instead, Paul praises those who find contentment. "For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil" reminds us that if we love wealth, we do not love God, for Jesus warned us we cannot serve God and wealth (Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13). Instead, Paul urges the pursuit of righteousness (right-living with God), faith, love, gentleness, and so on. Take hold of eternal life. For those who are rich already they ought to be generous and share of their resources. They need to set their hope on God and not on their wealth and use their resources as a "good foundation" for the church in the future.

6 6 There is, of course, great benefit in religion, but only for those who are content with what they have. 7 We brought nothing into the world, nor have we the power to take anything out.

8 If we have food and clothing, we have all that we need. 9 Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and a trap. They are letting themselves be captured by foolish and harmful desires which draw us down to ruin and destruction.

10 The love of money is the root of all evil. Some people, in their passion for it, have strayed from the faith and have come to grief amid great pain. 11 But you are to flee from these things. As one dedicated to God, strive to be a person of integrity and piety, filled with faith and love, patience, and gentleness.

12 Run the great race of faith. Take firm hold of the everlasting life to which you were called when, in the presence of many witnesses, you made your good profession of faith. 13 Before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I charge you 14 to keep God's command without fault or reproach until our Savior Jesus Christ appears.

15 This appearance God will bring to pass at a chosen time. God alone is the Sovereign over all, the blessed and only ruler above all earthly rulers, 16 who alone possesses immortality, and who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no human being has ever seen or can see. To God be the honor and the everlasting kingdom! Amen.

17 Warn those who are blessed with this world's goods not to look down on other people. They are not to put their hope in wealth, for it is uncertain. Instead, they are to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with all that we need for our enjoyment. 18 Tell them they are to do good and be wealthy in good works. They are to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way, they'll create a treasure for the future, and guarantee the only life that is real.

Gospel Reading: Luke 16:19-31

Jesus told the story of the rich man and Lazarus in this text. Prior to this story, Jesus was teaching the disciples and encountered some Pharisees who were opposed to him. It is good to remember that just a few chapters ago, in 13:31, some Pharisees warned Jesus that Herod wanted to kill him. Not all the Pharisees were at odds with Jesus, and at different times Jesus had different encounters with this particular Jewish group. In this part of chapter 16, Jesus challenged the Pharisees and others on wealth ownership, and how wealth can lead us away from what God desires for us. In this story Jesus told, a man named Lazarus, who was poor and covered with sores on his body, used to sleep at the gates of a rich man's house—a person who lived in luxury without a care in the world. Lazarus longed to eat even the crumbs from the rich man's table, but instead, the rich man's dogs would come lick Lazarus' sores. When both men died, Lazarus was taken by the angels to Abraham, while the rich man suffered. The rich man called upon Abraham for mercy but also had the nerve to tell Abraham to send Lazarus to relieve his suffering! Abraham reminded the rich man that he had everything during his life while Lazarus had to suffer, so now it was time for Lazarus to be comforted. Besides that, it was impossible to cross the chasm separating them. The rich man begged Abraham to send Lazarus to his siblings to warn them, but Abraham said if they didn't believe the prophets, they weren't going to believe, even if someone rose from the dead—foreshadowing Jesus and the hardness of heart some people would have toward him.

16 19 “Once there was a rich man who dressed in purple and linen and feasted splendidly every day. 20 At the gate of this man's estate lay a beggar named Lazarus, who was covered with sores. 21 Lazarus longed to eat the scraps that fell from the rich man's table, and even the dogs came and licked Lazarus' sores. 22 One day poor Lazarus died and was carried by the angels to the arms of Abraham. The rich man likewise died and was buried.

23 In Hades, in torment, the rich man looked up and saw Abraham in the distance, and Lazarus resting in his company. 24 “Father Abraham,’ the rich man cried, ‘have pity on me! Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am tortured by these flames!’ 25 But Abraham said, ‘My child, remember that you were well off in your lifetime, while Lazarus was in misery. Now Lazarus has found consolation here, and you have found torment.

26 But that's not all. Between you and us there is a fixed chasm, so that those who might wish to come to you from here can't do so, nor can anyone cross from your side to us.’ 27 “The rich man said, ‘I beg you, then, to send Lazarus to my own house 28 where I have five siblings. Let Lazarus be a warning to them, so that they may not end in this place of torment.’ 29 But Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets. Let your siblings hear them.’ 30 ‘Please, I beg you,’ the rich man said, ‘if someone would only go to them from the dead, then they would repent.’ 31 ‘If they don't listen to Moses and the prophets,’ Abraham replied, ‘they won't be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead!’”

Choral Response – His Name is Wonderful

Music by Audrey Mieir, 1959

Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington and Bob Buckew

Accompanist: Betty Funk

Reflection— An Urgent Story – The Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Holy One, our world moves at a rapid pace of work, school, care of loved ones, paying bills, and all the other things that are important but can overwhelm us.

Help us to find the holy in the midst of it all: the brief moments of quiet, the time to read a chapter of a book, the sunshine breaking through the clouds, the task of watering plants.

Wherever we find a bit of Sabbath rest, O God, may we find it a holy moment. Whenever we find a bit of good, O God, nurture that goodness in us. May we seek the holy in our daily lives, for it escapes us in the world that pursues values away from you. May we find the holy moments already among us. Amen.

***Hymn of Response - NCH 543 - Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life**

vv. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

Author: Frank Mason North, 1903; alt.

Tune: GERMANY (GARDINER) L.M.

Source: William Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, 1815

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1 Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of clan and race,
Above the noise of selfish strife,
O Christ, we hear your voice of grace.

2 In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds fraught with fears,
From paths where hide the lures of greed,
we catch the vision of your tears.

4 The cup of water given for you
still holds the freshness of your grace;
Yet long these multitudes to view
the deep compassion of your face.

5 O Savior, from the mountainside,
Make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
Among these restless throngs abide,
O tread the city's streets again:

6 Till all shall learn compassion's might,
And follow where your feet have trod,
Till glorious from your realm of light
Shall come the city of our God.

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

We are invited to offer resources, time, abilities, compassion, in a tangible expression of our hope for the future for ourselves, this community of faith and many others near and far away. Be generous, my friends, with your trust in the future.

The Offertory – *Betty Funk*

***Presentation of Offerings – Doxology [Old Hundredth]**

**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**

**God, we have received hope; we give you time.
We have received hope; we give one another the church.
We have received hope; we offer these gifts that they
may become the change
or simply the promise of change
among those who need this clear image
that they are not abandoned.
Amen.**

Choral Hymn: My Jesus, I Love Thee

*Words by William R. Featherston, 1862
Music by Adoniram J. Gordon, 1876*

*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 436 - God of Grace and God of Glory**

vv. 1, 2, 3, 5

God of Grace and God of Glory

Author: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

Words used by permission of Elinor Fosdick Downs

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

Composer: John Hughes, c. 1907

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**1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**2 From the evils that surround us
and assail the Savior's ways,
from the fears that long have bound us -
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

**3 Cure your children's waring madness;
bend our pride to your control.
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
make our broken spirits whole,
make our broken spirits whole.**

**5 Save us from weak resignation,
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: God sends us from this place with a word of hope.

Many: We will offer the shelter of grace to all in need.

One: Jesus sends us out with the word of life.

Many: We will seek to share community with those we will meet.

One: The Spirit sends us into a world which longs for justice.

Many: We will trust that God's freedom will be offered to all people. Amen.

***Postlude – Betty Funk**

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for September 25th, 2022 (Pentecost 25/Trinity 15 Proper 21 Ordinary 26 - C)*, written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted September 19th, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [Http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](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 and the Earthenware Jar: Service Prayers for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost were written by Maren C. Tirabassi is a UCC pastor, author of fiction and non-fiction, and also a hiker in autumn leaves and a lover of fireside moments in the company of dogs, reading poetry and novels and finding myself praying, United Church of Christ. Education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (3) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for September 25th, 2022*, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on September 16th, 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*
Beverly Wurm, *Administrative Assistant*



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 brought to church or 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

Our Church's 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 496 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of September 22nd, 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 (has been moved to: *Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility: 18627 Shurmer Road, Room 408, Strongsville, Oh 44136*)
 - 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 – 10am-2pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

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

Elaine Lukacs' Address:

Elaine Lukacs
Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility
18627 Shurmer Road, Room 408
Strongsville, Oh 44136

Pakistan's 'dire' flood crisis is subject of UCC emergency appeal

The United Church of Christ has issued an emergency appeal for relief-and-recovery gifts in response to what it called "massive flooding" across most of Pakistan.

Wider Church Ministries launched the **UCC Pakistan Response Fund** Sept. 16.

Torrential monsoons since June have dumped nearly five times as much rain as the country usually gets. So far, the resulting floods have:

- Killed more than 1,400 people
- Affected 30 million people and displaced 800,000
- Damaged or destroyed 1 million homes, as well as farms, livestock, roads, bridges, schools and more.

One-third of country still submerged

“The situation in Pakistan remains dire as more than a third of the country is still under water,” said the Rev. Josh Baird, who heads the UCC’s Global H.O.P.E. team. “The most pressing needs are for food, clean water and sanitation, and emergency housing.

“In areas where the water has not receded, people are forced to construct temporary shelter on whatever dry patch of land they can access — often on the edge of roads.”

“At its peak, 73 percent of Pakistan’s districts were impacted by flooding,” the appeal’s web page says. “... More than half of its districts have been declared ‘calamity hit’ by the government — a number that is expected to rise as the rain continues and floods flow through the Punjab and Sindh provinces.”

World’s churches respond together

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has called the crisis an “unprecedented natural disaster” caused by “the intensification of climate change.” “No country deserves this fate, but particularly not countries like Pakistan that have done almost nothing to contribute to global warming,” he said. He called on the international community for “massive financial support,” especially from “countries that have contributed more to climate change.”

Baird said the UCC is working with ecumenical partners to respond.

Community World Service Asia, a partner through the ACT Alliance, is meeting immediate needs “while laying the groundwork for long-term recovery,” he said. “Gifts to the Pakistan Appeal will support emergency relief and focus on providing long-term care through the gifting of items such as seed for fields and feed and vaccines for livestock.

“With more than 6.4 million people projected to require humanitarian assistance, we anticipate walking with affected communities for the restoration of homes and livelihoods for many years.”

People can donate electronically at this page: <https://www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/pakistan-emergency-appeal/>

by selecting “International Emergency” as the option and entering “Pakistan response” as the specific appeal.

Gifts by check can be made payable to United Church of Christ, with “Pakistan Response Fund” noted in the memo section, and mailed to P.O. Box 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194.

