

# ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

September 3rd, 2023

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

(Pentecost 14/Trinity 13/Ordinary 22-A)

A Service of the Word and Holy Communion



## Take Up Your Cross

by Stushie

A Scottish Pastor, ministering in East Tennessee

Stushie Art-Church bulletin covers. Unique crayon, markers and digital worship art

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September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

14th Sunday after Pentecost

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A Service of the Word and Holy Communion

**"I have always believed that God never gives a Cross to bear larger than we can carry. No matter what, he wants us to be happy, not sad, birds sing after a storm. Why shouldn't we?"**

**-Rose Kennedy-**

## **WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY**

*\*please stand as you are able*

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Prelude - Keith Konet**

### **\*Call to Worship**

One: Give thanks to the Holy One!

**Many: The God of our ancestors is with us!**

One: Give thanks to the Holy One!

**Many: We call upon the name of our God, and our God responds.**

One: Give thanks to the Holy One!

**Many: The steadfast and faithful love of our God lasts forever!**

### **\*Invocation**

Eternal God,  
when we search for you, we find you.  
When we seek you, we find you seeking us.  
Your presence among us  
changes our circumstances and our lives.  
We honor and worship you  
as an act of devotion and discipleship.  
Infuse us with your Spirit  
that our witness and ministry  
may be a testimony to your everlasting love.  
Amen.

**\*Hymn – NCH 421 – We Gather Together**

**We Gather Together**

Translator: Theodore Baker, 1894

Adapter: Lavon Bayler, 1992

Source: Netherlands folk hymn, 16th century

Word adaptations © 1992 The Pilgrim Press

Tune: KREMSER 12.11.12.11.

Composer: Edward Kremser, 1877

Source: 16th century Dutch melody

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**1 We gather together  
to ask for God's blessing,  
to live in community,  
seeking God's will.  
We come now, as sisters  
and brothers, confessing  
the sins that divide  
and the wrong in us still.**

**2 Beside us, forgiving  
enabling, sustaining,  
you call us, O Savior,  
to life that is new.  
You draw us away  
from self-centered complaining.  
You lead us and guide us  
in ways that are true.**

**3 All praise to the Spirit,  
provider, defender.  
You offer us freedom,  
to follow or stray,  
Empowering all by  
the hope you engender.  
Grant wisdom and courage  
to follow your way.**

**A READING OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21**

*This selection from the Hebrew Scriptures turns to the prophet Jeremiah. The prophet did what God commanded, said what he was told. The words of God that were a delight to Jeremiah did not bring joy once Jeremiah spoke them, for the people in authority did not heed them. Therefore, the prophet laments, bringing a complaint to God. God's response, however, is if Jeremiah turns back to God and continues to speak for God, God will continue to be with him, and will deliver him from evil.*

**15** 15 YHWH, remember me!

Remember me and help me!

Avenge me on my persecutors.

You are slow to anger—do not take me away. For I suffer insults for your sake.

16 When your words came, I devoured them. Your word was my delight  
and the joy of my heart. For I was called by your Name,  
YHWH God Omnipotent.

17 I took no pleasure in sitting with merry-makers;  
with your hand on me I sat alone,  
choking with the indignation you filled me with.

18 Why is my pain ongoing,  
my wound incurable, refusing to heal?  
Why, you're like a spring that dries up when it's  
needed most,  
like waters that can't be relied upon!

19 Then YHWH answered me:

"If you repent,

I will return you to my service.

If you extract the valuable from the worthless,  
you will be my mouthpiece. Let them come back to you,  
but you must not go back to them

20 I will make you a bronze wall  
fortified against this people. They will fight against you  
but they will not overcome you. For I am with you,  
to save you and deliver you—  
it is YHWH who speaks.

21 I will free you from the hand of the evildoer,  
and rescue you from the clutches of the violent."

**Psalm Response: Psalm 26:1-8 (Responsively)**

*Psalm 26 is a plea to God for justice and deliverance. In verses 1-8, the psalmist knows they are innocent and have stayed true to God's ways. They have not fallen astray and will not even keep company with those who do evil, let alone hypocrites. They remain faithful to God and sing God's praise, and they love being in the presence of God.*

**26** 1 Do me justice, O God!

For I have walked in integrity

and I have trusted in you without wavering.

**2 Search me, God, and test me;  
examine my heart and my mind.**

3 For your love is before my eyes,  
and I walk in your truth.

**4 I don't sit with deceitful people,  
nor do I consort with hypocrites.**

5 I avoid places where troublemakers gather,  
and have nothing to do with violent people.

**6 I wash my hands in innocence  
and minister at your altar, God,**

7 giving voice to my praise  
and recounting all your wondrous deeds.

