

# ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

June 25th, 2023

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

(Pentecost 4/Trinity 3/Ordinary 12-A)

Anniversary of the Founding of the United Church of Christ (1957-2023)

Pride Month

A Service of the Word



*United Church of Christ*

*founded June 25<sup>th</sup>, 1957, in Cleveland, Ohio*

*Merger of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches*

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*“(The one) who would accomplish little must sacrifice little; (the one) who would achieve much must sacrifice much; (the one) who would attain highly must sacrifice greatly.”— James Allen*

### WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

*\*please stand as you are able*

#### Welcome and Announcements

Prelude - *Betty Funk*

**\*Call to Worship** *(based on The Summons and Matthew 10: 24 – 39)*

One: Christ calls us this day and every day to a journey of discipleship that will radically transform our lives.

**All: We hear your summons as you call us by name, and our desire is to say “yes.”**

One: Christ calls us to a journey of “follow-ship” that will challenge us as it challenged Jesus to live the truth of his identity. It is not easy to let Christ’s love be shown in the face of adversity or hostility and yet,

**All: We hear your summons as you call us by name, and our desire is to say “yes.”**

One: Christ calls us to a journey of discipleship that may bring us into direct conflict with those we know and love, even the members of our own family but still,

**All: We hear your summons as you call us by name, and our desire is to say “yes.”**

One: Christ calls us to a journey of “follow-ship” that offers life without fear, a life that transcends our earthly existence, eternally bound in the love and shelter of our Creator, and

**All: We hear your summons as you call us by name, and our desire is to say “yes.”**

One: Christ calls us to a journey of discipleship that will call us OUT of the shadows and compel us to share the message of God’s Kin-dom for all, proclaiming what we have learned at our teacher’s feet and in the company of like-minded students and,

**All: We hear your summons as you call us by name, and our desire is to say “yes.”**

One: Christ calls us this day and every day to a journey that will radically transform us and the world.  
Christ blesses us so that we do not have to travel alone, but with all others who hear their name  
and say “yes.”

**All: Let us continue the journey as we worship the One who calls us in spirit and in truth!**

**\*Invocation**

**Holy and Beloved One, Author of Life, transcendent and yet closer than our breath – we  
gather first just to say, “thank you.”**

**We thank you for the privilege of being in relationship with you. We thank you that you  
know us and call us by name to follow in your way. We thank you for being our Master Teacher,  
leading us through the text of your life, death, and resurrection.**

**We thank you for being the one who cares so much about us that not even a hair can fall  
from our heads without you taking notice.**

**We thank you for challenging us to claim our identity as your disciples even when claiming  
so puts us at risk of adversity for your name’s sake and for the sake of compassion, justice, and  
extravagant welcome to all. We thank you for this community, Zion United Church of Christ of  
Tremont, and we ask that you make your presence felt with and among us.**

**Help us to see you in the faces of all who are gathered in this place, whether in-person or  
virtually. And in this Pride Month, help us to celebrate the beautiful array of all we are as we  
worship you in spirit and in truthfulness. These things we pray in the name of the One who calls us  
continually to life and that more abundantly. Amen!**

**\*Hymn – NCH 573 – Lead On Eternal Sovereign vv. 1 & 2**

**Lead On Eternal Sovereign**

Author: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1887; alt.

Word alterations © 1992 The Pilgrim Press

Tune: LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6.D.

Composer: Henry T. Smart, 1836

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**1 Lead on eternal Sovereign,  
we follow in your way;  
loud rings your cry for justice,  
your call for peace this day:  
Through prayerful preparation,  
your grace will make us strong,  
to carry on the struggle  
to triumph over wrong.**

**2 Lead on eternal Sovereign,  
we follow not with fear,  
for in each human conflict,  
your words of strength we hear:  
That when we serve with gladness,**

**you will not let us fall,  
our trust is in your promise  
that love will conquer all.**

### **A READING OF THE WORD**

#### **First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-13**

*Ever wondered how hard it was to be a prophet? In these verses of Jeremiah 20, Jeremiah complains that God has enticed him to speak up and look what he gets for it? Nothing but trouble. Jeremiah feels he must declare violence and destruction to the people, but he hates doing it. If he tries not to speak on behalf of God, the fire inside of him burns and he can't keep it in. Everyone else is waiting for him to screw up so they can pounce on him, even his close friends. Nonetheless, Jeremiah knows that God is with him and those persecuting him will not prevail. God is the one who will deliver him. Content Warning: the English translations of this passage are tamer than the Hebrew, which uses the language of rape to describe Jeremiah being compelled to prophecy by God and that same language of his friends working against him.*

**20** 7 You fooled me, YHWH, and I let myself be fooled.

You were too strong for me, and you triumphed. All day long, I am an object of laughter.  
Everyone mocks me.