Statement from Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb in support of Puerto Rico 9.22.22

The people of Cleveland stand with the people of Puerto Rico, who are bearing the impact of Hurricane Fiona with incredible courage and strength. On the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Maria's vicious landfall, it remains unacceptable that so many Puerto Ricans still lack reliable access to water and electricity. As the scope of the need becomes clear in the coming days and weeks, Cleveland is here to support aid efforts—both for individuals in Puerto Rico prevailing against the hurricane and for those who find themselves relocating as a result of it. We're proud of our Puerto Rican community and Cleveland is ready with open arms to welcome those in need and to assist in any way we can.

Puerto Rico Relief:

LIFTING PUERTO RICO:

On behalf of New Era Young Lords and the situation among us, we are activating and impacting Puerto Rico with our Boots on The Ground Initiative. In Cleveland, we will be collecting donations and storing them in Lincoln-West High School. By October 8th a group of us will be taking those donations to Puerto Rico and support as much as we can to provide help and resources. **We will travel to San Lorenzo, Utuado, Guanica, and Salinas to help families clean up debris, cut trees down, rebuilt part of their homes that were affected by Fiona.** Please donate in the need of restoring and the Boots on The Ground Initiative by New Era Young Lords Ohio Chapter.

DONATION ITEMS NEEDED:

- BATTERIES • FLASH LIGHTS • LANTERNS •
- BABY FORMULA • DIAPERS • CANDLES
- MEN/WOMEN HYGIENE PRODUCTS •
- FIRST AID KITS • NON PERISHABLE
- FOODS • MEDICINE: TYLENOL, PAIN
- MEDS, ETC • WET WIPES • LATEX GLOVES
- TOWELS & WASH CLOTHES • BUG SPRAY

FOR PURCHASE ON ISLAND:

- TOOLS • CHAIN SAWS • GARBAGE BAGS •
- TARPS • GENERATORS • GAS CANS

DROP OFF LOCATIONS, STARTING FRIDAY SEPT 23:

LINCOLN WEST HIGH SCHOOL
3202 W 30TH ST, CLEVELAND, OH 44109

BENNY'S SPORTS BAR
3463 FULTON RD, CLEVELAND, OH 44109

Scan QR Code to donate to our GOFUNDME!

Instructions on how to scan a QR CODE: Open camera and hover over the image until you see a link pop up. Click on the link that appears near the image!

Or manually type in link:
<https://gofund.me/a3708ade>

We are also accepting donations to our CashApp

\$YOUNGLORDZPROJECT

Manuel Orlando Santiago
\$YoungLordzProject

Use QR code or manually type in link: <https://gofund.me/a3708ade>

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

September 25th, 2022
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of the Word



The Rich Man and Lazarus

by Laura Jeanne Grimes, 2005

Laura Jeanne Grimes, artist.

<https://www.laurajeannegrimes.com/blog/the-rich-man-and-lazarus>



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

September 25th, 2022
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of the Word

*“If you want to feel rich, just count the things you have that money can’t buy.”
- A Proverb -*

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – *Betty Funk*

*Call to Worship

One: Come to this place and time of promise.

**Many: We are becoming the house of hope,
the field of sunflowers,
the vineyard of great caring.**

One: Come to a shared commitment
to abundance possible for all people.

**Many: We are an earthenware jar,
to keep safe the tomorrow of children.
Our security question is – the word of God,
and our password is love.**

*Gathering Prayer

**God, we give you thanks
that you make us redeemers,
not just receivers of redemption.
You bring us among friends and then ask
for each one of our signatures to change your world.
We hold the earthenware jar you call the church**

and fill it with all your promises. Amen.

***Hymn - NCH 31 - All Things Bright and Beautiful**

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Author: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.

Tune: ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with refrain

Adapter: Martin Shaw, 1915

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Refrain:

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
our dear God made them all.**

**1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
and made their tiny wings. [Refrain]**

**2 The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
The sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky. [Refrain]**

**3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them everyone. [Refrain]**

A READING OF THE WORD

In the midst of the siege of Jerusalem, while the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned by the king, he managed to secure a land deal despite his captivity. Jeremiah's cousin Hanamel sold a field to Jeremiah because the right of redemption passed to him, meaning, Hanamel went down the line of succession within the family and Jeremiah was next in line to either buy it or refuse it. Despite the war going on and being under guard, Jeremiah purchased the field because he knew God was using him as a sign of hope for the people, especially for the guard and the officials close by, that there would be those who survived, a remnant that returned. The deed was placed in an earthenware jar so that it could survive a long time when those who return would rebuild and plant again.

Hebrew Scripture: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

32 1 The word that came to Jeremiah from YHWH in the tenth year of Zedekiah ruler of Judah, which was also the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar:

2 At that time the army of the ruler of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned in the court of the guardhouse attached to the residence of the ruler of Jerusalem.3 Zedekiah the ruler imprisoned him after demanding, “How dare you prophesy the way you do? You say: ‘These are the words of YHWH: I will surrender this city into the hands of the ruler of Babylon, who will capture it.’” 6 The word of YHWH came to me and said, 7 “Hanamel, the son of your uncle Shallum, will come to you and say, ‘Buy my field in Anathoth. As next of kin you have the right of redemption to purchase it.’”

8 And just as YHWH foretold, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guardhouse and said, “Buy my field at Anathoth in Benjamin. You have the right of redemption to purchase it as next of kin. So why not purchase it?”

I knew that this was the word of YHWH. 9 So I bought the field in Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out the money—seventeen shekels of silver. 10 I signed the deed and sealed it, had it witnessed and then weighed out the money on a scale.

11 I took the copies of the deed of purchase—both sealed copy containing the terms and conditions and the unsealed copy—12 and gave them to Baruch ben-Neriah ben-Mahseiah in the presence of my cousin Hanamel and of the witnesses who had signed the deed and all the people of Judah who happened to be in the court of the guardhouse.

13 I gave Baruch these instructions in their presence: 14 “Thus says YHWH Omnipotent, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and the unsealed deed of purchase and put them in a clay jar so that they may be preserved for a very long time.”

15 For this is what YHWH Omnipotent, the God of Israel, says: “Houses, fields and vineyards will once again be purchased in this land.”

A Reding from the Psalms: Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 (Responsively)

This is is a song of praise to God who delivers the people from evil. The psalmist assures those who put their trust in God will have shelter and safety, and need not fear for their lives. In the latter verses, God declares through the psalmist that they will deliver those who love God and call out to God, for God is their salvation.

91 1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High and pass the night in
the shadow of Shaddai,

2 say: “God, my refuge and my mountain fortress, my God in whom I trust!”

3 For God says: “I will rescue you from the snare and shield you from poisoned
arrows.

**4 I will cover you with my pinions; under my wings you will take refuge; my faithfulness will
shield you.**

5 You have no need to fear the prowlers of the night or the arrow that flies by day,

6 The plague that lurks in the shadows or the scourge that stalks the noon.

14 "Because you love me, I will deliver you.

I will rescue you because you acknowledge my Name.

15 You will call upon me, and I will answer you; I will be with you in trouble.

I will deliver you and honor you.

16 I will satisfy you with a long life and show you, my salvation."

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

The Epistle readings continue the series on the pastoral letters of 1 and 2 Timothy with this text in 1 Timothy 6. The apostle Paul warns against those who desire wealth, because they will never be satisfied. Instead, Paul praises those who find contentment. "For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil" reminds us that if we love wealth, we do not love God, for Jesus warned us we cannot serve God and wealth (Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13). Instead, Paul urges the pursuit of righteousness (right-living with God), faith, love, gentleness, and so on. Take hold of eternal life. For those who are rich already they ought to be generous and share of their resources. They need to set their hope on God and not on their wealth and use their resources as a "good foundation" for the church in the future.

6 6 There is, of course, great benefit in religion, but only for those who are content with what they have. 7 We brought nothing into the world, nor have we the power to take anything out.

8 If we have food and clothing, we have all that we need. 9 Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and a trap. They are letting themselves be captured by foolish and harmful desires which draw us down to ruin and destruction.

10 The love of money is the root of all evil. Some people, in their passion for it, have strayed from the faith and have come to grief amid great pain. 11 But you are to flee from these things. As one dedicated to God, strive to be a person of integrity and piety, filled with faith and love, patience, and gentleness.

12 Run the great race of faith. Take firm hold of the everlasting life to which you were called when, in the presence of many witnesses, you made your good profession of faith. 13 Before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I charge you 14 to keep God's command without fault or reproach until our Savior Jesus Christ appears.

15 This appearance God will bring to pass at a chosen time. God alone is the Sovereign over all, the blessed and only ruler above all earthly rulers, 16 who alone possesses immortality, and who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no human being has ever seen or can see. To God be the honor and the everlasting kingdom! Amen.

17 Warn those who are blessed with this world's goods not to look down on other people. They are not to put their hope in wealth, for it is uncertain. Instead, they are to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with all that we need for our enjoyment. 18 Tell them they are to do good and be wealthy in good works. They are to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way, they'll create a treasure for the future, and guarantee the only life that is real.

Gospel Reading: Luke 16:19-31

Jesus told the story of the rich man and Lazarus in this text. Prior to this story, Jesus was teaching the disciples and encountered some Pharisees who were opposed to him. It is good to remember that just a few chapters ago, in 13:31, some Pharisees warned Jesus that Herod wanted to kill him. Not all the Pharisees were at odds with Jesus, and at different times Jesus had different encounters with this particular Jewish group. In this part of chapter 16, Jesus challenged the Pharisees and others on wealth ownership, and how wealth can lead us away from what God desires for us. In this story Jesus told, a man named Lazarus, who was poor and covered with sores on his body, used to sleep at the gates of a rich man's house—a person who lived in luxury without a care in the world. Lazarus longed to eat even the crumbs from the rich man's table, but instead, the rich man's dogs would come lick Lazarus' sores. When both men died, Lazarus was taken by the angels to Abraham, while the rich man suffered. The rich man called upon Abraham for mercy but also had the nerve to tell Abraham to send Lazarus to relieve his suffering! Abraham reminded the rich man that he had everything during his life while Lazarus had to suffer, so now it was time for Lazarus to be comforted. Besides that, it was impossible to cross the chasm separating them. The rich man begged Abraham to send Lazarus to his siblings to warn them, but Abraham said if they didn't believe the prophets, they weren't going to believe, even if someone rose from the dead—foreshadowing Jesus and the hardness of heart some people would have toward him.

