

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

June 18th, 2023

3rd Sunday after Pentecost
(Pentecost 3/Trinity 2/Ordinary 11-A)

Father's Day/Pride Month

Juneteenth Celebrate Freedom

A Service of the Word



Celebrating Juneteenth 2023 – Freedom Day

Moses Sun. 21 Chambers Illuminated: Carnival of Black Joy, 2020,

Digital and analog mixed media painting on paper, 19" x 13"

4Culture. <https://www.4culture.org/celebrating-juneteenth-2023/>



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

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"There never was any heart truly great and generous that was not also tender and compassionate."

- Robert Frost

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

**please stand as you are able*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude- *Betty Funk*

*Call to Worship

God is in this Holy Temple, let all the children of God rejoice. We are called as family to hold up holy hands and praise the God of justice and liberation for all! Not some, but for all people regardless of where you are on life's journey or who you are in the Kin-dom of God.

One: We are here to worship!

Many: Hallelujah!

One: We are here to lift up Holy hands!

Many: Hallelujah!

One: We are the Kin-dom of God!

All: Glory Hallelujah. Let us praise the name of tGod!

*Invocation

Gracious and ever-present God, make each of us an instrument of your justice. Continue to weave us into a family, your Kin-dom, showing forth your power of healing, feeding, clothing and resurrection as evidenced through the life and ministry of your Son, Jesus the Christ. Bless us and our differences and sustain our courage to stand together in the face of oppression and injustice in this present world. We call on you today to gather us in your love. Impart to us the knowledge and understanding to better know you and glorify your grace on each and every step of the journey

of our lives. In the name of Jesus, who came in the name of love, let us now commit to shout with the voice of triumph and proclaim the love and grace of God to all the world.

One: Let all the Kin-dom of God shout "Victory!"

Many: Over Oppression!

One: Shout "Victory!"

Many: Over Injustice!

One: Shout "Victory!"

Many: Through Jesus the Christ!

All: Amen and Amen

***Hymn – NCH 42 - O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing vv. 1, 2, & 4**

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Author: Charles Wesley, 1740; alt.

Tune: AZMON C.M.

Composer: Carl G. Gläser, 1828

Source: L. Mason's Modern Psalmody, 1839

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**1 O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories ever echoing
the triumphs of God's grace!**

**2 My gracious Savior and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of your name.**

**4 Glory to God, and love and praise
be ever, ever given,
By all the saints in every age,
the church in earth and heaven.**

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Exodus 19:2-8a

The reading of the Hebrew Scriptures comes from Exodus 19, when the Israelites reached Mount Sinai. As the people camped in the wilderness, Moses went up the mountain for the first time, and God told Moses what to say to the people: if they obeyed God and kept God's covenant, they would be God's treasured people. Even though all peoples of the earth belong to God, they would serve as a holy, priestly nation, a people for whom God would be made known through to the rest of the world. When Moses returned to the people, they replied that they would do everything God had told them.

19 2 They had traveled from Rephidim into the desert of Sinai and camped there, in front of the mountain. 3 Then Moses went up to God, and YHWH called out from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob, what you are to tell the Israelites: 4 ‘You saw for yourselves what I did to Egypt, how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. 5 If you now listen to my voice and keep my covenant, then out of all people you will be my cherished ones. Truly, the whole earth is my own, 6 but you will be a kin-dom of priests—a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to say to the Israelites.” 7 Moses descended from the mountain. Summoning the elders of the people, he laid down for them the things YHWH said to him. 8 The people answered with one voice: “What YHWH has said, we will do.”

Psalm Response: Psalm 100 (Responsively)

Psalm 100 is a call to worship for the people as they prepared to enter the temple. The psalmist calls upon the people to worship with gladness and to remember that they were made by God and belong to God. God is the shepherd, and the people are the sheep of God’s pasture.

100 1 Acclaim God with joy,
all the earth!

2 Serve God with gladness!

Enter into God’s presence with a joyful song!

3 Know that the Lord is God!
God made us, and we belong to the Creator;
we are God’s people
and the sheep of God’s pasture

**4 Enter God’s gates with thanksgiving
and the courts with praise!**

Give thanks to God!

Bless God’s Name!

