

# Church of the Covenant

## Boston, MA



**World Communion Sunday**  
**October 1, 2023**

*Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ*  
[ZOOM LINK \(click here\)](#)



**Church of the Covenant**  
**The 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**World Communion Sunday**

October 1, 2023, 10:30 am

[Zoom Link](#)

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Welcome and thank you for worshipping together for this “hybrid” service where some will be in the sanctuary at 67 Newbury Street, and some in the sanctuary of places far and near. For those joining online, we begin on Zoom at the above link. Please keep your mic muted during the service.

If you would like a prayer of Celebration or Concern to be prayed aloud today, please take a moment at any time to write it into the Red Book at the back of the sanctuary. For those online, you will be invited to place a prayer in the chat. We will not be passing the mic during Celebrations and Concerns today.

*\*You are invited to rise in body or spirit.*

**Prelude**

*Prayer Before Communion*

Olivier Messiaen

“Lord, I am not worthy to receive you...but only say the word”

**Welcome & Announcements**

One: Peace be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

**\* Call to Worship**

One: There is nowhere we can go where God won't go.

Many: **Creator of the whole wide universe, come to us here and now.**

One: We come together because we are children of water,  
Beautiful creations reflecting the divine.

Many: **God, come to meet us with the water of re-creation.**

One: We come together because we are children of the table,  
Feasting together with our siblings in every place and time.

Many: **God, come to meet us with bread for the journey.**

One: When we gather, we gather as the Body of Christ.

Many: **Christ, come here to meet us this day.**

**\* Kindling the Christ Light**

One: The light of Christ,

Many: **Thanks be to God!**

## Thanksgiving for Baptism

### \* Opening Hymn PH (blue) 465

*Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather*

Here, O Lord, Your servants gather, hand we link with hand;  
Looking toward our Savior's cross, joined in love we stand.  
As we seek the realm of God, we unite to pray:  
Jesus, Savior, guide our steps, for You are the Way.

Many are the tongues we speak, scattered are the lands,  
Yet our hearts are one in God, one in love's demands.  
E'en in darkness hope appears, calling age and youth:  
Jesus, teacher, dwell with us, for You are the Truth.

Nature's secrets open wide, changes never cease;  
Where, O where, can weary souls find the source of peace?  
Unto all those sore distressed, torn by endless strife:  
Jesus, healer, bring Your balm, for You are the Life.

Grant, O God, an age renewed, filled with deathless love;  
Help us as we work and pray, send us from above  
Truth and courage, faith and power needed in our strife:  
Jesus, Savior, be our way, be our truth, our life.

### Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace

**Many:** Help us, O God. Our world is full of injustice and pain. There is enough for everyone but sometimes we do not share. You teach us to speak truth but sometimes we tell lies instead. You tell us to love our neighbors, here and in every place, but we pretend our neighbors are strangers to us. Fill us with love like Jesus. Give us peace and make us peacemakers. Give us courage to share and to tell the truth. Help us to be who you created us to be, in family with people around the world, in family with all of creation.

**One:** Let us now listen to God in silent prayer...

### Listening to God in Silent Prayer

## Assurance of God's Grace

One: Beloved ones, in the waters of baptism we are joined to Christ in his death and resurrection. In these waters of liberation we become citizens of the commonwealth of heaven and siblings to one another in the beloved community. Therefore, let us celebrate together:

Many: **In Jesus Christ we are set free and made whole. Alleluia! Amen.**

## \* Sung Response

*Over My Head*

Refrain



O-ver my head, I hear mu-sic in the air; o-ver my head, I hear mu-sic in the air; o-ver my head, I hear mu-sic in the air; there must be a God some-where.

The musical notation is written on three staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the refrain, the second staff contains the second line, and the third staff contains the third line. The lyrics are: 'O-ver my head, I hear mu-sic in the air; o-ver my head, I hear mu-sic in the air; there must be a God some-where.'

## Readings from Scripture

**Hebrew Bible Reading** – Amos 5:8-15, 23-24

The one who made the Pleiades and Orion and turns deep darkness into the morning and darkens the day into night, who calls for the water of the sea and pours it out on the surface of the earth, Adonai is God's name, who makes destruction flash out against the strong, so that destruction comes upon the fortress.

They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine.

For I know how many are your transgressions and how great are your sins— you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe and push aside the needy in the gate. Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time, for it is an evil time.