16 19 “Once there was a rich man who dressed in purple and linen and feasted splendidly every day. 20 At the gate of this man's estate lay a beggar named Lazarus, who was covered with sores. 21 Lazarus longed to eat the scraps that fell from the rich man's table, and even the dogs came and licked Lazarus' sores. 22 One day poor Lazarus died and was carried by the angels to the arms of Abraham. The rich man likewise died and was buried.

23 In Hades, in torment, the rich man looked up and saw Abraham in the distance, and Lazarus resting in his company. 24 “Father Abraham,’ the rich man cried, ‘have pity on me! Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am tortured by these flames!’ 25 But Abraham said, ‘My child, remember that you were well off in your lifetime, while Lazarus was in misery. Now Lazarus has found consolation here, and you have found torment.

26 But that's not all. Between you and us there is a fixed chasm, so that those who might wish to come to you from here can't do so, nor can anyone cross from your side to us.’ 27 “The rich man said, ‘I beg you, then, to send Lazarus to my own house 28 where I have five siblings. Let Lazarus be a warning to them, so that they may not end in this place of torment.’ 29 But Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets. Let your siblings hear them.’ 30 ‘Please, I beg you,’ the rich man said, ‘if someone would only go to them from the dead, then they would repent.’ 31 ‘If they don't listen to Moses and the prophets,’ Abraham replied, ‘they won't be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead!’”

Choral Response – His Name is Wonderful

Music by Audrey Mieir, 1959

Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington and Bob Buckew

Accompanist: Betty Funk

Reflection— An Urgent Story – The Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Holy One, our world moves at a rapid pace of work, school, care of loved ones, paying bills, and all the other things that are important but can overwhelm us.

Help us to find the holy in the midst of it all: the brief moments of quiet, the time to read a chapter of a book, the sunshine breaking through the clouds, the task of watering plants.

Wherever we find a bit of Sabbath rest, O God, may we find it a holy moment. Whenever we find a bit of good, O God, nurture that goodness in us. May we seek the holy in our daily lives, for it escapes us in the world that pursues values away from you. May we find the holy moments already among us. Amen.

***Hymn of Response - NCH 543 - Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life**

vv. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

Author: Frank Mason North, 1903; alt.

Tune: GERMANY (GARDINER) L.M.

Source: William Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, 1815

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1 Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of clan and race,
Above the noise of selfish strife,
O Christ, we hear your voice of grace.

2 In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds fraught with fears,
From paths where hide the lures of greed,
we catch the vision of your tears.

4 The cup of water given for you
still holds the freshness of your grace;
Yet long these multitudes to view
the deep compassion of your face.

5 O Savior, from the mountainside,
Make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
Among these restless throngs abide,
O tread the city's streets again:

6 Till all shall learn compassion's might,
And follow where your feet have trod,
Till glorious from your realm of light
Shall come the city of our God.

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

We are invited to offer resources, time, abilities, compassion, in a tangible expression of our hope for the future for ourselves, this community of faith and many others near and far away. Be generous, my friends, with your trust in the future.

The Offertory – *Betty Funk*

***Presentation of Offerings – Doxology [Old Hundredth]**

**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**

**God, we have received hope; we give you time.
We have received hope; we give one another the church.
We have received hope; we offer these gifts that they
may become the change
or simply the promise of change
among those who need this clear image
that they are not abandoned.
Amen.**

Choral Hymn: My Jesus, I Love Thee

*Words by William R. Featherston, 1862
Music by Adoniram J. Gordon, 1876*

*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 436 - God of Grace and God of Glory**

vv. 1, 2, 3, 5

God of Grace and God of Glory

Author: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

Words used by permission of Elinor Fosdick Downs

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

Composer: John Hughes, c. 1907

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**1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**2 From the evils that surround us
and assail the Savior's ways,
from the fears that long have bound us -
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

**3 Cure your children's waring madness;
bend our pride to your control.
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
make our broken spirits whole,
make our broken spirits whole.**

**5 Save us from weak resignation,
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: God sends us from this place with a word of hope.

Many: We will offer the shelter of grace to all in need.

One: Jesus sends us out with the word of life.

Many: We will seek to share community with those we will meet.

One: The Spirit sends us into a world which longs for justice.

Many: We will trust that God's freedom will be offered to all people. Amen.

***Postlude – Betty Funk**

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for September 25th, 2022 (Pentecost 25/Trinity 15 Proper 21 Ordinary 26 - C)*, written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted September 19th, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [Http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](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 and the Earthenware Jar: Service Prayers for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost were written by Maren C. Tirabassi is a UCC pastor, author of fiction and non-fiction, and also a hiker in autumn leaves and a lover of fireside moments in the company of dogs, reading poetry and novels and finding myself praying, United Church of Christ. Education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (3) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for September 25th, 2022*, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on September 16th, 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*
Beverly Wurm, *Administrative Assistant*



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 brought to church or 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

Our Church's 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 496 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of September 22nd, 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 (has been moved to: *Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility: 18627 Shurmer Road, Room 408, Strongsville, Oh 44136*)
 - 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 – 10am-2pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

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

Elaine Lukacs' Address:

Elaine Lukacs
Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility
18627 Shurmer Road, Room 408
Strongsville, Oh 44136

Pakistan's 'dire' flood crisis is subject of UCC emergency appeal

The United Church of Christ has issued an emergency appeal for relief-and-recovery gifts in response to what it called "massive flooding" across most of Pakistan.

Wider Church Ministries launched the **UCC Pakistan Response Fund** Sept. 16.

Torrential monsoons since June have dumped nearly five times as much rain as the country usually gets. So far, the resulting floods have:

- Killed more than 1,400 people
- Affected 30 million people and displaced 800,000
- Damaged or destroyed 1 million homes, as well as farms, livestock, roads, bridges, schools and more.

One-third of country still submerged

“The situation in Pakistan remains dire as more than a third of the country is still under water,” said the Rev. Josh Baird, who heads the UCC’s Global H.O.P.E. team. “The most pressing needs are for food, clean water and sanitation, and emergency housing.

“In areas where the water has not receded, people are forced to construct temporary shelter on whatever dry patch of land they can access — often on the edge of roads.”

“At its peak, 73 percent of Pakistan’s districts were impacted by flooding,” the appeal’s web page says. “... More than half of its districts have been declared ‘calamity hit’ by the government — a number that is expected to rise as the rain continues and floods flow through the Punjab and Sindh provinces.”

World’s churches respond together

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has called the crisis an “unprecedented natural disaster” caused by “the intensification of climate change.” “No country deserves this fate, but particularly not countries like Pakistan that have done almost nothing to contribute to global warming,” he said. He called on the international community for “massive financial support,” especially from “countries that have contributed more to climate change.”

Baird said the UCC is working with ecumenical partners to respond.

Community World Service Asia, a partner through the ACT Alliance, is meeting immediate needs “while laying the groundwork for long-term recovery,” he said. “Gifts to the Pakistan Appeal will support emergency relief and focus on providing long-term care through the gifting of items such as seed for fields and feed and vaccines for livestock.

“With more than 6.4 million people projected to require humanitarian assistance, we anticipate walking with affected communities for the restoration of homes and livelihoods for many years.”

People can donate electronically at this page: <https://www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/pakistan-emergency-appeal/>

by selecting “International Emergency” as the option and entering “Pakistan response” as the specific appeal.

Gifts by check can be made payable to United Church of Christ, with “Pakistan Response Fund” noted in the memo section, and mailed to P.O. Box 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194.

Statement from Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb in support of Puerto Rico 9.22.22

The people of Cleveland stand with the people of Puerto Rico, who are bearing the impact of Hurricane Fiona with incredible courage and strength. On the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Maria's vicious landfall, it remains unacceptable that so many Puerto Ricans still lack reliable access to water and electricity. As the scope of the need becomes clear in the coming days and weeks, Cleveland is here to support aid efforts—both for individuals in Puerto Rico prevailing against the hurricane and for those who find themselves relocating as a result of it. We're proud of our Puerto Rican community and Cleveland is ready with open arms to welcome those in need and to assist in any way we can.

Puerto Rico Relief:

LIFTING PUERTO RICO:

On behalf of New Era Young Lords and the situation among us, we are activating and impacting Puerto Rico with our Boots on The Ground Initiative. In Cleveland, we will be collecting donations and storing them in Lincoln-West High School. By October 8th a group of us will be taking those donations to Puerto Rico and support as much as we can to provide help and resources. **We will travel to San Lorenzo, Utuado, Guanica, and Salinas to help families clean up debris, cut trees down, rebuilt part of their homes that were affected by Fiona.** Please donate in the need of restoring and the Boots on The Ground Initiative by New Era Young Lords Ohio Chapter.

DONATION ITEMS NEEDED:

- BATTERIES • FLASH LIGHTS • LANTERNS •
- BABY FORMULA • DIAPERS • CANDLES
- MEN/WOMEN HYGIENE PRODUCTS •
- FIRST AID KITS • NON PERISHABLE
- FOODS • MEDICINE: TYLENOL, PAIN
- MEDS, ETC • WET WIPES • LATEX GLOVES
- TOWELS & WASH CLOTHES • BUG SPRAY

FOR PURCHASE ON ISLAND:

- TOOLS • CHAIN SAWS • GARBAGE BAGS •
- TARPS • GENERATORS • GAS CANS

DROP OFF LOCATIONS, STARTING FRIDAY SEPT 23:

LINCOLN WEST HIGH SCHOOL
3202 W 30TH ST, CLEVELAND, OH 44109

BENNY'S SPORTS BAR
3463 FULTON RD, CLEVELAND, OH 44109

Scan QR Code to donate to our GOFUNDME!

Instructions on how to scan a QR CODE: Open camera and hover over the image until you see a link pop up. Click on the link that appears near the image!

Or manually type in link: <https://gofund.me/a3708ade>

We are also accepting donations to our CashApp

\$YOUNGLORDZPROJECT

Manuel Orlando Santiago
\$YoungLordzProject

Use QR code or manually type in link: <https://gofund.me/a3708ade>

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

September 25th, 2022
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of the Word



The Rich Man and Lazarus

by Laura Jeanne Grimes, 2005

Laura Jeanne Grimes, artist.

<https://www.laurajeannegrimes.com/blog/the-rich-man-and-lazarus>



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

September 25th, 2022
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of the Word

*“If you want to feel rich, just count the things you have that money can’t buy.”
- A Proverb -*

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – *Betty Funk*

*Call to Worship

One: Come to this place and time of promise.

**Many: We are becoming the house of hope,
the field of sunflowers,
the vineyard of great caring.**

One: Come to a shared commitment
to abundance possible for all people.