**5 For God is good;
God’s steadfast love endures forever,
and God’s faithfulness
to all generations.**

Second Reading: Roman 5:1-8

The Epistle selection continues its series in Romans 5, which was also the Epistle reading on the third Sunday of Lent back on March 12th. Because believers are justified by faith, they share in the glory of God through Jesus Christ. Even though they may suffer, in their suffering they will still experience the hope of God because they know God’s love through Jesus. Even though not all knew Christ, Christ died for all. There is no one who cannot know God’s love through Jesus Christ. Paul views Christ’s death as a sacrifice that saves everyone, regardless of being under the law or not, and Christ’s death reconciles everyone to God. It is not the believer’s works, but rather one’s faith in Christ that matters.

5 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our

hope of sharing the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. 8 But God proves love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 9:35-10:23

Jesus saw the needs of the people and had compassion on them, sending the disciples to minister among them. Jesus appointed the twelve disciples, and in Matthew’s account, one might take note that there are fishermen, tax collectors, and a Zealot, a member of a revolutionary group). What an eclectic group! Yet Jesus sent them out to minister among the Jewish villages, and to avoid the Gentiles and Samaritans, making clear that Jesus’ ministry at this point was to his own people. The message they were to share was simple: the reign of heaven had come near, and they were to minister as if God’s Reign was at hand. Casting out demons, cleansing people from leprosy restoring people to society, curing those who were sick and raising the people from death to life. They were to go without being paid and to not receive payment.

In verses 9-20, Jesus gave further instruction to not take anything with them and to simply accept the hospitality offered them. If hospitality was not given, they were to move along. Those villages would receive the same as they gave—judged by their refusal to show hospitality, the way Sodom and Gomorrah were judged (and how the prophet Ezekiel also interpreted the destruction of those cities as a result of inhospitality in Ezekiel 16:46-50). Jesus sent the disciples to serve God like sheep among wolves, innocent servants in places where they might easily be taken advantage of or handed over to authorities. Jesus urged them to be wise in their innocence, and not to be afraid.

9 35 Jesus continued touring all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of God’s reign and curing all kinds of diseases and sicknesses.

36 At the sight of the crowds, Jesus’ heart was moved with compassion because they were distressed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Jesus said to the disciples, “The harvest is bountiful but the laborers are few. 38 Beg the overseer of the harvest to send laborers out to bring in the crops.”

10 1 Jesus summoned the Twelve, and gave them authority to expel unclean spirits and heal sickness and diseases of all kinds.

2 These are the names of the twelve apostles: the first were Simon, nicknamed Peter—that is, “Rock”—and his brother Andrew; then James, son of Zebedee, and his brother John; 3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas; Matthew, the tax collector; James, son of Alphaeus; Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Zealot; and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus.

5 These twelve Jesus sent out after giving them the following instructions: “Don’t visit Gentile regions, and don’t enter a Samaritan town. 6 Go instead to the lost sheep of the

house of Israel. 7 As you go, make this proclamation: 'The reign of heaven has drawn near.'

8 "Heal those who are sick, raise those who are dead, cure leprosy, expel demons. You received freely—now freely give.

9 "Take neither gold nor silver nor copper for your money belts—10 no traveling bag, no change of clothes, no sandals, no walking staff—for workers deserve their keep.

11 "Look for worthy people in whatever town or village you come to, and stay with them until you leave. 12 As you enter a house, bless it. 13 If the home is deserving, your peace will descend on it. If it isn't, your peace will return to you.

14 "If anyone does not receive you or listen to what you have to say, leave that house or town and, once outside it, shake its dust from your feet. 15 The truth is, on Judgment Day it will go easier for the towns of Sodom and Gomorrah than it will for that town.

16 "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. So you must be as clever as snakes, but as innocent as doves. 17 Be on your guard. People will haul you into court, they will flog you in the synagogues. 18 For my sake you will be dragged before rulers and governors as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles.

19 "When they hand you over, don't worry about how to speak or what to say. You'll be given what you should say when the time comes, 20 because it is not you speaking but the Spirit of your Abba God speaking through you.

21 "Sibling will betray sibling to death, and parents their children; children will rise up against their parents and have them executed. 22 Everyone will hate you because of me. But whoever stands firm until the end will be saved. 23 When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. The truth is, you will not have visited all the towns of Israel before the Chosen One comes.

Choral Response – His Name is Wonderful

Music by Audrey Mieir, 1959

Choir: Keith Konet, Bob Bucklew and Barbara Rossington

Accompanist: Betty Funk

Reflection – Go and Make Believable the Compassion of God - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Shepherding God, we confess that far too often we want to do things our own way. We want to love the neighbors we already know. We want to minister among those who won't ask much of us. We want to work for justice when it benefits ourselves.