Seek good and not evil, that you may live, and so Adonai, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate;

Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

### **New Testament Reading** – Galatians 3:26-28

For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

### **Sung Response**

*Over My Head*

### **Reflection**

*How is God calling us to be peacemakers?*

**Moment for Mission** – World Communion Sunday Special Offering  
Neighbors in Need (UCC) and Peace & Global Witness (PCUSA)

### **Call to Offering**

Online Giving Option: <http://www.cotcbos.org/give.html>

*Click on Give Now, then choose Pledges or Gifts-General.*

### **Offertory**

*Creator, We Thank Thee*

William Albright

Creator, we thank Thee who hast planted  
Thy holy Name within our hearts.  
Knowledge and faith and life immortal  
Jesus Thy Son to us imparts.

Thou, Lord, didst make all for Thy pleasure,  
didst give us food for all our days,  
giving in Christ the Bread eternal;  
Thine is the pow'r, be Thine the praise.

Watch o'er Thy church, O Lord, in mercy,  
save it from evil, guard it still.  
Perfect it in Thy love, unite it,  
cleansed and conformed unto Thy will.

As grain, once scattered on the hillsides,  
was in this broken bread made one,  
so from all lands Thy church be gathered  
into Thy glory by Thy Son.

**\* Communion Doxology**

*Tune: Old Hundredth*

Though what we have in truth is small,  
God's grace shall be enough for all.  
So as we bless and break this bread,  
Each heart be filled, each mouth be fed.

**\* Prayer of Dedication**

**Celebrations and Concerns**

One: God, in your grace,  
Many: Receive our prayer.

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Celebration of Holy Communion**

**Invitation to the Table**



## \* Communion Summons

*I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table*

I'm gonna eat at the welcome table,  
I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, some of these days.  
I'm gonna eat at the welcome table,  
I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, some of these days.

## \* The Great Thanksgiving

One: May God be with you!

**Many: And also with you.**

One: People of the Empty Tomb, let us lift up our hearts!

**Many: We open our hearts to the Spirit who fills us with hope.**

One: Let us give thanks to God our light.

**Many: It is right for us to offer our thanks and praise to God.**

One: It is right for us to thank and praise you God...

...And so, with your people here on earth, with all the ancestors,  
and all the saints and the great company of heaven, we glorify your  
name, praising you together:

**Many: Holy, holy, holy One, God of heaven and earth. All  
creation is full of your love and grace. Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of peace. Hosanna  
in the highest!**

One: Holy are you, O God...

## \* The Prayer of Jesus

**Our God in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come, your 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 do not let us fall into  
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the  
power and the glory forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## Breaking of the Bread

## Sharing of the Bread and Cup

## Post Communion Prayer

## Let Streams of Living Justice



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;  
 2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,  
 3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;

give free-dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.  
 for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.  
 your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.

The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,  
 Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;  
 Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,

the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.  
 on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.  
 our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home-land bright-ly gleams.

Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;  
 O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;  
 In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;

a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.  
 dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.  
 your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

Text © 1989 William Whitla.

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## \* Charge and Benediction

## \* Exchange of the Peace

*(Please exchange greetings of Christ's peace and reconciliation)*

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

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*Church of the Covenant is focused on following Jesus in our world through accompaniment,  
compassion, peace, joy and creative beauty.*

*We are passionate about hospitality, committed to justice, and wild about faith.*

*We embrace an embodied spirituality that is not afraid of questions.*

*We advocate for a just climate for our earth, liberation in our world, and equality in our  
neighborhoods.*

*We are a community where ALL are welcome and celebrated as beautiful reflections of God—all  
genders, all faiths, all orientations, all backgrounds, all abilities, all ages, all struggles, and all  
hopes.*

*Come journey with us!*

## **Worship Participants**

**Worship Leaders** – COTC children and teachers, Rev. Kate Carlisle, Rev. Joshua Lawrence Lazard, Rev. Rob Mark

**Minister of Music** – Tom Handel

**Covenant Choir**

**Special Guest Musician** – Rowen Mark

**Communion Servers** – Tim Groves, Debbie Howland, Jon Schwarz

**Digital Minister** – Christine James

**Audio Visual Tech Volunteers** – Abhishek John, Jon Schwarz

**Ushers** – Anne Crane, Holly Humphreys

**Sunday Sexton** – Jesús Vargas

**WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE COVENANT!** We are so glad to have you worshipping with us today! If you are new to our community, we hope you will feel at home and welcomed during this service. If you have any questions about who we are as a community of faith, please reach out to an usher in person or our Digital Minister in the chat.

**NEW TO COTC?** We are so glad you are here! Let us know a little bit about how we can welcome you by filling out the form at this QR code, and learn more on our website at [cotcbos.org](http://cotcbos.org).