**Many: We are an earthenware jar,
to keep safe the tomorrow of children.
Our security question is – the word of God,
and our password is love.**

*Gathering Prayer

**God, we give you thanks
that you make us redeemers,
not just receivers of redemption.
You bring us among friends and then ask
for each one of our signatures to change your world.
We hold the earthenware jar you call the church**

and fill it with all your promises. Amen.

***Hymn - NCH 31 - All Things Bright and Beautiful**

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Author: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.

Tune: ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with refrain

Adapter: Martin Shaw, 1915

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Refrain:

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
our dear God made them all.**

**1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
and made their tiny wings. [Refrain]**

**2 The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
The sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky. [Refrain]**

**3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them everyone. [Refrain]**

A READING OF THE WORD

In the midst of the siege of Jerusalem, while the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned by the king, he managed to secure a land deal despite his captivity. Jeremiah's cousin Hanamel sold a field to Jeremiah because the right of redemption passed to him, meaning, Hanamel went down the line of succession within the family and Jeremiah was next in line to either buy it or refuse it. Despite the war going on and being under guard, Jeremiah purchased the field because he knew God was using him as a sign of hope for the people, especially for the guard and the officials close by, that there would be those who survived, a remnant that returned. The deed was placed in an earthenware jar so that it could survive a long time when those who return would rebuild and plant again.

Hebrew Scripture: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

32 1 The word that came to Jeremiah from YHWH in the tenth year of Zedekiah ruler of Judah, which was also the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar:

2 At that time the army of the ruler of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned in the court of the guardhouse attached to the residence of the ruler of Jerusalem.3 Zedekiah the ruler imprisoned him after demanding, “How dare you prophesy the way you do? You say: ‘These are the words of YHWH: I will surrender this city into the hands of the ruler of Babylon, who will capture it.’” 6 The word of YHWH came to me and said, 7 “Hanamel, the son of your uncle Shallum, will come to you and say, ‘Buy my field in Anathoth. As next of kin you have the right of redemption to purchase it.’”

8 And just as YHWH foretold, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guardhouse and said, “Buy my field at Anathoth in Benjamin. You have the right of redemption to purchase it as next of kin. So why not purchase it?”

I knew that this was the word of YHWH. 9 So I bought the field in Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out the money—seventeen shekels of silver. 10 I signed the deed and sealed it, had it witnessed and then weighed out the money on a scale.

11 I took the copies of the deed of purchase—both sealed copy containing the terms and conditions and the unsealed copy—12 and gave them to Baruch ben-Neriah ben-Mahseiah in the presence of my cousin Hanamel and of the witnesses who had signed the deed and all the people of Judah who happened to be in the court of the guardhouse.

13 I gave Baruch these instructions in their presence: 14 “Thus says YHWH Omnipotent, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and the unsealed deed of purchase and put them in a clay jar so that they may be preserved for a very long time.”

15 For this is what YHWH Omnipotent, the God of Israel, says: “Houses, fields and vineyards will once again be purchased in this land.”

A Reding from the Psalms: Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 (Responsively)

This is a song of praise to God who delivers the people from evil. The psalmist assures those who put their trust in God will have shelter and safety, and need not fear for their lives. In the latter verses, God declares through the psalmist that they will deliver those who love God and call out to God, for God is their salvation.

91 1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High and pass the night in
the shadow of Shaddai,

2 say: “God, my refuge and my mountain fortress, my God in whom I trust!”

3 For God says: “I will rescue you from the snare and shield you from poisoned
arrows.

**4 I will cover you with my pinions; under my wings you will take refuge; my faithfulness will
shield you.**

5 You have no need to fear the prowlers of the night or the arrow that flies by day,

6 The plague that lurks in the shadows or the scourge that stalks the noon.

14 "Because you love me, I will deliver you.

I will rescue you because you acknowledge my Name.

15 You will call upon me, and I will answer you; I will be with you in trouble.

I will deliver you and honor you.

16 I will satisfy you with a long life and show you, my salvation."

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

The Epistle readings continue the series on the pastoral letters of 1 and 2 Timothy with this text in 1 Timothy 6. The apostle Paul warns against those who desire wealth, because they will never be satisfied. Instead, Paul praises those who find contentment. "For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil" reminds us that if we love wealth, we do not love God, for Jesus warned us we cannot serve God and wealth (Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13). Instead, Paul urges the pursuit of righteousness (right-living with God), faith, love, gentleness, and so on. Take hold of eternal life. For those who are rich already they ought to be generous and share of their resources. They need to set their hope on God and not on their wealth and use their resources as a "good foundation" for the church in the future.

6 6 There is, of course, great benefit in religion, but only for those who are content with what they have. 7 We brought nothing into the world, nor have we the power to take anything out.

8 If we have food and clothing, we have all that we need. 9 Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and a trap. They are letting themselves be captured by foolish and harmful desires which draw us down to ruin and destruction.

10 The love of money is the root of all evil. Some people, in their passion for it, have strayed from the faith and have come to grief amid great pain. 11 But you are to flee from these things. As one dedicated to God, strive to be a person of integrity and piety, filled with faith and love, patience, and gentleness.

12 Run the great race of faith. Take firm hold of the everlasting life to which you were called when, in the presence of many witnesses, you made your good profession of faith. 13 Before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I charge you 14 to keep God's command without fault or reproach until our Savior Jesus Christ appears.

15 This appearance God will bring to pass at a chosen time. God alone is the Sovereign over all, the blessed and only ruler above all earthly rulers, 16 who alone possesses immortality, and who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no human being has ever seen or can see. To God be the honor and the everlasting kingdom! Amen.

17 Warn those who are blessed with this world's goods not to look down on other people. They are not to put their hope in wealth, for it is uncertain. Instead, they are to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with all that we need for our enjoyment. 18 Tell them they are to do good and be wealthy in good works. They are to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way, they'll create a treasure for the future, and guarantee the only life that is real.

Gospel Reading: Luke 16:19-31

Jesus told the story of the rich man and Lazarus in this text. Prior to this story, Jesus was teaching the disciples and encountered some Pharisees who were opposed to him. It is good to remember that just a few chapters ago, in 13:31, some Pharisees warned Jesus that Herod wanted to kill him. Not all the Pharisees were at odds with Jesus, and at different times Jesus had different encounters with this particular Jewish group. In this part of chapter 16, Jesus challenged the Pharisees and others on wealth ownership, and how wealth can lead us away from what God desires for us. In this story Jesus told, a man named Lazarus, who was poor and covered with sores on his body, used to sleep at the gates of a rich man's house—a person who lived in luxury without a care in the world. Lazarus longed to eat even the crumbs from the rich man's table, but instead, the rich man's dogs would come lick Lazarus' sores. When both men died, Lazarus was taken by the angels to Abraham, while the rich man suffered. The rich man called upon Abraham for mercy but also had the nerve to tell Abraham to send Lazarus to relieve his suffering! Abraham reminded the rich man that he had everything during his life while Lazarus had to suffer, so now it was time for Lazarus to be comforted. Besides that, it was impossible to cross the chasm separating them. The rich man begged Abraham to send Lazarus to his siblings to warn them, but Abraham said if they didn't believe the prophets, they weren't going to believe, even if someone rose from the dead—foreshadowing Jesus and the hardness of heart some people would have toward him.

16 19 “Once there was a rich man who dressed in purple and linen and feasted splendidly every day. 20 At the gate of this man's estate lay a beggar named Lazarus, who was covered with sores. 21 Lazarus longed to eat the scraps that fell from the rich man's table, and even the dogs came and licked Lazarus' sores. 22 One day poor Lazarus died and was carried by the angels to the arms of Abraham. The rich man likewise died and was buried.

23 In Hades, in torment, the rich man looked up and saw Abraham in the distance, and Lazarus resting in his company. 24 “Father Abraham,’ the rich man cried, ‘have pity on me! Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am tortured by these flames!’ 25 But Abraham said, ‘My child, remember that you were well off in your lifetime, while Lazarus was in misery. Now Lazarus has found consolation here, and you have found torment.

26 But that's not all. Between you and us there is a fixed chasm, so that those who might wish to come to you from here can't do so, nor can anyone cross from your side to us.’ 27 “The rich man said, ‘I beg you, then, to send Lazarus to my own house 28 where I have five siblings. Let Lazarus be a warning to them, so that they may not end in this place of torment.’ 29 But Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets. Let your siblings hear them.’ 30 ‘Please, I beg you,’ the rich man said, ‘if someone would only go to them from the dead, then they would repent.’ 31 ‘If they don't listen to Moses and the prophets,’ Abraham replied, ‘they won't be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead!’”

Choral Response – His Name is Wonderful

Music by Audrey Mieir, 1959

Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington and Bob Buckew

Accompanist: Betty Funk

Reflection— An Urgent Story – The Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Holy One, our world moves at a rapid pace of work, school, care of loved ones, paying bills, and all the other things that are important but can overwhelm us.

Help us to find the holy in the midst of it all: the brief moments of quiet, the time to read a chapter of a book, the sunshine breaking through the clouds, the task of watering plants.

Wherever we find a bit of Sabbath rest, O God, may we find it a holy moment. Whenever we find a bit of good, O God, nurture that goodness in us. May we seek the holy in our daily lives, for it escapes us in the world that pursues values away from you. May we find the holy moments already among us. Amen.

***Hymn of Response - NCH 543 - Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life**

vv. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

Author: Frank Mason North, 1903; alt.

Tune: GERMANY (GARDINER) L.M.

Source: William Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, 1815

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1 Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of clan and race,
Above the noise of selfish strife,
O Christ, we hear your voice of grace.

2 In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds fraught with fears,
From paths where hide the lures of greed,
we catch the vision of your tears.

4 The cup of water given for you
still holds the freshness of your grace;
Yet long these multitudes to view
the deep compassion of your face.

5 O Savior, from the mountainside,
Make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
Among these restless throngs abide,
O tread the city's streets again:

6 Till all shall learn compassion's might,
And follow where your feet have trod,
Till glorious from your realm of light
Shall come the city of our God.

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

We are invited to offer resources, time, abilities, compassion, in a tangible expression of our hope for the future for ourselves, this community of faith and many others near and far away. Be generous, my friends, with your trust in the future.

The Offertory – *Betty Funk*

*Presentation of Offerings – Doxology [*Old Hundredth*]

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

God, we have received hope; we give you time.
We have received hope; we give one another the church.
We have received hope; we offer these gifts that they
may become the change
or simply the promise of change
among those who need this clear image
that they are not abandoned.
Amen.