Forgive us for our short-sightedness and our selfishness. Remind us of your call to all, but especially the most vulnerable.

Gentle Shepherd, you led the people out of exile, carrying the lambs close to your heart. Remind us to seek those with the greatest needs to serve in your ways of love and justice, and to allow ourselves to be led by you.

May we listen to those most affected by injustice and follow their lead and not our own desires and opinions. In the name of Christ, our Good Shepherd, we pray. Amen.

* Hymn – NCH 503 – O Savior, Let Me Walk with You vv. 1, 2, and 4

O Savior, Let Me Walk with You

Author: Washington Gladden, 1879; alt,

Tune: MARYTON L.M.

Composer: H. Percy Smith, 1874

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**1 O Savior, let me walk with you
in earthly paths of service true;
Tell me your secret, help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.**

**2 Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear, winning word of love.
Teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.**

**4 In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way,
In peace that only you can give,
with you, O Savior, let me live.**

***Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings**

The Holy Spirit comes down to us as a gift of presence, compassion, and companionship. We honor and uphold the Kin-dom here on earth through our stewardship; as we are called to present our lives as a living testimony of the God who has created each one of us to be unique and minister to a world that needs what we have to offer in time, talent and treasure. Let us now uphold the glory of God by the giving of our gifts in the spirit of generosity.

One: We give...

Many: To meet the needs of the Kin-dom!

One: We give...

Many: Out of the generosity of our hearts!

One: We give...

Many: To further justice and peace in our world!

All: Amen and Amen.

The Offertory - Betty Funk

***Presentation of Offerings - Doxology**

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

***Blessing of the Gifts**

Generous God, may these gifts glorify your spirit and meet the needs of your Kin-dom. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.

Choir Hymn

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

Prayer for Father's Day

Abba God, we come to you on this day knowing that it may be a difficult day, for those who are missing their fathers and for those who have difficult relationships, for those who are estranged and for those who never knew their fathers.

We thank you for those fathers who demonstrate your love, and for stepdads, uncles, coaches, grandpas, teachers and neighbors.

We thank you that we know your love like a father to Jesus Christ, who called you "Abba." Abba God, may we know your love surpasses our human understanding and that you are beyond gender, but you love us, your children, far beyond what we can comprehend or imagine.

Abba God, may we draw closer to you, to abide in you as Jesus abides in us, and it is in your Son's name that we pray. Amen.

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,
forever.
Amen.

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn – NCH 43 – Love Divine, All Loves Excelling vv. 1, 2, & 3**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Author: Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.
Word alterations © 1992 The Pilgrim Press
Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.
Composer: John Zundel, 1855

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**1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of Heaven on earth be found,
Fix in us a humble dwelling,
all your faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, you are all compassion,
pure unbounded love impart.
Visit us with your salvation,
enter every trembling heart.**

**2 Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit
into every troubled breast,
Let us all in you inherit,
let us find your promised rest;
Take away our love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.**

**3 Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all your life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
nevermore your temples leave.
You we would be always blessing,
love you as your angels love,
Pray and praise for your unfailing
wounded arms outstretched above.**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

One: God sends us out to bear witness to grace.

Many: We will speak of all God has done.

One: Jesus sends us out into every neighborhood and community.

Many: We will go to bear the burdens of everyone we meet.

One: The Spirit sends us out on a journey of faithfulness.

Many: We will go to see everyone through the eyes of compassion. Amen.

***Postlude - Betty Funk**

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Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and offerings and the Blessing of the Gifts are adapted from *Kindom: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday after Pentecost*, written by Pastor Kevin Tindell, Pastor of Community Engagement, GATHER Church Chicago and Vice President of the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.
- (2) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Prayer of Confession- Worship Resources for June 18, 2023*, written by Rev. Mindi Welton Thomas, posted June 9th on her blog, Rev-O-lution. <http://revo-o-lution.org/>
- (3) The Prayer for Father's Day adapted from *Worship Resource for June 18th* written by Rev. Mindi Welton Thomas, and posted June 9th, 2023, on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>.
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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 placed in the offering basket 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

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly began a part-time position with us. She is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W.14th) /home. The days and hours are:

Monday – 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

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



Season after Pentecost A, Part 1 (Year A, June 4 – August 27, 2023) Embracing the Kin-dom: 2023

“As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.” (John 17:18 CEB)

The longest season of the liturgical calendar are filled with Sundays called “Ordinary Time.” It begins with Trinity Sunday and ends with the Reign of Christ. We move from concentrating on the event of Christ in the world and shift to 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.