8 Whenever I speak, I must cry out,  
proclaiming violence and desolation.

The word of YHWH has brought me  
derision and reproach all day long.

9 I say to myself, "I will not mention God,  
nor will I speak in the Name of YHWH anymore."  
But then it becomes like fire burning in my heart,  
imprisoned in my bones. I grow weary holding it in,  
I cannot endure it.

10 Yes, I hear the whispering of many,  
"Terror all around!  
Denounce him!  
Let us denounce Jeremiah!"  
All who were my friends  
are watching for any misstep. They say, "Perhaps he will trip up,  
then we can get the better of him  
and take our vengeance on him."

11 But YHWH is with me, like a terrifying warrior.  
My persecutors will trip up;  
they will not triumph. They will be put to utter shame,  
to lasting, unforgettable disgrace.

12 YHWH Omnipotent, you who test the just,  
who probe both mind and heart,  
let me witness the vengeance you take on them,  
for to you I have entrusted my cause.

13 Sing to YHWH, praise to YHWH,  
for God has rescued the life of those who are poor  
from the power of those who are corrupt!

**Psalm Response: Psalm 69:7-18 (Responsively)**

*Psalm 69 is a prayer for deliverance from persecution. In verses 7-10, the psalmist reminds God that it is for God's sake they have been shamed, that their family has disowned them, for the psalmist is being blamed for what God has called them to do and insulted for being humble. In verses 11-15, the psalmist continues to share that they are ridiculed and gossiped about, but they pray to God because they trust that God will deliver them from their enemies. They call upon God to not let them die. In verses 16-18, the psalmist turns to God, calling upon God to answer them in according to God's mercy, and calls upon God to draw near to them and set them free from their enemies.*

**69** 7 since it is for your sake that I bear insult,  
that shame covers my face.

**8 I've become an outcast in my own family,  
a stranger to my mother's children—**

9 and because I am consumed with zeal for your  
House,  
the insults of those who ridicule you  
fall upon me.

**10 When I weep and fast,  
I receive nothing but abuse.**

11 When I dress in sackcloth,  
I am called a buffoon.

**12 They sit at the gate gossiping about me,  
and drunks make me the butt of their songs.**

13 But I pray to you, God,  
for the time of your favor, O God!  
In your great love, answer me!  
With you is sure deliverance!

**14 Rescue me from the quicksand—don't let me sink!  
Let me be rescued from my enemies,  
and from the watery depths.**

15 Don't let the raging flood engulf me,  
don't let the abyss swallow me up,  
or the pit close its mouth over me.

**16 Answer me, God, for your love is wonderful!  
In your great mercy, turn toward me.**

17 Don't hide your face from your faithful one;  
I am in trouble—hurry and answer me!

**18 Come and ransom my life;  
as an answer to my enemies, redeem me.**

**Second Reading: Roman 6:1b-11**

*The Epistle reading continues in Romans with chapter 6. The apostle Paul uses rhetoric here to say that even though it is faith that saves instead of the law, believers are not to continue in sin. Through Christ, we have died to sin and have been raised to life. Knowing that we are united in a resurrection like Christ's, we are called to live as alive in Christ. Sin has no power over us, but if we know Jesus Christ, we live in the newness of life. Sin holds us back; Christ sets us free.*

**6:1** What can we say, then? Should we go on sinning so that grace might abound? 2 Of course not! We're dead to sin, so how can we continue to live in it?

3 Don't you know that when we were baptized into Christ Jesus, we were baptized into Christ's death? 4 We've been buried with Jesus through baptism, and we joined with Jesus in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by God's glory, we too might live a new life.

5 For if we have been united with Christ in the likeness of Christ's death, we will also be united with Christ in the likeness of Christ's resurrection. 6 We must realize that our former selves have been crucified with Christ to make the body of sin and failure completely powerless, to free us from slavery to sin: 7 for when people die, they have finished with sin.

8 But we believe that, having died with Christ, we will also live with Christ—9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, will never die again: death is now powerless over our Savior. 10 When Christ died, Christ died to sin, once for all, so that the life Christ lives is now life in God. 11 In this way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin—but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 10:24-39**

*Continuing from last week's gospel lesson, Jesus is giving the disciples further instructions before they head out in ministry. Jesus reminds the disciples that they are not above the teacher, but a disciple ought to be like the teacher. Nonetheless, Jesus also warns them that the insults thrown at him (such as calling him Beelzebul) will be even greater toward them. Jesus then instructs them to not be afraid and to share everything he has taught them, and that they are precious to God. If they are faithful to Christ, Christ will be with them, but whoever denies Christ, Christ will deny them before God. Jesus further warns the disciples that his teachings will bring division, not peace. Just as Jesus's own family at first tried to stop him, so will some of the disciples' families and friends. Those who follow Jesus must be willing to let go of everything, even families, if they hold them back from following Christ. Those who are willing to give up everything for Christ's sake will find everything of purpose and meaning in Christ.*

**10** 24 "A student is not superior to the teacher; the follower is not above the leader. 25 The student should be glad simply to become like the teacher, the follower like the leader.