Choral Hymn: My Jesus, I Love Thee

Words by William R. Featherston, 1862
Music by Adoniram J. Gordon, 1876

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 436 - God of Grace and God of Glory**

vv. 1, 2, 3, 5

God of Grace and God of Glory

Author: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

Words used by permission of Elinor Fosdick Downs

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

Composer: John Hughes, c. 1907

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**1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**2 From the evils that surround us
and assail the Savior's ways,
from the fears that long have bound us -
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

**3 Cure your children's waring madness;
bend our pride to your control.
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
make our broken spirits whole,
make our broken spirits whole.**

**5 Save us from weak resignation,
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: God sends us from this place with a word of hope.

Many: We will offer the shelter of grace to all in need.

One: Jesus sends us out with the word of life.

Many: We will seek to share community with those we will meet.

One: The Spirit sends us into a world which longs for justice.

Many: We will trust that God's freedom will be offered to all people. Amen.

***Postlude – Betty Funk**

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for September 25th, 2022 (Pentecost 25/Trinity 15 Proper 21 Ordinary 26 - C)*, written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted September 19th, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [Http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](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 and the Earthenware Jar: Service Prayers for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost were written by Maren C. Tirabassi is a UCC pastor, author of fiction and non-fiction, and also a hiker in autumn leaves and a lover of fireside moments in the company of dogs, reading poetry and novels and finding myself praying, United Church of Christ. Education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (3) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for September 25th, 2022*, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on September 16th, 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*
Beverly Wurm, *Administrative Assistant*



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 brought to church or 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

Our Church's 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 496 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of September 22nd, 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 (has been moved to: *Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility: 18627 Shurmer Road, Room 408, Strongsville, Oh 44136*)
 - 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 – 10am-2pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

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

Elaine Lukacs' Address:

Elaine Lukacs
Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility
18627 Shurmer Road, Room 408
Strongsville, Oh 44136

Pakistan's 'dire' flood crisis is subject of UCC emergency appeal

The United Church of Christ has issued an emergency appeal for relief-and-recovery gifts in response to what it called "massive flooding" across most of Pakistan.

Wider Church Ministries launched the **UCC Pakistan Response Fund** Sept. 16.

Torrential monsoons since June have dumped nearly five times as much rain as the country usually gets. So far, the resulting floods have:

- Killed more than 1,400 people
- Affected 30 million people and displaced 800,000
- Damaged or destroyed 1 million homes, as well as farms, livestock, roads, bridges, schools and more.

One-third of country still submerged

“The situation in Pakistan remains dire as more than a third of the country is still under water,” said the Rev. Josh Baird, who heads the UCC’s Global H.O.P.E. team. “The most pressing needs are for food, clean water and sanitation, and emergency housing.

“In areas where the water has not receded, people are forced to construct temporary shelter on whatever dry patch of land they can access — often on the edge of roads.”

“At its peak, 73 percent of Pakistan’s districts were impacted by flooding,” the appeal’s web page says. “... More than half of its districts have been declared ‘calamity hit’ by the government — a number that is expected to rise as the rain continues and floods flow through the Punjab and Sindh provinces.”

World’s churches respond together

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has called the crisis an “unprecedented natural disaster” caused by “the intensification of climate change.” “No country deserves this fate, but particularly not countries like Pakistan that have done almost nothing to contribute to global warming,” he said. He called on the international community for “massive financial support,” especially from “countries that have contributed more to climate change.”

Baird said the UCC is working with ecumenical partners to respond.

Community World Service Asia, a partner through the ACT Alliance, is meeting immediate needs “while laying the groundwork for long-term recovery,” he said. “Gifts to the Pakistan Appeal will support emergency relief and focus on providing long-term care through the gifting of items such as seed for fields and feed and vaccines for livestock.

“With more than 6.4 million people projected to require humanitarian assistance, we anticipate walking with affected communities for the restoration of homes and livelihoods for many years.”

People can donate electronically at this page: <https://www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/pakistan-emergency-appeal/>

by selecting “International Emergency” as the option and entering “Pakistan response” as the specific appeal.

Gifts by check can be made payable to United Church of Christ, with “Pakistan Response Fund” noted in the memo section, and mailed to P.O. Box 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194.

Statement from Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb in support of Puerto Rico 9.22.22

The people of Cleveland stand with the people of Puerto Rico, who are bearing the impact of Hurricane Fiona with incredible courage and strength. On the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Maria's vicious landfall, it remains unacceptable that so many Puerto Ricans still lack reliable access to water and electricity. As the scope of the need becomes clear in the coming days and weeks, Cleveland is here to support aid efforts—both for individuals in Puerto Rico prevailing against the hurricane and for those who find themselves relocating as a result of it. We're proud of our Puerto Rican community and Cleveland is ready with open arms to welcome those in need and to assist in any way we can.

Puerto Rico Relief:

LIFTING PUERTO RICO:

On behalf of New Era Young Lords and the situation among us, we are activating and impacting Puerto Rico with our Boots on The Ground Initiative. In Cleveland, we will be collecting donations and storing them in Lincoln-West High School. By October 8th a group of us will be taking those donations to Puerto Rico and support as much as we can to provide help and resources. **We will travel to San Lorenzo, Utuado, Guanica, and Salinas to help families clean up debris, cut trees down, rebuilt part of their homes that were affected by Fiona.** Please donate in the need of restoring and the Boots on The Ground Initiative by New Era Young Lords Ohio Chapter.

DONATION ITEMS NEEDED:

BATTERIES • FLASH LIGHTS • LANTERNS • BABY FORMULA • DIAPERS • CANDLES • MEN/WOMEN HYGIENE PRODUCTS • FIRST AID KITS • NON PERISHABLE FOODS • MEDICINE: TYLENOL, PAIN MEDS, ETC • WET WIPES • LATEX GLOVES TOWELS & WASH CLOTHES • BUG SPRAY

FOR PURCHASE ON ISLAND:

TOOLS • CHAIN SAWS • GARBAGE BAGS • TARPS • GENERATORS • GAS CANS

DROP OFF LOCATIONS, STARTING FRIDAY SEPT 23:

LINCOLN WEST HIGH SCHOOL
3202 W 30TH ST, CLEVELAND, OH 44109

BENNY'S SPORTS BAR
3463 FULTON RD, CLEVELAND, OH 44109

We are also accepting donations to our CashApp
\$YOUNGLORDZPROJECT

Manuel Orlando Santiago
\$YoungLordzProject

<<<< Scan QR Code to donate to our GOFUNDME!

Instructions on how to scan a QR CODE: Open camera and hover over the image until you see a link pop up. Click on the link that appears near the image!

Or manually type in link: <https://gofund.me/a3708ade>

Use QR code or manually type in link: <https://gofund.me/a3708ade>

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

September 25th, 2022
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of the Word



The Rich Man and Lazarus

by Laura Jeanne Grimes, 2005

Laura Jeanne Grimes, artist.

<https://www.laurajeannegrimes.com/blog/the-rich-man-and-lazarus>



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

September 25th, 2022
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of the Word

*"If you want to feel rich, just count the things you have that money can't buy."
- A Proverb -*

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – *Betty Funk*

*Call to Worship

One: Come to this place and time of promise.

**Many: We are becoming the house of hope,
the field of sunflowers,
the vineyard of great caring.**

One: Come to a shared commitment
to abundance possible for all people.

**Many: We are an earthenware jar,
to keep safe the tomorrow of children.
Our security question is – the word of God,
and our password is love.**

*Gathering Prayer

**God, we give you thanks
that you make us redeemers,
not just receivers of redemption.
You bring us among friends and then ask
for each one of our signatures to change your world.
We hold the earthenware jar you call the church**

and fill it with all your promises. Amen.

***Hymn - NCH 31 - All Things Bright and Beautiful**

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Author: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.

Tune: ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with refrain

Adapter: Martin Shaw, 1915

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Refrain:

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
our dear God made them all.**

**1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
and made their tiny wings. [Refrain]**

**2 The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
The sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky. [Refrain]**

**3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them everyone. [Refrain]**

A READING OF THE WORD

In the midst of the siege of Jerusalem, while the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned by the king, he managed to secure a land deal despite his captivity. Jeremiah's cousin Hanamel sold a field to Jeremiah because the right of redemption passed to him, meaning, Hanamel went down the line of succession within the family and Jeremiah was next in line to either buy it or refuse it. Despite the war going on and being under guard, Jeremiah purchased the field because he knew God was using him as a sign of hope for the people, especially for the guard and the officials close by, that there would be those who survived, a remnant that returned. The deed was placed in an earthenware jar so that it could survive a long time when those who return would rebuild and plant again.

Hebrew Scripture: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

32 1 The word that came to Jeremiah from YHWH in the tenth year of Zedekiah ruler of Judah, which was also the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar:

2 At that time the army of the ruler of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned in the court of the guardhouse attached to the residence of the ruler of Jerusalem.3 Zedekiah the ruler imprisoned him after demanding, “How dare you prophesy the way you do? You say: ‘These are the words of YHWH: I will surrender this city into the hands of the ruler of Babylon, who will capture it.’” 6 The word of YHWH came to me and said, 7 “Hanamel, the son of your uncle Shallum, will come to you and say, ‘Buy my field in Anathoth. As next of kin you have the right of redemption to purchase it.’”

8 And just as YHWH foretold, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guardhouse and said, “Buy my field at Anathoth in Benjamin. You have the right of redemption to purchase it as next of kin. So why not purchase it?”

I knew that this was the word of YHWH. 9 So I bought the field in Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out the money—seventeen shekels of silver. 10 I signed the deed and sealed it, had it witnessed and then weighed out the money on a scale.

11 I took the copies of the deed of purchase—both sealed copy containing the terms and conditions and the unsealed copy—12 and gave them to Baruch ben-Neriah ben-Mahseiah in the presence of my cousin Hanamel and of the witnesses who had signed the deed and all the people of Judah who happened to be in the court of the guardhouse.

13 I gave Baruch these instructions in their presence: 14 “Thus says YHWH Omnipotent, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and the unsealed deed of purchase and put them in a clay jar so that they may be preserved for a very long time.”

15 For this is what YHWH Omnipotent, the God of Israel, says: “Houses, fields and vineyards will once again be purchased in this land.”

A Reding from the Psalms: Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 (Responsively)

This is is a song of praise to God who delivers the people from evil. The psalmist assures those who put their trust in God will have shelter and safety, and need not fear for their lives. In the latter verses, God declares through the psalmist that they will deliver those who love God and call out to God, for God is their salvation.

91 1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High and pass the night in
the shadow of Shaddai,

2 say: “God, my refuge and my mountain fortress, my God in whom I trust!”