Happy Father's Day

We take time each year to honor and appreciate the fathers in our lives. Just as we have expanded our metaphors for God beyond the traditional "God the Father" so we have broadened our understanding of who the people are who "father" us. They may or may not be our actual biological parent. What makes a father is the relationship — the sustained care and guidance and love. So we honor all fathers, no matter how they came to the role.



Why Pride? An Explanation for Straight People

Remember, straight people flaunt their straightness all day, every day, in every part of this country.

by Brandon Robertson on July 29, 2017,

<https://progressivechristianity.org/resources/why-pride-an-explanation-for-straight-people/>

June is national pride month, a month set aside to remember, celebrate, and empower queer people and our contributions to the flourishing of humanity. All across the country, LGBT+ people and our allies will be gathering for festivals, parades, parties, demonstrations, and marches that boldly proclaim that we are not ashamed of our queerness and that we will not be silent until we have achieved full freedom and equality in our society and every society around the world.

Yet during this month, there will also be a lot of pushback from the heterosexual communities and individuals who just don't understand what this whole pride thing is about. I can't tell you the number of times I have been cornered by straight people who look me in the eyes and say, "I'm okay with you all being gay, but why do you have to flaunt it in the streets? You don't see straight people doing that!"

To which I respond "Bullshit".

I mean that in the kindest, most sincere way possible. But straight and cisgender people are the most visible people on planet earth, not just because of their sheer numbers, but because their relationships, sexuality, and gender expressions are seen as the "normative" expressions, and therefore, uplifted and repeated in every community around the country. Straight, cisgender people hold hands as they walk down the street without fear of getting accosted. They watch television shows and movies, listen to music, and read books that center on their relationships and gender expression. The majority of advertisements on billboards, websites, and television center on heterosexual and cisgender people. And our government is set up to privilege and favor heterosexual relationships above all others.



In short, straight people flaunt their straightness all day, every day, in every part of this country. And despite the far-right narrative that the "gays" are taking over our country, for a majority of LGBT+ people in America, it is still incredibly uncomfortable at best, dangerous at worst to express ourselves in our communities. In a majority of states across our country, our rights and dignity are not fully protected by the law, and, in fact, there are fierce movements that seek to oppress and marginalize us and our relationships.

So, while we have seen tremendous progress in the fight for LGBT+ equality, inclusion, and rights in the United States, the reality is that we are incredibly far from being fully equal in every realm of society. And that is why pride is so important.

For many LGBT+ people, pride is the one time of the year that they can be out and proud of who they are and who they love. It's the one time of year that they can stand boldly in the streets with droves of other queer individuals, proclaiming that we are fully human and deserve to be celebrated and uplifted just like everyone else. Even in cities that are seen as LGBT+ friendly, it is still an incredibly healing experience to get to march in parades or attend festivals where thousands upon thousands of LGBT+ people are letting their lights shine before all people without fear. Pride is often the beginning of the process of healing from the trauma inflicted on us by our heterosexist, patriarchal society. Pride is a time where we step out of the shadows and declare that we will no longer be forced to suppress our truest selves because of heterosexual fragility and fear.

Now, of course, in the midst of all of the deeper causes and meanings behind pride, it is also, most importantly, a time of celebration. It's a time to party, to relax, and to let loose in public, which is something that heterosexual and cisgender people get to do every single day of the year, but something that LGBT+ people simply don't get to do. So yes, people of all shapes, sizes, religions, ethnicities, races, and cultures will be marching through the streets shirtless, and perhaps even pantless (hello speedos!) but this has a lot less to do with LGBT+ being hyper-sexual or promiscuous- instead, it's a radical display of liberation and safety, a time to let our bodies and lives be seen as the beautiful displays of creativity and majesty that they are- something, again, that straight people get to see and do every single day.