### **ALL-CHURCH POTLUCK AFTER WORSHIP TODAY!**

After worship today, **October 1**, we will gather for a climate-friendly plant-based potluck at the Berkeley Street vestibule and outdoor entryway. Come enjoy the company of other Covenant folks, whether or not you bring any food. All are welcome!

### **NICARAGUA COMPANIONS INFORMATION SESSION AFTER CHURCH**

Join us for an informational meeting for anyone curious about going to Nicaragua!

Who: All are welcome to come and explore the idea of joining a delegation to Nicaragua

When: 12:30 pm **today, Sunday, October 1** – half an hour after the potluck starts!

Where: In Bates Hall. Feel free to bring potluck food to eat during the meeting.

What: Informal presentation for anyone curious about what it's like to go on a delegation. Plenty of time for questions and answers.

## **WELCOME CHILDREN & YOUTH!!**

We offer Christian education through Godly Play for ages 3-9 and youth classes for ages 10-13 and 14+. We welcome all children, youth, and families—those we know already and those who are here for the first time. We especially encourage kids and youth of all ages to remain in worship today for our all ages worship, though the nursery remains open. If you need help finding us, please ask an usher. We share CYCE info regularly via email, so please email Rev. Kate at [kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org](mailto:kate.carlisle@cotcbos.org) if you want to receive updates!

**CHOIR INVITATION.** We would love new members of the choir! If you are interested, speak to Minister of Music Tom Handel or email [thomasghandel@gmail.com](mailto:thomasghandel@gmail.com).

**UPCOMING WORSHIP.** Please join us each Sunday at 10:30 am as we come together in community to pray, sing, share celebrations and concerns, and hear God's still-speaking Word proclaimed in these hybrid services (in-person and Zoom options). [Zoom Link for each service.](#)

- Sunday, October 8, Worship Service
- Sunday, October 15, Rev. Joshua Lazard preaching, Communion, Generosity Season
- Sunday, October 22, Rev. Rob preaching

**BUILDING COMMUNITY.** In the spirit of building deeper connections, community, and momentum as a church, Council requests you consider making an extra effort to attend in-person as is possible, the following events:

- Jubilee Jaunt following worship Sunday, October 15
- All-Church Retreat, October 28
- All-Church Potlucks following worship: Sundays, October 1 & November 5
- Celebration of Renew the Light and Rededication of Windows, November 5

**BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS.** Our weekly Bible Study meets on Wednesday mornings at 9:45 on Zoom. We are studying the book of Romans. If you'd like more information or want to be on the list to get regular reminders and Zoom info, contact Jan Gough at [revjangough@gmail.com](mailto:revjangough@gmail.com).

**WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYERS 6:00-6:30 pm.** Join us for our weekly Wednesday evening prayers with intentional liturgy, contemplative song, psalms, and sharing of prayers with our siblings from Newton Presbyterian [on Zoom](#) (link on [cotcbos.org](#)).

**JUBILEE JAUNT IN FRANKLIN PARK. Sunday, October 15, 1:30 pm.** Our Climate Jubilee-ers continue to encourage us to enjoy God's creation as it is now—and once again invite us to jaunt together! Betty Southwick will lead a walk to explore this local gem, Boston's largest open space, a partially-wooded parkland in the Jamaica Plain, Roxbury, and Dorchester neighborhoods of Boston. The colors of autumn will be showing off the woodland for us. Come to hear the history of the park, Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.'s vision and planning, and to see the site of the historic Bear Cages and White Stadium. We will visit Schoolmaster Hill where Ralph Waldo Emerson lived for two years. Wear comfortable shoes we—can choose to walk 1, 2, or 3 miles! RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/franklinjaunt>.

### **CLIMATE JUBILEE ALL-CHURCH READ**

Please join us for another All-Church Read book discussion at an Adult Ed offering after church on **November 19**. The book we will share is *In Deep Waters: Spiritual Care for Young People in a Climate Crisis*. The author is Talitha Aho, who ministers in California to a younger generation. She shares how the climate crisis impacts that generation and the importance of offering ecologically informed spiritual care. She shares practical ways to care for and respect God's world, drawing on science, Scripture, and her expertise. The book is available through the Boston Public Library (as an e-book) or at <https://www.fortresspress.com/store/product/9781506469782/In-Deep-Waters>.