3 For God says: “I will rescue you from the snare and shield you from poisoned
arrows.

**4 I will cover you with my pinions; under my wings you will take refuge; my faithfulness will
shield you.**

5 You have no need to fear the prowlers of the night or the arrow that flies by day,

6 The plague that lurks in the shadows or the scourge that stalks the noon.

14 "Because you love me, I will deliver you.

I will rescue you because you acknowledge my Name.

15 You will call upon me, and I will answer you; I will be with you in trouble.

I will deliver you and honor you.

16 I will satisfy you with a long life and show you, my salvation."

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

The Epistle readings continue the series on the pastoral letters of 1 and 2 Timothy with this text in 1 Timothy 6. The apostle Paul warns against those who desire wealth, because they will never be satisfied. Instead, Paul praises those who find contentment. "For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil" reminds us that if we love wealth, we do not love God, for Jesus warned us we cannot serve God and wealth (Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13). Instead, Paul urges the pursuit of righteousness (right-living with God), faith, love, gentleness, and so on. Take hold of eternal life. For those who are rich already they ought to be generous and share of their resources. They need to set their hope on God and not on their wealth and use their resources as a "good foundation" for the church in the future.

6 6 There is, of course, great benefit in religion, but only for those who are content with what they have. 7 We brought nothing into the world, nor have we the power to take anything out.

8 If we have food and clothing, we have all that we need. 9 Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and a trap. They are letting themselves be captured by foolish and harmful desires which draw us down to ruin and destruction.

10 The love of money is the root of all evil. Some people, in their passion for it, have strayed from the faith and have come to grief amid great pain. 11 But you are to flee from these things. As one dedicated to God, strive to be a person of integrity and piety, filled with faith and love, patience, and gentleness.

12 Run the great race of faith. Take firm hold of the everlasting life to which you were called when, in the presence of many witnesses, you made your good profession of faith. 13 Before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I charge you 14 to keep God's command without fault or reproach until our Savior Jesus Christ appears.

15 This appearance God will bring to pass at a chosen time. God alone is the Sovereign over all, the blessed and only ruler above all earthly rulers, 16 who alone possesses immortality, and who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no human being has ever seen or can see. To God be the honor and the everlasting kingdom! Amen.

17 Warn those who are blessed with this world's goods not to look down on other people. They are not to put their hope in wealth, for it is uncertain. Instead, they are to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with all that we need for our enjoyment. 18 Tell them they are to do good and be wealthy in good works. They are to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way, they'll create a treasure for the future, and guarantee the only life that is real.

Gospel Reading: Luke 16:19-31

Jesus told the story of the rich man and Lazarus in this text. Prior to this story, Jesus was teaching the disciples and encountered some Pharisees who were opposed to him. It is good to remember that just a few chapters ago, in 13:31, some Pharisees warned Jesus that Herod wanted to kill him. Not all the Pharisees were at odds with Jesus, and at different times Jesus had different encounters with this particular Jewish group. In this part of chapter 16, Jesus challenged the Pharisees and others on wealth ownership, and how wealth can lead us away from what God desires for us. In this story Jesus told, a man named Lazarus, who was poor and covered with sores on his body, used to sleep at the gates of a rich man's house—a person who lived in luxury without a care in the world. Lazarus longed to eat even the crumbs from the rich man's table, but instead, the rich man's dogs would come lick Lazarus' sores. When both men died, Lazarus was taken by the angels to Abraham, while the rich man suffered. The rich man called upon Abraham for mercy but also had the nerve to tell Abraham to send Lazarus to relieve his suffering! Abraham reminded the rich man that he had everything during his life while Lazarus had to suffer, so now it was time for Lazarus to be comforted. Besides that, it was impossible to cross the chasm separating them. The rich man begged Abraham to send Lazarus to his siblings to warn them, but Abraham said if they didn't believe the prophets, they weren't going to believe, even if someone rose from the dead—foreshadowing Jesus and the hardness of heart some people would have toward him.

16 19 “Once there was a rich man who dressed in purple and linen and feasted splendidly every day. 20 At the gate of this man's estate lay a beggar named Lazarus, who was covered with sores. 21 Lazarus longed to eat the scraps that fell from the rich man's table, and even the dogs came and licked Lazarus' sores. 22 One day poor Lazarus died and was carried by the angels to the arms of Abraham. The rich man likewise died and was buried.

23 In Hades, in torment, the rich man looked up and saw Abraham in the distance, and Lazarus resting in his company. 24 “Father Abraham,’ the rich man cried, ‘have pity on me! Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am tortured by these flames!’ 25 But Abraham said, ‘My child, remember that you were well off in your lifetime, while Lazarus was in misery. Now Lazarus has found consolation here, and you have found torment.

26 But that's not all. Between you and us there is a fixed chasm, so that those who might wish to come to you from here can't do so, nor can anyone cross from your side to us.’ 27 “The rich man said, ‘I beg you, then, to send Lazarus to my own house 28 where I have five siblings. Let Lazarus be a warning to them, so that they may not end in this place of torment.’ 29 But Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets. Let your siblings hear them.’ 30 ‘Please, I beg you,’ the rich man said, ‘if someone would only go to them from the dead, then they would repent.’ 31 ‘If they don't listen to Moses and the prophets,’ Abraham replied, ‘they won't be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead!’”

Choral Response – His Name is Wonderful

Music by Audrey Mieir, 1959

Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington and Bob Buckew

Accompanist: Betty Funk

Reflection— An Urgent Story – The Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Holy One, our world moves at a rapid pace of work, school, care of loved ones, paying bills, and all the other things that are important but can overwhelm us.

Help us to find the holy in the midst of it all: the brief moments of quiet, the time to read a chapter of a book, the sunshine breaking through the clouds, the task of watering plants.

Wherever we find a bit of Sabbath rest, O God, may we find it a holy moment. Whenever we find a bit of good, O God, nurture that goodness in us. May we seek the holy in our daily lives, for it escapes us in the world that pursues values away from you. May we find the holy moments already among us. Amen.

***Hymn of Response - NCH 543 - Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life**

vv. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

Author: Frank Mason North, 1903; alt.

Tune: GERMANY (GARDINER) L.M.

Source: William Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, 1815

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1 Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of clan and race,
Above the noise of selfish strife,
O Christ, we hear your voice of grace.

2 In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds fraught with fears,
From paths where hide the lures of greed,
we catch the vision of your tears.

4 The cup of water given for you
still holds the freshness of your grace;
Yet long these multitudes to view
the deep compassion of your face.

5 O Savior, from the mountainside,
Make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
Among these restless throngs abide,
O tread the city's streets again:

6 Till all shall learn compassion's might,
And follow where your feet have trod,
Till glorious from your realm of light
Shall come the city of our God.

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

We are invited to offer resources, time, abilities, compassion, in a tangible expression of our hope for the future for ourselves, this community of faith and many others near and far away. Be generous, my friends, with your trust in the future.

The Offertory – Betty Funk

***Presentation of Offerings – Doxology [Old Hundredth]**

**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**

**God, we have received hope; we give you time.
We have received hope; we give one another the church.
We have received hope; we offer these gifts that they
may become the change
or simply the promise of change
among those who need this clear image
that they are not abandoned.
Amen.**

Choral Hymn: My Jesus, I Love Thee

*Words by William R. Featherston, 1862
Music by Adoniram J. Gordon, 1876*

*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 436 - God of Grace and God of Glory**

vv. 1, 2, 3, 5

God of Grace and God of Glory

Author: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

Words used by permission of Elinor Fosdick Downs

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

Composer: John Hughes, c. 1907

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**1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**2 From the evils that surround us
and assail the Savior's ways,
from the fears that long have bound us -
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

**3 Cure your children's waring madness;
bend our pride to your control.
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
make our broken spirits whole,
make our broken spirits whole.**

**5 Save us from weak resignation,
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: God sends us from this place with a word of hope.

Many: We will offer the shelter of grace to all in need.

One: Jesus sends us out with the word of life.

Many: We will seek to share community with those we will meet.

One: The Spirit sends us into a world which longs for justice.

Many: We will trust that God's freedom will be offered to all people. Amen.

***Postlude – Betty Funk**

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for September 25th, 2022 (Pentecost 25/Trinity 15 Proper 21 Ordinary 26 - C)*, written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted September 19th, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [Http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](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 and the Earthenware Jar: Service Prayers for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost were written by Maren C. Tirabassi is a UCC pastor, author of fiction and non-fiction, and also a hiker in autumn leaves and a lover of fireside moments in the company of dogs, reading poetry and novels and finding myself praying, United Church of Christ. Education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (3) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for September 25th, 2022*, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on September 16th, 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*
Beverly Wurm, *Administrative Assistant*



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 brought to church or 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

Our Church's 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 496 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of September 22nd, 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 (has been moved to: *Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility: 18627 Shurmer Road, Room 408, Strongsville, Oh 44136*)
 - 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 – 10am-2pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

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

Elaine Lukacs' Address:

Elaine Lukacs
Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility
18627 Shurmer Road, Room 408
Strongsville, Oh 44136

Pakistan's 'dire' flood crisis is subject of UCC emergency appeal

The United Church of Christ has issued an emergency appeal for relief-and-recovery gifts in response to what it called "massive flooding" across most of Pakistan.

Wider Church Ministries launched the **UCC Pakistan Response Fund** Sept. 16.

Torrential monsoons since June have dumped nearly five times as much rain as the country usually gets. So far, the resulting floods have:

- Killed more than 1,400 people
- Affected 30 million people and displaced 800,000
- Damaged or destroyed 1 million homes, as well as farms, livestock, roads, bridges, schools and more.

One-third of country still submerged

“The situation in Pakistan remains dire as more than a third of the country is still under water,” said the Rev. Josh Baird, who heads the UCC’s Global H.O.P.E. team. “The most pressing needs are for food, clean water and sanitation, and emergency housing.

“In areas where the water has not receded, people are forced to construct temporary shelter on whatever dry patch of land they can access — often on the edge of roads.”

“At its peak, 73 percent of Pakistan’s districts were impacted by flooding,” the appeal’s web page says. “... More than half of its districts have been declared ‘calamity hit’ by the government — a number that is expected to rise as the rain continues and floods flow through the Punjab and Sindh provinces.”

World’s churches respond together

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has called the crisis an “unprecedented natural disaster” caused by “the intensification of climate change.” “No country deserves this fate, but particularly not countries like Pakistan that have done almost nothing to contribute to global warming,” he said. He called on the international community for “massive financial support,” especially from “countries that have contributed more to climate change.”

Baird said the UCC is working with ecumenical partners to respond.