Pride marches and festivals were started as subversive displays of light in the midst of the darkness of heteronormativity and hatred, and today, for many, if not most LGBT+ people, they still retain this important meaning and power. Though they may look like giant parties in the street, take a second and think about what it feels like to march through a city, freely expressing who you are, whom you love, and what you desire for the first time without fearing that you'll be accosted, abused, or mocked. Think about all of the children and teenagers who know they are LGBT+ but cannot even begin to fathom taking a step out of the closet for fear of abuse from their families, churches, or peers, who look out at those celebrating pride and see a glimpse of hope that things can get better, and that they can be free, safe, and celebrated for who they are. That is the power of pride, and that's why pride month is so damn important.

So, if you're a straight person and you're finding yourself perplexed by the pride celebrations taking place in your city this year, stop and remember that you get to live out and proud every single day without fear, without oppression, and without even thinking about it. That is a unique gift that majority of LGBT+ people have never gotten to experience. Think about all of the hurdles to equality that still exist in our nation, and the trauma that so many LGBT+ people have faced simply because of who they are or who they love. And as you reflect on the reality of LGBT+ people, I hope you begin to realize the importance and power of pride, and perhaps will even decide to pick up a rainbow flag and stand on the sidelines cheering on your local LGBT+ community as they fearlessly express their beauty in your community.

"When all Americans are treated as equal, no matter who they are or whom they love, we are all more free." – President Barack Obama
- Article originally published *Huffington Post*



Why Juneteenth Should Matter to the Church

On June 19, 1865, the Union Army arrived in Galveston, Texas, to inform enslaved Black Americans that **the Civil War was over and slavery had been abolished. They were free.** President Abraham Lincoln had actually announced his Emancipation Proclamation two years earlier, on January 1, 1863. But for a variety of reasons, the more than 250,000 enslaved people in Texas did not receive the news of their freedom until this June day. Their initial shock soon turned to celebration.



Juneteenth—also known as Emancipation Day or Freedom Day—commemorates this important moment in American history. (The name is a mashup of the words “June” and “nineteenth.”)

In 2021, Juneteenth was officially declared a federal holiday. But it’s much more than another festive date on the calendar. For American Christians, it’s an opportunity to give thanks for our nation’s progress while also meditating on the change still necessary for us to truly act justly, love mercy, and reflect the unity and diversity of God’s heavenly kin-dom.

Let’s reflect on the enduring significance of Juneteenth and how this pivotal event in American history points to the biblical visions of freedom, restoration, and hope.

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://tinyurl.com/yc6aesk4>

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://shorturl.at/efijp>

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.

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
- 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.
- 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 Turkey and Syria: more than 50,000 people have died following two devastating earthquakes. Hopes of finding people alive have dimmed and experts fear the toll could rise sharply. Turkish authorities say some 13.5 million people have been affected in an area spanning roughly 280 miles from Adana in the west to Diyarbakir in the east, and 186 miles from Malatya in the north to Hatay in the south. At least 44,374 deaths have been reported in Turkey, while 5,800 951 people have died in Syria. Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of loved ones, homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- The people of Quebec and Ontario Canada profoundly impacted by ongoing mass wildfires, Be with all who grieve and mourn the loss of homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Please help the survivors to process and move through the trauma, and to rebuild their lives and communities.
- We pray as well for the people of the Northeastern and Midwest United States affected by smoke from the wildfires and experiencing challenging air quality and breathing.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 294 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of June 15th, 2023. In 2022 a total of 648 mass shootings. In 2021 a total

of 693 mass shooting incident 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 and various variant surges: 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 (health concerns) and family. Patti's brother Dave is recovering from recent open-heart surgery.
 - Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is at Mapleridge Senior Living Willoughby, oh.
 - Betty Funk (*our Minister of Music*) receiving care in a medical rehab unit.
 - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob; friend of Elaine – health concerns*)
 - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara Reed, Nancy Moore's sister has passed away.
 - Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet - *prayers for recovery.*
 - Keith Konet and family.
 - Marcia Leslie (*neighbor and friend – health concerns*)
 - The family and loved ones of Elaine Lukacs.
 - Patricia Matheny and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*).
 - Barbara Rossington (*health concerns*). *Prayers for Barb's cousin Robert for tests and procedures.*
 - Henry Senyak (*resident community leader – cancer*)
 - Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
 - Beverly Wurm- Aunt Norma has been moved from hospice care status to alternative cancer treatment. Norma's oldest daughter, Debbie, is receiving treatment for cancer. Step-niece's husband, Monte (54), was killed in accident in Illinois on Monday, June 12th, Funeral Friday, June 16th.