**8 God, I love the house in which you dwell,  
the dwelling place of your glory.**

**Second Reading: Roman 12: 9-21**

*These verses in Romans 12 contain the apostle Paul's instructions to the church in Rome on how to live in community. Continuing the Epistle series, Paul has instructed the Roman Christians who are both Jewish and Gentile how to live among the greater community that doesn't follow Jesus: caring for each other, but also extending hospitality to strangers, living in peace as much as possible, sharing in each other's joys and sorrows. They are not to be overcome by evil, but to overcome evil with good—for their very lives also witness to Christ.*

**12** 9 Your love must be sincere. Hate what is evil and cling to what is good.

10 Love one another with the affection of sisters and brothers. Try to outdo one another in showing respect.

11 Don't grow slack, but be fervent in spirit: the One you serve is Christ.

12 Rejoice in hope; be patient under trial; persevere in prayer.

13 Look on the needs of God's holy people as your own; be generous in offering hospitality.

14 Bless your persecutors—bless and don't curse them.

15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

16 Have the same attitude toward everyone. Don't be condescending to those who aren't as well off as you; don't be conceited.

17 Don't repay evil with evil. Be concerned with the highest ideal in the eyes of all people.

18 Do all you can to be at peace with everyone.

19 Don't take revenge; leave room, my friends, for God's wrath. To quote scripture, "Vengeance is mine, I will pay them back," says our God." 20 But there is more:

"If your enemies are hungry, feed them;  
if they are thirsty, give them drink.  
For in doing so, you will heap burning coals  
upon their heads."

21 Don't be overcome by evil, but overcome evil by doing good.

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:21-28**

*The Gospel lesson continues in Matthew 16. In last week's reading of verses 13-20, Jesus asked the disciples who the people said he was. When Peter declared that Jesus was the Christ, the Firstborn of the living God, Jesus praised Peter and declared that the church would be built upon that foundation of faith. But in the next breath, we find that when Jesus began to speak about how he would be*

*betrayed, how he would suffer and die, and on the third day rise, we find that this isn't what Peter signed up for. Peter pulled Jesus aside and began to rebuke him. Imagine having the guts to do that! But we make God into the image of what we want, not who God really is, all the time. Peter had an idea of what the Messiah was supposed to be, and until this point, Peter's imagination and Jesus lined up. But at this moment, when Jesus reveals what will happen, Peter believes he can change the outcome. The faith Peter thought he had was in himself, giving the right answer, instead of faith in Jesus. Jesus rebuked Peter with the famous words, "Get behind me Satan!" and went on to teach that whoever wants to become a follower of Jesus must deny themselves—and deny any image of God that we might make—take up our cross (whatever we need to put to death that is holding us back) and follow him. Jesus says this to his disciples—who have already been following him! But if Peter didn't get it, Jesus knew the others might have a different idea of what the Messiah was supposed to be. If we make the image of the Messiah into what we want, then we have lost our way. But if we are willing to set aside what it is we want, what it is we desire God to do, and instead seek God's will, then we might find our lives.*

**16** 21 From that time on, Jesus began to explain to the disciples that he must go to Jerusalem, to suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and religious scholars, and that he must be killed, and on the third day raised to life.

22 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Rabbi!" he said. "This will never happen to you!"

23 Jesus turned to Peter and said, "Get yourself behind me, you Satan! You are trying to make me stumble and fall. You're setting your mind not on the things of God, but of human beings."

24 Then Jesus said to the disciples, "If you wish to come after me, you must deny your very selves, take up the instrument of your own death and begin to follow in my footsteps.

25 "If you would save your life, you will lose it; but if you would lose your life for my sake, you will find it. 26 What profit would you show if you gained the whole world but lost yourself? What can you offer in exchange for your very self?"

27 "The Promised One will come in the glory of Abba God accompanied by the angels, and will repay all according to their conduct. 28 The truth is, some of you standing here will not taste death before you see the coming of the Promised One's reign."

### **Choral Response – NCH 283 – Spirit of the Living God**

*Author and Composer: Daniel Iverson, 1926  
© 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music (A Div. of the Sparrow Corp.)  
Choir: Keith Konet, Barbara Rossington, and Bob Bucklew  
A Capella*

### **Reflection – Jesus' "Bad" News is the Good News - Rev. Scott Rosenstein**

## WE RESPOND

### \*Prayer of Response

Ancient of Days, may the stories of our ancestors continue to remind us we do not have to be perfect.

May our ancestors inspire us to stick to Your ways, and to turn back when we notice we have gone astray.