**ALL-CHURCH RETREAT: "Enough." Saturday, October 28, 9:30 am-4:30 pm, Glastonbury Abbey, Hingham, MA.** Please join us for our annual all-church retreat as we return to the sacred setting at Glastonbury Abbey in Hingham, where we will enjoy a Saturday together to take in the blessings of God's nature just a few miles from the ocean, surrounded by sacred pines and cedars and the fellowship of our community as we focus on the themes of "what is enough/I've had enough/we are enough." "Second" breakfast and lunch will be provided.

**Register:** [tinyurl.com/cotcretreat23](https://tinyurl.com/cotcretreat23) by 10/15 or use this QR code:



We are very excited about our theme this year of Enough! Creating the retreat itself is a practice in the theme: we know this congregation holds *enough* gifts to create a

totally stimulating, nourishing, productive, relaxing, and amazing day together. We also want everyone to follow the call for what feels like *enough* for them to contribute, so no one is burdened, and everyone is filled. Look/listen inside, and tell Rob, Diane, Joshua, and/or Nancy Stockford if you feel called to offer spiritual practices, rituals, music, prayers, logistics with rides or registration, kid activities, or to be on call for assistance. We can get you more details about all we're envisioning once you express an interest, and we'll be interested to hear from your visions too! We are thrilled to have this day to spend together, and are feeling already how rich it will be.

**VIDEO CAMERAS/POSTING FULL SERVICE RECORDINGS.** To best serve our diverse community and new worshippers, we livestream and record each service, including Celebrations and Concerns. If you would prefer not to be in occasional camera shots, you are welcome to sit on the outside aisles on either side of the sanctuary. Recordings of each service are available on our [Worship Recordings Page](http://cotcbos.org/worship-recordings) ([cotcbos.org/worship-recordings](http://cotcbos.org/worship-recordings)).

**OPEN NEWBURY STREET CONTINUES.** Newbury Street between Berkeley Street and Mass. Ave. will be closed to vehicles, and open to pedestrian traffic, on **Sundays through October 15**. Please keep this in mind when planning travel to and from COTC.

**WEEKLY CALENDAR.** Click [here](http://cotcbos.org/calendar-of-events) ([cotcbos.org/calendar-of-events](http://cotcbos.org/calendar-of-events)) to view the weekly calendar of events.

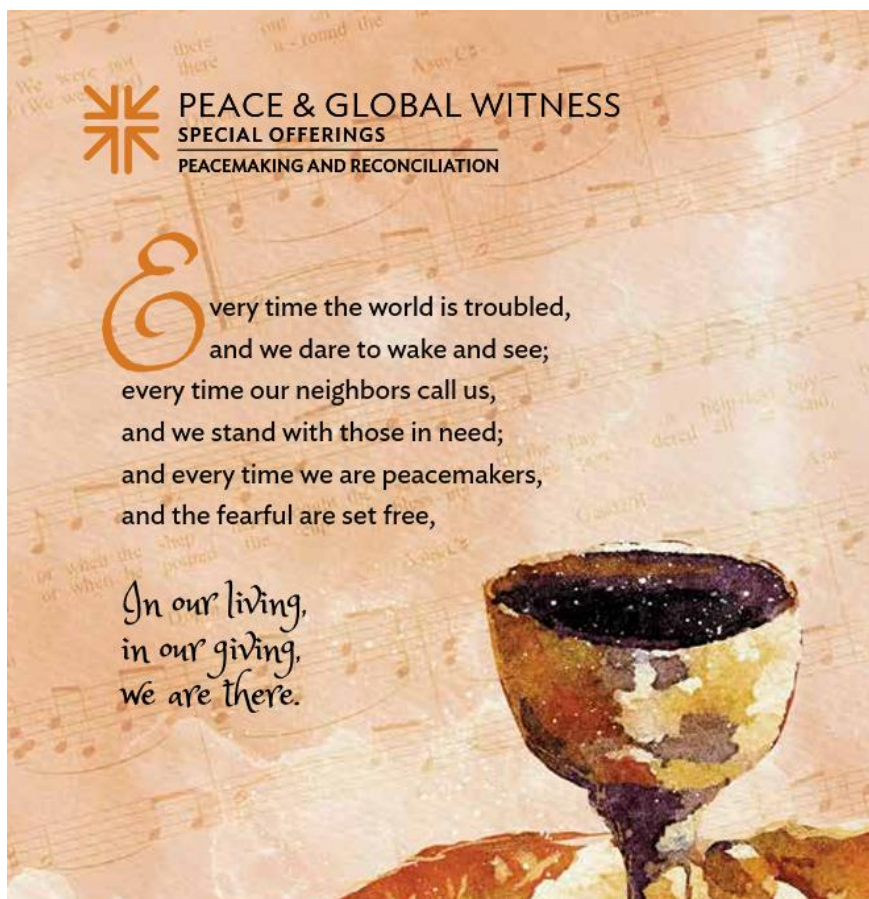





# Behold!

***"God saw everything God made and behold, it was very good."*** Genesis 1:31

Artist: Annika Ingersoll Age: 6 Congregation: First Congregational Church, Boulder, Colorado