Community World Service Asia, a partner through the ACT Alliance, is meeting immediate needs “while laying the groundwork for long-term recovery,” he said. “Gifts to the Pakistan Appeal will support emergency relief and focus on providing long-term care through the gifting of items such as seed for fields and feed and vaccines for livestock.

“With more than 6.4 million people projected to require humanitarian assistance, we anticipate walking with affected communities for the restoration of homes and livelihoods for many years.”

People can donate electronically at this page: <https://www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/pakistan-emergency-appeal/>

by selecting “International Emergency” as the option and entering “Pakistan response” as the specific appeal.

Gifts by check can be made payable to United Church of Christ, with “Pakistan Response Fund” noted in the memo section, and mailed to P.O. Box 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194.

Statement from Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb in support of Puerto Rico 9.22.22

The people of Cleveland stand with the people of Puerto Rico, who are bearing the impact of Hurricane Fiona with incredible courage and strength. On the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Maria's vicious landfall, it remains unacceptable that so many Puerto Ricans still lack reliable access to water and electricity. As the scope of the need becomes clear in the coming days and weeks, Cleveland is here to support aid efforts—both for individuals in Puerto Rico prevailing against the hurricane and for those who find themselves relocating as a result of it. We're proud of our Puerto Rican community and Cleveland is ready with open arms to welcome those in need and to assist in any way we can.

Puerto Rico Relief:

LIFTING PUERTO RICO:
NEW ERA YOUNG LORDS EDITION

On behalf of New Era Young Lords and the situation among us, we are activating and impacting Puerto Rico with our Boots on The Ground Initiative. In Cleveland, we will be collecting donations and storing them in Lincoln-West High School. By October 8th a group of us will be taking those donations to Puerto Rico and support as much as we can to provide help and resources. **We will travel to San Lorenzo, Utuado, Guanica, and Salinas to help families clean up debris, cut trees down, rebuilt part of their homes that were affected by Fiona.** Please donate in the need of restoring and the Boots on The Ground Initiative by New Era Young Lords Ohio Chapter.

DONATION ITEMS NEEDED:
BATTERIES • FLASH LIGHTS • LANTERNS •
BABY FORMULA • DIAPERS • CANDLES
MEN/WOMEN HYGIENE PRODUCTS •
FIRST AID KITS • NON PERISHABLE
FOODS • MEDICINE: TYLENOL, PAIN
MEDS, ETC • WET WIPES • LATEX GLOVES
TOWELS & WASH CLOTHES • BUG SPRAY

FOR PURCHASE ON ISLAND:
TOOLS • CHAIN SAWS • GARBAGE BAGS •
TARPS • GENERATORS • GAS CANS

**DROP OFF LOCATIONS,
STARTING FRIDAY SEPT 23:**
LINCOLN WEST HIGH SCHOOL
3202 W 30TH ST, CLEVELAND, OH 44109
BENNY'S SPORTS BAR
3463 FULTON RD, CLEVELAND, OH 44109

**Scan QR Code to
donate to our GOFUNDME!**

**Instructions on how to scan
a QR CODE:** Open camera
and hover over the image
until you see a link pop up.
Click on the link that appears
near the image!

Or manually type in link:
<https://gofund.me/a3708ade>

We are also accepting donations to our CashApp

\$YOUNGLORDZPROJECT

**Manuel Orlando
Santiago**
\$YoungLordzProject

Use QR code or manually type in link: <https://gofund.me/a3708ade>

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

September 25th, 2022
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of the Word



The Rich Man and Lazarus

by Laura Jeanne Grimes, 2005

Laura Jeanne Grimes, artist.

<https://www.laurajeannegrimes.com/blog/the-rich-man-and-lazarus>



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

September 25th, 2022
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of the Word

*“If you want to feel rich, just count the things you have that money can’t buy.”
- A Proverb -*

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**Please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – *Betty Funk*

*Call to Worship

One: Come to this place and time of promise.

**Many: We are becoming the house of hope,
the field of sunflowers,
the vineyard of great caring.**

One: Come to a shared commitment
to abundance possible for all people.

**Many: We are an earthenware jar,
to keep safe the tomorrow of children.
Our security question is – the word of God,
and our password is love.**

*Gathering Prayer

**God, we give you thanks
that you make us redeemers,
not just receivers of redemption.
You bring us among friends and then ask
for each one of our signatures to change your world.
We hold the earthenware jar you call the church**

and fill it with all your promises. Amen.

***Hymn - NCH 31 - All Things Bright and Beautiful**

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Author: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.

Tune: ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with refrain

Adapter: Martin Shaw, 1915

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Refrain:

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
our dear God made them all.**

**1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
and made their tiny wings. [Refrain]**

**2 The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
The sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky. [Refrain]**

**3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them everyone. [Refrain]**

A READING OF THE WORD

In the midst of the siege of Jerusalem, while the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned by the king, he managed to secure a land deal despite his captivity. Jeremiah's cousin Hanamel sold a field to Jeremiah because the right of redemption passed to him, meaning, Hanamel went down the line of succession within the family and Jeremiah was next in line to either buy it or refuse it. Despite the war going on and being under guard, Jeremiah purchased the field because he knew God was using him as a sign of hope for the people, especially for the guard and the officials close by, that there would be those who survived, a remnant that returned. The deed was placed in an earthenware jar so that it could survive a long time when those who return would rebuild and plant again.

Hebrew Scripture: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

32 1 The word that came to Jeremiah from YHWH in the tenth year of Zedekiah ruler of Judah, which was also the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar:

2 At that time the army of the ruler of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned in the court of the guardhouse attached to the residence of the ruler of Jerusalem.3 Zedekiah the ruler imprisoned him after demanding, “How dare you prophesy the way you do? You say: ‘These are the words of YHWH: I will surrender this city into the hands of the ruler of Babylon, who will capture it.’” 6 The word of YHWH came to me and said, 7 “Hanamel, the son of your uncle Shallum, will come to you and say, ‘Buy my field in Anathoth. As next of kin you have the right of redemption to purchase it.’”

8 And just as YHWH foretold, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guardhouse and said, “Buy my field at Anathoth in Benjamin. You have the right of redemption to purchase it as next of kin. So why not purchase it?”

I knew that this was the word of YHWH. 9 So I bought the field in Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out the money—seventeen shekels of silver. 10 I signed the deed and sealed it, had it witnessed and then weighed out the money on a scale.

11 I took the copies of the deed of purchase—both sealed copy containing the terms and conditions and the unsealed copy—12 and gave them to Baruch ben-Neriah ben-Mahseiah in the presence of my cousin Hanamel and of the witnesses who had signed the deed and all the people of Judah who happened to be in the court of the guardhouse.

13 I gave Baruch these instructions in their presence: 14 “Thus says YHWH Omnipotent, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and the unsealed deed of purchase and put them in a clay jar so that they may be preserved for a very long time.”

15 For this is what YHWH Omnipotent, the God of Israel, says: “Houses, fields and vineyards will once again be purchased in this land.”

A Reding from the Psalms: Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 (Responsively)

This is is a song of praise to God who delivers the people from evil. The psalmist assures those who put their trust in God will have shelter and safety, and need not fear for their lives. In the latter verses, God declares through the psalmist that they will deliver those who love God and call out to God, for God is their salvation.

91 1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High and pass the night in
the shadow of Shaddai,

2 say: “God, my refuge and my mountain fortress, my God in whom I trust!”

3 For God says: “I will rescue you from the snare and shield you from poisoned
arrows.

**4 I will cover you with my pinions; under my wings you will take refuge; my faithfulness will
shield you.**

5 You have no need to fear the prowlers of the night or the arrow that flies by day,

6 The plague that lurks in the shadows or the scourge that stalks the noon.

14 "Because you love me, I will deliver you.

I will rescue you because you acknowledge my Name.

15 You will call upon me, and I will answer you; I will be with you in trouble.

I will deliver you and honor you.

16 I will satisfy you with a long life and show you, my salvation."

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

The Epistle readings continue the series on the pastoral letters of 1 and 2 Timothy with this text in 1 Timothy 6. The apostle Paul warns against those who desire wealth, because they will never be satisfied. Instead, Paul praises those who find contentment. "For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil" reminds us that if we love wealth, we do not love God, for Jesus warned us we cannot serve God and wealth (Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13). Instead, Paul urges the pursuit of righteousness (right-living with God), faith, love, gentleness, and so on. Take hold of eternal life. For those who are rich already they ought to be generous and share of their resources. They need to set their hope on God and not on their wealth and use their resources as a "good foundation" for the church in the future.

6 6 There is, of course, great benefit in religion, but only for those who are content with what they have. 7 We brought nothing into the world, nor have we the power to take anything out.

8 If we have food and clothing, we have all that we need. 9 Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and a trap. They are letting themselves be captured by foolish and harmful desires which draw us down to ruin and destruction.

10 The love of money is the root of all evil. Some people, in their passion for it, have strayed from the faith and have come to grief amid great pain. 11 But you are to flee from these things. As one dedicated to God, strive to be a person of integrity and piety, filled with faith and love, patience, and gentleness.

12 Run the great race of faith. Take firm hold of the everlasting life to which you were called when, in the presence of many witnesses, you made your good profession of faith. 13 Before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I charge you 14 to keep God's command without fault or reproach until our Savior Jesus Christ appears.

15 This appearance God will bring to pass at a chosen time. God alone is the Sovereign over all, the blessed and only ruler above all earthly rulers, 16 who alone possesses immortality, and who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no human being has ever seen or can see. To God be the honor and the everlasting kingdom! Amen.

17 Warn those who are blessed with this world's goods not to look down on other people. They are not to put their hope in wealth, for it is uncertain. Instead, they are to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with all that we need for our enjoyment. 18 Tell them they are to do good and be wealthy in good works. They are to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way, they'll create a treasure for the future, and guarantee the only life that is real.

Gospel Reading: Luke 16:19-31

Jesus told the story of the rich man and Lazarus in this text. Prior to this story, Jesus was teaching the disciples and encountered some Pharisees who were opposed to him. It is good to remember that just a few chapters ago, in 13:31, some Pharisees warned Jesus that Herod wanted to kill him. Not all the Pharisees were at odds with Jesus, and at different times Jesus had different encounters with this particular Jewish group. In this part of chapter 16, Jesus challenged the Pharisees and others on wealth ownership, and how wealth can lead us away from what God desires for us. In this story Jesus told, a man named Lazarus, who was poor and covered with sores on his body, used to sleep at the gates of a rich man's house—a person who lived in luxury without a care in the world. Lazarus longed to eat even the crumbs from the rich man's table, but instead, the rich man's dogs would come lick Lazarus' sores. When both men died, Lazarus was taken by the angels to Abraham, while the rich man suffered. The rich man called upon Abraham for mercy but also had the nerve to tell Abraham to send Lazarus to relieve his suffering! Abraham reminded the rich man that he had everything during his life while Lazarus had to suffer, so now it was time for Lazarus to be comforted. Besides that, it was impossible to cross the chasm separating them. The rich man begged Abraham to send Lazarus to his siblings to warn them, but Abraham said if they didn't believe the prophets, they weren't going to believe, even if someone rose from the dead—foreshadowing Jesus and the hardness of heart some people would have toward him.