May our ancestors also inspire us to learn from their mistakes, so we may not repeat them.

We know You are doing a new thing, O God, something we cannot fathom, but in turning to the Scriptures we are reminded to be awake and ready, to trust when we feel the Spirit moving, and be prepared to step out in faith.

May we not forget those who have walked before us, but may we trust You in moving forward on a new path. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

### \*Hymn – Christ Be With Us vv. 1, 3, & 4

(to the tune of NCH 506 – What a Friend We Have in Jesus)

#### Christ Be With Us

Author: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 1998

Included in Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship (Geneva Press, 2000)  
and Sing of the World Made New: Hymns of Justice, Peace, and Christian Responsibility  
(Hope Publishing Company and GIA Publications, 2014).

Tune: ERIE 8.7.8.7.D.

Composer: Charles Crozat Converse, 1868

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1 Christ be with us, Christ behind us,  
Christ before us — all around!  
Christ in busy, noisy cities,  
Christ where hardly rings a sound.  
Jesus, you're our Lord and Savior;  
On your love we can depend.  
Help us see your presence clearly  
In each stranger and each friend.

3 Christ with children who must struggle,  
Working hard for daily food;  
Christ in classrooms, learning, growing,  
Asking questions, seeking good;  
Christ in diners, waiting tables;  
Christ in homes where children play  
In this world of people working,  
Christ, you work through us today.

**4 Christ with all who keep on struggling,  
Helping others to be free;  
Christ with churches working, searching  
For a greater unity;  
Christ, in bread and wine, be with us,  
Giving strength for each new day  
In this world of daily crosses,  
Be our joyful, living Way.**

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

Jesus posed the question, “For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life?” When we consider the gifts we give and receive, we remember that Creator is also Source. Let us give generously of the abundance of our lives so that the world may be made better and God’s kin-dom may come nearer.

### **The Offertory - *Keith Konet***

#### **\*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, thank you for the seeding and inspiring generosity in us. May these gifts be a blessing to the ministry of this church. Multiply them and make us fruitful and faithful steward of our time, talent, and treasure. Amen**

#### **\*Call to Reconciliation**

If God is in every person we meet, what does that say about the harmful words we speak, the hurt we cause to others in our lives? We are invited to bring our faults and foolishness, our brokenness and bitterness to our God, confessing such lives, so we might be made new.

*- Silence prayer -*

#### **\*Prayer of Forgiveness**

**You know us, Watching God. You know who we are, people who find it easier to hold on to all we do that is wrong, rather than clinging to goodness. You know what we do, when we ignore those who are poor, or refuse to live at peace with others. You know why we do all these things, for we continue to set our minds on all those temptations which insinuate themselves into our lives.**



**You do indeed know us all too well, Steadfast Love. Yet, you continue to be patient with us and forgiving towards us.**

**Yet, you would embrace us as we turn towards you in repentance, rather than washing your hands of us. Yet, you would continue to call us to follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, so we might find our life with you. Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Forgiveness**

One: This is the good news for us, my friends. God remembers us and forgives us, so we might live as people of love and hope.

**All: We will sing our praises to the One who has made us whole. Thanks be to God! Amen**

**A LABOR DAY COMMUNION LITURGY  
A CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*(We pause to invite those at home who have not already prepared elements to do so. Even an English muffin can become a sacrament, even a cup of water or tea can become a remembrance of God's redeeming love)*

**Invitation**

Friends, this isn't Zion Chapel's table. It's not the United Church of Christ's table. But it's Christ's table. And because it's Christ's table, all of us are welcome here. At this table, you don't have to worship a certain way, look a certain way, or love a certain way. You don't have to believe what I believe, or what the person sitting next to you believes. You just have to come, exactly as you are, seeking the one who is seeking you. So come, all of you, not because you must, but because you may, and here find healing and wholeness for your journey.

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

One: Creator of the harvest- We lift our voices in praise!

**Many: Creator of the table – In you we find our peace.**

One: In gratitude we gather to share this meal.

**Many: With thanksgiving, we gather to share our love for neighbor.**

*(Allow silence to speak for a few moments)*

One:

As the sun sets earlier, the days become cooler, and the crops near harvest, we celebrate the plenitude of fruits available to us. We acknowledge the ways that we can use our gifts to care for our siblings in need. We extend this table through the work of our hands and the missions of this church.

As we celebrate this sacrament, may we remember the laborers in the fields:

The harvesters of the wheat and grapes.

The transporters of their yields.

Those who transform wheat into bread and grapes into juice.

Bless their hands and feet as they labor at farms and gardens, in trucks and warehouses. We give thanks for the ones who prepare the table here today. May their gifts of preparation and hospitality inspire us to extend hospitality to the strangers among us.