 **PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS**  
**SPECIAL OFFERINGS**  
**PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION**

Every time the world is troubled,  
and we dare to wake and see;  
every time our neighbors call us,  
and we stand with those in need;  
and every time we are peacemakers,  
and the fearful are set free,

*In our living,  
in our giving,  
we are there.*



*Visitor or Newcomer? Welcome to Church of the Covenant!*

We are glad you are here. Please let us know if there are ways we can help you connect to the church community. Learn more about the church by visiting our website at [www.cotcbos.org](http://www.cotcbos.org). To sign up for email updates about worship services and other events in our community, please fill out a visitor's card in your pew or email us at [info@cotcbos.org](mailto:info@cotcbos.org)

**Parking Bargain** – Worshippers may park at the Back Bay Garage [Clarendon Street, between Boylston and St. James] on Sundays between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. for the first (3) hours for only \$5. To get this discounted rate, please ask an usher before or after the worship service for a parking discount voucher.

**Prayers of Celebration or Concern May Be Shared in the Red Book** – At the rear of the Sanctuary is a red book where prayers that you wish to have spoken aloud during the Pastoral Prayer time may be written. The book will be available until the time of the offering.

**Time of Greeting** – after worship this morning, we hope that you will take a few minutes after going outside the sanctuary to connect with others worshipping with you, especially people you may not know as well.

**Hearing Assisted Devices** – **speak with an usher** if you would like to use these devices that work with or without a hearing aid. These devices are specifically designed to work only with our sound system. Please remember to return the device at the close of the service. Thank you!

**Building Accessibility** – our building includes an exterior ramp on Newbury Street and an elevator (in the Parish House part of the building) which allows access to the fellowship hall, meeting rooms, offices, and other parts of the building. We also have accessible rest rooms. Please ask an usher to help you locate these resources



**Church of the Covenant**  
Boston Massachusetts

**67 Newbury St., Boston MA 02116 | (617) 266-7480 | [www.cotcbos.org](http://www.cotcbos.org)**

Worship at Church of the Covenant is the heart and soul of our life together as a community of faith. Since 1932 we have been a federated church, maintaining membership in the United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church (USA) and welcoming pilgrims and inquirers from all traditions to our life and work. Through our prayer and praise, in our concerns and celebrations, by word and sacrament, art and silence, we seek empowerment, together and individually, as a covenant people, for the work of Christ.

Jesus taught that the Spirit invites all people, including society's outcasts, to enjoy seats at God's table. This congregation seeks to demonstrate that vision by welcoming individuals and families without regard to race, gender identity, age, physical/mental condition, or sexual orientation. We rejoice in the presence of children among us, and we strive to include them in our ministry. We maintain ties of faith with the Church of the Poor in the community of the Sweet Name of Jesus, in Northwestern Nicaragua.

We believe God's blessings are found in marriage equality for all. Thus, we joyfully welcome the opportunity afforded us by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church USA to join couples of all sexual orientations in fully legal and holy marriage.

In our worship we use language and imagery that reflect the wonderful diversity of the image of God in humanity and all of creation; that transcend the exclusive language of the church's past. And as stewards, we seek to live into the Spirit's blessing as we move in solidarity on this shared and sacred, common home we call earth. We invite you to join us in the journey toward God's justice and peace for all of Boston and beyond!

#### **CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. Rob Mark, *Lead Pastor*  
Rev. Joshua Lawrence Lazard, *Associate Pastor*  
Thomas Handel, *Minister of Music*  
Bill Brown, *Building Manager*  
Rev. Kate Carlisle, *CYCE Coordinator*  
Nancy Stockford, *Parish Administrator/Financial Secretary*  
Jesús Vargas, *Sunday Sexton*  
Alan Lane, *Food Cupboard Coordinator*  
Kelsie Lawhorn, *Child Care Provider*

#### **CHURCH OFFICERS**

Liz Vizza, *President of the Corporation*  
Trudi Veldman, *Clerk of the Council*  
Anita Gram, *Moderator of Board of Deacons*  
Faith Perry, *Treasurer*