"If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of the household!

26 “Don’t let people intimidate you. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, and nothing is hidden that will not be made known. 27 What I tell you in darkness, speak in the light. What you hear in private, proclaim from the housetops.

28 “Don’t fear those who can deprive the body of life but can’t destroy the soul. Rather, fear the one who can destroy both body and soul in Gehenna.

29 “Are not the sparrows sold for pennies? Yet not a single sparrow falls to the ground without your Abba God’s knowledge. 30 As for you, every hair of your head has been counted. 31 So don’t be afraid of anything—you are worth more than an entire flock of sparrows.

32 “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will acknowledge before Abba God in heaven. 33 Whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before Abba God in heaven.

34 “Don’t suppose that I came to bring peace on earth. I came not to bring peace, but a sword. 35 I have come to turn

‘A son against his father,  
a daughter against her mother,  
in-law against in-law.

36 One’s enemies will be  
the members of one’s own household.’

37 “Those who love mother or father, daughter or son more than me are not worthy of me. 38 Those who will not carry with them the instrument of their own death—following in my footsteps—are not worthy of me.

39 “You who have found your life will lose it, and you who lose your life for my sake will find it.

### **Choral Response – His Name is Wonderful**

*Music by Audrey Mieir, 1959*

*Choir: Keith Konet, Bob Bucklew and Barbara Rossington*

*Accompanist: Betty Funk*

### **Reflection – Jesus, the Disturber of the Peace - Rev. Scott Rosenstein**

#### **WE RESPOND**

#### **\*Prayer of Response**

**God of all seasons, we give thanks for the light of day and the darkness of night as we pass by the solstice. We give thanks for the ebb and flow of creation, for the beautiful summer of the north and winter of the south. Call us to the work of climate justice and hold us accountable, for you made us to be good stewards of the earth and we have failed.**

**We have misused and abused creation for our own comfort and profit. Call us into accountability and help us, individually and collectively, to do our part to restore the earth and reduce our waste.**

**Guide us to be your children, caretakers of this beautiful planet, the only one you have given us. In the name of Christ, who came so that all might have life, may we live more simply for others. Amen.**

**\*Hymn – NCH 522 – I Love to Tell the Story vv. 1 & 2**

**I Love to Tell the Story**

Author: Katherine Hankey, 1866; alt.

Tune: HANKEY 7.67.6. with refrain

Composer: William G. Fischer, 1869

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**1 I love to tell the story  
of unseen things above,  
of Jesus' radiant glory,  
of Jesus' endless love.  
I love to tell the story,  
because I know it's true;  
it satisfies my longings  
as nothing else can do.**

**Refrain:**

**I love to tell the story;  
and when I am in glory  
I'll tell the old, old story  
of Jesus' endless love.**

**2 I love to tell the story;  
more wonderful it seems  
than all the golden visions  
of all our golden dreams.  
I love to tell the story,  
I tell it now to you  
because I want to share it,  
because I know it's true. [Refrain]**

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

Today we are invited to partner with God and with each other in transforming the world through the privilege of giving.

You are invited to remember that all that we steward has its source in God and we join the circle of reciprocal generosity when we share of our material resources.

We invite you, in particular on this Sunday, to consider sharing a portion of your offering with an organization – local, regional, or national – that advocates for members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Organizations like the Trevor Project enable support specifically for the many youth who are



at-risk of literally losing their lives in the current rising national atmosphere of anti-LGBT legislation and revocation of rights.

You may also choose to send an offering to support the work of the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ. There are many ways to multiply the “God-Work” of justice and freedom through our giving.

### **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**

**All that we have belongs to you  
You provide for our every need –  
Now we bring back a part of what you’ve given to us,  
In love, we gladly say thank you.  
Amen.**

### **Choral Hymn**

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

### **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 594 - How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies vv. 1 & 3**

### **How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies**

Author St. 1: Katherine Lee Bates, 1893; alt.

Author St. 3: Miriam Therese Winter, 1993

Word adaptations © 1993 Medical Mission Sisters

Tune: MATERNA C.M.D.

Composer: Samuel A. Ward, 1882

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**1 How beautiful, our spacious skies,  
our amber waves of grain;  
our purple mountains as they rise  
above the fruitful plain.  
America! America!  
God's gracious gifts abound,  
and more and more we're grateful for  
life's bounty all around.**

**3 How beautiful, sincere lament,  
the wisdom born of tears,  
the courage called for to repent  
the bloodshed through the years.  
America! America!  
God grant that we may be  
a nation blessed with none oppressed,  
true land of liberty.**

### **\*Commissioning and Benediction**

One: As you leave this place, remember that you may be the only grace  
someone will meet this week.