### **Table Prayer**

**Spirit of wisdom and of wonder, wind around these elements today. May they stir us from stagnation into actively loving God, our neighbors, and ourselves. May our participation at this table transform us into the people God is calling us to be.**

**With gratitude, we gather at this table. As we take a piece of bread, let us experience the love of God as seen in Jesus the Christ. As we join the bread with the cup, let us remember the grace that pours from God. Amen.**

### **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.**

### **Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine**

Leader:

After laboring on the streets of Jerusalem-  
Doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with God-  
Jesus clutched bread in his hands. He blessed the food, gave thanks, and heartfully expressed to his friends that this was the bread of life. "As you eat this bread, remember me."

After supper, Jesus grasped the cup filled with the gifts of the vine. In his blessing, Jesus reminded them "whenever you drink of this cup, remember me."

## **Call to the Feast**

Leader: This is the feast prepared for you. Come and share for all is ready.

### **\*Sharing of the Elements**

Leader: Let us in our places receive the gift of God, the Bread of Heaven.

**Unison: We are one in Christ in the bread we share.**

Leader: Let us in our places receive the gift of God, the Cup of Blessing.

**Unison: We are one in Christ in the cup we share.**

### **\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Thank you, Divine Spirit, for this meal of remembrance, and for coming to us as we have shared it. May the love we find at this table be reflected in our lives; May the power We receive at this table make us peacemakers and healers; And may the Spirit who fills us again at this table lead us to be those who proclaim God's Reign in the words we speak and in the things we do. Amen.**

## **GOING FORTH**

### **\*Parting Hymn - NCH 191 - Before Your Cross, O Jesus**

#### **Before Your Cross, O Jesus**

Author: Ferdinand Q. Blanchard, 1929; alt.

Tune: ST. CHRISTOPHER 7.6.8.6.8.6.8.6.

Composer: Frederick C. Maker, 1881

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**1 Before your cross, O Jesus,  
our lives are judged today;  
the meaning of our eager strife  
is tested by your way.**

**Across our restless living  
the light streams from your cross,  
and by its clear, revealing beams  
we measure gain and loss.**

**2 The hopes that lead us onward,  
the fears that hold us back,  
our will to dare great things for God,  
the courage that we lack,  
The faith we keep in goodness,  
our love, as low or pure,  
on all, the judgment of the cross  
falls steady, clear, and sure.**

**3 Yet humbly, in our striving,  
we rise to face its test.  
We crave the power to do your will  
as once you did it best.  
On us let now the healing  
of your great Spirit fall,  
and make us brave and full of joy  
to answer to your call.**

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Take the love of God into the world.

**All: We will be genuine in sharing this  
with everyone we meet.**

One: Take the grace of Jesus into your communities.

**All: We will share the joy of those who rejoice,  
we will mingle our tears with those who weep.**

One: Share the Spirit's community with all during this week.

**All: We will welcome everyone,  
especially those who feel alone and afraid. Amen.**

**\*Postlude - Keith Konet**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Credits**

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from *Confrontation: Service Prayers for the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*, written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, 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 - *Worship Resources for September 3rd, 2023*, written by Rev. Mindi Welton- Mitchell, and posted August 25th on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://revo-o-lution.org/>
- (3) The Call to Reconciliation, Prayer of Confession, Assurance of Forgiveness, Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Alternate Liturgy and Communion from September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 (Pentecost 13/Trinity 12/Proper 16/Ordinary 21A)*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted August 27<sup>th</sup>·2023, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
- (4) The Invitation for Communion is adapted from *Easter Communion: Words of Resurrection*, by the Rev. Kevin Goldenbogen, 2016, posted on *Worship Well*, a ministry of the Vermont Conference United Church of Christ. <https://worshipwell.church/2016/03/23/easter-communion-words-of-resurrection/>.
- (5) Portions of the Communion Liturgy – Great Prayer of Thanksgiving, Table Prayer, and Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine - are adapted from *A Labor Day Communion Liturgy*, written by the Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, and posted August 30, 2018 to the blog, *God Goes Pop Culture*. <https://michelletorigian.com/>
- (6) A Portion of the Communion Liturgy - Call to the Feast - is adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for December 5, 2021 (Advent 2 - C)*, written by The Rev. Thom Shuman, and posted December 1, 2021 on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
- (7) A portion of the Communion Liturgy - the Sharing of the Elements - is adapted from *Online Communion for Palm Sunday*, written by The Rev. Maren C. Tirabassi. ©2020 Maren Tirabassi,

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- (8) The Prayer of Thanksgiving following Communion is adapted from *Prayers After Receiving in A Communion Liturgy for Pentecost Sunday*, written by John van de Laar © Sacredise Publishing (Sacredise.com). Posted on the website, *ProgressiveChristianity.org*.  
<https://progressivechristianity.org/resources/a-communion-liturgy-for-pentecost-sunday/>.
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**Ministers, All of Us**  
**Scott Rosenstein, Pastor**  
**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:

### New Summer Schedule :

Tuesday– 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, Year A, Part 2 (August 6 – November 26, 2023) Embracing the Kin-dom: 2023

“I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 16, 19a)

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.