16 19 “Once there was a rich man who dressed in purple and linen and feasted splendidly every day. 20 At the gate of this man's estate lay a beggar named Lazarus, who was covered with sores. 21 Lazarus longed to eat the scraps that fell from the rich man's table, and even the dogs came and licked Lazarus' sores. 22 One day poor Lazarus died and was carried by the angels to the arms of Abraham. The rich man likewise died and was buried.

23 In Hades, in torment, the rich man looked up and saw Abraham in the distance, and Lazarus resting in his company. 24 “Father Abraham,’ the rich man cried, ‘have pity on me! Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am tortured by these flames!’ 25 But Abraham said, ‘My child, remember that you were well off in your lifetime, while Lazarus was in misery. Now Lazarus has found consolation here, and you have found torment.

26 But that's not all. Between you and us there is a fixed chasm, so that those who might wish to come to you from here can't do so, nor can anyone cross from your side to us.’ 27 “The rich man said, ‘I beg you, then, to send Lazarus to my own house 28 where I have five siblings. Let Lazarus be a warning to them, so that they may not end in this place of torment.’ 29 But Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets. Let your siblings hear them.’ 30 ‘Please, I beg you,’ the rich man said, ‘if someone would only go to them from the dead, then they would repent.’ 31 ‘If they don't listen to Moses and the prophets,’ Abraham replied, ‘they won't be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead!’”

Choral Response – His Name is Wonderful

Music by Audrey Mieir, 1959

Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington and Bob Buckew

Accompanist: Betty Funk

Reflection— An Urgent Story – The Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Holy One, our world moves at a rapid pace of work, school, care of loved ones, paying bills, and all the other things that are important but can overwhelm us.

Help us to find the holy in the midst of it all: the brief moments of quiet, the time to read a chapter of a book, the sunshine breaking through the clouds, the task of watering plants.

Wherever we find a bit of Sabbath rest, O God, may we find it a holy moment. Whenever we find a bit of good, O God, nurture that goodness in us. May we seek the holy in our daily lives, for it escapes us in the world that pursues values away from you. May we find the holy moments already among us. Amen.

***Hymn of Response - NCH 543 - Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life**

vv. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

Author: Frank Mason North, 1903; alt.

Tune: GERMANY (GARDINER) L.M.

Source: William Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, 1815

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1 Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of clan and race,
Above the noise of selfish strife,
O Christ, we hear your voice of grace.

2 In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds fraught with fears,
From paths where hide the lures of greed,
we catch the vision of your tears.

4 The cup of water given for you
still holds the freshness of your grace;
Yet long these multitudes to view
the deep compassion of your face.

5 O Savior, from the mountainside,
Make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
Among these restless throngs abide,
O tread the city's streets again:

6 Till all shall learn compassion's might,
And follow where your feet have trod,
Till glorious from your realm of light
Shall come the city of our God.

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

We are invited to offer resources, time, abilities, compassion, in a tangible expression of our hope for the future for ourselves, this community of faith and many others near and far away. Be generous, my friends, with your trust in the future.

The Offertory – *Betty Funk*

***Presentation of Offerings – Doxology [Old Hundredth]**

**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**

**God, we have received hope; we give you time.
We have received hope; we give one another the church.
We have received hope; we offer these gifts that they
may become the change
or simply the promise of change
among those who need this clear image
that they are not abandoned.
Amen.**

Choral Hymn: My Jesus, I Love Thee

*Words by William R. Featherston, 1862
Music by Adoniram J. Gordon, 1876*

*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 436 - God of Grace and God of Glory**

vv. 1, 2, 3, 5

God of Grace and God of Glory

Author: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

Words used by permission of Elinor Fosdick Downs

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

Composer: John Hughes, c. 1907

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**1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**2 From the evils that surround us
and assail the Savior's ways,
from the fears that long have bound us -
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

**3 Cure your children's waring madness;
bend our pride to your control.
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
make our broken spirits whole,
make our broken spirits whole.**

**5 Save us from weak resignation,
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: God sends us from this place with a word of hope.

Many: We will offer the shelter of grace to all in need.

One: Jesus sends us out with the word of life.

Many: We will seek to share community with those we will meet.

One: The Spirit sends us into a world which longs for justice.

Many: We will trust that God's freedom will be offered to all people. Amen.

***Postlude – Betty Funk**

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for September 25th, 2022 (Pentecost 25/Trinity 15 Proper 21 Ordinary 26 - C)*, written by the Rev. Thom M. Shuman, and posted September 19th, 2022, to his blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [Http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](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 and the Earthenware Jar: Service Prayers for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost were written by Maren C. Tirabassi is a UCC pastor, author of fiction and non-fiction, and also a hiker in autumn leaves and a lover of fireside moments in the company of dogs, reading poetry and novels and finding myself praying, United Church of Christ. Education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (3) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for September 25th, 2022*, written by the Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted on September 16th, 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*
Beverly Wurm, *Administrative Assistant*



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 brought to church or 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

Our Church's 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 496 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of September 22nd, 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 (has been moved to: *Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility: 18627 Shurmer Road, Room 408, Strongsville, Oh 44136*)
 - 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 – 10am-2pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

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

Elaine Lukacs' Address:

Elaine Lukacs
Altenheim Skilled Nursing Facility
18627 Shurmer Road, Room 408
Strongsville, Oh 44136

Pakistan's 'dire' flood crisis is subject of UCC emergency appeal

The United Church of Christ has issued an emergency appeal for relief-and-recovery gifts in response to what it called "massive flooding" across most of Pakistan.

Wider Church Ministries launched the **UCC Pakistan Response Fund** Sept. 16.

Torrential monsoons since June have dumped nearly five times as much rain as the country usually gets. So far, the resulting floods have:

- Killed more than 1,400 people
- Affected 30 million people and displaced 800,000
- Damaged or destroyed 1 million homes, as well as farms, livestock, roads, bridges, schools and more.

One-third of country still submerged

“The situation in Pakistan remains dire as more than a third of the country is still under water,” said the Rev. Josh Baird, who heads the UCC’s Global H.O.P.E. team. “The most pressing needs are for food, clean water and sanitation, and emergency housing.

“In areas where the water has not receded, people are forced to construct temporary shelter on whatever dry patch of land they can access — often on the edge of roads.”

“At its peak, 73 percent of Pakistan’s districts were impacted by flooding,” the appeal’s web page says. “... More than half of its districts have been declared ‘calamity hit’ by the government — a number that is expected to rise as the rain continues and floods flow through the Punjab and Sindh provinces.”

World’s churches respond together

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has called the crisis an “unprecedented natural disaster” caused by “the intensification of climate change.” “No country deserves this fate, but particularly not countries like Pakistan that have done almost nothing to contribute to global warming,” he said. He called on the international community for “massive financial support,” especially from “countries that have contributed more to climate change.”

Baird said the UCC is working with ecumenical partners to respond.

Community World Service Asia, a partner through the ACT Alliance, is meeting immediate needs “while laying the groundwork for long-term recovery,” he said. “Gifts to the Pakistan Appeal will support emergency relief and focus on providing long-term care through the gifting of items such as seed for fields and feed and vaccines for livestock.

“With more than 6.4 million people projected to require humanitarian assistance, we anticipate walking with affected communities for the restoration of homes and livelihoods for many years.”

People can donate electronically at this page: <https://www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/pakistan-emergency-appeal/>

by selecting “International Emergency” as the option and entering “Pakistan response” as the specific appeal.

Gifts by check can be made payable to United Church of Christ, with “Pakistan Response Fund” noted in the memo section, and mailed to P.O. Box 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194.

Statement from Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb in support of Puerto Rico 9.22.22

The people of Cleveland stand with the people of Puerto Rico, who are bearing the impact of Hurricane Fiona with incredible courage and strength. On the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Maria's vicious landfall, it remains unacceptable that so many Puerto Ricans still lack reliable access to water and electricity. As the scope of the need becomes clear in the coming days and weeks, Cleveland is here to support aid efforts—both for individuals in Puerto Rico prevailing against the hurricane and for those who find themselves relocating as a result of it. We're proud of our Puerto Rican community and Cleveland is ready with open arms to welcome those in need and to assist in any way we can.

Puerto Rico Relief:

LIFTING PUERTO RICO:

On behalf of New Era Young Lords and the situation among us, we are activating and impacting Puerto Rico with our Boots on The Ground Initiative. In Cleveland, we will be collecting donations and storing them in Lincoln-West High School. By October 8th a group of us will be taking those donations to Puerto Rico and support as much as we can to provide help and resources. **We will travel to San Lorenzo, Utuado, Guanica, and Salinas to help families clean up debris, cut trees down, rebuilt part of their homes that were affected by Fiona.** Please donate in the need of restoring and the Boots on The Ground Initiative by New Era Young Lords Ohio Chapter.

DONATION ITEMS NEEDED:

BATTERIES • FLASH LIGHTS • LANTERNS • BABY FORMULA • DIAPERS • CANDLES • MEN/WOMEN HYGIENE PRODUCTS • FIRST AID KITS • NON PERISHABLE FOODS • MEDICINE: TYLENOL, PAIN MEDS, ETC • WET WIPES • LATEX GLOVES TOWELS & WASH CLOTHES • BUG SPRAY

FOR PURCHASE ON ISLAND:

TOOLS • CHAIN SAWS • GARBAGE BAGS • TARPS • GENERATORS • GAS CANS

DROP OFF LOCATIONS, STARTING FRIDAY SEPT 23:

LINCOLN WEST HIGH SCHOOL
3202 W 30TH ST, CLEVELAND, OH 44109

BENNY'S SPORTS BAR
3463 FULTON RD, CLEVELAND, OH 44109

Scan QR Code to donate to our GOFUNDME!

Instructions on how to scan a QR CODE: Open camera and hover over the image until you see a link pop up. Click on the link that appears near the image!

Or manually type in link: <https://gofund.me/a3708ade>

We are also accepting donations to our CashApp

\$YOUNGLORDZPROJECT

Manuel Orlando Santiago
\$YoungLordzProject

Use QR code or manually type in link: <https://gofund.me/a3708ade>