**All: We go, to share God's graciousness with all.**

One: Remember you may be the only love someone will encounter this week.

**All: We go, to be the love of Jesus for all.**

One: Remember you may be the only peace someone will find this week.

**All: We go, to share the Spirit of hope and reconciliation with all. Amen.**

### **\*Postlude - Betty Funk**

\* \* \* \* \*

## Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and offerings and the Blessing of the Gifts are adapted from *Life: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday in After Pentecost Year A*, written by Rev. Ann Jefferson is the Associate Pastor of Worship & Liturgy at City of Refuge UCC in Oakland, California. She is also the Director of Community Life & Spiritual Care at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA. 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 - *Worship Resources for June 25, 2023*, written by Rev. Mindi Welton-Thomas, posted June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 on her blog , *Rev-o-lution*. <http://revo-o-lution.org/>
- (3) The Commissioning and Benediction is adapted from *Liturgy with Communion from June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023, (Pentecost 4/Trinity 3/ Proper 7/ Ordinary 12-A)* written by Thom M. Shuman, posted June 18<sup>th</sup>,2023, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
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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.14<sup>th</sup>) /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.

## **General Synod 34 (June 30-July 4, 2023) - biennial national gathering of the United Church of Christ**

General Synod 34, the biennial national gathering of the United Church of Christ, will be in Indianapolis from June 30 – July 4, 2023. The theme is: **"Making All Things New"** drawn from the text of **Isaiah 43:18-19:**

“Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old.  
I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

## **Introducing the keynote speaker, Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber**

Nadia Bolz-Weber is an ordained Lutheran Pastor, described by one national news service as “a former standup comedian and recovering alcoholic with a streak of dark humor.” Another news outlet noted her “unusual form of evangelism,” which “may be the only kind that can break through the crust of dislike and suspicion which insulates increasing numbers of younger Americans from Christianity.

Bolz-Weber is a best-selling author and founding pastor of House for All Sinners & Saints in Denver, Colorado

She writes and speaks about personal failings, recovery, grace, faith, and really whatever the hell else she wants to. As for herself, the Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber says she's someone who "always sits in the corner with the other weirdos."

**Bolz-Weber will speak Saturday, July 1, during the UCC's biennial national meeting at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis.**

Having led the Denver congregation from 2008 to 2015, Bolz-Weber now pursues ministry as a "public theologian." This takes several forms:

- Her podcast, "The Confessional," encourages listeners to "forget the selfies and social media updates of everyone at their best." As its host, she "invites guests to share stories about times they were at their worst."
- She describes her interactive newsletter, "The Corners," as "water, God willing, for those planted in the corners" of life.
- National and international news outlets have profiled her and her ministry. They include The New Yorker, BBC News, The Guardian, The Atlantic, NPR, The Washington Post, Religion News Service, and, in Germany, Die Zeit.
- She is the subject of dozens of online videos. An example is a series of brief "Have A Little Faith" episodes at the MAKERS YouTube channel. They have received tens of thousands of views.

Her books include three memoirs that made The New York Times best-seller list: *Pastrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner and Saint* (2013, updated 2021); *Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People* (2015) and *Shameless: A Case for Not Feeling Bad About Feeling Good (About Sex)* (2019).

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which ordained her in 2008, formalized that ministry in 2021 when it installed her as pastor for public witness with its Rocky Mountain Synod. The ELCA is a "full communion" partner of the UCC.



**Zion Church will be closed for vacation for the Independence Day holiday from July 1 through July 9, 2023.**

Pastor Scott Rosenstein will be on summer vacation in the Pennsylvania woods.

Should you require any Pastoral Care during the Pastor's absence, please contact Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm, at 216-310-6810 or the Rev. Brooke Baker, Senior Pastor of Church of the Redeemer UCC at 216.401.0534 (cell).

Pastor Scott Rosenstein can be reached following vacation beginning July 10th at 216.577.1514 (cell)

**Worship Services will resume at Zion Church on Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at 11am – in-person at the Chapel and on Zoom – A Service of the Word and Holy Communion.**



*Have a safe and enjoyable July 4<sup>th</sup>  
Independence Day holiday!*

*Happy 247<sup>th</sup> Birthday, USA!*

## **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 United States of America and all its people on the nation's 247th Birthday. May God bless the USA and its people with liberty and justice for all!
- 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.
- General Synod 34 (June 30-July 4, 2023 in Indianapolis) - biennial national gathering of the United Church of Christ
- 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 319 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of June 21st, 2023. In 2022 there was 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; health concerns*)
  - Ken Kauffman (*healing for hand*) & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, and Nancy Moore & family
  - 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.