## 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/yc6aes4>

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.**

### Responding to Wildfires on the Islands



A pink and white graphic for a donation campaign. At the top, the word "DONATE" is written in large white letters on a pink background. Below it, "Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund" is written in white on a dark blue horizontal band. A white rounded rectangle contains the URL "bit.ly/hcuccrelief" in blue. To the left of a QR code, there is a small illustration of a hand holding a pink heart. Below the QR code is the logo for the Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ, which includes the text "HAWAII CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST". At the bottom, the text "We are praying with Maui." is written in white next to a small map of the Hawaiian Islands. The website "www.hcucc.org" is at the bottom right.

Read more in a UCC News Digest story: "Amid wildfires devastation, UCC makes appeal for Hawaii" - <https://www.ucc.org/amid-wildfires-devastation-ucc-makes-appeal-for-hawaii/>

**We are grateful** for the gracious generosity of all who are donating to the Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund. Immediate assistance is already being distributed to those in need through our local UCC churches and related channels. **The United Church of Christ Global H.O.P.E. team is launching an appeal to provide support for victims of the wildfires in addition to the appeal of the Hawai'i Conference UCC.**

We encourage all UCC folks outside of Hawai'i to give through Global H.O.P.E. by going to: <https://support.ucc.org/hawaii-wildfires>.

### **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 the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for 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. 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.
- We pray as well for the people of Vermont, upstate New York, and the Canadian province of Nova Scotia affected by catastrophic flooding. 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.
- Residents of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, the Gulf Coast and Florida, the Central US, and the Pacific Northwest experiencing many days of very high temperatures and heat.



- Those in Florida, Georgia, and the Carolinas strongly affected the destruction caused by Hurricane Idalia.
- In early August 2023, a series of wildfires broke out in the U.S. state of Hawai'i. Affecting the island of Maui, and to a lesser extent Hawai'i (also known as the Big Island), the wind-driven fires prompted evacuations, caused widespread damage, and killed at least 115 people in the town of Lahaina. An unknown number of people are still missing. The proliferation of the wildfires was attributed to dry, gusty conditions created by a strong high-pressure area north of Hawaii and Hurricane Dora to the south. By August 9, the state government of Hawaii issued a state of emergency for the entirety of the state. On August 10, President Biden issued a federal major disaster declaration. The typical area burned by wildfires in Hawaii has increased in recent decades, almost quadrupling. Experts blame the increase on the spread of non-native vegetation and hotter, drier weather.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 477 mass shooting incidents have occurred in the US as of August 30th, 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 residing at Mapleridge Senior Living Willoughby, OH. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
  - The family and loved ones of Betty Funk.
  - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob – 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 (*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 (*Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert, for tests and procedures*).

- The family, loved ones, and friends of Henry Senyak.
- Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
- Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

## **Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont Seeks Music Director/Keyboardist (Piano)**

Small, Progressive Christian congregation in the Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland, Ohio seeks a Music Director/Keyboardist (Piano)

- Play the piano (we have a lovely piano - no organ) for Sunday worship services and 3 special worship services (Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Good Friday).
- Accompany congregational singing of hymns.
- Play a Prelude, Postlude, Offertory, and one piece of service music (Doxology).
- Arrange and accompany special music (generally a hymn) by an individual or small group (duet, trio).
- Periodic planning sessions with pastor and office administrator to select music that is appropriate to the lectionary, season, event

Hours per week: 3 – 5, not including special event music.

Benefits include:

- Salary of \$175 per service
- Church weddings and funerals provide separate remuneration
- Four weeks paid vacation per calendar year
- We are an Open and Affirming UCC congregation - wherever you are on life's journey, we welcome you and all people of every sexual orientation, age, ability, gender identity and expression, and ethnic, economic, and racial background into the full life and ministry of our church.

We are evaluating applications as we receive them, so if you enjoy sharing your musical gifts with others, don't delay! Please submit a cover letter with your resume to [zionchurchtremont@gmail.com](mailto:zionchurchtremont@gmail.com), with the subject "Music Director/Keyboardist."